



SEPTEMBER WALK

On the first day of spring a small group of Australian Plant Society members headed out to Nattai National Park, which forms part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Following a fire trail in a northerly direction, progress over the first few hundred metres was slow. As the list of plants noted to be growing in the general area goes to nine pages—with half a page each for *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus*—it is not surprising that there was much to see. Greg took on the task of ticking off all the species we encountered.

Keeping in mind that the area was based on sandstone, few of the trees appeared to be older trees with large girth. The western side had been more recently visited by fire—with the understorey significantly reduced as a result. The eastern side had a thick, scraggy understorey which offered much opportunity for study. Prominent amongst the rest were *Kunzea*, *Hakea* and *Acacia*, with a number of the latter in flower.

Although our calendar had marked the change of seasons—it was not yet evident from the flora that spring had arrived—as there was very little else in flower. The surprising exception was the pleasing discovery of a number of *Boronia* showing very pretty in pink. There was some discussion about whether the specimens we saw were all of the same species or not, with one specimen appearing to be larger and more upright than the others. One of the few other flowers was an interesting *Grevillea*. Celia noted the unusual flowers at the end of branch.



Flowers of the Sydney boronia, *B. ledifolia*

After lunch the group went off the trail towards a western facing sandstone ledge. The ecology here was distinctly different—the understorey opened up, there were large numbers of *Banksia* enjoying the good drainage, as well as a number of *Telopea* not in flower. After a much quicker walk back a rather unusual plant was discovered close to the cars.

Commonly known as woody pear, *Xylomelum pyriforme*, it does not take too much imagination to guess the origin of its name.

Thanks to Pauline for her account of the walk. In the next section, Sandra writes about a daisy bush that occurs naturally on Sandra and Tony's mountain retreat.

OLEARIA ERUBESCENS

Our place is situated north of Goulburn, in the Middle Arm area in the upper reaches of the Tarlo River, on Tarallo Creek. The terrain ranges from gentle slopes to hilly and we are reasonably high. Our house is on a lower slope at 820 metres above sea level. It is not a fertile spot! Although the land has been stocked in the past with sheep and cattle, there are a number of native plant species still to be found.

On a south facing hill there is a patch of *Olearia erubescens*, sometimes called Silky Daisy or Moth Daisy. When we first noticed it, we thought it might have been a feral exotic plant as it is beside an old bridle track used by early settlers to go between neighbouring properties. It flowers profusely in Spring and its new growth is a very attractive pinkish red colour. It also has a very pleasant perfume. We have successfully grown it in our garden from division and cuttings, although the cuttings can be difficult to strike. It does not show any response to frost.

I have read that it is found in the Brindabella Ranges south of Canberra.



A veritable forest of flowers on *O. erubescens*; the smallness of the flowers is made up for by their abundance

PROPAGATION MATTERS AND MUDGEE TRIP

One propagation day (not two as planned - an inaccurate weather forecast led to a cancellation of the 2nd day) was held last month. A variety of seeds were planted in different-sized containers. Germination should not be too far away with the warmer temperatures.

A few of us got together back in August to pot up the nodding chocolate lilies and the billy buttons, both of which had germinated in huge quantities and were fighting to get some space. Thus we have many, many of them for sale especially the billy buttons as they are not suitable for general wetlands planting since they are not the local species. They must be tough as they grow well in our wetlands gardens.

As to plants available for sale, the list will be out in the next few days and orders will need to be placed and collected before the first weekend in November as that is when we will be selling at Riversdale Plant Fair and it is my hope that we reduce stocks considerably, due to this seeming to be never ending drought. Both the Gallands, whose dam is nearly empty, and I are looking like running low on the water supply.

Planning for the Mudgee area trip is well under way; accommodation is booked and various parks and reserves have been identified as to be on our visiting list. These include Avisford, Goodiman, Mung Horn Gap, Capertee and The Gardens of Stone as well as a visit to the Mudgee Wetlands which have been established in an old quarry. There is also a Fern Tree Gully which we may get to. With so many places to visit, the trip had to be extended to six days.

There are eight of us headed off on this trip, but others may join in if they book their own accommodation; its not too late!

Thanks to Jen for the run-down on propagation matters and the November trip away.

MEMBERS SURVEY

A few weeks back the Southern Tablelands APS (STAPS) was recently surveyed asking for member's best performing native plants. Of course, best performing is interpreted in this case as plants that have been through some of the Tablelands' worst winters and droughts requiring little extra watering.

The purpose of this exercise is to establish plants that could be propagated from your garden lists.

There is a possibility your original plant may have come from a nursery or hardware store which in turn was sourced from far flung places like Melbourne or north of the border.

The goal is to establish a continuing line of propagated plant material from on-grown plants from those planted out from your gardens. We should eventually achieve some sort of "provenance" as is done with growing vegetables.

Southern Tablelands specific plants where a West Aussie or Queensland native has eventually climatised to our locality. It is believed this can be achieved long term and something the

STAPS can build on.

We look forward to receiving some of your specimens from your gardens on Propagation Days.

The request here comes from Peter who was the person who suggested the plant survey last year at the AGM. He is clearly keen to learn from the successes of others in this area as he tries to source true-and-true propagation material.

WATTLE TO GROW

When you think about it, the wattles make up the group of plants with arguably the least variation in flowers of all our ornamental plants. We have of course, some with ball-shaped flower arrangements and some which are rod-shaped. Then you have the colour. Bright yellow, golden-yellow and more descriptions are often used. Nevertheless, nearly all are somewhere between creamy and yellow. Some people, however, look for variation in the foliage for a different visual effect

We have the wattles which have that ferny (bipinnate) foliage and others with standard-looking leaves (phyllodes). In the latter group I have had a liking for phyllodes that are long and narrow. This probably arose many years ago when I bought an *Acacia adunca* at a nursery in the Blue Mountains area.

Its common name is the Wallangarra wattle and its natural occurrence includes the northern tablelands and north coast. For me it has grown as a small tree with several large branches to about 4 metres high with a similar spread. The foliage is soft and fairly dense. With regards to soil type and location, it seems to be quite adaptable. When we lived in town it prospered in a good quality alluvial soil. Out here, it is growing in a very-well drained low-fertile soil and a sloping site.



The flowers of *A. adunca* resemble those of numerous wattles; the foliage is its most distinctive feature.

CALENDAR

Sat Oct 6	Walk - Nadgigomar West Nature Reserve
Wed Oct 24	Wetlands Garden Maintenance
Sun - Fri Nov 11 - 16	Walks - Nature Reserves near Mudgee
Sat Dec 1	End-of-year function + AGM

NATTAI NP SEPT 2018 SPECIES LIST

Thanks again to Greg and Ashlea for their help in compiling this list. A number of plants with no reproductive parts visible could not be identified with any certainty.

- Acacia linifolia – Flax-leaved wattle
- Acacia longifolia - Sydney golden wattle
- Acacia myrtifolia – Myrtle wattle
- Acacia terminalis - Sunshine wattle
- Acacia ulicifolia - Prickly Moses
- Amperea xiphioclada – Broom spurge
- Asplenium flabellifolium – Butterfly fern
- Banksia serrata - Old Man banksia
- Banksia spinulosa - Hairpin banksia
- Brachyloma daphnoides – Daphne heath
- Boronia ledifolia – Sydney boronia
- Bossiaea obcordata - - Spiny Bossiaea
- Corymbia gummifera – Red bloodwood
- Dampiera purpurea - Purple Dampiera
- Daviesia corymbosa -
- Daviesia ulicifolia – Gorse bitter pea
- Dillwynia ramosissima –
- Dillwynia retorta –
- Dillwynia sp. trichopoda –
- Dodonaea triquetra – Common hopbush
- Eucalyptus agglomerata - Blue-leaved stringybark
- Eucalyptus cypellocarpa – Mountain grey gum
- Eucalyptus racemosa – Snappy gum
- Eucalyptus sieberi – Silvertop ash
- Eucalyptus sparsifolia – Narrow-leaved stringybark
- Gompholobium grandiflorum –
- Gonocarpus teucrioides – Raspwort
- Grevillea arenaria – Sand grevillea
- Grevillea buxifolia – Grey spider flower
- Grevillea sphacelata –
- Haemodorum corymbosum – Bloodroot
- Hakea dactyloides - Finger Hakea
- Hakea sericea – Needle bush
- Hardenbergia violacea - Purple twining pea
- Hovea linearis - Narrow-leaved pea
- Isopogon anemonifolius – Broad-leaved drumsticks
- Kunzea ambigua – Tick bush
- Kunzea capitata – Pink Kunzea
- Lambertia formosa – Mountain devil
- Petrophile pedunculata –
- Leptospermum polygalifolium - Yellow tea-tree
- Leptospermum trinervium - Tea tree
- Lomandra gracilis -
- Lomandra obliqua - Fishbone matrush
- Olax stricta –
- Patersonia glabrata - - Leafy purple flag
- Persoonia laurina - Laurel geebung
- Persoonia levis - Broad-leaf geebung
- Persoonia mollis –
- Pittosporum revolutum –
- Platysace linearifolia –
- Pomaderris elliptica - ?
- Pomax umbellata -
- Poranthera corymbosa –
- Telopea speciosissima – Waratah
- Tetralochea thymifolia – Black-eyed Susan
- Xanthorrhoea resinosa – grass tree
- Xylomelum pyriforme – Woody pear