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Welcome to the June enewsletter



Native Plants for NSW – June 2021

The monthly enewsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW



The winter flowering shrub *Philotheca* 'Winter Rouge'

In our June issue

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Welcome to the enewsletter

Reporting on our AGM in May, there's a people focus in this issue. Remember, each issue is also saved as a pdf file [here](#). Stories, photos, events and feedback are welcome. Please email the editor Rhonda Daniels at enewsletter@austrplants.com.au

From the new President Heather Miles

My first task as newly elected President is to thank John Aitken for his wonderful leadership of the society over the last 6 years. He has led us through some challenging years of change, always with optimism and enthusiasm. I know you will join me in thanking him. Fortunately, John has agreed to continue being on the board in the role of Vice President. He continues to manage our APS NSW gatherings and get together, remains co-editor of the *Australian Plants* journal and is on the Biennial Conference committee. Thanks John for your tireless efforts for Australian plants.

We are holding a strategy workshop for Presidents and/or representatives of groups and others on 19 and 20 June in Parramatta. More information [here](#). The board and I are keen for any feedback or advice about the society and how we better conserve, grow and promote native plants. Please contact me at president@austrplants.com.au with your thoughts and ideas.



Report on our AGM – Saturday 15 May

A successful AGM and gathering was held, hosted by Sutherland. In the morning, John Arney led a walk through Kamay National Park to see the plants that Banks and Solander would have observed. In the afternoon, Dan Clarke entertained us with an illustrated synopsis of the book *Banks* by Grantlee Kieza, and John Arney shared further about the plants. Thanks Sutherland Group for your wonderful afternoon tea and support on the day.

At the event, we used the 'Square' terminal for the first time which takes eftpos and credit card payments. This will reduce our handling of cash and help stay safe. Groups can take advantage of this function. Please contact office@austrplants.com.au for more information.

At the AGM, Heather Miles was elected President, John Aitken as Vice President, Harry Loots as Treasurer and Merle Thompson as non-titled office bearer. They join the board directors appointed by groups. We also recognised two new life members and the Conservation Award – details below.

Congratulations to life member Leonie Hogue

Leonie Hogue from Sutherland Group was awarded life membership for her contributions in promoting public awareness of native plants, particularly through her 20 years of supporting Australian plants at the Royal Easter Show and at Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Kareela. Leonie's service is impressive for her unwavering commitment over many years, at least 30 years, to every aspect of Australian native plants, Sutherland Group and APS NSW.

Read more [here](#). See updated 2021 Easter Show photos [here](#).

Photo below: Leonie with outgoing President John Aitken.



Congratulations to life member Kris Gow

Kris Gow from Southern Highlands Group was awarded life membership for her contributions to promoting Australian native plants in a somewhat challenging environment. She propagated native plants for sale at events, mostly small plants suitable for the home gardener, encouraged members to propagate plants, and expanded garden visits. Kris has been a huge contributor to the vital work of bringing a conservative district around to appreciating the wonders, the life-force and the beauty of Australian native plants and, importantly, in getting more natives into more gardens.

Read more [here](#).

Photo below: Kris with Bill Mullard from Southern Highlands Group.



Congratulations to John Arney, Conservation Award

John Arney from Sutherland Group received the Conservation Award for his efforts in increasing knowledge and awareness of Australian plants amongst APS members and the public by leading walks and activities for Sutherland Group and as a founding member of conservation group Friends of the Royal in 2010. John leads volunteer working bees in the Royal National Park to achieve practical conservation by removing weeds, often in less accessible areas. As part of this work, John discovered a new coastal weed.

Read more [here](#).

Photo below: John in action on a walk (by Ralph Cartwright).



Activities

Across our APS groups, there are various approaches to meetings this year. Please check the calendar on the website [here](#) for event details. Groups are encouraged to email event details to secretary@austrplants.com.au

Walks and Talks at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, St Ives

North Shore Group is resuming its popular Walks and Talks program. Meet at 9.45 am Caley's Pavilion for a session about 10 am to 12 noon. Please book your place by the Saturday before by providing your name, mobile number and emergency contact to Wendy Grimm at wagrimm@tpg.com.au or phone 0419 323 035. Details [here](#).

- Monday 7 June: Flowers to fruits and seeds
- Monday 21 June: Ferns and fernery tour
- Monday 12 July: Term 3 program starts with gum trees.

Friday 11 June – North Shore Group

North Shore Group is returning to a physical meeting at Hornsby with speaker Narelle Smith on Sir Joseph Banks' life's work. Details [here](#) including the need to book.

22–23 June – Free online Orchid Conservation Symposium with 18 speakers

The Symposium aims to increase awareness of the ecology and conservation of orchids amongst practitioners. It is also an opportunity to share the results of the project understanding the response of orchid populations to the 2019/20 fires, and identifying threats to orchid reproduction and survival.

Registration is free but essential. Please book through trybooking [here](#), which also has the full program. More information on the Australian Network for Plant Conservation [here](#).

Planning ahead

3–4 July and 10–11 July – Open days and plant sales at Illawarra Grevillea Park at Bulli

Enjoy grevilleas and more at the open days, 10 am to 4 pm. Plants for sale. Entry fee \$7 adult. Details [here](#).

Sunday 12 September – 60th anniversary spring festival at Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why

Celebrating Botanic Gardens Day – Shoalhaven Heads

Whether large institutions or community driven, botanic gardens are important places where the community can learn about plants and enjoy the natural environment. Your enewsletter editor celebrated Botanic Gardens Day on 30 May with a visit to a community project that is entirely the work of volunteers in just 10 years. The one hectare site of Shoalhaven Heads Native Botanic Garden near Nowra packs a lot in with a thoughtful design, winding paths, artwork and grassed areas. Plants have informative labels and there is interpretive signage.

Read more [here](#).



A walk around 'Corymbia' in autumn

John Elton from Nowra Group shares some of the plants flowering in his garden now. John says that autumn is the best time in the garden.

John says: 'One of the great things about having a native garden is that we have colour 12 months of the year. With each season there is the anticipation of what might be springing into flower in the coming months. While some of the more spectacular plants are not in full flower, there is always plenty to see. The air is clear, the temperature mild, there is water in the wetland, and lush new growth abounds – particularly after the rain. Many newly planted shrubs are putting on quite exceptional growth.'

It's always hard to select what plants to include, but John has reported on them by flower colour. One of the most dominant colours in April is red. Photo below: *Grevillea dielsiana*.

Read more [here](#).



Sharing information in the inner west

Jennifer Farrer, of Parramatta and Hills Group, hosted a walk around the 5 Senses Garden in Concord which is a joint initiative between the [City of Canada Bay](#) and [Inner West Neighbour Aid](#). The garden is a place for the entire community offering workshops, volunteering opportunities and a space for local growing and social connections. The garden provides tailored activities for residential care facilities, schools, hospital programs and other non-for-profit organisations.

Read more [here](#).

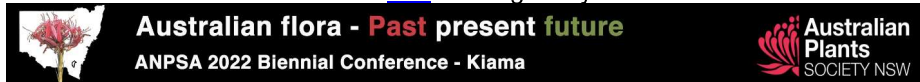


Biennial conference update

APS NSW is hosting the ANPSA Biennial Conference in Kiama in September 2022. The organising committee is ramping up its planning of the conference. Janice Hughes of Nowra Group has kindly agreed to join the committee, which will provide welcome local input.

Heather Miles reports: We are starting recce's of excursions for the conference, with a visit to Royal National Park. Ralph Cartwright is leading the development of these and invited John Arney, Wendy Grimm, Sue Fredrickson and myself to test walks at Robertson Roundabout, Audley. It was a lovely area full of banksias, grevilleas, epacris, styphelia and *Doryanthes excelsa*.

Read more about the conference [here](#) and register your interest.

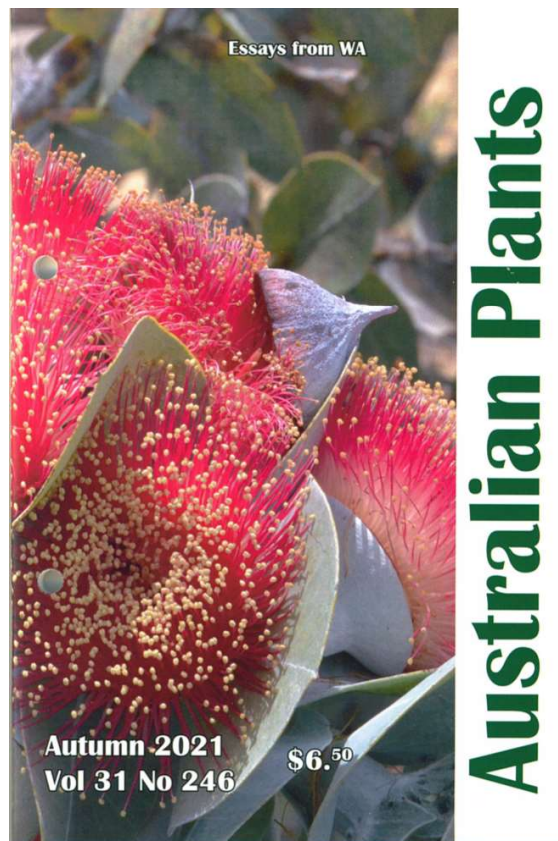


Autumn issue of *Australian Plants* journal

The Autumn 2021 issue of *Australian Plants* was mailed to members and subscribers in mid May 2021. The issue was produced by Jim Barrow and features articles on Western Australia including flowering gums, some daisies of the South West, *Hakillea*, peas – revisited, and buzz pollination and 'bee-purple'. It features *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* on the cover.

Read more [here](#).

And read about the planned Albany Royal Botanical Garden [here](#).



More reading

- Growing WA banksias on the east coast featuring Phil Trickett and Catriona Bates from the Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group, in *The Sydney Morning Herald* [here](#).
- Pretty flowers get more attention than ugly flowers by Kingsley Dixon at Curtin University, on *The Conversation* [here](#).
- 50 beautiful Australian plants at risk of extinction and how to save them, on *The Conversation* [here](#).
- The June 2021 issue of *Gardening Australia* magazine features six Australian natives for winter colour including *Chorizema cordatum* (photo below).



Study Group updates

Explore our wide range of national [Study Groups](#) and their newsletter archives. Read how to join a group for free [here](#).

Fern Study Group Newsletter 148, May 2021

The Fern Study Group has a regular program of activities in NSW for members. Details and reports are in the newsletters. The group has created a limited edition DVD of a slide show on ferns

originally created in 1982. Peter Hind has spent much time digitising the slides and original narration, which is described as a 'very quaint and informative piece of Fern Study Group history'. There are also photos of cultivars of *Drynaria rigidula*, reminding that cultivars are not just about new flower forms. Ian Cox pays tribute to APS NSW life member Betty Rymer, who was very active in the Fern Study Group (also [here](#)).

On the APS NSW website

Our [website](#) has our membership benefits, [how to join](#), District Group details, volunteering opportunities and resources including our ever-expanding 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.

Check our fact sheets which can also be downloaded as a pdf:

- Reliable native daisies for the Sydney region [here](#)
- Clay soils: Growing plants in clay soils [here](#) and plants for clay soils or clay loams [here](#)
- Propagation of native plants [here](#).

Photo finish



Enjoy our updated photos of Australian plant entries at the Easter Show [here](#).

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

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