



Australian Plants Society

South East NSW Group

Newsletter 121

August 2016

Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and
Macrozamia communis Burrawang

Contacts: President, Margaret Lynch,
Secretary, Michele Pymble,
Newsletter editor, John Knight,

yaraan@southernphone.com.au
mishpymble@gmail.com
johnonvista49@outlook.com

Next Meeting

Grasslands,

a joint meeting with Friends of Grasslands

Saturday September 3rd 2016 10.00am

Meet at the home of Carolyn and Mark Noake

Glendeuart, North of Moruya (details page 2)

Sunday September 4th 2016 10.00am

Meet at Bodalla, outside the Police Station on the highway

The weekend has been arranged by APS member **Jenny Liney**, who after retiring, undertook a botany degree majoring in Grasses at the University of New England. Well known to members through her informative articles in our newsletter and other publications, Jenny has for over 20 years been Curator of the Herbarium at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens.

Joining with Jenny over the weekend is the widely respected consultant botanist, Jackie Miles, also a prominent APS member. Jackie has completed many surveys of our local forests and grassland remnants, and is widely published. She authored 2 important articles, "Plant communities of the Far South Coast", and "Gardening with Grassy Woodland Plants" in the edition of Australian Plants, featuring the flora of South East NSW, edited by Bob Ross, and published as Volume 24, No 195 June 2008. Her intimate knowledge of the flora of this area of NSW will benefit greatly those attending either or both days. Jenny and Jackie are FOG members, very knowledgeable of the many plant species found in grassy ecosystems. They will share their knowledge of the many attractive plants found in these ecosystems.

The following introduction is from **Geoff Robertson**, a former FOG president and an enthusiastic supporter of grassy ecosystems.

When White settlement spread out after 1788, particularly beyond the Cumberland Plain, it encountered natural temperate, highly fertile and biodiverse grasslands, with a diversity of grasses and wildflowers. These grasslands became the backbone of the pastoral industry. Similarly, grassy woodlands, much like the grasslands but with a scattering of trees and shrubs, were also grazed. Over time these grasslands and grassy woodlands were degraded and largely destroyed. Now about one percent of these grasslands and less than five percent of grassy woodlands remain. Remnants of grasslands and grassy woodlands can be found along the coast, and over this weekend APS members and Friends of Grasslands (FOG) members will visit some of these remnants which were previously visited a few years ago, to observe changes as management of the reserves has evolved to a more sympathetic structure.



Photo by Tom Dexter of a healthy Themeda grassy headland. Not so sure about the Norfolk Island Pines though

In November 1994 FOG commenced supporting natural temperate grasslands in south-eastern Australia, and later grassy woodlands. FOG undertakes a number of activities, including advocating to protect and manage important remnants of these vegetation communities, and in some cases carries out on-ground work especially removing weeds.

On Saturday morning, after a relaxing morning tea, Geoff will say a few words on FOG's history and explain why these threatened ecosystems remain important. The group will discuss the regenerating grassy areas of Carolyn and Mark's garden, before heading to the old Glendeuart cemetery area where we will be met by **Courtney Fink-Downes**, who as an employee of Eurobodalla Shire Council, has been managing the regeneration of this site for a number of years. Courtney will speak about her role, and then pass over to Jenny and Jackie who will describe the flora of the area. As Jackie points out, grassy areas are not just about grasses, but many more species of plants, particularly forbs, are important characters in the formation of grasslands. Back to Carolyn and Mark's for lunch, then a drive to **Bingie Headland** for the afternoon, where Jackie will highlight the many plants making up this important landscape.

On Sunday, Jenny will outline plans before we travel from Bodalla to **Jemisons Point**, followed by a drive towards **Dalmeny** and **Kianga** looking at other headlands, where the importance of these remnant communities will be discussed.

This will be a busy, productive and informative weekend, and members are sure to come away with renewed appreciation of the role these small sections of grassland play now, and how their preservation will ensure a diversity of both plant and animal communities into the future.

To get to Carolyn and Mark's, travelling from Batemans Bay and other points north, along the Princes Highway towards Moruya, turn right off the highway at Larry's Mountain Road, which is just 1km south of the North Moruya industrial area in Shelley Rd. From the south, Larry's Mountain Rd is the first turn left off the Princes Highway after leaving Moruya. Once on Larry's Mountain Rd, travel 1km and turn left on Glendeuart Grove, and continue for about 800m to the next corner on your left (Maclean Place). Our venue, 20 Glendeuart Grove, is on this corner. You can tell you have arrived when you come to a native garden with tall Eucalypts and other obvious clues, and the APS sign will be put out just in case.

As always, on both days, bring morning tea and lunch, and a chair. Wear suitable footwear, and as Spring will have sprung, a sunhat might be a wise inclusion. Enjoy the strolls. And the views



President's Message

In the garden and in the bush there are the familiar signs that spring is not far away with acacias, hardenbergia and hovea bursting into flower.

And with spring comes that urge for activity, renewal and rejuvenation.... but not only in the garden!

Your committee also needs some renewal in the form of new members! Some current members of the committee will not be seeking re-election at the AGM in October.

Our current committee of six have thoroughly enjoyed putting together a program of activities through which we have endeavoured to promote the benefits of growing Australian plants. But new heads contributing fresh ideas always help keep a group such as ours alive and interesting to members.

So what's involved?

Formal positions are: president, secretary (also currently a minutes secretary), treasurer, membership officer and publicity officer. It would also be nice to have extra committee members.

The present committee has based the group around monthly activities as it was felt that was what most interested members. To organise the activities and discuss any regional matters the committee usually meets informally over a cuppa about once every month or two, unless matters can be dealt with via email.

The focus of the group and the number of both general and committee meetings is subject to change by any future committee. To be on the committee no plant expertise is required just an enthusiasm for Australian plants and a desire to promote their use and conservation. Nomination forms can be found at the end of this newsletter so please nominate yourself or another member in time for the AGM. Worried about finding a seconder? Don't be, there will be plenty willing at the next activities....

The present committee already has lots of ideas to share for the year ahead. But with the ranks about to be depleted it is time to step up, become more involved and enjoy being part of a friendly committee sharing a love for Australian plants. The continued viability of the south east group depends on you!

Please call me to discuss the possibilities and prospects for the future of the Australian Plants Society in South East NSW.

Margaret Lynch

Spring, Hay Fever and Wattles!

So many wattles are now bursting with blossom, and sneezing, runny noses are common at this time of the year. So putting 2 and 2 together we come up with 5. Wattle must be the cause of our ailment.

In Australian Plants, Vol 25, No. 203, (pp 282-287) APS member **Dr. John Nevin**, MB BS FRACP, at the time Adjunct Associate Professor School of Rural Medicine, University of New England published an extensive article "Wattles and allergies" explaining why Wattles should not be thought of as "that detestable group of plants that plays havoc with my sinuses and lungs". Wattle pollen is relatively heavy, so falls to the ground rather than floating around, getting up our noses. For more information, a web search on "wattles and allergies" results in many articles backing John's evidence. So in defence of Wattles, promise yourself to plant one or two in your own garden.

Thanks to Margaret for researching this reference.



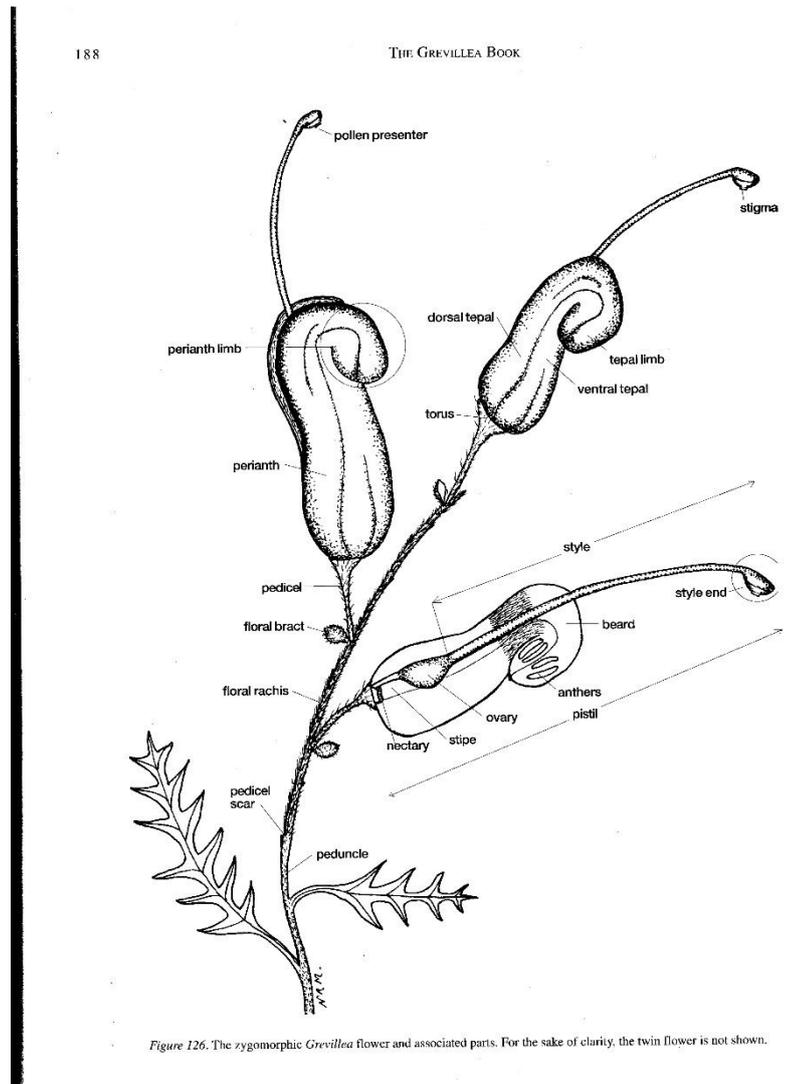
Report on last meeting by John Knight Grevilleas

On a pleasant winter day, quite a crowd descended on the Glendeuart home and garden of Carolyn and Mark Noake to learn about the local species of *Grevillea*. But first things first, morning tea in the sunshine, with freshly baked rock cakes courtesy of Carolyn, and Jenny John's Chocolate Brownies, well remembered from previous meetings.

We assembled to hear from Mark how to best to access the Southeast Group's website, southeast.austplants.com.au and discover the information about our group, and link to many other sites which would benefit members. Those present were amazed how easy it was to negotiate the site and discover the wealth of information available.

Then followed a simple illustrated explanation of the plant features used by botanists when identifying *Grevilleas*. Firstly the *Grevillea* flower was discussed, using the excellent illustration from "The *Grevillea* Book" Vol 1 by Peter Olde and Neil Marriott, which describes the various parts of *Grevillea* flowers with succinct detail.

Mark followed on with some close-ups of flower parts which he had photographed using his digital camera attached to a frame from an old film enlarger, shown below with a *Grevillea* flower projected onto the computer screen.



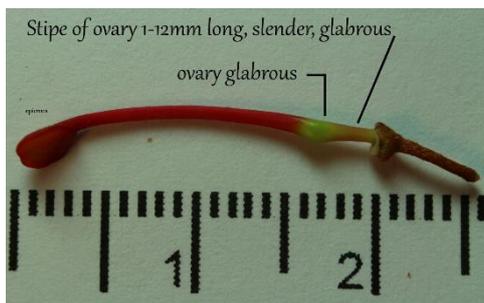
A series of close up shots illustrated parts of the flower in great detail, bringing life and recognition to the drawing. Mark worked through a range of pictures which held answers to the questions posed as he worked through a key which he has adapted from the Flora of NSW Vol 2

We wondered at the diligent persistence with which Mark turned a book page into an interactive presentation which we could skip through, both forwards and in reverse, to check that we selected the correct choice in "keying out" a plant.

Mark said he designed this key as a train timetable, using coloured line to join the selections to a plant name

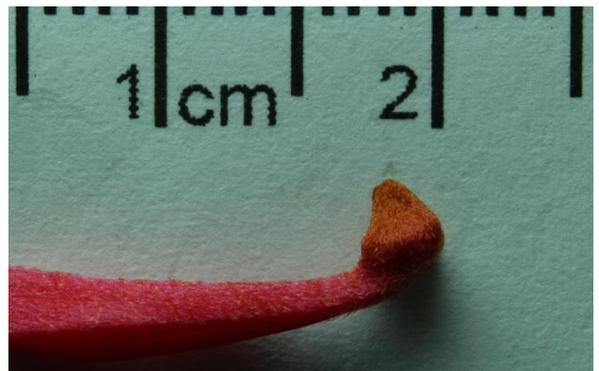


KEY TO GROUPS	
1 Ovary with hairs.	
2 Leaves EITHER entire and linear, 6–30 cm long, 1–2 mm wide, OR 2–10-partite with similarly long and narrow lobes; margins of leaves revolute, enclosing all or nearly all of the lower surface (except for the midvein).	GROUP 1
2* Leaves entire, or toothed or divided; variously shaped, if entire leaves or ultimate lobes linear then <6 cm long and/or >3 mm wide and/or the undersurface exposed on either side of the midvein.	
3 Inner surface of perianth glabrous.	GROUP 2
3* Inner surface of perianth with few to many hairs.	GROUP 3
1* Ovary glabrous.	
4 Stipe of ovary short (<1.5 mm long), and swollen, almost as wide as ovary, and with a tuft of hairs on the ventral side.	GROUP 4
4* Stipe of ovary 1–12 mm long, slender, glabrous.	
5 Conflorescences paniculately several- to many-branched, or rarely simple or basally 1–4-branched; unit conflorescences long-cylindrical or long-secund.	GROUP 5
5* Conflorescences simple, or basally 1–3-branched; unit conflorescences regular-umbelloid or shortly and broadly secund or a loose short cluster.	
6 Gynoecium >23 mm long.	GROUP 6
6* Gynoecium ≤23 mm long.	
7 Gynoecium 14–23 mm long.	GROUP 7
7* Gynoecium <14 mm long.	GROUP 8



These pictures illustrate a single Grevillea flower, On the left is a naked *G. epicroca* flower showing the glabrous ovary

Lower left is the very hairy limb of *G. rhyolitica* and below right the distinct pyramidal shaped limb of *G. oxyantha*





Tepals coherent over their basal third to half, independently re-coiled or recurved above, on either side of the gynoecium, the ventral pair more strongly re-coiled than the dorsal pair; hairs on the inner perianth surface not displayed.

Mark described anthesis, which is when the tightly held style is released as the tepals roll back to reveal the pollen attached to their inner surface. This picture shows the tepals of *G. rhyolitica* with the 2 rear ones reflexed but the 2 front ones more strongly recoiled.

Tepals is a term botanists use to describe the perianth parts of a flower when these cannot be easily identified as petals and sepals.

The degree of hairiness, on both the inner and outer surface of the tepals, and on the ovary, is a key point to note when trying to distinguish the many species which were once included within the *G. victoriae* group



Conflorescences simple, or basally 1-3 branched; unit conflorescences regular-umbelloid or shortly and broadly secund or a loose cluster.

Grevillea flowers are arranged in groups or clusters known as conflorescences. These may comprise a few to many flowers and be borne on one or more rachis.

How the flowers are arranged on the rachis is also a clue to help determining its species



Grevillea epicroca 3 stages of flower development Before anthesis (note the style protruding through the rear of the perianth) At anthesis, when the tepals roll back to reveal the pollen and finally the tepals removed to reveal a naked style with the stigma just below the number 4 on the scale, the green ovary, and the greenish disk of the nectary sitting atop the torus (refer to the Grevillea drawing at the start of this article)

Mark worked through a range of local Grevilleas, describing their features and differences, and despite the nature of the presentation, not one snore was heard, nor one body fall from a chair. As a teacher in a previous life, Mark had a few tricks to keep us alert. Throwing the duster was not one of them.

On completion of this activity, members were ushered back into the garden to enjoy lunch in the sunshine, accompanied by a range of chattering, twittering and in some cases noisy, birds. (Rainbow lorikeets had decided to join us just in case some titbits were on offer)

After a pleasant lunch, President Margaret called the group to order, and offered members the opportunity to discuss their treasured plants in our regular “show and tell” session. Not surprisingly, many had brought along Grevilleas, showing that as a group we have quite a range growing in the various gardens. This whet the appetite for what was to follow in the extensive garden of Carolyn and Mark.

Christina Kennedy displayed a plant which many knew, but none could remember the name of. Luckily the answer was provided later in the day when she spied a plant in the garden with a label still attached.

Good work Carolyn! The cultivar *Grevillea* “Bonfire”, a cross between *G. johnsonii* and *G. wilsonii* has been around for a good while, and has been widely grown. It is a shrubby plant to 2m or more, with somewhat prickly leaves, courtesy of *G. wilsonii*, and brilliant red flowers well displayed through winter and spring.



As always, Jenny John can be relied upon to bring some unusual plants along, and did not disappoint with her choice spray of Grevillea. Jenny has a good selection of plants in her sprawling garden, and many no longer available in nurseries. We are indeed lucky that keen growers like her keep some of the older varieties alive, such as the exquisite *Grevillea flexuosa* she is displaying.

Margaret’s new garden is quite a deal smaller than that on the Wagonga inlet, so she has to restrict her plants to those smaller forms. She delighted the group with a range of *Grevillea alpina* cultivars which are performing ideally in well drained soil in her new garden. It was noted that *G. alpina* forms have proved unreliable in more humid conditions, and would prefer a drier site with some overhead protection to survive for a number of seasons.

Jenny Vine brought along some tubestock of *Graptophyllum excelsum*. This is a rainforest plant of eastern Queensland ranges, this has proved adaptable as far south as Melbourne. In cultivation it grows as a multi-stemmed shrub with glossy green foliage and a brilliant display of bright red tubular flowers during spring and summer. Although best flowering is achieved in full sun, plants prefer a sheltered site, where they will cope with dryness once established. Curiously few members took up the offer of a plant.

Maybe we are getting too used to Bunnings style gardens. If we are not careful that might be the only place we can procure plants.

Our role as Australian Plants Society members is to grow as broad a range of plants as we can.



Photo by Keith Townsend, from the ASGAP site 'Australian Plants Online'

The group by now was keen to get to the garden, comprising three and a half acres of Australian plants in a setting inspired by open grassy woodlands.



Old and new gardens

Photo Mark Noake

Recent garden bed development has been extensive to accommodate their growing collection of Grevilleas and other Australian plants. Members were enthralled at the range of plants growing happily in well drained soils derived from granite. Drainage is managed mainly using above ground swales to divert heavy rainfall to a dam and away from garden beds. The swales are shallow and not perceptible but do their job well.



After another day in the garden. Carolyn's colourful collection. At least she can't lose them ! Photo Jillian Peck



Mark responds to questions about some recent plantings Photo Jillian Peck



A treasured and rare Grevillea maccutcheonii Photo Mark

It took quite some time to drag everyone away from the gardens, but the clock was heading towards evening as we assembled once again on the front lawn to thank our hosts. The head gardener can be proud of her work in recent weeks to get the garden in tip top shape. Mark assured us that he is not allowed to help. The time he spent, some days actually, in researching and preparing the computer graphics for this meeting, was warmly applauded. Our hosts were presented with a bottle of fine Australian wine, little reward, but nonetheless appreciated that night. Hopefully all attending went home enthused to try some new Grevilleas in their own garden.

Committee news

APS South East NSW Group 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The inaugural meeting of the APS South East NSW Group was held in May, 1997 and as part of our 20th Anniversary celebrations the Committee has considered holding a Quarterly Get-together for NSW members.

The committee is seeking support from any of our APS members who would like to join a working group to explore the feasibility of holding this activity. The intention would be to then tackle the implementation. Some members of the existing Committee have offered their assistance, but more help will be needed to ensure a suitably grand celebration.

We have tentatively pencilled in the weekend of September 29th to October 1st 2017

You might find this such an enjoyable exercise that you would then consider nominating at our next AGM to join the Committee.

For further information call John Knight 0434674347 - email: johnonvista49@outlook.com

Future activities

Your committee continues to work on an evolving program of interesting meetings for this year, activities which will hopefully add to our knowledge of Australian plants, and encouraging all members to get involved.

October 8 AGM Meeting at Horse Island Special Guest Speaker is Professor Simon Haberle Director of the School of Culture History and Language Australian National University

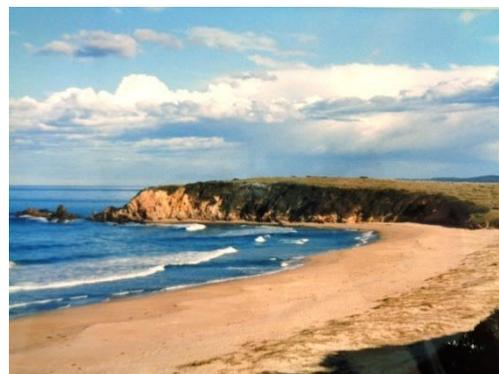
November 5 Garden visit to Cliff Williams property, and driving Western Distributor Road looking at spring flowers

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



Jemison Headland with Mt Dromedary in the distance, and the invitation from Jemison Beach to enjoy its peaceful location on Sunday 4th September

Photos John Liney



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. johnonvista49@outlook.com

Membership Jenny John Ph 02 4476 3576 e. peteandjenny.john@gmail.com

Publicity Jillian Peck Ph 0421 432 953 e. jcpeck88@gmail.com

Website. southeast.austplants.com.au

