



**Menai
Wildflower
Group**



Newsletter of Menai Wildflower Group February 2016

President's Report

A joyous time was had by all at the MWG 2015 Xmas party, where we all waited to see which participants of the photo competition had their entries included in our 2016 calendar. Entries were many and for those that missed out don't be dismayed as there will be yet another opportunity in 2016. The committee has already started ideas flowing as last year's photo competition was such a success. We would like to extend an invitation to any budding photo artists.

2016 activities are being organised and events have started to be pencilled in. The committee hopes to have the program ready for its members in early 2016.

Our first speaker of the year will be Karlo Taliana from the East Hills group speaking on growing and caring for Eastern Banksia cultivars. He has had a unique passion for this genus for some time.

I would like to thank the committee of 2015 for all their diligence and fostering a sense of community amongst our members and I wish all our members and guest a wonderful year.

The committee needs ideas from the group members. If you have any suggestions for speakers or would like to help with group activities, we will have sign-on sheets available on the display board at our 10th Feb meeting, so keep an eye out for it.

And, don't forget the APS NSW quarterly gathering at North Curl Curl on Saturday, 27 February (a talk and a variety of walks should make this an interesting day trip outside your local are). I hope to see you there.

Jason Cockayne



Coming Local Events

(See Special Interest for others)

6 Feb Working Bee at IRFB 9am start

6 Feb Propagation at IRFS nursery 1pm

10 Feb Menai Wildflower Group Meeting
Guest speaker – Karlo Taliana
“Eastern banksia cultivars”

5 Mar Working Bee at IRFB 9am start

5 Mar Propagation at IRFS nursery 1pm

9 Mar Menai Wildflower Group Meeting
Guest speaker – TBA
“TBA”

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From the Treasurer

APS NSW has decided to raise the membership fees in order to cover extra admin and publishing costs. The fees have increased by \$3 for each category and this was effective from 1Jan 2015. An updated membership renewal form can be found on our website.

Sharon Pearson

If any member knows of someone who would like to do a talk for our group for 2016 please give their details to a committee member.

ATTENTION –MEETING START TIME

The doors will be open from 6.30pm and the meeting will start at 7pm. Why not come along at 6.30pm for a wander around the garden or chat over a cup of tea.

Special Interest

Deadline for contributions to next newsletter will be Wednesday 24 Mar'16.

Any items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter may be sent to the Editor (Post to Secretary or e-mail fergsrus@ihug.com.au) before the deadline.

Working Bees at IRFB start at 9am and include weeding, mulching and lunching.

Propagation days are now a regular part of running the nursery at Illawong Rural Fire Station. The next two will be at 1pm on Saturdays 6 February and 5 March.

Nursery group held at the Tip Nursery, Lucas Heights Waste Management site most Monday mornings from 9.30am to 1pm. Please contact Lloyd Hedges if you wish to start attending.

The Group's Website Home Page can be easily accessed by doing a Google search using the phrase "Menai Wildflower Group" and selecting what should be the first option offered.

Visit a neighbouring group

When you joined the Menai Wildflower Group you became a member of the NSW APS and therefore are welcome at other APS group meetings, bushwalks etc. This gives members a lot more activities to participate in.

Visit the APS NSW website www.austplant.com.au/ and check out what other districts are doing, particularly our neighbours:

Easthills <http://easthills.austplants.com.au/> and Sutherland <http://sutherland.austplants.com.au/>.

Lloyd Hedges



Vale John Wallekers

We all send our love and sympathy to our long-time stalwart Henny on the loss of her **beloved husband and best mate John**. Henny was the first member of the original MWG (in financial terms) and so was our longest serving member until their move to downsize a couple of years ago. Her gardens contained many special native plants, which had to be protected from enthusiastic weeding by John. As he acted as chauffeur regularly, we came to know him well.

Thanks also to the Tux family for their help during the afternoon



This early warning will be repeated in August

11th FJC Rogers Seminar
'Native Terrestrial and Epiphytic Orchids'
Hamilton, Victoria
Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th October 2016

Program
Saturday: Full day conference and formal dinner
Sunday: Field trips to Hamilton, Casterton & Grampians Bushland



To Register Your Interest . . .
Contact: Mr Kevin Sparrow
Post: 35 Sway St, Warrnambool VIC 3280
email: ksparrow93@gmail.com



Terrestrial & Epiphytic Orchids

This seminar will be popular – make sure you get in early.

December Christmas Social

As a new member to the club, I would like to say how lovely the Christmas party was. The homemade salads and goodies were beautiful, and I really liked the idea of having your own meat cooked by the experts manning the BBQ. There was just enough formalities to the night, with the showcasing of the photos & calendar the group produced which was exceptional. A most enjoyable evening and thank you very much to everyone who worked to produce a great night.

Marian Whatman

Photos by Ron Fraser



Setting up



Almost full house



Guess who's in the calendar



Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Australia Day at Blaxland Oval



Sharon, Lloyd and I set out from the Illawong fire Station with buckets of cut flowers and other minor accessories to prepare the MWG stall on the oval. The grass was damp and the

sky was cloudy, but we were stationed between the coffee van and the men's shed, so we had no complaints. We had some good items to display, including the latest development in NSW Christmas bush, a gorgeous deep red from Ray Brown, as well as a lilac Kangaroo Paw. These special items had been gathered by Marg Olde whilst she prepared for the annual beach vacation, so I hope nothing essential for the holiday was forgotten.

As usual, vases of native flowers brought the passers-by closer so we were able to give advice on their "drop dead" plants and to suggest what else could be tried. We encouraged locals to come to Lloyd's propagation sessions on the first Saturday of each month and there was a good deal of interest in that.

As the clouds rolled away, we realised that stalls need more shade in front so customers can linger, a good big water bowl for hot dogs being made to come out for a walk, more secateurs and bands for tying bouquets need to be packed and we did need more applications of sunblock!

Our day was made when the gelato van parked right beside us: lemon ice, anyone?

As usual, I spent more on wooden craft from the surrounding stalls than we made from our sales, but it was a valuable exercise for getting our name out to the locals and a pleasant way to spend time with other volunteers. As the sun faded a bit, more families settled on the oval to enjoy the on stage performances and get ready for the fireworks.

Thanks to all who contributed to the day, especially those who did the heavy lifting. The ute was once again a star performer, as was Marg Olde and her family of plant lovers.

Pam Pitkeathly

Nursery News

This Year Our Propagation
Afternoons are Moving to the 1st
Saturday of the Month

The greenhouse is being expanded to cope with the amount of plants being grown



Learn how to grow native orchids;

Propagate Flannel Flowers;

Grow native plants from cuttings;
collect and handle seed.

Divide tufties;

grow West Australians natives.

Give grafting a try:

Use the Groups facilities to propagate your own plants.

Grow rain forest trees like.



Crown of Gold: *Barklya syringifolia*





MWfG new mower tackling the wet grass in the back paddock



Illawong Rural Fire Station

Please address all correspondence to the Secretary,
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Group Meetings

Monthly meetings (except January) of the Menai Wildflower Group are usually held at 7:00pm on the second Wednesday each month, although we have introduced day-time meetings for some of the months. The venue is the Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters. New members and friends are welcome.