

Native Plants for NSW - Quarter 2 2026



Native bee visiting Plectranthus parviflorus (T Lea, Illawarra Grevillea Park)

From the President

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

This newsletter is, as usual, packed with a wide variety of articles of both a horticultural and wider scientific interest. I hope therefore that many of our members will be stimulated to attend the AGM in May and consider ways in which they can contribute to the Society.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Saturday 9th May at the Illawong Fire Station, Old Illawong Road Illawong. It is to be jointly hosted by Menai and Sutherland District Groups and as well as the formal aspects of the gathering, there

will be guided walks of the Menai Wildflower Garden and a talk by Thomas Mesaglio, well known botanist based at University of NSW. Full details of the gathering are to be distributed shortly.

An encouraging development in the Society is the number of District Groups inviting surrounding groups to their outings and arranging joint activities. This allows for a broader exchange of information and identification of changes and possible threats to our vegetation and biodiversity.

John Desmond, President

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Events and activities

Illawarra Grevillea Park open days



Grevillea georgeana (T Lea)

When: 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th May 2026.
10am - 4pm

Where: Grevillea Park Road, Bulli New
South Wales 2516, Australia

- Large colourful display gardens with hundreds of grevilleas and other native species and cultivars.
- Rainforest walk incorporating a sensory trail
- Acres to explore including a vine forest walk that leads to the Park's old giant blackbutt tree
- Plenty of space to picnic
- A large range of native plants for sale including the most extensive range of grafted plants anywhere in NSW
- An extensive range of gardening books for sale
- Dogs welcome but must be on a leash at all times

Cost: \$7 adults, children free

More details [here](#)

North Shore meeting and talk: Tony Maxwell - Rare and endangered plants in our area

When: 7:30pm 8th May 2026

Where: Beatrice Taylor Hall, behind Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre 25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby NSW 2077

Join the APS North Shore Group for an engaging talk by Tony Maxwell on rare and endangered plants found in our local area. Tony will share insights into the identification, distribution and conservation of these significant species, along with the challenges they face in the wild.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the plants that need our protection and how we can all play a role in conserving them.

Plants for sale, library access, and supper available.

More details [here](#)

Re-greening Country tree planting - volunteers wanted

When & Where: Various dates and locations (see below)

Rotary is supporting the 'Re-Greening' events, targeting planting 10,000 trees this year. Volunteers are welcome to camp on the property or seek nearby accommodation.

This is a great opportunity to have a weekend away in a country town and help support local farmers by staying in accommodation, eating in restaurants and doing some wonderful country shopping!

- May 2 Oak Lea (near the historical village of Rockley, Bathurst)

- September 19 Grabben Gullen near Crookwell, Maia and Phillip Gould (previously plantings 2024, 2025)

- October 10 Berridale, Charlie and Fiona Massy (previous plantings 2022, 2024, 2025). Note: We will be staying in the same ski lodges at East Jindabyne

- November (TBC) Mittagong, Julieann Macdonald (previous planting 2023)

More details [here](#)

Dates for the Diary



ANPSA biennial conference - 2026

The next conference is 24–28 August 2026, hosted by APS South Australia in Alice Springs with the theme Amazing Arid Australia. Their first newsletter has been published and is available [here](#) and the conference website can be found [here](#)

The conference theme is dedicated to the 70 per cent of Australia that is arid or semi-arid. Over five days the conference will be your chance to hear about and see native plants and their habitats in central Australia. There will be three days of keynote talks, themed breakouts, two afternoon outings and two days of excursions into the MacDonnell Ranges and special places around Alice Springs.

Early Bird registrations are open, and registration information can be found [here](#)



And finally, don't forget there is a full listing of all APS NSW events including district groups on our website [here](#)

Germinating Persoonias



Persoonia pinifolia (Emma Brame)

Emma Brame has been working as a horticulturalist at the Sutherland Shire Community Nursery in southern Sydney for over 7 years and shares her knowledge of propagating Persoonias with us.

She writes; 'Germinating persoonias is notoriously hard and successful germination is something in which to be proud of participating. I have been fortunate enough to work alongside some very experienced and passionate people that have shared their understanding and knowledge on growing native plants. Persoonias are proving to be one of the harder genera to master and propagate successfully. The Sutherland Shire is home to a number of Persoonia species and the nursery has had success with four different species, *Persoonia pinifolia*, *P. lanceolata*, *P. linearis* and my favourite (if not one of my favourite native plants) *P. levis*.'

Read on to find out about the propagation efforts!

[Read more](#)

Garden news and tips



Persoonia linearis (J Howes)

Persoonia linearis is a useful and attractive garden plant with a naturally good form. Its red flaky bark is a standout feature, and the plant is both hardy and long-lived once established. It does not require additional watering during dry spells and can persist for decades in a suitable position.

Jeff Howes has been growing his own plant since the 1990s in a Sydney suburban garden, where it established naturally from a seed that arrived in a delivery of local sandstone-derived leaf litter – landing in exactly the right spot.

Plants may be difficult to source in nurseries, but tubestock is worth seeking out when available.

[Read more](#)



Micromyrtus minutiflora (D Clarke)

Micromyrtus minutiflora occupies a precarious position in the NSW flora — a slender, quietly beautiful shrub with a natural range so restricted it fits within a rough triangle between Richmond, Penrith and Riverstone in western Sydney. Listed as Endangered under NSW legislation and Vulnerable under Commonwealth law, it is one of those species that reminds us how much of our native flora exists on a knife's edge, hemmed in by urban expansion and the ongoing loss of the ecological communities it depends on.

Given its threatened status, *Micromyrtus minutiflora* is not widely cultivated, and sourcing plants is the primary challenge. It is worth contacting bushcare groups and native plant nurseries operating in western Sydney, as these are the most likely sources of tubestock grown from local provenance material.

[Read more](#)

Conservation



Plants rise from the dead more often than you think

Aaron Bean, a horticulturalist, was doing some bird banding in northern Queensland in mid-2025 when he caught sight of an interesting looking small shrub. He took some photos of it and uploaded them to the citizen scientist database, iNaturalist. By a strange coincidence, Aaron's namesake but no relation, Anthony Bean, a botanist at the Queensland Herbarium, saw the photos and recognised the plant as *Ptilotus senarius*. What is particularly notable and interesting about this is that the plant was thought to be extinct in the wild because of cattle grazing.

Peter Geelan-Small explains more about this find, and why it's happening more often.

[Read the story](#)

Ptilotus senarius (iNaturalist, Image: Aaron Bean)

Snowstorm clean up



The aftermath (L Gardiner)

Liz Gardiner of the Armidale & District Group shared a piece about her garden after extreme weather events last year, and the clean up.

She says: 'The heavy snowfall in August turned much of New England into a winter wonderland. We all marvelled at the depth of snow for much of the first day, before the range of negative impacts took hold across the region. Loss of power, loss of communications, road closures, freezing conditions and of course then came the sounds like gunshots as branches or whole trees began to fall under the sheer weight of snow.'

[Read more](#)

The Daniel Solander Library

While most people would only go to Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens to see flower displays there is another experience awaiting them at the Garden's Daniel Solander Library. The library shines a light on the literature of the academic interest in plants, their discovery, nomenclature and illustration. Having served for thirty years as the Daniel Solander librarian Miguel Garcia was an ideal raconteur for this revelation.

The North Shore Group recently took a trip to see this amazing place, and Harry Loots wrote up the experience. On the day, the group had a brief explanation of plans showing the development of the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens and then moved into the library where a selection of works on paper were laid out on a long table. It was a pleasant change inside after the hot muggy weather outside. The library's atmosphere was cool and dry to protect its special collection both from silverfish and the humidity which causes fungus.



Example of piece shown to the group (H Loots)

[Read the story](#)

Final words...

The Summer 2026/27 issue of Australian Plants is to feature grasstrees. It is being compiled in Western Australia but we want information and photos from across Australia. NSW members are requested to provide input:

- a) articles and/or photos and information generally on the propagation of grasstrees, especially successful propagation from seeds, how fast they grew and how long they took to flower
- b) images of grasstree species in flower (28 species) especially the rare ones.
- c) Old articles or photos eg from ethnobotanists with an interest in these species.

If you can assist please send your information both to [Merle Thompson](#) and to [Prof Byron Lamont](#)

Thanks

Merle Thompson, Editor Australian Plants

More final words...

The new NSW/ACT Botanic Trail Guide offers an invitation to explore some of Australia's most diverse and inspiring cultivated landscapes, from coastal forests to cool-climate mountain gardens and inland collections of national significance. The Garden Trail Guide has been updated and you can find the information [here.](#)

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