

Native Plants for NSW - Quarter 3 2024



Dillwynia retorta 'Eggs and Bacon' (L Godden)

From the President

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

The APS NSW Annual General Meeting was held on 11th May 2024, hosted by Parramatta and Hills District Group. The weather on the day was extremely challenging which unfortunately meant lower than usual attendance.

The new Board and positions after the meeting are:

- John Desmond - President
- Harry Loots - Treasurer
- Merle Thompson - Membership
- Rhett Morson - Elected Board Member
- Tony Maxwell - Delegate – Parramatta and Hills

We are sad to see the departure of John Aitken after many years as President and Board member, but we have been assured that he is available for wise counsel and advice. One of the roles John had was to coordinate with district groups running the quarterly gatherings and we need a volunteer to take this role on. It is only a small

quarterly gatherings and we need a volunteer to take the role on. It is only a small time commitment, and we really need someone to help; to ensure we can keep running the quarterly gatherings.

As this is a purely volunteer run organisation and our volunteer numbers are declining, this places a huge strain on those who are doing the work of running the society, both within APS NSW and our district groups. Please think about whether you have any time you can commit and get in touch, as we have many tasks that we would appreciate support with.

The Treasurer's Report showed that we are in a very healthy financial position, with the resources to move forward on our strategic objectives.

The meeting then approved the grant of life membership to two of our long serving members, Patrick Laher and Jeff Howes. Further details of their background and achievements are in this newsletter. A big congratulations to them for their hard work and dedication over the years. You can read a report on the AGM [here](#).

John Desmond, President

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Events and activities





Sylvan Grove (supplied)

APS NSW Quarterly Gathering - hosted by Harbour Georges River

When: Saturday 14th September 2024

Where:

Morning: Choice of 2 guided walk locations

Afternoon: Oatley Uniting Church Hall. Corner of Letitia St &, Frederick St, Oatley NSW \$5 members, \$10 non-members

Program:

- **10-12pm:** Choice of 2 guided walks

1) Sylvan Grove Native Garden (Picnic Point NSW 2213).

Meet at the garden entrance at 10am. Please note parking is limited in the park itself. Sylvan Grove Native Garden is a unique haven of natural bushland displayed along a winding bush track. It has over 1500 species of native plants which produce a spectacular display of flowers at this time of the year.

2) Oatley Park (Dame Mary Gilmore Road, Oatley NSW 2223).

Meet at 10am at the Oatley Uniting Hall, corner of Letitia St &, Frederick St, Oatley to begin the walk. This beautiful park is nestled along the Georges River, Lime Kiln Bay, and Jewfish Bay, and covers 45 hectares of Sydney's prime natural bushland. At this time of the year, there should be a wonderful abundance of flowering native plants

- **12-1pm:** (BYO) Lunch at Oatley Uniting Church Hall, tea and coffee provided
- **1-2pm:** Presentation - The Wonderful World of Wattles by Rhonda Daniels.



Rhonda Daniels

Rhonda will explore the wonderful world of wattles including the diversity of flowers, foliage and fruit, Aboriginal and European uses, our local acacias, and acacias in the garden. There is some myth-busting and lots of photos. September is a great time to focus on our amazing acacias.

Rhonda is a long-time member of the Australian Plants Society NSW, and is active in various roles in her local Sutherland Group, APS NSW and is current secretary of our national body, ANPSA. She is also an enthusiastic Bushcare volunteer and volunteers at Sutherland Council Community Nursery. Rhonda loves sharing her enthusiasm for Australian native plants and regularly gives talks on various aspects of Australian native plants.

- **2pm onwards:** - afternoon tea generously provided by Harbour Georges River Group

More information [here](#)

Northern Beaches - Natural methods of pest management

When: Thursday 5th September, 7:30pm

Where: The Corkery Building, Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden, 810 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why

The speaker will be Piret May. She is a horticulturist at Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens.

Piret will talk on natural methods of pest management, using beneficial insects, inoculants and host plants. Successes and failures will be discussed.

All welcome.

More details [here](#)

Central Coast - Australian Natives as bonsai (Speaker: Andrew Edge)

When: Saturday 10th August, 1:30pm

Where: Phillip House, 21 Old Mount Penang Road, Kariong

Andrew is a local Bonsai enthusiast who has travelled to Asia in the pursuit of his passion. He will be conducting another of his very successful demonstrations on how to grow, train and repot Australian Natives into miniaturised and realistic trees in containers. We will see several of his bonsai plants at different stages and be able to discuss their various characteristics.

All welcome. \$3 for members and non members.

More details [here](#)

North Shore - Walks and Talks

When: Mondays, 9:45am

Where: meet at Caley's pavillion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.

- Aug 5 Monday Heath plants (Family Ericaceae)
- Aug 12 Monday Boronia and other members of Family Rutaceae
- Aug 19 Monday Sedges, rushes & restiads
- Aug 26 Monday Acacia (Family Fabaceae, Subfamily Mimosoideae)
- Sept 2 Monday Leptospermum, Baeckea (Family Myrtaceae)
- Sept 9 Monday Pea shrubs and vines (Family Fabaceae, Subfamily Faboideae)
- Sept 16 Monday Waratahs and other members of Family Proteaceae
- Sept 23 Monday Walk Only: East Mueller Track return 1pm

Sessions run 10am to about 12 noon unless a later return time is indicated.

Sessions are free. No booking required.

No prior knowledge is required and information sheets will be provided.

Walks are easy/medium grade.

Please wear a hat, have suitable footwear and bring water/snack. Sunscreen and insect repellent would also be a good idea.

More details [here](#)

Dates for the Diary

Annual Weekend Get-Together Hosted by the Armidale Group

Join us on 1-3rd November 2024 at Armidale on the Northern Tablelands, New South Wales for a very exciting weekend of nature, gardening, and art.

Registration fee: \$100 which includes morning tea, a boxed lunch and a two course dinner at the New England Regional Art Museum on Saturday. (optional) \$35 for bus for all Saturday daytime venues. (Only 57 places are available so book early to ensure a seat.) The bus cost will be kept separate as some people may wish to 'tag along' in their car. A reserve list will be kept and a second bus may be organised.

RSVP your interest: Maria Hitchcock OAM, maria.hitchcock@gmail.com
There is a packed program on offer, see the full details [here](#)



Armidale Arboretum (supplied)



Have you booked your tickets to the ANPSA Biennial Conference in Melbourne in 2024? [See here](#) for more information. Tour registrations close end of July so don't delay.



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

Life members - Patrick Laher and Jeff Howes

Congratulations to Patrick Laher from the Armidale Australian Plants Society group who was awarded Life Membership at the 2024 AGM. Pat was awarded this based on his contribution to the Armidale Group, the local community, the conservation of our flora and his practical contribution to the governance of the Australian Plants Society.

Pat has been an active member of Armidale District Group since 1987, being a committee member each year and holding various positions. He is the current President and has had prior terms as President. He also is the outings officer responsible for suggesting venues and organising our popular garden visits and excursions.

Pat's background and interest in Australian Native Plants means he is a highly respected expert in many areas, and he has developed two beautiful gardens of Australian plants in his time in the area. Read the full story for a summary of all Pat's remarkable achievements.



Patrick Laher (supplied)

[Read more](#)



Jeff Howes (supplied)

[Read more](#)

Congratulations also to Jeff Howes from the North Shore Australian Plants Society Group who was awarded Life Membership at the 2024 AGM. APS North Shore are delighted to have Jeff awarded Life Membership for his service to North Shore Group, his efforts in constructing and maintaining the APS NSW Plant Profile Project and his ongoing dedication as a committee member and excursions coordinator for the North Shore Group.

Jeff Howes' contribution at the local, state and national level to the appreciation and knowledge of Australian native plants has been significant over many years. Jeff's membership commenced in 1977. For many years Jeff was an active member of North Shore Group, particularly involved with the plant ID segment of meetings, and a regular attendee at meetings and events.

Read on for more information on Jeff's superb contribution to APS, his local community and furthering the knowledge about Australian Native Plants, particularly as an expert on how to grow them.

Garden news and tips





Sturt desert pea (L Godden)

Sturt Desert Peas don't grow in Sydney, do they?

Over the past 6 months, Lisa Godden has been having a go at growing a Sturt Desert Pea (*Swainsona formosa*) plant from seed, with some minor success. She thought she'd put together an amateur report on what she did and what the results were. She's based in Southern Sydney, near the Royal National Park in a spot that tends to more humid given proximity to bush and river.

[Read the story](#)



Pipes in Malcolm Johnston's garden (J Howes)

Recycling old clay pipes for garden use

Dan Clarke and Jeff Howes share with us a number of uses they've found for old terracotta pipes in their garden. Dan was lucky enough to stumble on some dumped in a local bush care area and Jeff has many in use in his garden as well. You may have some yourself stashed around your house, or they are often available secondhand (tip- keep an eye out on facebook marketplace). They may also make a good home for a Sturt desert pea!

[Read the story](#)

Bush food for your home garden

Tracee Lea shares a story with us about native foods in her local area. 'On one of the Illawarra group walks back in January, we visited the soon to be launched Bush Food Walk at the University of Wollongong. Some of you may know I am working on a similar project at the Illawarra Grevillea Park Botanic Garden, so I thought I might pass on a few suggestions for growing native food plants in the home garden.

The Illawarra region has several useful food plants locally occurring and many others from outside the region also grow well here. They have different uses from eating straight from the plant to steeping in water (hot or cold), drying and grinding, or adding to more conventional recipes such as marinades and cakes etc.'



Native Raspberry (T Lea)

[Read the story](#)

Conservation



A. queenslandicus (J Faris)

The holy grail from back o'Bourke

When botanists who've been trying to collect seed for several years from an endangered plant get word that the plant is flowering, the opportunity is not to be lost. They're on a quest for the holy grail! When little is known about what conditions favour the growth of a rare plant, opportunities for collecting seed and specimens may arise unexpectedly, requiring people to work in challenging conditions. In the face of many adverse factors affecting plant survival, having the resources to respond quickly and in the end successfully collecting seed may save the plant from extinction - and here the Australian PlantBank takes a leading role.

[Read the story](#)

Adaptations of Australian Plants in Extreme Conditions

At the April 2024 Harbour Georges River Group meeting, Associate Professor(UTS) Andy Leigh gave a talk and informal slide show on 'Research on the adaptations of Australian plants in desert and alpine landscapes'

Andy Leigh is a plant ecologist with a particular interest in extreme environments, which are not uncommon in Australia. She argues that temperature is the most important climate factor affecting how different plant (and animal) species are distributed on Earth. Different plant species have developed particular mechanisms to deal with the level of heat stress caused by the characteristic temperature and amount of water available in their environment.



Swellings on Acacia aneura (H Weber)

[Read the story](#)

Gardening Australia comes to the Wetlands



Costa and team at the wetlands (H West)

In March, FROGS (*Friends & Residents of Goulburn Swamplands*) Landcare volunteers played host to Costa Georgiadis as he visited the Goulburn Wetlands. Many of you will know that Costa has long been interested in the Wetlands—he planted trees with local school children in 2016 and live-streamed an impromptu visit in 2022. This time he came to film the Wetlands and its gardens for a segment on Gardening Australia.

[Read the story](#)

My Bunya Adventures

Two years ago, Linda Pine collected some Bunya Pine cones from the Hills Council's Bidjiwong Nursery, and had also been given a couple of dozen nuts from friends, which she then dehydrated and milled into flour. There was enough to make a cake with the flour, which turned out reasonably good.

In January and February this year she collected more cones from Bidjiwong, and with another volunteer at our Annangrove Community Environment Centre collected dozens of cones from local residents' trees which they were happy to donate. Then came the real work! Read on to hear how her adventures went, and to see her cake recipe.

[Read the story](#)



Bunya cones and processing (L Pine)

Final words...

Are you looking to add to your book collection? Harbour Georges River Group has decided to sell its entire library. You can view the list of books [here](#). The group is inviting members to make bids for the books they are interested in, and books will be available at the September quarterly gathering at Oatley.

In addition to the booklist are Volumes 1-3 of 'Flora of New South Wales' edited by Gwen Harden, published by Royal Botanic Gardens (donated to HGR by Graham Walters' family) and a collection of books on native plants, floral arrangements, natural history, etc donated by Marie and Des O'Connor. This includes a complete set of Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds (all 9 volumes). All these items, if not purchased beforehand, will be on display at the Quarterly Gathering.

For more information or to make bids, please contact HGR Secretary Liz Cameron - email: elsmere02@gmail.com or phone (02) 9580 6621. Bids can be made prior to or at the quarterly gathering.

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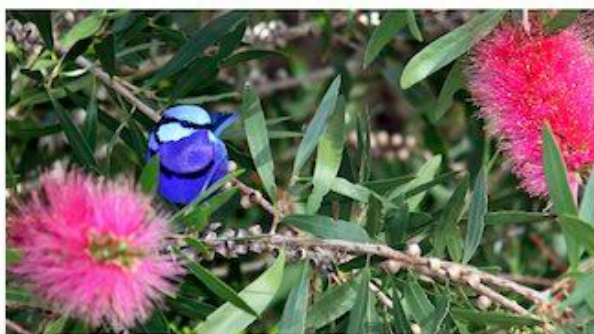
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South West National Parks

13-Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Perth 12 October 2024 - Max 12 participants

WA's beautiful South West region is one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots. Nearly 80% of the plant species are found nowhere else on Earth, making the area exceptionally unique. On this tour you will visit a range of National Parks, Wave Rock, Woody Island, Pink Lake, and the Valley of the Giants. Our visit also coincides with WA's southern wildflower season —join us and experience the colourful varieties for yourself!



Western Wanderer Expedition

12-Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 23 April 2025 - Max 10 participants

Spend 12 days travelling from Perth to Newman and discover Western Australia's beautiful coastline and ancient Pilbara region. You will fly and land on the Abrolhos Islands, visit the HMAS Sydney Memorial & Maritime Museum, explore the Shark Bay World Heritage area, swim the Ningaloo Reef (perhaps alongside a Whale Shark) and explore the wonders of Karijini National Park.



Contact us for further information and for details of our full natural history expedition program.

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