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Date: Nov 29, 2020 5:08:29 PM
Subject: APS NSW newsletter – December 2020

Welcome to the December newsletter



Native Plants for NSW – December 2020

The monthly newsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW



The shade of *Toona ciliata* at Cumberland State Forest (photo: Harry Loots)

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Welcome to the newsletter

In the final issue for the year I'd like to thank every one who has contributed in 2020. Some names appear regularly through the year, so you know who they are, while behind the scenes are Ian Cox and Bruce Simpson.

Our newsletter is emailed to members at the end of the month. Each issue is also saved as a pdf file [here](#). The next issue is January/February 2021, emailed in late January. Stories, photos, events and feedback are welcome. Please email the editor Rhonda Daniels at newsletter@austplants.com.au

From the President John Aitken

It is hard to believe that we are about to put another year behind us. And what a year – one we will forever remember or one we will choose to forget. A year of raging and destructive bushfires, to devastating floods and finally a one-in-a-hundred year pandemic. One benefit of the COVID-19 restrictions is the increasing interest in growing Australian native plants. Many nurseries I have visited are low on stock of Australian native plants as people have had the time to appreciate the beauty and the pleasure they provide.

With the restrictions, APS NSW and our groups have had to find new and innovative ways of keeping in contact with members and meeting their needs and at the same time fulfilling the objectives of the Society. Thank you to all those who have given up so much of their valuable time to ensure that APS has run as smoothly as it has during this year. We have used Zoom to have meetings and many of these talks can be viewed on our YouTube channel [here](#).

I wish you compliments of the season for a safe and enjoyable Christmas and holiday season with family and friends. Hoping that many of your Christmas presents are green.

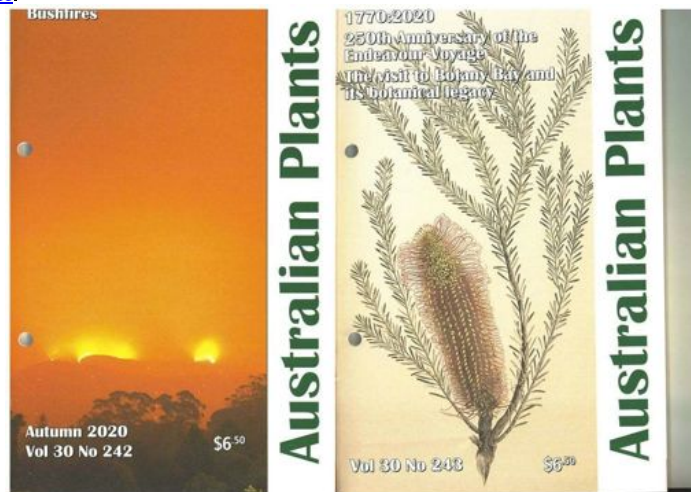
Editor's recap on 2020

This year, we have posted over 50 articles to the APS NSW website with links in the newsletter. Heather Miles developed a new, seamlessly-linked website to make our resources more accessible. We have covered a range of topics:

- responding to changing conditions: [bushfire recovery](#), [gardening tips](#) for hotter and drier conditions, [fire-smart gardening](#) and activities for [COVID-19](#)
- gardening: [all about mulch](#), [a high country garden](#), [coastal garden](#), [wisdom from the past](#), [orchids](#), [amazing greys](#), daisies
- sharing photos of plants and insects: [ferns](#), [acacias](#), [spring at Sylvan Grove](#), [insects](#), [bees and fire](#)
- sharing experiences: [citizen science for moths](#), [growing for glossies](#), [country planting weekend](#), [demystifying plant names](#), [climbing Mount Banks](#)
- sharing APS news: Australian Honours for [Peter Olde OAM](#) and [Frank Howarth AM](#), new life members [Ian Cox](#) and [Leigh and Chris Cousins](#), farewell to [Robin Davies](#), [volunteer Glenda Browne](#), [Margaret Baker](#), [members in the media](#) and [again](#)
- promoting APS projects: [plant distributions](#), [plant profiles](#) on the website, our [experts group](#) answering queries
- sharing Group activities: Parra Hills walks to find rare [plants](#) and [acacias](#), [Central Coast online plant sales](#) and [North Shore plant sales](#)
- recognising significant anniversaries in 2020: 250 years since Joseph Banks, [60 years of Australian Plants](#)
- sharing other news to keep members informed: [Growing Illawarra Natives website](#), two issues of [Australian Flora Foundation newsletter](#), Study Group updates.

The newsletter has also linked to relevant articles by academic researchers on The Conversation website, and to newspaper articles, Gardening Australia and other websites of interest.

Check all the previous newsletters [here](#), or search for articles on the APS NSW [website](#).



Catch up on talks on YouTube

A new experience for many members in 2020 was sharing talks by Zoom. From Newcastle Group by Zoom, I learnt about underground orchids and the dogs trained to sniff them out. The dogs can also detect koalas.

Watch talks held by Zoom in 2020 on our new YouTube channel [here](#), thanks to Liz Aitken and Ralph Cartwright.

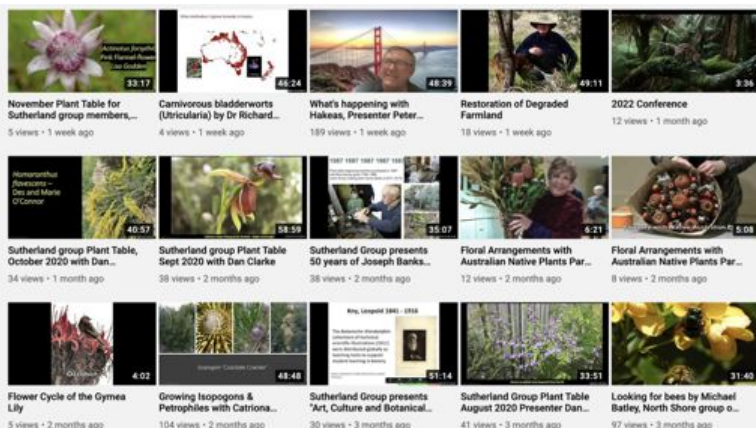
Quarterly gathering talks:

- Regenerating degraded farmland in western NSW by Andrew Knop in November [here](#)
- Growing isopogons and petrophiles by Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett in September [here](#)
- Banks and Solander [here](#) and bushfire recovery [here](#) by Dr Brett Summerell in May.

Group talks include:

- North Shore Group: Glossy black cockatoos by Judy Harrington [here](#)
- Menai Group: Hakeas by Peter Olde [here](#) and edible native plants by Narelle Happ [here](#)

- Sutherland: Utricularia by Dr Richard Jobson [here](#) and insects by Professor Dieter Hochuli [here](#)
- Plants in flower at Sutherland Group by Dan Clarke in November [here](#).



News and updates from members

Brian Roach, APS North Shore and Westleigh Native Plants

Brian Roach from Westleigh Native Plants confirms he will not have an open garden and plant sale weekend until at least autumn 2021. Brian says "As we draw to the close of a strange and ever so challenging year, most among us have hopefully found solace in the garden as I have. With some great rain over the past couple of weeks, it's not a bad time to be planting provided new plantings can be closely watched during any extended hot, dry spells. And don't overestimate the value of rain; when in doubt, give new ones a drink. With that in mind, the current catalogue is [here](#), so let me know if you want anything. As before, all lines are obviously limited so it's first in, best planted."

Brian also featured in a *Sydney Morning Herald* article on 'Johanna's Christmas' bush [here](#).

Photo below: *Micromyrtus ciliata* by Carol Roach



Tony Maxwell, APS Parra Hills

Tony has been working hard on a longrunning project on plant distributions, reported earlier [here](#). He has since completed plant distribution sheets for Southern Tablelands North and Southern Tablelands South. He has updated the Northern Sydney Region distribution sheet and new Atlas Living Aust (ALA) map for Sydney Harbour National Park. Following feedback, there are three major changes to the sheet:

- new and more user friendly format
- a new and very comprehensive ALA plant list for Sydney Harbour National Park which adds substantially to the previous data for this small area
- addition of Bushfire Affected Codes to all relevant species in the lists.

This resource covers the areas of three District Groups – Northern Beaches, North Shore and Parra Hills and could prompt joint activities among these groups to the benefit of all. Details [here](#).

Tony says "I continue to work on updates and new regions to my best ability, and appreciate comments and suggestions at any time".

Jeff Howes and Dan Clarke on plant profiles and digivolunteering

Since the start of our plant profiles project mid year, Jeff Howes has written around 100 profiles which are checked by Dan Clarke before being uploaded to our website by Heather Miles. Via a circuitous route from a documentary on "Harry Potter – the History of Magic" to the extent of old books in the British Library, especially those written in Latin on plants, Dan has been exploring the British Library website to study botanical history and possibly learn Latin. He has been volunteering for DIGIVOL projects and researching the digital databasing sphere worldwide (<https://volunteer.ala.org.au/>).

British Library Digital Volunteering is currently in a state of flux and but closer to home is the State Library of NSW Digital Volunteering including on the Joseph Banks papers [here](#).

Photo below: *Cymbidium suave* by Alan Fairley, a recently added plant profile [here](#).



Magic on the roof

Imagine a roof top covered with stunning native plants from around Australia, blowing in the breeze! John Aitken, Wendy Grimm and Heather Miles were recently invited by the Mirvac team, Didi Stigter and Victoria Stiles, to visit the first indigenous rooftop farm and other cultural gardens at the newly developed South Eveleigh precinct, just south of the Sydney CBD. Details [here](#).

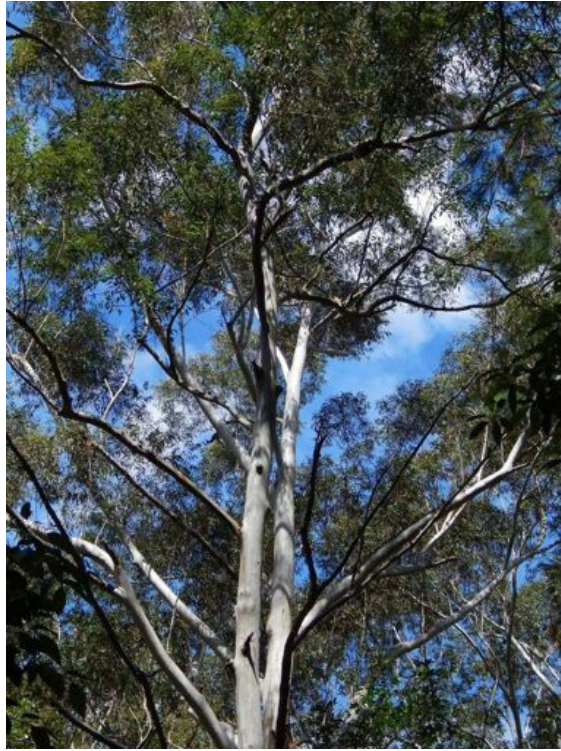
Read more by Heather Miles [here](#).



Trees of Cumberland State Forest

Harry Loots from APS Northern Beaches reports on his first visit to Sydney's Cumberland State Forest. Hidden off Castle Hill Road, it is Australia's only metropolitan State Forest. It has Sydney Basin species, but the Forestry Commission also experimented with many northern NSW and south east Queensland rainforest species to see how well they would grow. A shady spot for a summer walk.

Read Harry's article with photos of tree trunks [here](#).
Photo below: *Eucalyptus saligna*



Celebrating 50 years of Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve

It wasn't the way APS Sutherland Group intended to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sutherland Council's Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Kareela, created and named to commemorate the bicentenary of Cook's landing in 1770 and Joseph Banks' botanical legacy. But strangely, COVID-19 probably attracted more people to the reserve looking for local green space than any publicity we could have planned.

Read more about the history and Sutherland Group's involvement by Rhonda Daniels [here](#).

Watch Rhonda's presentation on the 50 years [here](#).



Buy the new edition of *Banksias*

The new edition of *Banksias* by Kevin Collins, Kathy Collins and Alex George is a magnificent book and worthy of a place on your bookshelf or coffee table. We have hard cover copies available for \$55 + \$12 p&h, a saving of \$14.95 on the RRP. It would make an ideal Christmas present so be quick to avoid the Christmas postal rush.

For more information and to buy the book, visit our webstore [here](#).

Banksias



Kevin Collins, Kathy Collins & Alex George
- SECOND EDITION -

Study Group updates

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

Acacia Study Group Newsletter 148, October 2020

Acacia ureniae, a recently described new species from the Cobungra area of eastern Victoria, is named in honour of Study Group member Anne U'Ren who noted the species on her property and contacted the Royal Botanic Gardens. A representative visited in late 2019 and found around 80 plants. However the 2019–20 catastrophic bushfires have left only four plants alive.

Under the Genomics for Australian Plants initiative, the genome of the national emblem *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle) will be the first reference genome to be studied. Dr Daniel Murphy, the leader of the *A. pycnantha* genome project and a member of the Acacia Study Group, explains that “Utilisation potential is the identification of particular genes or sections of the genome that are linked to traits of importance”.

Garden Design Study Group Newsletter 113, November 2020

The Study Group has plans to create a ‘Garden Design with Natives’ website, set up Instagram and/or Facebook sites, and set up a YouTube channel with short videos about garden design with natives. The theme of this newsletter is fragrance and aroma in garden design. Our sense of smell is generally not considered as one of the more important considerations in garden design, yet aromatic foliage or perfumed flowers can add a wonderful sensory stimulation in a garden. Designing a home garden to enhance the perception of scents inherent in our flora requires consideration of variables such as the climatic effects of heat, rain and daylight on the release of aromatic compounds from leaves, as well as the timing of seasonal blooming. It is also important to consider the direction of prevailing breezes in garden design, so that fragrance drifts towards the desired areas of the garden.

Joanna Schreier, a garden designer from the UK, notes “If you only have 20 plants, I would always plant them packed together in one small area, rather than spread out over a larger one... A few healthy, tightly positioned plants always beat straggly, dotted about plants, regardless of how many there are.”

Goodeniaceae Study Group Newsletter 19, November 2020

Members share details of some of the plants which have performed well this year, including *Dampiera eriocephala*, *Dampiera teres* and *Dampiera sacculata*.

Australian Goodeniaceae guru Kelly Shepherd and Rachel Jabaily from the US, together with colleagues from the Goodeniaceae Working Group and Australian National Herbarium have updated the classification of *Goodenia* and allies following almost a decade of collaborative research. The genera *Velleia*, *Verreauxia*, *Pentaptilon* and *Selliera* have now been subsumed into an expanded *Goodenia*, while the genus *Diaspasis* has been formally transferred to *Scaevola*. A total of 35 name changes have been made to reflect our improved understanding of evolutionary relationships in the family. Full details of the changes are [available here](#).

Photo below: *Dampiera purpurea* by Alan Fairley from our plant profile [here](#).



Australian flora - Past present future

ANPSA 2022 Biennial Conference - Kiama

**Australian
Plants
SOCIETY NSW**

Biennial conference postponed from 2021 to 2022

The organising committee has postponed the 2021 Biennial Conference to September 2022. While heartened by the reductions in transmission of COVID-19 around Australia, planning for the conference has continued to be difficult. The new dates are **Sunday 11 September to Friday 16 September 2022** in Kiama.

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. Recent stories:

- [ANPSA reports from Queensland, Victoria and South Australia](#)
- [City and country planting trees together](#) by Graham Fry
- [Become a flower grower near Kempsey](#)
- [Buy the new edition of *Banksias*](#)

Photo finish



Actinotus forsythii, the pink flannel flower, by Lisa Godden. Lisa, who became an APS member in 2020, bought her plant from Menai Group at an Illawarra Grevillea Park open day and she is hoping for some seed from the many flowers.

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

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