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Welcome to the August enewsletter



## Native Plants for NSW – August 2020

The monthly enewsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW



Bluebanded bee on *Grevillea sericea* (photo: Ralph Cartwright)

### In our August issue

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### Welcome to the enewsletter

This issue has a fire-related conservation theme including sharing information about native plants with members and the community. To get the most from the enewsletter, click on the links. If you can't see the photos, try these tips [here](#).

Our enewsletter is emailed to members at the end of the month. Each issue is also saved as a pdf file [here](#). Stories, photos, virtual events and feedback are welcome. Please email the editor Rhonda Daniels at [enewsletter@austrplants.com.au](mailto:enewsletter@austrplants.com.au)

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### From the President John Aitken

I hope everyone is well. Given the current COVID-19 status in Sydney, we have decided to replace the physical quarterly gathering on Saturday 12 September with a Zoom meeting. Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate, leaders of the Isopopon and Petrophile Study Group, will be our guest speakers. See details below.

Southern Highlands Group will be hosting our following quarterly gathering on 14 November in Bowral, with details in the next enewsletter.

A number of groups are inviting APS members to join their Zoom meetings, and some have also been recorded and are available on our YouTube channel. This offers a wonderful opportunity for members to join a wide range of meetings.

Thanks to everyone who joined our Extraordinary General Meeting on 15 July and passed our resolution to amend the annual report.

## Activities – in person

We have updated the COVID-19 message on our website. Please follow organisers' instructions for a COVID-safe activity.

### Mondays in August – Walks at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden by North Shore Group

- 3 August – Grevillea and Hakea
- 10 August – Wattles (Acacia, Family Fabaceae)
- 17 August – Boronia and Waxflowers (Family Rutaceae)
- 24 August – Long walk to St Ives Showground return (10 am – 2 pm)
- 31 August – Heath plants (Family Ericaceae)

There are five walk only sessions (no lecture), 10 am to 12 noon. Walks are easy to medium. It is essential to book your place by the Saturday before the Monday walk with Wendy Grimm on 0419 323 035 or [wagrimm@tpg.com.au](mailto:wagrimm@tpg.com.au). Limited numbers and social distancing apply. Please wear a hat and suitable footwear and bring water. Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.

### Sunday 9 August – Grevillea Study Group meeting, Kenthurst

Peter Olde is re-activating the Grevillea Study Group in NSW with a meeting at the garden of Ian Cox at Kenthurst to discuss a program and visit the garden. Cuttings allowed. Ian has many grevillea species and Peter will bring cuttings of rare species not in cultivation. There will be a demonstration of a method of grafting grevilleas by budding. Non-Grevillea Study Group members are welcome, but will be asked to join when here if they wish to participate in future activities.

Details: 10 am start. BYO morning tea (hot water provided). Best to park in the street. Please register with Peter at [peter.olde@exemail.com.au](mailto:peter.olde@exemail.com.au) or 0432 110 463 or Ian at [itcox@bigpond.com](mailto:itcox@bigpond.com).

Photo below: *Grevillea maccutcheonii* at Ian's garden by Kevin Stokes



### Saturday and Sunday 22–23 August – Plant sale at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

North Shore Group is having a plant sale at Caley's Pavilion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.

To ensure COVID-safe spacing, attendance is by pre-booking only with one booking for each 15 minutes between 10 am and 3.30 pm each day. Please book with Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 or [suzanneebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneebowen@gmail.com). Credit card payments preferred. Please bring your own boxes and bags. The sale will be postponed if it is raining.  
**5–6 and 12–13 September – Open days, Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli**

Enjoy the grevilleas in full spring flowering at the last open weekends for the year. Entry: \$5 per adult. Plant sales. Details [here](#).

## Activities by Zoom

Check our events page [here](#) for Zoom links and join in a talk at another group, all from the comfort of home.

### Wednesday 5 August, 7.30 pm – Newcastle Group: Chris and Leigh Cousins on the development of their garden

Chris and Leigh will talk about the design, planning and development over 25 years of their native garden near East Maitland. It is a great example of what can be achieved on an average suburban block. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.

### Wednesday 12 August, 6.30 pm – Menai Group: Narelle Happ on Edible native plants.

Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.

### Friday 14 August – North Shore Group: Michael Batley on Looking for bees

Michael has seen many lovely species of native bees in lots of interesting places. In the field, behaviour provides useful clues for identification. Get suggestions on the where, when and what of looking for bees. Contact North Shore Group for Zoom details [here](#).

### Wednesday 19 August, 7.30 pm – Sutherland Group: Rosanne Quinnell on Art, culture and botanical science

Rosanne from the University of Sydney will share the aesthetics of visualising cellular patterns in botany and cultural connections of Gadigal names for plants through the CampusFlora app.

Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.

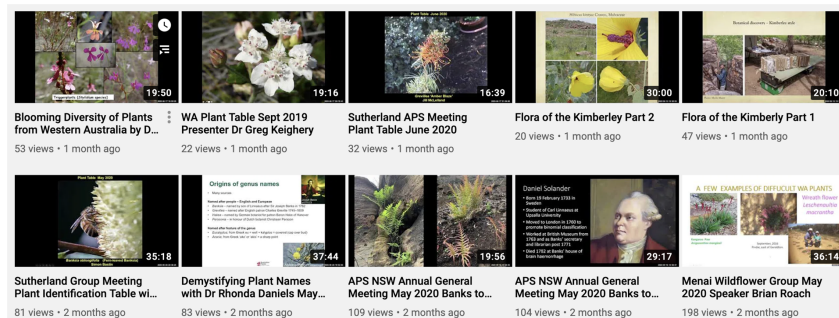
## Saturday 12 September, 3 pm – APS NSW quarterly gathering An Isopogon and Petrophile tour of our Little Forest Garden

Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett, leaders of the ANPSA Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group, invite us into their garden to show us what species to grow, how to care for and propagate them, new discoveries and the latest developments in cultivation and grafting. This virtual tour will introduce the wonderful world of isopogons and petrophiles and hopefully inspire more of us to include them in our own gardens. Zoom link details next enewsletter.

## Catch up on recent talks by Zoom

Watch recent talks by Zoom on our YouTube channel [here](#) including:

- Professor Dieter Hochuli on insects in urban bushland at Sutherland Group in July, [here](#).
- Judy Harrington on glossy black cockatoos at North Shore Group in July, [here](#).
- Kevin Collins on the second edition of his *Banksias* book, including stunning banksia photos, [here](#).
- Dr Greg Keighery on blooming diversity of south west Western Australia at Sutherland Group in June, [here](#).
- Dr Russell Barrett on flora of the Kimberley at Menai Group in June, [here](#).



## Understanding native plant distributions – a major data project

APS board member Tony Maxwell from Parra Hills Group believes that APS members should know where native plants are. Over many years, he has been working on a project to assemble data from reputable and publicly available sources and present it by area. As the data on location of species pre-dates the recent fires, it can provide a reference point for recovery, now or in the future, and it can be used to monitor, measure and learn. Tony welcomes feedback and help.

Read more about the project and how it started [here](#).

Download the spreadsheets and maps for the 10 currently available regions [here](#).

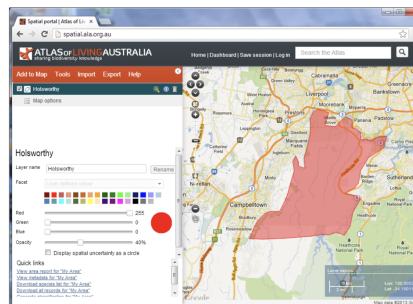
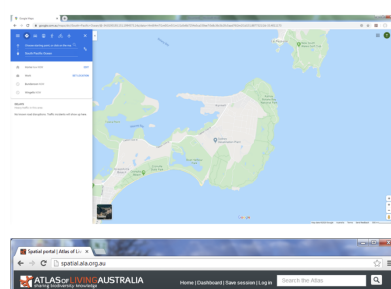
### Native Plant Distributions – Southern Sydney

[« Back to Conserving native plants](#)

Click on this link to see the database – it will appear bottom left of screen:

Reference maps from *Atlas of Living Australia*, Google Maps

Native Plants Species List Southern Sydney 5 Areas



## Bees and fire: a tale of two sites

A lightning strike in October 2019 ignited a large fire at Gaspers Mountain in the Wollemi National Park northwest of Sydney, which burnt over 500,000 hectares. The fire burnt places where Michael Batley of the Australian Museum had looked for bees over the last 20 years and he reflected on what had been found there. Two sites stand out, for different reasons. One, Putty Road, is memorable for the number and variety of bees found there and the other, Newnes Plateau, was home to a species of particular interest. The future of both sites is still unclear, but while there are glimpses of recovery, neither will be quite the same again. Michael's article first appeared in the [Australian Native Bee Association's](#) newsletter *The Cross-Pollinator*, July 2020.

Read more [here](#) with great bee photos.



*Xylocopa aeratus*

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## Flora, fauna, fire: Australia's bushfire recovery

Flora, fauna, fire is a special project launched by [The Conversation](#). It tracks the recovery of Australia's native plants and animals after our bushfires, and summarises the expertise of many scientists. "Learn of the scientists coaxing nature back to life. See satellite maps showing how the land has sprouted since the fires, and explore the animal, plant and invertebrate species now at greatest risk of extinction."

Click [here](#) to explore.

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## Sharing knowledge through our experts group

We receive questions and comments from APS members and the community on a wide range of topics, most often about identification of specimens, ideas on what to plant and where to buy plants or seeds, or help with solving problems about planting or growing. Our admin support volunteer Glenda Browne is the first port of call for questions and she redirects them to our experts group of 11 members. Glenda Browne explains how it works and some examples of the questions and answers.

One challenging tree for identification looked a lot like a macadamia, but turned out to be *Floydia praealta* (photo below), named after APS life member and Australian Plants Award recipient, Alex Floyd.

Read more [here](#).




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## Meet a volunteer – Glenda Browne



Glenda is the hard working volunteer at the end of the official APS NSW email address, and a lot more too. As part of a regular series on the APS NSW team, Heather Miles starts with this profile on Glenda.

Glenda lives in the Blue Mountains where she gardens, bushwalks and volunteers at Glenbrook Reserve and the Pyjama Foundation. She says she hates pulling anything out, even when it's gone all straggly! In her professional role as a librarian and indexer, she received an IgNobel prize on indexing entries starting with 'the'.

Read more about Glenda [here](#).



## Explore new plant profiles – Acacias

We are adding new plant profiles to our website every month. With these new profiles, we now describe almost 50 *Acacia* species:

- Trees: [Acacia binervia](#)
- Shrubs over 1 m: [Acacia decora](#) (photo below), [Acacia dorothea](#), [Acacia echinula](#)

Search over 400 plant profiles by eight categories [here](#).



## Study Group updates

Explore our wide range of [Study Groups](#) and their newsletter archives. Read how to join a group for free [here](#). Study Group liaison officer Nicole Maher has the highlights from recent newsletters.

### Grevillea Study Group Newsletter 116, June 2020

How to force a plant to flower? Richard Tomkin explains that we need to make the plant feel unwell and that it therefore needs to set seed, by lowering the plant's food and/or water. Nitrogen is the enemy of flowering; it will make the plant grow like crazy at the expense of flowering.

Many Australian growers have reported the sudden death of plants after drought-breaking rain. A proposed explanation is that the dry was so long that the root tips died back along with some pretty impressive leaf drop. When the rain finally arrived, the tips of the roots had not healed and were open to pathogens. The application of some phosphoric acid may help if it's not too late.

On weed control, the use of glyphosate (Roundup) has shown that grevilleas are very sensitive to not just overspray, but also to the gases or fumes that arise from its use. New growth will be yellow and withered or dead, and old leaves will drop. There is no cure other than a quick foliar application of a seaweed-based fertiliser.

Photo below: *Grevillea flexuosa* by Heather Miles



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## On the APS NSW website

Our [website](#) has our membership benefits, [how to join](#), District Group details, and resources including our Plant Profile database. Members get a membership renewal email and can also renew online [here](#). The form in *Australian Plants* is for the journal only.

New stories include:

- [Ferns galore on a Blue Mountains walk by Lesley Waite](#)
- [Insects in July by Ralph Cartwright](#)
- [Australian Flora Foundation newsletter \*Research Matters\*, July 2020, is now available](#)
- [How to see the enewsletter images in your emails.](#)

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## Photo finish



Dragonfly on *Grevillea sericea* (photo: Ralph Cartwright)

*This enewsletter is emailed to members of the Australian Plants Society NSW*

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