# Native Plants for NSW - Quarter 4 2026



*Flannel Flowers at Wattamolla beach (J Hambly)*

# From the President

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

In the native plant world the major recent event was the national conference held in Alice Springs in August. This was well attended by interested people from all the state organisations, and a link to a full report by Tessa Barratt on the conference is here.

The various Australian Native Plant Societies do a lot of valuable research and support in the field of flora research and an article here gives some idea of the breadth of activities we all contribute to. Also in line with our interest in research there are articles on parasitic plants and climate ready plants of the Yass region as well as a round-up of study group activities. Some specific and relevant gardening advice is provided in the articles on plants for pollinators and advice on preparing your garden for the coming hot dry weather.

Finally please note the first statewide events for the new year are a gathering hosted by Blue Mountains Group in February and the AGM hosted by North Shore Group in May. Information will be circulated when planning is completed. We would also encourage other District Groups to consider hosting events such as these in future.

John Desmond, Board member

eNewsletter Contents:


- Events and activities
- The Role of Australia's Native Plant Societies in Flora Research
- Garden news and tips
- Conservation
- Ecology of parasitic plants
- Study Group Updates Winter 2026


## Events and activities

Events are taking a break for the holiday season and will be back in the new year.



*Don't forget there is a full listing of all APS NSW events including district groups on our website here*

## The Role of Australia’s Native Plant Societies in Flora Research



*Grevillea sp. from Noel Jupp, Riverdene Nursery (H Miles)*

For many Australians, an interest in native plants begins simply: a flowering Grevillea noticed on a bushwalk, a desire to attract more birds to the garden, or a local field trip that reveals the extraordinary botanical diversity hidden in plain sight.

For others, the entry point is science, conservation, or professional work. Increasingly, these paths converge.

Recent generous donations to the Australian Flora Foundation from the Australian Plants Society NSW and Australian Plants Society Victoria are a timely reminder of a relationship that runs deeper than a shared enthusiasm for plants. The Australian Plants Society (APS) movement — operating through a national network of thousands of volunteers — is a significant, if often underappreciated, contributor to Australia’s botanical knowledge and conservation ecosystem. Understanding and supporting that relationship matters for anyone who cares about the future of Australian flora and its research. Heather Miles elaborates on the link between these organisations and the important role that APS plays.

Read more

## Garden news and tips



*Mulch. Photo: J Howes.*

Read more

### Preparing your garden for the predicted dry weather

The weather forecasts now have us coming out of the wet La Nina conditions over the last few years and heading into the warmer and drier El Nino weather pattern. This will have lasting effects on our gardens and can lead to plant loss and damage. With a little thought and preparation it is possible to minimise the problems that can come from this change in weather conditions.

Mark Abell of the Newcastle Group wrote an article with hints and tips on how to prepare your garden.

### Discover Plants for Pollinators!

Want to bring more bees, butterflies, moths and birds into your garden? Maree McCarthy of the Newcastle Group explains why native plants are the key, and how even a balcony pot or a small patch of lawn can make a real difference. Discover which natives are the best hosts and how to set up a pollinator-friendly space

Read more




*Native Hoya with butterfly (M McCarthy)*

## Conservation



*Critically endangered iron-grass natural temperate grassland of South Australia (J Turner)*

**Climate change is making conservationists scratch their heads**

Nobody would be surprised to hear that climate change is affecting plants. One way in which plants are changing is in their flowering time. Some plants are flowering earlier than they used to, while others are flowering later. Another way they're changing is the time at which they put leaves on. Yet another effect of global warming is that plants are changing their geographic location. Peter Geelan-Small tells us about how plants are changing, but not in the ways we might have expected.

Read the story

**Climate-ready: Planting seeds of resilience in Yass Valley**

When Gillian Hall and her fellow Yass Area Network (YAN) Landcare volunteers began investigating climate-ready revegetation, finding the right species was a labour of love.

"We were working manually – downloading spreadsheets, making scatter plots, overlaying climate projections, to determine the local plant species most likely to survive our future climate. Now the Restore and Renew tool does this in a few clicks." Gillian Hall, Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups volunteer

The Yass Valley's rolling hills and open farmland were once rich eucalypt woodland, cared for by the Ngunnawal and Wiradjuri peoples for tens of thousands of years.

Today, the landscape is home to one national park, five nature reserves and one state conservation area within one local government area. There's also numerous endangered and vulnerable flora and fauna species, and a natural environment adapting to climate change.

YAN unites four active Landcare groups to protect and restore the region's natural environment. Together, they launched the Climate Ready Revegetation Project in 2018.

"We wanted our nurseries to supply the best plants – those that would survive in a future, hotter climate," Gillian says. Read on to hear how they achieved this.

Read the story

## Ecology of parasitic plants



*Berry shrub (David M Watson)*

David M Watson, ecologist and mistletoe researcher, spoke at the recent ANPSA conference. He has given his permission to share a piece of his work.

Parasitic plants are an intriguing group of organisms that do not play by the same set of rules as other plants. Over evolutionary time, they have come up with sneaky ways of cheating the system. These plants depend on hosts for their nutrition, exhibiting a range of strategies to avoid detection by the host while still attracting animals to disperse their pollen and seeds.

Read on to find out more about his work on mistletoe as a keystone resource and bird dispersal of mistletoe seed, as well as how to manage areas with too much mistletoe and how to restore mistletoe back into areas where it no longer grows.

Read more

## Study Group Updates Winter 2026

The latest round-up, by Verna Aslin, from our study groups covers the Eremophila, Garden Design, Grevillea, Acacia, Australian Pea Flower, Grafting and Eucalyptus groups.

Highlights include news that the Grevillea group will likely be renamed the Grevillea and Allied Genera Study Group as part of a forthcoming genus revision, and that the Grafting group has published its third booklet, Grafting Banksia and other Proteaceae. Read on for more news.

Read the story



*Pultenaea patellifolia, the Mount Byron bush-pea. (Maree Goods)*

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