Program

AGM Saturday 10th February at 10.00 am, Orange TAFE with Ray Mjed-wesch, botanist and environmentalist *extraordinaire* of our own Central West. A wonderful way to start an exciting year where we will explore the Wattle Flat Reserve and the Mt Rankin Reserve.

When the cold weather draws in we can look forward to such speakers such as David Goldney and Col Bower. Col was to have been with on our trip to Mt David helping us to understand ground orchids. Drought put paid to that. The orchids preferred to stay below, this year.

There will be a visit to Burrendong in June/July when they hold their Open Day and the Hakeas spread their magic.

There will be private gardens to view in the Orange area and Dee Stuebe’s fascinating house and garden at Rock Forest.

September will be the big month in 2007 when we are hosts to the Central West pre-conference tour for the Australian Plants Society conference in Newcastle. The committee has been busy designing the tour to take in gardens and wild areas of our Central West. It will be an opportunity to learn more about our wonderful flora as we show it off to Australian and overseas visitors.

Have a happy and peaceful festive season and come refreshed to 2007.

President’s report

The dry weather continues, in spite of small amounts of rain, and the prediction is rather gloomy. My forty-year old Liquidambar turned up its toes and is now a mulch on the native garden. The acacias dropped branches, but most of my Bush Garden is happily carrying on. At the moment there is plenty of colour from Callistemons, tea trees, Kunzeas. So I’m taking the hint from Mother Nature, and converting another ex-exotic bed to Aussie plants. At the back, some Grevillea Copper Rocket, in front some Crowea Poorinda Ecstasy and Calytris Sullivani Pink. All pink, so far, but I’ll go wandering around for some contrasts. In my imagination it will be stunning in a year or so………….
Christmas is a good time to buy a container plant for a friend, and many of our Australian species do well in pots, as they need less water, so why not try one? Perhaps we will be able to feature Container Plants on one of our special days in 2007. And don’t forget we need a good attendance for our AGM in February. We manage with as few meetings as possible, so you can get on with your gardening, but this one is necessary. Hope to see you there.

Enjoy Christmas,
Have fun,
Marcia.

Previous meetings

Springtime on Mount Canobolas

14 October 2006, with Cilla Kinross and Jane Paul

Mt Canobolas is a long-extinct volcano and the highest point (1,397m) you would meet anywhere if you decided to move (presumably by balloon) westwards across Australia and the Indian Ocean all the way to Mozambique.

According to the management plan of the Mt Canobolas State Conservation Area, the name Canobolas is derived from the Wiradjuri word for the area meaning “two shoulders” (referring to the two main peaks of “Old Man” and “Young Man” Canobolas).

The management plan also notes that at last count there were 305 plant species in 69 families and 93 genera in the area. Two species of Eucalyptus are endemic (not found anywhere else), one the threatened species E. canobolensis (though well-represented within the area), the other the recently discovered E. saxicola, which is known in only one location.

A good group of 23 persons aged from septuagenarian to pre-teen benefited from the detailed knowledge of Jane and Cilla on a hot but not unbearably hot Saturday. Jane
was extremely good on the plant life, as was Cilla, though she deferred to Jane and called herself ‘more of a bird person’.

We set out not far from the summit along the track from the Towac Picnic Area and car park. To call it a track is approximately correct, if perhaps a relatively rugged one. President Marcia, however, went great guns aided by a spectacular walking stick, pictured here having a well-earned rest with its owner and other members of the group. The elegantly swung wood had been lovingly fashioned, she told me, by Karri, her 12-year old grandson. Marcia comments that he deserves a great deal of credit for her well-being and her balance during the walk.

While one might say there were some considerable ups to climb, and downs to descend, no one was less than happy, though someone who left his water bottle at home was heard fantasising about cups of tea towards the end.
The season was still young at the altitude, but there were good shows of several flowering plants. Not far from the picnic area we came across a great variety including *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Calytrix tetragona*, *Bulbine bilbosa* among others. The most spectacular stands were of *Phebalium squamulosum*, which lit up many places with their bright light yellow flowers. They were obviously at their seasonal peak, which fits with the field notes in the *Preliminary Plant List of South Western Corner of Orange* including Mt Canobolas, copies of which Cilla provided for the tour.

Living in another highland area at 1,100m+ (Oberon Plateau), I observed with interest that some plant species occurring naturally in the remnant bush around our place are also prominent at Mt Canobolas, for example the mountain gum *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* and *E. dives*, the broad-leafed peppermint. Among smaller plants common to both areas I noted *Hibbertia obtusifolia* (not yet in flower) and *Hardenbergia violacea*.

While this suggests similar original highland landscapes, Oberon can’t claim the best known Mt Canobolas eucalypt, the endemic Canobolas candlebark *E. canobolensis*. A new book produced by TAFE Orange, *Australian native plants to grow in and around Orange*, notes that this majestic tree growing to 25m is confined to well-drained shallow soils on ridges above 1,100m and is considered a vulnerable species under NSW’s Threatened Species Conservation Act.

It was a rewarding outing and one characterised by the usual camaraderie which makes our group events so enjoyable. And it was good to see all age groups represented, including three generations of one family.

*Co-ed*
Joy is a powerful force in our lives, and finding and expressing joy in our gardens is what keeps us out in them.

There was joy in abundance at the home of Rod and Alexandra Tuson on the high tableland (1100 metres) between Oberon and Rockley on Sunday, 5th November, when a small group of gardening and native plant enthusiasts visited Kennedy Park.

Rod and Alexandra shared their whole day with us, showing the first of the usually abundant orchids to blossom in this year’s droughty weather. Last year at this time, after a wet spring, dozens of orchid varieties flourished on their place as their photo-records showed us. Hopefully, lots of seed set then is waiting its opportunity to astound us again.

The day was overcast, so we hardly recognized the Copperwing Butterfly when we saw it. The first surprise was its size - it is tiny, about the size of your thumbnail when it folds its wings. The second thing was that it was brown; the iridescent colouring responds to sunlight, and there wasn’t any! Alexandra explained that the butterfly can pump fluid through its wings to change its colour and adjust the tiny scales on them. Lyn was just getting it into focus on a swaying grass-stem when Bella the terrier nosed by and the butterfly wandered off, amid much laughter.

We had a good look at the bursaria which hosts the butterflies. It’s prickly! We decided that perhaps the bursarias we had expectantly planted in our gardens might be the wrong varieties (I checked today – ouch! Maybe it is OK after all.) The butterfly larvae eat the bursaria leaves from the bottom of the plant up, we were told. This would explain its long straggly form which is also host to many clumps of grey-green lichen.
Having checked out the orchids and copperwing, we relaxed and just enjoyed the sight and scent of the groves of peppermint gums flowering in cream profusion; the numerous tough ‘pea plant’ shrubs gave the grass and tussocks a yellow-orange tint; birds sang in the shrubs and trees, and wombat holes and tracks, kangaroo, and wallaby pads led us down to the rim of the steep drop into the still flowing creek.

We had great fun stomping on a ‘booming ground’, a site used by aborigines for their corroborees. It is evidently a type of rock which produces this resonance, but we preferred to imaging subterranean caverns into which we might plunge at any moment.

Rod and Alexandra enjoyed showing us their new house site, a portable mill for preparing the timber from their property, their vegetable garden, the cottage garden, home orchard and hazelnut orchard. So much has been accomplished in just three years!

Morning tea and lunch were eaten in the comfort of the present house, with spicy Lebkuchen as accompaniment, and lots of stories and laughter.

Present were: Marcia (our president), Lynette Burgett, Linda Hurford, Val Fenn, myself, a small but very appreciative group who thoroughly enjoyed our day in the High Country.

Thanks again Rod and Alexandra. 

Dee Stuebe

Lisle Pearse Garden, Oberon

Hans and I joined the Oberon Council garden team for a planting session in the Dart Street Park on 26th October. A pleasant cooperative effort.

In the depth of winter we had become very discouraged. We didn’t feel that at this busy time of year we could expect the APS team to front for a planting session but planting time was running out. I consulted Oberon Council, and its works manager, Ian Tucker, said he would send his ‘boys’ (and one ‘girl’) up to do the planting. We worked alongside them putting guards around the earlier plantings as we have come to the conclusion that guards are necessary to prevent plants being walked on or sprayed.

The good news is that there are lots of plants living and some flowering from past efforts.

The bad news is that the original area of planting has been decimated by a person or persons wielding a tomahawk
to the extent of ringbarking, cutting down or slashing (see photos). Some of the trees will recover to an extent but the lower section is open and bare. Perhaps APS can help establish an understory? Meanwhile we are appealing to the schools to get a message across to possible participants.  

*ED*

View from 2000 plantings across to Council watering newly planted section

**Nurseries**

**Bilby Blooms of Binnaway**  
Visit our nursery by appointment, phone Annabelle or Anthony on (02) 6844 1044, or email bilby.blooms@tpg.com.au for our recent plant list.  
Native plants for gardens and revegetation projects

**Blue Wren Bush Farm**  
Wattle Flat  
Geoffrey Windsor  
Tel: 02 6337 7155  
Includes local seed sales

**Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve**  
Great Western Highway, Glenbrook  
Open 12 noon to 4 pm, Sat, Sun, Wed.

**Oberon Plateau Farm Trees**  
Clea & John Ralph  
‘Bennelong’, 539 Mozart Road, Oberon  
Tel: 6335 8468. E: winter@ix.net.au  
Native tube stock for gardens, windbreaks, wildlife refuges and revegetation

**Riverside Nursery**  
171-191 Morisset Street, Bathurst  
Opposite Tenpin Bowling Centre. Tel: 6331 3121  
We grow & stock a unique range of acclimatised roses, trees, shrubs, conifers seedlings and natives. Open 6 days 9am-5pm, Sundays 10am-5pm.
Office bearers

President: Marcia Bonham, Bondura, Bridle Track, Duramana 2795. Tel: 02 6337 1117. Email: bondura@tpg.com.au

Vice President: Terry Rath, Daleba, 490 Freemantle Road, Mt Rankin 2795. Tel: 02 6336 9091. Email: raths@lisp.com.au

Treasurer: Dr Cilla Kinross, Third Crossing, Ophir Road, Orange 2800. Tel: 02 6360 5651 (wk), 02 6365 8221 (ah). Email: ckinross@orange.usyd.edu.au

Secretary: Sue Wakefield, Peckatoe, 1307 Ophir Road, Rock Forest 2795. Tel: 02 6337 4853. Email: peckatoe@netwit.net.au

List Collator: Geoffrey Windsor, Blue Wren Bush Farm, Wattle Flat 2795. Tel: 02 6337 7155.

Editors: Isobel and Hans Hoegh-Guldberg, Bilagal, 55 Whiteley Road, Oberon 2787. Tel: 02 6336 0239. Email: isobel@lisp.com.au and esi@lisp.com.au.

PS: If you have a chance to access the Internet, view this on our “blog”: http://apscw.wordpress.com. The newsletter is now written for the blog and then converted to paper. Co-ed