



News from Peacehaven

From the president

Where was all our late summer rain? Whilst we had a few showers in late April, the Bureau of Meteorology are predicting a dry winter. Those of us planting natives hope to keep the impact of the dry weather to a minimum.

We have had our first Tavern Talk with guest speaker Alan Burnell from Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH). The talk was very well received by all who attended.

We thank Alan for such an informative talk.

Our next Highfields Tavern Talk is on Wednesday the 27th May 2026 with Greg Spearritt talking about local mistletoes. The mistletoe is a fascinating plant species with a rich history going back to the ancient times. Mistletoes are beneficial for ecosystems in which they occur. Many local mistletoe varieties are spectacular when in flower.

Greg will be enlightening us all with this much anticipated presentation. Keep an eye out for registration details and I look forward to seeing you there.

Louise de Beus

Tavern Talk

Local Mistletoes

by
Greg
Spearritt



Date:

27th May 2026

Time:

6 - 8pm

Place:

Highfields Tavern



Leptospermum

Feature Plant of the Month – Leptospermum

Many of you will remember the wonderful talk Claire Petterson gave some years ago on our much-loved Leptospermums. This month Claire has kindly shared her further appreciation and information.

Leptospermum are distributed throughout Australia, New Zealand and South-East Asia. Of the 86 recognised species, 83 occur in Australia, with all but two being endemic. They can produce flowers for many months and attract a wide range of beneficial insects.

There are many varieties within the species, and numerous cultivars. Leptospermum grow to varying heights and shapes and have many different uses, including ground covers, cut flowers, hedges or screening plants, and honey production.

Leptospermum petersonii (the Lemon-scented Tea Tree) is a particular favourite, with leaves that make a lovely cup of tea. Propagation is generally from seed or cuttings.

Research has been conducted into Australian Leptospermum species that may be suitable for producing medicinal honey. Some species show promising potential, complementing the well-known New Zealand Mānuka honey produced from **Leptospermum scoparium**. Not all species produce honey, and not all have medicinal properties, but ongoing studies continue to explore their possibilities.

Leptospermum are also well suited to Toowoomba gardens, being drought-tolerant, adaptable to small spaces, and rewarding growers with some of the prettiest blooms across many months of the year.




Native Plant Nursery

Opening Hours

Thursdays 9am – 12.30pm

Saturdays 9am – 1pm



The April 'Tavern Talk'
was very informative

Photo: Louise de Beus



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