

EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2016

NEXT EHG MEETING:

From 7 pm for 7.30 pm start, Wednesday 5 October 2016

WILDLIFE ADAPTATION TO URBAN AREAS

Dr John Martin

John Martin is a wildlife ecologist with the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and is involved in a range of research including 'Wingtags' (Sulphur-crested Cockatoos), 'Hollows as Homes' (a citizen science program asking people to report tree hollows and wildlife use) and the Australian White Ibis.

LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH

909 Forest Road Lugarno (opposite the Chivers Hill Lugarno shops)

Visitors are welcome.

If you can, please bring something to share for supper, and labelled specimens for the plant table.

WELCOME to the October edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter. Hope you are enjoying time in your garden, as well as visiting other gardens and reserves. Sylvan Grove put on a great display for us – see page 3.

Jan Douglas, Editor

In this newsletter:

- A note from the President
- Report on the EHGTHS Fete & plant sale
- Coming events—Reminders, dates to note
- Photos from Sylvan Grove
- Notes from our September meeting
- EHG contact details.

www.easthills.austplants.com.au



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our September meeting was a very good example of what members can provide for entertainment and in learning more about our Australian flora in the absence of a guest speaker. Members and visitors provided an excellent mix of cuttings from their gardens and gave very interesting descriptions and stories associated with what they brought. Graham Fry delved into the background of *Indigofera australis* and provided a very well documented PowerPoint presentation. This was a very good example of how interesting a story can be got from a humble plant.

The weather for our Sylvan Grove visit, although a little uncertain early, was generally fine, and the seventeen attendees enjoyed a pleasant morning. Jim Mackay again made himself readily available and guided the group through this lovely bushland setting and was only too pleased to answer questions. Many thanks to our members (only a small group this year) who helped with the setting up and provided food .

An enjoyable morning was had by all.

Graham Walters
President



Menai Wildflower Group
Australian Plant Society

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

MWG invites keen photographers to submit entries to this year's photographic competition. The 13 winners will have their photos included in our 2017 calendar. Entries should show elements of native plants or fungi from our local geographic region and all photos will be judged on technical skill & artistic merit.

A maximum of 5 photos per person can be submitted via email or alternatively, you can submit on a USB flash drive by post or by hand.

Email: jimariley35@hotmail.com (overall file size maximum of 3MB – if your photo is accepted for the calendar you will be asked for a high-res image)

Post USB: Menai Wildflower Group
PO Box 3104
BANGOR NSW 2234

Drop off USB: To a MWG Committee Member on the following Saturdays between 9am-3pm on 6 August, 3 September or 1 October at the Illawong Rural Fire Station (adjacent to the roundabout).

Deadline: by 3pm on 1st October 2016

Successful entrants will receive a native plant and a copy of the calendar at our December 14th meeting.

Competition Terms & Conditions

- Photos must be of the natural world within the Sutherland & St George areas
- Local native plants or fungi
- Your original work
- Maximum of 5 images
- per person
- By entering this competition, you grant permission for the Menai Wildflower Group to use your image in their 2017 calendar and to promote the activities of the MWG.

Menai Wildflower Group
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

SYLVAN GROVE VISIT

On Wednesday 21 September, East Hills Group hosted a visit to the beautiful Sylvan Grove Native Garden at Picnic Point. We invited members from Macarthur, Menai and Sutherland Groups of APS, and in total 17 people attended. Jim Mackay, Horticulturist of Sylvan Grove, led most of us on a walk through the Garden, while others enjoyed a quiet chat or wander near the entry. We had an excellent morning tea with a wide array of delicacies, and sold a few of our propagation day plants to members and visitors.

Here are some photos I took during the morning.

Jan Douglas



FOLLOW-UP FROM THE SYLVAN GROVE VISIT

Jim Mackay has supplied a few plant names which he couldn't recall during the walk, but promised to provide when he remembered. Here's what he has sent us:

- *Dendrobium gracilicaule* syn. *Thelychiton gracilicaulis* (Spotted Orchid or Leopard Orchid) – This one has yellow flowers with pink spots on the outer side of the sepals. There are two clumps on the trees in the orchid circle and another clump on a rock down past the gully near the small dry rainforest. Normally found from the Hawkesbury River up to Queensland.
- *Anopterus macleayanus* (Macleay Laurel) – Someone enquired about this tree which at present is about 5 metres but will reach 10 metres or more. A slow growing straight-up tree with 20-30cm lanceolate toothed leaves in a whorled formation sited directly across from the spotted orchid on the rock as mentioned in the previous paragraph. Abundant small white bell flowers late spring-early autumn. Apparently a type of thrip is its pollinator. If so, it seems to be present at Sylvan Grove, because the plants are reproducing here. Normally comes from northern NSW and further northward. Family: Escalloniaceae
- *Rhodosphaera rhodanthema* (Yellow Cedar) – Tree/large shrub growing near the far gate on the top south side of dry temperate rainforest with an abundance of clumping brown berries. When not in flower or fruit, this tree could be confused with *Melia azedarach* (White Cedar) but actually it has no relationship with it, being in the family of Anacardiaceae, not Meliaceae. Normally comes from the Macleay River and up to south-east Queensland.
- *Epipremnum pinnatum* syn. *Rhaphidophora pinnata* (Native Fruit Salad Plant) – Woody vine on the Red Cedar in the rainforest. It is native to the rainforests of northern Queensland and parts of Asia. *Monstera deliciosa* is in the same family i.e. Araceae.

EAST HILLS GIRLS TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL FETE EAST HILLS GROUP PLANT SALE

A few stalwart volunteers kept up the East Hills Group tradition of a stall and plant sales at the annual East Hills Girls Technology High School Fete. It was held on Saturday 10 September, which coincided with elections for those Councils not affected by recent amalgamations. According to Dorothy, 'the weather was sunny, sometimes cloudy with a cold wind blowing - in other words normal for us'!

We had a new site for our stall this time, but despite our request for a spot in the main thoroughfare, it was out of the general run of traffic, and was also very exposed to the wind. The organisers were helpful on the day, though, offering tables and assistance with setting up. Our stock of plants came mainly from our own propagation efforts, supplemented by 12 plants purchased from Phil Keane. We made a profit of \$150, rather less than last year. The level of interest was similar to previous years, and a few regular customers turned up.

Our thanks go to Dorothy Taylor, Kyrill Taylor, Graham Fry and Karlo Taliana – without them there would have been no stall, and without Karlo no pretty plant labels.

THE BUSINESS

EHG SEPTEMBER MEETING: PLANT TABLE EXTRAVAGANZA

Wednesday 7 September 2016

Minutes by David Crawford.

The meeting was held at Lugarno-Peakhurst Uniting Church, 909 Forest Road Lugarno. The meeting was chaired by Group President Graham Walters with 12 others in attendance, including five visitors. There were five apologies.

News/Business:

- **Wed 21 September – Annual visit to Sylvan Grove.** Macarthur, Menai & Sutherland Groups have been invited. Please bring a plate of food for morning tea and arrive at 9 am for set-up.
- **Saturday 10 September - East Hills Girls Technology High School Fete – EHG Annual Native Plant sale** – volunteers needed – in particular, to assist with the initial set-up from 7.30 am. Karlo is providing plant labels.
- For our **meeting on 5 October**, the guest speaker will be Dr John Martin who is a wildlife ecologist from the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and Centennial Park Trust. His projects include wing tags on Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, and studying Powerful Owl s and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.
- Shauna Chadlowe from Australian Wildlife Conservancy has been confirmed as guest speaker for our **November meeting**. Liz and Graham visited Scotia Reserve for a weekend recently.
- Des, Marie and Boyd all attended the Tamworth Get-together, and Des and Marie also joined the Pilliga tag-along tour.
- Karlo enjoyed a visit to Boongala nursery and recommends it as a good place for a picnic.
- Arrangements for our **Christmas meeting in December** are not finalised but will probably involve Crazy Whist and a meal of cold meats and salads brought by members.
- Reminder that **Menai Wildflower Group's photographic competition** closes on 1 October.

Correspondence: nil.

Presentations and plant discussion: The focus for the meeting was a spring plant table with all members encouraged to bring and discuss some plants from their gardens. Members and guests shared their knowledge of a wide variety of plants. Thanks to all our contributors, including Graham Fry, Kyrill Taylor, Dorothy Taylor, Boyd Webster, Lloyd Hedges, Graham Walters, Vida Riepon, Carol Drew, David Crawford, John Van Peer and Marie O'Connor.

The presentation/discussion was followed by the raffle and supper.

Photos at right by Des O'Connor show plant table specimens rescued and arranged by Marie O'Connor.



SOME CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Museum of Sydney - Florilegium - Sydney's Painted Garden

Until 30 October 2016 at the Museum of Sydney, corner Bridge and Phillip Streets, Sydney.

This exhibition of contemporary botanical paintings from the Florilegium Society celebrates the renaissance in the long tradition of botanic art and demonstrates the botanical and horticultural development of the Royal Botanic Garden and its links with domestic gardens and the public landscapes of New South Wales over 200 years from 1816 to 2016. Free with museum entry which costs \$12 for adults, \$8 concession.



State Library of NSW – Planting Dreams

The Library is recognising the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the 50th anniversary of establishment of landscape gardening as a profession with two exhibitions under the banner Planting Dreams. There are also related talks – see

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/exploring-nsw-contemporary-gardens>



Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens

Until Sunday 15 January 2017.

This free exhibition, curated by garden historian Richard Aitken uses more than 150 likely and unlikely objects spanning more than five centuries, all from the State Library's collections, to illustrate the story of garden-making. For more information, see <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/planting-dreams-shaping-australian-gardens>

Planting Dreams: Grand Garden Designs

Until Sunday 15 January 2017.

This free exhibition, curated by Howard Tanner, is based on a survey and photographs of larger innovative gardens created in NSW since the 1980s. 'This exhibition showcases the creativity and passion of some of Australia's leading landscape designers through a series of specially commissioned photographs of larger, innovative private and public gardens in NSW. ... The photographs, taken by some of our leading garden photographers, capture the essence of contemporary landscape design across the state' – see <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/planting-dreams-grand-garden-designs>

COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

You can find more district group events at <http://www.austplants-nsw.org.au/calendar6.html>

Saturday 1 October 2016 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters
3 pm Saturday 1 October 2016	Menai Wildflower Group photographic competition closes. See page 2 for details. or https://www.facebook.com/Menai-Wildflower-Group-156676031189287/
Wednesday 5 October From 7 for 7.30 pm start	East Hills Group meeting – Dr John Martin on Wildlife adaptation to urban areas. See page 1 for more information.
Friday 7 October – Sunday 9 October	Southern Orchid Spectacular at Caringbah High School, 85 Willarong Road, Caringbah. \$5 entry. For details see http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/SOS2016.htm
Wednesday 12 October 7 pm	Menai Wildflower Group meeting – Lloyd Hedges on the Pink Flannel Flower. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters
Wednesday 19 October From 7.45 for 8 pm start	Sutherland Group meeting – Heather Miles on Cottage gardens and Kangaroo Paws. Gymea Community Centre, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea
Wednesday 2 November From 7 pm for 7.30 pm start	East Hills Group meeting – Shauna Chadlowe from Australian Wildlife Conservancy on Transforming conservation on the ground: a ground-breaking new initiative to help save Australia's threatened wildlife and their habitats.
Wednesday 9 November 7 pm	Menai Wildflower Group meeting – Guest speaker Chad Bernek on Frogs in the Garden
Saturday 19 November 12.30 pm	APS NSW Quarterly Gathering hosted by Macarthur Group at Black Stump Natives, 26 Crana Rd, Brownlow Hill, Camden. Ben Walcott , leader of the ANPSA Garden Design Group, will talk on Garden design: a personal perspective. More details will be available in the October issue of <i>Native Plants for NSW</i> .

East Hills Group contacts

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