



## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BLUE MOUNTAINS GROUP

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### NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2010

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Unless otherwise specified, all activities take place at the Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook. During the months of June to September all Group activities, other than Committee meetings, are held in the daytime on weekends. Unless otherwise specified evening meetings are held on the first Friday of the month from October to December and February to May. No meeting is held when outings take their place in that month.

#### GROUP PROGRAM NOVEMBER 2010 TO APRIL 2011

	See below for extra information
SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER	HASSAN'S WALLS WALK
SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER	GLENBROOK FESTIVAL
FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS BARBECUE
SATURDAY 8 JANUARY	PICNIC AT MOUNT YORK
WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY	AUSTRALIA DAY - GLENBROOK OVAL
FRIDAY 4 FEBRUARY	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY	COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY 4 MARCH	GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 6 MARCH	CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
SUNDAY 3 APRIL	GARDEN INSPECTION

**SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER** Don't forget that Jill Dark will be leading us on a walk at Hassan's Walls to look at orchids. See last newsletter for notes about the area.

**Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 9.45 am** so we can share cars. Trains arrive at Mt Victoria (from Sydney) at 8.12, 9.42 and 10.43 am. No trackwork is scheduled for that weekend on the Blue Mountains line. Contact Jim on 4735 1965 or [jward@pnc.com.au](mailto:jward@pnc.com.au) for help with transport.

Bring your own morning tea and lunch. All participants are invited to my new home at South Bowenfels for afternoon tea before you head home.

The **Glenbrook Festival** is on again on **Saturday 13 November** and the Blue Mountains Group will have a stall as usual. We are looking for members who are willing to staff our stall for 1-2 hours between 9am and 3pm.

If you are able to volunteer please contact Alix by email (alix.goodwin@bigpond.com) or on 0417-679-964 leaving your name and contact details and the time you are available to staff the stall. It is an interesting day and one of our outreaches to the community.

On **Friday 3 December** we will have our **Christmas Barbecue** which is always a happy, relaxed activity to end our year. We will start at **6.00 pm**. Bring a salad or a sweet to share. Meat, drinks and vegetarian fare will be provided.

It is our usual custom to also start our year with a more relaxed, informal activity. The summer holiday activity for 2011 will be a **picnic at Mount York on Saturday 8 January**. Come and join with other members at this interesting site. Bring a picnic lunch and drinks. We may go on a short level walk depending on the weather. If you need a lift please contact Jim Ward on 4735 1965. Meet at 11.00 am at Mt York at the end in the turning circle around the big monument.

On our national day we try to encourage the Blue Mountains community to take an interest in our native flora and to grow Australian plants. We participate in one of the main Australia Day functions in the area - the **Australia Day Fair** at the **Glenbrook Oval**. The date is **Wednesday 26 January**. As with the Glenbrook Festival we need volunteers to staff our stall. Please contact Alix if you can help.

Our first more formal activity for the new year is our **Annual General Meeting** at 8.00 pm on **Friday 4 February** at the Reserve. At this meeting you elect the committee for the ensuing year, hear reports on the past year's activities and can share in planning future activities. Come and have your say.

The first Committee Meeting of the newly elected committee will be held on Friday 11 February. Any member is welcome to join us at the committee meetings.

**Friday 4 March** at our General Meeting we hope to have a speaker on seed collection. Details will be provided when they are confirmed.

**Sunday 6 March: 9am - 12pm: Clean Up Australia Day.** We will be cleaning up around the Reserve and in neighbouring parks and streets. See [www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/Glenbrook+Native+Plant+re](http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/Glenbrook+Native+Plant+re)

**Sunday 3 April:** We will be inspecting Deidre and Ivor Morton's garden at Woodford. This garden extends across the roof of their "underground" house. We also hope to inspect another garden nearby. More details later

## **NSW Program**

**FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER**      **Region Meeting, Community Centre, River Rd, Ermington**

**Angus Stewart**, well known to listeners and viewers of ABC gardening programs will be speaking at the meeting on his new book. The meeting starts at 8.00 pm but come earlier for plant sales

**FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY**      **Region Meeting, Community Centre, River Rd, Ermington:**  
The speaker will be Tim Emtwistle, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney on his ideas of seasons in Australia.

**REGION GET-TOGETHER 2011**                      **Burrendong Arboretum**

The proposed date is 27 & 28 August. Plan ahead for this as it will be a trip away.

**GROUP PROGRAM FOR THE REST OF 2011:** The Committee has developed a draft program and will provide further information as items are confirmed. Proposed activities include:

**Friday 6 May 8pm:** General Meeting: We hope to have a speaker from the Blue Mountains Conservation Society talking about the work of that society propagating native plants of the Blue Mountains on this evening.

**Sunday 5 June:** Walk We intend to have an easy walk to see a hanging swamp.

**Sunday 3 July:** General Meeting: TBA Ideas welcome

**Friday 9 July 8pm:** Committee Meeting

**Sunday 7 August 9.30am - 4.00pm:** Seminar *Fire and the Australian Bush*  
Venue: Glenbrook Hall (next to Glenbrook Cinema)

**Saturday 3 September 10am:** Working Bee & Committee Meeting (noon)

**Friday 9 September 9am:** Further Preparations for the Spring Fair

**Saturday 10 September & Sunday 12 September 10am - 4pm:** Spring Fair

**Sunday 9 October:** General Meeting: Pruning Demonstration by Connie Southwell and Dick Turner

**Friday 14 October 8pm:** Committee Meeting

**Saturday 5 November:** Walk This will be a fairly level walk along a fire trail (towards Hanging Rock) at Blackheath. At this time of the year there are numerous Waratahs in bloom.

**Saturday November 12** Glenbrook Festival

**Friday December 2:** Christmas BBQ

## REPORTS

### ANNUAL SPRING FAIR: 11 & 12 September

The program of talks, displays and activities was well received. We thank all those who prepared and conducted these including Deirdre and her team who set up the display of plants and the orchid display; Megan Halcroft's display of native bees; David King's talk and display on the Aboriginal uses of flora and fauna; Des Tuck and others on wood turning and pyrography; Dick's guided walks through the Reserve and Jim's planting demonstrations.

The takings from plant sales were \$4,789 on Saturday and \$3,296 on Sunday (Total \$8,085). This is not as good as last year, but fairly comparable to the average for the previous four years.

A draw was conducted for a year's membership for which 100 people entered. Of these 50 had email addresses which were legible and didn't bounce. Letters will be sent to the others. The winner of the draw was Ron Amann of Winmalee.

**OCTOBER WALK:** The walk to view swamps in the Wentworth Falls area was washed out.

### OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EVAN WEATHERHEAD GATES:



On Sunday 24 October we gathered to officially open the gates and dedicate them to the memory of Evan. We were joined for the occasion by Evan's wife, Dorothy, their daughter and Evan's sister as well as, the State member for Penrith, Stuart Ayres and Senator Marise Payne, Senator for NSW

As the weather was cool and inclement we had a short ceremony in which Dorothy cut the ribbon and then we adjourned to the Information Centre where Dick spoke about Evan.

Then Dorothy and others spoke of Evan's enjoyment of, and commitment to, native plants, our Group and the Reserve.

Dick brought along plants from his garden obtained from Evan or of special interest to him.

We all recalled Evan's pleasure in bringing items from his garden to show us at meetings, his generosity with providing cutting material or plants and in opening his garden for others to enjoy.

My particular memory is of the time we went to the Australian National Botanic Garden and being a little concerned and embarrassed that Evan was 'nipping' little cuttings as we walked. He told us later that a ranger had quietly asked him 'have you got this one?' Coincidentally the ANBG celebrated its 40th anniversary on the weekend we opened the gates.

Dorothy is pictured after cutting the ribbon. You can see the detail of the panel of the flower of *Lambertia formosa*, our Group symbol. On the other gate is the distinctive 'devil' seed case. [A note of warning - if you want to photograph the gates don't use flash. All my photos of the day are useless because of the reflection from the panels. This is even apparent in the more distant photo with the un-cut ribbon on the previous page.]



## A SPECIAL VISIT

In another of my 'hats', that of co-editor of the *Australian Plants* journal, I have been communicating with members and subscribers who live overseas about their experiences of growing Australian plants. The December issue will feature articles by or about some of these people and their gardens. One person with whom I was in contact is Koji Miyasaki of Yokohama, Japan. In encouraging Koji to write something for me I offered the assistance of Jim's wife, Tomoko, as translator. Through this Koji and Tomoko started exchanging emails about his visit to Sydney. She invited him to their home for lunch and Graeme Ingall, the NSW President, his wife Margaret and myself joined them for a very pleasant lunch. We then went to the Reserve and walked around enjoying the plants of the Reserve.

Pictured right are Koji and Graeme chatting in the Nursery. There were many plants Koji would have loved to have taken home to his little garden.

Koji lived in Australia for a few years, studied horticulture in Hobart and worked in a nursery in Sydney. He missed the Australian flora when he went home and after he built a new house he decided to have a garden of Australian plants. When we were sitting on Jim and Tomoko's verandah he described the size of his garden as about a third of the size of the verandah. I hope he will be sending me a photo of it now that he is home.



Our special plant, *Boronia fraseri*, was in flower as was *Jacksonia scoparia*. We also were able to show Koji a number of our other Blue Mountains plants such as *Isopogon anemonifolia*, personias and hakeas.

Dick joined us at the Reserve and he and Koji got down into the creek to study some water plants.

But it was not only we, humans, who welcomed Koji. While in the nursery there were skinks and birds. Then, as we crossed the bridge we met a water dragon. This was the first time Dick had seen this species in the Reserve and he said it is usually lower down in the catchment area.

Pictured below are Koji with his favourite plant, the waratah, although the flowers unfortunately were past their prime, and Graeme and Margaret on the new bridge as well as our unexpected visitor (or is he resident?).



### OPENING OF THE LISLE PEARSE GARDEN, OBERON

As you will have read in *Native Plants for NSW*, this garden was developed by our friends in the Central West Group in conjunction with the Oberon Council and with a grant from the Society's Bequest Fund.

Jim and Connie Southwell were able to attend the official opening on Saturday 30 October. Jim has provided photos of the occasion. The first photo shows NSW President Graeme



Ingall and Central West President Marcia Bonham who jointly opened the garden. In the second they are joined by Connie and by Colin Fenn who made the sandstone spire with the inscription.



I recently visited Colin and Val's home and he has many stone works in their garden and sculptures made from, for example, old farm equipment.

**Membership and contact information**

Since our last newsletter we have been joined by Ron Amann who won the membership draw at the Fair and also Gail and Michelle Marks of Emu Heights and Sean and Karen Fullbrook of Blaxland. We welcome them to our Group hope they will have a happy association with us.

I am enclosing with this newsletter a renewal form for those whose membership was due on 30 June or 30 September 2010. Those due in June will receive their last NSW mailing next week unless they renew. Membership forms and payments should be either posted to Annette Martin PO Box 23 Glenbrook 2773 - or left in the special box in the selling centre at the Reserve. Cash/cheques can be put in the till but mark the form to say this.

If you have a new email address please put it on the form when you renew or send your new address to Annette (sophieamd@yahoo.com.au). It helps us to send last minute changes of program or requests for assistance, such as Alix recently did for the Glenbrook Festival by email. The newsletter can be provided as pdf if you would prefer this to mailed newsletters.

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**Feature Item            Blue Mountains Grevilleas**

When thinking about Evan Weatherhead and his interests it came to mind that Evan was particularly interested in grevilleas and protantheras. This made me think that we should feature this time the grevilleas of our area. The following is extracted from the first draft of my comprehensive list of plants which occur within the Blue Mountains area. Thanks to Jill Dark for the photos.

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>HABITAT</b>	<b>AREAS</b>
GREVILLEA ACANTHIFOLIA	SWAMPY AREAS OR WET ROCK SHELVES	UPPER MTNS, LEURA, NEWNES PL, COX'S R, JENOLAN, YARRAMUNDI
GREVILLEA ARENARIA	OPEN FOREST OR WOODLAND ROCKY OR MOIST SITES IN EUC FOREST	LOWER COXS R; KOWMUNG R LOWER, CENTRAL & UPPER MTNS UPPER MTNS
GREVILLEA ASPLENIIFOLIA	MOIST LOW HEATH OR WOODLAND MARGINS	KANANGRA WALLS/TOPS
GREVILLEA BUXIFOLIA	MOIST SITES BESIDE CKS	UPPER MTNS, NEPEAN R
GREVILLEA X GAUDICHAUDII	DRY OPEN WOODLAND OR SCL FOREST	ONLY IN SMALL AREA BTN KEDUMBA V, E OF MT SOLITARY & SCOTTS MAIN RANGE
GREVILLEA IMBERBIS	OPEN WOODLAND OR DRY SCL FOREST ON RIDGES, SLOPES	LOWER MTNS, SPRINGWOOD, UPPER MTNS, NEWNES PL
GREVILLEA JUNIPERINA	DRY SCL FOREST OR HEATH	LOWER MTNS, LAWSON
GREVILLEA KEDUMBENSIS	MOIST AREAS IN SCL FOREST, OFTEN NEAR CKS	SPRINGWOOD TO LAWSON
GREVILLEA LAURIFOLIA	DRY OR WET SCL FOREST	LOWER MTNS, FAULCONBRIDGE, MT TOMAH
GREVILLEA LINEARIFOLIA	MOISTER AREAS OF DRY SCL WOODLAND OR HEATH	KATOOMBA, ERSKINE CK
GREVILLEA LONGIFOLIA	MOIST HEATH OR EUC WOODLAND ON SANDY SOILS	KANIMBLA VY
GREVILLEA MUCRONULATA	DRY SCL FOREST W'LAND, HEATH	FAULCONBRIDGE, HAZELBROOK, WENT. FALLS
GREVILLEA OLEOIDES	DRY SCL W'DLAND ON ACIDIC SOILS	VALLEYS OF HIGHER MTNS
GREVILLEA PATUIFOLIA	ROCKY CK GULLIES IN WOODLAND	ORIGINALLY COLLECTED COX'S R, HARTLEY
GREVILLEA PHYLICOIDES	DRY SCL FOREST ON S/STONE	LOWER MTNS, MT TOMAH
GREVILLEA RAMOSISSIMA		
GREVILLEA ROSMARINIFOLIA		
GREVILLEA SERICEA		

