



Native Plants for NSW - Quarter 3 2026



Hakea Burrendong Beauty (T Lea, Illawarra Grevillea Park)

From the President

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

At the Annual General Meeting in May a number of office holders stood down, however we now have a number of new Board members. We welcome Phyllis Heggie from Harbour Georges River Group and Janice Hughes from Nowra Group.

A number of functions within the Board responsibilities are being reviewed in order to spread the workload and to assist District Groups where the main activities of the Society take place. Lindy Monson has [written a report from the AGM](#) and calls out for more volunteers.

John Desmond, Board member

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Events and activities

APS Newcastle – Talk with Mark Abell: WA Grevilleas and other Wildflowers

When: 7pm, 5th August
Where: Hunter Wetlands, Shortland

Join the APS NSW Newcastle Group for a free talk by Mark Abell on the wildflowers - especially the grevilleas - encountered on the APS Grevillea Study Group's 2025 field trip to south-west Western Australia. Mark will share highlights from a trip covering a large part of the SW, with an amazing diversity of grevilleas across multiple habitats, many very rare, and some potential new species investigated. Bush food supper to follow - plates to share welcome.

More details [here](#)

APS North Shore Group - Meeting and Talk - Sofia Zvolanek on Fungi

When: 7:30pm, 14th August
Where: Beatrice Taylor Hall, 25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby NSW 2077

Join the North Shore Group for a presentation by Sofia Zvolanek on fungi. Sofia will share her knowledge and insights into the fascinating world of fungi and their relationship with Australian native plants and ecosystems.

More details [here](#)

Re-greening Country tree planting - volunteers wanted

When & Where: Various dates and locations (see below)

Rotary is supporting the 'Re-Greening' events, targeting planting 10,000 trees this year. Volunteers are welcome to camp on the property or seek nearby accommodation.

This is a great opportunity to have a weekend away in a country town and help support local farmers by staying in accommodation, eating in restaurants and doing some wonderful country shopping!

- September 19 Grabben Gullen near Crookwell, Maia and Phillip Gould (previously plantings 2024, 2025)

- October 10 Berridale, Charlie and Fiona Massy (previous plantings 2022, 2024, 2025).

More details [here](#)

Dates for the Diary



ANPSA biennial conference - 2026

The next conference is 24–28 August 2026, hosted by APS South Australia in Alice Springs with the theme Amazing Arid Australia. Their first newsletter has been published and is available [here](#) and the conference website can be found [here](#)

The conference theme is dedicated to the 70 per cent of Australia that is arid or semi-arid. Over five days the conference will be your chance to hear about and see native plants and their habitats in central Australia. There will be three days of keynote talks, themed breakouts, two afternoon outings and two days of excursions into the MacDonnell Ranges and special places around Alice Springs.

It's not too late, registrations are still open and registration information can be found [here](#)



And finally, don't forget there is a full listing of all APS NSW events including district groups on our website [here](#)

Study group roundup Summer / Autumn 2026



Petrophile media (N. Marriott)

Verna Aslin's roundup brings together the latest newsletters from [ANPSA Study Groups](#) across Australia, showcasing new research, conservation initiatives, horticultural discoveries and member activities. Highlights include the successful reintroduction of 800 *Banksia caneii* seedlings after the Black Summer fires, a Grevillea Study Group expedition that recorded more than 62 species in Western Australia, the release of the new *Isopogon* cultivar 'Musk Sticks', advances in grafting techniques for waratahs, and the celebration of National Eucalypt Day 2026. Read on to find out what's been going on in the Banksia, Grevillea, Acacia, Hakea, Grafting, Ferns, Australian Plants for Containers, Isopogon & Petrophile, Eremophila, Eucalyptus and Garden Design groups!

[Read more](#)

Garden news and tips



Horticulturalist Madeline Ward with her native meadow planted above the Sir John Young Crescent highway (© State of New South Wales (Department of Planning and Environment) [2026])

[Read more](#)

How to grow a native meadow at home

Creating a meadow at home might seem ambitious, but it's surprisingly easy and deeply rewarding. Meadows are beautiful, climate-smart, wildlife-friendly spaces that work just as well in pots and balconies as they do in big backyards.

A true meadow isn't just pretty wildflowers; it's a mix of grasses and flowering plants growing together to create food and shelter for pollinators like butterflies, native bees and birds. Think of it as a small ecosystem you can build almost anywhere.

The Royal Botanic Gardens of Sydney have created an easy, beginner-friendly guide to transform your backyard or balcony into a dreamy, native meadow inspired by Australian flora and the sleepy charm of blue-banded bees.

Building a Bee Hotel

Australia is home to over 2,000 species of native bees, all playing a vital role in pollinating our plants and food crops. Sadly, bee populations are under threat from land clearing, pesticide use, and the impacts of climate change — but we can help by providing habitat in our own gardens.

[The Biodiversity Council](#) has partnered with native bee ecologist Clancy Lester to show you how to build your own bee hotel using locally sourced materials. There are three types of hotel to choose from — reedy, hardwood, and clay block — each attracting different bee species.



Example of a bee hotel (The Biodiversity Council)

[Read more](#)

Conservation



Rare Melaleuca deanei at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (J Williamson)

Proactive Plant Conservation

Tony Maxwell has been the creator over many years of a [wonderful comprehensive database of NSW native plant species](#) with their occurrences listed region by region. His spreadsheets have such headings as Scientific name, common name, family, whether found in rainforest, the plant's form i.e. tree, shrub, climber etc and the plant's status in an area, i.e. whether the species is threatened, vulnerable, critically endangered etc. He has gathered information so far on 5,698 different species in 147 areas he has divided NSW into eg North East Coast, South East Coast, Sydney North etc. He has gathered this information from a variety of sources such as local Councils, NPWS National Park Plantlists and local APS groups.

Tony gave a talk to the North Shore group on rare and threatened plants, highlighting their existence and management. Tony is keen for APS groups to gather and provide more information on occurrences of rare and threatened plants in the course of their activities.

[Read the story](#)



Minuria cunninghamii (M Goods)

Conserving Wimmera Rarity

Most of you are probably aware of the imminent ANPSA Conference – Amazing Arid Australia to be held in Alice Springs in August. However, if you attended the 2024 conference in Victoria in 2024 – Gardens For Life, you might recall the opening lecture about the Raising Rarity programme run out of ABG Cranbourne.

Since then, at least one APS VIC district group has taken up the mantle in an effort to conserve, propagate and promote species in their region. The following piece is the first chapter about their progress, written up by Maree Goods in the WGAP bi-monthly newsletter.

[Read the story](#)

Vale Lloyd Hedges



Lloyd Hedges (Menai Wildflower Group)

It is with great sadness that the Menai Wildflower Group acknowledges the passing of our dear friend and long-time member, Lloyd Hedges. For more than three decades, Lloyd's dedication, knowledge and generosity left an indelible mark on the Menai Wildflower Group.

Lloyd was instrumental in developing the group's nursery operations, community education programs and creating the demonstration native garden and propagation facilities at the Illawong Rural Fire Station that are still central to the group's activities.

He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

[Read more](#)

Kevin Stokes OAM — King's Birthday 2026 Honours

APS Newcastle is proud to congratulate long-standing member Kevin Stokes, who has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday 2026 Honours List, recognised for service to conservation and the environment.

Kevin has dedicated more than 50 years to the conservation, study and promotion of Australia's native plants. A long-time Australian Plants Society member (since 1975), former glasshouse technician at the University of Newcastle, accomplished botanical photographer and passionate grevillea expert, Kevin has played a pivotal role in establishing and developing the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens while championing the protection of Australia's unique flora. His appointment as a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours recognises a lifetime of outstanding service to conservation and the environment



At 40th Anniversary of the HRBG Kevin with the Member for Port Stephens Kate Washington (left) and Mayor of Port Stephens Leah Anderson (HRBG)

[Read the story](#)

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