



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

PROPAGATION FEB 11

Record summer temperatures influenced a decision to forego the usual February walk in favour of a propagating morning. For the first time, we were able to propagate plants from within the display gardens at the wetlands! I took cuttings from two forms of *Eremophila glabra* which have done very well over the summer—one is a vigorous prostrate plant with red and yellow flowers, the other a small shrub with mostly red flowers.

Members also brought other cuttings and seed from their gardens for propagating. Some of these will be for sale at market, other plants will go to the members who brought the cuttings—to assist them in planting out their properties. This is a new initiative of our propagating program, aimed at ensuring it is of practical use to members.

It was lovely to welcome two new members, Sarah Bridge and Luke Burgess, at the propagation morning. Luke brought seed for propagation which prompted an interesting discussion, about how to mimic natural processes in the bush which prepare particular seeds for germination. When the discussion turned to the role played by birds' digestive systems, in spreading and preparing seed ... I'll leave it to the readers' imaginations to consider how this could be replicated at home.

A number of seed types were also sown during the morning—including *Clematis glycinoides*, a vigorous forest clematis and *Olearia phlogapappa*, a hardy heath daisy bush with an attractive silver underside to its leaves. The seed of pea plants will have to wait for the March propagating day, so they may be appropriately treated with boiling water the day before.

Raina also brought a number of cuttings for propagation which will be able to be used to plant out on her new property once they have struck.

The new focus of helping members with their own propagation needs has multiple benefits, not only is it helpful for individual members, but it also helps regenerate the land they care for by providing good quality stock of local plants. Supporting members in this practical way is a reflection on the new emphasis of the APS to grow membership and increase its relevance to individuals and local communities. The next propagation morning will be on a week day. The next weekend propagating day will be in March, on a Sunday. This will allow for collection of new cuttings on Saturday. If you would like assistance with this, please contact a Committee member. (thanks to Pauline)

FEB 23 PROPAGATION

The first one we did cuttings and the second we potted up *Eucalyptus viminalis* and *E. stellulata* for the wetlands mainly but

excess is for us to sell. Both days were overtaken by heat, but we also did a lot of shifting of plants, from stage one shade, to stage two and then to third stage which is out of shade houses to toughen them up. We also managed to sort out the empty pots and amalgamate boxes so that there is a lot more room.

March propagation days we will concentrate on cuttings, from Southern Highlands gardens on the Thursday and our gardens on the Sunday. Anyone wishing to do their own cuttings are welcome to bring them along as well.

Both days will start at 9 am and finish about 12, assuming that we have got over the 30+ days. Bring your morning eats, but tea and coffee will be available. (thanks to Jen). (Don't forget your secateurs/scissors - ed.)

2017 CALENDAR

Sat Mar 11	Walk at 'Silver Wattle' near Lake George (2nd Sat)
Thu Mar 16	Propagation at Jen's (cuttings)
Sun Mar 19	Propagation at Jen's (cuttings)
Fri Mar 24	Feedback due date (see Bob's email 16/2/17)
Sat Apr 1	Walk at Nadgigomar NR eastern section
Wed Apr 12	Wetlands Garden Maintenance
Sat May 6	Walk on private property - near Currawang
Sat May 20	Walk at reserve in Tallong
Sat Jun 3	Walk in Morton NP via Bundanoon
Sat Jul 1	Bees/Birds/Soils presentations
Sat Aug 5	Walk at Pomaderris Reserve
Sat Sep 2	Walk in Monga NP via Braidwood
Thu Sep 14	Propagation - seeding - Jen's place
Sun Sep 17	Propagation - seeding - Jen's place
Sat Oct 7	Walk at South's Reserve via Kooringaroo Rd
Wed Oct 18	Wetlands Garden Maintenance
Sat Nov 4	Walk at Reedy Creek TSR
Sat Dec 2	Xmas party, AGM and property walk - Raina's place

LAST WORD - Note reminder above for feedback to NSW APS - on matters related to membership. (We may consider a group submission). If you are able to attend the March 16 propagation session - you may be able to score some highly-priced plants later in the year. Before the April 1 walk, Bob will send out the usual email re starting time/meeting details etc.