

Australian Plants Society South East NSW Group

Newsletter 110 August 2015

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Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and *Macrozamia communis* Burrawang Next Meeting SATURDAY 5th September 2015

Garden Visits

Narooma Gardens of Margaret & Peter Lynch and Jenny & Peter John

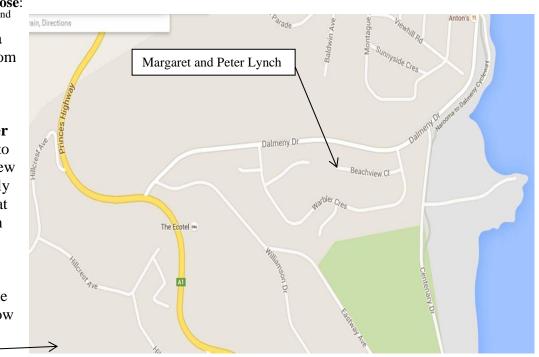
For the first meeting of spring the group will be visiting two gardens in the Narooma area. We will meet at 22 Beachview Close (directions below) at 10.30 am.

Margaret and Peter established a "new" garden at their North Narooma home after moving house in October 2013. Most of the existing exotic plants and lawn were removed and replaced by Australian plants.

Please bring morning tea and lunch. As usual a chair, walking shoes and hat are advisable to help you enjoy the day. Members are encouraged to bring material from their gardens for 'show & tell'.

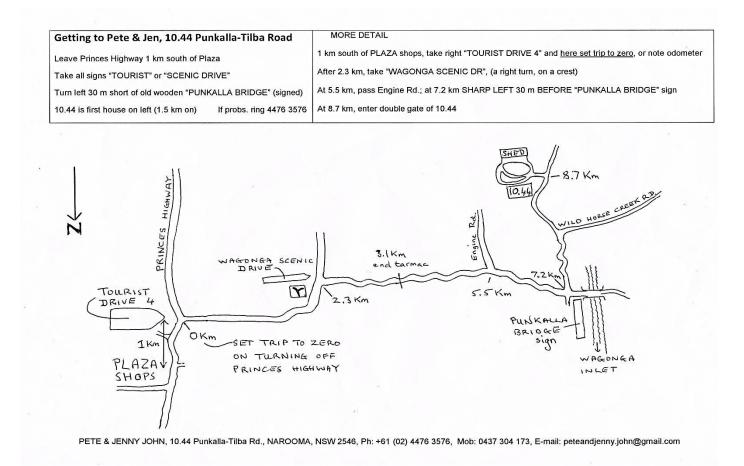
Directions 22 Beachview Close: From the north take the 2nd turnoff to Dalmeny/Kianga left into Dalmeny Drive from the Princes Highway, just past the "50 sign". Travel down the hill to the 2nd turnoff right into Warbler Crescent. After turning into Warbler Crescent Beachview Close is almost immediately right again. Number 22 is at the top of the cul-de-sac on the left.

From the south take the same turnoff right into Dalmeny Drive just past the Ecomotel. From there follow the directions above. See Map



After morning tea and time spent viewing the Lynch garden we will travel south of Narooma to Jenny and Peter's delightful property at Punkalla.

There we will have lunch and explore their extensive established garden. Directions below We will all leave from Margaret's garden about 12 noon, and plan to arrive at Pete and Jenny's garden around 12.30 for lunch.



Presidents Message



The days are getting longer and the wattles (Acacia species) are flowering, spring is on the way! To me wattle has always been the harbinger of spring, the yellow flowers giving some cheer at the end of winter and promising warmer days ahead. Wattles comprise an adaptable and

diverse group ranging from prostrate and lowgrowing species to large shrubs and trees. Often maligned and undervalued wattles can make excellent garden plants as ground covers, fast growing screens or shade trees. Most respond to pruning after flowering and if carried out regularly this can extend the life of the plant. As a bonus wattles being legumes will add nitrogen to your soil and are easy to propagate from seed. So let's sing the praises of wattle our national floral emblem. Acacia covenyi, a hardy small tree which tolerates dry conditions



Get rid of the winter blues and bring some sunshine into your garden, plant a cheerful wattle! Margaret Lynch

Committee news

Future activities

October 10th AGM and meeting at 'Thubbul', the home of Architect and author Phillip Cox Note the earlier AGM date, as the committee had planned a distant excursion which has not eventuated but we cannot pass on the chance to spend time at 'Thubbul' Thanks to Michele Pymble and Christina Kennedy for arranging this. Apologies that in the July newsletter I cut and pasted the incorrect date.

> Yes it is that time again, time to consider putting up your hand to help the Group prosper. The Annual General Meeting is just a month away and members need to consider just what they expect of the Group, and how they can help the Group achieve good outcomes for the benefit of all members. The current committee is well organised and keen, but there is always a need for more help. Why not put up your hand. You might just have the ideas and enthusiasm needed. A call to President Margaret will confirm that all members have something to offer. Being a part of the committee is an opportunity to show that you care about APS, and are keen to

share your love of Australian Plants.

Nominations for all committee positions are now called for. Secretary Michele will be pleased to receive nominations from any member interested in assisting the group. Please consider how you could help to keep the group vibrant. See contact details on last page of this newsletter.

November 7th A day out in Brogo, visiting the property of Graham and Denise Krake.

December 5th Picnic at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

Your committee meets next on 16th September

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

Wattle day 1st September



The Wattle Day movement began in Hobart in 1838, and was subsequently promoted by the Wattle Day League, being first celebrated in 1910 as a demonstration of national pride. Golden Wattle, *Acacia pycnantha* was chosen as an official emblem, and included in the Australian Coat of Arms in 1913. Wattle Day was promoted and celebrated until 1936, when Arbor Day became more prominent.

APS New England member Maria Hitchcock, dubbed the 'Wattle Lady' by Australia All Over host Ian MacNamara, campaigned for many years to have *Acacia pycnantha* gazetted as the National Emblem, and to have National Wattle Day again recognised.

Interestingly it was not officially recognised until the bicentenary year, 1988.

Acacia pycnantha colour palette of green and gold was selected as representing the 'Colours of Australia' and now is featured on official uniforms of many national sporting teams. The epithet *pycnantha* derives from the Greek **pycnos**, meaning thick or crowded, and **anthos**, a flower, referring to the closely packed flowers in the inflorescence.

This is an easily grown quick growing small tree, reaching 5m or more. Flowers are produced quickly, often in the second year from sowing seed, as my plant, shown above, has done. *A. pycnantha* grows best in well drained soils, in full sun or light shade, and can be pruned to shape provided it is done soon after flowering. **John Knight**

Woollsia pungens: sweet smelling but spiky Jenny Liney

William Woolls (born 1814) was the nineteenth child (goodness me!!) of an English wholesaler, Edward Woolls, and his wife Sarah. William was educated in England as a classical student, migrating to Australia when sixteen years old. He taught in a number of schools, eventually setting up his own at Parramatta. Much admired as a teacher, for twenty five years he educated many of the sons of prominent colonists.

He developed a keen interest in colonial natural history, which resulted in a study of local plant species and 'vegetable resources'. His papers appeared in numerous publications; these contributions led to him being awarded a PhD and a fellowship of the Linnean Society in London.

Woolls was best known for his promotion of Australian flora and his assistance to others, rather than for detailed botanic study of individual plant species.

He corresponded with other botanists, writing over a thousand letters to Ferdinand Mueller of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens, and he was acknowledged by the British botanists Robert Brown and George Bentham. Joseph Maiden, NSW Government Botanist, noted that 'only his friends and pupils...had any idea either of the depth of his knowledge or the readiness with which he communicated it to enquirers'.

He is commemorated in the monotypic genus Woollsia and in the specific names of six plant species.

Which leads us neatly to *Woollsia pungens*.

pungens, of course, is named for the spiky, stiff leaves; not for the sharp smell.

The Type specimen of *Woollsia pungens* was collected in 1797 in *Novae Hollandia prope oppidum*, which, according to Mr Google, means, in 'New Holland, near the town' (presumably the town of Sydney).

A Senor Antonio Jose Cavanilles, a leading Spanish botanist of the 18th century, named the species *Epacris pungens*. Numerous generic names followed, the most important of which are *Lysinema* – Robert Brown 1810, and then *Woollsia* – Ferdinand Mueller in 1875, after the gentleman described above. And so today this gives us *Woollsia pungens* (Cav.) F. Muell.

Woollsia pungens is sometimes called Snow Wreath, I suppose in reference to the appearance of the massed white flowers.

It blooms in late winter and spring, and the flowers are nearly always white, although pink forms do occur. (A particularly dark pink form grows on Point Perpendicular near Jervis Bay)

It is claimed that the perfume is one of the most beautiful of any Australian plant – naturally, this opinion is open to argument.

It formerly belonged to the family **Epacridaceae**, but has recently been lumped into the cosmopolitan **Ericaceae**, in the subfamily **Styphelioideae**.

For those who are not familiar with this species, it is an erect open shrub usually less than 2m high. The roundish leaves are sharply pointed and crowded on the stems, horizontal to downward pointing, and the tubular flowers have spreading and slightly wrinkled petals. The flowers grow from the leaf axils, covering the uppermost parts of the branches in a dramatic display.





Close up of the flowers of Woollsia pungens, showing the distinctive wrinkled petals

W. pungens is a common and widespread component of dry eucalypt forest and heath on sandstone and coastal dunes throughout eastern Australia.

Even though it often a scrappy looking shrub it is an important winter time component of these communities because of its high nectar production, safe nesting sites and a refuge from predators.

While looking for information on *W. pungens*, I came across an interesting paper that reported a study of the 'Germination, Establishment and Mycorrhizal Synthesis in the Epacrid *Woollsia pungens*'.

While this title sounds formidable, all it really means is that the researchers wanted to find out whether inoculation of boxed seedling plants with underground fungus isolated from plants in the wild would benefit plant growth. And it did.

Mycorrhizal (i.e. underground fungus species that assist plants in the uptake of nutrients) relationships in Ericaceae – particularly Northern Hemisphere species - are known to promote nitrogen and phosphorus uptake from soil, and are fundamental to plant establishment and survival. However, Australian heath environments, though nutrient poor, are diverse and quite different from the typical wet heaths of the Northern Hemisphere. So there is a need to clarify the function of epacrid mycorrhizal relationships in Australian species.

Two boxes of *W. pungens* seedlings were studied. The first box was inoculated with a mycorrhiza-forming fungus that had been isolated from *W. pungens* in the wild, while the second box, acting as a control, was not inoculated. It was found that the plants in the box that had been inoculated developed mycorrhizas and were more vigorous in growth than those that had not been inoculated.

Woollsia pungens was chosen for the study because it is an interesting component of Australian heathlands, and, furthermore, the species has horticultural potential. But the biology of their mycorrhizas is poorly understood. The study went some way in increasing knowledge of these plant functions and relationships, and has important implications for the economic production of this species for the nursery trade.

REFERENCES

Ashford, Anne E. & Palmer, John H. *Germination, Establishment and Mycorrhizal Synthesis in the Epacrid* Woollsia pungens. Final report to the Australian Flora Foundation, May 2007 Australian Native Plants Society: <u>http://anpsa.org.au/w-pun.html</u> Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia *Woolls, William (1814-1893).* K.J.Cable, Australian Dictionary of Biography, MUP, vol.6, 1976

Eucalyptus tricarpa Three fruited Red Ironbark

The road was littered with distinctly pink blossom, the result no doubt of frenetic feeding by Rainbow Lorikeets. So prominent was the colour of the fallen flowers that I had to stop and investigate. Nearly all Eucalypts occurring on the south coast are white or cream flowered, as is *Eucalyptus tricarpa* which is often a cream flowered tree, found in coastal forests of south east NSW and East Gippsland, and also north and west of Melbourne, in dry forests and woodland. It was previously included with *E. sideroxylon*, but raised to species status when Lawrie Johnson and his colleague Ken Hill completed their monumental work on the Eucalypts. Due to its preference for dry, poor quality soils, *E. tricarpa* is usually a medium sized tree of about 10m., with gnarled branching. As a garden plant it responds to kindness, providing the drainage is good, and can get quite large. If the birds had not been such messy feeders, I might not have come across this fine specimen.

My GardenJo Benyon

I've had gardens of various sizes, two normal quarter acre suburban blocks, one in Adelaide in my pre-native days, the other in Canberra; a 15 acre bush block out from Milton, a small suburban block in Long Beach; and finally a tiny garden at my retirement villa in Batehaven which I moved into 2 years ago.

The present yard is more pebble concrete than soil, so I have gone 'potty', but also had a couple of built up beds constructed. These give very good drainage, so things grew like mad and more vigorous things like Scaevola have smothered some little things like Crowea, Tetratheca and brown Boronia.

Some of the pots came with me from Long Beach, one being a pot of Flannel Flowers, *Actinotus helianthii*. They must be the oldest Flannel flowers in captivity, at least 10 years old, can't remember exactly when I planted them, but it is after 2002 which is when we moved to Long Beach.



Jo, showing off her Chamelaucium uncinatum



The trouble with flannel flowers is that their lower leaves die off every year and the plants look untidy. I pull the dead leaves off, leaving bare stems, and these are now almost a metre long, with bunches of healthy leaves at the top.

Also in the same pot are 3 seedling plants from last year, and a crop of recently germinated seedlings. So those large old plants are going to be cut back soon, I might let them flower one more time. It will be interesting to see if they shoot from below the cut, I can't pull them out completely as that would disturb all the seedlings.

There is one area of soil, about 4m x 2m, and right in the middle of it is an orange tree, planted by the previous occupant. Why would you want to plant an orange tree in such a small garden when our Aussie growers are crying out for people to buy their oranges and they are so cheap to buy, and this tree is not even a nice navel orange. If there had to be a citrus tree, I would have preferred a lemon or lime. I'm pretty sure that tree is going to suffer a nasty accident soon. If anyone wants to come and dig it up.....!

I even use pots on the soil area, it saves bending down so low. I get large plastic pots and cut the bottoms off them, so the plants can get their roots down into the soil if they want to. Of course then they can't be moved, but neither can plants in the soil. I find the large pots do not need watering too often really, I put mulch on top of the soil. My next door neighbour is a keen gardener too, and is happy to water my pots when I am away.

That's enough about my garden, visitors are very welcome!

Report on last outing WALKING THE DREAMING TRACK

Fourteen members took part in our walk along the Congo section of the Bingie Dreaming Track in July. Members of the Bingie Residents Association worked closely with the Cobowra Aboriginal Lands Council and the National Parks & Wildlife Service to build the Bingie Dreaming Track, which joins with a coastal walk from Moruya Heads to Congo to give a continuous coastal walk to Tuross Heads. It was completed in November, 2009.

Show and Tell

Whether we are at a garden, a hall or in the bush, the members can rely on Jenny and Peter John to raid their plants to proudly display them at our gatherings, so before starting our walk, we enjoyed our morning tea and Jenny presented some colourful specimens for show and tell including: *Hypocalymma angustifolium* (Peach Myrtle) and a white cultivar, 'Virgins Choice'

Zieria littoralis and Zieria 'Pink Crystals'

Thryptomene saxicola 'F.C. Payne' and 'Supernova'

Epacris longiflora & Epacris 'Pan Pipes', the latter having proved unreliable in cultivation for some growers. It is a hybrid with *E. reclinata* from the Blue Mountains, which grows along soaks and does not like to dry out. Jenny has had little trouble keeping hers alive.

' x ' Astackea 'Winter Pink was thought to be a hybrid between *Astartea aspera* and *Baeckea astarteoides* (*Astartea astarteoides*) However a revision of the Genus by Barbara Rye (Nuytsia 23 published 30th May 2013) puts some doubt on this. Regardless of its correct name, this is one Western Australian shrub that can be readily grown, and flowers for most of the year.

Eremophila maculata x racemosa is a quick growing and very showy plant with flowers of 3 colours at the same time. As it is prone to blowing over in strong winds, it is advisable to prune the plant early, or stake. Apart from their beauty, Jenny assured us that they are not on the preferred menu for wallabies.



Jenny John with her bucket of treasures. A small sample of the delights that await us when we visit her garden

Jenny Vine presented a collection of *Leionema* species. We were able to determine the name of a couple, those being *L. elatius*, a shrubby plant which grows naturally on the north coast, but is very happy as a garden plant, and *L. lamprophyllum*, a hardy small shrub from the tablelands. The third identification is a work in progress. We should also mention that Wendy and Bob Ross brought along some seedlings of a prostrate form of *Banksia integrifolia*, the proceeds from the sale of these plants being donated to the group. Experience shows that the seedlings often come true to seed, so it will be interesting to see how these plants develop over time. Last month Jo Benyon brought along some of her propagation successes, including *Phebalium woombye*, a lovely little ground cover. These were also snapped up quickly, and again Jo donated the proceeds to the group.

Our walk took us along a coastal track towards Mullimburra Point, through a varied forest of wind shaped trees. On this beautiful winter's day, it was a pleasant stroll, and with plenty of time, a good list of plants was recorded, with John and Amanda pointing out many features that aid in recognizing the plants. It was a pity though that it was a bit too early in the season for us to see any orchid flowers, although the leaves of some species were observed.

This was a very interesting excursion, and whilst we saw no whales as we gazed out across the water, a couple of Bird Watchers were able to confirm many of our sightings and the sounds recognized by Jenny Vine. **Michele Pymble**



Plants found in the Congo section of Eurobodalla National Park

Acacia Acacia Acacia Acacia Acacia Acacia Allocasuarina Allocasuarina Amperea Asplenium Austrodanthonia Austrodanthonia Banksia Banksia Billardiera **Bothriochloa** Breynia Calochlaena Carex Cassytha Casuarina Chiloglottis Clematis Correa Corymbia Cymbopogon Desmodium Dianella Dichondra Dodonaea Doodia Echinopogon Eleaocarpus Entolsaia Eucalyptus Eucalyptus Eucalyptus Eucalyptus Eucalyptus Eustrephus Exocarpus Gahnia Geitonoplesium Glycine Goodenia Hakea Hardenbergia Hibbertia Hibbertia Hibbertia Hibbertia Hydrocotyle

implexa longifilia ssp sophorae longifolia suaveolens terminalis ulicifolia littoralis verticillata xiphoclada flabellifolium linkii racemosa integrifolia spinulosa scandens macra oblongifolia dubia breviculmis glabella glauca diphylla aristata reflexa var speciosa maculata refractus varians caerulea repens triquetra aspera ovatus reticulatus stricta agglomerata bosistoana botrvoides globoidea pilularis latifolius cuppressiformis melanocarpa cymosum microphylla ovata teretifolia violacea aspera dentata obtusifolia scandens laxiflora

Hickory Wattle Coastal Wattle Sydney Golden Wattle Sweet Wattle Sunshine Wattle **Prickly Moses** Black Sheoak **Drooping Sheoak Broom Spurge** Necklace fern Wallaby Grass Wallaby Grass Coast Banksia Hairpin Banksia Appleberry **Red Leg Grass** Coffee Bush False Bracken, Rainbow Fern Sedge Devil's Twine Swamp Oak **Bird Orchid** Travellers Joy Native Fuchsia Spotted Gum **Barbwire Grass** Slender Tick-trefoil Paroo Lily Kidney weed Common Hop Bush **Prickly Rasp Fern Hedgehog Grass Blueberry Ash** Wiry, or Right Angle Panic Blue leaved Stringybark Coast Grey Box Bangalay White Stringybark Blackbutt Wombat Berry **Cherry Ballart** Black-fruit Saw Sedge Scrambling Lily Small leaf Love Creeper Hop Goodenia **Dagger Hakea** False Sarsaparilla **Rough Guinea Flower** Twining Guinea Flower **Grey Guinea Flower** Snake Vine Stinking Pennywort

Hypericum Imperata Kennedia Lepidosperma Leptospermum Leucopogon

Lomandra Lomandra Lomandra Macrozamia Marsdenia Melaleuca Microlaena Monotoca Myoproum Notelea **O**malanthus Pandorea Parsonsia Persoonia Pimelea Pittosporum Pittosporum Plectranthus Роа Роа Podolobium Polymeria Pomax Poranthera Pratia Pseuderanthemum Pteridium Rhaaodia Schelhammera Solanum Solanum Solanum Stephania Stipa Themeda Trema Viola Westringia Xanthorrhoea

gramineum cylindrica rubicunda laterale lanigerum juniperinus confertifolia ssp rubiginosa longifolia multiflora communis rostrata hypericifolia stipoides elliptica boninense longifolia nutans pandorana straminea linearis linifolia revolutum undulatum parviflorus labillardieri meionectes scandens calycina umbellata microphylla purpurascens variabile esculentum candolleana undulata aviculare pungentium stelligerum japonica stipoides australis tomentosa hederacea form fruticosa resinifera

Small St John's Wort **Blady Grass Dusky Coral Pea** Variable Sword-sedge Woolly Teatree Prickly Beard-heath Red stem mat-rush Spiny-headed Mat-rush Many-flowered Mat-rush Burrawang Common Milk Vine Hillock Bush Weeping Grass **Tree Broom Heath** Coast Boobialla Large Mock Olive **Bleeding Heart** Wonga Vine Common Silkpod Narrow-leaf Geebung Slender Rice-flower Yellow Pittosporum Pittosporum **Cockspur Flower Tussock Grass Fine-leaved Snow Grass** Netted Shaggy Pea Swamp Bindweed Pomax Small Poranthera White Root **Pastel Flower** Bracken Seaberry Saltbush Lilac Lily Kangaroo Apple Eastern Nightshade **Devil's Needles** Snake Vine **Prickly Spear Grass Kangaroo Grass** Poison Peach Native Violet Coast Rosemary Grass Tree



Gnarled *Eucalyptus botryoides*, one of the 5 Eucalypt species growing in the Congo section of ENP.



Identifying Eucalypts can be a challenge. These are the fruits of *E. globoidea*,(lower) showing the round shape, and *E. agglomerata* (above) in which the fruit is compressed due to the tight grouping.



Many plants of *Dodonaea triquetra* were heavily infested with scale, but no other plants nearby were affected. Could it be that this particular scale only grows on the Dodonaea ?

Whilst we were looking out across the headlands, members commented on the interesting geology, with rock formations and lava flows from past eons. How lucky are we then to have been offered the opportunity to learn about the history of the geology of the Moruya to Bingie coast, from experienced members of the Bingie Residents Association.

MORUYA-BINGIE GEOLOGY EXCURSION Sunday 13 September 2015

This excursion will be led by Geoff, Judy, Marjorie and Philip. It will start at Shelly Beach, South Head, Moruya at 9.00am and finish at Bingie Point, hopefully by 2.00pm at the very latest. Please provide your own transportation.

Bring something to drink and nibbles to fend off starvation.

Excursion notes containing an *Introduction to Basic Geology*, are followed by a description of the five *Excursion Sites* stops. At the end there is a brief description of the main *Rock-Forming Minerals* and *Rock Types in the Moruya-Bingie Region*. You need to read these notes before the excursion and bring a copy of them with you into the field. A copy of the notes in pdf format is available from Michele via email. Please if you wish to attend, contact Michele so that your details can be made available to the BRA organisers.

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Website can accessed by searching the APS NSW website, and access the South East NSW Group. austplants.com.au and follow the link to South East Region