

## Native Plants for NSW - Quarter 2 2024



*Grevillea 'Dorothy Gordon' (T Lea)*

## From the President

Dear {Contact\_First\_Name},

The first quarterly gathering of the year was held at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and hosted by North Shore Group. It was well attended. The walks were educational and the presentation by Heather Miles on designing a native garden contained many ideas which could be incorporated into our gardens. Thank you to North Shore Group for organising this event. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next gathering hosted by Parramatta and Hills Group on 11th May, which includes our

gathering hosted by Parramatta and Hills Group on 11th May, which includes our brief Annual General Meeting.

Glenda Browne is handing over the reins of APS NSW Office Manager to Margaret Gaul. The main function of this role is to sort, respond to and/or redistribute the emails that are received at the main APS NSW [email address](#). It is a crucial role as it is the first contact many people have with APS NSW. Margaret will work with Brendan who manages the APS NSW mailing lists and email accounts.

Glenda says: 'I filled this role since 2017, with initial training and ongoing support from Heather Miles and later Merle Thompson (thank you Heather and Merle!) It has been a pleasure working with members of the Board and committees, and other members of APS from around the state. Thank you all for your support.'

On behalf of the board, we thank Glenda for her hard work, we really appreciate the time you gave and we thank Margaret for taking the role on.

The society can't run without support from volunteers, and I would be pleased to hear from any members wishing to contribute. There are a variety of tasks that we require support with; either Board membership or other roles that can fit the time you have available.

John Desmond, President

eNewsletter Contents:

- [Events and activities](#)
- [District group updates](#)
- [Gardening news and tips](#)
- [Conservation](#)
- [Study Group updates](#)
- [Final words](#)

## Events and activities





*Costa at the Community Environment Centre (supplied)*

## **APS NSW Quarterly Gathering and AGM - hosted by Parramatta and Hills Group**

**When:** 10am - 4pm, Saturday 11th May 2024

**Morning:** Community Environment Centre, Currie Avenue Annangrove NSW 2156

**Afternoon:** Gumnut Community Centre Gumnut Place Cherrybrook 2126 (\$5 members, \$10 non-members to cover cost of hall and afternoon tea) To improve our sustainability, please bring your own reusable mug or cup if you'd like tea or coffee.

Program:

- *10am-12pm* Explore the Community Environment Centre- A Must Visit!

Explore the demonstration gardens that promote nature, sustainability, biodiversity, easy care and wildlife habitats.

These gardens, operated by The Hills Shire Council, were established and are maintained by passionate volunteers, including APS members.

Volunteers will show you around our native plant garden, thriving vegetable garden, bush tucker garden and food for wildlife garden.

- *12-1pm* (BYO) Lunch at Gumnut Community Centre, tea and coffee will be provided.
- *1-1:30pm* AGM of APS NSW
- *1:30-2:30pm* Threatened flora of the Cumberland Plain - talk by Dan Clarke

Dan is a botanical consultant working in the NSW Ecological Industry – and runs his own company, Arcane Botanica. Dan is also the APS NSW Conservation Officer and editor of the Society's excellent plant database.

His talk will cover the Cumberland Plain and its threatened vegetation, as well as several listed threatened flora species that Dan has monitored over the years for the NSW Saving our Species Program.

Some of the important Cumberland Plain reserves will also be showcased, as well as profiling some threatened species of the Parramatta-Hills District.

### ***Annual General Meeting***

The agenda including the minutes from the previous AGM is available [here](#).

Our 2023 Annual Report is [here](#).

To send your apologies, please email: [secretary@austplants.com.au](mailto:secretary@austplants.com.au)

Please [email](#) any financial questions by Friday May 3rd 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.

### 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 3rd May to [secretary@austplants.com.au](mailto:secretary@austplants.com.au)

More information [here](#)

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

When: Thursday 2nd May 7:15pm

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](#)

### **North Shore - Walks and Talks - Creative look at the bush**

When: 13th May, 9:45am

Where: meet at Caley's pavillion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.

Sessions run 10am to about 12 noon unless a later return time is indicated.

Sessions are free. No booking required.

No prior knowledge is required and information sheets will be provided.

Walks are easy/medium grade.

Please wear a hat, have suitable footwear and bring water/snack. Sunscreen and insect repellent would also be a good idea.

More details [here](#)

## Illawarra Grevillea Botanic Park open days - Autumn

When: May 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th 10am-4pm

Where: Illawarra Grevillea Park Botanic Garden, Grevillea Park Rd, Bulli NSW

- Expansive native display gardens; rainforest walk and sensory trail; picnic areas
- Extensive range of natives for sale including tubestock and grafted plants
- Want advice? – bring your questions and we will do our best to help!
- Vine Forest walk will be reopened for the first time in 3 years - featuring a giant blackbutt tree
- Adults \$7 Children under 12 free; Dogs on leash welcome

More details [here](#)



*Banksia Bush Candles (T Lea)*

## ***Dates for the Diary***

### **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 the Armidale Group**

Join us on 1-3rd November 2024 at Armidale on the Northern Tablelands, New South Wales for a very exciting weekend of nature, gardening, and art.

Registration fee: \$100 which includes morning tea, a boxed lunch and a two course dinner at the New England Regional Art Museum on Saturday. (optional) \$35 for bus for all Saturday daytime venues. (Only 57 places are available so book early to ensure a seat.) The bus cost will be kept separate as some people may wish to 'tag along' in their car. A reserve list will be kept and a second bus may be organised.

RSVP your interest: Maria Hitchcock  
OAM, [maria.hitchcock@gmail.com](mailto:maria.hitchcock@gmail.com)  
There is a packed program on offer, see the full details [here](#)



*Armidale Arboretum (supplied)*



Have you booked your tickets to the ANPSA Biennial Conference in Melbourne in 2024? [See here](#) for more information. Early bird registrations are now open, closing end of June. Tour registrations close end of July so don't delay.



*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 2023



*Tamworth Group stall (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.

Read on for reports from 2023 from our groups to catch up on what they've all been doing.

[Read Part 1](#)

[Read Part 2](#)

## Garden news and tips



*Designing your native garden (H Miles)*

## Designing Your Native Garden

At the quarterly gathering in March, Heather Miles gave an interactive talk on designing your native garden. She had handouts, paper, pens, design books and other helpful materials ready for the large group of APS members who attended, keen to think about (re)designing areas of their own gardens.

Heather asked us to start by thinking of an area in our gardens we wanted to design, or overhaul. So, how do we (re)design a garden? There are 5 steps. Often we start with the plants and just chuck them in, but that doesn't always work so well. Heather says there are many garden design books, some of which have exotic plants in them, but don't hold that against them! They are very good to help with overall design, and you can pick your own plants. These sorts of books are worth picking up if you come across them in your local secondhand stores.

Firstly, you start by defining your overall aims for the project. What do you want to achieve? What moods or emotion do you want to create? Big needs? Functions of the space? Start high level. Write these all down, and refer back to them as you move through your design steps. Read on to find out how the design process unfolds from here.

[Read the story](#)



## Australian brush-turkey: unwelcome guest or ecosystem engineer?

If you asked a suburban resident of many parts of Sydney, Brisbane, Newcastle, the Gold Coast, Byron Bay or any other city on the Australian East Coast north of Wollongong, it would seem like the country is in the midst of an invasion. The interloping offender is the Australian brush-turkey (*Alectura lathami*). This is a large native bird from the Megapode family, which has been spotted with increasing frequency in urban and suburban areas over the past few decades.



*Brush-turkey chick (H Miles)*

[Read the story](#)

## Conservation



*Wollemia nobilis* (female) (A Fairley)

## Ensuring the survival of the Wollemi Pine

Discovering the Wollemi pine has been described as the botanical find of the 20th century. The Wollemi pine was once widespread across Gondwana before Australia broke off from Antarctica. It's both a living fossil and a global treasure and, while it is truly a rare and threatened species that needs to be conserved for the future, this is a challenging project.

[Read the story](#)



Swamp Wallaby

Swamp Wallaby (Australian Museum)

## Fake news can work - if you're a wallaby!

From vegetation restoration projects to agriculture, plants that are valuable to us may also be tasty food for herbivores. To reduce the substantial damage herbivores can do in these situations, people have used various methods to control herbivores, from plant guards and fencing to sometimes killing the animals.

A newly developed approach based on feeding herbivores misinformation to alter their behaviour may offer an alternative control method which is cost-effective and in some ways simpler to implement.

[Read the story](#)

## Saving our street trees: What's going on and what can we do

Street trees growing on public land are important for our health in its widest sense. They contribute to our physical health by providing shade, reducing air and surface temperature and encouraging walking. They contribute to our mental health by improving amenity and aesthetics, by contributing to local character, and by providing privacy and screening of buildings, roads and rail lines. They contribute to environmental health by providing habitat for a range of fauna, cleaning the air, storing carbon and reducing water runoff.

At the Sutherland Group March meeting, Rhonda Daniels presented a talk on street trees, including some great calls to action that we can all take with our local councils.

[Read the story](#)



Cul-de-sac planting in Kirrawee (R Daniels)

## Study Group updates Dec 2023- Apr 2024



*Eremophila "Piccaninny Dawn" (K Warnes)*

Verna Aslin shares summaries of ANPSA Study Group newsletters received between December 2023 - April 2024.

Read on to see what has been happening in the Acacia, Eremophila, Hakea, Grevillea, Australian Plants for Containers, Fern, Australian Food Plants and Goodeniaceae study 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 updates](#)

### Final words...

Tony Maxwell continues to update the native plant distribution lists, with the Native Plants Border Ranges Region Lists (1763 species) now added to the APS NSW website [here](#). Thank you Tony for your tireless, invaluable work on this.

This message was sent to you by {Organization\_Name}

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time

PO Box 263, Cremorne Junction 2090 | {Organization\_URL}

[office@austplants.com.au](mailto:office@austplants.com.au)





## Coates Wildlife Tours

*Specialists in Nature Tours since 1986*

- Informative naturalist guides • Small groups (6 – 12 participants) • Private charters available
- Fully accommodated, assisted camping, and remote camping tours

### Western Explorer Expedition

**12-Day Easy Camping Tour – Departs Broome 17 July 2024 - Max 12 participants**

On this tour we travel from Broome to Perth through Western Australia's typical outback country. Rugged ancient landscapes including Karijini National Park, Mt Augustus, and the Kennedy Ranges, are not easy locations to get to, but are well worth the journey. This 12-day tour is an ideal way to explore all three in one go, and to top it off, the trip has been timed to coincide with WA's spectacular northern wildflower season. Finally, enjoy the ease and relaxed pace of 'Easy Camping' – no more setting up tents at the end of the day, instead they will be ready and waiting for you!



### WA Outback Expedition

**15-Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 11 September 2024 - Maximum of 6 participants**

This outback expedition follows two tracks built by Len Beadell, considered by many to be the 'last real Australian Explorer'. His outback 'highways', the Connie Sue and Anne Beadell, pass through remote areas along the western side of the Great Victoria Desert, and provide opportunities to discover unique arid zone plants, wildlife, and landscapes. Additionally, two days will be spent at the Eyre Bird Observatory, a favourite amongst bird watchers, and two days following the Granite Woodlands Trail, which passes through one of the most extensive temperate woodlands left in the world.



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

Ph: 1800 676 016 or 08 9330 6066 - Web: [www.coateswildlifetours.com.au](http://www.coateswildlifetours.com.au) - Email: [info@coateswildlifetours.com.au](mailto:info@coateswildlifetours.com.au)