



Wildplant Press

Autumn 2013

Newsletter of Katoomba Native Plant Nursery



Opening Hours

Tuesday – Friday
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Saturday (Sept - May
only)
10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Phone: 02 4782 6233



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Management Committee Members

The Annual General Meeting was held on 21st October, 2012 and the following were elected for the coming year.

Chairperson	Anne Rickwood
Vice Chair	Christine Belshaw
Secretary	Veronica Paul
Treasurer	Cynthia Sawatzky

Management Committee

Anne Rickwood	Christine Belshaw	Irene Domes	Cynthia Sawatzky
Veronica Paul	Olga Rumble	Alison Cooper	

Life Membership for Judy McLean

Judy McLean joined the Blue Mountains Wildplant Rescue Service in 1999 and has worked as a volunteer from that time until the end of 2012. She helped establish the nursery at Clairvaux Centre and worked closely with our founder Mikla Lewis AM.



When Mikla left in 2001 Judy took over the tasks of being Treasurer and Administrative Assistant. She held these positions until she resigned at the end of 2012. At that time she also resigned as Public Officer.

On January 17 we held a morning tea for Judy in order to thank her for her many years of dedication to BMWRS. We gave Judy Life Membership of the organization and a thank you gift of books entitled "Women of Flowers". We again extend to Judy our thanks and our best wishes for the coming years.



Chairperson's report

We have had a successful year. A \$5000 donation from the State Minister for the Environment and Heritage, The Hon. Robyn Parker was a very welcome surprise after she was introduced to us by Mrs Roza Sage M.P. We are very grateful for the money which is to be used to improve the nursery infrastructure. Mrs Sage is due our gratitude for the great support she has given us this year.

During a grant application workshop Odessa O'Brien, the Partners Manager of Landcare Australia, indicated to Anne and Veronica that she could help us with a grant to purchase nursery benches. We have now received \$15,000 and have proceeded with ordering 24 "Spring Benches" from C-Mac Industries. These will make a huge difference for both our plants and volunteers. We are very grateful to Odessa and Landcare Australia.

Thanks to David West for the donation of his cement mixer to replace the compost tumbler for soil mixing. This will be a Godsend for those in the potting shed.

Thanks to the Blue Mountains Gazette for continuing to publish "Plant of the Month" in the "Review" as it brings us most welcome publicity.

From the hard work put into the RTA project, reasonably successful retail sales and stalls, we are financially viable for our general running of the nursery.

We have now changed auditors, William Tomiczek, of Yellow Rock has been appointed. Of the current membership 15 People have been active volunteers for all or part of the year. With our Nursery Coordinator, Tanya McLean, they keep our nursery a vital and valuable asset to the Blue Mountains biodiversity.

We have successfully finished the plant production for the Dept. of Roads and Marine Services and the nursery is now filling up with various interesting species including lots of Waratahs. Many thanks to Tanya for her guidance and work and to her helper Chris.

The May storm brought down a tree on the shade house. The insurance has covered its replacement.

This year we have had stalls monthly at Leura First Sunday Markets, Blackheath and Wentworth Falls. We also sold successfully at the International Disability Forum, North Katoomba Public School's Footlight Festival, Blue Mountains Historical Society Garden Festival. Judy made good sales after she gave a talk at Leura Gardening Club meeting. (Here I would like to add that Judy did man the nursery **every** Saturday morning)

As it takes a lot of time and effort to run a stall our thanks go to all involved with preparing the stock, transportation, setting up, manning and returning the plants and equipment back to the Nursery.

The Management Committee is made up of members prepared to give 'that bit extra' through a lot of unrecognised time, effort and support. They most often are the ones who step up willingly to fill holes which appear in rosters for our running and organisation.

Thanks to Olga for being Membership Secretary and for making an excellent job of the Newsletter

Veronica is our Secretary and Data Bank Processor. I would like to thank her for the support she has given me this year.

To Tanya our Nursery and Rescue Coordinator, many thanks for your hard work. This has not been an easy year.

To Judy our Administrative Assistant, Treasurer and Public Officer, thanks for all this years' work. Judy has resigned from the Management Committee and the new Treasurer is Cynthia Swatsky. Our sincere thanks to Judy for all her contribution over the last 11 years, as Treasurer.

Looking ahead....Next year will need to find more active volunteers to become involved in the work and life of our organisation. As present a lot of commitments are falling on the shoulders of a small number and none of us is getting any younger. Amongst the present committee there are 'rumblings' about the need to reorganise the nursery, both business wise and structurally. Maybe these are the challengers for next year.
Anne Rickwood (Chairperson)



Coordinators Report.....

The end of last year saw the last of the production of the RTA (RMS) plants. We are very thankful for this order as it has brought in quite a bit of money and this should keep us going for a while. We now have so many tubes and trays we are falling over them where ever we walk! Anyone who feels like washing some of them is more than welcome.

We now have lots of new stands for the nursery thanks to Anne and Veronica and their diligent work. I must say they are really wonderful to work on and they make the nursery look very professional! We are also getting a new shade house to replace the one that was broken by a tree falling on it during that crazy storm in May. Tom very nicely remade our fernery area behind the potting shed that was crushed by that amazing snow dump in October. So lots of new things. Last year was the second time we participated in the Footlight event at North Katoomba Public School and the third time we participated in Disability Day at Blackheath both reasonably successful.

We have been very lucky with a very good group of volunteers. My thanks to them all for being so very helpful especially with the RTA plants but also all the other hard work that you all do around the nursery.

Well this is the first time that our water tanks have completely run out. Bit of a shock, but I guess that means we haven't had any serious rain for a while. In January to April 2012 we had above average rainfall. May was well below. June was above and since then we have had (apart from November) well below average. So maybe the drought prediction is correct!

Rescue Report.....

We have had some rescues over the last few months. There are ongoing rescues at Lawson, Blaxland and Glenbrook. There is also another rescue in Katoomba and any minute now another one in Katoomba. Tanya McLean, Coordinator



Putting the new benches together



New benches in the fern area



On Saturday, 27 October, Springwood Public School and P&C

“The Festival of the Green”

Congratulations to the School and Parents and Citizens for organising as inspiring, educational and fun event.

The children, staff and parents provided food, music, dancing and their vegie patch. There were stalls for craft, garden, farmers market, an animal farm, pony rides and amusement rides.

*There were workshops on “No Dig Gardening” (by Costa Giodiades), “Raising Backyard Chickens”, “Composting and Worm Farming” and from BMWRS “Native Gardens”. Anne enjoyed doing this as did a little girl who beautifully pricked out a whole tray of *Leptospermum squarrosum*. Meanwhile Chris and Olga continued to run our stall with great success. We had a very good day meeting lots of interesting people and selling lots of plants.*

We hope to help the school with their sensory garden next year.





Myths about Native Gardening



In the October, 2012 issue of ABC'S Gardening Australia magazine, Angus Stewart wrote an excellent article that has long been needed to be presented to the public eye. His article was entitled "Six Native Plant Myths (Busted)".

1. They don't need water
2. Fertilizer is unnecessary
3. You can't prune them
4. They are unreliable and die young
5. The plants will make a big mess
6. Native gardens are dull and colourless

His account is well worth reading as he gives lots of advice and examples.

In brief for our tube stock and pot plants:-

1. Keep new plants damp until they are established and growing new shoots. Note their original habitats and thus water needs. Over watering can be as bad as under watering.
2. Just a little **native** fertiliser at the right time can give plants a boost in our poor soil. (Be very careful with the Proteaceae or you may kill them).
3. Yes, you **can** prune to improve shape and flower production but it must be done at the right time and correctly – as with exotics. Start when the plant is young and then tip pruning after flowering can be very successful for many reasons.
4. Native species are no different from exotics. Some last a long time, others are annuals. Some need replacing after 5-10 years. (Or are short lived being planted in the wrong place!!).
5. Most are evergreen so there is no big annual mess only dropped flowers like Callistemon.
6. Native gardens are only dull if you choose the wrong plants or put them in the wrong place!!



What Tree is That?

Eucalyptus piperita – Sydney Peppermint

The Sydney Peppermint is a common tree throughout the region. It can be recognised by the following characteristics:-

It is up to 20m tall with a short bole and spreading branches. It flowers in early summer.



The bark is shortly fibrous and flaky on the trunk and large branches but smooth on the upper branches shedding in ribbons.

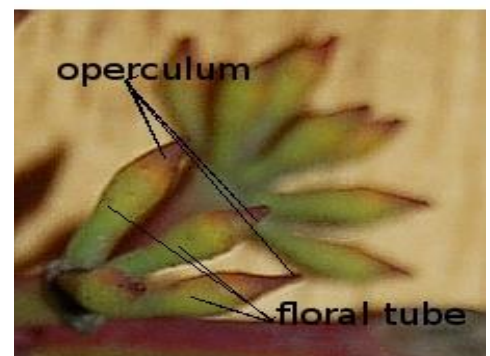


The fruit is ovoid or urceolate (urn shaped), 6-8mm long and 6-7mm wide. The valves are enclosed and the disk is narrow. It has a pedicel (a stalk). The peduncle is slightly compressed and 5-18 mm long.



The leaves are the same colour on both sides 6-14 long by 1-3 cm wide. The lateral veins are irregular at an angle of 20-40 degrees to the central vein. There is a fine intramarginal (around the edge) vein 1-2mm from the edge.

Flowers are in umbels with 7-15 flowers. The flower buds have a conical operculum as long as the floral tube.



Please note

In order to keep our costs down in future we will be emailing “Wildplant Press” monthly to you.

If you don't have access to email please let us know.

Christmas Party Photos



Even after **all our hard work** we can still have
FUN!!!



BLUE MOUNTAINS**WILDPLANT
RESCUE****Katoomba Native Plant
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Katoomba NSW 2780PHONE:
02 4782 2633Email:
info@wildplantrescue.org.au**We're on the Web!**

Find us at:

www.wildplantrescue.org.au**Upcoming stalls and events About the service**

From September we hold our monthly street stalls

- Blackheath – 1st Friday
- Leura 1st Sunday Markets held at Leura Public School
- Winter Magic Festival – Katoomba in June
- Springwood Foundation Day – Saturday 23rd March, 2013



Blue Mountains Wildplant Rescue Service is a not-for-profit, volunteer organisation whose aim is to help maintain the biodiversity of the Great Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

It was founded in 1994. Originally we rescued plants on bush block building sites before the bulldozers arrived. We now also propagate plants by seed and cuttings. We maintain a data base which includes record of the provenance of all our plants.

All donations are Tax Deductible

We are very grateful to the Blue Mountains Gazette for the excellent monthly production of our "Plant of the Month" article in the Review.

Spotlight on a plant**Fieldia australis**

A climber or a ground cover for shady damp situations. It grows rapidly and looks wonderful crawling up the trunk of a fern. The bright green foliage shows off the beautiful 2 cm long cream bell shaped flowers which are followed by egg shaped white, purple spotted berries. It flowers from summer through to winter.

There are some good quality rescue plants of this species at Wildplant Nursery, 14, Oak St. Katoomba.

