



# Australian Plants Society

## South East NSW Group

Newsletter 187  
September 2022

*Corymbia maculata* Spotted Gum and  
*Macrozamia communis* Burrawang

### Contacts:

President,	Di Clark,	<a href="mailto:diclark17@mailfence.com">diclark17@mailfence.com</a>
Secretary,	Paul Hattersley	<a href="mailto:paul.hattersley26@outlook.com">paul.hattersley26@outlook.com</a>
Newsletter editor,	John Knight,	<a href="mailto:johnonvista49@gmail.com">johnonvista49@gmail.com</a>
Group contact		<a href="mailto:southeast@austplants.com.au">southeast@austplants.com.au</a>

### Dear Members,

Welcome to the September Edition of the APS South East Region Newsletter. I am standing in as editor of this newsletter as John Knight is unavailable. Paul Hattersley kindly provided the detailed report of last month's meeting and a familiar spring poem.

The committee had a tentative plan for our October Meeting to visit Little Forest Plateau and you can see the details below. I have been feeling like we should be more certain of what we doing and be able to let you know in advance, but after visiting the area in early September, I am convinced that the weather conditions that this whole area has been through during the last few years have made this impossible. Roads are the big unknown at the moment so I was unable to test out all the walks. I do not have a four wheel drive. The preferred walk is Mt Bushwalker as it displays a large display of sandstone plants. The views are absolutely superb and the walking is easy and the distance is 7.2km. I had no trouble getting there. The conditions of the roads and the weather on the day will be monitored and we will keep you informed if there are any changes of plan.

The Little Forest Plateau is a superb area of unusual rock formations and plant communities. There will



be much more to write about this after our visit, but I know you will be as inspired as I was by this beautiful part of the world. This area was burnt in 2019/2020 and this removed the thick woody heath that you may have walked through in the past. There has also been a very long board walk built that protect the environment underneath and keeps the walkers out of the water.

I think some of you may find the first part of this board walk a bit confronting. It has removed the

proximity of the plants and it is impossible to get down and take a close up photo let alone look with a hand lens. I actually think it is a wonderful addition to this environment that will help save it. I don't want my appreciation of natural environments to be aiding their demise. There are other opportunities on this walk to get down close and personal and even get muddy if you wish. The boardwalk is still new and nature will find a way to recover the scars. Now is a great time to see this area as a beautiful, recovering wet heathland. See below for details of the big, spring day out.

By now the Kiama Conference will have been completed. We would be very interested to hear from anyone who attended and could report back on their experiences.

Di Clark

## Next Meeting Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, Little Forest Plateau

**As this is a special spring meeting/walk we will be meeting at the Car Park in Batemans Bay at the North end of the Bridge at 9am.**



**View from the plateau. (photo Di Clark)**

Access to the car park from the North is via a slip road just before the bridge. Access from the south is via Kings Highway roundabout. You will need to go past and turn back to then access the slip road on the left. See last page for a couple of maps.

We will meet in the car park at 9am with the aim of leaving at 9:15am. The road into Little Forest Plateau is a little rough so it would be a good idea for those with 4 wheel or all wheel drives to be willing to car pool if possible, but my 2 wheel drive was fine for the selected walk.

From the car park the group will then travel North to Milton ( 60km), which should take about 1hour and 15mins. We will be stopping in Milton to look at the giant **Small-leafed Fig** (*Ficus obliqua*) in the Mick Ryan Park. This can be found on the left as you leave Milton to the North. I am not sure if there are toilets here but there is a drop toilet at the final car park before the walk and also toilets in Milton. The fig is believed to be 190 years old and is well worth seeing.

From Milton we head North 8.5km (past Yatte Yattah) and make a left on Porters Creek Road on the left. Travel up this road for about 10km till you get to a T intersection. This is where we take the right turn and head 4km towards Mt Bushwalker Track car park.

The road is a bit rough in places so take care and keep your distance from the car in front.

This whole area was burnt so the car park and the walking track infrastructure have been rebuilt. The walk is mostly flat either on boardwalks or rocky areas. It will be damp on the rocks and tracks and you will need to wear appropriate shoes. Also be prepared for changeable weather as this is plateau can be very exposed. **The walk itself is 7.2km return.** We will be walking slowly so as to take in the plants and views. We will plan to have lunch at the viewing platform at Mt Bushwalker.

This walk has been described by the Milton Branch of the NPA NSW as the best in the Budawang in terms of effort required compared to rewards (views) received. I would add the rewards are plant and photography based as well.

Mt Bushwalker is part of the Little Forest Plateau. This is the southern end of the Sydney sandstone and the vegetation is part of the Sydney Montane heaths. The soils are limited and frequently damp. There is a high diversity of vegetation, mostly shrubs, herbs, grasses and grass like plants. There are Mallee Ash in sheltered pockets and at the tops of the gullies. At present the taller shrubs are regenerating so it a great time to observe the views and the smaller groundplants.

As usual you will need to bring hat, sunscreen, snacks and lunch, water and a raincoat. Be prepared is the motto.

## **Last Meeting      Narooma garden Visits**

### **Meeting notes by Paul Hattersley**

#### **Spring has sprung!**

With cold overcast days before and after the 3<sup>rd</sup>, we were very lucky to have beautiful, sunny and warm weather for our visits to Alison Spurgeon's garden at Garvan St, Narooma and Margaret Lynch's garden at Beachview Close, North Narooma.

Geoff opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone. He gave apologies from John and Di, and thanked Alison and Peter, and Margaret and Peter for opening their gardens to the multitude; it was a good turnout!

Manager of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, Michael Anlezark, was invited to tell us about his proposal to expand the current ERBG collecting region (established in 1986). This area focuses collecting efforts on an area defined as the catchments of the Clyde, Moruya and Tuross Rivers, with some minor extensions into Monga National Park (north-east) and Bermagui River (north shore). Although large (approx. 6,000 sq km), in the current biodiversity planning context it can be considered as only local or sub-regional rather than 'regional'.



**Michael Anlezark giving an update on ERBG**

The proposal is to encompass the entire region running from the Southern bank of the Shoalhaven River at Nowra, all the way south to the Victorian border. In adopting this region as the new collecting area, all of the NSW extent of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia's South East Corner Bioregion and the Flora of New South Wales South Coast Botanical Subdivision, would be encompassed (about 14,000 sq km).

Details of the proposal, including its positives, are in the latest Friends of ERBG Newsletter (*Correa* September 2022). Also, Michael referred to the upgrading of the Sensory Garden and to the planned Spring BioBlitz to be held at the Garden Sunday 2nd October.

During the meeting, Catriona Bate was asked to remind us of the (then) upcoming Australian Native Plants Society (ANPSA) conference on 10–16 September, in Kiama NSW. Phil Trickett and Catriona hosted two chat room sessions on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>: 'How to Get Grafted Native Plants into your Garden' and 'Filling the Gaps: How to Preserve our Isopogons and Petrophiles'.



## First Garden -Alison's Garden



*Alison introduces us to the landscaping project*



*Alison showing Catriona and Phil the front garden area.*

Two and half years ago, Alison and Peter decided to downsize from their property out of town to a Narooma home, provided it was in a private location. They eventually found their perfect cul-de-sac location in Garvan St, right in the 'CBD' area. However, the block is very steep, the smaller front garden area was very overgrown (but structured), but now it is well weeded and replanted, and includes a vegie area (see photo). The larger backyard was fence-to-fence kikuyu lawn, and unstructured.

Alison and Peter bit the bullet and approached a local landscaper (Hush Landscapes) for ideas. What started as a relatively small-scale endeavour (steps at the south side of the house), morphed into a massive 5-month engagement until May this year, with wonderful results. The project 'grew somewhat'!

Alison demanded that the kikuyu had to go, and no grass would be featured (except the odd native

ornamental) in a desired low-maintenance, easy-access revamped garden. She originally wanted a large level area, but as she and Dave Hush bounced around ideas, the solution ended up being a terraced garden, with wide paths (tasteful use of old bricks or consolidated granite), retaining wall structures (sandstone, cast-iron or sleepers), and steps with risers of sleeper, brick or cast-iron.

The clever and tasteful use of this wide range of landscaping materials has resulted in a visually very pleasing feel, which should provide the setting for much relaxation and peace, listening to the whipbirds, making all the work well worthwhile (see photos).



*Part of back garden, showing clever use of varied materials (photo: Alison)*



Before we explored the garden, Alison showed us ‘before-and-after’ photo boards of the project. Little planting of the mulched back garden terracing has so far been done, and Alison welcomed ideas about planting from us as we wandered the paths.



*South side before landscaping (photo: Alison)*



*South side after landscaping (photo Alison)*

Another ‘to-do’ is the north side fence area, still following the original slope of the land; this slope should remain, as it is a sewage line easement. This will allow easy access for machinery, from the road to the back of the block. Also, some original large spotted gum trees at the back fence area may need lopping or removing at some stage.

But what to do with this easement? Dave Hush suggested grass (kikuyu?), an obvious ‘no-no’ for Alison. So, mulching and appropriate planting-up with ground-cover native species and the occasional low shrub may be the go?

Only one plant was brought to the garden from their previous home: a very large specimen of an epiphytic orchid. As ERBG’s Dylan Morrissey was at the gathering, Peter took the opportunity to find out what it was (a local species, *Dockrillia teretifolia*).

**LUNCH** was on Alison’s deck, with everyone catching up and enjoying the lovely view west to Wagonga inlet.



*Margaret in front of Banksia praemorsa, one of the few Western Australian species to survive our La Nina experiences.*

## **Second Garden - Margaret’s Garden**

In contrast to Alison’s, Margaret and Peter’s garden is established. It’s also in a private setting with a wonderful view east to the Tasman Sea from the top of the Beachview Close cul-de-sac, North Narooma.

Alison and Peter moved from their large Lane Cove Ringlands garden to this suburban block about 8 years ago. One of the first garden tasks was the removal of unsuitable exotic plants (eg roses and Bougainvillea) and areas of lawn, followed by mulching and planting a variety of native species. This involved a certain amount of trial and error along the way as patches of dry, wet or impenetrable subsurface rock were discovered.



Some plants thrived, others grew poorly and simply survived, some succumbed to the long period of dry (remember that?!) while others succumbed to the now prolonged wet that has followed. These are the challenges Margaret believes that need to be faced as the climate changes. The garden has matured, but many plants have needed to be replaced and garden areas rejuvenated.



*Lechenaultia biloba* ('Blue Lechenaultia'), a Western Australia species. (photo: Sharon Pearson)

The strategy now is to apply a 'survival of the fittest' approach(!), hopefully having learnt what will survive where and at the same time making things easier for Margaret and Peter as they too "mature"! Some of the numerous seedlings which spring up are left to grow, others relocated or given away. There is an ongoing desperate attempt to remove weeds, which also have germinated abundantly under our recent La Nina conditions. That sounds familiar! Margaret sums up her garden as "a mix of successful rejuvenation and the total wild, enjoyed by birds but facing a much-needed haircut!"

We enjoyed the sunny afternoon wandering the garden and getting to know the wide diversity of native plants now

thriving in the garden. Species which members especially noted, and among Margaret's favourites, are:

*Banksia praemorsa*, *B. blechnifolia* (prostrate); *B. robur*; *Corymbia ficifolia*; *Xanthorrhoea resinosa* (a local species) and *X. johnsonii* (another WA species that has thrived); *Grevillea rhyolitica* subsp. *semivestita*; *Grevillea* Bronze Rambler; *Acacia glaucoptera* (see photo); *Zieria littoralis*; *Correa nummularifolia*; *Eutaxia obovata* (dwarf form); *Maireana oppositifolia* (Blue Bush; *Commersonia dasyphylla* and *C. hermannifolia* (these were in the genus *Rulingia*)(both local species); *Scleranthus biflorus* (photo); *sotoma axillaris*; *Lechinaultia biloba* (photo); *Bulbine bulbosa*, and *B. glauca*.

The most conspicuous exotic species left in the garden are Chinese Smoke Tree (or Smoke Bush, *Cotinus coggyria*) and Frangipani.



*Acacia glaucoptera*. The yellow flowers (actually inflorescences) arise directly from the stems. Note the stems have flattened sides; interpreted as 'phyllodes' (flattened petioles of leaves, serving as leaf blades).



The low green plant to the left of *Bulbine bulbosa*, is *Scleranthus biflorus*. The shrub immediately to the left of the *Scleranthus* is an *Eremophila* species.



A little ditty to celebrate Spring

Spring is sprung, the grass is ris',  
wonder where the boidies is?  
'Boides on the wing? Whoy, that's absoid.  
The wings is always on the boid!'"

## Show and Tell,

Plants brought by members this month left little doubt that Spring was here.

Don and Julia Beattie brought an impressive medley of specimens (mostly grevilleas and pea flowers [family Fabaceae]) from their garden in Broulee, the sandy soil of which means that they can grow many species and varieties not possible on the soils further south on the coast. See the two photos and captions (the round table shows all 12 specimens).



Don provided the following details of the 12 specimens, as follows:

*Bossiaea rhombifolia* (a native of the Central and Northern NSW coasts, and also other states; *Pultenaea villosa* (grows wild at ERBG); *Hardenbergia comptoniana*; *Grevillea* – most likely a hybrid of *curviloba*, possibly 'Whitewings'; *Grevillea banksiii* var. *fosterii*; *Grevillea* - a floriferous red with similarities to *G. speciosa*; *Grevillea* 'Carramar Red', a hybrid of *G. thelemaniana* and *G. olivacea*, as is 'Winpara Gem', but with finer foliage, and it is wide spreading rather than tall growth and has a more compact habit; *Grevillea* "Lollypops", a seedling of 'Billy Bonkers', which is a hybrid between *G. nana* subsp. *abbreviata* and 'Sid Cadwell'; a *Grevillea* with

bright pink flowers, resembling *G. sericea* 'Collaroy Plateau'; *Chamelaucium ciliatum*, a low growing grey leaved 'wax plant' from Western Australia, with white or pink tinged flowers, fairly resistant to myrtle rust unlike *C. uncinatum*; a *Pomaderris* species sourced from Kurunga – probably *P. intermedia* (or maybe *aurea* or *elliptica*).

All the grevilleas Don brought, have a long flowering period and are showy at their peak. He noted that, apart from the three pea plant specimens, the following also do well in sandy soil: *Bossiaea linophylla*, *Pultenaea daphnoides*, *Chorizema cordatum*, *Callistachys lanceolata* and some hoveas. The general plant selection rule for gardens in coastal sand is to look for plants that are from similar coastal sand environments. Because *Grevillea olivacea* and *G. thelemaniana* (and its related species and sub species like *G. preissei* are from the WA coastal sand plains, they and their hybrids produce some of the best grevilleas for coastal planting in the eastern states. Pea plants from the coastal sands of WA, however, are still very challenging, possibly due to their need for very specific nitrogen-fixing bacteria on their roots. It also stands to reason that sand-loving plants may hate being planted in heavy clay-based soils.

Norm Hulands displayed: *Grevillea flexuosa* (a spectacular sample of a grafted W.A. species), *Hakea decurrens* (Bushy Needlewood), *Hakea sericea* (Silky Needle Bush), *Senna artemisioides* (Silver Cassia, a very hardy species), and *Isopogon cuneatus* (a W.A. species).

Next up was Lesley Vincent, also bringing *Isopogon cuneatus*, as well as the delicate-flowered *Micromyrtus ciliata* (Fringed Heath Myrtle, a species of our coast and ranges south from the Hunter region).



*Isopogon cuneatus* (photo Lesley Vincent)

Lesley also asked members what her climber was. Quite a few recognised this locally native fast-growing vine: *Clematis aristata* (Old Man's Beard or Traveller's Joy). Uncontrolled, this vine, although beautiful when profusely flowering, can smother the canopy of shrubs and trees (as in my garden!).

Joan Lynch had a lovely range of specimens from her bush property west of Narooma: *Hovea longifolia* (Long Leaf Hovea, or Rusty Pod), a *Philotheca myoporoides* (introduced to this area), *Acacia mabelleae*, *Olearia tomentosa*, *Helichrysum elatum* (White Paper Daisy, or Tall Everlasting), a *Solanum* sp., *Goodia lotifolia* (Golden Tip) and *Libertia paniculata* (Branching Grass-Flag).

Alison showed a small twig of a rare podocarp conifer species, *Prumnopitys ladei* (Black Pine, previously *Podocarpus ladei*) from a friend's property in North Queensland. This is a small tree which grows on the Atherton Tablelands, and Alison wondered if this species would possibly grow this far south as a garden plant (the rare species needing to be legally accessible of course). This species is in the gymnosperm family Podocarpaceae (species have entire leaf, not needles), one of two famed southern hemisphere conifer plant families (the other being Araucariaceae, the hoop pines). It might well grow well here in decent soil in a sheltered garden such as Alison's, as *Podocarpus elatus* (Brown Pine, Yellow Pine, or Plum Pine) is commonly grown in the Narooma area and occurs naturally as far south as Bateman's Bay. *Podocarpus lawrencii* (Mountain Plum Pine) grows naturally in the Tasmanian and Victorian highlands, and the Brindabella Ranges A.C.T..

Jenny John showed us lovely (labelled!) specimens of *Kunzea affinis* and a grey form of the *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, both species from Western Australia (see photo).



Sharon Pearson kindly topped off Show 'n Tell with free plants of: *Correa glabra* (a species of the Western Slopes of NSW), *Prostanthera incisa* (Cut-Leaf Mint-Bush), and *Bulbine bulbosa* (Native Leek, or Golden Lily).

*Jenny shows us Kunzea affinis (in her left hand) and a grey form of Calothamnus quadrifidus (in her right hand).*

## A message from our membership officer

I personally think it is a good idea to wear a name badge to meetings. It helps to remind us of members who attend meetings only infrequently and also to introduce new members, coming to meetings for the first time. At the last couple of Group meetings that I have attended only a few people were wearing their name badges which I put down to loss of the badge, forgetting to bring it or not knowing how to obtain a badge.

It has been suggested that members use their downloaded NSW APS membership card as a name badge. If you do this you need a plastic holder for the card and I can provide that if you let me know that you would like one.

Alternatively, I can provide a SE Group name badge in a holder. This bears the Group logo of Spotted Gum and Burrawang, pictured on the first page of this newsletter, as distinct from the Waratah of NSW APS. This current Group logo came from a lot of hard work and the creative input of several members of an earlier committee and warrants a greater exposure.

So, if you would like a Group name badge and holder or just a holder please get in touch and I will either bring the badges to a next meeting or send them out by snail mail.

Jenny John

[peteandjenny.john@gmail.com](mailto:peteandjenny.john@gmail.com)



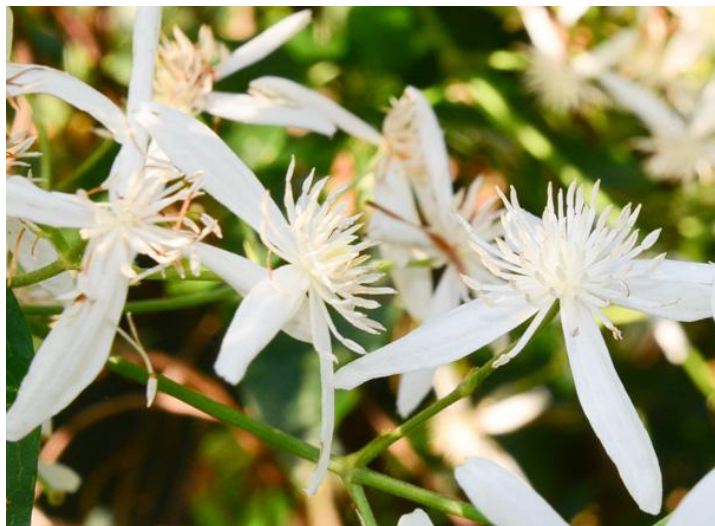
## Celebrate spring in our beautiful Botanic Garden with a Bioblitz! Assistance Required.

APS will be setting up a table on the day and helping out in the Lab in the visitors centre. If you had an hour or two to spare on the day your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Di on 0402 555 330. All you would need to do is talk to people about APS and help them get the most out of the day. Sharing the library and the microscopes at the VC if that helps and just generally enthusing about all things plants (and the odd insect or bird).

### Message from ERBG

On Sunday On 2 October we are launching *Life in the ERBG* - an iNaturalist project for the Botanic Garden. The ERBG is the perfect place to become familiar with local biodiversity.



*Clematis glycinoides*. Photo Di Clark

This will be a fun event focusing on nature exploration:

- early morning bird walks.
- special activities for under-12s.
- guided walks highlighting interesting features.

A “Lab” will be set up in the Visitors Centre to help with identification, connect with local experts, and provide photographic advice.

Join the Spring Bioblitz, and help promote nature exploration, discovery, citizen science, and conservation in our coastal region.

Register now through Eventbrite -

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/spring-bioblitz-at-the-garden-tickets-40213237767>

### Email Issues

I would just like to address a few email issues that have been causing me grief. At present it seems to be limited to the committee only but I do not want to risk including the whole mailing list. For this reason I have decided to change my email address to a more secure provider. I hope this will solve the problem. My outlook account has been sending fake emails and asking for help and money, and my gmail address has been resending old emails without me knowing. If you do receive a strange email from me I would appreciate if you let me know by text or calling. It is helpful to know if it is through gmail or outlook. Please note my new email address on the front and the end of this newsletter. Thanks for your help.

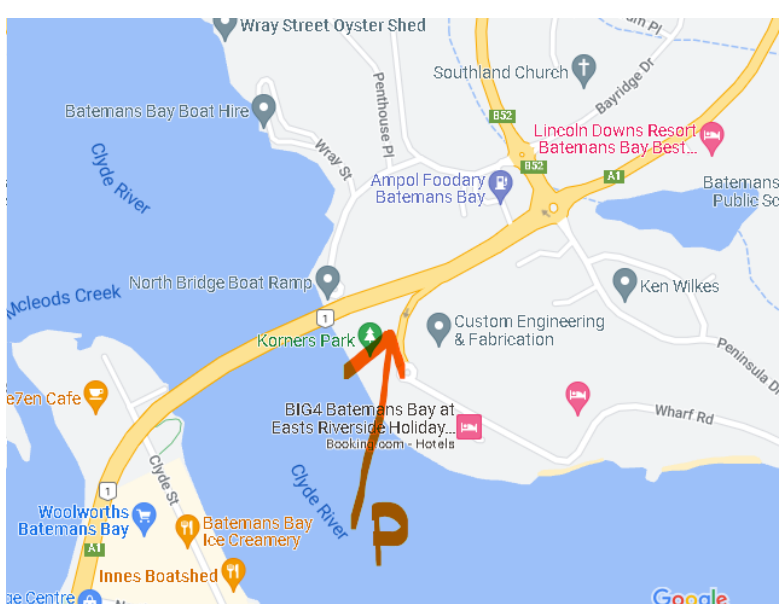
Di Clark

### COVID Reminder

A few things to consider

- If you are feeling unwell, please do not attend a meeting
- Try and maintain 1.5m between yourself and others
- If we are gathering indoors and distancing is difficult consider wearing a mask
- Wash your hands regularly or use hand sanitiser
- NSW Health strongly advises people get fully vaccinated and wear a face mask where they cannot physically distance

## A few maps and signs for October Meeting



**Parking Spot in Batemans Bay**



**Meeting Point in Milton. Mick Ryan Park**



**Turn off highway to Mt Bushwalker Walk**

### COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

<b>President,</b>	<b>Di Clark</b>	<b>Ph 0402 555 330</b>
<b>Secretary,</b>	<b>Paul Hattersley</b>	<b>Ph 0412 426 413</b>
<b>Minute Sec.,</b>		
<b>Treasurer,</b>	<b>Geoff Gosling</b>	<b>Ph 0438 286 382</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Jenny John</b>	<b>Ph 0437 304 173</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>vacant</b>	
<b>Members</b>	<b>Norman Hulands</b>	<b>Ph 0427 276 803</b>
	<b>John Knight</b>	<b>Ph 0434 674 347</b>
	<b>Sally Power</b>	<b>Ph 02 4474 3600</b>
	<b>Website .</b>	

e. [diClark17@mailfence.com](mailto:diClark17@mailfence.com)  
e. [paul.hattersley26@outlook.com](mailto:paul.hattersley26@outlook.com)  
e. [geoff.gosling@bigpond.com](mailto:geoff.gosling@bigpond.com)  
e. [peteandjenny.john@gmail.com](mailto:peteandjenny.john@gmail.com)  
e. [normanhnrh@icloud.com](mailto:normanhnrh@icloud.com)  
e. [johnonvista49@gmail.com](mailto:johnonvista49@gmail.com)  
e. [sallymcdonald9@gmail.com](mailto:sallymcdonald9@gmail.com)  
[southeast.austplants.com.au](http://southeast.austplants.com.au)