

# EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



## SEPTEMBER 2016

### NEXT EHG MEETING:

**From 7 pm for 7.30 pm start, Wednesday 7 September 2016**

### *Plant table extravaganza!*

*Bring plant samples from your garden and questions  
(and answers if you have them) about each.*

*See page 3 for details and suggestions!*

### **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 September edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter. Has Spring sprung in your garden? There's lots of information in this newsletter about spring garden activities. Enjoy!

Jan Douglas, Editor

In this newsletter:

- A note from the President
- Plant notes from the August plant table
- Coming events—Reminders, dates to note
- Photos from the Coo-ee March
- Notes from our August meeting
- EHG contact details.

[www.easthills.austplants.com.au](http://www.easthills.austplants.com.au)



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The August meeting talk on last year's re-enactment of the 1915 Coe-ee Recruitment March took us through some of the NSW country side, commencing on 17 October 2015 from Gilgandra and finishing at The Sydney Cenotaph on 11 November. As the route as much as possible avoided main roads, the marchers passed through several country villages and the occupants, especially school children, gave them such an enthusiastic welcome. A variety of country was traversed and appeared in good condition.

Reading through the latest edition of 'Australian Plants' encouraged my interest more than ever with its stimulating and interesting articles on Flannel Flowers and rare plants, etc. Germination of so many of our plants pose puzzles for all to solve. The opportunity for experimenting never ceases.

I encourage everyone to read these publications, for you will always find a great deal of interest and encouragement.

I visited the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney recently to view the Treecycle exhibition\*. Loppings and prunings of trees from all three Botanic Gardens (Sydney, Mount Annan and Mount Tomah) were used by craft persons to make a variety of articles including some excellent examples of furniture, a beautiful clock with all workings exposed, a violin and ukulele, etc. The patterns in the exposed grain when used in this way are so beautiful.

Graham Walters  
President

\* *Treecycle has closed, but you can read about it and see photos of three of the entries at <https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/What-s-On/Treecycle> Editor.*

**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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016

Successful entrants will receive a native plant and a copy of the calendar at our December 14<sup>th</sup> 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 PLANT SOCIETY

## EHG SEPTEMBER MEETING: PLANT TABLE EXTRAVAGANZA Wednesday 7 September 2016

What better way to celebrate Spring flowers than with a magnificent multi-coloured plant table selection!



At our September meeting the plan is to sit around a big table [well, all right, a few tables joined together] and talk about the plants we've brought.

To get things rolling:

- Bring three specimens of flowering plants from your garden (more if you like!)
- Bring two or three questions about two or three of them – and the answers if possible!

Some questions might be *What does the species name mean? Where does it grow naturally? What will help my plant to flower more?* or even *What is this plant?*

Bring some of your favourite flowers and let's have some fun!



**STONY RANGE BOTANIC GARDEN  
SPRING FESTIVAL**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11  
9am-4pm



Guest speaker  
**JAKE CASSAR**  
11.30 am 'Bush Survival'

**SALE OF NATIVE PLANTS**  
Cultivation advice from Stony Range Botanic Garden volunteers & members of Australian Plants Society Northern Beaches Group.

Guided walks - insects, nature, children's treasure hunt.  
Exhibitions - bees, frogs, flower photography, botanic art.  
Children's activities, live native animals, face painting.  
Sausage sizzle, Coffee Shop & home made cakes.

**Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden**  
810 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why



## THE AUGUST PLANT TABLE

Hugh Stacy

The plant table was covered with early spring flowers at our meeting on 3 August:

*Acacia clunies-rossiae*

*Acacia decurrens*

*Acacia fimbriata*

*Acacia floribunda*

*Acacia pravissima*

*Acacia prominens*

*Acacia pubescens*

*Banksia ericifolia* 'Bronze Aussie'

*Dendrobium kingianum*

*Darwinia oldfieldii*

*Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (Blueberry Ash)

*Gastrolobium lanceolatum* (Swan River Pea)

*Grevillea bronwenae*

*Grevillea* 'Fireworks' (Photo above right by Karlo Taliana)

*Grevillea* 'Lady O'

*Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon'

*Grevillea* 'Scarlet Sprite'

*Grevillea zygoloba*

*Hakea* 'Burrendong Beauty'

*Hakea gibbosa*

*Hovea elliptica*

*Indigofera australis* (Austral Indigo)

*Lepidozamia peroffskyana*

*Phebalium stenophyllum* (Golden Glow, Narrow-leaved Phebalium)

*Prostanthera magnifica*

*Thomasia grandiflora* (photo at right by Jan Douglas)

*Zieria* sp.



### ***Darwinia oldfieldii***

This erect shrub, under a metre high but spreading to 1.5 m, is a sandplain plant localised near Geraldton, WA. Tiny oblong leaves only 5 mm long are crowded along short stems, forming a blue-green backdrop for upright heads of flowers, opening white but quickly becoming bright red. It is a 'rose-type' *Darwinia*, as distinct from those with larger bell-shaped flowers that hang downwards. Growing them in humid Sydney has been a temporary pleasure, but now grafted plants are becoming available.

The photo at right shows Karlo's specimen.



### ***Lepidozamia peroffskyana***

The specimen of this species was a female fruiting cone that weighed 6 kilograms, its oval shape a maximum 18 cm diameter x 40 cm long. Yet this one, grown alone and unpollinated, could not develop fully, for each seed is about 6 cm long x 4 cm thick. Cones have been recorded to 90 cm long, over 30 cm diameter and weighing up to 45 kg! They develop singly in the crown, ringed by fronds which give way annually to a new row above. Male cones are somewhat smaller, though similar in shape. When ripe the cone extends axially, causing a spiral split to develop between the segments (sporophylls), each of which holds masses of pollen in little pockets or sacs (sporangia).



Two features distinguish the *Lepidozamia* female cone from that of the genus *Macrozamia*: firstly, there are no spiny tips on the ends of the sporophylls; secondly, with the cone standing upright, the ends of the sporophylls angle downwards. There are differences also in the fronds: their bright green glossy surfaces draw attention, while the pinnae grow from the top of the rachis and do not have serrated tips.

*L. peroffskyana* occurs from Mt. Tambourine in the ranges north west of Brisbane to the Manning River district. Its erect stem may reach 4-7 m, with fronds 2-3 m long arching upwards and pinnae 7-14 mm wide x 10-32 cm long. The only other species, *L. hopei*, grows in north Queensland; the genus *Lepidozamia* is endemic to Australia.

### ***Phebalium stenophyllum*:**

This compact branched shrub to 1.5 m high shows many hundreds of starry yellow flowers in groups of 3-10 simultaneously in spring. Pedicels 3-8 mm long are equal length in a conflorescence, all in a terminal leaf axil without a peduncle. Five petals 3-4 mm are elliptic, overlapping, yellow inside with rusty scales outside, providing a distinctive speckled red-brown appearance in bud. Leaves are linear, obtuse ended, 4-20 mm long, 0.8-2 mm wide, more-or-less terete with revolute margins, the under-surface scaly. This is a showy garden plant that needs a sunny well-drained site; it has only recently become available.



*Phebalium stenophyllum*  
photos by Karlo Taliana  
(top row) and Hugh Stacy

The generic name *Phebalium* is thought to be derived from the Greek *phibalee* (= a kind of myrtle), to which the flowers may be likened. The specific name *stenophyllum* is from two Greek words, *stenos* (= narrow), and *phyllon* (= leaf). The first description was by George Bentham in 1863 (*Flora Australiensis Vol. 1*), of specimens from the Grampians and northern Victoria sent to him by Ferdinand von Mueller, who had clearly included it with *P. squamulosum*. Bentham's note reads:

Var. (?) *stenophyllum*. A small shrub. Leaves small, narrow, with the margins of the leaves closely revolute so as to be often almost terete. –In the Grampian Mountains..., *F. Mueller*.

—This form appears to be so constantly distinct, as far as our specimens show, that I should have described it as a separate species, were it not that F. Mueller includes it without any hesitation in the *P. squamulosum*, and I might be adding a useless synonym.

Maiden and Betche did publish it as a separate species in 1916 in *A Census of New South Wales Plants*; by then specimens had been collected in the Warrumbungles.



L-R above: *Phebalium stenophyllum* (Hugh Stacy); *Grevillea* 'Fireworks' (Karlo Taliana); *Hovea elliptica* (Jan Douglas)

## THE BUSINESS

### East Hills Group Meeting – 3 August 2016

Meeting notes by Karlo Taliana.

The meeting was held at Lugarno-Peakhurst Uniting Church, 909 Forest Road Lugarno.

Our meeting was chaired by Group President Graham Walters with 16 others in attendance including guest speaker Sue Foster and two visitors. There were two apologies.

#### News/Business:

- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> September at 10am – **Annual visit to Sylvan Grove.** Macarthur, Menai & Sutherland Groups have been invited. Numbers to be confirmed soon. All members should bring along a plate for morning tea and it is requested that volunteers arrive at 9.30am for set-up.

- This year, Sylvan Grove Native Garden is open to the public on weekends during spring from 13<sup>th</sup> August until 27<sup>th</sup> November from 9am-4.30pm. The gardens are still open on weekdays throughout the whole year.
- **East Hills Girls Technology High School Fete, Saturday 10 September – EHG Annual Native Plant sale** – we need volunteer helpers throughout the day – in particular, to assist with the initial set-up from 7.30 am.
- For our **September meeting**, Jan Douglas suggested the idea of a large structured plant table with each member bringing three plants from their garden with three questions about each plant as a means of sharing information.
- At this stage, we have no guest speaker for October. Shauna Chadlowe has been confirmed as guest speaker for our November meeting.
- Our Christmas meeting in December may continue with Crazy Whist as entertainment. We may have a selection of cold meats instead of a BBQ supper this year, although details are to be discussed later. Again, we will have an earlier start to this meeting. Lucky door prize will be available and there will be hampers for raffle.
- On Sat 27<sup>th</sup> August, Rhonda Daniels of the Sutherland APS group will lead a **Wattle Walk** at Sir Joseph Banks Reserve.
- The Menai Wildflower Group will be leading a trip to **Muogamarra Conservation Reserve** on 27<sup>th</sup> August at the meeting time of 9am. The walk will be in conjunction with OFF and East Hills Groups. Entry fee for adults is \$10 – this includes guided walks. For further details, call Jason Cockayne on 0411 744 715.

#### Correspondence:

- Phone request has been received from the Revesby Garden Club inviting a member of EH Group to speak about native plants at one of their meetings. Graham Walters may talk to this Group on EH Group's behalf.
- Dorothy Luther forwarded information about the Habitat Stepping Stones project ([www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au](http://www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au)) which aims to increase wildlife habitat in suburban areas.

## COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

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

<b>Saturday 3 September Sunday 4 September 10 am – 4 pm</b>	<b>Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli</b> open weekend. \$5 entry fee. <a href="http://www.grevilleapark.org/FAQ.html">http://www.grevilleapark.org/FAQ.html</a>
<b>Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon Every weekend in September starting with 2-5 September 10 am – 4 pm</b>	<b>Boongala Spring open garden and plant sales at 76 Pitt Town Rd, Kenthurst.</b> Garden entry is \$2 for adults, children free – this goes to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Rainforest tour is \$3 for adults, children free. You can walk around the gardens, bring your own picnic lunch and buy plants. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Boongala-Native-Gardens-and-Rainforest/1418218448423146">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Boongala-Native-Gardens-and-Rainforest/1418218448423146</a> or phone 9654 9072
<b>Saturday 3 September 1 pm</b>	<b>East Hills Group propagation meeting</b> with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters

## COMING EVENTS – continued

<b>Wednesday 7 September 2016</b> From 7 for 7.30 pm start	<b>East Hills Group meeting – Plant table extravaganza.</b> See page 3 for details and suggestions.
<b>Saturday 10 September</b>	<b>Menai Wildflower Group walk</b> – Waratah walk at Lucas Heights. Contact Lloyd Hedges for details <a href="mailto:hedges@aapt.net.au">hedges@aapt.net.au</a>
<b>Saturday 10 September</b>	<b>East Hills Group</b> – stall with plant sales at East Hills Girls Technology High School fete
<b>10 &amp; 11 September</b> 10 am – 4 pm	<b>Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli</b> open weekend. \$5 entry fee. <a href="http://www.grevilleapark.org/FAQ.html">http://www.grevilleapark.org/FAQ.html</a>
<b>Sunday 11 September</b> 9 am – 4 pm	<b>Stony Range Botanic Garden Spring Festival</b> – for details see page 3.
<b>Wednesday 14 September</b> 7 pm	<b>Menai Wildflower Group meeting</b> – Chris Lloyd on Montague Island. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters
<b>Wednesday 21 September</b> 9.30 am for 10 am start	<b>EHG hosting Sylvan Grove Native Garden visit.</b> Please bring a plate of food to share for morning tea. <b>If you can help to set up, please arrive at 9.30 am.</b>
<b>Wednesday 21 Sep</b> From 7.45 for 8 pm start	<b>Sutherland Group meeting – Spring flower spectacular and quiz.</b> Gynea Community Centre, 39 Gynea Bay Rd, Gynea
<b>3 pm Saturday 1 October 2016</b>	<b>Menai Wildflower Group photographic competition closes.</b> See page 2 for details. or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Menai-Wildflower-Group-156676031189287/">https://www.facebook.com/Menai-Wildflower-Group-156676031189287/</a>
<b>Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October</b>	<b>FJC Rogers Seminar – Terrestrial and epiphytic orchids.</b> Hamilton, Victoria. For details and to register: <a href="http://www.apswarnambool.org.au">www.apswarnambool.org.au</a> <b>Closing date for registration: 24 September 2016</b>

### East Hills Group contacts

President	Graham Walters	9534 3039	agwalters@bigpond.com
Secretary	Karlo Taliana	9786 8299	karlo.taliana@optusnet.com.au
Newsletter Editor	Jan Douglas	9533 2187	janhd@inet.net.au
Website Editor	Karlo Taliana	9786 8299	karlo.taliana@optusnet.com.au

[www.easthills.austplants.com.au](http://www.easthills.austplants.com.au)

