



Wildplant Press

Autumn 2014

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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New Management Committee Members

The Annual General Meeting was held on 14th December, 2013 and the following were elected for the coming year.

Chairperson	Veronica Paul
Vice Chair	Christine Belshaw
Secretary	Veronica Paul
Treasurer	no one appointed

From the outgoing Chairperson.....

This year has been very busy for those working at the nursery due to our need for a greater number of volunteers.

Finance.....We are very grateful for all the grants, gifts and sponsorship we have received in this financial year.

These include the following:-

- ☼ The nursery benches, bought with a grant from Landcare in 2012, are now in place.
- ☼ A further \$480 grant from Landcare enabled us to buy more benches and trollies.
- ☼ A donation of \$500 from Neil Rickwood has bought new signs for the nursery and some contribution towards road direction signs.
- ☼ The \$5000 donation received last financial year from the NSW Minister for the Environment has now been fully used on the listed items of a small shade house, a heat bed for the glasshouse and automatic watering systems for the ferns and the landing growing on area. We are pleased to have this finalised.



- ☼ Blue Mountains Gazette for help with our advertising.
- ☼ The “Plant of the Month” in the Review, which is again generously sponsored by Mr Peter Poulos of Theo Poulos Real Estate P/L
- ☼ Scenic World, Katoomba for their very generous “workshop” advertising sponsorship.
- ☼ Mr Ken Newton for support and guidance in the areas of marketing policies and procedure.
- ☼ Various small donations from kind members.

Membership.....At June 30,2013 our membership was 57. We are making concerted efforts to increase this number. We have recently been joined by six new volunteers.

Volunteers.....With reduced numbers a lot of jobs have had to be done by a few people. Therefore all the efforts and hard work of all our volunteers has been of great value. A special thank you to Bruce who works behind the scenes mowing, watering and clearing at weekends and also helping with transport for big stalls. He is seldom seen but is very much appreciated.

Management Committee.....My thanks to the Management Committee members all of whom have given valuable extra time and support this year Unfortunately we have farewelled Alison Cooper and Cynthia Sawatsky who have moved to the South Coast.

Irene Domes also resigned but still organises the Blackheath stall. We extend to her our very deep sympathy on the death of her partner Michael.

Thanks to Olga and Veronica for getting us “up and running” with MYOB. and for carrying the financial load this year. Also thanks to Veronica who in addition to being Secretary has sorted out our legal administration requirements.



Lunch time at the nursery



Rescue crew at the end of a day's work



Nursery Coordinator.....As always we acknowledge the work of Tanya McLean, our Nursery Coordinator. We are grateful for her expertise, work and loyalty. I am particularly grateful for her support and collaboration in running the workshops

Workshops.....With the purpose of increasing awareness and appreciation of both our nursery and the Blue Mountain Flora we ran four workshops entitled “Native Plants for Your Garden”. See detailed notes on page 6.

Stalls.....Stalls are a good source of income and of raising awareness of BMWRS. They have been reduced this year due to shortage of helpers

Rescues.....Grateful thanks to Mr Bob King of Hat Hill Road for instigating with Council and the Developers our opportunity to rescue from the old Blackheath Airstrip area.

Community Involvement, Education and Welfare

We have again supplied schools with plants, had school and TAFE students visit and work at the nursery. We have given talks to disadvantaged groups, to gardening groups and local interested groups. The Garden Clubs of the Blue Mountains were invited to morning tea and a visit to the nursery. Our November workshops involved 48 people most of whom were just commencing their interest in native plants and many who had never been to the nursery before.

Members of Vale Street men’s group prepared the ground for the construction of our new Shade House.

CONCLUSION

As hoped in “looking ahead” last year, we have welcomed some more volunteers, and done some reorganisation of the nursery both business wise and structurally. We will continue our efforts to attract new members, more volunteers and customers. Thanks to all for your support this year and for the time during which I have been Chairperson.

My best wishes to the New Chairperson. Anne Rickwood.



Volunteers pricking out seedlings



A word from the incoming Chairperson

The first thing I wish to do is to thank Anne Rickwood for the work that she has done during her time in the chair. Regular visitors to the nursery have all remarked on how much the nursery has improved recently. A lot of the credit for this improvement is due to Anne who has sought out sources of sponsorship and grants with great success. There is one more thing which we must urgently find funds for and that is for a watering system for our “growing on” area. Such an addition to our infrastructure will give us more time to spend on our core business – growing plants!

Veronica Paul

PLEASE NOTE: We are no longer on the list of Environmental Agencies which means that any donation to the nursery is **NOT tax deductible**. It was decided to leave the list last year as the costs of compliance for such a small organisation as ours outweighed the gains.



New signs in nursery



Replacement green house being erected by our volunteers



A word from the Coordinator.....

We had a huge response to the workshops that Anne and I ran. The number of people interested in doing them was overwhelming and we now have a waiting list! We are looking at May as a possibility for running some more.

As always the Council has been very busy planting and therefore we have been busy supplying the plants. The intermittent very hot weather had delayed much planting and it is looking like autumn will be the best time to plant plants.

We have a new shade house which has, due to a lack of volunteers, been a long time in the preparation of the foundations. But finally we are ready to put it up. This will be of great value for very young seedlings and of course keeping the frost off the plants. Thanks to Colin and Peter for their help putting it up.

The rescue at Hat Hill Road has gone very well and now that we have some more volunteers we should be able to resume this rescue. Alex and his TAFE class helped us with this and over the months we have dug up some really fantastic plants.

In the 4 or 5 years that we have had the water tanks this is the second time we have actually run out of water. Unfortunately this time it is taking a very long time to refill them as there really hasn't been that much rain. Though the recent rains should help.

The nursery is filling up with lots of lovely plants. Autumn is usually our best time for species diversity so everyone should come in and have a look!



Rescue crew



WILDPLANT WORKSHOPS

- ~ native plants for your garden ~

In an October, Blue Mountains Gazette we sent this flyer of our intended workshops to all homes from Lawson to Mount Victoria.

On Saturdays, 16 and 23rd November we offered four workshops of 2 hour duration for 12 people in each.

To our delight the bookings came in very rapidly and but we soon had to disappoint people.

The workshops were organised and run by Tanya and Anne.

We structured them mainly for people who were unfamiliar with native plants and for those who used native plants but needed a bit more information to feel more confident.

The first hour was talking and discussing requirements for establishing and maintaining native gardens. Each participant was given a “show bag” of various objects which included a Workbook on a clipboard.

Our talks covered many aspects including aesthetic aspects, “know your garden”, water and fertilizers, types of plants for different areas, variety of native plants available in the Blue Mountains. Tanya gave a very comprehensive explanation of the soils of our area and their importance in growing native plants. With the small number of people we were able to have some good discussion and sharing of ideas and experiences.

The second hour was practical work when the participants were able to get their hands in the soil and learn a bit of what we do at the nursery. We showed and explained the stages of how we grow our plants. We then explained and demonstrated pricking out seedlings. The participants then pricked out their own *Hakea dactyloides* seedlings.

Following this we talked and demonstrated some of the principles of taking cuttings. Hopefully there are now new *Prostanthera rotundifolia* bushes, as well as the *Hakea dactyloides* seedlings, growing in some gardens of the mountains after the participants enthusiastically took their own cuttings.

Each session was rounded up with a friendly, relaxed morning or afternoon Devonshire Tea brilliantly prepared by Cynthia and Marjorie.

Thanks to all volunteers who gave general support for the workshops, Chris, Frances, Olga, Cynthia and Marjorie.

Our very sincere thanks go to *Scenic World* who sponsored the design and artwork, printing, production and distribution of the Flyers without which these workshops could not have been eagerly attended.



What Tree is That?

Eucalyptus stricta

Common name “Blue Mountains Mallee”

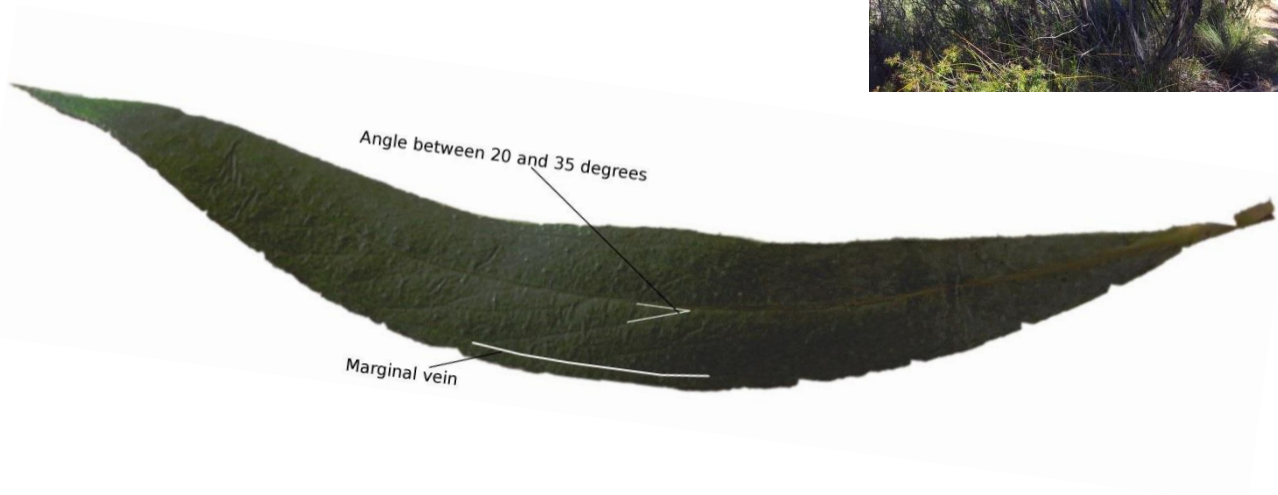
Grows on shallow sandstone occasionally on granite

Mallee up to 4m

Smooth bark, grey to grey brown decortivating in long ribbons

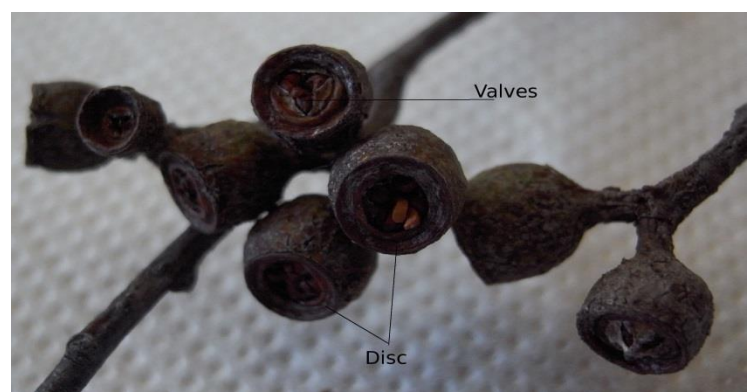
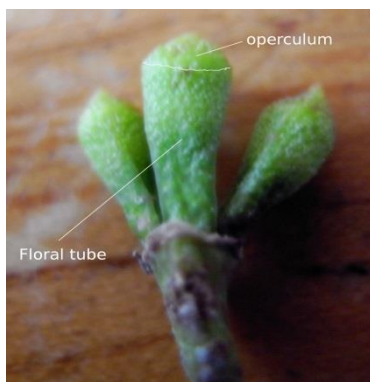


- leaves up to 1.5cm wide, less than 5-7cm long, dark green, glossy



and concolorous

- lateral veins inconspicuous in fresh leaves, but easier to see on a drier leaf, 20° - 35° with mid rib.
- Fruit 2-12mm diameter, ovoid to urceolate, shortly pedicellate
- disc depressed and valves enclosed
- operculum much shorter than the floral tube



Our Scenic World Connection.

Following Scenic World’s very kind sponsorship of the production and distribution of the flyers advertising our workshops in November, we have been acting in a supportive role for their new gardener Fiona Hasselman.

Veronica, Christine, Tanya and Anne have all discussed and made suggestions to help Fiona with new plantings at Scenic World.

This has also included help to bring about her brilliant Idea of a “**wall garden**” beside the railway platform. Tanya has also done the paperwork and Christine has organized the trays of plants.

On Tuesday Feb. 4th Anne joined Fiona and many Scenic World staff members as it was the day of filling and planting the 402 pots that will hang from an irrigated mesh on the wall.

Thanks to Fiona for advertising that we have supplied the plants.

We have enjoyed this involvement and hope our happy association with Scenic World will continue



Fiona (sunglasses) and staff friends.



Irrigated mesh wall seen from above



Irrigated mesh wall with plants



We've got street signs!

Now we hope people might find it easier to locate our nursery.

We are only allowed 3 signs and only 15 letters per sign

All going well these will give customers some guidance.



The signs are on the corner of

Katoomba Street and Katoomba Falls Road

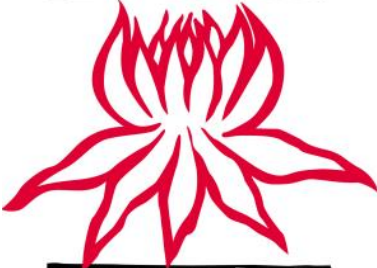
On the roundabout corner of Cliff Drive and Acacia Street
and
Intersection of Katoomba Falls, Peckman's and Kamillaroi Roads



Directional Signs



BLUE MOUNTAINS

WILDPLANT
RESCUE INC

**Katoomba Native Plant
Nursery**
14 Oak Street
Katoomba NSW 2780

PHONE:
02 4782 2633

Email:
info@wildplantrescue.org.au

ABN: 44 910 994 603

We're on the Web!

Find us at:

www.wildplantrescue.org.au

Upcoming stalls and events

From September we hold our monthly street stalls

- Leura 1st Sunday Markets held at Leura Public School
- Winter Magic Festival – Katoomba in June
- Springwood Foundation Day – Saturday March, 2014

WANTED. VOLUNTEERS to prickout seedlings - if you are interested give us a call on

4782 6233



Spotlight on a plant

Gahnia sieberiana:

Red Fruited Saw Sedge

A wonderful specimen plant for the garden. This magnificent sedge grows to about 2 metres. The flower stems give rise to a large brush of black flowers which later look even more beautiful being covered in bright orange/red seeds. It occurs in swampy areas in all parts of the mountains.

Plenty of tube stock is now available at our nursery at 14 Oak St., Katoomba.

