



### 2020 AGM

The final event on our 2020 Calendar was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of December at Trish and Steve's home at Tallong. The AGM commenced with the usual reports from the president, treasurer and Pauline's report for the Wetlands Gardens. The reports were accepted. All positions on the Committee were declared vacant and nominations proposed and seconded. Your Committee for the upcoming year are: President – Peter, Treasurer and Membership Officer – Jen, Secretary – Kaye, Committee members are: Tim, Pauline, Trish and Ash.

Pauline mentioned the importance of labelling the plants in the APS gardens at the wetlands for information to visitors and that seed and cutting collection should take place so that these plants can be sold on our stalls. Pauline is also in the process of producing an information sheet for the gardens.

Jen reiterated that plants for the wetlands as a whole (not including the APS gardens) should be indigenous to the area and within a 50km radius of Goulburn.

A discussion was had on plant sales, when, how often and how they be conducted. It was decided to have the main plant sales at the Rotary Markets in Autumn and Spring. Jen, in her report, stated that the Spring sale at the Rotary markets were our most successful ever with over \$1000.00 being raised. Peter suggested that down the track we should think about having internet sales. We are looking at supporting local schools with donations of excess plants as was done in 2020. Our local Facebook page came up for discussion as it didn't appear to be a group page.

Currently we have 37 financial members.

Signatories to the bank account needed to be changed.

The July Forum will be in July as in current years with Goulburn Workers Club to be approached as the venue. It was proposed to ask the same speakers as approached in 2020 as the forum had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Our website on the State webpage will be updated as time and resources permit.

A discussion took place about perhaps propagating native food plants. Discussion is ongoing.

### COMMITTEE MEETING January 22

Internet – Facebook site is now a group page. The webpage is still to be updated after people return from holiday.

The calendar of events for 2021 was finalized.

Months for Rotary markets will be March and October.

Schools programme – Peter to send letter to schools and see what the response is.

Check whether our group is required to host a NSW APS day trip with the state secretary.

Eftpos capabilities still under investigation.

APS Wetlands garden - Pauline will provide an update for the website.

Jen's seed collection workshop had 2 participants.

Our annual report will include what various members do outside of our scheduled events throughout the year.

### CALENDAR

|                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sat Feb 6       | West Rim Walk – Fitzroy Falls  |
| Sat Mar 6       | Ben & Ros Walcott Garden tbc   |
| Sat 13 Mar      | Rotary Markets stall tbc       |
| Thu Mar 18      | Propagation Day                |
| Sun Mar 21      | Propagation Day                |
| Sat Apr 3       | Morton National Park Bundanoon |
| Sat May 1       | Mares Forest National Park     |
| Sat Jun 5       | Lerida TSR Gunning             |
| Sat Jul 3       | Forum – Workers Club           |
| Sat Aug 7       | Stingray Swamp Penrose         |
| Sat/Sun Sep 4-5 | Cowra overnight trip           |
| Thu Sep 16      | Propagation Day                |
| Sun Sep 19      | Propagation Day                |
| Sat Oct 2       | Ettrema return visit           |
| Sat 9 Oct       | Rotary Markets stall tbc       |
| Sat Nov 6       | To be advised                  |
| Sat Dec 4       | AGM and Xmas get together      |

## THANKS TIM

The biggest change to this Newsletter is that after 33 years Tim has decided to hand on the baton. I would like to congratulate Tim for his professionalism, dedication and expertise in providing our group with these monthly newsletters. I know I always looked forward to reading them.

Jen has put herself forward to write an article for this newsletter about her wild garden at Mummell on Range Road. Take it away Jen -

My place is close to the top of the dividing range between Goulburn and Crookwell, exposed and windy. All the land is sloped making surface run off a big problem.

I moved here to a 1 acre patch 36 years ago, at the time it consisted of weeds, snails and a disused tennis court. A past resident had planted 12 elm trees which had reached a height of about 2 metres, some were way too close to the house hence I rapidly removed most of them. The one joy was 2 *Acacia vestita* which had been put in close to the fence and seemed to be doing well. These original plants have been the seed source for all the plants of this species that are now planted all over the place as they do so well and look so good.

Over the next 20 years, while working full time, I learned what failed (many of them) and what could successfully grow and cope with the harsh conditions here. In the 90's I bought the 35acre block of land adjacent to me when the very large property was sub-divided. I didn't want a neighbour moving in right next door. The land only had trees near the northern boundary so I set about trying to get tree belts growing all around the other sides. The land was mainly serrated tussock so much time was spent trying to control it.

After retirement in 2004 I was able to do much more but I should explain the soil conditions first. The garden and half the land are on very old basalt soil, great you think at first but..... It is full of rocks, both big and little and had never seen a fork or spade before; it was mattock and buckets of water that were needed to dig most holes for trees and shrubs. A lot of a sand/gravel/compost mix has been brought in to create raised beds to improve the drainage. Also, the soil had no worms and little sign of any organic matter so grass from mowing and weeding is left to act as mulch, the same applied to the paddocks and still there are many bare patches of ground which, of course, the serrated tussock love.

The big old pine trees were removed when the land was bought and a wind break was established to reduce the blast

of north westerly drying winds but still the ground dries incredibly quickly and many plants scream for water. Two very successful species have been *Eremophila bignoniflora* x *polyclada* and *Eucalyptus leucoxydon*. The success of various eremophilas has become what most of the garden relies on, many of them seem to be tough and tolerant of poor soil conditions. Hakeas are another genus that I seem to have success with although they do need quite a lot of nurturing over the first few years. A few of the toughest grevillias seem to go ok but many of the ones I've tried grow but never get to flower and as for banksias most have died bar one, down close to the pond, that one seems to thrive.

My one pride and joy is that the *Lechenaultia biloba* (the blue one) seem to like the pots and wall close to the house, the wall being two rows of bricks with a gap in between and drainage spaces, next to the concrete veranda, where the Lechenaultias are protected from frost and get morning sun.

If people would like to visit and find out more do contact me as I love showing off what I have achieved. I should add that a very large dam has helped.



Lechenaultia biloba



Another blue flower - Eringium ovinum an explosion of colour at Souths TSR