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Welcome to the July enewsletter



## Native Plants for NSW – July 2020

The monthly enewsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW



*Cloudy Hill garden in the central tablelands (photo: Fiona Johnson)*

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### Welcome to the enewsletter

This issue sees the return of physical activities, but there's virtual activity too. Our website is a valuable resource for both members and non-members. We have recently changed the structure to make information more accessible to search engines. Hopefully there are no transition issues and a seamless experience with links to stories. We are also adding new plant profiles.

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

### From the President John Aitken

Congratulations to two of our members, Frank Howarth AM and Peter Olde OAM, for being recognised in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours.

It is with great sadness that I heard Life member Robin Davies had recently passed away. Robin and her husband Ron of Macarthur Group were awarded life membership in 2015 in recognition of their outstanding support for APS NSW. Robin will be greatly missed by all those who knew her. On behalf of APS NSW, I express our sympathies to Ron, family and friends.

With the easing of restrictions, life is slowly getting back to some form of normality, with a number of groups resuming outdoor activities. Unfortunately, indoor meetings remain difficult.

While Zoom meetings give us the opportunity to have meetings, they are no substitute for face to face meetings and the social benefits these bring.

## Congratulations to Peter Olde OAM

APS NSW Life member Peter Olde was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours for service to Australian native flora. Peter has been leader of the Grevillea Study Group since 1980.

Read more [here](#).



## Congratulations to Frank Howarth AM

Frank Howarth PSM was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2020 for significant services to the visual arts through the museums and galleries sector. Frank, a long time member of APS NSW, was the Chief Executive and Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Trust, 2004–2014.



## Remembering Life member Robin Davies

Life member Robin Davies provided friendship and support to all those she met. Her commitment to the environment and willingness to work hard to preserve it was an inspiration, as was her tenacity through a long illness. She was the mainstay of Macarthur Group, a small but dedicated group, and her perseverance has been a major factor in its survival.

Read more [here](#).



## Extraordinary General Meeting by Zoom, Wednesday 15 July

We have discovered a typographical error of one digit in our 2019 Annual Report. We are therefore holding an Extraordinary General Meeting to gain approval to amend the report. The special resolution is: To amend the 2019 Annual Report to show the net equity position as \$1,094,715.74 (instead of \$1,094,215.74).

The 5 minute meeting will be held by Zoom on Wednesday 15 July at 7.30 pm, followed by the Sutherland Group meeting. All members are welcome to stay for the guest speaker Professor Dieter Hochuli of the University of Sydney on the importance of insects in remnant bushland.

Please register for the meeting [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the Zoom meeting (join from 7 pm). Download the updated annual

report [here](#), agenda [here](#) and proxy form [here](#).

## Catch up on meetings by Zoom

Check which APS groups are hosting meetings by Zoom on our events page [here](#) and join in including:

- **Wednesday 1 July** – Newcastle Group: Paul Hillier on the new *Rhizanthella* orchid species discovery at Barrington Tops National Park (photo below)
- **Wednesday 8 July** – Menai Group: Doug Rickard on flora of Kangaroo Island
- **Friday 10 July** – North Shore Group: Judy Harrington on the Glossy Black Cockatoo.

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

- Dr Greg Keighery from WA on blooming diversity of south west Western Australia at the Sutherland Group meeting on 17 June, [here](#).
- Dr Russell Barrett on flora of the Kimberley at the Menai Group meeting on 10 June, [here](#).



## Activities – in person

Some outdoor activities are resuming. Please follow organisers' instructions for a COVID-safe activity.

### 4–5 and 11–12 July – Open days, Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli

Plant sales, book sales and light refreshments. 10 am – 4 pm. Entry: \$5 per adult. Details [here](#).

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

Peter Olde is re-activating the Grevillea Study Group in NSW with a meeting at the home of Ian Cox, 5 Ivy Place, Kenthurst, to discuss a program for the next year and visit Ian's garden. Cuttings will be allowed. Ian has many grevillea species including *G. bipinnatifida* and *G. formosa* and Peter will bring cuttings of rare species not in cultivation. There will be a surprise visitor demonstrating 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 Olde [peter.olde@exemail.com.au](mailto:peter.olde@exemail.com.au) or mob 0432 110 463 or Ian Cox [itcox@bigpond.com](mailto:itcox@bigpond.com).

## Update on ANPSA biennial conference, September 2021

Australian Plants Society NSW is hosting the next Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Biennial Conference in Kiama in 2021. We were progressing well with planning until COVID-19 put a hold on our activities. It became impossible to travel to explore locations and excursions, let alone develop the tours. We are aware that health safety will be paramount for many participants. It remains tough to predict what travel will be possible and health protection needed in 15 months time. We expect life to become clearer over the coming 3 to 4 months, and we can move quickly to make up lost time.

Please keep the dates free: Sunday 12 to Friday 17 September 2021.

From the Planning Committee of John Aitken, Ralph Cartwright, Margaret Gaul, Alix Goodwin, Heather Miles and Merle Thompson.

## Growing for Glossies in the Mist

Volunteers from Menai Group have grown over 7,000 casuarina seedlings for the Glossies in the Mist project, and more are on the way. They have also helped plant their seedlings at planting days in the Southern Highlands to provide a food corridor for the glossy black cockatoos as part of the Saving Our Species program.

Lloyd Hedges from Menai Group explains the project [here](#).





## A high country native garden at Cloudy Hill

Cloudy Hill is a garden that flourishes despite the harsh conditions of the high country of the central tablelands of NSW. Fiona Johnson shares her garden through the seasons, including how the garden emerges from the frost, snow and wind of winter. This story and photos by Fiona first appeared on the GardenDrum gardening website in July 2017.

Read and see more about the garden through the seasons [here](#).



## Explore new plant profiles

Our website coordinator Heather Miles has redesigned the resources section of our website to make it easier to search for and find useful content. We are also adding new plant profiles, with an emphasis on garden uses, with Jeff Howes sharing his extensive gardening experience. Explore these profiles on:

- [Prostanthera densa](#), a shrub listed as Threatened – Vulnerable in NSW
- Shrubs over 1 m: [Pimelea linifolia](#), [Epacris longiflora](#) (photo below: Heather Miles)
- Shrubs under 1 m: [Epacris microphylla](#), [Hovea linearis](#)
- Clumping plants: [Blandfordia nobilis](#)

Search the 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.

### First food-grade seaweed processing factory – Australian Food Plants Study Group Newsletter 64, June 2020

Australia's first food-grade seaweed processing factory has opened on the NSW south coast, where green seaweed found along the coastline is being broken down and dried to create food, beauty and medicinal products. Researchers from the University of Queensland believe wild rice growing in northern Australia could help boost global food security. There are more than 40 varieties of finger lime, which is native to the rainforests of south-east Queensland and northern NSW. Currently, much of the produce is exported, often frozen.

### Two new Acacia species discovered – Acacia Study Group Newsletter 147, May 2020

*A. lespedleyi*, a critically endangered species, has been found at a single location in south-east Queensland, and *A. cineramis*, an endangered species found only in the Wimmera district of Victoria, has been rediscovered after 30 years. Acacias are important hosts of mistletoes, with 199 species recorded as hosting mistletoes. PhD research by Sean Walsh at the University of Melbourne into seed banks in fire-adapted native forests found Acacia seed bank densities varied from 50 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> (usually in young forests or dry sites) to up to several thousand seeds/m<sup>2</sup> at a 36-year old wet site.

### Featuring *Hakea laurina* – Hakea Study Group Newsletter 73, June 2020

*H. laurina* and the three sub-species of *H. petiolaris* from WA are featured. *H. laurina* is an erect shrub to small tree up to 6 m tall, and grows in a variety of soils that are well drained. It is non-sprouting. It is a very striking plant in flower, with each pin cushion flower made up of 120–190 individual flowers that are pinkish in colour.

### A garden with 60 different correas – Correa Study Group Newsletter 61, May 2020

Ros and Ben Walcott's garden in Canberra on a 9,300 m<sup>2</sup> block has almost 60 different correas. A favourite is *C. alba*, which forms part of a double hedge across the front, and has attractive dark green foliage with silver backs and many starry white flowers. Other favourites are *C. pulchella*, which is free flowering and long lasting, and *C. glabra* 'Winter Glow', with lovely lime green balls through winter. To improve flowering, Maria Hitchcock suggests using 1 to 2 handfuls of Dynamic Lifter per correa plant in spring and autumn, just before rain is forecast.

Photo below: a correa flower wheel by Fran Middleton, Canberra





## On the APS NSW website

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

- [APS Victoria seedbank now available to NSW members](#)
- Update on Harry Loots' [Southern Highlands bush excursion](#), explaining the man on the plaque 'Angus Wilson Corner' on the Box Vale track, from Angus' daughter-in-law Judith.

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## Photo finish



Cloudy Hill garden in spring: billy buttons, *Ammobium alatum* and grass tree (photo: Fiona Johnson)



*Thomasia pygmaea* at Cloudy Hill garden (photo: Fiona Johnson)

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

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