

Native Plants for NSW - Quarter 1 2024



Corymbia ficifolia (T Lea)

From the President

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead and hope to see you at some of our events.

The first major event of the year will be the quarterly gathering on Saturday 9 March,

hosted by North Shore Group at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, St Ives. Details are below.

Subsequent events are being held on Saturday 11th May, hosted by Parramatta Hills Group at Cherrybrook (which includes our AGM), Saturday 14th September hosted by Harbour Georges River Group at Oatley and the annual weekend Get-Together on 1st – 3rd November hosted by the Armidale Group.

As an example of the important work our Society is involved in, and the amazing dedication of our volunteers, there are now over 1,000 plants on our plant database. I want to thank Jeff Howes, Dan Clarke, Heather Miles, the late Warren Sheather and all other members who have contributed to the project. This is a fantastic achievement, especially because the database is the most popular section of our website.

District group activities are just starting to get going for the year. Please submit your programs through to us [here](#) so they can be listed on the activity section of the website and included in the newsletters.

We also want to let you know that in 2024, our eNewsletter will change frequency to be published quarterly instead of monthly. Look out for newsletters at the end of January, April, July and October. Your district groups will continue to send newsletters and there are also a range of ANPSA study groups you can join if you want more specific knowledge and feel you need additional content!

John Desmond, President

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Events and activities





Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden entrance (W Grimm)

APS NSW Quarterly Gathering - hosted by North Shore Group

When: 11am-3pm, Saturday 9th March 2023

Where: Caley's Pavilion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives 2075

Program:

11am Choice of two walks, (meet at Caley's Pavilion)

1. Spider and insect walk around the gardens with Helen Smith, or
2. Walk to visit the threatened plant species in the garden

12-1pm Lunch at Caley's Pavilion (BYO) where tea and coffee will be provided.

Plants and handmade cards (by Jim and Pam Lawler, featuring native plants, birds and animals) will be for sale.

1-2pm Presentation/Workshop with Heather Miles

Native garden design workshop - design or trial and error?

If you are planning a new native garden, revamping an existing one or transitioning an exotic garden to natives, then this is the workshop for you. We will explore how to apply 'design' to each of these situations with examples and hands on practice. If you have a spot in your garden that you want to redesign, bring along a map of it and we will play with ideas. She will bring some other examples to give your imagination free rein!

Heather will also share with us how the Garden Design Study Group website on the ANPSA site is being updated to make the information more interesting and accessible.

Heather is an excellent speaker with a passion for Australian native plants and their use in garden design. In addition, she is an excellent photographer and her photographs of plants and flowers will enhance her presentation.

Heather's talk will be followed by afternoon tea.

Cost for the day is \$5 to cover venue and afternoon tea. We look forward to seeing you there!

More information [here](#)

Northern Beaches - Native bees and the keeping of European bees for honey

When: 1st Feb, 7:30pm

Where: The Corkery Building, Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden, 810 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why

The speaker will be Julie Leal, Director of the Northern Beaches Bee Association.

Julie will give a talk on various aspects of the life of native bees and the keeping of European bees for honey.

All welcome.

More details [here](#)

Central Coast - Bush Heritage, a talk by David Tierney

When: 10th Feb, 1:30pm

Where: Phillip House 21 Old Mount Penang Road, Kariong

David Tierney, the Senior Ecologist for Bush Heritage in South-East Australia, will delve into the organization's mission, activities, and future goals. With a rich background as a Senior Scientist in the Conservation Science Directorate with the NSW Government, experience in consulting, a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Queensland, and roles in local government, David brings a wealth of knowledge to this presentation.

More details [here](#)

Dates for the Diary

Q2 Gathering (and AGM) - hosted by Parramatta Hills Group

- When: Saturday 11th May
- Where: Gumnut Community Centre, Gumnut Place, Cherrybrook 2126
- Afternoon speaker is Dan Clarke speaking on: 'Threatened flora of the Cumberland Plain'

Q3 Gathering - hosted by Harbour Georges River Group

- When: Saturday 14th September
- Where: Oatley Uniting Church Hall, Corner Letitia St & Frederick St, Oatley
- Speaker for the afternoon is Rhonda Daniels speaking on: 'Wattles'

Annual Weekend Get-Together - hosted by Armidale Group

- When: Friday-Sunday 1-3rd November
- Details to follow



Planning is underway for the ANPSA Biennial Conference in Melbourne in 2024. [See here](#) for more information, including details for a change of venue. Register your interest [here!](#)



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

Plant Database - 1000 plants reached!



Grevillea 'Blood Orange' (H Miles)

The year 2024 kicks off with an inspiring start as the APS (NSW) Plant Profile Project achieves a significant milestone—1000 plant profiles now enrich its flourishing database. This accomplishment stands as a testament to the dedication of contributors, marking a substantial leap forward in documenting Australia's diverse native flora.

The project's roots trace back to 2008 when Jeff Howes began crafting articles about Australian native plants for his suburban Sydney block. He was originally inspired by Brian Walters' efforts of documenting native plants with ASGAP. Slowly this initiative gained momentum and, in 2017, during the APS NSW website transition, it evolved into a Plant Profile Project. Initially spearheaded by Jeff Howes and the late Warren Sheather, the project aimed to share vital information about native plants, instilling confidence in embracing Australia's unique flora. Read the story for more background on the project.

[Read the story](#)

Garden news and tips



Flowers from native plant species with their exotic counterparts in a florist (M Pye & T Bell)

Planting Australian natives: are we bringing the bush to our backyards or our backyards to the bush?

Despite their ubiquitous presence, Australian backyard gardens have evolved over time and are far from static entities. The traditional English Gardens that were first established, presumably to trigger memories of the Mother Country, have morphed into a hybrid design which often includes representatives from the Australian flora.

More recently, there has been a sustained trend towards preferentially planting native Australian species, deemed to be a better or more 'natural' alternative to the exotic imported species of the past. Many of these garden plants have gone on to achieve fame as invasive weed species.

However, does the mere incorporation of native plants into one's garden warrant a horticultural 'pat on the back'? Do native plants actually do anything other than make us feel some misguided source of 'Aussie pride'? Can we actually increase the functionality of our backyards into something truly beneficial – for both our gardens and surrounding native ecosystems? Dr Matt Pye wrote a piece for the January 2019 'Research Matters' from the Australian Flora Foundation, and we bring it to you with permission.

[Read the story](#)

Conservation

Re-greening our Country



Superb parrot nestlings (Supplied)

[Read the story](#)

A series of wonderful re-greening events were held during August, September and October this year (2023) at 'Moorlands', near Gunning in South Western NSW. This amazing, biodynamic farm is owned and managed by Vince Heffernan, a 6th generation sheep grazer and noted expert on new forms of regenerative land management.

150 volunteers donated their time and energy in planting more than 5,000 native trees and shrubs. Their valuable contributions added to the ecological transformation which Vince commenced 25 years ago. As they grow, these plantings will add to the >60,000 native trees and shrubs planted previously, and continue to expand the open, grassy woodland being created and provide habitat for many species of native animals and birds including the endangered Superb Parrot.

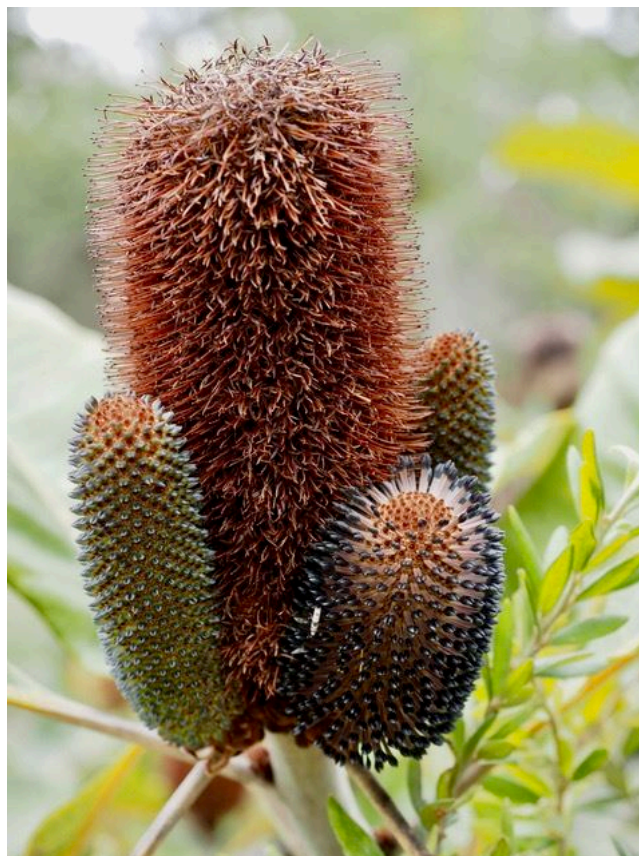
Read on for a report of these events, by Adrian Polhill, vice president of [Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society](#)

Plant photos help conserve biodiversity

The gold standard resource for identifying plants is herbarium specimens. These are pressed and dried plants or plant parts mounted on paper sheets with accompanying field notes about where and when the specimen was collected and possibly also brief details about the soil and surrounding plant community and geography.

These herbarium specimens allow botanists to look at plant features in fine detail or at a microscopic level and take tissue samples for DNA analysis, for example. However, there are some plant features that deteriorate over time in these physical herbarium specimens; colour is one of the most obvious. Other important information about a particular species may not be captured in a herbarium specimen or may be difficult to describe even in field notes.

This is where photographs of plants, as part of documenting a plant species, come into their own.



Charismatic Banksia robur (H Miles)

[Read the story](#)

Study group updates April - December 2023



Acacia binervia 'Sterling Silver' (Supplied: APC study group)

Verna Aslin shares summaries of ANPSA Study Group newsletters received between April - December 2023.

Read on to see what has been happening in the Acacia, Fern, Hakea, Australian Plants for Containers, Grevilla and Isopogon & Petrophille groups.

Did you know there are 18 ANPSA study groups? Membership is available to members of APS NSW. You can browse the study groups [here](#)

[Read the full story](#)

Final words...

Do you know how Eucalyptus got their name? Jeff Howes knew the origins of the word but he went on a quest to find out more. You can learn what he found out [here](#).

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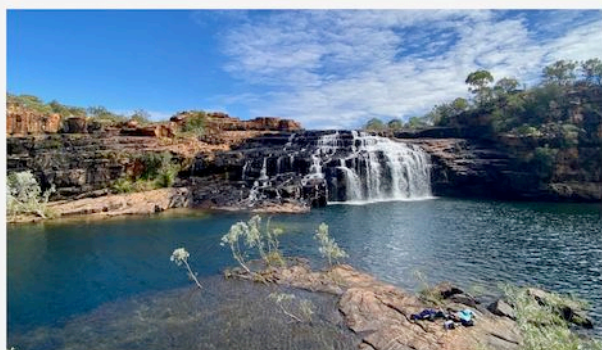
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Kimberley Wonders

**13-Day Easy Camping Tour (assisted camping) –
Departs Broome 6 June 2024 - Max of 12 participants**

Join us in the Kimberley region of Western Australia; one of the most remote and unspoiled wilderness areas in the world. We explore Purnululu National Park (Bungle Bungles), the Gibb River Road and its many spectacular waterfalls and gorges, Parry Lagoons (great for wetland birds), Drysdale River Station, Windjana Gorge and Silent Grove. You will also take an 18-minute helicopter flight over the Bungle Bungles, and there is an optional (*at extra cost*) full-day visit to the Mitchell Plateau to view Mitchell Falls, an incredible four-tiered waterfall.



Tanami Desert Expedition

**14-Day Camping Tour – Departs Alice Springs 22 June 2024 -
Max 10 participants (6 in lead vehicles & 4 tag-alongs)**

On this expedition we will explore some of the most isolated areas in northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory, including Newhaven Station, the Tanami Desert, Paruku, Wolfe Creek Crater and Keep River National Park. We hope to see a variety of arid zone plants and wildlife, as well as freshwater species including Black Necked Storks, Brolgas, Black Swans, and Spoonbills, in the Indigenous protected area of Paruku (Lake Gregory and Lake Stretch). Join us for ancient landscapes, scenic gorges, extensive dunes, inland lakes & wetlands, and clear starry night skies.



Contact us for further information and for details of our full 2024 natural history expedition program.

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