

## SAVE OUR FLORA!

*Bob Ross, APS-NSW Conservation Office*

When I started work as the Conservation Officer of the NSW Region in January 2012 I contacted Margery Street from the North Shore Group – Margery has been providing leadership in conservation matters for APS NSW for many years and she represents us on the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

During 2012 I worked with Margery on submissions from APS NSW to federal and NSW governments on major issues like the Murray-Darling proposals. We put in some major submissions and I think what we did was worthwhile and necessary. However it took a lot of time and the results were not encouraging. We didn't get meaningful feedback from the bodies that received the submissions or from our APS Region, and there were always more conservation issues arriving.

We decided to go to the members and try to find out what they thought were the conservation priorities for native plants in NSW, and I published an article in the April 2012 issue of Native Plants for New South Wales asking members for suggestions.

Unfortunately the results were not good – we received only one reply! I admit I didn't do a good job of writing it – too boring, not interesting.

Then I got an idea after reading an article by the Victorian APS Conservation Officer in the APS Victorian Region journal. Maybe the way to stir up conservation interest in our NSW Region was to have an article on threatened and rare/endangered native plants in each issue of Native Plants!

Three articles have now been published – all on rare and endangered natives in our area (the Far South Coast).

Several weeks ago Wendy and I drove 1000 km to Armidale and spent two nights (3 days) with Maria and Don Hitchcock. While we were there we talked about lots of things but the most productive was an idea of Maria for a new group – she has named it “Save Our Flora”.

Save Our Flora (the Project) aims to build an Australian register of gardeners and conservationists who are growing threatened/ rare/ endangered native plants. Along the way we hope to find out who is growing what.

Maria has sent out a flyer inviting interested people to contact her and she is getting lots of interest – including quite a few people who are not members of APS. The first newsletter has already gone out (in pdf format only, by email). We also hope to work with specialist native plant nurseries that supply rare or threatened species of native plants. It is very exciting!

If you want to join this new project you can contact either me or Maria Hitchcock.

**Contact us: [saveourflora@gmail.com](mailto:saveourflora@gmail.com) Maria 02 6775 1139 Bob 02 6495 0306**



*Prostanthera staurophylla* is listed as endangered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (New South Wales). It is currently found on a granite outcrop in the Tenterfield area of the New England tablelands, and it is one of the native plants that will be included in our register. (*photo by M. Hitchcock*)