

EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2017

NEXT EHG MEETING:

From 7 pm for 7.30 pm start, Wednesday 1 November 2017

ALASKAN PENINSULA – FLORA AND FAUNA

EHG member **Tony Porritt** will display photos of animals, plants and birds of the Alaskan peninsula, including walrus, grizzly bears (up close!) and other species unique to the area. Tony will also share some photos and history of the uninhabited World Heritage area of Haida Gwaay and SGang Gwaay, where visitor numbers are restricted to fewer than 100 per year.

LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH

909 Forest Road Lugarno (opposite the Chivers Hill Lugarno shops)

Visitors are welcome.

If you can, please bring something to share for supper and labelled specimens for the plant table.

WELCOME to the November 2017 edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter.

This issue includes a Note from our President (page 2), some photos, notes and a plant list from the October plant table (page 3), some more photos from the APS NSW 2017 Annual Get-Together at Coffs Harbour (page 5), notes and photos of four spectacular plants grown by Karlo Taliana (page 7), and details of the APS quarterly gathering (page 4) which is coming up very soon, on 18 November. You can also find a short list of other coming events (page 10), and the notes of the business at our October meeting (page 9).

Enjoy!

Jan Douglas
Editor

www.easthills.austplants.com.au



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that 2017 is nearly over - where has the year gone? Our group has continued to flourish with plenty of good information nights as well as the friendly banter. Thanks to Graham Walters for finding speakers.

After our meetings I always feel very positive: I think it is the friendliness of everyone, the readiness to share information and the general good nature that comes from being in the company of friends.

Unfortunately, one of our great stalwarts, Hugh Stacy, is not well. We hope he recovers and will soon be able to give us one of his thoroughly researched talks on some little-known fact about Australian flora.

The ongoing dry weather is challenging our belief that Australian plants have evolved to withstand climate extremes. I have lost a number of garden plants and it is sad to see that even in the bush park near our home many plants are dying, including large trees. As I write this, rain is forecast in the next few days – let's hope it finally arrives.

On Saturday, 15th October, Graham Walters and I attended the monthly meeting of Menai Wildflower Group. It wasn't a talk but a demonstration of how to prune grevilleas, given by Ray Brown of Bulli Grevillea Park fame. He said that there are two ways to prune depending on the species – the large grevillea hybrids (based on *Grevillea banksii*) need a hard prune, while the smaller true species must be only trimmed.

I think the Menai WG members were a bit shocked when he got stuck into some of their grevilleas with a chainsaw and reduced the plants to about 30 cm high! On the smaller plants he used a hedge trimmer and basically gave them a haircut. Ray's extensive knowledge of these plants was clear as he answered the many queries about pruning. Overall it was a very interesting meeting.

Our EHG Annual General Meeting is coming up in December. At the last meeting we informally discussed it and there was general agreement that we will again have a light dinner followed by a Crazy Whist card game. Marie O'Connor has kindly offered to organise the night and, knowing Marie, I am sure it will be a good well-organised evening.

Finally, I would ask you all to consider standing for positions on the committee. All the positions on the committee will be declared vacant at the AGM, and I know there are some people on the committee who would dearly love to hand over their responsibilities to someone else. So please, consider if you would like to stand for a position - you can contact me if you would like to discuss it before nominating.

Graham Fry
President East Hills Group

OCTOBER 2017 PLANT TABLE

Thanks to everyone who brought plant specimens.

Graham Walters.

Photos by Graham Fry unless stated otherwise.

Specimens on the plant table at our October meeting included:

Actinotus helianthi
Alyogyne sp.
Anigozanthos manglesii
Aphanopetalum resinosum
Callistemon ?citrinus
Callistemon sp.
Callistemon sp. (mauve flower)
Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Eremophila maculata
Graptophyllum excelsum
Grevillea sp.
Hymenosporum flavum
Isopogon formosus
Kunzea parvifolia
Lechenaultia formosa
Melaleuca nodosa
Melaleuca sp.
Prostanthera sp.
Rhodanthe ?anthemoides
Scaevola ?aemula
Syzigium wilsonii



Aphanopetalum resinosum (Gum Vine)

This is a white-flowered climber or straggling shrub, found in rainforest along parts of the coast of NSW and southern Queensland. It is in Cunoniaceae, the same family as Christmas Bush and Coachwood. Its leaves and flowers are similar to those of Coachwood. *Aphanopetalum* - from the Greek, *aphanes*, inconspicuous, and *petalon*, a petal; *resinosum* - Latin for resinous.



Hymenosporum flavum

(Native Frangipani or Queensland Frangipani)

This small to medium tree is uncommon in the Sydney area, found from the Batemans Bay district north to Queensland and PNG, generally in rainforest. The attractive yellow bell-shaped flowers are fragrant. The tree often shows a spiral growth habit.

Hymenosporum - from Greek, *hymen*, a membrane and *spora*, a seed, referring to the winged seeds *flavum* - from Latin, *flavus*, yellow, referring to the typical flower colour.

Photo: Brian Walters <http://anpsa.org.au/h-fla.html>



Isopogon formosus (Rose Coneflower)

This shrub occurs in forest and woodland on sandy and gravel soils in the south-west of WA. It is a spectacular species, growing to about 2 metres, and producing deep mauve to pink flowers in winter and spring. It prefers well-drained moist soils in a sunny or lightly shaded position. It is easily propagated from seed, which germinates readily without pre-treatment

Isopogon - from Greek *isos*, equal and *pogon*, a beard, a reference to the hairs surrounding the fruits. *formosus*.- from Latin *formosus*, beautiful.



Photo: Brian Walters
<http://anpsa.org.au/i-for.html>

Kunzea parvifolia (Violet Kunzea, Small-leafed Kunzea)

A spreading shrub to 1.5 metres bearing abundant rosy- pink flowers in terminal heads. It occurs in shallow soils in heath and woodlands. Areas include the Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands and parts of Victoria.

Kunzea - after Dr Gustav Kunze. *parvifolia* - from Latin, *parvus*, small and *folium*, a leaf.

Lechenaultia formosa

Spectacular low shrub or groundcover with prolific red, yellow or orange flowers, endemic to Southern WA. Never exceeds 50cm in height. Difficult to maintain on the east coast. Recommended to grow in pots in perlite potting mix. Water only after soil has been dry for a couple of days. Best in north facing position.

Lechenaultia - after the naturalist Leschenault de la Tour. An error when the genus was first described caused the omission of the 's' in the genus name.

formosa - from Latin, *formosus*, beautiful, referring to the overall appearance of the plant.



Photo: Brian Walters
<http://anpsa.org.au/l-for.html>

APS NSW QUARTERLY GATHERING – SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

The final APS NSW quarterly gathering for 2017 will be **hosted by North Shore Group at Caley's Pavilion in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Rd, St Ives.**

Guest speaker, Bronwen Roy (a PhD student at Western Sydney University) will speak about Australian native bees, a very appropriate topic for Australian Pollinator Week.

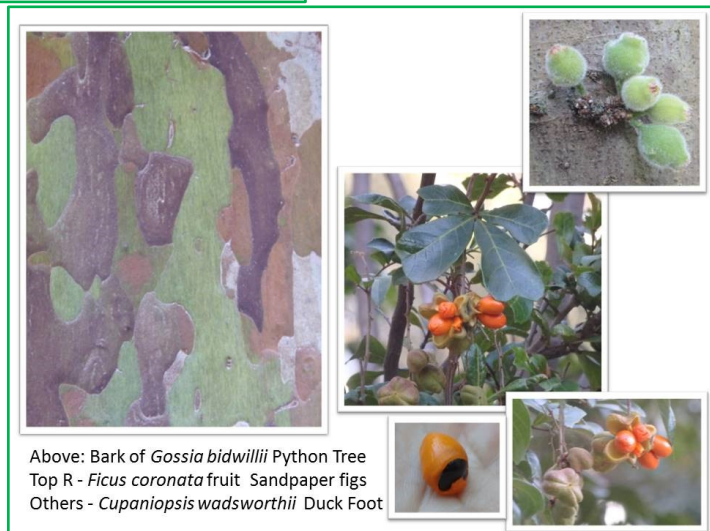
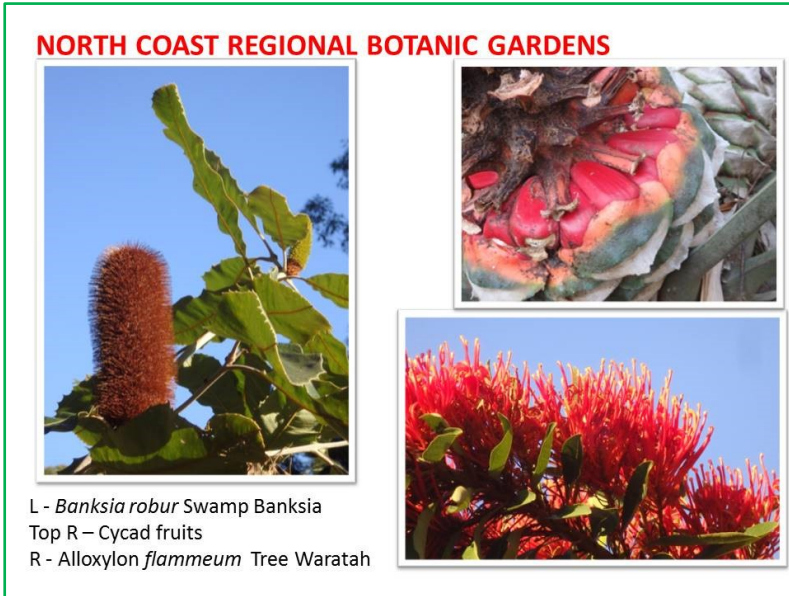
- Tea and coffee will be available from 10.30 am.
- Go for a self-guided walk in the extensive grounds (maps are available from the Visitors Centre near the Garden entrance), or
- be part of a guided walk organised by NSG, starting at 11 am and ending about noon.
- Lunch (bring your own) and plant sales from 12 noon.
- The meeting begins at 2 pm and will be followed by afternoon tea.



Photo: Noel Rosten,
North Shore Group

East Hills Group October 2017 meeting
MORE FROM THE APS 2017
ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER AT COFFS HARBOUR

Photos by Jan Douglas





ZAMIACEAE
Lepidozamia peroffskyana
 Sessile Burrawang
 Mapleton, Qld - Manning R, NSW



Noisy Pitta

The photo of *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* (Sessile Burrawang) was included especially for Kyrill: there is a magnificent specimen in the Taylors' garden.

The bird photos were taken during the bird watching walk on Sunday morning.



Above: Kookaburra
 Below: Torresian Crow



Above: Not all plants in the garden are natives
 Below: Hovea flowers



SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER



Above: Life membership: Dick Turner



Above & right:
 Conservation award: Bob Ross



A COLOURFUL SELECTION

Karlo Taliana is known for his amazing garden and generous contributions to our plant table.

This month he shares a selection of fascinating plants that he grows, but which haven't made it to our plant table.

Banksia petiolaris

This prostrate species is found between Cape Le Grand and Cape Arid along the south coast of WA. It has been growing in my garden for six years on its own roots. It produces the largest flower heads of any prostrate Banksia species. This spring has seen my plant produce more than fifteen flower heads. The flowers are more strongly scented during the evening, perhaps to attract its small marsupial pollinators which are more active at night. It may spread up to 2m across - my specimen is now reaching that size.



Grevillea excelsior

This grafted specimen has been in my new garden at work for two years, where it has grown very fast. Wild specimens often grow with a leaning habit, and in cultivation they need good staking. Its long linear grey leaves are an adaptation to the dry conditions it endures as an inland species in south-western WA. It produces large bright-orange toothbrush-like terminal flowers throughout spring, often attracting honeyeaters. One frequent visitor has been the Red Wattlebird.



Grevillea georgeana

Another grafted Grevillea, this one growing in my garden at home and reaching 2.5m high by 2m wide. It is a very prickly shrub with deeply-divided blue-green leaves and produces long cylindrical flower heads with a red perianth and white limb through spring and summer. This species was first described by Donald McGillivray in 1986. It has a Priority Three Conservation status as it occurs only in a restricted location, close to Southern Cross in WA.



Verticordia cooloomia

This garden specimen is growing vigorously on its own roots. It was planted only six months ago and is now flowering for the first time. In cultivation, it forms a bushy shrub 1-2m tall if kept regularly pruned, but may grow 2.5-3m across in the wild. The thick bright green leaves are lanceolate, concave, 7-12mm long. The unusual bright yellow flowers occur on terminal branches from mid-spring to early summer. This species is not typical of the 'feather flowers' as its feather-edged sepals are hidden beneath the petals. It was first discovered in 1979 by Stephen Hopper at Cooloomia Nature Reserve, north of the lower Murchison River in WA. It also has a Priority Three Conservation status because it is restricted to only three or four populations.



THE BUSINESS

East Hills Group meeting – 4 October 2017

Meeting notes by Liz Cameron

The meeting opened at 7.35 pm with nine in attendance. There were five apologies.

Business:

Reference was made to the reports on the visit to Sylvan Grove and the APS NSW annual get-together at Coffs Harbour in the EHG October Newsletter, and also the photos of the September plant table specimens.

Graham Fry commented on the trying conditions for gardeners in the current drought.

Graham Walters reported that Hugh Stacy was still in hospital but improving.

Reference was also made to the recent death of Julie Banks, an EHG member and resident of Oatley. Kyrill commented on what a wonderful job Julie had done at Sylvan Grove Native Garden, laying out the groundwork for her successors.

Plans for the AGM and Christmas gathering:

- Wednesday 6th December 2017.
- Dorothy Taylor has agreed to organise Crazy Whist again as it has proved popular.
- Marie O'Connor offered to organise the meal and provide decorations for the dinner tables, which will consist of salads and cold meats provided by members. Sweet offerings (also provided by members) are to be served at supper after Crazy Whist.
- Members of Sutherland, Menai and Macarthur Groups to be invited to join us.
- Everyone asked to bring items for two hampers which, in their absence, it was assumed Jan and Dave would provide and decorate.

November meeting – Graham W to contact Neutrog again, and ask Liza Schaeper (OEH) if one of her colleagues could speak on Saving Our Species program. Tony has a presentation on Alaska that he could give if no other speaker is available (but he explained there was not a lot on flora).

Reminder about AGM at meeting on 6th December: All positions on the committee will be declared vacant at the AGM; East Hills Group members, please consider nominating for a position on the 2018 committee.

Following the business section of the meeting, Graham F gave a summary of the program at the APS week-end at Coffs Harbour and screened Jan's PowerPoint presentation illustrating the diverse gardens, reserves and flora that participants saw. Regarding the photo of the Sessile Burrawang *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* in the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, Kyrill commented that he had one specimen in his garden measuring 15 feet across, and a number of smaller plants, all propagated from seeds obtained from Coffs Harbour.

Dorothy and Kyrill had kindly brought a tray of plants propagated by Karlo and some were sold and some raffled at the meeting. Graham F took the rest home and will offer them for sale at the Oatley Lions Spring Fair on Saturday 21st October.

Plant sales \$19
 Raffle tickets \$15
 Total income \$34

The meeting was followed by the plant table and supper.

COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

You can find more district group events on the APS NSW website at <http://austplants.com.au/calendar>

Wednesday 1 November From 7 pm for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Tony Porritt on the flora and fauna of the Alaskan Peninsula.
Saturday 4 November 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters. [click for map]
Wednesday 8 November 7 pm	Menai Wildflower Group meeting – AGM followed by Dan Clarke: Conservation work of APS NSW. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
Wednesday 15 November From 7.45 for 8 pm	Sutherland Group meeting – Interactions between children and urban nature. GyMEA Community Hall, 39 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA
Saturday 18 November	APS NSW Quarterly Gathering at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. See page 4 of the newsletter for details.
Wednesday 6 December From 7 pm for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group AGM and Christmas meeting – AGM, dinner and Crazy Whist.
January 2018	ANPSA Annual Conference – Hobart. See Native Plants for NSW for details. Registration closes on 15 November 2017.

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