



Australian Plants Society

South East NSW Group

Newsletter 123

October 2016

Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and
Macrozamia communis Burrawang

Contacts: President, John Knight,
Secretary, Michele Pymble,
Newsletter editor, John Knight,

johnonvista49@outlook.com

mishpymble@gmail.com

johnonvista49@outlook.com

Next Meeting

Forests West and North of Batemans Bay

Saturday November 5th 2016

Meeting at 9.30am

at the carpark on the left side of Princes Highway, Batemans Bay, just before crossing the Clyde R. bridge.

(Those coming from the north will cross the Clyde and turn right immediately off the bridge)

Here we will car pool, as the roads once leaving the Kings H'way are unsealed, and dust could be an issue if there are too many vehicles.

**We will travel firstly to visit the garden of
Cliff Williams 274 Western Distributor Road Currowan
for a 10.00am start.**

After an introduction to Cliff's garden, and morning tea, we will travel in convoy along Western Distributor Road to discover the varied forest types on the ranges of Currowan SF, through parts of Yadboro, Clyde, Shallow Crossing, South Brooman and Boyne State Forests, before returning to Batemans Bay.

Although the weather has been somewhat cooler than expected for this time of the year, there will be plenty of flowers to discover as we wind our way slowly through the bush.

As always, come prepared. Wear sensible clothing and shoes to suit the conditions. The proposed lunch site is open and flat, but there are no logs to sit on, so bring a chair.

Members who own **two-way radios** might pack these as well so we can converse along the way.

We are looking forward to a good roll up for our last outing for the year. See you there.

Annual General Meeting

Retiring President Margaret welcomed everyone, and thanked Christina and Trevor for allowing the Group use of their home for the meeting.

Minutes of the previous AGM, which had been circulated, were ratified by a show of hands.

Margaret then presented her President's report for the year, which was received with acclamation. Her report appears later in this newsletter.

Treasurer John Knight presented an interim financial report for the period 1st November 2015 to 30th September 2016, and advised the meeting that, as APS NSW Region has determined that the financial year will run from 1st January to 31st December in each year, that the final report will be presented early in the new year. The report as tabled was agreed upon by a show of hands, and appears later in this newsletter.

As there was no business arising from the floor, **Returning Officer Peter John** declared all Committee positions vacant, then disclosed those nominations which were received prior to the AGM by Secretary Michele. Peter then called for any further nominations, but there none forthcoming.

Results of the election: There was no nomination for president, so this position was held over, to be determined at the next regular meeting of the committee. Likewise there was no nomination for vice-president.

**Michele Pymble was re-elected as Secretary,
and Amanda Marsh as her deputy and Minutes Secretary.**

Mary Harrison was elected to the role of Treasurer,

Jenny John retains the position of Membership Secretary, much to everyone's relief,

Jillian Peck continues in her role as Publicity Officer,

John Knight remains as a committee member and newsletter editor,

and new member Geoff Gosling was elected as a committee member, bringing much business acumen and experience to the position.

As there was no further business, the AGM was declared closed, and Margaret handed over to John Knight to introduce our Guest Speaker for the day.

Report on last meeting by John Knight

Photos taken from Simon's powerpoint presentation

Our Guest Speaker **Professor Simon Haberle** Director of the School of Culture History and Language Australian National University **introduced members present to the very apt 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"**.

Simon began by introducing his involvement in a long term monitoring program for climate change science, and community health management, explaining the role of pollen, and how different plants have evolved the most efficient ways to distribute pollen to ensure successful reproduction.

Simon illustrated his use of the **Burkart Sporewatcher** (shown on the right), and described how he can correctly identify the type of pollen found in the air, and monitor its density. His study is primarily based on results obtained in Canberra and the ACT, but is relevant Australia wide



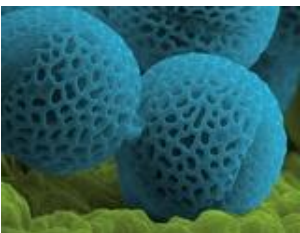
Using this information he is able to predict how pollen might affect susceptible people, such as those who suffer from “hay fever” and other allergies.

- Allergic rhinitis is a medically and economically important chronic disease that affects 1 in 5 people living in the ACT, which is more than any other State or Territory in Australia (2011).
- Allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and episodic asthma attacks triggered by grass pollen regularly affects up to three million Australians.



Pollen comes in many shapes and sizes

Many non-native plants are highly allergenic.



Privet, *Ligustrum* spp flowers and close up of pollen grains

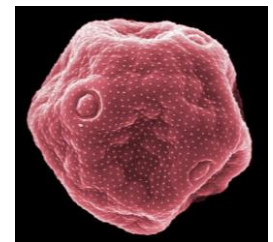


Wind dispersed pollen, Cypress sp. Illustrating just how prolific pollen production can be, and why some pollen “gets up your nose” and in your eyes



Pine tree pollen close up

Plane tree *Platanus x acerifolia* leaf and developing fruit, and close up of pollen grain.



Plantago lanceolata English Plantain, a common weed through much of Australia, flower spike and close up of pollen

Simon's research demonstrated the close correlation of the onset of hay fever with a dramatic increase in airborne pollen. From August to October non-native tree pollen increased from <50 grains per cubic metre to in excess of 400, whilst grass pollen showed a similar increase from October to December. These figures were obtained in Canberra, where a large collection of exotic trees were planted, and of course the capital is surrounded by grasslands. However Simon pointed out that similar results are obtained from many areas in Australia, albeit total pollen count is somewhat less. It is interesting to note that weather services now include a likely airborne pollen count to warn people susceptible to allergies to be aware.

Pollen production by plants known to cause allergies makes for interesting reading.

July to September,	Alder <i>Alnus</i> spp, peaking August,
August to January,	Cypress pines, Cupressaceae, peaking September – October
August to May,	She Oaks, <i>Allocasuarina</i> , peaking September – October
August to November,	Pine Trees, <i>Pinus</i> spp, peaking September
August to November,	Poplars, <i>Populus</i> spp, peaking September
August to November,	Ash Trees, <i>Fraxinus</i> spp, peaking mid August to September
August to November,	Birch Trees, <i>Betula</i> spp, peaking September to October
August to October,	Elm Trees, <i>Quercus</i> spp, peaking September
August to November,	Willows, <i>Salix</i> spp, peaking September
September to October,	Plane Trees, <i>Platanus</i> spp, peaking September to October
September to December,	Olive Trees, <i>Olea</i> spp, peaking October to November
September to November,	Oak Trees, <i>Quercus</i> spp, peaking October
September to January,	Paterson's Curse, <i>Echium</i> sp, peaking October to December
September to February,	Grasses, Poaceae, peaking November and again in January
October to February,	Dock, Sorrel, <i>Rumex</i> spp, peaking November to December
October to February,	Plantain, <i>Plantago</i> spp, peaking November to January
November to March,	Privet, <i>Ligustrum</i> spp, peaking December to January

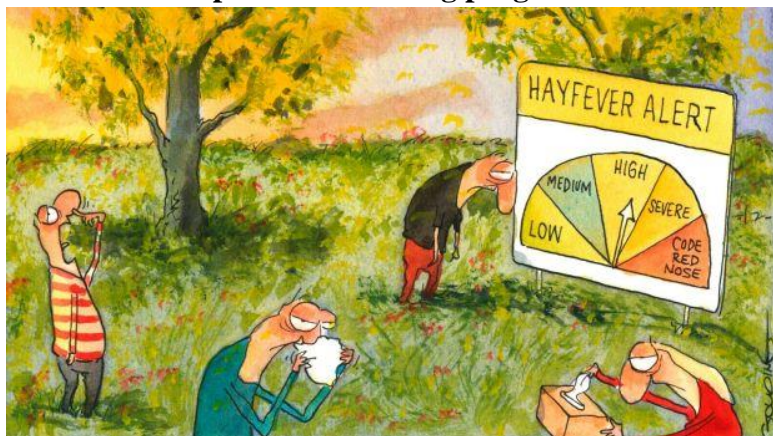
These times are of course approximate, as they are dependent upon temperatures.



During question time Simon was asked to comment on the widely held belief that Wattles are to blame for at least some allergies. His table showed that Wattles, *Acacia* spp, produce pollen from July to February, peaking August to November, but the grains are too heavy to become part of the airborne pollen mix, and can therefore be exonerated as a culprit causing hay fever. Thank goodness for that !

There can be no doubt that as our climate changes, plants which do not currently appear locally may be favoured by increased temperature and rainfall, and other allergens will appear. Grasses are a case in point. The types of grasses, and when they flower change across a range of latitudes. The major environmental factors grasses respond to are rainfall and temperature. Under current climate change predictions, Canberra may move to a more Sydney-like pollen season.

The need for a pollen monitoring program



Simon showed the correlation between hospital admissions and increased pollen count.

Citizen science is helping to understand this correlation, and Canberrapollen app, available for both Android and Apple products, launched in October 2014 has had over 12000 downloads.

Many people are now reporting pollen count information, responding to the question "how is your hay fever today". Simon urged all to download the app and join information sharing.

Delivering daily pollen count information to the public

- Improve clinical management of hay fever and allergic asthma.
- Provide region-specific calendar of the pollen season
- Encourage compliance and quality use of medicines
- Empower patients to adopt allergen avoidance strategies
- Reveal region dependent differences in exposure to allergenic pollens
- Provide a platform for patient education asthma triggers

Christina was then asked to introduce her new book 'Horse Island' which she did with enthusiasm.



The book is a personal story of Christina's, and indeed her forebears, involvement with Horse Island, and her choice to use Australian plants rather than exotics. A genuine love of plants, and an ability to use them to great advantage, is patently displayed in the sprawling gardens she has designed, and the book faithfully tells her story with beautifully photographed panoramas and also in intimate detail.

Christina explained that Horse Island has been part of her family for many generations. Her great great grandfather Thomas Mort, well known industrialist, was an innovative farmer, well before his time, and on his Comerang property his approach to clearing was subtle and respectful, in a time when most new settlers obliterated the native vegetation.

25 years ago, Horse Island was just a weed infested scrubby 200 acre block, with scattered stands of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and *Casuarina glauca*.

Said Christina, 'I feel deep connections to my ancestors when I work in the garden, and gratitude to them. I am also thankful for the opportunity to build such a garden and in a location so close to my own family roots'.

It is obvious that she has inherited a sympathetic mind, capable of understanding nature and working with the landscape, using as framework those large mature trees which give the garden their character. Then, choosing to use only Australian plants, but using them in a formal sense when everyone was suggesting that they would only grow well in a naturalistic bush setting, is the genius Christina bestows on her garden. As growers of Australian plants, we are indeed fortunate to be able to visit this garden, to be so warmly received, and offered the opportunity to marvel at just how well Australian plants can look when treated respectfully.

Christina was warmly applauded and took questions before we broke for lunch.

True to her nature, Christina donated a copy of her Horse Island book to the group, to be raffled on the day to assist the group. It is fitting that the book was won by Jan Raabe, who has worked with Christina at Horse Island landscaping some of the gardens around the cottage.

Christina, holding the winning ticket, presents Jan with the prized copy of Horse Island.

Looking on is Simon Haberle, with Phil Trickett, Jenny Vine and peeking around the corner, Dianne Clark

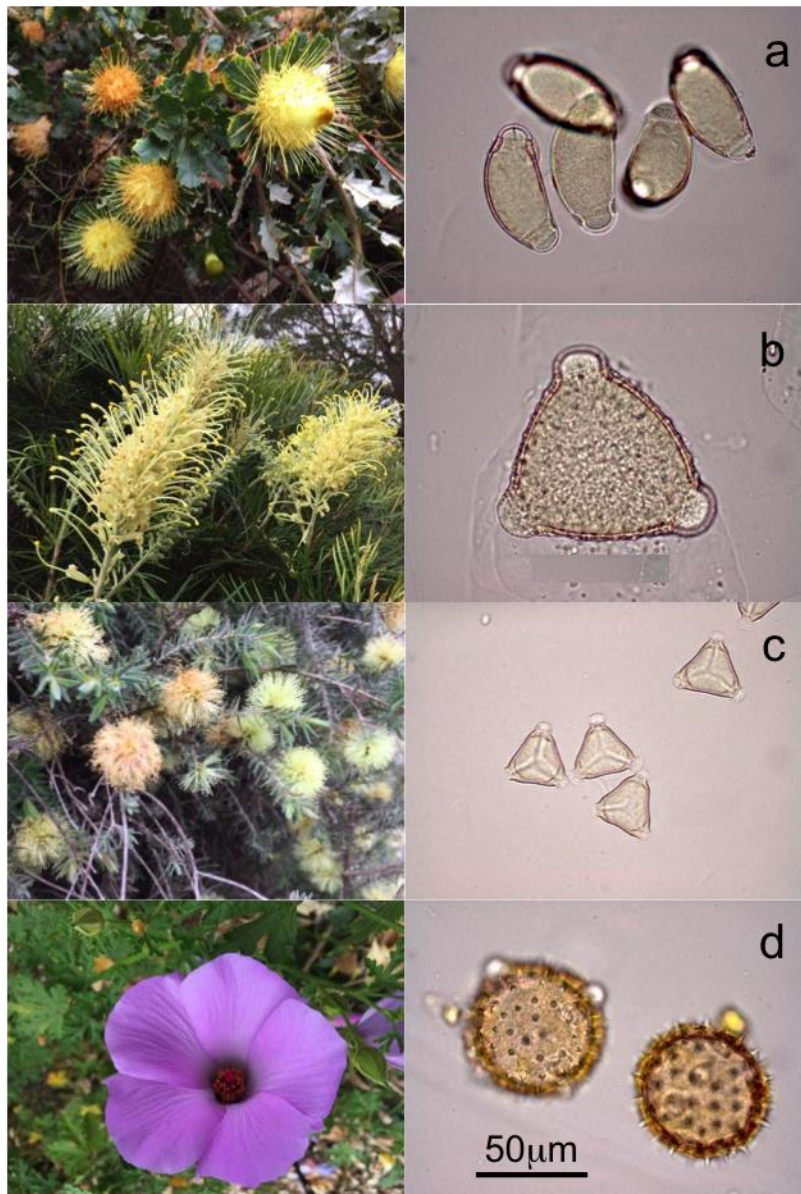


Lunch was enjoyed beneath a canopy of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* 'Blue Veil', a choice selection released by Peter and Jenny Ollerenshaw Bywong Nursery

Photos Jillian Peck

Simon had offered to show us a selection of pollen grains collected from Christina's garden, so while we enjoyed wandering for a couple of hours, he set up a mini laboratory with a microscope so we could have a look at what the pollen of some Australian plants look like.

In each case the pollen grains are magnified x 400



At the end of a very busy but enjoyable day, John thanked Simon for his work in putting together a comprehensive presentation on pollen and its effects, and for the extra effort in collecting pollen samples from the garden for our education.

Finally, Christina was called forward to receive from Phil, on behalf of the group, some grafted plants for her garden, and a bottle of fine wine to enjoy once we all packed up.

This was a most enjoyable day, and everyone I am sure went away more knowledgeable about the role of pollen than when they arrived.

We are very grateful that Christina continues to support the group by offering her garden as a venue for meetings.

Banksia undata, which we thought we knew as ***Dryandra praemorsa***, before all *Dryandra* were moved to *Banksia* in 2007. Mind you many still debate the validity of the move, and continue to use *Dryandra*. Note the elongated pollen with 2 pores.

It was interesting that Simon identified the pollen as belonging to *Banksia*, although he did not know the name of the plant. Maybe another point to the validity of using DNA to help sort out plant relationships.

A form of ***Grevillea whiteana***, known as G. 'Moonlight', and the typically triangular pollen grain of *Grevillea*, with 3 pores.

Hakea has similar shaped pollen, another pointer to the argument of joining the 2 genera as one, that is move *Grevillea* into *Hakea*

Melaleuca incana has the triangular pollen grains typical of this Myrtaceae group

Alyogyne huegelii has very distinct pollen grains

Slides provided by Simon Haberle





President's Report

Annual Report, AGM 2016,

Australian Plant Society South East NSW Group

Your committee again organised an ambitious program of activities for the group during 2016. Production of a monthly newsletter, improvement of the web site, and publicising our group activities in the local media also continued to be a focus for the committee.

Our regular monthly meetings over the past year were held in a variety of locations and included a field trip to Canberra.

In summary: a successful AGM in 2015 at "Thubble", Bermagui was followed by a talk on the recently published book "Wendy Whiteley and the Secret Garden" by author Janet Hawley. Owner Philip Cox and property manager, Tristan Dalziel then spoke on the history and

management of "Thubble" before members enjoyed a ramble through the gardens.

The November meeting was held at the Brogo conservation property of Graeme and Denise Krake. The focus was on terrestrial orchids with experienced grower Graeme discussing their cultivation and growing requirements. Members were also treated to an inspection of the garden led by Denise and Graeme and a walk through part of the 100 acre conservation property.

A small group gathered in December for an end of year picnic at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens.

The new year began with a very successful and widely publicised meeting at Moruya featuring well known horticulturist Angus Stewart. Angus spoke on "How Australian Gardens are Changing" prompting much discussion at the following question and answer session. A huge show and tell table impressed visitors, a raffle helped cover costs and the plant stall was well patronised.

The next meeting was held at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens where Margaret Lynch led a walk which looked at the diversity of characteristics and adaptations in our local plants. The group were also taken to visit the propagation and nursery precinct with Gardens manager Michael Anlezark outlining the workings of the area and proposed future directions.

In April the home and garden of Phil and Catriona Trickett at Milton was a popular destination for members who delighted in viewing the extensive range of grafted Proteaceae and other treasures. Phil also demonstrated his grafting technique with members also invited to have a go.

A trip to Canberra was organised for May with visits and extensive guided walks at both the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the National Arboretum.

Wild weather defeated plans for the June meeting though 2 members braved the storm to travel to the property of Pete and Jenny John at Punkalla where the Q&A session turned to a discussion on grasses.

We returned to Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens in July for a detailed discussion on the identification and variety of characteristics in the largest genus of Australian plants, the Acacias, ably led by John Knight.

An August visit to the Glendeuart home and garden of Carolyn and Mark Noake featured their extensive plantings of Grevillea species. Mark outlined the Southeast Group's website demonstrating the ease of access to a wealth of information, then followed with a simple explanation of the plant features used by botanists when identifying grevilleas.

September saw us return to Glendeuart this time in a joint meeting with Friends of Grasslands. After viewing some of the grasses retained amongst the grevilleas in Carolyn and Mark's garden Eurobodalla Shire's Environment Team member Courtney Fink-Downes outlined the work done in preserving native grasslands in the area. A walk through the reserve running along the Moruya River including the old Glendeuart cemetery followed. Some members also joined the Friends of Grasslands group the following day to view the grasslands at Bingie and Dalmeny Headlands.

In addition to meetings and field trips members of the committee have been involved in other activities which support the aims of the group. Without their hard work the group would not be able to function and I thank them for their considerable efforts over the year. Secretary Michele Pymble together with minute secretary Amanda Marsh again efficiently kept clear records. Michele has liaised with the Regional Office on many issues including

the committee's discussions on the regional strategic plan and member survey. Treasurer John Knight has diligently kept track of finances and assisted membership secretary Jenny John with banking of subscriptions. John's tireless support for the group continued with the enormous task of producing a quality newsletter every month even while travelling for long periods. These reported on our activities and have again included many tips on propagating and growing Australian plants. Regular member contributors Jenny Liney and Leigh Murray added to this wealth of information for members. Jenny John's valuable efforts as membership secretary continued as she efficiently kept tabs on members, a task which at times can be a challenge despite recent changes. Jillian Peck has had considerable success in placing articles about our activities in local media resulting in new interest and some new members. Jillian is also designing a bookmark with details of our group. These will become freely available in the district's libraries and bookshops. This together with our sponsorship of the ERBG calendar should increase the awareness of our group in the community. Lastly we are indebted to the support of Mark Noake as our Information Technology manager and advisor. Mark continues with improvements to the group's website which now has direct access as well as access through a link with APS NSW Region. Thank you to Mark for this work and the continual updating of information.

In conclusion I have enjoyed working with an enthusiastic committee and feel that members have been offered useful information and an extensive range of activities. Although meetings have largely been well supported the distance of travel remains a difficulty within the group. This is an issue which will continue to require thought as to how best enable support for all members of the group.

I thank all those members who have contributed to the group over the past year be it through sharing of information and ideas, bringing "show and tell", opening their homes to meetings or simply becoming involved in our activities. Such contributions all add to our shared enthusiasm for growing and promoting the benefits of Australian plants.

Margaret Lynch

President APS South East NSW

October 2016

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY SE NSW GROUP

TREASURER'S REPORT – AGM OCTOBER 2016

I have pleasure in presenting the Financial Report for the Group. Note that with the change of procedures requested to be implemented by APS NSW Region, the Annual Financial Report will not be completed until after 31st December 2016. All future financial years will include the period 1st January to 31st December.

The reconciled balance of our account with the Horizon Credit Union is currently **\$1818.98**

(\$1837.14 in 2015) The Group also holds in Petty Cash \$100, and there is an outstanding credit due from APS NSW Region of \$126.00, being our share of subscriptions paid for the last quarter.

The depreciated value of our physical assets (which are a data projector, laptop computer and mouse, storage bag, screen and two hard drives) is **Nil** (\$Nil in 2015).

Income from our share of subscriptions to APS NSW amounted to \$428.00 this year (\$551.00 in 2015). The membership subscription for John Knight, as a Life Member of our Group, was again paid for by the Group. Our other income was the proceeds from the very successful February meeting featuring Angus Stewart. This included \$183 from the sale of plants, \$209 from the raffle, door entry \$114.50 and \$33.85 being donations towards the morning tea expenses

Our administrative costs included newsletter expenses of \$44.75, Cost of meetings \$260, and gifts to speakers \$136.00, and donations to Friends of ERBG \$300.00 and the Bega Show Society \$30.00

Our audit cannot be completed until after 31st December, as noted above, but the interim accounts as presented are accurate, and I believe the APS NSW Region auditor will find no anomalies. Once complete the accounts will be forwarded to NSW Region for incorporation into their annual accounts, as required by the company rules of APS NSW.

Committee members continue to support the activities of the group as volunteers, and as such have made no claim for expenses, despite their workload this year. For this, and their ongoing support of myself, and the group, I thank each and every one.

Again I must mention the efficient processing of subscriptions by Jenny John which makes my task so much more simple. Jenny introduced a process of having members pay direct to the Region rather than to our local account. Despite some teething problems the system is beginning to work.

John Knight

Honorary Treasurer, APS SE NSW Group
8th October 2016

Australian Plant Society South East NSW Group

**Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period
1/10/2015 to 8/10/2016**

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions received	470.00	Subscriptions paid to Region	258.00
Other income		Newsletter expenses	44.75
Donation from plants sales	183.00	Meeting expenses	396.00
Donations Stewart meeting	148.35	Stationery	0.00
Raffle Stewart meeting	209.00	Postage	0.00
Interest	0.24	Donations	330.00
		Total expenditure	1028.75
Total Income	1010.59		1028.75
 Bank reconciliation			
Opening balance 1/10/15	1837.14	Bank Statement at 8/10/2016	1818.98
Income	1010.59	plus outstanding deposit	0.00
	2847.73		1818.98
expenditure	1028.75	Less outstanding cheque	0.00
Closing balance 30/9/15	1818.98		1818.98
		Note we have an outstanding credit due from APS NSW Region for subs	126.00
			1944.98
		Petty Cash on hand	100.00
		Total Group funds at 8/10/2016	2044.98

Members are reminded that the two free exhibitions at the State Library of NSW

Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens and Grand Garden Designs

continue until 15th January 2017.

Those who have visited the exhibitions are generous in their praise. If you have the opportunity to visit Sydney in the next couple of months, make the exhibitions a priority. You will not be disappointed.

See the September newsletter for details



Committee news

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 had considered holding a Quarterly Get-together for NSW members. However due to some confusing or conflicting information from APS NSW Region, our involvement in a quarterly get-together has been postponed. Your current committee will address options early in the new year, and members will be advised then of what plans we might pursue.

LOST AND FOUND

A pair of prescription sunglasses were left at Horse Island following our October meeting. If you have missed this item call Michele Pymble on 44738587.

Future activities

At the October committee meeting, John Knight was elected President, but advised the committee that he is likely to be 'on the road' during the year. Geoff Gosling was elected to the Vice-President position. The new committee is working on an evolving program of interesting meetings for the coming year, activities which will hopefully add to our knowledge of Australian plants, and encouraging all members to get involved.

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

Due to space constraints, 2 plant articles, prepared by Jenny Liney and Leigh Murray, have been held over till next month

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President,	John Knight	Ph 0434 674 347	e. johnonvista49@outlook.com
Vice-President	Geoff Gosling	Ph 0438 286 382	e. geoff.gosling@bigpond.com
Secretary,	Michele Pymble	Ph 02 4473 8587	e. mishpymble@gmail.com
Minute Sec.,	Amanda Marsh	Ph 0421 426 366	e. mohippoly@gmail.com
Treasurer,	Mary Harrison	Ph 0421 423 200	e. maharr03@gmail.com
Membership	Jenny John	Ph 02 4476 3576	e. peteandjenny.john@gmail.com
Publicity	Jillian Peck	Ph 0421 432 953	e. jcpeck88@gmail.com
Website.			southeast.austplants.com.au