



Australian Plants Society South East NSW Group

Newsletter 145
January 2019

Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and
Macrozamia communis Burrawang

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Next Meeting

Saturday 2nd February 2019

Meeting at the

Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

commencing at 10.30 am

First matter on the agenda will be the

Annual General Meeting,

**with presentation of our Annual Reports, to be followed
immediately by elections for Office Bearers**

**Once the AGM formalities are completed, there will a discussion
on the**

Goodeniaceae Family,

**detailing information presented at the recent Fred Rogers Seminar
at Horsham, Victoria.**

**After lunch, there will a practical propagation session conducted
in the ERBG nursery. A range of plants of Goodeniaceae will be
available to enable everyone to try their hand at growing some of
these very desirable small garden plants.**

Annual General Meeting

The Australian Plant Society is required to present annual reports, prepared for the year ending 31st December each year, to members at the AGM.

Our South East NSW Group AGM and meeting will be held at the ERBG Meeting Room adjacent to the café.

The AGM will commence at 10.30am. As no member last year nominated for the position of Secretary, the minutes of the previous AGM will be presented by Vice-President Geoff.

Once these minutes have been approved, reports will be presented by the President, Treasurer and Membership Officer.

Questions arising from these reports will be dealt with, then Margaret Lynch, as Returning Officer will call for nominations for all Committee positions.

For our Group to function successfully, it is important, and necessary, to have a strong committee to plan and implement activities for the benefit of all members.

The AGM presents an opportunity for all members to offer themselves to join the committee, keeping the Group invigorated and active.

As is often the case, getting people to volunteer to join a committee is nigh impossible, despite the fact that the workload of our small committee is not onerous.

Leaving it to “someone else” may be an easy option, but does not address the needs of the Group. Now might be time to consider your personal involvement, so the Group continues to promote the growing of Australian plants in our gardens. If you would like to discuss how you could be involved in the committee activities, call a current member as listed on the back page.

A nomination form is included with this newsletter for your convenience. (see page 11)

Elections will be held for all positions, namely President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer and Committee Members. The newly elected committee will select from its members a Minute Secretary and Publicity Officer at the first gathering of the committee following the AGM.

On completion of the AGM, the newly elected President will chair the general meeting, and welcome our speaker, John Knight to make his presentation.

As always, members are advised to bring morning tea and lunch, or alternatively, purchase from the Chefs Cap Cafe.

Wear sensible clothing and shoes suitable for the planned outdoor activities, and, a sunhat might be a wise inclusion to encourage fine, but not too hot, weather on the day.

Note also that dogs are not permitted at APS activities.



Lechenaultia and Dampiera, 2 members of the attractive Goodenia Family

Goodeniaceae,

The Family **Goodeniaceae** contains about 400 species, mostly endemic to Australia.

A complete review of the Family was undertaken for the preparation of Volume 35 of the Flora of Australia. In this treatment, there are 11 Genera in the Family, with **Brunonia** treated as a separate monotypic Genus, although current research now places it within the **Goodeniaceae**.

The best known and widely grown Genera are **Scaevola**, **Dampiera**, **Goodenia** and **Lechenaultia**.

The other Genera include **Anthotium**, **Cooperhookia**, **Velleia**, **Verreauxia**, **Selliera** and **Pentaptilon**, although the status of many smaller Genera is about to change.

As a generalization, plants in the family are floriferous small herbaceous shrubs, often colonizing recently cleared or burnt areas. Whilst many are short lived, most are relatively easy to propagate. At this meeting we will discuss the current classification and take a look at the generous showy displays of these small plants in gardens.

After lunch, members will be shown how to propagate a range of species, and given the opportunity to 'have a go' themselves.



Goodenia heterophylla, showing the flat petal arrangement typical of the family

Last Meeting,

What plant is that?

Presented by Di Clark

The title of the Di's talk was "**What plant is that ?**", and she introduced a system that is available to us via the internet or via our mobile phone. This system is known as **NatureMapr** .

A brief history of NatureMapr and how you can get started.

Using some examples from the web site, Dianne discussed how we could use the site as a group interested in plants of our region, and how we can gain information and inspiration from what other people have done.

You may have heard about **Canberra Nature Map (CNM)**, the original group. **CNM** is an innovative cloud-based software platform that aims to collect, manage and analyse information about the natural world.

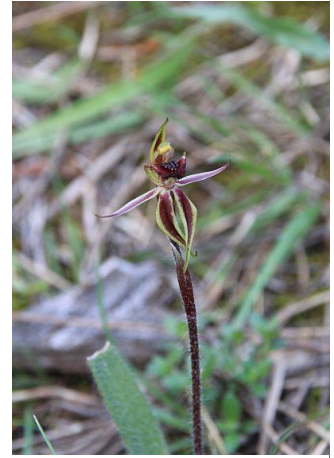
So this is not a program to help with the purchased plants in your garden.

It was originally developed to monitor the sightings of rare and threatened plants and has extended to include other wild plants, weed plants, and animals. The **CNM** services a certain geographical region, based broadly around Canberra. It is not just a plant ID service, but a recording of what is growing in the area and a method for including that information on a database. It is potentially a useful tool for land managers and anyone with an interest in the local environment.



A bit of History

In 2013 Aaron Clausen of Canberra accidentally encountered some beautiful, but rare and endangered *Caladenia actensis*, Canberra Spider Orchid, and was inspired to find out more about them. He contacted Michael Mulvaney, a senior environmental planner in Conservation Planning and Research in Environment (ACT). He bombarded Michael with so many photographs that they decided they needed to create a database to deal with all the images and map where the plants were found. Aaron is a software developer and in 2014 they also hooked up with another IT professional, Michael Bedingfield and **NatureMapr** was born.



Caladenia actensis
(Wikipedia Commons)



A public platform was developed and regular users started uploading images. The platform evolved as it grew and responded to the needs of the users.

Originally it was set up to monitor rare plants only, but there was a need to expand that criteria. Not everyone knows if a plant is rare, and they also found it quite useful to know if weeds or pests were present in the environment as well. Both plants and animals are included.



A second group was started for the far south coast in 2012 (**Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness**)

and in 2018 a third group began (**Atlas of life Budawang Coast**) for the remainder of the south coast, including all the ERBG collecting area.



Atlas of Life, Budawang Coast aims to identify as much of the living biodiversity of this region as possible over the next few years. The available information will enable people to learn more about this place as they explore the region. It will provide an ever-increasing database of biodiversity information for locals, visitors, naturalists, students and scientists.

Each of these databases is accessed through the NatureMapr site. Each group is known as a project, and both coastal groups share the same aim.

Once you log in to NatureMapr , you can access all the projects with the one password.

The Atlas of Life Budawang Coast project spans the landscape from the Great Dividing Range in the west, covering the Budawang Wilderness area, Morton National Park and other surrounding National Parks, South Coast State Forests, Nature Reserves and even some significant private property. On the coast of New South Wales it covers the ocean north from Moruya up almost to Kiama, which includes both the Bateman's Bay and Jervis Bay Parks.

You can use the app (application), accessed from a smartphone or tablet, just for information, without wanting to upload photos.

But if you do sign up you will have access to a greater range of information and the potential to participate.

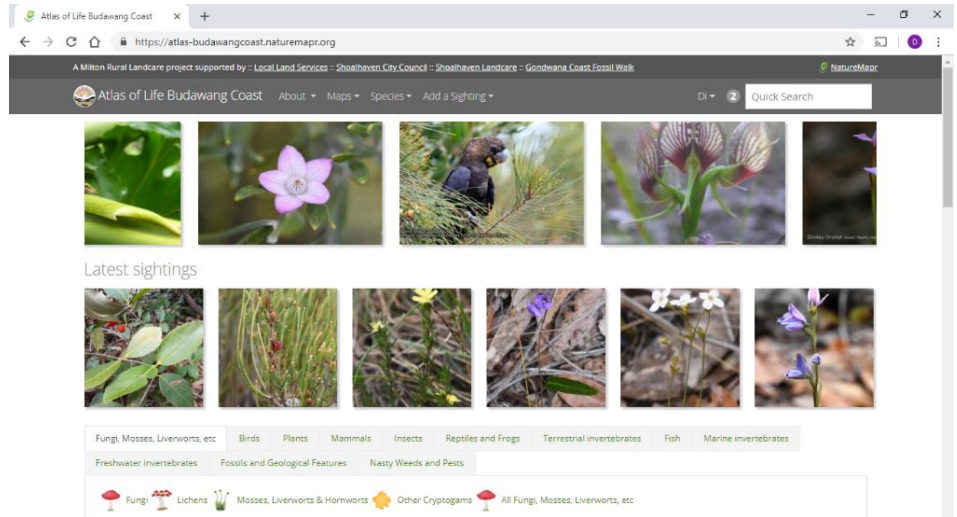
Accessing the Site

Logging in –

In **NatureMapr** head to the Log in Page, Atlas of Life Budawang Coast, it's not that hard to find. Create an account and then work through the steps to create a password.



Once logged in, you can choose to contribute a photo to the extensive range of topics listed on the site.



A screenshot of the Atlas of Life Budawang Coast app.

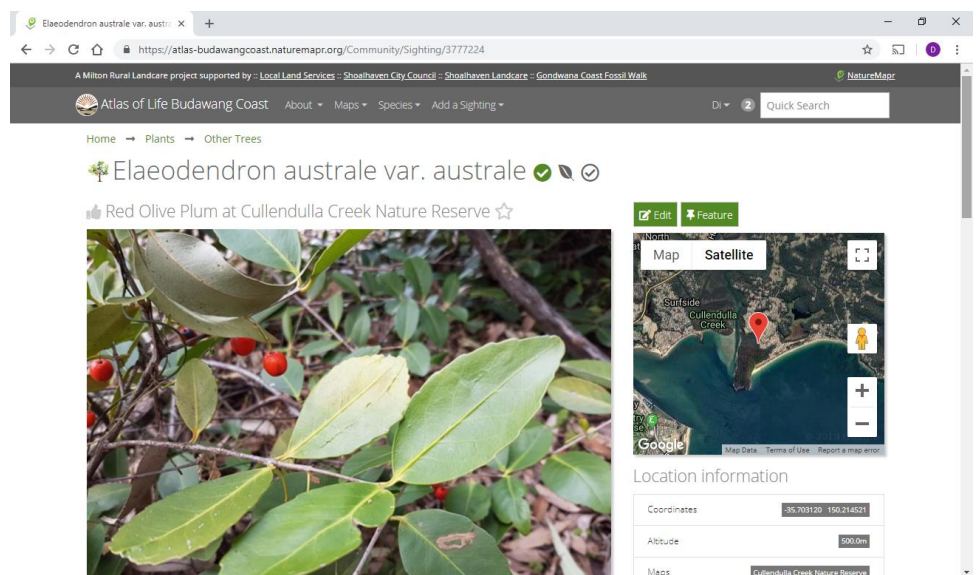
Fungi, Mosses and Liverworts, Birds, Plants, Mammals, Insects, Reptiles and Frogs, Terrestrial invertebrates, Fish, (but probably not the ones you caught for dinner?), Marine invertebrates, Freshwater invertebrates, Fossil and Geological features, Nasty weeds and pests.

So you have a photo

It is easy to contribute by uploading your sightings via the WEB or the NatureMapr iPhone or Android app, and there is a “How to Guide” to help you get started.

Information requested to report a sighting

Recently I submitted a sighting of *Elaeodendron australe* and had a notification the next day confirming my sighting as *Elaeodendron australe var. australe* (Red Olive Plum)



Taking useful Photographs

NatureMapr can accept 4 photos of one subject for a sighting. You should try to include **diagnostic features** such as flowers, leaf shape, fruit and bark. You are also able to add your own comments to the work you submit.

Identifying plant species from photographs can be difficult. The moderators task can be eased by ensuring that photographs include as much information on a plant as possible, including

1. a general shot of the **whole plant**,
2. a **close up of leaves** (preferably showing both top and underneath sides and how leaves are attached to stems)

3. a **close up of flowers** (preferably from both above and the side) and a shot of any fruit or seed pod present.

Useful information that can be added to the database include Abundance of the plant (i.e. How common is it?), a description of the plant, plant community composition, topography and aspect, and any other notes which you think might be useful.

There is space also for notes of your own that are pertinent.

A GPS reading from the site can be taken automatically by your camera or device, or you can mark the area on a map, although you need to set this up with administrators.

Once the sighting is reported, you now wait for a response from the moderator. Either the plant will be identified, or they may request further information.

There are website administrators that monitor how this is going.

GPS Apps available to download onto your phone. Dianne uses an app that allows her to link the picture and the data together and then forward it to her notes or send it to herself. Those who use modern digital SLR or other cameras can go to the 'Menu' functions on their camera and select "Geo-tag" or other such command as used by the camera manufacturer, so the camera records the GPS location as a photo is taken.

How does NatureMapr work?

Once you send in your photo a group of people behind the scenes, known as moderators, will receive your image and try to identify it. They will then send you an email saying yes, that is correct or please can we have more information. If the image cannot be identified, it goes into a section called unidentified images.

Then it becomes part of your profile

Behind the scenes

Moderators spend quite a deal of time ensuring the information on the site is accurate and useful.

The site has proved to be very user-friendly, a bonus for luddites, well accepted and used by people of all ages. Currently the **Canberra NatureMapr** site has over 500 contributors, and over 1 million records of 3220 species.

The **Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness** has 358 contributors and over 21,500 sightings.

Importantly, all validated sightings are added to the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) our national Biodiversity Database

There is a wealth of information to be found with these apps and great possibilities for documenting our plant trips and walks.

NatureMapr, the Citizen Science Platform

Anyone interested in being involved, and needing assistance with this program is welcome to contact Dianne.

Show and Tell

There was plenty on display at this meeting, with a late spring showing. Jan Douglas began by introducing us to 3 plants which are rarely grown these days. First up, the very tough *Hakea microcarpa*, and just as prickly as it is tough, widespread locally and often on sandy soils which can get swampy. Enquiries revealed that Jan is the only member growing this plant, providing a safe refuge to smaller

birds. Also occurring locally, this time on dry forested hillsides is *Jacksonia scoparia*, a wispy shrub about 3m high, with greyish foliage and sprays of brilliant orange/yellow pea flowers. Again it seems few grow this adaptable plant.

Homoranthus prolixus is also a tough plant, found naturally on the northern NSW tablelands. Its habit is prostrate to spreading, about 30cm high and a metre or more wide. This plant is very formal looking, structured in layers with lovely grey foliage and brilliant yellow flowers sitting atop the branches. Best grown in full sun, in well drained soil. No doubt this will become more popular as it is very tolerant of dry conditions.



Some of the flowers brought for display

Jenny Vine displayed some rarely grown **Rutaceae** plants, *Zieria tuberculata*, *Z. granulata*, *Z. formosa* and *Z. cytisoides* hybrid (*Z. 'Pink Crystals'*) Generally *Ziera*'s have fairly small, insignificantly coloured flowers, so do not attract much attention from gardeners, which is a pity, because as a rule most species are pretty tough.

My notes on the day are somewhat lacking, but other contributors included **Jo Benyon** with a range of Kangaroo Paws, **Paul Hattersley** with some of Peter Ollerenshaw's Hybrid Leptospermums, **Marjorie Apthorpe**, **Cliff Williams**, **Catriona Bate** with some rather special upside down flowered **Banksia lehmanniana** and **B. caleyi**, which we were advised could be grown on its own roots, although these ones are some of Phil's grafted plants, and others I can't recall, so I must apologise.

FJC (Fred) Rogers – a passionate advocate for Australian Plants

Following Diane's presentation John Knight offered an insight into the history of **Fred Rogers Seminars**, held in Victoria every 2 years.



The "Goodeniaceae" Seminar held in 2018 was the 12th to be held in honour of Mr F J C (Fred) Rogers who had always advocated the need for educating members about specific groups of plants.

In 1954, Arthur Swaby published his ideas of forming "**Australian Growers of Australians**" The encouraging response resulted in an inaugural meeting on 12th March 1957 – held in Melbourne's Horticultural Hall in Victoria Street. At this meeting this group was blessed with its name, "**The Society for Growing Australian Plants**" (**SGAP**) – **South East Region**".

Fred was a member of this group since 1959. In the first few years Groups were founded in Capital cities, and generally based upon State boundaries. By the beginning of 1964 the South East Region had grown to 700 enthusiastic members. Apart from his activities at the local level, Fred as a foundation member of the Society, became President of the South East Region in April 1963 and held this role until May 1968.

Fred quickly showed himself to be a leader and a man of knowledge and action so during his term of office the Society grew from 700 members to over 1200.



suburbs of Melbourne.

An early garden visit, SGAP Maroondah. Note the formality of dress, and the radical informality of the garden. (from Growing Australian Native Plants FJC Rogers)

Below, an SGAP 'workingbee' at FJC Rogers Reserve in Heathmont

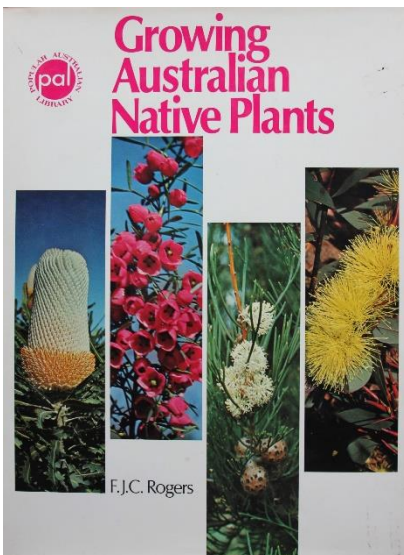
Fred was also instrumental in having two reserves in the Ringwood area created to preserve local flora. One was Wombalano Park and the other, a patch of remnant bushland opposite the Heathmont railway station, later named The FJC Rogers Reserve. In addition, the Council erected a plaque in the Horsham Botanic Gardens to acknowledge his promotion of Australian plants in the Wimmera, where he moved in 1976, as appointed Principal of Horsham West Primary School. Fred brought with him a love for Australian native plants and botanical expertise unmatched in the Wimmera, taking every opportunity to promote the growing of Australian native plants, and forming a Wimmera group of The Society of Growing Australian Plants.

An additional seven District Groups were formed during Fred's term as President. In March 1966, Fred called a meeting to his home in Ringwood and the "Maroondah Group" was formed with him as the inaugural President, a position he held for the next 5 years.

Fred was the convenor of the South East Region flower shows from 1964 to 1971 held at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall. He also conducted Council of Adult Education courses on native plants. He took a keen interest in all South East Region activities and participated wherever he could.

Being a keen propagator he provided Australian plants for many school grounds mainly in the eastern

In March 1971, Tasmania became a separate group, South East region then became known as SGAP Victoria. Fred was also involved in the formation of the federal body known as the Australian Society for Growing Australian Plants (ASGAP) in 1962, and was elected Federal President in 1967 for the following two years.



He wrote a number of books and many articles on native plants including a "Field Guide to Victorian Wattles", "Growing Australian Plants" and "Growing More Australian Plants", which might be credited with inspiring many gardeners to at least try some Australian plants. "A Guide to Plants in Little Desert and Mt Arapiles Area".

In 1995, as Fred, Royce Raleigh and Paul Kennedy all had an interest in Hakeas, they had planned a large seminar on the species. Sadly Fred passed away before the event, which was then dedicated to him. APS Victoria has honoured Fred by naming these biannual seminars – "FJC Rogers Seminars" in recognition of his magnificent service to the Society and to uphold Fred's desire that members should continue to be educated about specific groups of plants.

Adapted from the notes of Royce Raleigh and June & Peter Rogers for the 12th Seminar.



In My Garden,

Kickstarters

by Leigh Murray

I've recently had surprising successes with weeper hoses (the black rubber ones with a red stripe, that look like a skinny Red-bellied Black Snake). Where hand watering, drip irrigation and good old-fashioned rainfall have failed to encourage many of our plants to actually grow, the weeper has produced amazing results, saving some plants from what appeared to be imminent death, and kickstarting others into their first ever growth spurt.

I say the successes are surprising because I can't figure out why adding a small amount of water (just dribbling) has such a beneficial effect. I just drag one hose around, setting it to weep for a couple of hours, and then I move it to another group of plants (it keeps me active!).

We have a large *Hakea eriantha* (about 4m x 4m) at Queanbeyan, and quite a few younger, smaller plants of about 2m high. The big one has recently been looking particularly parlous, owing to the long-extended drought. This mattered to us. A lot. Because that bush is a magnet for Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoos. They dote on its seeds, and arrive in flocks of maybe 30 birds; the packing density of birds on the bush can be high. Without that bush (and the smaller ones), we'd have no Black Cockatoos visiting (they aren't especially partial to our other Hakeas, though they used to go for *H. sericea* at Tuross). Well, I set up the weeper to run for a couple of stints on all of these shrubs. The result: the big one looks happier, and the smaller ones are finally growing again.

At Tuross, I have several *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* 'Euky Dwarf', all growing only very slowly – despite drippers, occasional hand watering, and occasional rain. (The strong winds that often blow at our place do suck out the moisture.) After weeper runs, there is lovely new growth on all of them. Ditto a small (stalled) *E. preissiana*.

Years ago, at Queanbeyan, we had a couple of *Acacia vestita* that just sat and looked at us after they were planted. After 20 years, they were still all of about 6 inches high. I happened to run a weeper hose past them, for some other plants, and it was just the ticket for the *vestitas*. They shot up (by our standards), and grew into 2m x 2m shrubs.

I've had similar good effects watering indoor plants. When we've been away too long, sometimes the plants dried out. Our much-loved Kentia Palm, *Howea forsteriana*, is in a large pot, which is too large for me to manage. The potting mix dried out, and the plant went into a major decline. I tried replacing some of the potting mix several times, with no effect. I tried wetting agents. No go. Eventually I began to water it really frequently with tiny amounts of water several times a day. And that seems to have cheered it up: the potting mix eventually became moister, and the plant opened a new frond. I'm having similar success in kickstarting an ailing *Cissus antarctica*.

So, it seems to me that the way the water is applied may be as important, or more important than, the amount of water used.

Committee news

Late last year, past secretary Michele Pymble was advised that our First President, Robin Corringham, passed away. Robin died in her beloved garden on the 20th August 2018, several weeks short of her 88th birthday.

Margaret Baker, with whom Robin co-authored *Native Plants of the Blue Mountains* sent some words in memory of Robin's contribution to the Australian Plant Society, in part reproduced below.

A Former Society President Remembered

Robin Corringham came to live in the Blue Mountains with her husband Ron in the 1960s combining an interest in photography with a love of the bush and would often be found walking and recording life along the regions tracks. They joined the then Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) Blue Mountains Group in 1972 and became active in working in the Native Plant Reserve at Glenbrook as enthusiastic members of the Wednesday group. With training in horticulture and having run a Camellia nursery Robin had found a new outlet for her skills.

Robin came upon the Victorian Register of Significant Trees and set about in 1984 to establish, through the local SGAP, the Blue Mountains Register of Significant Trees. She organised an eminent advisory panel, community nomination forms and inspection schedule. In time the register of some 73 trees was presented to the Blue Mountains City Council. The register was incorporated into the BMCC Development Control Plan of 1988 and aimed to ensure the survival of important trees, both native and foreign, within the city limits.

Also in 1984 Robin joined with Margaret Baker and Jill Dark to write, photograph and publish the first book on Blue Mountains flora, *Native Plants of the Upper Blue Mountains*. This was followed in 1985 by *Native Plants of the Lower Blue Mountains* and in 1986 by *Native Plants of the Sydney Region*.

Robin later went on to co-author with Margaret *Birds of the Blue Mountains* (1988) and *Native Plants of the Blue Mountains* (1995) as well as several other titles.

During the 1980s Robin became increasingly active in the conservation movement, encouraged by studies completed in 1988 in the Associate Diploma in Environmental Studies at the then Mitchell College of Advanced Education.

Her involvement in the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society from this time included assistance with the incorporation of the Society in 1987, involvement in the campaign surrounding the development of the Local Environment Plan 1991 and a term as Society President from 1990 as well as being its newsletter editor. Robin has been described as the “go-to” person about land use issues at that time.

By the late 1980s volunteer bush regeneration groups were forming in the area partly encouraged by SGAP activists and the National Trust. In 1990 Robin, as president, organised for the UBMCS to hold a one day workshop about bush regeneration for existing groups, Blue Mountains City Council and other interested parties. What emerged from that day was the formation of the Bushcare Network which then set about lobbying council to employ a Bushcare officer (1992) to support existing groups. A long-involved bush regenerator remembered Robin providing plant identification assistance to the fledgling Minnehaha Bushcare Group in 1991.

Memorable were Robin’s meetings from 1990 – 1992 with RTA representatives over the design for the Woodford bends reconstruction. Her requested sandstone viaducts were rejected but she insisted on the road verges being planted with local natives that in time were supplied from the Conservation Society’s nursery. This facility was established in 1990 by Wyn Jones, encouraged and assisted by Robin and Ron, on NPWS land in Blackheath. Robin then capably managed the nursery from 1991 to 1994, setting this vital Society asset on the way to commercial viability.

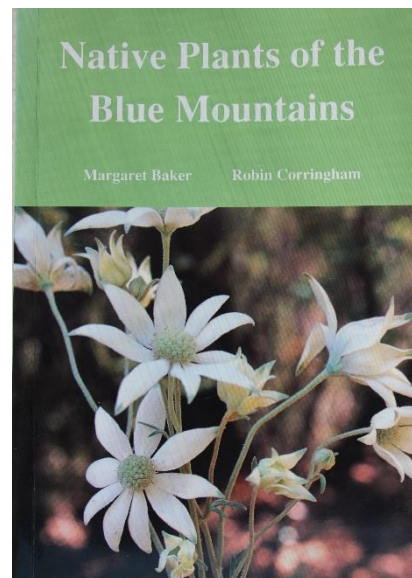
In 1994 Robin and Ron moved to a new house at Meringo, south of Moruya.

Robin become the first President of the South-eastern Region District Group of the SGAP and for some time participated in the volunteer program at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens in Batemans Bay.

Robin had developed a fascination in fungi while still in the Blue Mountains and she greatly expanded on this interest with involvement in the identification, ecology and photography of that kingdom during her years on the coast. Many of her photographs of regional species can be found on-line.

However with the worsening health of, and eventual loss of Ron, and her declining energy and troublesome memory, Robin retired her membership of the Australian Plants Society in 2014 and became quite reclusive.

Just a few days before her passing, she had penned the last of her many letters written in her distinctive field naturalist’s prose and had packed an evacuation box for herself and her two dogs in case the next fire emergency came sweeping over the hills. **The Bush Heritage Fund** will benefit from Robin’s passing.



Margaret Baker
November 2018

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General meeting of APS South East Region Group will be held at 10.30am on Saturday 3rd February 2018, at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden

The business of the meeting is:

1. Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
2. To receive and approve the annual President Report
3. To receive and approve the Annual Financial Report
4. To receive a report from the Membership Officer
5. To determine the number of ordinary committee members for the coming year (currently up to 6)
6. To elect office bearers and ordinary members of the committee for the coming year

All committee positions will become vacant. Nominations for the committee for the coming year can be submitted on the nomination form below, and presented to the Returning Officer Margaret Lynch prior to the meeting. According to the rules governing our association, there must be nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Current serving committee members are eligible to be re-nominated.

The committee encourages all members to consider seriously offering to join the committee. Please print this page and complete the form and bring it with you to meeting.

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Australian Plants Society (APS) South East NSW Group

Nomination for Committee for 2019

I, (the Nominator) _____, being a financial member of APS South East Group

Nominate _____

For the Position of, _____

or as an Ordinary Committee Member

I accept nomination as a Committee Member or for the position specified

Signature of Nominee _____ **Dated** / / 2019

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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Minute Sec.,		Vacant	
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