



- **What happened at our first monthly Zoom Get-together**
- **For the love of Australian Native Plants was the topic of our guest speaker**
  - **The August Working Bee – hard work rewarded**
  - **Dates for upcoming Get-togethers and Working Bees**
    - **Around the Garden**
  - **News from our friends and affiliates**

### Our first monthly Get-together was via Zoom

As this was our first monthly Get-together via Zoom, we invited members only and we thought it went very well.

We had a quick update and then moved on to our guest speaker, David Stead, followed by a Q&A.

So, we've decided to continue in this format for as long as we need to.



#### A little of what you was discussed:

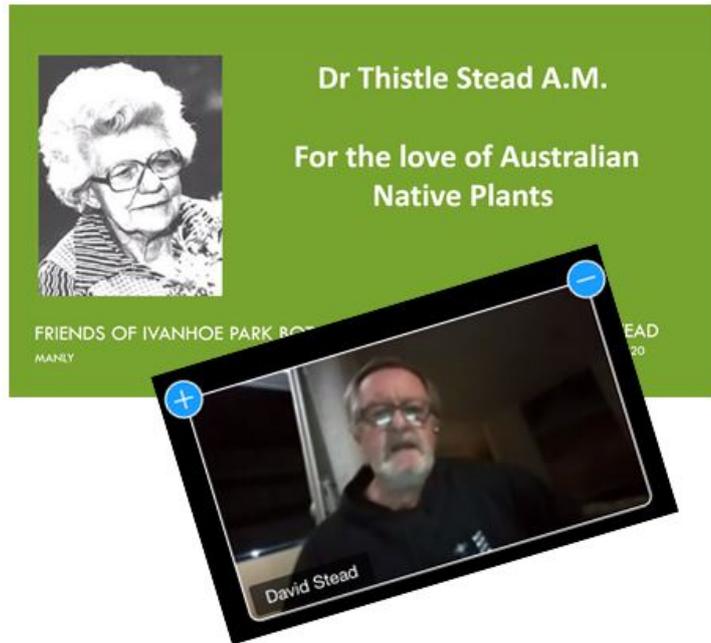
- When the weather warms up, we're planning on having two Working Bees a month – there's so much for us to do!
- The tramway upgrade plans are now with Heritage & Conservation for final approval. A bit of a delay before work can continue but to be expected because of Covid-19 restrictions.
- We're planning an official celebration once the tramway upgrade is completed, hopefully by the end of the year.
- Our Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Tour on September 5 is sold out! If you missed out, we're sorry but we are planning another local tour before the end of the year so stay tuned.

Hopefully more of you will join us next month. It's quite easy, you just need to connect to the internet using the link we email you. You don't even have to turn on your webcam if you're a bit shy. But, we understand if it's not for you, you'll still find updates in our monthly Newsletter, on Facebook and on our website.

**For the love of Australian Native Plants was the topic of our guest speaker, David Stead**

David shared his computer screen to share with us a slide presentation about his grandmother, Dr Thistle Stead A.M. (nee Harris), and her amazing and inspirational achievements as a leading figure in native flora and environmental education throughout the 20th century.

Thistle was a botanist, conservationist, author and educator – way too much to write about here. So, below is a very short outline of David’s presentation.



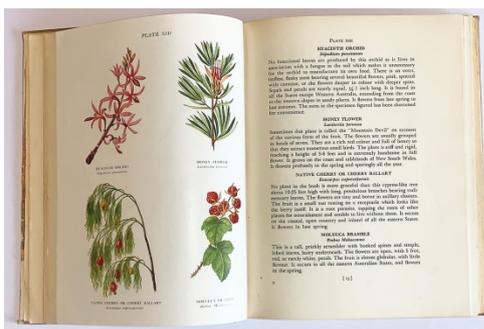
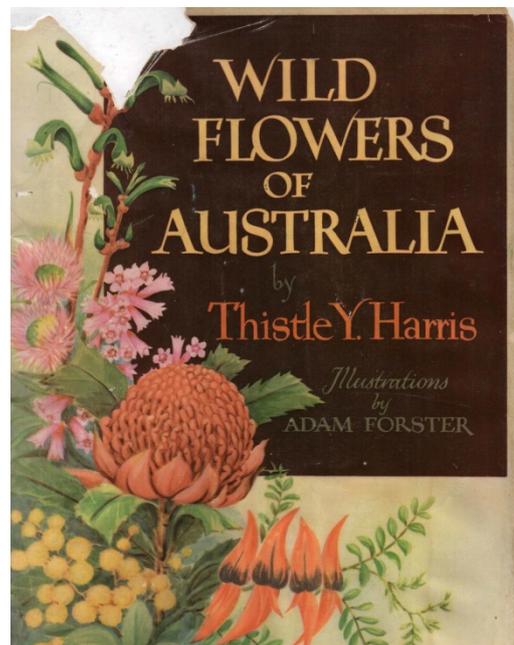
From the age of 16, with her first attendance to a Naturalists’ Society of NSW meeting, Thistle found a love and passion for Australian plants. As a botanist, she collected, studied and experimented widely on native plants across Australia.

She became the first to propagate the White Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima* ‘Wirrimbirra White’).

This was done at Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, developed by Thistle, Allen Strom (father of the National Parks and Wildlife Service) and other leading environmentalists, as the model for field study centres in NSW – and as a memorial to her husband.

The Society for Growing Australian Plants owes its origins to Thistle’s work. Together with Arthur Swaby she planned its formation, with Thistle taking responsibility for the NSW division, later becoming one of the first Honorary Life Members.

“Wild Flowers of Australia”, published in 1938 and still used today, was her first book. Many other books were to follow.



Thistle was also involved in conservationist activities – an example of which is right on our doorstep – when she established the Angophora Reserve in Avalon.



**About David Stead:** Combining his work in modern nature conservation with a deep family heritage in the conservation movement, David is an experienced speaker on environmental topics. He is the President of the National Parks Association – Sydney Region Branch, President of the David G. Stead Memorial Wild Life Research Foundation of Australia and a reserve member of the Australian Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committee. David operated Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, a 95 ha conservation reserve and native plant nursery, for nearly 10 years and is studying a Post Graduate Certificate in Conservation Biology. David is also on our Executive Committee as Membership Coordinator.

If you would like to view the entire presentation, you can by clicking [here](#).

### The August Working Bee – our hard work was rewarded

The forecast was for showers but the day dawned sunny and warm.  
A perfect day for gardening.



The Sensory Garden needed taming. Starting at the first bed, we found the lemon balm had taken over, the decorative ginger looked scraggly and the fragrant dill and lemon grass plants, as well as the Jane McGrath Rose, were buried amongst it all.



An intrepid team of two cut back the old dead or dying plants and ones that had shot up after flowering. New, healthy younger plants underneath were revealed.



Some of the team gathered fallen branches and palm fronds and weeded the terraces below the Scout Hall. The rest headed to the old tramway to tackle the morning glory choking all the plants in the Clivia beds.



The morning glory had to be untangled from the *Cordyline stricta* (an Australian native from Northern NSW). This fast growing creeper then had to be dug out of the Clivia beds to ensure the roots were removed.



After a solid two hours, our work was done.



Before



After



### Dates for our upcoming Get-togethers and Working Bees

**Monthly Get-togethers**  
Held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

Month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	Time
September	21 <sup>st</sup>	7.00-8.30pm
October	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00-8.30pm
November	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00-8.30pm
December	21 <sup>st</sup>	7.00-8.30pm

Month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Time
September	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00-11.30am
October	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00-11.30am
November	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.00-11.30am
December	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00-11.30am

### Working Bees

Held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month

*Please note the seasonal start time change*

## Around the Garden





---

### Other News

#### **Garden Clubs of Australia News:**

Attached to this email you will find an attachment that combines their latest newsletter, a bulletin announcing their 2020 Annual Photographic Competition as well as an order form to purchase your own copy of the "Beautiful Gardens of Australia" 2021 Calendar.

#### **Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens News:**

There is some really interesting reading in their attached August newsletter: a round up of what has been happening with Friends; and a look at grant opportunities and so much more.

---

Keep up to date with happenings at Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden  
by visiting our website anytime  
[www.friendsivanhoeParkbotanicgarden.com](http://www.friendsivanhoeParkbotanicgarden.com)

Or email us at  
[info@friendsivanhoeParkbotanicgarden.com](mailto:info@friendsivanhoeParkbotanicgarden.com)

And please, Follow, Like and Share our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofIvanhoeParkBotanicGarden/>

---