

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

Southern Highlands Group

...your local native garden club

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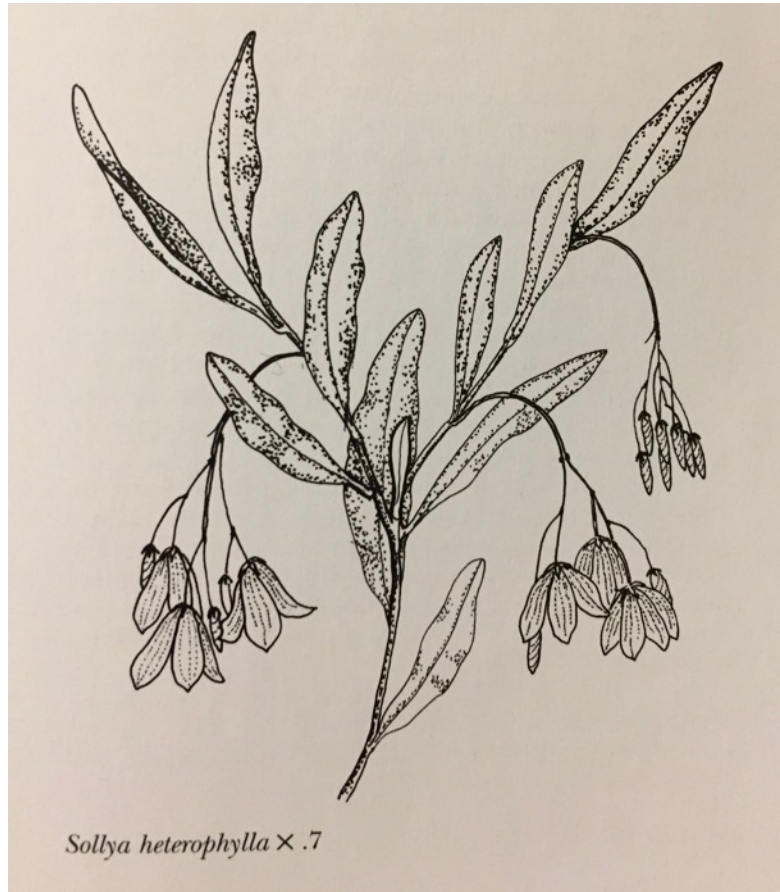
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Sollya heterophylla × .7

Sollya heterophylla - such a beautiful native - and for us, a weed!

This familiar twiner has become a significant weed in eastern Australia. "It should not be grown near bushland areas".

(W R Elliott and D L Jones).

The fruit are eaten and distributed by birds and there can be a dramatic increase in seedling growth after fire.

Best suited to planting only within its natural range in WA.

Photo extracted from drawing in *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants*, W R Elliott and D L Jones.

In this issue

P2 Diary Dates

P3 Snippets

P5 Report on Christine Kelly's address to June Meeting 'Birdscaping your Garden' - Fran Mullard

P6 Report on July Outing to Erica Rink and George Ritter's Mittagong Garden - Kay Fintan

P7 Wattle Day feature - Trisha Arbib

P9 Wattle in the Garden - Jenny Simons

P10 Bundanoon Wattle Walk - Sylvia David

P11 Acacia Flowering Chart and Book Review/A Celebration of Wattle, Australia's National Emblem by Maria Hltchcock - Trisha Arbib

P12 Meet the Member - Chris Goodwin - also Mt Gibraltar Reserve comment and photos -Sarah Cains

P14 *Eucalyptus macarthurii* planting - an important initiative - Sarah Cains

Diary Dates

August 2nd General meeting with speaker Pat Hall on black cockatoos

Monday, 20th August committee meeting Trisha's in Bundanoon - anyone is welcome to come. Contact committee member (front page) for street addresses.

September 6th Bushwalk at Caves Creek, off Wilson Drive at Hill Top. Meet at Bowral Pool car park at 1.30pm (no later) to car share to Hill Top for this walk. Drivers, join the freeway northbound then take the first exit signed to Colo Vale, then proceed straight ahead . Take right turn onto Wilson Drive. Follow road and pass through Hill Top village. Caves Creek walk is on your right opposite the 100k limit sign north end of village. Meet for a 2pm walk. Short, easy walk but slippery if wet. After our walk, either we can visit the pleasant local bakery/cafe for tea or go to Wariapendi Nursery.

Monday, 17th Committee Meeting at Bill and Fran Mullard's place in Exeter

October 4th General Meeting with speaker, Bushcare Officer, Jennifer Slattery

Monday, 15th Committee meeting chez Kris Gow

November 1st AGM with speaker - wombat rescuer/carer.

Monday, 19th Committee meeting

December Sunday 2nd Christmas Gathering

Snippets

Assistant Editor It is a great pleasure to tell you that **Trisha Arbib** has agreed to become Assistant Editor of the Newsletter. Trish is a regular contributor who enjoys writing and she is full of excitement about Australian plants. She brings fresh ideas and a new viewpoint to the Newsletter and we should all look forward to her ongoing contribution. The copy will look a little different as we work on different computer programmes, but we are doing our best to maintain the features you enjoy and keep a familiar look to the Newsletter.

I am grateful to Trisha for 'stepping up' and look forward to working with her. Thank you, Trisha!

Remember, it is important the all members contribute so that the jobs are circulated and SHAPS remains lively and fresh. It is fun being on the committee - not all hard work; great company and great afternoon teas! 🍰 Please consider joining.

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Tired of walking past the sad display of stubbed cigarette butts 😞 and dead lavender plants, your committee approached **Coles, in Bowral**, to ask if they would allow us to spruce up their planter boxes with a fresh planting of natives. Instant success! The manager is cooperative and enthusiastic and quickly arranged for new potting mix to be added to the boxes. Sunday 15th July Kris Gow popped in the first little grevilleas, watered them and gave them a blanket of mulch. It is a sunny, north facing position and, from small beginnings, we are hopeful of developing a handsome display.



Unexpected! Sunday morning activity outside Coles, Bowral.

Passers-by have shown interest and, when we are attending to the plants so we plan to arm ourselves with SHAPS flyers to hand out. The community nature of our effort will hopefully engender respect for native plants. Give them a drink from your water bottle as you pass and perhaps you, too, can start an Australian plants conversation. If you really want to help with watering, ask Kris or Sarah about where and how. Thanks!



Whilst searching another plant in my Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants - Elliott and Jones, I came across a photo of the West Australian *Eucalyptus woodwardii*. Have a search and see if you think that, this plant, which I photographed growing in Shepherd St, Bowral, is a matchup. SC

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Below suggestions of some great nurseries for supply of native plants:

Yarralumla Nursery, ACT ([http:// www.tccs.act.gov.au/territory-services/yarralumla_nursery](http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/territory-services/yarralumla_nursery))

Cool Natives Nursery, Armidale ([http:// www.coolnativesnursery.com](http://www.coolnativesnursery.com))

Wariapendi, Colo Vale (<http://www.wariapendi.com.au>)

Mole Station, near Tenterfield (<http://www.molerivernursery.com>)

Bilby Blooms, near Binnaway, NSW (02) 6844 1044. Plant list on their web page.

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Wow! Have a look at this!

<https://ouraustraliangardens.com/2017/10/03/terrara-a-native-garden-haven/>

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THANK YOU! to all contributors - this time - Trisha Arbib, Jenny Simons and daughter, Fran, Fran Mullard, Kay Fintan, Sylvia David and to Erica Rink and George Ritter for allowing us to visit their garden.

June meeting with speaker, Christine Kelly - 'Birdscaping your Garden'

Fran Mullard



On Thursday, 7th June 2018, members of the Southern Highlands branch of the APS enjoyed a presentation by Christine Kelly from Birdlife Australia, who spoke to us about creating the right conditions in our gardens for attracting native birds. More and more of their natural habitat is being destroyed to accommodate people and to facilitate industrial development, so many of us wish to improve the prospects of our birdlife and other fauna.

Apologies! I didn't manage to take a photo of Christine, But here is our writer, Fran. Read on to the end for her comments on hand feeding native birds. SC

What can we do? We can create a sympathetic environment through the use of native plants and trees in our gardens to provide:

- . food sources
- . water supply
- . nesting sites/boxes
- . protection from enemies and
- . shelter from the elements.

Birds feed on meat/insects, seed, nectar and fruit. Lerp (modified bug excretion from aphid-like psyllids), manna (a soft, white carbohydrate found on some eucalypt trunks), and honeydew are important foods for millions of birds. So, the selection of relevant plants is significant.

Some meat-eaters are kookaburra, magpie, butcherbird, currawong, raven, crow, owl and other birds of prey. All of these birds will eat small birds and nestlings.

Common seed-eaters are mistletoe bird, red-browed finch, yellow-tailed cockatoo, glossy-tailed cockatoo, sulphur-crested cockatoo, corella, eastern and crimson rosella, galah and king parrot. If you are handfeeding, resulting in large groups of sulphur-crested cockatoos, try using a mix of smaller seed. It seems to help.

Insectivorous birds include willie wag-tail, grey fantail, eastern yellow robin, superb fairy wren, pardalote, thrush, eastern whipbird, noisy miner and superb lyrebird. Little birds will need dense plantings of prickly, small-leaved plants in which to shelter from larger birds.

Birds which live almost entirely on fruit are the satin bower bird and olive -back oriole.

Nectar feeders include all honey eaters including the noisy miner. It is said that some hybrid bottlebrushes and grevilleas, which have become popular due to their long flowering seasons, may encourage and support miners and other large aggressive honey eaters to the detriment of small birds. (Graham Pizzey 's 1988 book "A Garden of Birds")

The lists are not definitive, and many birds eat across more than one food category.

Thank you, Christine, for your presentation. I have seen some beautiful native gardens over the past year or so. Your talk has piqued my interest in further reading and experimentation.

PS Some food for thought:

Generally speaking, birds are valued today in ways which would have been unthinkable just a generation ago. This relatively recent awakening has given way to the contentious practice of hand-feeding birds in gardens, of which I am guilty, although I have realised that the birds who come to our garden for handfeeding do not need me, rather I need them. Many years ago, we had a lot of little birds. Not now. Time to gradually taper off the feeding for a while and see what happens?

In Britain the Royal Society for Protection of Birds espouses feeding as the best way to assist birds. In the US billions of dollars are spent on bird food and equipment. An international review of bird conservation in the home garden found Australia to be "the land in which feeding is deemed bad for birds". ("Where Song Began" Tim Low) So many contradictions.

Birdlife Australia recommends not feeding birds but to plant natives and provide water. I admire this approach but wonder if it is enough, as it's not as easy as people think and not possible in many places, especially where small birds, such as treecreepers, face death or violence from larger, more aggressive birds, such as noisy miners, simply by crossing open paddocks between forests to access food and to extend their gene pool. What's the answer?

July Outing to Erica Rink and George Ritter's Mittagong Garden

Kay Fintan



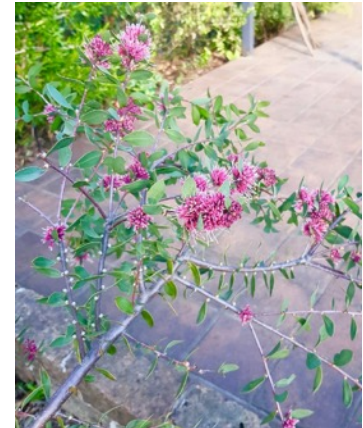
With great delight, members of our group enjoyed a sunny, and dare we say surprisingly warm June afternoon, wandering amidst the many treasures of Erica and George's native garden in Mittagong. As small groups investigated and explored the wide variety and different sections of the garden everyone was constantly surprised by the amount and variety of the plants they observed.

(At left, here is Erica, this time without George. SC)

A suburban sized block has been transformed from a typically Southern Highlands garden devoted to lawns and exotics into a patchwork of native species and sustainable vegetable and fruit producing plots. In the space of just six years a wonderful transformation has taken place under the expert guidance of the

owners. Erica has a times used the phrase “Guerilla Gardening” and when we view what has been achieved the spirit of dedication is very much in evidence. The removal of over forty exotics is a clear indication of the change that has taken place. This ,however, was not a case of “scorched earth” policy but rather the thoughtful planning to enhance what could be used to nurture and protect. An established grevillea sp. and *Banksia spinulosa* provided the structural formation for the back garden and well established species of rhododendron remain to provide shelter for native orchids and other shade loving natives.

The complete list of natives that are cultivated is too long to include but some specimens in flower at the moment do draw the eye to their beauty including *Hakea Burrendong Beauty*, (Kay’s photo at right) *Acacia podalyriifolia* Queensland Silver Wattle and *Acacia terminalus*. Plants are obtained from variety of sources including our own meeting plant table, Wariapendi, Home Hardware and local markets. Over the six years the garden has evolved and expanded. As new plants arrive plots are developed both within and outside the property fence line, rarely do we see such a shinning example of a “nature strip”. *Prostantheras*, *hakeas*, *grevilleas*, *correas* and *callistemons* abound in numerous variety. Careful recording and progress is kept with most plants clearly identified. (Note: the aluminium labels used came from www.forestrytools.com.au)



Together with this wonderful variety of native planting there exists a bountiful selection of fruit trees and vegetables. All intermingled to take advantage of position and suitable climactic conditions. With such abundance it gives testament to the benefits of careful placement and “worm wee” as a natural fertiliser. The loam on clay soil provides a fertile base and the position beneath Mt Alexander provides some protection from the harsher elements of the Southern Highlands climate.

With an interesting plant or specimen around every corner, lots of discussion and conversations took place as everyone explored. As the sun retreated behind Mt Alexander the group retreated to a cafe in Mittagong for a welcome “cuppa” and a continuation of of the discussions begun in the garden.

Thank you Erica and George for a wonderful visit.

We celebrate wattle, in anticipation of Wattle Day, 1st September.



Trisha Arbib

I’ve always felt that we moved to Bundanoon on a very special day. It was Wattle Day, August 1st 1980. I’m not mistaken on the date. This was before we had the one date for Wattle Day of September 1st throughout Australia. Wattle has always been associated with spring time, although one Bundanoon friend has a wattle in flower at most times of the year. I adore the colour, the form, the fluffiness and the perfume of wattle. It inspires emotions of happiness and joy that I never get from say an eremophila or hibbertia.

A bit of potted history:

The push for the recognition of the nation-wide use of wattle as a symbol of the first day of spring was given momentum by the formation in 1899 of the "Wattle Club" in Victoria.

The Wattle Day League was formed on 13 September 1909 with J. H. Maiden, director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens as president. Its purpose was to present to the various State governments a unified proposal for a national day on which to celebrate the wattle blossom. In 1910 the League settled on "Wattle Day" as 1 September. In 1913, the national Wattle Day League (or Federation) was established to formalise the organisation of events for the celebration of Wattle Day across Australia.

Then In 1916, New South Wales changed its state Wattle Day to 1 August, so that the early-flowering Cootamundra wattle *Acacia baileyana* could be used.

More recently Maria Hitchcock of Cool Natives Nursery in NSW was responsible for the formal gazettal of *Acacia pycnantha* as our national floral emblem and for National Wattle Day to occur on 1 September each year. However, the day is far from universally recognised by the Australian public.

Traditionally Aborigines have appreciated wattle for more than its beauty. They have made string and rope out of its bark, used the timber to make tools such as boomerangs and digging sticks and ground its seed to make flour. The bark can also be used as medicine and to make fish poison.

If we can encourage our schools to celebrate Wattle Day, there are many ways in which they can do so. Children could wear a sprig of wattle on the Day, recite poetry and sing songs. They may visit a national park to see wattle in its natural habitat, write reports on the experience, take photos and do drawings and paintings, write their own poems with a wattle theme, discuss indigenous uses of wattle, study the botany and horticultural requirements of wattle, perhaps have a tree planting....

Of course there can also be community celebrations. Before Brigadoon for example, Bundanoon had the Boronia Festival. And it's a lot harder to find a bit of boronia to wave around on its special day! So I expect all of you on September 1st to wave a sprig of wattle, it doesn't have to be *Acacia pycnantha*, and recite:

"The bush was grey a week today

Olive green and brown and grey

But now the Spring has come this way

With blossoms for the wattle."

Veronica Mason

So many poems to choose from. But you might possibly prefer:

"Wattle elves and fairies

'Mid leaves of feathery green,

Quite the loveliest picture

That you have ever seen.

Dancing in the sunshine,

Swaying in the breeze,

A wondrous golden glory

Australian wattle trees." *Anon*

I'm being a bit tongue in cheek here. But I seriously would like to see Wattle Day celebrated, but without any nationalistic fervour or jingoistic elements. More as a unifying love of nature, an appreciation of a beautiful flower, a day to celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of our Australian flora. As Jenny Simons says in this newsletter, most of us can grow a wattle, whether as a ground cover, a shrub or a tree, so that we can enjoy it in our gardens if not in the bush. Whilst not proposing it as an alternative, a celebration of wattle is not the divisive concept that Australia Day can be.

I am grateful to Maria Hitchcock and her book "A Celebration of Wattle" [reviewed p11] for some of the ideas and the above poems.

Wattle in the Garden

Jenny Simons



Here's hoping that more and more of you are planting wattle in your gardens. Don't say you haven't the room: there are groundcover wattles, small shrubs as well as larger shrubs and trees. You could be like Erica Rink and George Ritter and become guerrilla gardeners, planting in verges and nature strips outside your property and introducing some wattles there, for everyone to share.

Why am I so keen on wattles? They are as beautiful as a group of plants with their varied leaf colours and leaf shapes and their captivating blossoms, presented in a variety of ways, with their rod or ball shaped flowers. Then there's the colour, from blazing gold to soft cream, not forgetting the red flowers that are also available. Their prolific flowering in late winter and spring in the Southern Highlands is always a stirring sight.

In 2013 Jenny gave a talk on wattles to SHAPS. It is easy to see how the wattles

delighted her then, as they still do five years later. SC

Then there are the 'out of season' flowerings that are also very welcome. *Acacia iteaphylla* makes an appearance from March to July in my garden. What a noble effort!

From the Acacia Study Group newsletter I have collected the names of more 'out of season' flowering wattles. I have procured seeds from the Study Group and shall sow them this spring: *A. buxifolia*, *glaucoptera*, *implexa*, *pruinosa*, *spectabilis*.

After the removal of a large number of radiata pines



from my garden I have been able to establish two new native gardens. One has five new wattles, augmenting the four existing tree-sized wattles that were already in the area; the other I call my 'Wattle Strip', where I have recently planted a line of seven wattles, with room for half a dozen more. Let me repeat the name of my favourite small wattle, *A. acinacea*, the Gold Dust Wattle. When it is in flower, it has so many tiny golden flowers that the leaves temporarily disappear. *Photo previous page by Fran Simons*

NB See page 14, at the back of this Newsletter, for notes on an important local native planting project promoted and sponsored by Jenny Simons.

Bundanoon Wattle Walk in Morton National Park

Sylvia David



Friends of Morton Nation Park were overwhelmed and delighted when the attendance sheet grew to seventy five for the loop walk down the Erith Coal Mine track, run by Sylvia as part of Bundanoon's Winterfest.

Of the nine different species on the track, only three were in flower but as the walk progressed it became evident that confidence in identification was growing as people pointed out the Sunshine wattles *Acacia terminalis*, avoided the Prickly Moses, *A. ulicifolia* and often bent to smell the Sweet Wattle *A. suaveolens*.

One of our knowledgeable APS members [Pam T.] was amazed to see that a myrtle leafed shrub [not in flower] was actually a wattle, *Acacia myrtifolia*.

Photos: Splendid wattle displays, these ones at Mt Annan Botanic Garden

There was a lot of excitement from primary aged kids, a mum with an all-terrain stroller and kids, and a senior gentleman bringing up the rear who declared someone stole the oxygen (he was puffed).



Other species flowering that caught the eye were the *Styphelia tubiflora*, and a mistletoe whose seed had very conveniently been deposited on a branch about one metre above the ground.

Pat Hall did a preliminary bush tucker talk. Alan Hyman spoke of the scribbles on the scribbly gums, the Sword Grass Brown Butterflies needing the Gahnias, and the Glossy Black Cockatoo project as we pas passed a grove of *Allocasuarina littoralis* near the top of the service trail.



A GUIDE TO THE FLOWERING TIMES OF WATTLES IN BUNDANOON

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Acacia obtusifolia</i>	Blunt-leaf Wattle	x	x										x
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sydney Golden Wattle						x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Acacia subtilinervis</i>	Net-veined Wattle								x	x	x		
<i>Acacia bynoeana</i>	Bynoe's Wattle	x	x										x
<i>Acacia melanoxydon</i>	Blackwood							x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Acacia elongata</i>	Swamp Wattle							x	x	x	x		
<i>Acacia maidenii</i>	Maiden's Wattle	x	x	x	x	x	x						
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Hickory Wattle	x	x	x	x								x
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	Prickly Moses				x	x	x	x	x	x			
<i>Acacia brownii</i>	Heath Wattle								x	x	x		
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle Wattle						x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Acacia stricta</i>	Hop Wattle						x	x	x	x			
<i>Acacia obtusata</i>	Blunt-leaf Wattle							x	x	x	x		
<i>Acacia rubida</i>	Red-stemmed Wattle							x	x	x	x		
<i>Acacia suaveolens</i>	Sweet Wattle				x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Acacia terminalis subsp. aurea</i>	Sunshine Wattle		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Acacia terminalis subsp. angustifolia</i>	Sunshine Wattle		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Acacia irrorata</i>	Green Wattle	x			x	x	x	x	x			x	x
<i>Acacia jonesii</i>	Jones's Wattle							x	x	x	x		
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle										x	x	x

Some of us intend to be out and about until we see all nineteen wattles in the Bundanoon area on the above spreadsheet.

Book Review

Trisha Arbib

A Celebration of Wattle, Australia's National Emblem, by Maria Hitchcock

Rosenberg Publishing Australia, revised edition of Wattle [1991], 2012

This is a wonderful book written by Maria Hitchcock of Cool Natives Nursery near Armidale. She was a former leader of the ASGAP correa study group, and currently leader of the waratah and flannel flower study group. She is passionate about wattle, and is responsible for the formal gazettal of *Acacia pycnantha* as our National Floral Emblem and National Wattle Day on 1st September each year.

Maria makes a fervent and informed plea for the encouragement of Wattle Day, gives a history of the Wattle Day movement, and makes suggestions of how it may be celebrated in schools and the community.

The book is beautifully illustrated throughout. Botanical and horticultural information on wattles is, as you'd expect, knowledgeable but is only a part of this book on every aspect of wattle. I was particularly attracted to a whole anthology of wattle poems punctuated by coloured paintings and descriptions of various wattles. One poem, which sounds rather trite and twee now, but that I remember fondly from my childhood, begins "Golden Wattle, fairy stuff, little balls of yellow fluff..." Some of you may have nostalgic memories of "The bush was grey a week today..." They attest to a sense of Australia, of the bush, of Australian pride, at times larrikinism. One which I had never heard before is an irreverent song called 'Deck the Shed'. You'll need to read the book to enjoy it.

The book is available directly from Maria's website www.coolnativesnursery.com for \$30.

Meet the Member - Chris Goodwin

Sarah Cains

In January, 2013, Mt Gibraltar had a stroke of good fortune when Chris Goodwin and her husband, Jeff Lapidos, came to live at their new, two acre property adjoining the Mt Gibraltar Reserve. The reason this event was good for our beloved mountain is that this couple have a high regard for the natural bushland setting of their place and Chris has become an active reserve friend. She has set about enriching the natural world of her garden by removing weeds and filling the spaces with Australian natives.



"It makes sense," says Chris, "to plant natives on a bushland block".

The rich volcanic soil with trachyte rock intrusions provides a happy home for many locals including *Leucopogon lanceolata*, *Exocarps cupressiformis*, 'Greenhood' native orchids and plenty of the ever enthusiastic and obliging, *Lomandra longifolia*.

When Chris took over, this it was a garden of exotics established under the tall eucalypts of The Gib. Over years, it had become liberally dotted with 'garden escape' weeds; cotoneaster, ivy, agapanthus (in truckloads!) berberis, and the other predictables, so the first job was to clear the weeds. "There were only one or two natives", Chris tells me. She goes on to say that native birds are

her first love and that she has worked for WIRES. "It seems odd", she says, "but I hadn't made the link that the best way to encourage native birds is to plant Australian plants!"

This is a familiar story. At SHAPS, we have quite a few members who tell that they have come to love Australian native plants via a love for birds and a desire to nurture them in gardens. (More activities with Birds Australia, Southern Highlands are planned to link our two groups and feed these linked interests.)

Outside in Chris's garden we walk under the towering magnificence of Mt Gibraltar Tall Eucalyptus Woodland. Camellias and azaleas have been established all over the two acres and, whilst showing respect for the best of the exotics ("Who could put the mattock to a beautiful, mature *Acer japonicum*"?!) Chris is selecting out the weaker, crowded and less interesting specimens to make way for more natives.

A fence surrounding the property has secret gaps for Chris to pop outside to top up fresh water bowls placed for wildlife in dry weather. It provides support for native climbers. *Kennedia* plants, *K. rubicunda* with its ruby red flowers and *K. nigricans*, the black coral pea, are gifts from a neighbour. They have quickly made themselves at home and are romping along the fence-top together with opportunistic locals, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Eustrephus latifolius* (wombat berry) and *Billardiera scandens*. Chris is hoping that soon she will find the two local native clematis, *C aristata* and *C. glycinoides* making a start up her fences; I feel sure they will soon respond to her welcoming spaces.



As we walked on, we came across walls constructed with stone from the property. They are carefully placed to enclose the garden spaces with

some just the right height for perching to enjoy the garden. One is a generous and lovely sculptural shape incorporating a contemplation seat. Our visit to Roma Dix's garden, lower down on the Mittagong side of The Gib, inspired Chris to position containers as small frog ponds.

Care has been taken to nurture naturally occurring plants and I was delighted to be shown a healthy little specimen on *Persoonia linearis* with which I'd had a personal encounter. The seedling had grown up dangerously close to boots on the edge of a pathway where, some years ago, I often walked. Fearing it would be trampled, I picked up stones and ringed the little seedling in the hope that it might survive. Happily, this little plant has ended up in Chris's garden, just inside the fence. Gently she pushed aside its healthy foliage to show me my ring of stones, still in place.

"I want to plant was many as I can care for!" she enthused, gazing up into a tall eucalyptus whilst seeking the source of fresh scat on the driveway. "All the natives I can manage - they are so beautiful!"

Good luck with that, Chris! We wish you great success.

On my way to Chris's garden...



It was a sparkling, freezy June morning when I visited Chris in her garden so I took the opportunity to walk up the mountain from Bowral town. Usually when I'm on The Gib I am working with the Bushcare team, so it was a pleasure to simply walk and enjoy. I stuck to the walkers' rule of ignoring any weeds! Her are some pics to show you how beautiful is this, our highest local mountain. It is a joy to see what twenty five years of weeding and maintenance of the reserve has achieved.



Somebody else was up early!

SC



Eucalyptus macarthurii planting - an important initiative

Sarah Cains



This autumn, a grove of the endangered tree *Eucalyptus macarthurii* was planted at the south entrance to the Southern Highlands Botanic Garden. Australian Plants Society, Southern Highlands (SHAPS) member, Jenny Simons, is largely responsible for promoting this important planting and she has sponsored the project.

E. macarthurii, a sturdy and majestic tree, bears two common names, Paddy's River Box and Camden Woollybutt (showing just how local and confusing common names can be!) The Camden connection comes from the 1899 naming of the tree after Sir William Macarthur, son of Captain John Macarthur. Sir William was connected with horticultural projects in the Camden area.

Restricted to a natural habitat in a small part of the Central Tablelands which extends to the Blue Mountains, this tree is at home in moist soils along

streams and on flood plains. Native to Endangered Shale Woodland, the natural habitat for *E. macarthurii* is shrinking. Our area provides the local conditions favoured by *E. macarthurii*, and Wingecarribee Shire Council is promoting its recovery by planting specimens along the bike track which runs beside the Wingecarribee River between Burradoo and the Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve (Bong Bong Bridge).



I asked Jenny whether *E macarthurii* actually endemic to Southern Highlands. Her response below:

"Yes , it is indeed a local, at least as far as Paddy's River. The 4 -volume work 'Flora of New South Wales, edited by Gwen Harden, places it in the Central Tablelands (CT) 'from the Boyd Plateau to Paddy's River.' The Central Tablelands stretch from Orange to Crookwell to Lithgow, Katoomba and Moss Vale with the Great Dividing Range running through the CT on its eastern side. On the boundary of the SHBG on the Kangaloon Road, there are two or three very old *E. macarthurii*s growing." JS

Another outstanding and easy to spot specimen of the mature tree can be seen on the open ground corner of Moss Vale road and Eridge Park Road. It is the tree standing on its own with the root zone protected by a circle of large rocks.

In the words of Roger Elliott and David Jones, *E. macarthurii* is:

"An excellent tree for shade and shelter and has ornamental appeal...Trees are commonly very sturdy, heavily branched and develop a dense, even crown...Plants have proved to be fast growing and tolerant of a wide range of soils...The species is renowned for its frost resistance and tolerates frosts to -12 degrees." ❄️ Congratulations to Jenny and the SHBG for drawing our attention to this important tree.

Photos above: E macarthurii corner Eridge Pk Rd and Moss Vale Rd. Statue pic included as locator.