

THE NATIONAL MINT

PROSTANTHERA & WESTRINGIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

PATRON:

LEADER: Robert Miller
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Dear Members,

I have just returned from a working bee at Burrendong Arboretum held over the Queens Birthday long weekend. Although the weather was dismal, spirits were high. Good progress was made with the preliminary landscaping associated with the new visitors centre - paving and bed construction. Much needed weeding was also undertaken in the fern and rainforest area. I had not visited Burrendong for a number of years, so it was a pleasure to see the progress since my last visit. The rockery beds are virtually weed free being mulched with straw and many of the plants in them are reaching maturity. It is especially satisfying to see areas in which I had played a small part in their development, doing well. I thoroughly recommend you take the opportunity to participate in a working bee. You will not only have good company but will be able to see the fruits of your labour for many years to come.

Hazel Althofer is endeavouring to replant sections of the mintbush garden and it was good to see a lot of young plants taking hold with the recent rains. To assist in maintaining the *Prostanthera* Area donations of wild-source plants are always welcome.

If you have not been to Burrendong for a while, this spring should be stunning, help out for a few hours and then have a good look around it will be well worthwhile.

A special thanks must go to the following members for their generous donation of plants:

Wilma and Jim Thomson for donating a large array of *Prostanthera* and *Westringia* tubestock both to Burrendong and Ray Brown's *Grevillea* Park. It is evident they have had a great deal of success with the cutting material obtained at our various study group meetings. Incidentally they have recently moved house to a small acreage at Dooralong, 15 km from Wyong and are looking forward to planting out a hundred *Prostanthera* and *Westringia* species shortly.

Brian Timmis also donated a good selection of plants when Hazel visited him at Easter, some of which included his many finds in the hills behind Port Macquarie.

Members of the East Hills Group partook in a very successful propagation day using the facilities of Bankstown City Councils new Nursery complex. The plants were divided between Burrendong and *Grevillea* Park at Bulli.

SPEAKER WANTED! The Yarra Yarra Group, Victoria, is looking for a speaker for Thursday 7th of October 1993 to talk on *Prostanthera* and *Westringia*. If you can help write to Box 298, Eltham Vic 3095.

MEMBERS FORUM

Bruce Grose (Eltham, Vic) writes, "I was very upset when Peter passed away as I was a very close friend and I spent time with him whenever I could. I didn't have a great deal to do with George but when we did get together, the yarns he'd tell! He really should have written a book about their exploits. George and Peter are sadly missed by many of us".

Bruce also suggests when sending specimens for identification members should tag the plant in their garden and put the corresponding number on the tagged specimen. When a reply is received all that is required is to match the numbers.

Noel Cartwright reports on having fairly good luck with the cuttings he obtained from me but unfortunately the plant he really fancied did not survive. We look forward to hearing further about the progress of *Prostanthera verticillaris* - a very rare species from Western Australia.

Dianne Snape, Leader of the Garden Design Study Group has asked if members of our group could write a list of *Prostanthera* and *Westringia* species that are "proven" plants for garden design - plants regarded as being reliable under the conditions generally described for them in the literature eg. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants. Members that are interested can either write to Dianne at 3 Bluff Street, East Hawthorn, Vic 3123 or to me. If you write to Dianne direct I would appreciate a copy of your letter to incorporate extracts in our *Newsletter*.

Cutting Exchange

Members interested in the cutting exchange program should note: **Requests should be accompanied by a STAMPED self-addressed envelope (if notification of dispatch is required) and PREPAYMENT of postage for cuttings (usually \$10).** Change will be forwarded with cuttings.

Correspondence

Members requiring a reply to correspondence must include a **STAMPED self-addressed envelope**.

STUDY GROUP FUNDS

Currently our bank balance is looking reasonable and is now at a stage where we can afford to bring out a proper newsletter. Barry is in the process of obtaining quotes so as to ascertain the best format in which to present this long awaited addition.

REMEMBER: Articles WANTED! - NOW!

FEES FOR 1993-94 are due in JULY!

Please pay promptly.