



Native Plants for NSW - Quarter 2 2025



Native Cottage Garden beds Werrington Downs (L Erskine)

From the President

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

The year started well with a successful gathering hosted by Northern Beaches District Group in March. Our next gathering is on 17 May hosted by Menai Group and incorporating the Annual General Meeting. Full details are in this newsletter and I would encourage as many as possible to attend.

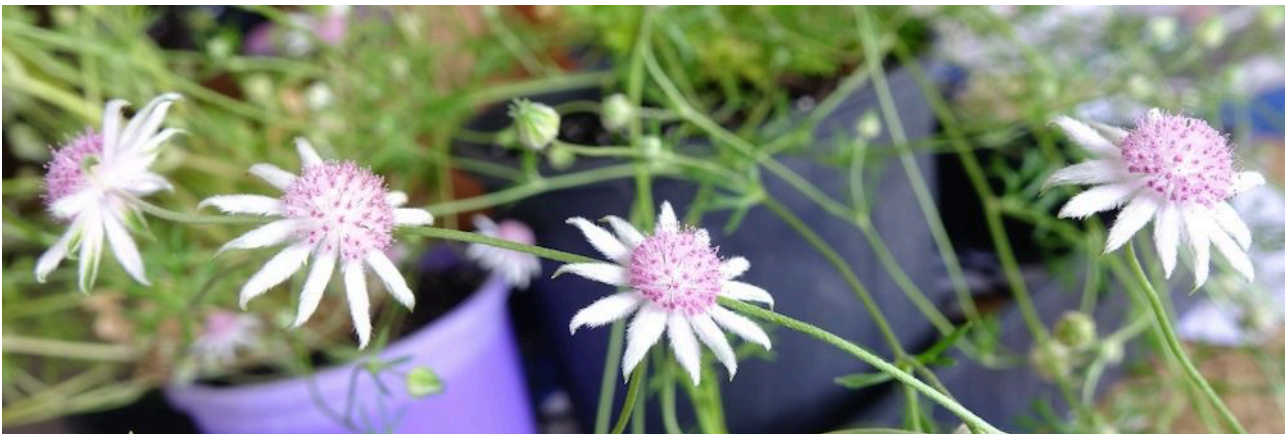
Along with many volunteer organisations we are seeing some decrease in activity but we are hopeful that the dynamism of many of the District Groups will continue. Furthermore the range of articles in this newsletter gives an indication of the valuable contribution which we can make to any discussions on the environment.

John Desmond, President

eNewsletter Contents:

- Events and activities
- District Group 2024 reports
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Events and activities



Pink Flannel Flowers (Actinotus forsythii) (Image: Menai Wildflower Garden Facebook page)

APS NSW Quarterly Gathering and AGM - hosted by Menai Wildflower Group

When: Saturday 17th May 2025 from 10am.

Where: The Illawong Fire Station 999 Old Illawong Road Illawong 2234

Program:

10am - noon: choice of activities

1. Visit to the Menai Wildflower Garden (MWG) - Located at the fire station, this magnificent garden is a tribute to the wonderful efforts of the Menai Group members over 20 years.

2. Join members of the MWG for a guided local walk, starting at the end of Recreational Drive, Barden Ridge playing fields. The walk follows relatively flat fire trails and is about 2.5 km return, with some uneven surfaces. Along the way, we will discuss the local flora and share insights into the area's European history.

12-1pm: The MWG garden will be set up with chairs and tables for those wishing to enjoy lunch (BYO) at the fire station, where the meeting will be held.

1 - 1:30pm: AGM

1:30-3pm Presentation - Mark Ooi. Mark is a Senior Research Fellow based at the Centre for Ecosystem Science, part of the School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences at UNSW. His research interests include fire and plant (particularly seed) ecology. Much of his work focuses on understanding the mechanistic responses of plant populations to fire regimes, threatened species conservation, and the effects of climate change.

Afternoon tea to follow. \$5 entry payable by card only (no cash) More information [here](#)

Annual General Meeting - Agenda

Our 2024 Annual Report is [here](#) and financial statements are available in the [for members](#) section on our website.

To send your apologies, please email: office@austplants.com.au

Please email any financial questions by Friday 2 May 2025 and we will provide responses at the AGM.

Nominations for board positions

We welcome new board members, and non-board members, to assist with running the Society. If you'd like to join the board or wish to nominate someone, please contact President John Desmond to discuss what's involved.

The form [here](#) needs to be completed and returned by Friday May 2 2025

Proxy voting

If you cannot attend the AGM, and would like to nominate a proxy for your vote, please complete the Proxy form [here](#) and return by Friday 2 May to office@austplants.com.au

North Shore Group - Walks and Talks

When: Various Mondays through 2025 (starts at 9:45)

Where: Caley's Pavilion or Caley's Patio in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (most sessions run until 12 noon)

Join members of the North Shore Group of the Australian Plants Society for a fascinating talk followed by a guided walk through the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. Discover the beauty and diversity of our native flora as it comes into bloom. Walks are mostly easy to medium in difficulty, and no prior knowledge is required.

All sessions are free, and information sheets will be provided. Please wear a hat, suitable footwear, and appropriate clothing. Bring water, a snack, and lunch for longer walks. Sunscreen and insect repellent are also recommended.

No booking necessary.

More details, including dates and walk topics [here](#)



Epacris longiflora

Dates for the Diary

ANPSA biennial conferences

The next conference is 24–28 August 2026, hosted by APS South Australia in Alice Springs with the theme Amazing Arid Australia.

The conference after that is in August 2028, hosted by Native Plants Queensland likely in Toowoomba with the theme Beyond the Great Divide. For this one, there is a survey to assist with planning - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MNSGWMW>



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

District Group Reports 2024



Illawarra Group (supplied)

With 19 local groups around NSW, there is always a lot of regional activity – bushwalks, meetings, talks, garden visits, plant sales, bush care and propagation. Some highlights were:

Blue Mountains Group launched their facebook page, which has over 2000 views per month and nearly 700 followers so far!

Illawarra Group managed a walk every month, which makes them a very active group.

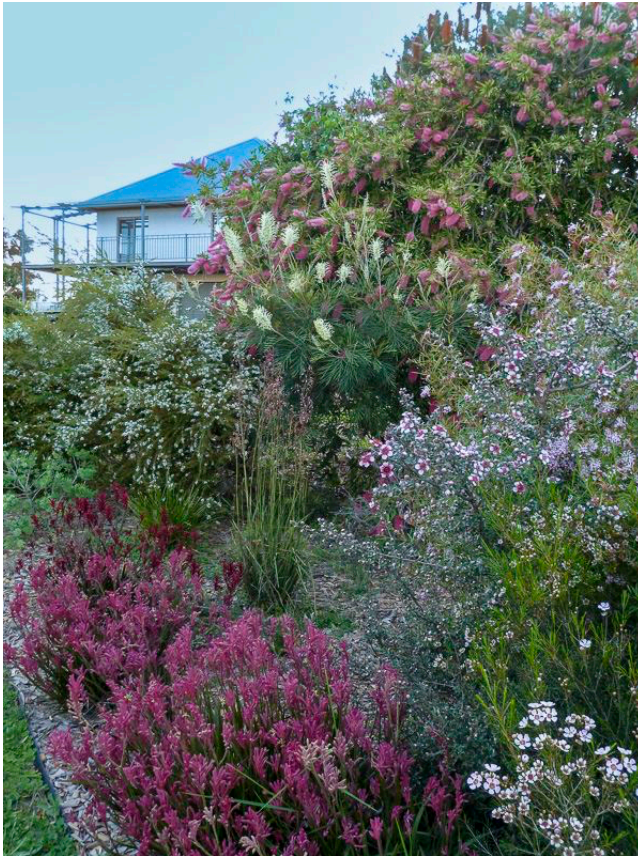
Parramatta Hills Group hosted a NSW regional gathering, which was very successful.

Southern Highlands Group held a community forum on dying trees in the district and the pathogen *Phytophthora*.

Read on for all the reports received, and learn what these groups and more have been up to.

[Read more](#)

Garden news and tips



Massive spring flowering in a native cottage garden, Hunter Valley. (H Miles)

Creating a cottage garden

Have you ever wondered how to go about creating a cottage garden with native plants? The idea of a cosy cottage garden, with herbaceous borders of annuals and perennials set against a backdrop of shrubs and (maybe) a small tree or two, has always been popular. Today, smaller gardens continue to make this style appealing.

In this story, originally published on the ANPSA website, we share which plants might work for creating a native cottage garden.

The outcome will be a more beautiful garden—one that is sustainable, more attractive to local fauna and insects, and less likely to allow weeds to escape into the bush.

[Read the story](#)

Conservation

Underwater Gardening

Plants don't just grow on land. Wherever they grow, they can be threatened by human activities. Conservation horticulture can be carried out in a range of environments, although underwater revegetation work might seem like a novel idea! Many activities we do on land, though, can also be successfully done in various other environments with a little modification, with underwater rugby being one example we can learn from. A co-restoration project involving two endangered species, a seagrass and a seahorse, throws a different light on gardening and shows how varied an activity it can be.



Posidonia australis meadow (Image: David Spencer Muirhead, Source: iNaturalist)

[Read the story](#)

Platypus rewilding in the Royal National Park - talk by Dr Gilad Bino

This article first appeared in the February 2025 edition of the Sutherland Group Newsletter.

Platypuses (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) have a large natural range, generally along the east coast, tablelands, and eastern inland of Australia, from around Cooktown to Tasmania and into western Victoria and just into South Australia—reaching about Adelaide and Kangaroo Island. They inhabit both tropical and alpine regions.

Dr Bino's work on platypus research is highly labor-intensive and time-consuming. Over the past decade, he has spent about 10% of his total work time in the field, mostly at night when platypuses are most active. His research involves setting nets to capture platypuses, which must then be anaesthetized to allow for sample collection, tagging, and study.

Regarding language, the word “platypus” means “flat foot.” The correct plural would be “platypodes” in Latin, but in English, we commonly use “platypuses” (though “platypi” remains a popular misconception).

[Read the story](#)

The fascinating world of forensic botany



Dr James Indsto (D. Noble)

[Read the story](#)

At the Parramatta Hills Group meeting in November 2024 meeting, their special guest presenter was one of their members, James Indsto, who spoke about his role as a Forensic Botanist and how this specialty is used as one of several inputs to provide evidence to police and the coroner in prosecutions and findings.

James pointed out that forensic botany encompasses many areas such as soil sampling and analysis, and palynology, which involves the study of pollen and spores that can be used as botanical trace evidence. Fragments of leaves and wood can also help determine links between people, places, and objects. The use of microscopy techniques in soil and leaf analysis, along with detailed photographic examinations, supports and demonstrates crucial findings. Read on for a full report on James' talk.

Rediscovered Botanical Treasures by William Bauerlen

Rediscovered Botanical Treasures by William Bauerlen

This article was first published in the Nowra Newsletter, March 2025, and was inspired by a paper released by the Botanic Gardens Sydney.

The rediscovery of two historical pressed plant specimen albums, created by renowned botanical collector William Bauerlen, has been documented by Jane Johnston and Kevin Mills. Their fascinating paper, which details the journals and their remarkably intact specimens, was published in [Cunninghamia Vol. 24 by the Botanic Gardens of Sydney](#).

[Read the story](#)



Callioma serratifolia
A page from one of the albums

Final words... Can you spare some time to help gather plant trait data? There is an interesting project that needs your input, see [here](#) for more information and to volunteer, [email Dorothy Luther](#).

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