

Australian flora conference



Past present future

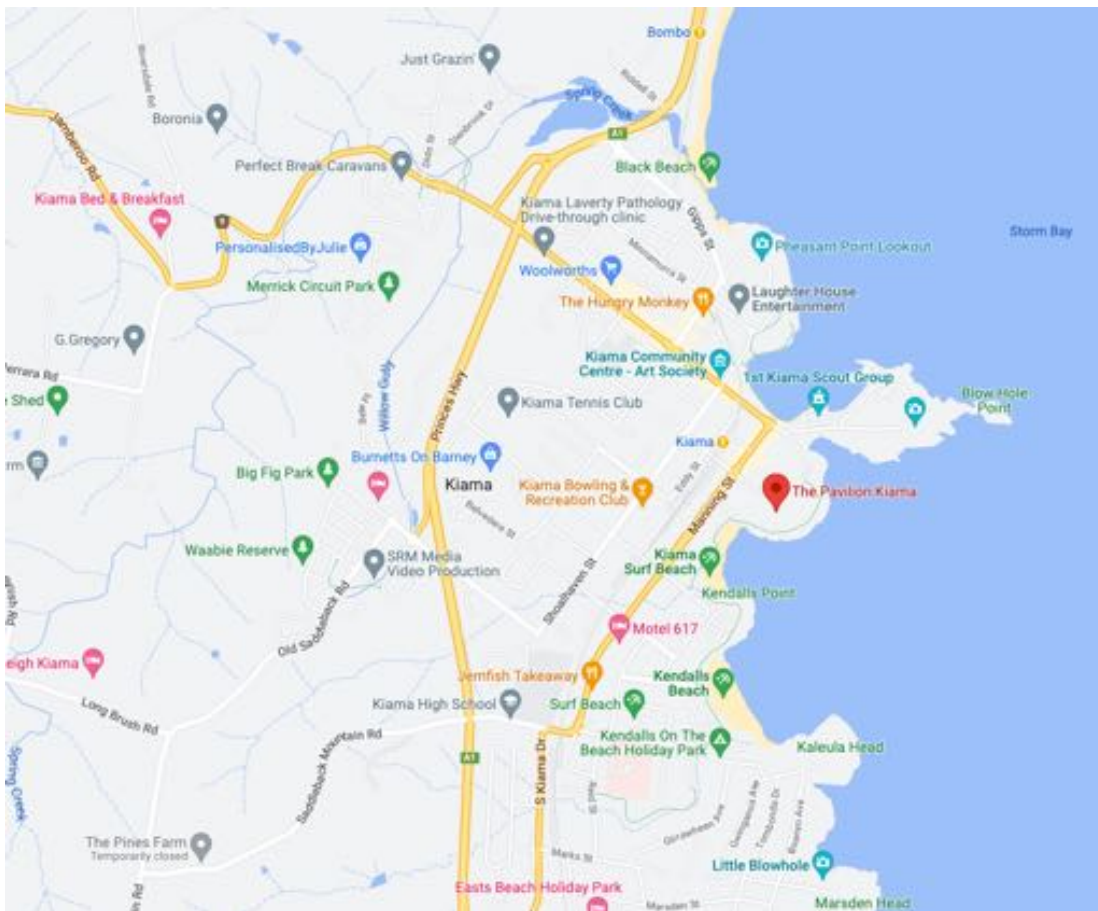
10 to 16 September 2022
The Pavilion Kiama



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land – the Dharawal and Wodi Wodi people – and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future.
We aspire to learn from their knowledge and experience to conserve Australian native plants and their ecosystems now and in the future.

Contents

Welcome	3
About Kiama	4
Program – Saturday 10 September	5
Program – Sunday 11 September	6
Program – Monday 12 September.....	8
Program – Tuesday am, 13 September.....	12
Program – Tuesday pm, 13 September.....	18
Program – Wednesday 14 September	23
Program – Thursday 15 September.....	24
Program – Friday 16 September.....	33
Pre and post tours	34
Thank you	35



Welcome

Thank you for coming!

After an interesting few years of COVID-19, we are pleased to welcome you to Kiama and our journey through the past, present and future of native plants.

We hope you will enjoy your time with us. The Illawarra and surrounds is a fascinating geological and ecological region and we aim to share some of its mysteries and wonders with you over the coming few days. We aim to:

- return to the past to understand what the land looked like and how it was used for the thousands of years prior to 1788
- explore the flora of the present and its successes and challenges
- project ourselves into the future to gain insight on what we need to do protect our unique floral heritage.

We've designed the conference to help you meet other like-minded people, gain new insights and build connections. We are also committed to operating as healthily and safely as possible in a sustainable way.

At a glance...dates and times

- **Conference venue:** The Pavilion Kiama, 2 Bong Bong St, Kiama
- **Saturday, Complimentary tour of Kiama region and Lunch at Coolangatta Estate.** 10.45am to 4pm. Meet at The Pavilion Kiama at 10.15am to 10.30am. Pre-booked only.
- **Sunday, 11 September**
 - **Plant sale:** The Pavilion, 10am to 5pm
 - **Registration:** The Pavilion, 4 to 6.30pm and each morning of the conference. You can pick up your nametag there – please wear it at all conference activities.
 - **Sunday welcome cocktails:** The Pavilion, 6.45pm. One drink is on the house, with additional at your own expense. Munchies provided.
- **Conference sessions:** The Pavilion
 - Monday and Tuesday **start 8.45am**, end at approx. 5pm.
 - Thursday **starts 8am with complimentary breakfast from 7.15am.**
 - On conference days, coffee and tea will be available on arrival, with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided. If you indicated on your registration that you had medical dietary needs, you will collect your meals and snacks from a specific location at break times.
- **In-conference excursions:**
 - **Wednesday and Friday** excursions depart from The Pavilion – times vary slightly and are shown in the program.
 - Excursion catering (Wednesday and Friday) includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.
- **Award dinner, Tuesday night, 7pm:** The Pavilion, for those booked.

In an emergency

Contact The Pavilion Kiama – Jackie Hall (0404 042 585) or Kylie Harding (0491 158 668).

Contact APS NSW reps – Heather Miles (0408 696 356), Margaret Gaul (0466 982 774) or Ralph Cartwright (0416 030 872).

Call 000 for police, ambulance or fire. If no reception in remote areas, call 112.

About Kiama

Information about Kiama is on our website at:

<https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022/>

- Kiama Visitors Centre – Blowhole Point Rd, Kiama, 1300 654 262
- Doctors – Kiama Medical Practice, 83 Manning St, Kiama, 0242 321 244
- Dentist – Dentocalm, Unit 12, 65 Manning St, Kiama, 0242 025 481
- Taxi – Kiama Cabs, 8 Gibraltar Ave, Kiama Downs, 0242 377 505
- Chemist – Blooms the Chemist, 116 –118 Terralong St, Kiama, 0242 321 046
- Police – 32 Terralong St, Kiama, (02) 4232 1444

Restaurants – bookings highly recommended

- [Hanoi on Manning](https://www.hanoionmanning.com.au/) – Vietnamese, <https://www.hanoionmanning.com.au/>
- [Olive and Vine](https://oliveandvinekiama.com/) – Contemporary large restaurant, <https://oliveandvinekiama.com/>
- [Diggies Kiama](https://diggies.com.au/kiama/) – Modern Australian, <https://diggies.com.au/kiama/>
- [Thai on Collins](https://www.thaiatkiama.com.au/) – Thai, <https://www.thaiatkiama.com.au/>
- [Harbour Thai](https://www.harbourviewthaiatkiama.com.au/) – Thai, <https://www.harbourviewthaiatkiama.com.au/>
- [KG Café](https://kgcafe.business.site/) – South African café, <https://kgcafe.business.site/>
- [The Grand](https://www.grandhotelkiama.com.au/) – Pub style, <https://www.grandhotelkiama.com.au/>
- [The Hungry Monkey](http://www.thehungrymonkey.com.au/kiama-landing) – Casual, <http://www.thehungrymonkey.com.au/kiama-landing>

Botanically rich places to visit – with a car

- Carrington Falls and Nellie's Glen
- Barren Grounds Nature Reserve
- Minnamurra Rainforest
- Fitzroy Falls
- Mt Keira Scout Camp
- Mt Keira Lookout
- Saddleback Mountain Lookout



If you're walking...

- Bombo Headland, with revegetation work underway and magnificent rock columns
- Kiama Blowhole and Lighthouse, just a short walk from The Pavilion, and includes the Visitors Centre
- Beach walk and coast walk
- Wander the shops of Kiama or laze around in a café
- Burnett on Barneys is a family owned business offering a full range of landscape and planting needs at 80 Barney St, Kiama.



Program – Saturday 10 September

Complimentary tour of Kiama region



For those already booked – a tour of the region, with a gourmet lunch at the historic Coolangatta Winery, followed by a visit to a local rainforest nursery at Berry Public School.

Meet at The Pavilion Kiama at 10.15 – 10.30am for 10.45am departure. Back by approx. 4pm.

There will be two coaches travelling on alternate routes to avoid too many crowds!

Information on this tour is here: <https://www.austplants.com.au/Conference-excursions>

This tour, and the conference, is sponsored by our Strategic Sponsor, Destination NSW.



MEET IN REGIONAL NSW

meetinnsw.com.au



Program – Sunday 11 September



Plant sale: 10am to 5pm, The Pavilion Kiama

Seven nurseries will be selling plants at The Pavilion Kiama from 10am to 5pm.

More details at: <https://www.austplants.com.au/Plant-sale-Kiama>

Participating nurseries

- Berry Public School Nursery
- Brian Roach, Westleigh Nursery
- Burnett on Barneys
- Illawarra Landcare/Carl Glaister
- Native Grace Landscapes
- Sutherland Shire Community Nursery
- Wirin Wirra

More information on these nurseries: <https://www.austplants.com.au/Plant-sale-Kiama>

Registration: 4pm to 6.30pm, foyer of The Pavilion Kiama

Pick up your nametag, program and any merchandise you've ordered.

Please wear your nametag during the conference.

Registration will also be open each morning on conference days. For questions about your registration, contact Ralph Cartwright on conf2022@spin.net.au, [0416 030 872](tel:0416030872).



Welcome cocktails: 6.45pm to 8.30pm, The Pavilion

Welcome to the conference with complimentary cocktails at 6.45pm.

It's a great chance to catch up with friends and meet new ones!

The first drink is on us, and then you pay for the next one!

Munchies are complimentary.



We start off with a song, by Liz Aitken, on the Gymea Lily, the emblem of the conference. Liz will be accompanied by Christine Middleton and Sal's Pals.



They'd love you to sing along in the chorus.

GYMEA LILY DREAMTIME WARRIOR

I'm Kia Mia dreamtime warrior,
Dharawal trapped in the darkness of night,
They called out to me, from deep in the dark cave,
Please deliver us out to the light.

I'm Kia Mia dreamtime warrior,
Injured I fell and I bled for the land,
Deep rich red of a bright summer sunset,
Flowers sprung up there out of the sand.

**Gymea Lily looking down on the bushland,
Appears in the mist of the bush far below,
A flickering crown of 1000 sunsets,
On green spears to the sky she will grow.**

Her roots have grown deep in the rich earth below her,
Stems sent up after fire and rain,
She slowly unfurls and shows off her beauty,
Life ends and starts all over again.

**Gymea Lily looking down on the bushland,
Appears in the mist of the bush far below,
A flickering crown of 1000 sunsets,
On green spears to the sky she will grow.**

Gymea Lily looking down on the bushland,
Appears in the mist of the bush far below,
A flickering crown of 1000 sunsets,
On green spears to the sky she will grow.

Called out from darkness into the light
Life ends and then starts all over again.



We will be welcomed by Neil Reilly, Mayor of Kiama.

Neil has been a councillor since 2008. He has qualifications in marketing, international relations and local government. He has worked in advertising and marketing and served with the Australian Defence Force.

He loves his job. Imagine having the chance to work in the best place on earth with the best people and contribute to the well-being of both. He believes council should seek outcomes that give shared benefits and impose shared responsibilities. There are joys, challenges and critical thinking.

Program – Monday 12 September

8.45am start: Welcome to country – Aunty Joyce Donovan
Welcome and opening – Jane Stroud, CEO, Kiama Council
Professor David Keith – The past, present and future of Australian native plants
Morning tea – approx. 10.15am
Dr Tim Morrow – Weather forecast for Kiama, September 40,000 years ago
Associate Professor Scott Mooney – Fire, humans and climate as drivers of environmental change in eastern Australia
Lunch – approx. 12.30 – 1.30pm
Clarence Slockee – A day in the life of the First Nations people, thousands of years ago
Aunty Joyce Donovan – Food, medicine, health, healing and culture
Afternoon tea – approx. 3.20 – 4.05pm
Lawrie Smith – Garden design: The past informs the present and the future
Q&A and close for the day, approx. 5.10pm

Aunty Joyce Donovan, Wodi Wodi and Dharawal elder



Aunty Joyce is a Wodi Wodi and Dharawal elder and a driving force in the establishment of the Aboriginal Medical Service in Coomaditchi (Warrawong) in 1983.

She has worked tirelessly for 35 years on Aboriginal health. She created the Narinya Grief and Trauma Healing Program and won the University of Technology Sydney Human Rights Award for establishing this program.

She is a strong advocate for people who have no voice and a strong believer in empowerment. She is a mother of two, grandmother of 11 and great grandmother of 17.

Presentation topic: Welcome to Country

Jane Stroud, CEO Kiama Council



Jane Stroud became Kiama Council CEO in June 2021, bringing more than 20 years' experience in local government in Queensland. She has experience in large metropolitan coastal councils, as well as urban and regional communities.

Jane has a Bachelor degree from the University of Queensland and postgraduate qualifications from the Sunshine Coast University. Jane was awarded Queensland Local Government Association "Young Manager of the Year", is a member of the Australian Planning Institute, was president of the Queensland Local Government Community Services Association and is known in the sector for her deep commitment to community, strategic

planning, ability to problem solve and her passion for engaging with stakeholders.

Presentation topic: Welcome to Kiama

Professor David Keith, Professor of Botany, UNSW – Keynote address



David is a botanist and ecologist who works in the areas of vegetation dynamics, population and ecosystem modelling, and fire ecology. He has served as a member of the Australian Threatened Species Scientific Committee and the standards committees for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems. In 2017 he was awarded the Clarke Medal by the Royal Society of New South Wales for distinguished work in the Natural Sciences, and in 2019, the NSW Premier's Prize for Environmental Science.

His current research interests include conservation biology, ecosystem dynamics, plant population biology and ecological risk assessment. He is the author of an award-winning book *Ocean Shores to Desert Dunes: the Native Vegetation of New South Wales and the ACT*, the third edition of *Australian Vegetation*, and more than 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers.

Presentation topic: The past, present and future of Australian native plants

Dr Tim Morrow, Bureau of Meteorology



After a stint teaching mathematics and science, following postgraduate studies, Tim went on to research applications in the infra-red spectrum. The last ten years have been at the Bureau of Meteorology developing the conversion of satellite data into wind data for use in forecasting.

Presentation topic: Weather forecast for Kiama, September 40,000 years ago

A weather forecast is the day-to-day prognostic forecast of the current and immediate future by meteorologists, based on current information and using modern computer generated forecasts up to 7 days ahead. Climate, on the other hand, is a record of an overall average of events that have occurred in the past, including seasonal and annual variation.

This presentation introduces the term paleometeorology. Since 40,000 years ago, much has changed in the geography, climate and weather of the east coast of the continent. We look at a very small slice in the day of someone sitting on the shores all that time ago: what influenced the weather on that day, a possible forecast for the day and a brief view of future events from this current day.

Associate Professor Scott Mooney, School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences, UNSW



Scott is the author of over 70 publications on vegetation, fire, climate change and human impacts. For the last few decades his research has focused on reconstructing the long-term prehistory and history of fire in the landscapes of eastern Australia.

Presentation topic: Fire, humans and climate as drivers of environmental change in eastern Australia

Although fire has been shaping Australian terrestrial ecosystems for millions of years there is a widespread fear that we are witnessing a shift to more extreme fire regimes. Although major fire events have occurred periodically since 1788, this fear has been made more real given the 'unprecedented' 2019–2020 fire season. Determining the degree to which climate and/or changed land management has catalysed a transition into a new and potentially more dangerous fire regime requires constructing long baselines of fire.

This presentation explores the inter-relationships between fire, humans and vegetation in eastern Australia using macroscopic charcoal, archaeology and palynology over the last 50,000 years. It shows that the drivers of pre-colonial fire regimes are complicated, with spatial variability reflecting the interplay between climate, climatic variability and the management of fire by Indigenous people. The talk concludes with some questions, and the implications for the contemporary management of our fire-prone landscapes.

Clarence Slockee, landscape designer, presenter, connecting people to Country



Clarence is a Cudgenburra/Bundjalung Aboriginal man from the lush Tweed Valley.

Perhaps best known for being a presenter on ABC TV's Gardening Australia, he spent 10 years at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney as the Aboriginal Education Officer.

He is director of his own landscape design company, Jiwah, which employs young Aboriginal people and designs, creates and promotes green spaces among urban landscapes. Jiwah maintains three special green spaces in Sydney's South Eveleigh precinct, including the 500-square-metre Australian native rooftop farm, which

has more than 2,000 plants, and more than 60 edible, medicinal and culturally significant native plant species.

Clarence's mission is to connect people with the natural world and the Aboriginal country they frequent through the rejuvenation of urban green space, and to educate the public.

Presentation topic: A day in the life of the First Nations people, thousands of years ago

Aunty Joyce Donovan, Wodi Wodi and Dharawal elder, human rights campaigner, health worker



Aunty Joyce is a Wodi Wodi and Dharawal elder. She has worked tirelessly for 35 years on Aboriginal health. She created the Narinya Grief and Trauma Healing Program and won the University of Technology Sydney Human Rights Award for establishing this program.

She was recognised as an Australian of the Year, NSW, in 2019 for her work on child abuse and contribution to Aboriginal health. Joyce travelled all over NSW to gain support for marches against child sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities. She conducted healing ceremonies for victims of domestic violence and spread her message that it takes a whole community to raise a child.

Joyce has a double Bachelor of Arts in Adult Education and Community Management from the University of Technology Sydney and a Diploma in Aboriginal Studies and Health Science from Cumberland College. She is a registered nurse and has worked as the Aboriginal Health Education Officer for 24 years in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.

Presentation topic: Food, medicine, healing and culture

Joyce will share in a highly practical way the native plant medicines of the area along with the protocols and customs for their use and how they are linked to the culture of the South Coast people.

Lawrie Smith AM, Leader of Garden Design Study Group, landscape architect



Lawrie is an architect and landscape architect, and has always been interested in exploring the Australian bush. He's been an active member of Native Plants Queensland since the late 1960s.

He established his landscape consultancy Landplan Studio in Brisbane in 1974, recognised as one of Australia's progressive landscape architectural consultancies. Lawrie has maintained a strong social philosophy primarily concentrating on providing specialised parkland and open space developments, as well as involvement with major national and international exhibitions which introduce people to quality urban environments through innovative landscape and amenity horticulture initiatives. Lawrie built his career around a strong personal ethos of 'Design with Nature' in two major areas: the unique quality and value of the Australian environment and the flora, and the provision of quality open space facilities for the community. Retired since 2004, Lawrie has concentrated on providing specialised assistance for many past projects, family, travel and establishing a new personal native garden.

Presentation topic: Garden design – The past informs the present and the future!

There are three themes:

1. Building on Country: What key principles, derived from the First Nations peoples' traditional knowledge and understanding of the unique Australian environment, and specifically the flora, should be valued and applied to inform planning and design of sustainable native landscapes and gardens of today and the future?
2. Australian garden style: Native garden photographs from the Garden Design Study Group show the design expertise of each gardener and the differing garden character from one region to another. There can be no single 'Australian Style'. What are the implications?
3. Promotion of native flora: Our plant societies are very involved and accomplished in spreading the message about native plants – but are we missing ways to inform and communicate more successfully with the general gardening community to increase their acceptance of native plants in residential garden design?



Rhodanthe anthemoides, at The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan mid August, image H Miles

Program – Tuesday am, 13 September

The morning session is being held in **two locations** – The Pavilion Kiama and the Anglican Church, just across the oval to the north. The sessions start in both locations at 8.45am. We are using chatrooms, an informal method for sharing information giving you a broad cross section of ideas. There are over 10 chatrooms, all focused on the challenges and opportunities facing Australian plants.

We will split into two groups, with one group going to one location and the other group to the second location. At the morning tea break, people can swap locations. You have time to attend 5 chatrooms – 3 before morning tea and 2 after. We will give you a map to find each one before the session and it will also be displayed. Morning tea is approx. 10.30am in both locations. Lunch is at The Pavilion for everyone.

8.45am start, Introduction and instructions – The Pavilion Kiama AND Kiama Anglican Church
(PLEASE NOTE THAT CHATROOM LOCATIONS MAY CHANGE)

At The Pavilion

- Lyn Clark – Growing local indigenous rainforest plants for the community: the Berry Public School nursery story
- Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett – How to get grafted native plants into your garden
- Bruce Maynard – Granaries in the grasslands: producing food with Australian plants
- Prof Martin Backor – The biological and ecological role of lichens
- Rhonda Daniels – Demystifying native plant names
- Patsy Nagle – Models of conservation: from bush care to private land conservation
- Bruce Usher – Looking and seeing – in your garden, the national park or wilderness

At the Anglican Church

- Sandra Guy – Flying foxes and the essential role they play in the environment now and in the future
- Lawrie Smith – Plant selection and management in garden design
- Dr Kevin Mills – Rainforests: impacts of climate change – past, present future
- Luke Maitland – How to start a native nursery during COVID – grace under pressure
- Dr Jennifer Pierson – Australian Wildlife Conservancy Safe Havens: vegetation inside and outside the fence
- Ben Coddington and Jennifer Owens – Lessons learnt regenerating Five Islands

Lunch at The Pavilion, approx. 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Lyn Clark, Berry Public School nursery



Lyn is a retired secondary school teacher in Visual Arts and Design and Technology. Her interest in bush regen began in Sutherland Shire with her preference for the rainforest plants in a gully reserve behind her Bonnet Bay home. On moving to Berry, she joined Bundewallah Bushcare to learn to identify local plants, Berry and District Garden Club and APS Nowra Group to learn about gardening. She volunteered at the Berry Public School nursery from 2010 to learn more about propagating local rainforest plants and, with the co-ordinators, developed opportunities for children to gain practical skills of plant propagation.

Chatroom topic: Growing local indigenous rainforest plants for the community, the Berry Public School nursery story

Lyn will share how she became co-ordinator for the volunteers about 9 years ago to trial and record successful germination and propagation techniques for seeds that do not conform to conventional propagation methods. In 2018 a new curriculum added scope to provide educational opportunities for children and workshops for interested adults.

Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett, Leaders of Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group



Catriona and Phil's interest in native plants developed into an obsession after they visited southwest Western Australia. Their chief interest has always been Proteaceae although they have also developed an interest in eremophilas and other desert-loving plants, participating in botanical surveys in the desert. They also have a keen interest in Sydney Region sandstone and Milton Ulladulla Subtropical Rainforest, listed as an endangered ecological community.

Growing native plants is a joint passion and they have developed a large native garden on the site of an old dairy farm at Little Forest on the south coast of NSW. The garden features a large range of local and WA species, many rare. It provides an opportunity to study plants at close hand, including a large range of isopogon and petrophile species, and to trial grafted plants. Catriona and Phil defended their garden in the recent Black Summer bushfires. Phil began grafting WA species onto eastern rootstocks over 15 years ago, after attempts to grow the beautiful WA species failed. He has achieved success with eremophilas, hakeas, dryandras, prostantheras and grevilleas. He is also a leading grafter of isopogons and petrophiles. Phil has supplied banksia and other grafts to The Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan and continues to graft banksias for the Banksia Garden at the Australian National Botanic Gardens Canberra. Catriona and Phil have been enthusiastic members of many study groups. In 2015 they took on the leadership of the Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group.

Chatroom topic: How to get grafted natives into your garden

What's the big deal about grafting natives and is it really so difficult? We will look at the reasons why grafting is so important for growing and conserving many native plants. Discussion will focus on why the practice of grafting natives continues to be so limited and how we can address barriers so that grafted native plants can be widely used in cultivation and conservation. There is a handout on how to graft and some useful tips.

Bruce Maynard, agricultural innovator



Bruce has developed one of the most inspirational regenerative farms in Australia. Fourth generation on his property, he has converted it from conventional practices to a functionally diversified landscape that is showing how new farming systems can be practically implemented. On his 1400ha property near Narromine in NSW, he has re-established complex grasslands, and planted over 300,000 shrubs and 200,000 trees. He has travelled around Australia assisting and extending sustainable and regenerative farming practices.

Bruce has become well known for inventing and developing innovations in agriculture including No Kill Cropping, Stress Free Stockmanship and Self Herding (with Dr Dean Revell). Bruce has changed toward farming systems that address present and future challenges. He has increased productivity and margins while strongly building ecological diversity, and significantly reducing external inputs. Bruce demonstrates that it is possible to grow more, consume less and provide a more diverse future for all. He recently won the Bob Hawke 2022 Landcare Award for his work in promoting sustainability in agriculture.

Chatroom topic: Granaries in the grasslands – producing food with Australian plants

Bruce will take you for a walk on the wild side of Australian grasslands where innovative farming and grazing techniques are increasing the diversity of native plant species while providing a more nutrient-rich end product and supporting local communities. Local provenance at its best – with Aussie plants at its heart! Join Bruce as he takes you to his farm and the outback for a walk in the wild!

Professor Martin Bačkor, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Slovakia



Since completing his doctoral studies at Comenius University in Bratislava, Martin has been the principal investigator of 11 research projects, and published more than 100 papers with over 3,000 citations. His work contributes to the study of ecology, physiology and biochemistry of lichens and symbiotic partners involved in the construction of the vegetative body of lichens. He studies the effect of heavy metals on higher plants, algae, fungi and bryophytes. He has experience in identifying plants, particularly lichens, lichen photobionts and microscopic algae.

Chatroom topic: The biological and ecological role of lichens

Lichens are a stable and self-supporting association between fungi and photoautotrophic algae or cyanobacteria. Interactions within a lichen are complex, and lichens may be considered more like an ecosystem or community than a typical organism.

Lichens produce many unique compounds that have important biological, ecological and pharmaceutical roles. These include antimicrobial activity, allelopathy, antiherbivory, chelating of heavy metals and UV light screening. Some secondary metabolites of lichens can reduce cell division of cancer cell lines and more.

Rhonda Daniels, plant enthusiast



Rhonda has been an active member of APS NSW, through Sutherland Group, for over 30 years. She has held a number of roles at state level (board director, Study Group Coordinator, Conservation) and group level (President, Secretary and Newsletter Editor), and was the inaugural editor of the APS NSW monthly e-newsletter. With a background in research and now working as an editor, she loves reading, walking in the local bush, volunteering for bushcare and propagation with Sutherland Shire Council, and sharing her interest in our plants and rich language.

Chatroom topic: Demystifying native plant names

Rhonda will share some tips on understanding the botanical names of native plants. Names often refer to the various characteristics of a plant, flower, leaf or fruit, such as the size, shape, colour, texture, aroma, habit or location. Knowing the basics, such as prefixes and suffixes and how to mix and match them, can make it easier to identify plants and remember names. She will have some resources on plant names, so bring some tricky names you have always wondered about to discuss.

Patsy Nagle, National Parks and Wildlife Service and University of Wollongong



Patsy is a well-connected member of the southern Sydney and Illawarra botanical community who has had a long love affair with Australian flora – its diversity, ecology and conservation have been front and centre all her life. A teenage member of Oatley Flora and Fauna and the Australian Plants Society, Patsy has enjoyed, studied, shared, taught and applied botany in her jobs at federal, state and local levels of government, in private bush regeneration teams, as a vegetation consultant, and as a volunteer herself in many projects.

She currently works as a Ranger for National Parks and Wildlife Service, with the University of Wollongong in the Janet Cosh Herbarium, and with Menai Wildflower Group in their nursery. She helps students, volunteers, family and friends with management plans, species lists, post-fire rehabilitation, plant identification, and pest and weed control.

Chatroom topic: Models of conservation – from bush care to private land conservation

Patsy will cover the critical questions of 'What is conservation? And what small to large scale models exist to match the degree of involvement, threats imposed, or time someone has to assist Australian plants be valued and sustained?' She will lay out the physical and societal threats to building and sustaining local flora projects as well as how to sustain commitment over time. Models of conservation on public land, private land, and mixtures of the two will be discussed.

Bruce Usher, Photographer



Photography is much more than simply mastery of the medium. Beyond the technicalities, it's about the ability to communicate powerfully in pictures – using the elements of visual creativity to elicit a response in the viewer.

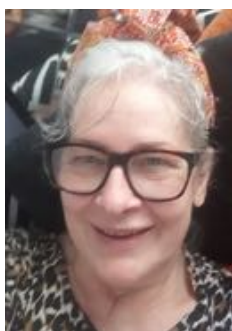
It's this ability which characterises Bruce Usher's work. This capacity to see his surroundings in such a positive manner makes every Bruce Usher photograph more than just a picture... it's an experience. Bruce always injects something extra into his photographs - a vital extra ingredient which is often simply a heartfelt celebration of the world around him.

With a long career in corporate photography, Bruce is more than comfortable with the 'big picture' – having created many of his own over the years – but he is also a dedicated observer of everything that's going on around him, with an innate ability to extract the extraordinary from the ordinary. The consummate technician, Bruce Usher is something of a rarity as he mixes these photographic skills with passion, emotion and infectious spontaneity. It's a powerful combination that results in powerful pictures.

Chatroom topic: Looking and seeing – in your garden, the national park or the wilderness

Bruce will share with us his insights gleaned from 40 years of experience of taking stunning photographs and explore with us: What would I like to achieve...Am I prepared to step outside my comfort zone...Do I want to spend some money on equipment...Post production - it can be basic...Seeing your photos in your photobook...Or a large framed photo on your wall?

Sandra Guy, Sydney Wildlife Rescuer



Sandra has had a lifelong passion for our native landscapes and the wildlife they support, especially flying foxes; and is keen to share her knowledge and enthusiasm about these keystone species with Australian plant enthusiasts.

She has been an environmental educator and information officer for over 25 years; and joined Sydney Wildlife Rescuer 10 years ago to volunteer for wildlife rescuer and rehabilitation, specialising in flying fox rescue and community education.

Chatroom topic: Flying foxes and the essential role they play in the environment now and in the future

Flying foxes, or fruit bats, are essential 'keystone species', which Peter Cundall (from ABC TV's Gardening Australia) described as "flying gardeners performing a priceless environmental service". These magnificent megabats ensure the genetic health and diversity of our native forests through seed dispersal; and their unique, nocturnal pollination of our native hardwood tree species. Many valuable timber tree species only produce viable pollen at night and rely almost exclusively on flying fox pollination. As well as driving biodiversity, flying foxes provide economic benefits by supplying the trees essential for our timber and building industries. Our native forests support thousands of species but, without flying foxes, these forests will fail to thrive and eventually start to disappear, leading to a cascade of extinctions.

Despite some flying fox species being listed as threatened with extinction, pressures on their populations are increasing. Threats include large-scale land clearing; and climate change which brings increased frequency and severity of droughts, floods, fires and heat waves. Flying foxes are intelligent, curious and affectionate animals which are essential for a healthy natural environment, despite being much-maligned and misunderstood.

Lawrie Smith AM, Leader of Garden Design Study Group, landscape architect



Lawrie is an architect and landscape architect, and has always been interested in exploring the Australian bush. He's been an active member of Native Plants Queensland since the late 1960s. See his full bio in the Monday program.

Chatroom topic: Plant selection and management in garden design

Gardens that are inviting, visually attractive and contribute positively to a home lifestyle do not just happen, they are carefully planned and designed. Ideally the garden design comes first, so prepare a layout plan (or mud map!) that shows the physical and functional components of the garden design. Plant selection is primarily determined by the layout, and by the suitability of the specimen for the planned garden use, location, microclimate and growing conditions. It's also important to imagine the desired future garden appearance to be sure the selected species achieve the 'look' you want. Many other attributes also need to be considered in plant selection. We will chat about the most important design principles and some that you may not have even considered.

Dr Kevin Mills, botanist and ecologist



Kevin is a botanist and ecologist who has lived in the Illawarra for over 45 years and has recently retired from environmental consultancy work. He is currently working on various projects, including studies of all offshore islands on the south coast, a field study and book of the ferns of the south coast, and various floristic and rare plant surveys.

He has authored and co-authored several books on plants including *Native Trees of Central Illawarra*, *Rainforests of the Illawarra District* and *Native Trees of the NSW South Coast*. He is involved in the rehabilitation of habitat on the Five Islands Nature Reserve off Port Kembla and the regeneration of rainforest at the Minnamurra Rainforest Centre in Budderoo National Park.

He is Chair of the NPWS South Coast Regional Advisory Committee and sometime member and Deputy Chair of the NPWS State Council.

Chatroom topic: Rainforests: impacts of climate change – past, present and future

Kevin will outline the history of vegetation types and impacts in Australia and the Illawarra over the last 20 million years, to the present, where over 85% of the original rainforest has been removed. He will share the key implications of climate change for Australia and the impact on these vegetation types and the area.

Luke Maitland, Native Grace Landscapes



Native Grace is a very special Australian native plant nursery, a dynamic garden design studio and a beautiful destination in the Southern Highlands. Traditionally, nurseries sell plants, designers design gardens and landscapers install landscapes. Native Grace offers all three services conveniently located at an atmospheric Robertson site.

Native Grace has a bountiful selection of plants for sale, interesting things to buy, good coffee, distractions for children, water bowls for dogs and free wifi. See the garden design process in action at the on-site studio.

Chatroom topic: How to start a native nursery during COVID – grace under pressure

Luke will share the challenges of starting a native nursery, one committed to sustainable sourcing, during the pandemic and the issues and opportunities it presented while holding to his and Catheryn's commitment to supporting indigenous, local and sustainable products.

Dr Jennifer Pierson, Australian Wildlife Conservancy



Jennifer is a Senior Ecologist on AWC's National Science Team. She has expertise in population ecology and has worked across a variety of taxa. She is interested in what drives species population growth, and applying that knowledge to best practice management.

Chatroom topic: Australian Wildlife Conservancy Safe Havens – vegetation inside and outside the fence

This talk will outline how the AWC process of Safe Havens works and the outcomes to the vegetation and wildlife which have been produced when native animals are reintroduced. The people on the Pilliga tour will see these Safe Havens in action when they visit the 5,800-hectare feral predator-free fenced area constructed by Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

Ben Coddington, Biodiversity Coordinator, Shoalhaven City Council



Ben has over 20 years' experience in bush regeneration and ecology specialising as a botanist. Experience and knowledge gained through bush regeneration has underpinned his career in the Illawarra and South Coast as an ecologist as well as working with the community to manage biodiversity in roles in local council.

With Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council (ILALC), Ben worked with the indigenous bushland restoration team, Berrim Nuru Environmental Services. The restoration of Big Island within Five Islands Nature Reserve is a great collaboration including NPWS and ILALC.

Ben has been involved in the initial years of restoration of Big Island including managing and supervising planting, regeneration and weed control which has successfully restored part of the island including Shearwater and Little Penguin breeding habitat. Ben has an Advanced Certificate in Urban Horticulture from Ryde TAFE and a Bachelor of Landscape Management and Conservation from University of Western Sydney.

Jennifer Owens, Field Officer, National Parks and Wildlife Service



Jen has a Bachelor of Science (Honours) majoring in Land and Heritage Management. She spent several years working in bush regeneration as well as 18 months for the Soil Conservation Service based in Cronulla where much of the work focused on coastal erosion and sand dune rehabilitation. Jen also spent four years as an industrial abseiler in Sydney.

Presentation topic: Lessons learnt regenerating Five Islands

Together, Ben Coddington and Jennifer Owens will share the lessons learnt in restoring the islands and the future directions for Big Island. Five Islands are just off the Illawarra coast, east of Port Kembla. In the last Ice Age, these islands were connected to the mainland. Cats and rabbits were introduced to the islands before 1861 and decimated the ecology which hosted a range of species including penguins, mutton birds, the crested tern, silver gull and white faced storm petrel.

Program – Tuesday pm, 13 September

1.30pm approx. start at The Pavilion

Jane Fountain – The value of ANPSA study groups

Warwick Varley – Eucalypts of the Illawarra

Lyndal Thorburn – The Eremophila Study Group – the next 50 years

Afternoon tea – approx. 3pm

Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate – Filling the gaps: how to preserve our isopogons and petrophiles

Karlo Taliana – Eastern banksia cultivars

Peter Olde OAM – Australia's third largest genus, *Grevillea*, in a state of flux

Close, approx. 5pm

Jane Fountain, ANPSA Study Group Coordinator



I have lived in Brisbane's western suburbs most of my life and built a house on 1¼ acres of gum forest in the foothills of Mt Coot-tha. I was challenged by gardening on a forested block, with a 30m eucalypt 3m from the front door, and this led me to join Native Plants Queensland. I also joined Bushcare, while still working at the primary school with all that energy and bounce of young children, social interaction with teachers and the love of teaching.

I have held various committee positions in Native Plants Queensland and our national body, the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia). Since 2011, I have really enjoyed the inspiration and tours at the conferences, as well as the shared love of discovering more about Australia's diverse and wonderful native plants.

Presentation topic: The value of ANPSA Study Groups

Jane will introduce the ANPSA Study Groups and share their value to native plant enthusiasts.

<https://anpsa.org.au/anpsa-study-groups/>



Warwick Varley, Leader of Eucalyptus Study Group



Warwick has been a local of the Illawarra since 1984, after moving to the area to study at the University of Wollongong. Warwick has been an arborist for the past 34 years including the director of an arboricultural consultancy company for the past 20 years and a TAFE teacher for diploma level for over a decade. He has been the leader of the Eucalyptus Study Group since 2009, and primary areas of interest and research include the *Eucalyptus* genus and the Araucariaceae family.

Presentation topic: Eucalypts of the Illawarra

The Illawarra is the 'corner post' for the northern and southern species of *Eucalyptus*. The natural occurring localities are predominantly dictated by the edaphic (i.e. soil) environment and temperature. The disparity between soil texture and elevation throughout this landscape supports the extensive diversity of indigenous flora including *Eucalyptus*. Over 50 species of *Eucalyptus* exist throughout the region, and the most common are highlighted and their characteristics discussed.

Dr Lyndal Thorburn, Leader of Eremophila Study Group



Lyndal took over leadership of the Eremophila Study Group in 2015, a mere 30 years after joining. Lyndal trained in ecology, botany and genetics at the University of Sydney but her career took her in other directions. She has kept up her interest in all things natural as a member of the Australian Native Plants Society Canberra region and APS NSW's Southeast Group, and stints with the ANPSA secretariat, Canberra Ornithologists' Group, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, Queanbeyan Landcare and the Queanbeyan River Corridor Management Committee. Lyndal's current

mission is to convince the Australian National Botanic Gardens to increase its eremophila collection and to listen to the Study Group's experiences in their horticulture.

Presentation topic: The Eremophila Study Group – The next 50 years

Eremophila is a drought-hardy genus, with over 240 described species, varied growth habits and flower colours ranging from white through all the colours of the rainbow to dark purple. It is the fifth most diverse genus of Australian plants, and yet is not well-known beyond native plant aficionados. This year marks the 50th year of the Eremophila Study Group, which was founded in 1972 by Ken Warnes in South Australia.

Lyndal, who has led the group for 7 years, will summarise its achievements since its founding, and will discuss its recent, emerging relationships with research institutes, seed banks, plant wholesalers and botanic gardens. She will then outline her vision for the future of the genus in horticulture and as a valuable, drought-tolerant species in the drier parts of the continent.



Eremophila duttonii on the roadside near Wilcannia, western NSW

Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett, Leaders of Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group



Growing native plants is a joint passion of Phil and Catriona and they have developed a large native garden on the site of an old dairy farm at Little Forest on the south coast of NSW. The garden features a large range of local and WA species, many rare, and provides an opportunity to study plants at close hand, including a large range of isopogon and petrophile species, and to trial grafted plants.

Presentation topic: Filling the gaps: how to preserve our isopogons and petrophiles

Knowledge is power – the more one knows the more one will be able to control events. In the plant world, knowledge, beginning with taxonomy, is the driver of conservation. However, the state of knowledge on isopogons and petrophiles is underdeveloped compared to other iconic species.

Addressing this deficit is vital to the ongoing preservation of isopogons and petrophiles. The study group has focused on identifying knowledge gaps, collating existing intelligence and conducting research on taxonomy, ecology and cultivation. An expanded agenda is planned, where possible, to facilitate scientific work, document knowledge, increase research on fire recovery, germination, insect interactions, and cultivation, and grow these genera ex situ as insurance against extinction.

Karlo Taliana, Banksia Study Group



Karlo joined the APS NSW Harbour Georges River Group (formerly East Hills Group) in 2004 having become interested in native plants after a chance visit to the Kings Park Spring Festival in Perth in 2000. He has been President of the group and also Secretary, Vice-President and Newsletter Editor. He joined the Banksia Study Group in 2007. Following on from his initial fascination for WA flora, he has trialled the cultivation of many western species in his south-western Sydney garden after having designed and constructed his own successful raised garden beds in 2010.

Karlo was the founding member of the popular Facebook Banksia Lovers Group. With membership of around 20,000, it has become the largest Facebook page on any single Australian native plant genus. This has had a flow on effect with the Banksia Study Group membership reaching an all-time high. More recently, Karlo joined the Bankstown Bushland Society where he is Treasurer. This coincides with his growing enthusiasm for knowledge of the local flora in the Georges River National Park in south-western Sydney.

Presentation topic: Eastern banksia cultivars

Over the past 30 years, many low-growing forms of banksias from seaside locations have been recognised by the nursery industry and plant breeders. Some have been quick to stamp their breeder's rights on whatever forms they have propagated. The vast majority of today's cultivars are taken from locations along the NSW and Victorian coasts where they are exposed to strong coastal winds. The result is that some of the common eastern species (in particular, those from the *Banksia spinulosa* complex, *B. ericifolia* and *B. serrata*), tend to grow as dwarf forms. The full wind force of nature turns them into bonsai-like specimens that remain true to form making them perfect garden subjects – even when cultivated under more benign conditions.

Peter Olde OAM, Leader of Grevillea Study Group



Peter joined SGAP, as it was then, around 1979 and soon became President of Sutherland Group and later President of APS NSW. He was the Exhibition Manager of Wildflower Shows held at Peakhurst in the 1980s.

Peter is the President and delegate of Menai Wildflower Group. He has a BA (Languages) and Graduate Dip. Ed.

He was awarded the Australian Plant Medal in 2015 and OAM in 2020. Peter is an honorary research scientist with the National Herbarium of New South Wales where he concentrates on the taxonomy of *Grevillea*, the third largest genus in the Australian flora.

Presentation topic: Australia's third largest genus, *Grevillea*, in a state of flux

Peter will discuss the effects of various species concepts over time on the genus *Grevillea* and the significance of results of a recent molecular study which found *Hakea* deeply nested in *Grevillea*. Other important discoveries flowing from that study include the origin and age of the earliest evolved species, and the surprising position of *Grevillea endlicheriana* at the base of the resultant phylogenetic tree. Peter will show new species discovered since publication of the *Grevillea Book* and the *Flora of Australia* treatments.



Dinner time in Illawarra Grevillea Park and Botanic Garden, August 2022, image H Miles

Award dinner, 6.45pm for 7pm

Gather from 6.45pm for a 7pm start, with entrees at 7.15pm.



Margaret Matthews, the current/outgoing President of ANPSA, will present the [Australian Plant Awards](#), to honour people who have made an outstanding contribution to the knowledge of Australian

plants, whether members of the society or not. Since 1987 the Award has been made in both professional and amateur categories.

We will then be graced with a song created and sung by Alira Morgan.



Alira is a Yuin and Gamiliaroi woman. She was a recent recipient of NAIDOC's award for Aboriginal Young Achiever of the Year.

Her song is a Dreaming Story about the Bombo Headland, originally a little girl by the name of Kiama. Kiama lived with her mother and two older sisters who would

disobey their mother's rules and go canoeing in the deep of the ocean.



Bombo Headland at dawn, H Miles

One stormy day, Kiama was waiting on the shore for her sisters to come back from canoeing.

Unfortunately Kiama's sisters were lost out at sea, however Kiama waited and waited, soon becoming the Bombo Headland.

After the awards and the mains (approx. 7.45pm), Karlo Taliana will test our trivia knowledge of Australian plants.

The evening will close approximately 9.30pm – 10pm.



Bookings are still available – contact Ralph Cartwright, 0416 030 872. Or <https://events.humanitix.com/2022kiama>.

Program – Wednesday 14 September

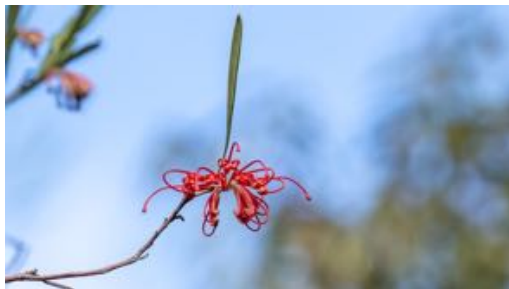
Buses leave early from The Pavilion Kiama. Please be at the bus area well ahead of time – see times below. Excursions finish approx. 5pm. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea included. Please bring your own cup and water bottle. Lunch on excursions is provided by Civic Kitchen and Catering. More information including plant lists here: <https://www.austplants.com.au/Conference-excursions>



Excursion 1: Royal National Park (Wattamolla and Audley precincts)
Departs The Pavilion at **8.30am**.
Please be there by **8.10am**.



Excursion 2: Barren Grounds, Robertson Rainforest, Minnamurra Rainforest
Departs The Pavilion at **8.40am**.
Please be there by **8.20am**.



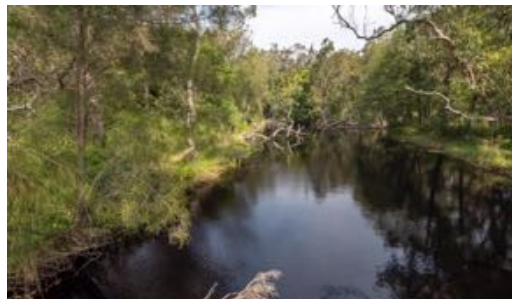
Excursion 3: Jamberoo Native Nursery, Minnamurra Rainforest and Illawarra Grevillea Park
Departs The Pavilion at **9am**.
Please be there by **8.40am**.



Excursion 4: Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve, Kamay/Botany Bay National Park
Departs The Pavilion at **8am**.
Please be there by **7.40am**.



Excursion 6: Fitzroy Falls, Robertson Rainforest
Departs The Pavilion at **8.30am**.
Please be there by **8.10am**.



Excursion 7: Shoalhaven Botanic Gardens, Coolangatta Winery, Elton garden, Beecroft Peninsula
Departs The Pavilion at **8.30am**.
Please be there by **8.10am**.

Program – Thursday 15 September

Breakfast (complimentary) – 7.15am to 8am

8am Costa Georgiadis – What the future holds for Australian native plants, AJ Swaby address

Panel of young people facilitated by Costa, including Michael Gould, and students from Kiama High School and local primary schools

Morning tea approx. 9.50am – 10.40am

Professor David Lindenmayer AO – Fire, forests, plantations and biodiversity

Distinguished Professor Michelle Leishman – Building resilience: from species to landscapes

Lunch approx. 12.30pm – 1.30pm

2024 ANPSA Conference – Chris Long and Miriam Ford, APS Victoria

Honouring the past, embracing the future – APS leaders, facilitated by Rhonda Daniels

- John Aitken – incoming ANPSA President
- Chris Clarke – President, APS Victoria
- Greg Kirby – President, APS South Australia
- Tom Jordan – Committee member, ANPS Canberra
- Margaret Matthews – Current/outgoing President, ANPSA
- Heather Miles – President, APS NSW
- Louise Skabo – President, APS Tasmania
- Eddy Wajon – Conservation Officer, Wildflower Society of Western Australia

Collaborating for the future – your insights and actions, facilitated by Dijana Damjanovic

Thank you and conference close approx. 4pm

Costa Georgiadis, lover of nature – AJ Swaby Address



Costa is the well-known host of ABC TV's Gardening Australia and winner of a Silver Logie as presenter of that show.

He is a lover of nature and, above all else, a teacher. He engages many people with his own passion for gardening and has spent his professional life enthusiastically educating the rest of us. A landscape architect and permaculturalist, Costa's other passion is food.

Presentation topic: What the future holds for Australian native plants

Costa has a gift for making his important messages engaging and highly entertaining and we look forward to his presentation of this year's AJ Swaby Address.

What our young people have to say

Costa Georgiadis will facilitate a panel of young people on their views of the future of native plants, climate and the environment.

The panel includes students from the University of Wollongong, Kiama High School, Jamberoo Public School and Kiama Public School.

Michael Gould



Michael is a student of Conservation Biology at the University of Wollongong, in his final year of courses, and aiming to complete Honours. He has a keen interest in the understanding and conservation of nature, and is passionate about native plants, particularly orchids.

Michael is involved with Bushcare at Puckey's Estate, North Wollongong, and is an active member of Illawarra Intrepid Landcare. Michael is also a strong advocate for climate and environmental justice.

Joshua Askew



Josh is a student in Year 11 at Kiama High School, studying English, Mathematics, Biology, Geography, Business Studies and Woodwork.

He has a keen interest in the health and longevity of the Australian native environment and is especially passionate about the fields of bush regeneration and conservation.

Having grown up being constantly surrounded by bushland through activities such as bushwalking and camping, he has a keen interest in seeing the few pockets of untouched wilderness left in our area, and across the wider continent, being given the opportunity to spread and thrive once more.

Josh has become involved in some personal bush regeneration projects both on his and family members' properties, and feels that there should be more work like this being done around the country.

Aleita Dummett



Aleita is a Year 7 student at Kiama High School.

She is interested in flora and fauna and aspires to become either a wildlife vet, or a vet at a zoo, with breeding programs helping to secure a future for animals at risk of extinction.

Aleita is already striving to achieve her dreams by helping her father, who is a WIRES volunteer and carer, to rescue and care for sick or injured native wildlife.

She has attended multiple climate action rallies and has written emails to politicians about taking serious climate action.

Amber Sweeney



Amber is a Year 7 student at Kiama High School interested in all wildlife and plants.

Learning about the environment is very important to her, as she is concerned about what the future will hold for the planet and environment.

Amber aspires to become an environmental activist and is very interested in resolving ocean pollution and illegal fishing. She has participated in local contributions in events such as Stop Adani, tree planting, climate change marches and rubbish pickups.

Tessa Smith



Tessa is a Year 6 student at Jamberoo Public School.

Her love of debating and public speaking, combined with a passion for knowledge about medicine, sparked her interest in how native plants can be used to heal and repair different parts of the human body.

Phoebe Cartwright



Phoebe is a Year 6 student at Kiama Public School, and attends the High Potential Gifted Education program and the Visual Arts Gifted & Talented program at Kiama High School.

Phoebe has a passion for both science and visual arts. She draws inspiration from the natural world for her art and loves learning about the environment.

Phoebe has a particular interest in fungi and the role they play in a healthy ecosystem.

Professor David Lindenmayer AO, Australian National University



David is a world-leading expert in forest ecology and resource management, conservation science, and biodiversity conservation. He currently runs 5 large-scale, long-term research programs in south-eastern Australia, associated with developing ways to conserve biodiversity in farmland, wood production forests, plantations and reserves. He has maintained some of the largest, long-term research programs in Australia, with some for over 37 years.

David has published 1,360 scientific articles including 840 peer-reviewed papers in international scientific journals. He has also published 48 books, including many award winning textbooks and other seminal books.

He is among the world's most productive and most highly-cited scientists, particularly in forest ecology and conservation biology. In 2018 and 2019, David was in the top 2000 Highly Cited Researchers according to Google Scholar Citations public profiles across all disciplines. In 2017 he was in the top 50 Australian scientists across all disciplines. David is a member of an elite group of 0.5% of scientists globally who have published over 10 peer-reviewed scientific articles in international journals each year for the past decade. In 2020 and 2021, David was named as the leading conservation and biodiversity expert in the nation in *The Australian's* list of 30 leading Australian scientists.

David held a prestigious Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow from 2013 to 2018. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (elected 2008), a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America (elected in 2019), and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2014. His research has been recognised through numerous awards, including the Eureka Science Prize (twice), Whitley Award (10 times), the Serventy Medal for Ornithology, and the Australian Natural History Medallion. In 2018, he was awarded the prestigious Whittaker Medal from the Ecological Society of America.

Presentation topic: Fire, forests, plantations and biodiversity

Fire is a major natural process in many ecosystems. Yet it is becoming clear that many forests and plantations are increasingly susceptible to more frequent high-severity wildfire. Changes to fire regimes are resulting in some elements of biodiversity becoming increasingly at risk of decline and the ecosystems in which they occur at risk of collapse. This talk outlines some of the factors that contribute to the fire proneness of some Australian ecosystems, including compelling evidence for links between human disturbance and natural disturbance. Options for dealing with these risk factors are canvassed.



Kurri Kurri bushland, 18 months after fire

Distinguished Professor Michelle Leishman, Macquarie University



Michelle is an internationally renowned ecologist who works in the fields of plant invasion biology, climate change impacts and adaptation, plant conservation and urban ecology. She is highly cited with more than 170 published book chapters and journal articles.

She leads a research group in the School of Natural Sciences at Macquarie University and is Director of Macquarie's Smart Green Cities.

Her research in invasion biology has been a significant influence in weed management and ecological restoration approaches in urban, riparian and woodland systems. Her research leadership in invasive plants and pathogens has been a driver for national strategies such as the action plan for myrtle rust in Australia and the Gardening Responsibly PlantSure initiative. Much of her research has been translated to effective on-ground and policy advice for practitioners and government, including the development of widely used online tools for weed management and climate change adaptation. Her current research aims to facilitate resilient and diverse green urban spaces, and she leads the Which Plant Where project.

Michelle is the recipient of the Royal Society of New South Wales 2020 Clarke Medal – Botany and is the *Journal of Ecology's* 2021 Eminent Ecologist. She is a Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust and Chair of the Australian Institute of Botanical Science Advisory Council. She is also on the board of Bush Heritage Australia and an elected council member of the Australian Flora Foundation.

Presentation topic: Building resilience – from species to landscapes

Plant species and ecosystems within Australia and globally are under threat, from habitat clearing, invasive species and disease, and climate change. In this talk Michelle explores the conservation actions that are underway, and that will become increasingly important in the future, to retain and manage our native plants, ecosystems and landscapes.

Her talk will cover management of invasive plants and disease, building resilience of populations and landscapes, and facilitating nature-rich and climate-resilient urban spaces.



East coast banksias (L to R), *Banksia spinulosa* var. *spinulosa*, *B. ericifolia*, *B. integrifolia*, images H Miles

Chris Long and Miriam Ford, Australian Plants Society Victoria

Our colleagues from Victoria will share their plans for the 2024 ANPSA Conference, to be held in the beautiful garden state.



Chris has been a member of APS Victoria for over 30 years and has served 10 consecutive years on the executive as Treasurer, President and Secretary. He has been Treasurer of his District Group, APS Mornington Peninsula, for 12 years. He has a life-long interest in Australian plants and enjoys gardening on a normal size suburban block. He brings his many years of work experience as a manager to the task of effective management of APS now and into the future.



Miriam has been a member of APS Victoria for over 25 years and has served in various executive positions in her District Group, APS Yarra Yarra in North East Melbourne, and in APS Victoria where she is a Vice President. She chaired the 13th Fred Rogers Biennial Seminar on Mint Bushes and Allied Genera in 2020 for APS Victoria. She has a large property and a passion for growing Australian plants, particularly mint bushes. She has over 60 *Prostanthera* species growing so well in the garden that ABC TV's Gardening Australia filmed a segment to air in 2022.

ANPSA conference – Melbourne, September–October 2024



The next ANPSA conference, Gardens for Life, will be hosted by APS Victoria from Monday 30 September to Friday 4 October 2024 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in central Melbourne.

The venue is well served by public transport, hotels are plentiful and venues for free evenings abound. During the conference we will hear about all types of gardens and their impact on our life and the life of our world. We will visit spectacular gardens during the in-conference excursions including the world renowned Australian Garden at

Cranbourne. Pre and post conference tours to Gippsland, the South West and the Grampians will be offered.

ANPSA



The Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) i.e. ANPSA consists of eight affiliated Member Societies, one for each of the six Australian states plus the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. Each is independent and responsible for managing its own affairs and memberships within its geographical area with regular communication and engagement nationally.

ANPSA hosts a range of Study Groups, which undertake the study of a particular aspect of Australian plants (usually a genus or a related group of genera) and there are currently 18 Study Groups Australia wide. Study Groups allow members with specific interests to develop that interest to the fullest extent and to contribute in a practical way to the body of knowledge on the Australian flora - <https://anpsa.org.au/>.

Australian Plants Society leaders: Honouring the past, embracing the future – my vision for what's possible

Rhonda Daniels, facilitator



Rhonda has been an active member of APS NSW, through Sutherland Group, for over 30 years. She has held a number of roles at state level (board director, Study Group Coordinator, Conservation) and group level (President, Secretary and Newsletter Editor), and was the inaugural editor of the APS NSW monthly e-newsletter. With a background in research and now working as an editor, she loves reading, walking in the local bush, volunteering for bushcare and propagation with Sutherland Shire Council, and sharing her interest in our plants and rich language. She is the incoming Secretary of ANPSA.

John Aitken, incoming ANPSA President, APS NSW Vice President



John has had a passion for Australian native plants for over 40 years. He has held positions as a science teacher, virologist and barrister. He is a former president of APS Sutherland Group, a director of APS NSW since 2007, and has served as a delegate to ANPSA. He is Vice President of APS NSW. He is the incoming President of ANPSA. He is co-editor of the *Australian Plants* journal and a Life Member of APS NSW.

Chris Clarke, Australian Plants Society Victoria



Chris is the President of APS Victoria and lives in northern Melbourne. He has been growing Australian plants since he developed a love of wildflowers growing up in the foothills of the Dandenong ranges. Chris is a passionate conservationist, photographer and activist for social justice having been a union official in public sector and education unions for 35 years.

Chris wants to explore how the Australian Plants Society can become more relevant to young people and contribute further to saving our unique flora.

Tom Jordan, Australian Native Plants Society Canberra



Tom has been a member of ANPS Canberra since 1979. He and his wife, Lyndal Thorburn, are now life members. Tom joined the board of ANPS Canberra in 2022. A maths/physics graduate from Macquarie University, he worked as a teacher, computer programmer and as a reviewer of Defence projects, until his retirement last year.

He developed an interest in Australian plants in the early 1970s. He and Lyndal host propagation activities at their Queanbeyan home, and have a hot bed and igloo to provide plants for the two sales each year at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Greg Kirby, Australian Plants Society South Australia



Greg grew up in Christchurch, New Zealand, with parents who were both keen gardeners and passed on their love of plants and gardens. He moved to Adelaide to do postgraduate studies in genetics at the University of Adelaide. Early in the 1970s he became aware of SGAP (as it was, in those days) through the plant sales in Unley and soon joined up. Greg has grown native plants for revegetation projects on his own land since the late 1970s. Since selling his 4ha block of land 3 years ago, he has been growing local native plants for local projects.

In the late 1980s, Greg decided to try to domesticate native plants for horticulture, focusing on the Sturt desert pea (*Swainsona formosa*) and two cultivars bred for the pot plant market. In the mid-1990s he helped to start a new course in ecotourism at Flinders University in which he taught students how to explain Australia's botanical heritage to tourists.

Margaret Matthews, current/outgoing President ANPSA



I am originally from Canberra where I completed a science degree and a PhD in molecular genetics at the ANU. A keen gardener since childhood, I developed an interest in Australian plants in my 20s. In 1990 I moved to Melbourne to head a research lab undertaking gene mapping in livestock and developed DNA fingerprinting for several species. I also worked in the economic policy area of the Victorian public service and an industry association in the environment and health and safety area. Moving to Perth allowed me to live in my ideal environment, near the ocean and the wonderful flora of WA, where I established a consultancy business.

Since being in WA I have learnt a great deal about Australian plants and have been involved in caring for a local bushland for 20 years. I have been active in the Wildflower Society of WA, including on the organising committee for the Albany Conference which led to my role as President of ANPSA over the last three years.

Heather Miles, President, Australian Plants Society NSW



Heather is President of the Australian Plants Society NSW, as well as leading the team which developed and hosted this conference. She has experience from the corporate and consulting worlds drawn from executive, director and consulting roles across a range of industries including financial services, agribusiness, education, governance, public sector, not for profits and consulting.

She is passionate about native plants and has her own large native garden in the Hunter Valley and a blended garden on Sydney's north shore. She and husband Phil and family have planted about 8,000 native trees on their 100 acres with the rest of the property being a wonderland of dry sclerophyll bush and rainforest.

Louise Skabo, President, Australian Plants Society Tasmania



Louise has been a member of the Northern Group based in Launceston, Tasmania since 2001. She was inspired to join by wanting to learn about the wonderful native flowers seen while bushwalking all over the state over many years. She was a high school teacher then owner of a private tutoring school business. She has been President of APS Tasmania Northern Group, and Councillor and now Council President of APS Tasmania. She is a member of Threatened Plants Tasmania involving research excursions and a member of Friends of...Groups in Launceston Reserves. She enjoys participating in all activities of the society: excursions to study plants in natural settings and in cultivation, propagating and growing plants at the APST Nursery, gardening at the APST Tasmanian Native Garden,

conservation work, educating about native plants, attending group meetings with visiting expert speakers and knowledgeable members as well as doing administration work. She loves participating in members' get-togethers all over the state.

Eddy Wajon, Wildflower Society of Western Australia



Eddy loves, writes about and fights for Australia's wildflowers and other native vegetation. As the ANPSA National Conservation Officer he has been responsible for or played a major part in ANPSA submissions on the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* review, the National Royal Commission on Bushfires and other Emergencies, the control of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park, the protection of bushland at Jandakot Airport in Perth, and the Action Plan to control myrtle rust.

He formed and chaired the Wildflower Society of WA's Roadside Vegetation sub-committee, to preserve trees and shrubs along country roads while improving road safety. He and colleagues have attended more than 150 meetings, workshops and site visits, prepared more than 50 submissions on Clearing Permits and appealed about 30 approvals associated with clearing road verges. He has been spectacularly unsuccessful in stopping any roadside clearing but looks forward to the day when wonderful wildflowers will once again be easy to find along roadsides.

Eddy worked with the WA Minister for Tourism to create the Wildflower Friendliness Rating Scheme to encourage local governments to care for their wildflowers with tourism incentives and stop widening roads and clearing wildflowers. Eddy has written, published and distributed five Colour Guides to the Wildflowers of WA with combined sales of more than 55,000 since 1999. He has also published Jim Barrow's book *How to Enjoy WA Wildflowers* which has sold more than 2,000 copies.

Dijana Damjanovic – Collaborating for the future – your insights and actions



Dijana is a radio, TV and online journalist and new member of the Australian Plants Society NSW. After spending the past 5 years in the Northern Territory, where native plants dominate the vast and remote landscape, she wanted to keep building and protecting plants that are equally as stunning as they are precious. She hopes to contribute by telling the story of native plants and why they are important and connecting with people who are unaware or disconnected from conservation. She hopes to see a Sturt desert pea before the year ends but is currently

transfixed on the huge variety of eucalypt trees and their important role in Australia's story.

Dijana will facilitate the final conference session to explore our collective vision for the future.

Program – Friday 16 September

Buses leave early from The Pavilion Kiama. Please be at the bus area well ahead of time – see times below. Excursions finish approx. 5pm. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea included. Please bring your own cup and water bottle. More information including plant lists here: <https://www.austplants.com.au/Conference-excursions>



Excursion 5: Silky Oaks (Peter and Margaret Olde's garden), Robertson Rainforest and Native Grace

Departs The Pavilion at **9am**.

Please be there by **8.30am**.

Terminates Kiama.



Excursion 7: Shoalhaven Botanic Gardens, Coolangatta winery, Elton garden, Beecroft Peninsula

Departs The Pavilion at **8.30am**.

Please be there by **8.10am**.

Terminates Kiama.



Excursion 8: Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan, Illawarra Grevillea Park

Departs The Pavilion at **8.30am**.

Please be there by **8am**, particularly to load any luggage.

Terminates Kiama (1 bus) or Sydney Airport (1 bus).

Pre and post tours

Pre- and post-conference tours

Pre-conference tours have visited the Pilliga/Warrumbungles, Blue Mountains and Lord Howe Island. Post-conference tours are visiting Sydney, Pilliga/Warrumbungles and Lord Howe Island – places are still available on Pilliga and Sydney tours. Contact Ralph Cartwright on 0416 030 872 for more information or here: <https://www.austplants.com.au/Pre-and-post-tours>



Sydney, post conference, 17 to 21 September



Pilliga and Warrumbungles, 4 - 9 September and 17 - 22 September



North Head, being visited on the Sydney tour, image H Miles

Thank you

Many people made this conference and the tours possible. We thank:

- You, our participants, who put your faith in the conference and came!
- The conference speakers who gave their time so generously and shared their valuable insights during the conference sessions.
- The native plant nurseries who came to Kiama to sell their plants on Sunday, helping spread the passion for native plants.
- The volunteers who assisted during the conference and on the tours and excursions, to support everyone having a wonderful time.
- The board of APS NSW who gave unfailing support through the years.
- Jackie Hall of The Pavilion Kiama and Kiama Council for their extraordinary assistance over the last three years.
- Our strategic sponsor Destination NSW who generously provided a grant to assist in the production and marketing of this conference.
- National Parks and Wildlife Service who provided free access to the national parks around NSW
- Jamberoo Native Nursery who provided plants for our displays
- Finally the organising committee whose tireless efforts over the last three years made it all happen! Thanks to John Aitken, Sue Bowen, Ralph Cartwright, John Desmond, Sue Fredrickson, Margaret Gaul, Janice Hughes, Heather Miles and Merle Thompson.



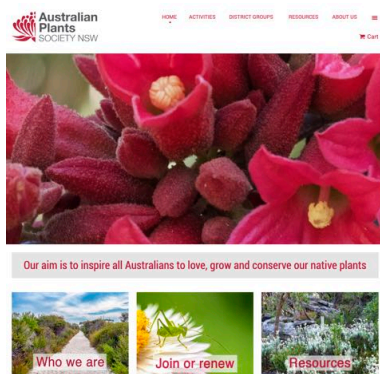
About the Australian Plants Society NSW

We are a passionate group of people who love Australian native plants.

Our vision is to inspire all Australians to love, grow and conserve our native plants. We are a volunteer organisation and are not-for-profit.

We have local groups across NSW, which all welcome new members and friends. We are happy to share our insights, skills and local plants with all.

Click on the links to view our website and social media.



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<https://www.youtube.com/c/australianplantssocietynsw>

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