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Subject: APS NSW newsletter – October 2020

Welcome to the October newsletter



Native Plants for NSW – October 2020

The monthly newsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW



Boronia serrulata with Heliozelidae moths (photo: Wendy Grimm)

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Welcome to the newsletter

In the next two issues I'd like to feature stories on what you've discovered in our unexpected year. Send me a photo or a paragraph about a new walk, garden, book, website or iso-project to share.

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

Thanks for the very positive feedback on the two recent *Australian Plants* issues, which has been passed onto the editors John Aitken and Merle Thompson and contributors.

From the President John Aitken

Thanks to Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett for their excellent talk on 12 September, by Zoom, on the wide range of isopogons and petrophiles they grow in their garden at Milton on the South Coast of NSW. Watch their talk on the APS NSW YouTube channel [here](#) and see how you can contribute to citizen science in your backyard lab. I am sure you will be encouraged to grow many of these beautiful plants in your gardens.

Catriona and Phil are the leaders of the ANPSA Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group. To find out more about these fascinating plants, visit [here](#) to read the Group's past newsletters and see profiles of a number of the plants in the genera.

With our November weekend get-together cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have organised a Zoom talk by Andrew Knop for Saturday 14 November. Andrew will share his and his wife Jennifer's experiences on regenerating their two properties at Dubbo and Narromine over the past twenty years.

A day out in the south with plant sale: Sunday 4 October

Menai Group is selling plants its volunteers have propagated at the Illawong Fire Station garden from 10 am to 3 pm (don't forget the start of daylight saving). Explore the gardens planted and maintained by Menai Group. There's lots to see in spring flower. Photos [here](#) from last year.

Location: Illawong Fire Station garden at 999 Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong. Park in the large carpark area opposite.

Make a day out of it by also visiting two public native gardens:

- Sylvan Grove Native Garden, Picnic Point (off Henry Lawson Drive)
- Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve, Manooka Place, Kareela.

Sylvan Grove at Picnic Point, a native garden maintained by Canterbury-Bankstown Council, is open on weekends during spring to the end of November (9 am to 4.30 pm), as well as the usual Monday to Friday (7 am to 3 pm). See some spring sights by Rhonda Daniels [here](#).

Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve, maintained by Sutherland Council, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. It is open 7 days a week 9 am to 5 pm, and to 7 pm during daylight saving.



Walks at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

Please follow organisers' instructions for a COVID-safe activity.

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

- 12 October – Ferns
- 19 October – Mueller Track (long walk, bring lunch)
- 26 October – Rainforest and climbers
- 2 November – Grasses (family Poaceae)
- 9 November – Leptospermum and Callistemon (family Myrtaceae)

These are 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. 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.

Photo below: *Asplenium flabellifolium* by Ian Cox



Join the APS Victoria FJC Rogers webinars by Zoom

APS Victoria invites people to be part of the FJC Rogers Seminar lectures, held by Zoom this year. To receive the webinar (Zoom) link, please register an Expression of Interest by email to fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au. Everyone who registers by emailing will be sent the webinar link a day or so before 8 October. Free.

Thursday 8 October, 7 pm–8.30 pm: Webinar 1 by Zoom

1. Trevor Wilson on Intimate relationships unveiled; kinships of quirky Australian mints
2. Dr Michael Whitehead on Pollinators, pollination and gene flow in Victorian prostantheras

Thursday 15 October, 7 pm–8 pm: Webinar 2 by Zoom

Professor Jeremy Bruhl and Dr Ian Telford on Mayhem in the Mints, Systematic study of Prostanthera; resolving misnaming with consequences for cultivation and conservation

Thursday 22 October, 7 pm–8.45 pm: Webinar 3 by Zoom

1. Maria Hitchcock OAM on Propagation, cultivation and essential oils of Prostanthera and Westringia genera
2. Propagation and cultivation of allied genera; the Kings Park experience
3. 5 minute presentation by APS Maroondah on 14th FJC Rogers Seminar in 2022.

APS Victoria has honoured Mr FJC (Fred) Rogers by naming its biannual seminars after him, in recognition of his magnificent service to the Society and to uphold Fred's desire that members should continue to be educated about specific groups of plants.

Photo below: *Prostanthera scutellarioides* by Ian Cox



Meetings 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 7 October, 7.30 pm start – Newcastle Group: Native trees and climate change management

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

Wednesday 21 October, 7.30 pm start – Sutherland Group: Understanding *Geijera parvifolia* and implications for conservation and restoration by Ganesha Borala Liyanage

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

Saturday 14 November, 3 pm start – Quarterly gathering: Regenerating in western NSW by Andrew Knop

We have cancelled the in-person November weekend get-together due to COVID-19 restrictions, but there is still a talk by Zoom (link in the November eNewsletter).

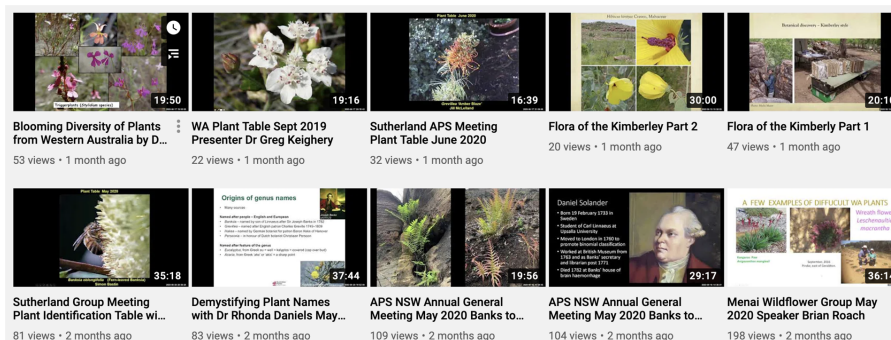
Andrew Knop (photo below) will share his and his wife Jennifer's experiences on regenerating their two properties at Dubbo and Narromine. When Andrew and Jennifer purchased their properties, they were degraded due to livestock grazing and feral animals. After two decades of very fulfilling work they have transformed both properties, with original woodland plants regenerating and wildlife returning. To recreate the original vegetation that existed before farming they relied on the records of the early explorers on the types of vegetation they saw in their travels in the area. Their vision is to leave a positive ecological and carbon footprint legacy. They have learned a great deal over the years and want to share the experiences with other APS NSW members at the gathering.



Catch up on recent talks by Zoom

Watch recent talks by Zoom on our YouTube channel [here](#). There's an expanding collection including:

- Growing isopogons and petrophiles by Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett at the quarterly gathering on 12 September, [here](#)
- Celebrating 50 years of Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve by Rhonda Daniels at Sutherland Group in September, [here](#)
- Looking for bees by Michael Batley at North Shore Group in August, [here](#)
- Edible native plants by Narelle Happ at Menai Group in August, [here](#)
- Plants in flower at Sutherland Group by Dan Clarke in August [here](#) and in September [here](#).



Photograph moths on Rutaceae for citizen science

The Australian Plants Society has many excellent photographers and now members can use their skills in a citizen science project that aims to record and identify Sun-loving Moths and their association with Australian plants in the Rutaceae family.

Wendy Grimm from North Shore Group has been part of the group since 2014 and it has opened her eyes to just how many tiny moths make use of the flowers of *Boronia* and related plants. She thoroughly recommends this project to

photographers as it adds another level of interest and understanding to the preservation and study of this group of plants.

Project director Doug Hilton says even without trying, new species of moths have been discovered and photographed incidentally by plant lovers who have posted their beautiful photos on social media like Instagram.

Read about Sun-loving Moths and the project [here](#) with more photos.

Photo below: Undescribed moth on *Boronia coerulescens* by Andy Young



A weekend of tree planting for regenerative farming

Ralph Cartwright from Sutherland Group joined 30 or so other volunteers recently, many from Oatley Flora and Fauna, for a weekend of native tree planting assisted by Greening Australia.

The volunteers planted 1,800 trees and shrubs on Vince Heffernan's Moorlands sheep property near Dalton, about 1 hour from Canberra. Vince is Chair of the Upper Lachlan Landcare, an ecologist and regenerative agriculture advocate.

Seed has been collected from the property to propagate for next year's planting in September 2021.

See more of Ralph's photos [here](#).



A new genus of Australian daisies

The Conversation [website](#) featured an article by Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn and Ben Gooden from CSIRO on how they accidentally found a whole new genus of Australian daisies called *Scapisenecio* while looking to test a biocontrol agent. Although this is a newly named genus, visitors to the Australian Alps see one of its species flowering every summer.

Read the article [here](#).

Online plant sale by Central Coast Group – more plants

Updating last month's story, Central Coast Group advises they have added some new species of plants including some in larger (15 cm) pots and still have around 70 plants for sale.

Buyers need to pick up their plants from Phillip House, Kariong on two dates: Sunday 4 or Sunday 18 October.

Read more by Pat Carlton [here](#) and buy online on the APS NSW website [here](#).

Read about the native garden created last year at Phillip House [here](#).

Study Group updates

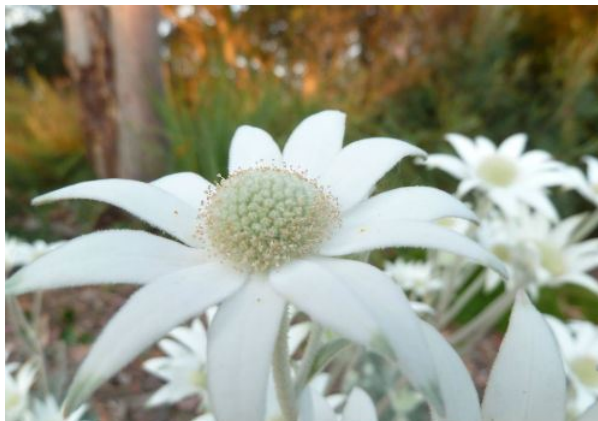
Explore our wide range of [Study Groups](#) and their newsletter archives. Read how to join a group for free [here](#). Study Group liaison officer Nicole Maher has the highlights from recent newsletters.

Australian Plants for Containers Study Group Newsletter 26, Sept 2020

Members share successes of growing a range of native plants in containers, including eremophilas, grevilleas, hibbertias, correas and leptospermums. Using pots has helped members grow desired species in areas normally unsuitable due to soil conditions or the presence of large mature gums. Pots also allow plants to be moved to protect them from seasonal conditions such as frost, wind or direct sun. A member in SA has successfully grown *Eremophila oldfieldii* and lilly pilly in pots as bonsai, while a Victorian member has set up a nifty system of placing prepared pots next to existing flannel flowers to allow them to self-seed into the new pots.

Issues faced by members include pot plants being attacked by pet dogs or birds, both solved by placing a wire cover over the plants, or thirsty gum roots invading the drainage holes of potted plants buried in the ground under the gum, solved by lining the hole with the plastic bag from the potting mix, punctured with a few drainage holes.

Photo below: *Actinotus helianthi* by Elsie Bartlett from her story on flannel flowers [here](#).



Eremophila Study Group Newsletter 28, September 2020

Group Leader Lyndal Thorburn has provided [an article on the genus](#) to Angus Stewart's blog Gardening with Angus; Angus wants to feature *Eremophila* in the book he is writing on waterwise gardening for home gardens. Member Jim Hayward discusses his experiences with bonsai, with his best results being with *E. racemosa*. Hans Griesser and son Hannes have developed a technique to cut through the wall of eremophila fruit with secateurs, without damaging the seeds inside. In raising seedlings from fruits of *E. arenaria*, they have found no need for extended soaking to remove germination inhibitors.

Eremophila miniata, the feature species, is found naturally primarily in the Goldfields region of WA. It is recognisable for its thick, brittle and mostly bare branches, with the leaves growing on the tips of each branch. It will grow in a wide range of soils, and does well with limited water. It flowers well from a young age, and is useful for attracting nectar-feeding birds. Members' experiences of longevity of the species range from 5 to 25 years. Photo below: *E. miniata* by Russell Wait.



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.

- [Ablaze with spring colour](#) – photos from the Illawong Fire Station garden
 - [Acacias at Joseph Banks Reserve](#)
 - [How to see the newsletter images in your emails.](#)
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Photo finish



A white form of *Telopea speciosissima*, likely 'Shady Lady White' at Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point (photo: Rhonda Daniels)

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

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