



Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and
Macrozamia communis Burrawang

Australian Plants Society South East NSW Group

Newsletter number 103
January 2015

Contacts: President, Margaret Lynch, yaraan@southernphone.com.au
Secretary, Michele Pymble, mishpymble@gmail.com
Newsletter editor, John Knight, johnonvista49@outlook.com

Next Meeting
SATURDAY 7th February 2015

Bush walk and social day.

To begin the year, our first event will be easy strolls at a couple of local bushland areas.

We will meet at 10.30am at the picnic area at Bodalla Park, a forested area situated off the Princes Highway, about 6km north of Narooma.

Travelling south, the turnoff is on the left, just past the Brou Lake turnoff. From Narooma, the park is on your right, about 2km past the Dalmeny turnoff.

After morning tea we will take a walk around Mummaga Lake, observing the different plants and forest types, then return to the picnic area for lunch.

Following lunch we will drive to the Box Cutting rainforest walk, where we will stroll among the shady gullies, learning more about plants which inhabit the rainforest. As parking is limited at the rainforest area, we will pool vehicles. Arrangements for this will be decided at lunch.

Bodalla Park has just recently re-opened after some maintenance work, but you might do well to bring along a chair and even a small picnic table just in case.

Please bring morning tea and lunch. Also comfortable walking shoes, hat and whatever else you might need to ensure you enjoy the day.

Committee news.



President's message

Happy New Year to all APS SE NSW members and best wishes for a successful year in your gardens.

After a wonderful spring here on the coast home gardens and plants out in the bush are still flourishing, with storms topping up the spring rainfall. I hope you are all enjoying a similar great growing season.

Your committee is working on a varied program for the year ahead with guest speakers, garden visits and propagation workshops a feature at the general meetings to be held every 2nd month. The months in between these meetings will comprise trips to our forests and national parks to identify and learn more about the diverse flora of our region. We're enthusiastic about the outlook for our society in 2015 and we look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

You too can participate in the programs by letting a committee member know of any favourite flora spots. The South East is such a large area, so a bit of local knowledge would be an immense help and we'd love to share interesting spots with the group.

The first of our meetings for the year will look at the forest bordering Mummaga Lake and an example of temperate rainforest. Both chosen in expectation of a cool walk! Hope to see you there.

Margaret Lynch

Membership Report

Our group currently has 88 members, 26 of whom are in joint memberships.

Probably owing to holiday distractions, some of my reminders sent out in December have been overlooked and we do have 16 memberships that are overdue for renewal. Please contact me (membership officer) if you have any queries concerning your membership.

Jenny John

Next Committee meeting.

Your committee meets next on 20th January.

If you have any issues or ideas, any of the committee would appreciate your input.

See the committee contact details at the end of this newsletter.

The committee is also seeking assistance from our members in the Bega Valley Shire area.

If the group is to function satisfactorily for all members, we need some liaison with members from the south. We are hoping one or two members will offer to consult with the committee from time to time in arranging activities which would benefit all members. Please consider whether you might assist the group in this way. Any support would be welcome.

EDSS IT'S SHOW TIME

Our Group sponsors the Native Plant section at both the local shows at Moruya and Bega. The committee urges all members to put an entry or two, or more at either or both shows, to promote the value of growing Australian plants. It is worth mentioning that members have been successful exhibitors at past shows, but we need more entries to highlight our plants. There is always a huge range of roses, geraniums and other exotics vying for the attention of visitors, and there is no reason why we shouldn't put on an equally impressive show.

The classes in which we display are Australian Native flowers and Australian Native foliage. The classes are the same for both shows.

Details on how to enter, and show dates are listed below.

EUROBODALLA DISTRICT ANNUAL SHOW

The dates for the **2015 Eurobodalla District Show** are **Saturday 24th** and **Sunday 25th** of **January 2015**. The Gates open at 9.00 am to close.

The Show is held at the Moruya Showground which is situated in Albert St, Moruya, NSW. There are entrances in Albert St and also through the Pink gates which is on the corner of Vulcan and Murray Sts.

CONTACT INFO

SECRETARY'S PHONE: (02) 4474 3980 FAX: (02) 4474 3724

PLEASE ENSURE YOU CHECK THE TIME AND DATE YOUR ENTRY FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY, FOR THAT APPLICABLE SECTION

ALL ENTRY FORMS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

**The Secretary, EDSS Inc, PO Box 1, Moruya NSW 2537, or Faxed to 4474 3724
or delivered to the Secretary's Office at Moruya Showground
or Emailed to eurobodallashow@live.com.au by THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2015**

FLOWERS SECTION ; SECRETARY: MARY ATKINSON 02 4474 2695 for any enquiries

ENTRY FORMS:

Entry Forms must be filled out in duplicate (a copy will be returned to you). The original copy must be lodged for exhibits in all Pavilion Sections by the closing date (see above). Retain the copy for collection of your exhibits.

Please submit Entry Forms as early as possible to allow time for processing of exhibit tickets.

Exhibit tickets may be collected during office hours, in the week before the Show.

EXHIBITS TO BE IN BY: 10 am Friday 23rd January 2015

ENTRY FEE: \$1.00 per class

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

LIMIT OF FIVE (5) ENTRIES PER PERSON PER CLASS

Plant material should be fresh and free from disease, blemishes and other damage

DEFINITIONS:

FOLIAGE: The leaves of any plant, or stems bearing only leaves

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS - Exhibitors in the Flower Section may obtain special exhibit vases from the Secretary's Office. Please advise stewards of the number required before judging day. There is a limit of 10 vases per exhibitor.

SECTION: H1 - CUT FLOWERS - NOT ROSES OR DAHLIAS

H1.10 Australian native flowers, three or more cuts, any variety, in one container

H1.11 Australian native foliage, three or more cuts, any variety, in one container

BEST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE FLOWER (H1.10) Sponsored by the Australian Plants Society SE NSW.

Prize: 1st - \$10.00; 2nd - \$5.00

BEST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE FOLIAGE (H1.11) Sponsored by the Australian Plants Society SE NSW.

Prize: 1st - \$10.00; 2nd - \$5.00



BEGA A P & H SOCIETY INC
142nd Far South Coast
National Show

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 20th SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 21st SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 22nd 2015

Section 16 - Flowers

AN ENTRY FORM MUST BE LODGED WITH THE SECRETARY BEFORE 4PM ON THE WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SHOW.

DELIVERY OF EXHIBITS – SEE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

SHOW FLOWERS

Exhibits will be named as varieties with scientific or individual common name.

Apart from card collars on show, blooms on trays, blooms and stems must be exhibited without bands, wire, or any other form of artificial support.

Only the specified number of blooms to be exhibited.

Exhibits shall not compete in more than one class, excepting that only a bloom in any one class is also eligible for championship honours.

All flowers to be ready for judging by 10am on the first day of Show. Collection means six blooms, not less than three distinct colours.

Classes 107 & 108 sponsored by Australian Native Plants Society SE NSW 1st \$10, 2nd \$5

107 Australian Native Flowers - 3 or more cuts

108 Australian Native Foliage - 3 or more cuts

Contact:

Narelle Griffin, Secretary Phone - 0427 921 452

PO Box 1060, Bega, 2550

Phone: 02 6492 1450

Fax: 02 6492 4581

Visit our website - www.begashow.asn.au

Email: begashowsecretary@hotmail.com

Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens upcoming activities

Fund raiser Trivia Night at the Malua Bay Bowls Club
Saturday 21 February 2015, 7:00 pm

How to Book

The Trivia Night area within the Malua Bay Bowls Club has room for 12 tables each seating 8 people. Seats are \$10:00 per person, \$80 for a table of 8.

- Contact a Table Captain, Here are the contact details of Table Captains who have volunteered so far:
Fran Anderson 042 758 0533 dereka48@bigpond.com
Sybil Buchanan 041 982 5220 sybil.buchanan@gmail.com
Bob James 4471 1173 verily1920@yahoo.com.au
Heather Haughton 4471 3271 h@haughton.id.au
- Leave your name and payment, \$10.00, at the Visitors Centre and we will allocate a seat to you
- Arrange your own table of 8 people and pay \$80:00 at the Visitors Centre

The Trivia Night will feature a Silent Auction and a Raffle. It would be lovely to receive donated goods for the Silent Auction hamper collections titled *Death by Chocolate*, *Green Fingers*, and *Morning Coffee*, but not till *the last week of January*. Please look out for further information by e-mail.

Twilight Picnic and Film Night
Friday 23 January 2015 at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

Bran Nue Dae, starring Geoffrey Rush, Deborah Mailman, Jessica Mauboy, Rocky McKenzie, Ernie Dingo. Set on the west coast of Australia, *Bran Nue Dae* is a road movie, coming of age, comedy musical which celebrates the adventure of finding home.

Gates open 6:30 pm, film at 8:30. Last entry 8:00 pm.

BYO picnic, something to sit on, mozzie repellent. Sausage sizzle and soft drinks on sale 6:30 – 7:30.

Cost \$5:00 per person or \$10:00 for a family (up to two adults and all children under 15); pay at entry, cash only.

If it rains there will be limited cover under a marquee.

Saturday 31 January, the Friends summer quarterly meeting at the Gardens, which is the BYO everything Barbecue at 5:00 pm.

Contact Heather Haughton for more information on any of the activities h@haughton.id.au or ph.02 4471 3271

Free to good home

APS NSW Region has a mostly complete set of Native Plants and two sets of Australian Plants available. If anybody wants these copies can they contact the office, otherwise they will be disposing of them in late January/ early February.

Contact Sharlene Cormack

Office Administrator Australian Plants Society

Phone: 9631 4085 Email: office@austplants.com.au

P.O. Box 5026 Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

Office Hours Wednesday 9.00am til 3.00pm

Also, **Lynn and Geoff Dabbs** are clearing out their gardening bookshelves. There are a number of publications which members might be interested in.

Bound copies of "Australian Plants" volumes 3-9 and individual magazines for volumes 10-12 and half of 13

"A Horticultural Guide to Australian Plants" Sets 1-7 which was produced by SGAP (Qld Region)

NSW Newsletter for SGAP volumes 13-21.

"Growing Native Plants" volumes 1-13 produced by the Canberra Botanic Gardens.

Most people may use online data for much of their reference information these days but if anyone would like these various publications, they would prefer to give them away rather than throw them in the recycling bin.

emailto:contactlynn.geoff@gmail.com or ph. 0408 214 669

The Practical Pages

Propagation by cuttings John Knight

December through to April or May presents ideal conditions to propagate new plants. Spring growth has hardened sufficiently in most woody species, and herbaceous plants are bursting with energy.

In grandmother's day, it seemed everyone was sharing 'slips' as cuttings of soft wooded plants were known. There was a simple joy in producing new plants from these pieces. It seems that in recent years, less and less people have experienced the wonder of making a new plant from such slips, and therefore are missing one of the great aspects of gardening.

There is no secret to propagation, but there is science which if understood can lead to great results. However, much success can be had without knowing the science, but I will offer some, interspersed through the articles just in case you might be interested.



When considering propagation by cuttings, the conditions in which the cuttings are kept is important.

The best strike rate is recorded if the cuttings can be kept in a turgid state.

This requires protection from hot sun and wind, a moist and humid atmosphere, and good drainage.

As a start for those undertaking the process for the first time, a simple propagation set up can be constructed from a lidded polystyrene box. The best size to use I find, is a broccoli box, readily obtained for a small amount from a fruit store.

To prepare the box for use, the centre section of the lid is cut away, and replaced by clear or opaque plastic sheeting. It is wise also to reinforce the box by applying heavy tape around its perimeter and under the bottom so that box does not break when being moved.

In the base of the box, place a 50mm layer of clean coarse sand as a water reservoir. This can be kept wet to provide humidity. I prefer to put cuttings into small pots, and nestle these pots into sand to allow for wicking of moisture into the cutting mix. The pots I use are 50mm square, bottomless, and 70mm high. You can use any clean container, but best results in this set up are pots 100mm high or less. Into each of these you can put 4 – 6 cuttings.

The photo at right shows the type of pots suggested, the cutting mix including perlite (the large white pieces) and a pot with cuttings in place, labeled. In the back is a thermometer which is inserted into the base sand to record the temperature at the base of the cuttings



For cutting mix, the tried and tested 3 parts coarse sand and one part peat moss, coco peat or vermiculite has proved successful for decades. Because sand is heavy and the propagation box might need to be moved at times, I have been using a mix including 50% horticultural perlite to reduce weight. Be aware though, there may be a problem in doing this, as if the perlite is crushed when setting the cuttings, the mix might become too wet, and the cuttings base might rot.

Experimenting with different mixes will prove valuable, but until you gain some experience, it might be best to stick with the recipe which has given good results over a long time.

Selecting cutting material.

It is important that only clean plant growth, free of defects, is used for cuttings. Once the material is placed in the propagation box, any damaged material will quickly rot and spread infection to other cuttings due to the high moisture and humidity within the closed box.

Soft wood cuttings might be thought of as referring to herbaceous material. I prefer to use the term soft wood cuttings to represent the recently hardened, current season growth of woody shrubs. The opposite to that is hard wood cuttings, referring, in European terms, to the use of material from deciduous plants which are heading to their dormant winter state.

In Australian plants, **hard wood cuttings** would, for me refer to last year's growth, the wood of which has firmed so that if bent would fracture.

In selecting cutting material, the best results in my experience, is gained by using wood which is flexible. To test the suitability of wood, take a piece about 100mm long, and gently bend the tip to the base. The material, when released, should spring back to straight. If it breaks, the wood could be considered too hard, but this should not mean that the material is unsuitable. Personal experience will be the best teacher in this regard. Should the wood remain limp however, it is too soft. In this case you might consider removing the softer tips, and using instead a section of material lower on the stem. The reason for doing this is that soft material often wilts quickly and can cause fungal growth in the propagation house. Commercial growers can of course overcome the problems associated with using soft material by using fog or mist to keep the tips from wilting. Home propagators do not usually have such sophisticated equipment.

Whilst there is no law which says a **cutting should be of a particular size**, it might be best to experiment with cutting length to find the optimum which suits your conditions.

This picture shows from the left

1. *Thryptomene saxicola* lateral shoot with heel attached
2. *Thryptomene saxicola* tip cutting
3. *Callistemon subulatus*, with short internodes Some leaves have been shortened to reduce moisture loss.
4. *Correa* "Federation Belle" Note the angled cut at the base of the cutting to expose more cambium layer, and the long internodes, so that the cutting is substantially longer than others.
5. Herbaceous *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* with the soft tip removed



The cuttings are shown at actual size

For plants which have many leaves close together, such as Epacris and Thryptomene, cuttings need only be 30 – 50mm long. With Grevillea, the space between the leaves, known as the internodal length, can be 25 to 100mm, so the cuttings might need to be up to 200mm long. At this time of the year, the shorter you make the cuttings the better, as moisture loss from the stems is reduced. I prefer to use cuttings with 4 – 6 nodes (nodes are where the leaves join the stem, and from which axillary buds develop), so for plants like Correa, the cuttings might be 100mm or more in length, and for Westringia only 50 – 70mm long. The reason I prefer to have 4 nodes or more is that it is usually from the nodes that roots will form, so putting at least 2 nodes into the cutting mix gives a better chance of roots developing. Above the mix, 2 nodes will hold 2 axillary buds which will shoot to produce a better balanced plant, whereas if only 1 node can produce a shoot, the plant might grow lopsided.

Achieving initial success in propagation will surely whet your appetite to go further. Might I suggest that you firstly try some easy plants, such as the daisies, Brachycome multifida, Rhodanthe anthemoides (available as Paper Baby), Chrysocephalum apiculatum, smaller Myrtaceae such as Callistemon and Leptospermum, Correa glabra and C. reflexa, Dampiera diversifolia and D. trigona, Westringia fruticosa forms and W. glabra forms. All of these will root fairly reliably without the use of hormones. The use of hormone treatment will be discussed in a later article.

Where to place your propagation box.

Due to the small size of the box, it will heat up very quickly if placed in the sun, causing the cuttings to wilt. At this time of the year it is best to be shaded even from morning sun. It could be placed under a tree, or on the south side of the house where it gets good even light but no direct sun. As the weather cools, the box can be exposed to morning sun, but never full sun.

The cuttings will be kept warm and moist, and root initiation for these easier to root plants will be fairly rapid at this time. If too much condensation appears on the plastic top, the top can be left ajar for a period to allow some moisture to escape. Beware of slugs and snails which might find their way to the box, and take advantage of a loose lid. With this set up, the cuttings will only need a light spray daily, and a quick inspection to remove any leaves which have turned black due to too much water.

Why not give propagation a try.

In the next article I will discuss the preparation of cuttings in more detail, and offer some tips to help you achieve successful results.

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| President, | Margaret Lynch | Ph 0408 447 678 | e. yaraan@southernphone.com.au |
| Secretary, | Michele Pymble | Ph 02 4473 8587 | e. mishpymble@gmail.com |
| Minute Sec., | Amanda Marsh | Ph 0421 426 366 | e. mohippoly@gmail.com |
| Treasurer, | John Knight | Ph 0434 674 347 | e. johnnonvista49@outlook.com |
| Membership | Jenny John | Ph 02 4476 3576 | e. peteandjenny.john@gmail.com |
| Publicity | Jillian Peck | Ph 0421 432 953 | e. jpeck88@gmail.com |

Website can accessed by searching the APS NSW website, and access the South East NSW Group. You are then redirected to our website host thebegavalley.org.

Once work is complete on our new site, access will be simply through APS NSW, where a direct link takes you to our pages.