



Australian Plants Society

South East NSW Group

Newsletter 173

July 2021

Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and
Macrozamia communis Burrawang

Contacts:

President,	Di Clark,	dianneclark293@outlook.com
Secretary,	Paul Hattersley	paul.hattersley26@outlook.com
Newsletter editor,	John Knight,	johnonvista49@gmail.com
Group contact		southeast@austplants.com.au

Next Meeting

**Saturday 7th August 2021, 10.00am for 10.30am start
at Dalmeny**

**We will meet at the top of Eucalyptus Drive in Dalmeny (see map of Dalmeny on P6.)
Details Page 2**

Dear Members,

Welcome to the July Newsletter. In these rapidly changing times it has been difficult to plan ahead for our group but the committee has resolved to try and continue with our monthly meetings if possible. In order to do this we have decided to meet in an outdoor setting and allow for plenty of space and fresh air. Please see the details on Page 2 for our next meeting.

We still require you to sign in as usual but also we are required to provide a Q R code for this group and scan in with our phones using the Service NSW app.

If you are unable to do this, we will be still be able to sign you in, but QR code is the preferred method to allow contact tracing.

I have recently been lucky enough to head up to northern Queensland, (just got in, and out!) and spend a day wandering around the magnificent rainforest at Daintree National Park. I gave up trying to identify plants and just took in the feel of the place. The structural environmental diversity and plant diversity is extremely complex. The area is home to 12 primitive plant families such as **Cycadaceae** and about 30 different mangrove species. A fantastic wonderland well worth protecting.



Licuala ramsayi. Fan Palm

Di Clark. Please note I have changed my email address to dianneclark293@outlook.com

For our August meeting, Secretary Paul Hattersley has organised a Plant Species ‘Bioblitz-type’ Bushwalk through native forest at the back of Dalmeny

Given the Covid situation, we thought it a good idea to have an outside activity this month where we can all socially distance and abide by all relevant rules.

So, the Committee has agreed that we should go for a plant species ‘Bioblitz-type’ gentle bushwalk through native forest immediately behind Dalmeny. We can also listen for any bird calls, look for other signs of animal life, fungi etc., recording our findings as we go.

There is a very large tract of biodiverse forest bushland behind Dalmeny. Some of it seems to be relatively undisturbed old growth forest, containing many large eucalypt trees with plenty of hollows, which still also occur in a smaller, obviously logged corner of the forest area. The understorey over most of this tract is also in good condition. The area contains a range of plant communities (eg spotted gum forest, other eucalypt forest types, some dry ridges, as well as wet gullies).

The Eurobodalla Shire Council intends to develop this land for residential housing; the area has been zoned thus for 30 years, and zoning did not change in the revision of the last Local Environment Plan (LEP 2012). The area comprises Council land (c. 40 Ha) and two parcels of privately-owned land (these two being c. 55 Ha in total).

Council very recently agreed to sell its land to a developer. The intention is to draw up a master plan for development of all three parcels together (c. 95 Ha).

It would be good to know what plant species grow there and to take the opportunity to visit this, in many parts, lovely bushland before it is cleared. Perhaps, a plant list should be made available to Council to assist them in protecting any valuable/sensitive areas during development. Of interest is whether there are any unusual, rare or threatened species there, and if any plant community types are vulnerable.

We’ll have a stroll and record what we can, in a relaxed way.

Paul will lead and guide the walk, and give some further background about the area. John will lead on the plant side, and assist in identifying as many of the Eucalypts, Acacias and other species for us! We will follow good and wide tracks, which are sometimes stony (but not all too rough) and only occasionally a bit rutted. The terrain is varied, and steep in only a few short parts of our walk. In one or two spots it may be a bit muddy, but you won’t get wet feet unless you want to. The forest will shade us most of the way.

So, bring your plant books, hat, sunscreens, sensible walking shoes, binoculars, and chair and picnic for lunch. Paul will provide some more information about the area, including some lists (maybe pictures) of species to look out for. Don’t forget your mask in case you wish to visit a shop.

We will meet as usual at 10 am for social morning tea, distancing of course, then depart for our 2-hour walk at 10.30.

Directions: Dalmeny is about 64 km south of Bateman’s Bay. About 6 minutes south of Bodalla, turn left off the Princes Highway into **Mort Street, a clearly signposted turnoff to Dalmeny.**

Follow the main road about 1.5 km through pretty much all of Dalmeny. There are lots of ‘dog leg’ turns, but it’s clearly the main road. Then turn **right immediately after the duckpond** (also on your right), into Eucalyptus Drive. The attached map clearly shows the route to follow from the Princes Hwy (the left of map) to Eucalyptus Drive (bottom right of map).

The number ‘1’ marks our meeting place at the top of Eucalyptus Drive. There is plenty of room to park cars there. The number ‘2’ on the map (bottom right) marks the very open headland at the north end of Yabbara Beach, where we can have lunch appropriately distanced.

Toilets are near Mummuga Lake and near the local shops, both marked ‘T’ (in an orange triangle) on the map.

Stalwarts may want to stroll in a different part of the area after lunch. Let’s hope it will be nice weather for a winter stroll, and we discover lots of interesting plants that grow right here in our local area.

Last Meeting

Unfortunately we had to cancel the Members story day, but don't panic, the Committee assures you that the homework you did will not be wasted effort. Another meeting along the same lines is planned as soon as we are able to safely meet indoors.

Proteaceae Project at ERBG

President Di is co-ordinating the project on our behalf.

Work on this project has commenced, and as previously reported, besides ground works, some members assisted with propagation. Di has confirmed that already some seed has germinated, and will need to be potted in coming weeks. She also says that the cuttings, although not yet rooted, are all looking very healthy. Good work prop team!

There will be further opportunities for members to get involved at future working bees. These will be arranged by the committee to fit in with the schedule of ERBG staff.

You will be advised via email, and given sufficient time to organise your calendars so that you can participate, and Di would be pleased to hear from any member to discuss our involvement.

Hopefully we can offer you some practical on-going action in the following months.

Covid news Geoff Gosling and Annie Hood

SOUTH PACIFIC HEATHLAND RESERVE REVISITED

On 19 July, we had to visit Ulladulla to receive our second COVID shot and so took the opportunity to revisit the heathland reserve that we saw with the APS group last year.

When we were there previously, some of the reserve was still recovering from fires and large tracts of it were blackened e.g. the South Pacific Lookout area was full of dead shrubs and had bare ground. We are happy to report that is no longer the case.

We entered through the Dowling Street entrance and followed the path in a loop that allowed us to see almost the whole reserve. It is looking lush and growing strongly with plenty of undergrowth and fresh green shoots everywhere. There are also many plants flowering. The whole place is much better than when the APS group visited.

The white flowering Wedding Bush, *Ricinocarpos pinifolius* appeared everywhere, both male and female plants smothered in blooms .

Pink flowering *Lambertia formosa*, one of the plants we will be growing in the Proteaceae garden at ERBG, (do you remember that this plant is the only member of our local Proteaceae which has flowers in groups of 7?),

and red flowered Running Postman, *Kennedia prostrata* were also common. The Kennedia seemed to sprout wherever a piece of bare ground was available, which is



common trait for this little scrambling plant. It often only persists for a couple of years. Purple Flag, *Patersonia glabrata* provided a bit of contrast. *Grevillea macleayana* grew taller than all these and was covered in one sided flowers. This *Grevillea* can also grow as a prostrate plant, a number of which were found along a side track.



In a couple of places, groups of plants grew closely packed as though they had been planted in a cottage garden arrangement. This could be seen with the *Pimelea linifolia*, *Xanthosia pilosa* and *Gonocarpus teucroides* grouping.

For me though, the star of the show was the *Isopogon anemonifolius* scattered throughout with striking yellow flowers boldly displayed at the ends of branches.

Other flowering plants included *Correa reflexa* and of course, various acacias including the small prickly shrub Hedgehog Wattle, *Acacia echinula*, and *Hibbertia aspera* sprouted everywhere in the burnt areas, showing off their attractive yellow flowers.

We suggest this reserve is worth another visit next time you are heading to Ulladulla.

GUERRILLA BAY BIOBLITZ, another perspective

Lyndal Thorburn

It was a sunny but windy early autumn Friday when we drove from Queanbeyan down to the South Coast of NSW to participate in the Guerilla Bay BioBlitz for two days. The Bioblitz had been organised by the Guerilla Bay Landcare group in conjunction with the SE NSW region group of APS NSW, to which we belong. We turned up at the Burrewarra carpark at the end of Burri Point Road, to meet an enthusiastic group, decked out with hats, sunscreen, insect repellent (for the ticks!) and binoculars. The aim of the event was to list local plants and animals, but locals with little knowledge were also encouraged to come along and learn about what they could do to enhance the attractiveness of their properties for the local fauna and flora.

Individuals could register to attend some or all of the organised surveys. Attendees had already conducted a bird survey from 7am to 8:30am and the first two plant surveys – one of the coastal reserve and one of the Burrewarra Point Reserve. This reserve turned out to have an interesting history. It now forms part of the Guerilla Bay-Burrewarra Point reserve, but during World War II a RAAF Operational Unit was stationed there and the site included a radar station and a rifle range. As one of the few World War II sites in the Eurobodalla Region, it is listed with the National Trust.

Locals' memories didn't go that far back but many did recall the Point as a dairy farm with cattle in the 1950s and 1960s. This means that the "mature banksias" referred to in current nature guides can be no more than 70 years old. These banksias are now leaning and falling, along with the old *Allocasuarinas*, which grow along the edge of the cliffs. The vegetation map for Batemans Bay classifies most of the Point as "disturbed land" with some headland grassland and forest. The Council staff who also attended the event recounted stories of the whole area being covered in the weed Bitou Bush, and spending years poisoning it to support the regrowth of more natural vegetation. Even now, they survey for bitou bush along the cliffs, and send in abseiling teams to poison individual plants growing on the cliffs, every year.

When we arrived at 11am, the group was being briefed for the two-stage mammalian fauna survey. We were shown how to set camera traps (using camouflaged infra-red cameras) and hair traps (funnels with glued-paper along their lengths and bait at the end, pegged to the ground). For both, the bait is a mix of oatmeal, peanut butter and honey. For the camera traps, this is placed in a spherical tea-strainer directly opposite the camera. For the hair traps, the bait is placed at the base and the trap is pinned down in place – whoever visits can't eat the bait but they do leave hair stuck on the sticky paper that lines the trap. After placing our traps around the Point, we headed off to our hotel, while the next plant survey and the nestbox-building lessons got underway.

We returned to the Point at 5pm for the evening bird survey. It was still quite windy, and we were disappointed in the small number of species we saw. These included, however, Brown Thornbills, New Holland Honeyeaters, Variegated Wrens, Little Wattlebirds, White-bellied Sea-eagles and Australasian Gannets.

After dinner, we returned for the insect survey. Two white sheets had been set up vertically behind the registration area, with a combined white light and blacklight (ultraviolet range). It was still windy and it took a while for insects to arrive, but we were pleased in the end as we saw some spectacular moths, the largest being a Double-headed Hawk Moth (a large moth with orange under-wings) and a very tattered Emperor Gum Moth. There were plenty of smaller moths and a very active Huntsman spider. Another group went spotlighting at the same time and saw brushtail possums and feathertail gliders.

On Saturday morning we turned up again, this time to retrieve the animal traps. We found most of them easily, but one of our tea-strainer bait balls had been well and truly munched, and something large had tried to escape with one of our hair funnel traps. The videos told the story – a bandicoot had been active in front of the camera trap and a brushtail possum had left hairs behind in one of our hair traps. We also saw a fox on all of our camera trap videos (possibly the same fox, roaming widely), and several *Antechinus* (marsupial mice).

Our final activity for the weekend was a plant survey. True to form for plant-people, it was scheduled for 1.5 hours and took 2.5 hours, because we couldn't get more than one or two metres before having to stop to inspect something. The leader of our walk, John Knight, spent a lot of time discussing weeds vs local species, and talking about how some local species (e.g. *Breynia oblongifolia* (Coffee Bush) or *Commelina cyanea* (Native Wandering Jew)) could be turned into respectable garden plants with a bit of pruning, or in the latter's case, by growing in a hanging basket.

Much of the ground vegetation on the Point is Bracken growing amongst the Banksias and Eucalypts. Our walk took us to the edge of the Point, where a fire in 2019 had burnt out a banksia grove. While many plants had returned, the area was dominated by *Lomandra longifolia*. We also passed through a wetter area, which has a natural spring. The vegetation changed here to be dominated by *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca*, with *Acacia mearnsii*. In places we also found *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, a massive vine called *Marsdenia rostrata* and something that looked like a firewheel tree (south of its natural range).

We finished our visit to the coast after this plant walk. Yet another plant walk was conducted along the coastal reserve (behind Guerilla Bay houses) in the afternoon, and the whole event wound up at about 5pm. The organisers would have been very tired!! But also, I think, they would have been very pleased about the turnout and the amount of data gathered. This is all being entered into the iNaturalist app, to add to the local record of both native and feral species. iNaturalist is taking over from the Budawang Nature Map as the main "citizen science" data repository for the Eurobodalla Region. iNaturalist is a joint initiative by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society and is available worldwide. The Guerilla Bay Bioblitz is listed as a project on iNaturalist and at the end of the weekend had accumulated almost 400 observations.

Gardening Blues



Am I blue ? I can't be sure, says
Scaevola porocarya



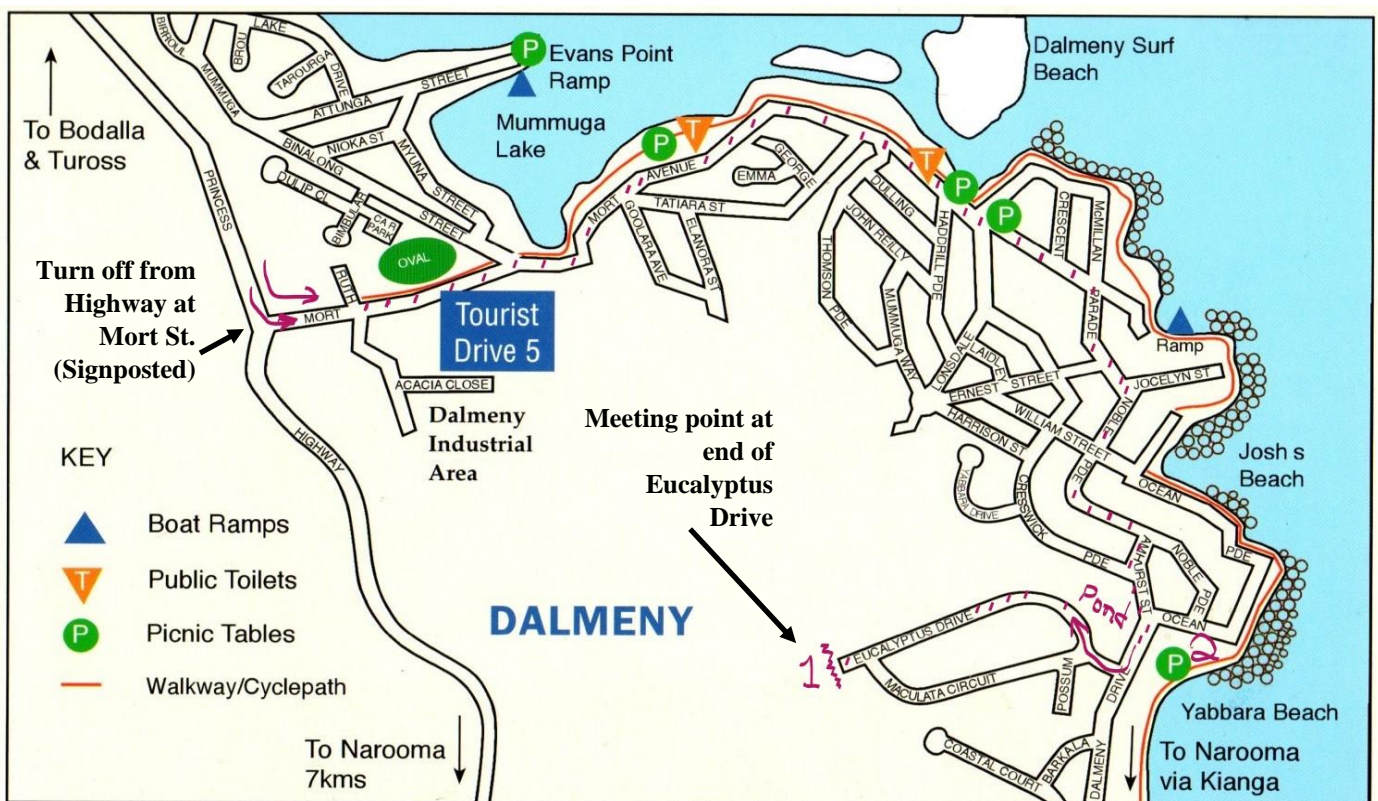
Am I blue ? No need to ask, says
Lechenaultia biloba

Is Sue Blue? Well Yes!

The cockies refuse to let her grow any plant other than Natives.

While we sleep in, they pull the flowering annuals from their pots, and throw them on the ground in disgust. So Bacopa, Nemesia, Pansies and Violets are no more.

Aussies only for our place. The herb pots have wire covering so they survive.



COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President,	Di Clark	Ph 0 4 02 555 330	e. dianneclark293@outlook.com
Secretary,	Paul Hattersley	Ph 0412 426 413	e. paul.hattersley26@outlook.com
Minute Sec.,			
Treasurer,	Geoff Gosling	Ph 0438 286 382	e. geoff.gosling@bigpond.com
Membership	Jenny John	Ph 0437 304 173	e. peteandjenny.john@gmail.com
Publicity	Marjorie Apthorpe	Ph 02 4478 1142	e. marjorieapthorpe@gmail.com
Members	Norman Hulands	Ph 0427 276 803	e. normanhulands@bigpond.com
	John Knight	Ph 0434 674 347	e. johnonvista49@gmail.com
	Sally Power	Ph 02 4474 3600	e. sallymcdonald9@gmail.com
	Website .		southeast.austplants.com.au