



Australian Plants Society South East NSW Group

Newsletter 122

September 2016

Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and
Macrozamia communis Burrawang

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Next Meeting

Saturday October 8th 2016 10.00am

**at Horse Island, the home and garden of
Christina and Trevor Kennedy (details page 2)**

Annual General Meeting

following which our Guest Speaker is

Professor Simon Haberle Director of the School of Culture, History and Language at the Australian National University

His topic “**Gardens, Pollen and Respiratory Health: What we know, What we don’t know and What we need to know about pollen and its impact on our daily lives**”, is certainly apt at this time of the year.

Pollen are microscopic grains that carry the essential genetic material from one plant to another in the reproductive process. The evolution of pollen is a remarkable story and involves the diversification of the shape and size of pollen grains to adapt to the many different modes of pollen transfer, whether it be the wind, bird or insects that help the pollen move. In his talk Simon will focus on the wind pollinated plants as many of these can cause hay fever or asthma in people, and are often found within our own gardens, as well as urban and rural landscapes.



Simon and the Burkart Sporewatcher

The Canberra Pollen Count and Forecast Project at the Australian National University (ANU) has been monitoring windborn pollen in the atmosphere over the past decade. The project has recently adopted a citizen science approach to enhance our understanding of the impact of allergic rhinitis on people through an interactive app (Canberra pollen). Initial results from this project show a strong correlation between the amount of grass pollen and people suffering from allergic rhinitis during the spring and summer flowering season. We also know that there are many other pollen types that trigger allergic reactions and a compilation of a new Canberra Pollen Calendar shows the duration and peak periods for the top allergenic plants in the ACT.

In this talk Simon will discuss the latest initiatives to extend our pollen monitoring program to other parts of Australia, and enhance the online information available to people who suffer from hay fever and asthma.

On the completion of Simon's presentation Christina will delight in introducing us to her just released book "Horse Island".

After lunch Christina will guide us around her extensive native garden, which at this time of the year is at its floral best.

The day will be jam packed with quality information and exquisite garden experiences. Surely an event not to be missed. As always, bring morning tea and lunch. Wear suitable footwear to enjoy strolling through the garden, and a sunhat might be wise. The committee look forward to seeing all members in attendance.



President's Message

After some much needed rain and the weather warming, more and more splashes of colour are appearing in the garden. Spring has arrived! Flowers en masse combining with the delicate shades of new growth give that feeling of vibrancy so much anticipated over the last days of winter. Such are the rewards of gardening. On a stunning spring day there is nothing better than to spend some time to sit, wander and enjoy what has been created. Then with renewed energy it's time to implement those plans and ideas mulled over during the colder months. Plus of course it's also time for propagating anew and planting out those treasures now ready to fill a space in the garden. And while talking of renewal... That also means your committee!

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.

Time for you to step up, and be a part of a keen and friendly committee with the shared interests of growing Australian plants at heart. 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.

Nomination forms can be found at the end of this newsletter so please nominate yourself or another member in time for the AGM.

See you at our AGM in the surrounds of the beautiful Horse Island gardens.

Margaret Lynch

Travelling to the meeting at Horse Island

From the south, turn right, off the Princes Highway at Potato Point Road.

From the north, turn left, off the Princes Highway at Potato Point Road.

Once on Potato Point Road, Horse Island Road is on your left, about 3.9km from the Highway.

On Horse Island Road, travel a further 3.8km to the entrance to Horse Island, where we will be met, at 10.00am and then proceed through the locked gate onto the property.

Members are asked respect the owners wishes, and be on time to allow for orderly access.

If you are delayed, please ring John Knight (0434 674 347) so Christina can be made aware.

Horse Island, the private retreat of Christina and Trevor Kennedy, sits tucked away in an estuary of Tuross Lake on the South Coast of NSW. To the west, softened by distance, are the mountains of the Great Dividing Range. To the east is the sea. But what is most surprising in this place of great natural beauty is the remarkable garden created by Christina, featuring only Australian indigenous plants.

‘The grand, all-shaping theme of Horse Island is the unfolding subtle beauty of the natural landscape, the pulses of light from carefully constructed vistas and the delight in finding banks and sweeps of native plants, many endemic to the area, which enhance the natural qualities of the Island.’

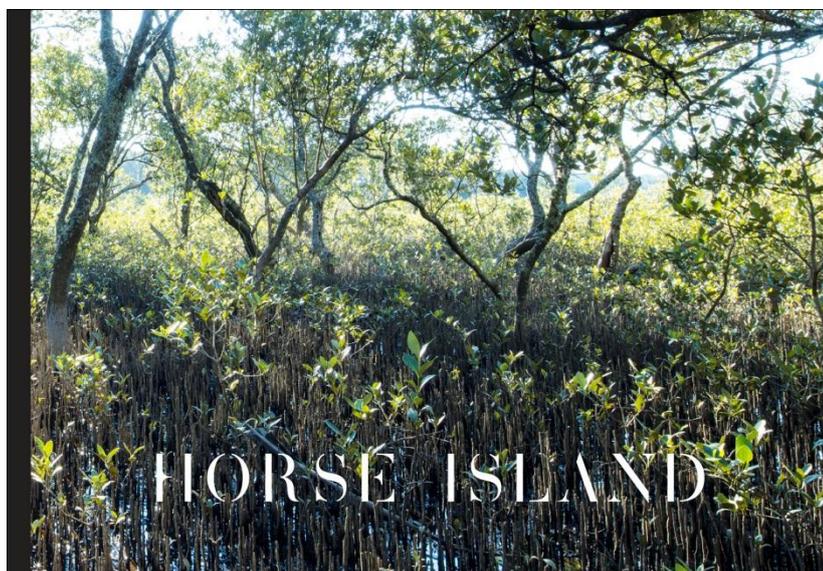
TRISHA DIXON

This great garden reveals itself gradually – as did Christina’s own passion in its creation. Gardens and gardening had always been around Christina, but were not in the foreground until she was faced with the mess and devastation of the landscape when she began her first building project on the island. A timely suggestion from a friend directed her towards native plants. Christina’s own desire to complement and enhance the existing natural beauty then took shape, forming the basis of her thinking and of all her designs.

To visit the Island is to engage with Christina’s passion, her knowledge and enthusiasm for Australian plants, and to hear her stories about all she has discovered including her mistakes and learning curves, during the long process of creating the garden.



The garden we know so well, full of colourful, well maintained and thriving Australian Plants



Twenty five years of passion for Australian plants have seen the creation of the gardens of Horse Island.

Christmas, or your next birthday, is not too far away. What better gift for yourself than a personally signed copy of Christina’s book. Maybe even an extra copy for a dear friend who loves Australian plants.

Books will be available at our meeting in October. Christina has offered us a special price of \$80 on the day. Bring your money !

Horse Island, the book, reflects Christina’s own desire to share the true magic of an extraordinary place. We walk beside her as she guides us around the island encouraging us to think differently about native plants and how they are used in a domestic situation.

It is the author’s own gardening story, her total zeal for and commitment to indigenous plants combined with gorgeous photography that creates this truly beautiful book.

Author Christina Kennedy
Photography Jason Busch
Essay Tricia Dixon
Contact Niki Zubrzycki
0415 390 699

zabriskiebooks@gmail.com

Available in hardback
Publication date 2016
200 pages, 340x245mm
ISBN 9780992401511
Price \$88

But wait, there's more !

Media Release

For more information, please contact:

Vanessa Bond, Media & Communications,
State Library of NSW
(02) 9273 1566, 0411 259 898,
vanessa.bond@sl.nsw.gov.au
www.sl.nsw.gov.au #dreamgarden

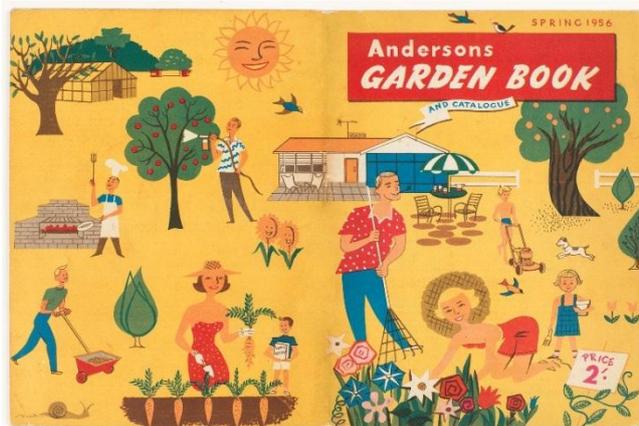


Two must-see exhibitions sure to bring you to your knees!

Like many passions, gardening can be an absorbing, satisfying and even addictive pursuit capable of stimulating all of our senses! No wonder so many Australians spend endless hours on their knees creating their dream garden.

According to NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive, Alex Byrne: “To celebrate the bicentenary of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, the State Library is thrilled to be staging two fascinating exhibitions that showcase the rich story of gardens and garden-making in Australia - *Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens* and *Grand Garden Designs* will open to the public on 3 September 2016.”

Garden historian and *Shaping Australian Gardens* curator Richard Aitken trawled through the State Library’s extensive collections and selected 150 rare, beautiful and quirky objects – spanning five centuries – to present the ideas and influences that have shaped the way we make, use, imagine and enjoy our gardens.



The "Anderson Garden Book and catalogue" 1956



Margaret Flockton "Broad leaf Wattle and Honey Flower", from Australian Wild Flowers Series 1, c1902-03

“Through the exhibition we trace the benefits of gardens and garden making back to the 15th century, when the medicinal virtues of ‘canapus’ were being extolled in a rare herbal now held in the Library’s collection,” says Richard.

“Gardens enrich us. They touch on the spiritual by offering a sort of mini paradise and reflect the cultural diversity of our population as it grows and changes.”

Some gardens can make us green with envy!

Grand Garden Designs features over 70 extraordinary images of the most magnificent contemporary gardens in NSW, captured by Australia's leading garden photographers.

The Library commissioned architect and writer Howard Tanner to survey large, innovative gardens in NSW that may have influenced 21st century landscape design in Australia. A number of these grand private gardens and public landscapes, created since the 1980s, will be on show in ***Grand Garden Designs***, including a famous Vaucluse estate 'The Hermitage', remarkable subtropical and mountain gardens in the north of the State, and a major country garden, 'Garangula' at Harden. Also on show is the special garden of Christina Kennedy, 'Horse Island' at Bodalla.

"The exhibition highlights recent trends including the beautiful use of meadow planting, the Japanese art of cloud pruning, innovative use of sculpture, mass planting of Australian natives, and the concept of borrowed landscapes," says Howard Tanner.

The exhibition marks the 50th anniversary of landscape architecture as a profession in Australia, and visitors can hear from top landscape designers sharing insights into their fascinating creative processes, sourcing rare and special plants and future garden design.

Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens and Grand Garden Designs
are free exhibitions at the State Library of NSW from
3 September 2016 to 15 January 2017.



Richard Aitken's stunning new book *Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens*

(NewSouth Publishing) is available from 1 September 2016.

Report on last meeting by Jenny Liney and Amanda Marsh Grasslands

Photos by Amanda

To the human race, probably one of the most important suite of plant species is that of grasses. Without grass, the diversity of life on earth would not exist. Many invertebrates eat grass (dead or alive), others use it as nesting material. Herbivorous animals eat grass; carnivores eat the herbivores that have eaten grass; and old grass enriches the soil during the process of decomposition.

Grasses are essential for life on Planet Earth. People eat grass seeds – wheat, oats, barley; use grass stems; eat meat that has eaten grass – cattle, sheep; and meat that has eaten grass seeds – pork, chook. For much of *Homo sapiens*' general well-being, they depend on parts of animals that live on grass. And yet they seldom give grasses more than a passing thought, even though there are more grass species (both native and introduced) than any other plant species in this country – some 1400.

While the economic value of grasses is incalculable, of more interest is the ecological importance of grasslands and grassy woodlands. At the time of white settlement, native grasslands were the most extensive vegetation type in the country. Today, some 98% of these lands have been cleared, modified, overtaken by woody species (either introduced or native), or sown to exotic grass species (so-called improved pastures).

The management techniques to maintain these remnant areas are as varied as the areas themselves, and it depends to a large extent on the desired outcome. Management of a native grassland for grazing can involve burning, stocking regimes and weed eradication. To maintain a good healthy grassland in a reserved environment could also involve the same, and other strategies, according to conditions.

Grasslands are never - well, hardly ever - composed entirely of grass. Although by definition they are dominated by grass species, they also contain numerous herbs and small woody plants; for example, daisies, peas, orchids, little bulbous species, and soft stemmed annuals and perennials that occupy the spaces between the tussocks, clumps and rhizomes of grasses. And, it must be said, many of these are listed as weeds.

Many of the remaining grasslands exist almost by default. They can be found alongside roads and railways, stock routes and TSRs (Travelling Stock Reserves), old cemeteries, grassy coastal headlands and vacant land. Others in privately owned properties may, or may not, be in good hands. Many have been acquired by local Councils and managed as Council reserves, with varying degrees of success.

REFERENCES

Australian Government, *State of the environment, 2006*; Department of Environment and Energy, 2006

Kirkpatrick, J, et al *Australia's most threatened ecosystems*; Surrey Beattie & Sons, Sydney: 1995

NSW Government; *Understanding our native grasslands*; NaturalResources Advisory Council, 2010



Geoff discusses the importance of grasslands

Carolyn and Mark Noake's property was again the venue for the September activity and the threat of rain and gale force winds did not deter a large group of native grassland enthusiasts, which was made up from APS and Friends of Grasslands.

The wind danced through the treetops as the meeting began, but it didn't interfere with a very interesting and informative talk on the history and activities of the Friends of Grasslands given by Geoffrey Robertson.

The rain rounded off the talk as we headed for our wet-weather gear and a walk around Carolyn and Mark's property. Thankfully the rain didn't last long and we were able to enjoy a close inspection of the grassland species that grow amongst the wonderful display of Grevilleas. Carolyn explained how she is working towards the re-establishment of the native grasses on the property and her hard work was very evident.



Carolyn points out which grass is which

APS members Jenny Liney and Jackie Miles shared their expertise along with that of the Friends of Grasslands, with an extensive species list being produced.

Following lunch we were joined by Eurobodalla Shire's Environment Team member Courtney Fink-Downes, who outlined the work she and others in the Environment team are doing to re-generate and preserve native grasslands in this area and thru-out the Shire. Courtney then led us on a meander thru the wooded grassland reserve that runs along the Moruya River, this also includes the old Glenduart Cemetery.



Courtney explains her role at Glenduart

Courtney's enthusiasm for her job, not only by giving up part of her weekend to talk to us about it, was evident and we would like to thank her and wish her well with the ongoing task of protecting and preserving the grasslands of the Eurobodalla.

Our thanks also go to Jenny Liney and Jackie Miles for sharing their expertise and a special thankyou to yet again Carolyn and Mark for their gracious hospitality.

Some APS members joined The Friends of Grassland as they headed off to Toragy Headland to inspect the condition of this Themeda Grassland.



Themeda triandra grassland

On sunny Sunday, led by Jackie Miles, the Friends of Grasslands as well as seven APS members, headed south to Bingie and Dalmeny Headlands, where the aim again was to inspect the condition of the headlands and to compare the difference in the management of these ecosystems by National Parks and the Eurobodalla Shire.

"Themeda Grasslands on Seacliffs and Coastal Headlands" are protected under EEC guidelines.

APS would like to thank Friends of Grasslands, especially Ann, Margaret and Geoff for including us in this activity.

Duesburys Point

Do you enjoy the great views from this headland? Ever wondered why there are no shrubs and trees growing on it?

This beautiful headland forms part of a highly unique and valuable ecosystem. This type of ecosystem is commonly referred to as a Themeda Grass Headland (Kangaroo Grass Headland).

The official title is: 'Themeda Grasslands on Seacliffs and Coastal Headlands' which is protected under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 as an 'Endangered Ecological Community' (EEC)

Themeda headlands are naturally clear of shrubs due to deliberate and regular burning by Indigenous Australians over many thousands of years. They range from the North Coast to the South East Corner of NSW and have significant cultural and environmental value.

87% of NSW residents believe natural habitats like this should be protected*.

Council is working to protect and manage these headlands using best practice environmental methods which are supported by Indigenous knowledges. Managed burns will be conducted on these headlands during the cooler months to assist in maintaining the natural diversity of this rare and valuable ecosystem.

For more information please contact the Eurobodalla Shire Council on 02 4474 1000.

* Who Cares About the Environment in 2012? 'A survey of people's environmental knowledge attitudes and behaviours' NSW Office of Environment & Heritage 2012 p45
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/community/130078WC12Rpt.pdf>

Creeping Bossiaea (*Phoslina prostrata*)
 Beta Cote (*Cerastium arabicum*)
 Scurvy Weed (*Commelina cyanea*)
 Knobby Club Rush (*Ficinia nodosa*)
 Twining Glycine (*Glycine clandestina*)
 Small St. Johns Wort (*Hypericum gramineum*)
 Dusky Cori Pea (*Kanndia rubicunda - maritima form*)

BACKGROUND LANDSCAPE: MORUYA HEAD Kangaroo

euobodalla shire council

This program has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust

Detailed information signage explains the value of the reserve at Duesburys Point

Jackie Miles completed a quick assessment of the visits and produced a list of plants other than grasses, which is presented below. This illustrates how diverse grasslands can be when managed sympathetically.

Herbs

Dichondra repens, Centella asiatica, Viola betonicifolia, Glycine microphylla, Glycine tabacina, Desmodium varians, Laxmannia gracilis, Dianella longifolia, Tricoryne elatior, Arthropodium milleflorum, Lomandra Longifolia, Lomandra filiformis ssp filiformis, Oxlis sp., Euchiton japonicas (= gymnocephalus), Crassula sieberi, Wahlenbergia sp., Ranunculus lappaceus, Scleranthus fasciculatus,

Orchids

Diuris sulphurea, Spiranthes sinensis, Cryptostylis subulata

Committee news

Membership Matters

So that I can have one less thing to remember when packing up to come to meetings, I would like to ask all members to take responsibility for their name badges, and keep them at home, or in their car where they are easily located on the mornings of meetings.

I will bring the board to the AGM but thereafter, I hope that members will have their name badges with them. I will combine any badges not claimed at the AGM in an envelope that is more easily transported to future meetings.

I hope there are no objections to this plan, but please contact me if you disagree with this idea. My contact details are listed with other committee details.

Jenny John, Membership Officer

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.

Our final activity planned for this year

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.

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