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Cover: *Melaleuca thymifolia*, Tianjara Falls; Photo: Roger Farrow

Journal articles

The Journal is a forum for the exchange of members' and others' views and experiences of gardening with, propagating and conserving Australian plants.

All contributions, however short, are welcome. Contributions may be typed or handwritten, and accompanied by photographs and drawings.

Submit photographs as either electronic files, such as JPEGs, or prints. Set your digital camera to take high resolution photos. Please send JPEGs separately and not embedded in a document. If photos are too large to email, copy onto a CD and send it by post. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your prints returned. If you have any queries please contact the editor.

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Acacia gunnii, Gale; Photo: Martin Butterfield

By Ros Cornish

Spring was packed full of interesting walks. We went to some new places, including a private property, and re-visited some old favourites.

Gale Area, Queanbeyan

Our first spring walk, in early September, was in the Gale area, at the southern end of the suburbs of Queanbeyan, bordered by the Old Cooma Road, Wickerslack Lane and the Queanbeyan River. It is managed by Queanbeyan Landcare and Council. We entered from Wickerslack Lane and followed some trails in the upper areas, away from the river and doing a loop. For

a smallish area it has a surprising number of species, many of which we ticked off our list and even added a few.

Interestingly, one of those we added was *Lomandra bracteata* which we don't see very often, but it had its basal, bright yellow flowers becoming prominent. We saw all nine species of wattles previously recorded. Flowering well were *Acacia dawsonii*, *A. dealbata*, *A. genistifolia*, *A. gunnii*, *A. pycnantha*, *A. rubida* and *A. ulicifolia*. (Those not yet flowering were *A. mearnsii* and *A. parramattensis*.) There were massed displays of *Cryptandra amara* var. *longiflora*, *C. speciosa* and *Clematis leptophylla*, all emitting a lovely

honey smell. We saw the first *Microseris lanceolata* of the season and a wealth of other plants in flower.

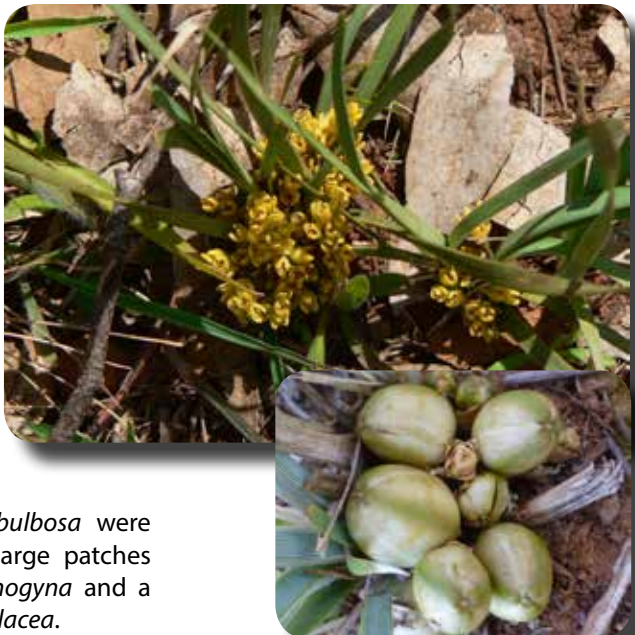


Scleranthus diander, Gale; Photo: Martin Butterfield

The Red Track, Red Hill

The Red Track is a signposted walk which starts from the top of Red Hill. There are wonderful views of Canberra at the start and finish of the walk. It first heads south to a saddle then steeply down to the east where it then runs parallel to Mugga Way, finally climbing steeply to the road, crossing it and ending along the western aspect. We saw plenty of *Wurmbea dioica* flowering, the first of the *Bulbine bulbosa* were also flowering — some large patches — many *Stackhousia monogyna* and a couple of *Hardenbergia violacea*.

The highlight of the walk was a stunning hillside of *Cryptandra amara* var. *longiflora* in full flower. The perfume was lovely and the bushes were quite tall and upright. Nearby we found several large patches of *Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides* with vigorous new growth. We stumbled on some very colourful *Swainsona sericea* — hot pink/purple. An addition to our list was *Erodium crinitum* — some (blue) flowers were out. One very large *Exocarpos strictus* was also flowering well. *Pimelea glauca* was in bud and the *Calotis lappulacea* were starting to get new growth. We saw many *Lomandra bracteata* in full flower and a couple of *Lomandra filiformis* ssp. *coriacea*, noticeably different from *L. bracteata* when flowering. There were some very big, old trees with parrots investigating hollows.



Lomandra bracteata in flower, Red Track; Photo: Jean Geue and seed, Queanbeyan Nature Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow

Cuumbeun Nature Reserve

The first part of the walk was new to us and proved interesting. The part of the Reserve we visited is on the southern side of Captains Flat Road. We turned off the Link Fire Trail (FT) onto the Swamp FT, following that around to the Queanbeyan River FT. Some ventured down a steep part of the FT to a gorge where we've seen a small waterfall previously. It yielded some extra plants such as *Bulbine glauca*, *Cryptandra speciosa*, *C. amara* var. *longiflora*, *Scleranthus diander* (all flowering) and the fern *Pellaea falcata* and *Desmodium brachypodum* which we don't see often.

We then returned to the Link FT, completing the loop. The main plants flowering on the walk were *Acacia dawsonii*, *A. rubida*, *A. buxifolia*, *A. genistifolia*, *A. gunnii*, *Daviesia genistifolia*, *Dillwynia sieberi*, *Pultenaea*

and a few *Pimelea linifolia*. Many *Coronidium scorpioides* were in bud as were *Pomaderris subcapitata* and *P. eriocephala*. There were quite a lot of orchids scattered about including some large colonies of *Petalochilus fuscatus* and *Pterostylis nutans*. Others flowering were *Cyanicula caerulea*, *Glossodia major* and *Stegostyla cucullata*. We were surprised to find a single *Persoonia rigida* with masses of fallen fruit at its base.



Dillwynia sieberi, Cuumbeun Nature Reserve;
Photo: Jean Geue



Craspedia variabilis, Cuumbeun Nature Reserve;
Photo: Martin Butterfield



Ranunculus lappaceus, Cuumbeun Nature Reserve;
Photo: Martin Butterfield

microphylla (just starting), *Craspedia variabilis*, *Ranunculus lappaceus*, *Leucopogon fletcheri* ssp. *brevisepalus*, *L. attenuatus*, *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Leucochrysum albicans*, *Microseris lanceolata*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*

Bullen Range from Tidbinbilla Tracking Station

In early October, we began the walk from the gate not far from the parking area at Tidbinbilla Tracking Station. We walked on the lower slopes of the Bullen Range reaching a high point for lunch. The views on the walk were astonishing and the big old trees were a real feature with many parrots and cockies investigating hollows. We were very pleased to find many *Acacia verniciflua* in full flower — a very worthwhile wattle. It's the only place we've seen it in the ACT, so far. There were many other good displays, some en masse — *Cryptandra amara* var. *longiflora*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Acacia buxifolia*, *Petalochilus fuscatus*, *Leucopogon fletcheri* ssp. *brevisepalus*. There were many other flowers including a few orchids besides the *P. fuscatus* — *Diuris chryseopsis*, *D. pardina*, *Hymenochilus* sp. and *Glossodia major*. We were struck by some very red fruit on a number of *Melichrus urceolatus*.



Melichrus urceolatus fruit, Bullen Range; Photo: Roger Farrow

Pomaderris Reserve and South's Travelling Stock Reserve

We travelled to Mountain Ash Road (between Goulburn and Bungonia) from Bungendore, via Tarago. We made a couple of roadside stops to view the as yet un-named pomaderris species which we call *Pomaderris* sp. Bungonia. It was flowering well under a powerline easement. There was also a small population where we stopped for morning tea. Also flowering there were *Podolobium ilicifolium*, *Daviesia leptophylla*, *Olearia microphylla*, *Diuris pardina*, *Rhytidisporum procumbens*, *Pultenaea subspicata* and the prostrate form of *P. microphylla*.



Podolobium ilicifolium, Pomaderris Reserve;
Photo: Jean Geue

We then returned to The Pomaderris Reserve which was created recently to protect *Pomaderris delicata*. Unfortunately, we didn't find any *P. delicata* inside the Reserve but finally found a couple of plants flowering on the roadside. Quite a lot of plants were flowering including *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Coronidium scorpioides*, *Patersonia*



Pomaderris delicata, Pomaderris Reserve;
Photo: Martin Butterfield

sericea, *Diuris pardina*, *D. chryseopsis*, *Stypandra glauca*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *D. sieberi*, *Pomaderris* sp. *Bungonia* and the small leaf form of *P. andromedifolia*. After lunch we called in to South's Travelling Stock Route, also on Mountain Ash Road. It is approximately 30 hectares and is made up of open forest, grassy woodland and secondary grassland. This was our second visit, a bit earlier than our previous one. There were some good displays and we added more species to our list. Flowering well were *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor*, *Pultenaea microphylla* (prostrate), *Diuris chryseopsis*, *Bulbine glauca*, *Microseris lanceolata*, *Calotis anthemoides*, *Leptorhynchus squamatus* and a few *Ajuga australis*. It was interesting to see it at a different time of year.

Bendora Dam Road

Given the low temperature and the threat of a shower, we decided early on to do roadside stops and just a short walk at

Bendora Dam rather than do the longish loop. We had several roadside stops and saw many plants — lots in flower. We disturbed several Spotted Pardalotes nesting in holes in the roadside banks where we were looking at flowering plants and orchids, in particular — *Bunochilus montanus*, *Pterostylis pedunculata*, *P. nutans*, *Petalochilus carneus*, *Glossodia major* — including a white one — and *Diuris pardina*.



Bunochilus montanus, Bendora Dam Road;
Photo: Roger Farrow



Pterostylis pedunculata, Bendora Dam Road;
Photo: Roger Farrow



Olearia lirata, Bendora Dam Road; Photo: Jean Geue

There were great displays of the daisy bush, *Olearia lirata* (big sprays of white flowers) as well as *Acacia pravissima*, *A. dealbata*, *Indigofera australis* (including a number of white flowered plants), *Tetratheca bauerifolia*, *Comesperma volubile* (big masses of blue), *Pomaderris eriocephala*, *Stackhousia monogyna*, *Daviesia mimosoides*, *D. ulicifolia*, *Oxylobium ellipticum*, *Dillwynia phyllicoides* and many others. We were surprised to find what seems to be the rare and endangered *Pomaderris costata* which we haven't found in the ACT before.



Pomaderris costata, Bendora Dam Road;
Photo: Roger Farrow

We saw the mystery 'Bendora' pomaderris in full flower — it looks like a small version of *P. intermedia*. We also found

some lovely hibbertia flowering which we have identified as *H. serpyllifolia* — a new species for us.

Baroona Road Property

Baroona Road runs off the Monaro Highway south of Michelago. The private property which we visited was mainly grassland and open woodland and had a creek running through it with a nice rocky gorge area. We walked first in the grassy area with morning tea beside the creek before climbing through the gorge to a rocky high point for lunch with magnificent views to the Clear Range. We saw many things of interest and a lot of things flowering.

There were some lovely old trees — *Eucalyptus melliodora*, *E. bridgesiana*, *E. rossii* and *E. dives*, some with hollows and even a Striated Pardalote going in and out of a nesting site. There were massed displays of *Swainsona sericea*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Brachyscome dentata*, *Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Mirbelia oxylobioides* and there had been good flowering of *Cryptandra* sp. and *C. speciosa*.



Mirbelia oxylobioides, Baroona Road property;
Photo: Jean Geue

We saw a few orchids flowering — *Petalochilus carneus*, *Microtis parviflora*, *Diuris semilunulata*, *D. sulphurea* and there were many *Thelymitra* sp. in bud. Other plants of interest were *Thysanotus patersonii* (in the end many were flowering), *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Bulbine glauca* (flowering), *Pimelea glauca* and *Acacia melanoxylon*.

Bango Nature Reserve

Bango Nature Reserve is a fairly new reserve (created August 2011) located north of Yass on Blakney Creek Road South. It is 409 hectares and mostly heavily wooded. Our first visit was in winter 2012 and we only covered a small part of the Reserve. We got a little further on this visit but good floral displays initially slowed us down. There were many of the rare Yass Daisy, *Ammobium craspedioides*, flowering, along with *Microseris lanceolata*, *Coronidium scorpioides*, *Arthropodium minus*, *Burchardia umbellata*, *Wahlenbergia stricta* (very large flowers), *Thysanotus patersonii* and *Bulbine bulbosa*.



Burchardia umbellata, Bango Nature Reserve;
Photo: Jean Geue

It was difficult to walk without treading on them all. We also found some orchids mixed in — *Stegostyla moschata* then later *S. cucullata*, several *Calochilus platyichilus* and eventually *Petalochilus fuscatus*, *Thelymitra juncifolia*, *T. simulata* and *Pterostylis nutans* when we got to the gully.



Ammobium craspedioides, Bango Nature Reserve;
Photo: Roger Farrow



Stegostyla moschata (top) and *S. cucullata*, Bango Nature Reserve; Photo: Martin Butterfield



Calochilus platychilus, Bango Nature Reserve;
Photo: Martin Butterfield



Dillwynia sericea, Bango Nature Reserve;
Photo: Martin Butterfield

The first part of the Reserve had the most things flowering. We then went through the next gate where the understory was a lot more sparse, the trees were very large and there was a lot of fallen timber. The trees we saw were *Eucalyptus blakelyi*, *E. dives*, *E. goniocalyx*, *E. macrorhyncha*, *E. mannifera*, *E. rossii* and one *E. rubida*. There were a few patches of *Acacia parramattensis*, a couple of *A. dealbata*, *A. ulicifolia* and *A. gunnii*. We saw many good examples of *Drosera peltata* and *D. auriculata* — some very tall ones.

As for shrubs, they were very thin on the ground. There was only a handful of *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *D. phyllicoides*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and some *Dodonaea viscosa* — possibly ssp. *spatulata*. There were some lovely grasses flowering — *Poa sieberiana*, *Rytidosperma pallidum*, *R. eriantha*,

R. monticola and *Pentapogon quadrifidus* which is unusual. We spent some time admiring *Iomandra* species in flower — *L. multiflora*, *L. filiformis* ssp. *filiformis* and *L. filiformis* ssp. *coriacea* — as well as looking closely at *wahlenbergias*.

Broadway TSR and Dalton Roadsides

We drove straight to Broadway Travelling Stock Route (TSR) which is on the southern side of Rye Park Rd shortly after Flacknell Creek Road. The first part has weedy grasses but lovely trees then the rest of the reserve is high quality native vegetation. The trees are *Eucalyptus blakelyi*, *E. cinerea*, *E. macrorhyncha*, *E. melliodora* and *E. rossii*. The main acacia is possibly *Acacia deanii* and was about to flower. There are not many mid-story shrubs — some *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, a *Cassinia* sp., a *Persoonia rigida* and *Omphacomeria acerba*.

Most of the flowering was all low to the ground with *Burchardia umbellata*, *Cheiranthra linearis*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Pultenaea subspicata*, *Gompholobium huegelii*, *Patersonia sericea*,

Leptospermum multicaule, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Calotis anthemoides*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *G. bellidifolia*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Pimelea glauca* and *Stylidium graminifolium* all putting on a good show. *Comesperma sphaerocarpum* was also flowering — bright blue. There was also a beautiful ground hugging hibbertia which turned out to be *H. pedunculata* – a new plant for us.



Hibbertia pedunculata showing stamens around the carpels, Broadway TSR; Photo: Martin Butterfield

A real highlight was the number of orchids flowering — *Diuris sulphurea* in full flower everywhere. There was a good smattering of *Stegostyla cucullata* and although most of the thelymitra had finished we found a few in flower — *T. juncifolia* and *T. pauciflora*. *Microtis parviflora* was also flowering. We pushed on to do the other two sides of the triangle going first to Blakney Creek North Road to try to spot some *Brunonia australis*. There was a lot of it in full flower. We then continued to the bank where we usually find them and they were there in much larger numbers than previously seen so it must have been a good year for them. Also



Brunonia australis, Dalton roadside; Photo: Roger Farrow

flowering there were *Pultenaea spinosa*, *Daviesia leptophylla*, *Velleia paradoxa*, *Pimelea curviflora*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Cheiranthra linearis*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and *Leptorhynchos squamatus*.

We then went on to Little Plains Road. We stopped at the bend where a patch of dark blue beckoned from a gravel bank where the grader had taken a slice off the roadside a few years back. We have stopped here on previous visits and noted the recolonisation of the bank by a variety of natives. This time we saw large patches of small *Cheiranthra linearis* plants and some spectacular cushions of *Comesperma sphaerocarpum*. We ticked off most of the plants on the list from October 2012 and eventually found a single *Boronia nana* var. *hyssopifolia* on the road edge, not surviving well here compared to previous visits.

Woodleigh Fire Trail

We started off on Monga Mountain Rd, shortly after turning off the highway at River Forest Rd. We had an unscheduled stop before we got to the forest to

look at many *Spyridium scortechinii* flowering as well as *Patersonia sericea* and *Aotus ericoides*. Also flowering here were *Pimelea linifolia*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia* (green form), *Gompholobium minus*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *Stylidium graminifolium*, *Billardiera mutabilis*, *Thelionema caespitosa*, *Tetratheca bauerifolia* and a number of *Lomandra multiflora* and *L. longifolia*.



Gompholobium minus, Woodleigh Fire Trail;
Photo: Jean Geue

some names to some of them — *Schelhammera undulata* (flowering), *Choretrum candollei*, *Oxylobium ilicifolium* (flowering beautifully) *Notolaea* sp., *Parsonsia straminea*, *Tasmannia lanceolata*, *Hibbertia aspera* — before doing the short walk we'd done on the last trip, noting *Goodia lotifolia* (a couple of flowers), *Tetratheca thymifolia*, *Cyathea australis*, *Persoonia linearis* and many other things although not many flowering.



Hibbertia aspera, Woodleigh Fire Trail;
Photo: Roger Farrow



Thelionema caespitosa, Woodleigh Fire Trail;
Photo: Martin Butterfield

We then started on the Woodleigh fire trail, seeing good displays of *Tetratheca*, *Gompholobium* and *Hibbertia* as we drove and had a short stop for *Epacris impressa* flowering. We had lunch in the forest before exploring the open area which was full of things. Highlights were *Conospermum taxifolium*, *Isopogon prostratus*, *Caesia parviflora*, *Thelionema caespitosa*, *Gompholobium minus*, *Patersonia sericea*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Dampiera stricta*, *Pomaderris phyllifolia*, *Stackhousia viminea* all flowering well. A purple donkey orchid, *Diuris punctata*, was spotted. Other orchids flowering were *Diuris monticola*, *D. sulphurea*, *D. semilunulata*, *Microtis* sp.

We then moved on to our first stop from the previous trip and had morning tea while scouts ranged about bringing back samples. We managed to put



Dampiera stricta, Woodleigh Fire Trail; Photo: Roger Farrow



Caesia parviflora, Woodleigh Fire Trail;
Photo: Martin Butterfield

and *Thelymitra ixioides*. We added substantially to our previous plant list. We then drove on to the creek area where we found an incredible number of *Hakea microcarpa* in full flower, attracting many insects and emitting a honey smell. We

also found *Leptospermum lanigerum*, *Pultenaea altissima* and *Epacris breviflora* flowering and *E. paludosus* just finished. *Utricularia dichotoma* was also flowering in a wet area.

Burra School Block and Queanbeyan Nature Reserve

The Burra School Block is opposite Burra Park. It is a small reserve but very species rich and there were many plants flowering on this visit in mid-November. There were large quantities of *Podolepis jaceoides* flowering and still quite a few *Microseris lanceolata*. The *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor* were having a second flush and a few of the blue devils — *Eryngium ovinum* — were tinged with blue. Other flowers were *Ajuga australis*



Podolepis jaceoides, Burra School Block; Photo: Jean Geue

(good patches), *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Cynoglossum australe*, *Hypericum gramineum*, *Hypoxis hygrometrica*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Opercularia hispida*, *Pimelea curviflora*, *Scleranthus diander*, *Vittadinia cuneata*, *V. gracilis*, *V. muelleri* and some stunning bluebells — *Wahlenbergia communis* and *W. stricta* — along with a pink one. We found *Brachyscome willisii* but it had finished flowering and was a little chewed. There were also a couple of *Swainsona sericea* flowering and we found lots of seed on *S. recta*. There were some lovely grasses in flower — *Themeda triandra*, *Rytidosperma carphoides*, *Amphibromus nervosa*, *Lachnagrostis filiformis* and *Poa sieberiana*.

We then went to Queanbeyan Nature Reserve for lunch. It is characterised by low, undulating terrain with open grasslands and areas of open woodland. The larger of its two sections is bounded by Lanyon Drive, Hoover Road and the Queanbeyan–Michelago tourist railway line. Overall it is 67 hectares. The nearby smaller section off Furlong Road is only two hectares. The reserve protects an important remnant of native temperate grassland and grassy box-gum woodland. We first visited the small area near the racecourse before going to the larger area at Hoover Road. There was a good display of *Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides* flowering well. The *Eryngium ovinum* were just starting to



Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides, Queanbeyan Nature Reserve;
Photo: Roger Farrow

get their blue colour and there were many *Goodenia pinnatifida* flowering.

Tianjara Falls

Our final spring walk was mainly a drive to Tianjara Falls on the Nerriga Road. There was so much to see and enjoy that there is a separate article on it in this Journal.

You can read a short description of our various walks, look at the list of plants we found and often, the birds and insects we spotted, as well as some photos in the Wednesday Walks section of the ANPS website — <http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au>.



Goodenia pinnatifida, Queanbeyan Nature Reserve;
Photo: Roger Farrow



Microseris lanceolata, Broadway Travelling Stock Route;
Photo: Martin Butterfield



Anne Phillips presenting the Walkies Awards; Photo: Lucinda Royston

By Anne Phillips

At the Wednesday Walkers' Xmas lunch last year, Anne Phillips presented the inaugural Walkies Awards. Below is her transcript.



The awards; Photo: Jean Geue

Ros Cornish

Not many people I trust or admire as much as Ros (Blush again, Ros). Efficient management skills — not easy leading the deaf, lame, impatient, recalcitrant



Ros Cornish receiving her award; Photo: Jean Geue

and out-of-sighters, but you cater to all our needs. The weather call on Tuesday afternoons carries huge responsibility — a nail-biting (and I had no idea that you really did bite your nails), stomach-churning decision. And on Wednesdays you probably wish your name was other than Ros, which must get called out hundreds of times on the day.



Jo Walker; Photo: Lucinda Royston

Jo Walker

Plant identifier extraordinaire. Rarely misses a walk. Cheerful. Great rapport with all living creatures. We aren't allowed to swat a fly! Former studier of the dung beetle, who pronounced that memorable thought "If I was to have my life over again, I'd study galls".



Anne presenting Murray Dadds' award;
Photo: Lucinda Royston

Murray Dadds

The shepherd (not sheep dog) of our flock — diligently counting heads, herding us together, waiting for the stragglers. And his reporting on the men to women ratio — most interesting. I think men are on the increase?



Peter Woodbury receiving his award;
Photo: Lucinda Royston

Peter Woodbury

Encouragement award for a new member who has turned into an innovative fence-crossing person. Who could forget the Tidbinbilla Tracking Station fence hurdle — the reinforced milk crates lashed together, thoughtfully strengthened and made firm. Then later, on the return walk, some forked branches to open the jaws of barbed wire — simple and effective.



Anne presenting an award to Jean Geue;
Photo: Lucinda Royston

Jean Geue

Last but not least — bringing up the rear and taking all those photos — of rears — over fences and up hills. But always rearing to go every walk.

The story of *Xerochrysum bracteatum*

Words and photos by Janet Russell

This is the story of the journey of one of our many native plant species from Australia to Europe, and its return in a form not quite the same as when it left. The story shows what can happen when forms of species from different parts of the country are grown together in the garden. Cultivation most often leads not to conservation but instead to the creation of novel forms.

The common name used in Australia for *Xerochrysum bracteatum* is Golden Everlasting, which naturally leads to the assumption that they are all gold in colour. The name is derived from the Greek *xeros* meaning dry and *chrysos* meaning gold. A friend thought that the different coloured forms of Golden Everlastings in our garden had been bought as cultivars, but the plants are actually the result of a number of generations of hybrid crosses. The original parent plants were cultivars that were all bought at the Australian Native Plant Society's sales over a number of years. They are:

- 'Dargan Hill Monarch', a natural form, collected about 1.6 km inland from Cunningham's Gap in Southern Queensland
- 'Cockatoo', a spontaneous hybrid between 'Dargan Hill Monarch' and a white perennial form of *X. bracteatum*
- 'Princess of Wales', a spontaneous

hybrid, arising from a cross between 'Dargan Hill Monarch' and an annual form arising in the Australian National Botanic Gardens

- 'Diamond Head', a natural form collected around Diamond Head in New South Wales, where it is quite common on bluffs and cliffs

We tried to grow some of the overseas-developed forms bought at a commercial nursery. They were very deeply coloured but didn't do well in our garden and didn't thrive long enough to produce any seed. However, *X. bracteatum* has been recorded hybridising with Sticky Everlasting *X. viscosum* and possibly also *Coronidium elatum*. We have had Sticky Everlasting growing for some years. Both Everlasting species have more or less naturalised here. We did have some *Coronidium elatum* too, although they did not last much more than one season. I do not think that they hybridised but I am sure that the two Everlasting species have.

Strawflower is the common name used for the Golden Everlasting in Europe. It had been introduced into England by 1781. The Frenchman who was the first to describe the species in 1803 also had an interesting connection to Napoleon's first wife. A German man developed and sold cultivars of the plants in the 1850s and these would be the antecedents of the colourful plants that are available in Australia today. It is believed that

some coloured forms of South African *Helichrysum* were introduced into the breeding program, and this resulted in the huge array of colours available.

The Strawflowers are of a different form from the Australian Golden Everlastings. The bracts curl inwards, as you can see if you look at the photo in the Wikipedia article on Strawflower.

If we had known that it was likely that plants of a South African genus had been bred into the *Helichrysum bracteatum*, as it has been previously named, we would not have planted them. Most gardeners have eclectic tastes and it was not until we thought about using more local species in our native garden that my mind turned to the significance of provenance. The genie is, however,

already out of the bottle. For centuries thousands of gardeners all over the world have brought together plants with disparate origins. I sometimes wonder how it would have been to see New South Wales through Allan Cunningham's eyes.

Apart from personal experience, all other information in this article has come from a well-researched Wikipedia entry called *Xerochrysum bracteatum*. If you are interested in reading a more comprehensive account of the species I would commend that entry to you.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerochrysum_bracteatum

This article was first published in News of Friends of Grasslands, March–April 2014



Golden Everlasting *Xerochrysum bracteatum* in Janet's garden



A Day in the Country

Words and photos by Gail Ritchie Knight

When the coordinator of our Society's Daytime Activity Group Bill Willis suggested a visit to our property I just about fell off my chair. I couldn't imagine what our place would have to offer. But Bill considers our place to be quite special, living as we are in a virtual unspoilt bushblock. We therefore welcomed members from the ANPS-Canberra region to our place on a glorious sunny day in June 2014.

My husband Ron and I live on 50 hectares just north of Queanbeyan. Our house is passive-solar designed nestling down the slope about 1.5 km in from the front gate. The lie of the land is undulating with many trees and the occasional patch of open ground. Elevation is about 730 metres dropping down to the Yass River on the eastern side of the property. We began recording rainfall halfway through 2006 and since then, as with most of

Australia, we saw huge differences in yearly averages. Our lowest year was 2007 recording 400mm while in 2010 we recorded our highest to date, coming in at 949mm. The official average for Canberra Airport, 20 minutes away, is 629mm.

We bought our block in 1988 and over the years have spent many a week or two camping with family and friends. We eventually began building our house as owner-builders in 2006, finally moving here to live at Christmas time 2007. But the house wasn't finished, so we moved into our gypsy camp — a motley collection of huts and caravans about a third of a kilometre from the house site. In retrospect, our decision to build nearly 20 years after buying gave us time to get to know our property very well. In fact, we changed our minds twice before finally settling on the current house site.

We're very happy with our choice. There are substantial tree stands to the west

of the site providing some relief from summer heat but it is quite open to the north. This is important to us because our dream for years has been to build a passive solar designed house and solar gain from the north is integral to the efficiency of the house's level of comfort.

When we finally decided on the house site, we attempted to build a vegetable garden. The key word is 'attempted'. Using a tractor and a three-point linkage ripper, Ron proceeded to break up the chosen patch of ground. It all went well until the ripper, instead of riding over one of the many iceberg rocks, managed to hook underneath and successfully pulled the back end out of the tractor. Thus endeth the vegie patch. And it was many years before I attempted to plant again.

Our soil is very difficult to work with, comprising mainly shale, some clay

and many rocks. Prior to the current small patch of garden near the house, I planted dozens of trees and shrubs in the surrounding bush with varying degrees of success. The ground is so hard I invariably use a crow bar to dig each hole, always shaping a well to provide a reservoir to retain any rain that may fall.

As mentioned previously, the house is on a slope, the degree being about 1:8. In 2012 we installed a retaining wall on the higher south side of the house using Wee Jasper basalt. The stonemason filled in behind the wall with much rubble not knowing that I had planned a garden there. There's that word 'planned'. After six years we still didn't have a garden, concentrating on building the house instead. But we have always had a simple plan in mind and now the beginnings were about to be realised.



Once the stonemason had left, we pulled out quite a large amount of rubble and back-filled with a mix of mulch and clay. The clay was a donation some years ago from a building site in town. The mulch was from the leaves and branches of fallen trees on the block. Planting was easy due to the deep soil we had placed behind the retaining wall. I've had about a 75% success rate since those first plantings in October 2012.

Some have taken off beautifully like the two *Acacia cognata* 'Copper Tips' on either side of the front steps, the *Correa reflexa* (Kangaroo Island), *Prostanthera incisa*, *P. melissifolia* and *P. rotundiflora* as well as the strappy *Dianella brevipedunculata*, *D. tasmanica*, *Lomandra longifolia* and *Thelianema grande*. One of the two kangaroo paws *Anigozanthos flavidus* (red) has fared better than the other.

And my *Eremophila calorhabdos* I'm particularly pleased with. It flowered

well in the first year then proceeded to look very leggy and most unattractive. Inexplicably, I happened to read the identification tag dangling from the plant and noticed it suggested to prune regularly. So out came my secateurs and I hacked into it, cutting back quite hard. And lo and behold, the new growth looks luxurious.

Every plant has been hand-watered, those beyond the house by watering can. While we have two dams and a bore, to date our water use is solely from 185,000 litres of stored rain water.

Still I had more seedlings waiting to be planted out. There was a patch of dirt between the house and the garage but it hadn't been dug up beforehand and I found it extremely difficult to dig holes. Even using the crow bar hardly made a difference. What to do? The space was too small to bring the tractor in so Ron then employed our trusty jack hammer.



It was the only way we could break up the dirt. I refuse to call it soil. Out of about 15 plants, I've lost three. So far, so good. Then we moved around to the northern side of the house and planted about half a dozen plants including a prolific *Brachyscome multifida* and *Correa* 'Federation Belle'.

While many of the plants are coming along nicely, quite a few I would call sullen. They haven't died but they haven't flourished either. Our visitors said that plants often do that, namely just sit for a few years and then take off and never look back. So I shall remain patient.

Our biggest challenge in developing a garden is the fauna. The kangaroos generally don't bother us, but the swamp wallabies are little terrors eating just about everything in their path. We also have rabbits, hares and shingle back lizards. Yes, I've seen with my very own eyes a shingle back wander along and eat every flower within its reach. It can be soul-destroying to see the damage all these delightful animals can do.

Our answer was to set up plant guards and even a temporary wire net fence until they become established. It doesn't look pretty, but I have no option. By spring I thought we had triumphed. At one of the ANPS plant sales I bought two *Xerochrysum bracteatum*. After flowering, they self-seeded numerous times promising to be magnificent, that is until the choughs came along. These birds live in large family communities and pecked away at the mulch pulling up just about every new seedling. Perhaps I need to install some bird-netting as well.

Along the south side we intend to pave with Wee Jasper basalt flagstones

informally spaced amongst Bungendore Grey river gravel. I think this is better than hard paving as it will allow rainwater to soak into the soil rather than become damaging run-off.

At the north-west corner of the house the ground drops away quite steeply. One of our visitors Ingrid suggested extending out and smoothing the slope to 1:3 angle. Then randomly place rocks interspersing with shrubs eg *Einada*. Instead of formal steps Ingrid suggested placing flatter-faced rocks randomly on a bed of sand and concrete them into position to use as stepping stones.

We have three Wollemi pines in pots on the northern side under the eaves. They were not looking healthy, mostly pale with just the tops a glossy green. Another visitor Fran suggested that they had probably exhausted their soil and were grabbing nutrients from the lower leaves. Repotting them made all the difference and they have been transformed.

To the north we also intend to build pergolas with adjustable slats that will exclude the sun or not depending on the season. Because we've yet to build the pergolas we've not developed any gardens except for half a dozen plants on a retaining wall. Local grower, Iris suggested we needn't worry too much about formal gardens. Our garden is the 120 acres of natural bushland surrounding our house providing a tapestry of varying shades of green vistas.

After lunch when most had gone home we led the remainder for a walk down to the Yass River, then across the property up to the highest point where there

are 360° views including south to the Brindabellas. This was our original house site but it didn't take us long to realise how inhospitable the conditions would be if we lived in such an exposed position.

The trees on the property are mainly the indigenous *Eucalyptus mannifera* and *E. macrorhyncha* with some *E. bridgesiana* and *E. rossii* amongst others. *E. mannifera* has the unfortunate common name of Brittle Gum but has a most attractive bark. In winter the colour is a powdery whitish grey which glows in the moonlight but by summer the bark goes through a range of colours from grey through pink to reddish purple. Acacias tend more on the western slopes of the property and include mainly *Acacia dealbata* but also *A. parramattensis* and the low growing *A. gunnii*.

The predominant shrubs are *Cassinia* including *C. hewsoniae* and *Kunzea ericoides*. While the *Kunzea* has a short flowering time, when it does flower it is very pretty with prolific white flowers. The grass *Rytidosperma pallidum* (previously known as *Joycea pallida*) commonly known as Red-anther Wallaby Grass is one of my favourite grasses because of its long graceful leaves and red anthers when in seed. An unfortunate fact is that our neighbours on both sides have large stands of *Pinus radiata* which relentlessly self-seed onto our land — the only major blight on our property.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the visit. It was a delight to have native plant enthusiasts visit our property. They were very encouraging providing a number of ideas to develop our rural sanctuary.





Our house is still not finished but there's no urgency. We have great plans for the building and are prepared to wait until we are able to complete each stage rather than make cheap compromises. We said goodbye to our visitors basking

in a warm glow knowing that this place is indeed special.

A version of this article first appeared in the August 2014 Garden Design Study Group Newsletter No 87.

Atlas of Living Australia Update

By Martin Butterfield

A further 2085 records, covering walks in July–November 2014, were uploaded to the *Atlas of Living Australia* on 31 January. I have also checked whether the records are being accessed: in the past 12 months there have been 4894 downloads covering 1,260,207 records!!!! A more detailed report on this will be prepared in the near future.

Correction

On page 26 of the December 2014 issue of the *Journal* (Vol 18 No 2), the heading of the obituary of John Wrigley was incorrect. It should read: 'Vale John Walter Wrigley AM 1934–2014'. Text was correct when submitted by the author. The editor apologises for the error and any distress caused.

Acacias (Australian) not welcome in South Africa

Words and photos by Victoria Tanner

In September last year I was part of a tour group to South Africa organised by the guides of Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens (Capetown), which was also celebrating its 100th birthday. Besides spending many hours wandering around this beautiful garden which sits dramatically below Table Mountain, the group also toured further afield in the Western Cape through both the fynbos and succulent karoo biomes. In many places it felt like we were not far from home with eucalypts growing nearly everywhere, callistemon not uncommon and other Aussie flora including Norfolk Pines grown in Capetown gardens.

As we travelled out of Capetown, Australian acacias were more commonly (unfortunately) seen prompting the South African guides to grimace. They explained their dislike for our lovely acacias and as an Acacia Study Group member, it was disappointing to see and hear about how our acacias have become serious weeds in South Africa. Although local actions have been taken to combat these introduced weeds, they are still a huge, ongoing problem in South Africa. I thought this subject quite interesting and on my return home I wanted to find out more. I contacted the South African Agricultural Research Council — Plant Protection Research Institute, which kindly provided me with a number of relevant research papers.

Although the Acacia Study Group promotes the cultivation of Australian acacias, I thought an article on this topic worthwhile as it may help us to understand acacias in both their positive and negative light as well as remind us that nearly any plant can become weedy if grown in the wrong place. It also shows that the study and knowledge of acacia growth, reproduction and pests in Australia, can also be used to benefit other countries which want to remove/reduce the same acacias. South African researchers regularly visit Australia to learn, tour and obtain samples for use as acacia control methods and this access to Australia has been acknowledged as a major contributor to the success of South African researchers, in this field (Impson, Purcell & Gordon, 2011).

History

Australian acacias were originally introduced in to countries like South Africa at least since the early eighteenth century for reasons of forestry, to be used as windbreaks between pine plantations, for use as ornamental garden species, for soil stabilisation, tannin or for food for fodder crops. Earlier records of exotic plant introductions began with European settlement of South Africa in the mid-1600s. Acacia seeds were thought to have originated via England where Australian plants were, at the time, popular garden species, although



some plants may have arrived direct from Botany Bay (Impson, Purcell & Gordon, 2011).

Background

Out of all Australian acacia species considered problematic or invasive worldwide, ten are present in South Africa. All grow in a wide range of habitats including disturbed areas and climates, are fast growing, reach reproductive maturity within a few years and have high levels of seed production with persistence of seed in the soil. Seeds can disperse widely in South Africa by birds, rodents, ants, humans, passively dispersed or even spread rapidly via waterways (Impson, Hoffman & Kleinjan, 2008).

On my own visit to this country, I was shocked to see how aggressively both *A. saligna* and *A. longissima* in particular, were growing along and even in, a small flowing stream in a fashion similar to how invasive willows grow here. As we drove around the countryside it was also not uncommon to see large thickets of acacias growing along roadsides and often in farmlands or parks. In many cases, there was evidence that control

attempts of the South Africans were being effective with large galls and other visible damage to the acacias in evidence.

Ten of the invasive Australian acacias recognised worldwide where biological control projects have taken place in South Africa (Impson et al 2008):

- *baileyana*
- *cyclops*
- *dealbata*
- *decurrens*
- *longifolia*
- *mearnsii*
- *melanoxylon*
- *podalyriifolia*
- *pycnantha*
- *saligna*

The problem of removing or reducing wattles in South Africa has been even further complicated by the fact that despite their invasiveness, in some cases Australian acacias are still welcome and being commercially grown (there is even a South African Wattle Growers Union). Because some acacias have now become economically important for South Africa, for timber, tannin or stock fodder (particularly *A. mearnsii* and *A. melanoxylon*), discussions between the two sides have led to acacia control being focused at methods that would affect reproduction rather than those that would damage the plant itself. The commercial acacia industry remains an important and vocal consideration when introducing any biological controls in South Africa.

Biological control

The first biological control of acacias in South Africa was started in the 1970–80s. Now ten biological agent species from Australia have been released in South Africa to control ten of the Australian acacia target species. Only one of the ten biological control methods is fungal (affecting both the reproductive and vegetative growth of *A. saligna*). The other nine agents are herbivorous insect species which suppress the reproductive output of its host plant. Five of these are also seed-weevil eating species, while two are flower-galling fly species and two are bud-galling wasp species.

In choosing agents, consideration must be given to not interfering with the commercial attributes of the plant (and therefore aim at seed production). While generally such an approach does not achieve a reduction in the densities of existing pest plants, this approach in South Africa has reduced the rates of spread and densification of target acacias (Impson, Kleinjan, Hoffman, Post & Wood, 2011).

New biological controls are continually being evaluated but it is thought that despite this continuing research, no single agent will be relied upon as being a single control mechanism for Australian acacias. It is the combination of biological, mechanical and chemical control methods that have proved most successful within the current South African environment. This combination has involved large manual clearing of acacias, a program which has also been used to alleviate poverty in South Africa over the past ten years (since 1996 under a government “Working for Water



Program”). This method has been quite successful in reducing the seed banks of invasive acacias and its success is more likely if a program of seedling clearing follows.

After years of research, trials and experimentation, it has been established that when deciding on the most appropriate type of acacia control program for a particular Australian acacia in South Africa, consideration of a number of factors must be included. The economics of weed invasion for the acacia being considered (including costs to the environment), as well as the costs of clearing and reducing the spread are also critical considerations. Potential impacts on biodiversity are also vital in designing a control program along with the need to clearly identify and agree on the project’s expectations, likely outcomes and goals of the control management program.

While South Africa uses biological controls to control invasive Australian acacias, they are also problematic in a number of other countries (along with a number of other Australian species). The USA is also conducting such control programs and Portugal was to begin in 2011. While I was amazed at the flora of South Africa, it was very surprising for me to learn of just how many Australian plant species have become weedy in South Africa (including hakea, callistemon, casuarina, melaleuca, syzigium and grevillea ssp.). However, Australia in return also has pest plant species from South Africa and many 'weedy' or potentially weedy South African plants are still readily available in our nurseries. Perhaps the lessons to be learnt include that any plant can become weedy if grown in the 'wrong' place or and that we need to take care when choosing

plants (including knowing where they come from) as well as assessing their ability to spread uncontrolled in the local environment?

Postscript

Thank you to Fiona Impson for kindly supplying the relevant research papers.

References

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- Impson, F, Purcell, M & Gordon, A G (2011). Biological Control of Australian Plants: a South African and US Perspective.
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Lambertia formosa, Tianjara Falls; Photo: Martin Butterfield



Lunchtime; Photo: Jean Geue

By Ros Cornish

Tianjara Falls are in Morton National Park and are where Yarramunmun Creek flows over an escarpment into the valley below. With the recent upgrading of the road from Nerriga to Nowra it is an achievable destination for a Wednesday Walk — our last spring walk for 2014. We met at Bungendore Park to car pool then went via Tarago and Oallen Ford to Nerriga Road. This route is now completely sealed and goes through some interesting country. We forced ourselves not to be distracted and had our first stop as planned at the beginning of Touga/Towlong Road which is on the left, shortly after Bulee Gap. We were to have a quick morning tea there but found many things of interest.

Some of the tea trees were flowering all day — *Leptospermum rotundifolium* was outstanding. It has huge flowers ranging from white to quite dark pink. Some plants were completely covered with flowers.



Leptospermum rotundifolium; Photo: Martin Butterfield

We also saw *L. trinervium*, *L. polygalifolium* and *L. squarrosus* flowering well. Also flowering here were *Melaleuca capitata*, *Goodenia heterophylla*, *G. bellidifolia*, *Grevillea patulifolia*, *Phyllota phyllicoides*, *Dampiera stricta* and many other things.



Leptospermum polygalifolium; Photo: Roger Farrow

We then continued on for another 15 minutes, past the settlement of Sassafrass, to Tianjara Falls. It took us forever to get out of the car park area — there was so much to see. Flowering were *Melaleuca thymifolia*, *Isopogon anethifolius*, *Xyris* sp., *Mirbelia rubiifolia*, *Tetratheca bauerifolia*, *Kunzea ambigua*, *Viminaria juncea*, *Dampiera stricta* and *Scaevola ramosissima*, to name a few.



Mirbelia rubiifolia; Photo: Roger Farrow



Kunzea ambigua; Photo: Martin Butterfield



Isopogon anethifolius; Photo: Martin Butterfield



Scaevola ramosissima; Photo: Jean Geue



Tianjara Falls; Martin Butterfield

Then we made it to the falls seeing on the way some large tongue orchids — *Cryptostylis subulata* flowering well — along with *Daviesia alata*, *Thysanotus juncifolius*, *Allocasuarina nana* and *Anisopogon avanaceus* — a big grass

that we've seen previously at the Big Hole. There was not much water flowing over the falls but the view to the valley floor was spectacular.

We found our way on to a nearby rock platform for lunch, admiring the view but disturbed a few times by a helicopter, seemingly practising low flight. A surprise among the rocks was *Isotoma axillaris*.



Cryptostylis subulata; Photo: Roger Farrow



Daviesia alata; Photo: Roger Farrow



Isotoma axillaris; Photo: Martin Butterfield

Walking further along the platform we found many flannel flowers, *Actinous helianthi*, flowering beautifully, some duck orchids, *Caleana major*, and a number of other interesting plants such as a *Zieria* sp., *Platysace lanceolata*, *Boronia anemonifolia*, *Chloanthes parviflora*, *Olex stricta*, *Banksia serrata* and *Pomaderris andromedifolia*.



Caleana major; Photo: Martin Butterfield



Darwinia taxifolia; Photo: Roger Farrow



Actinous helianthi; Photo: Roger Farrow

We stopped twice on the way home, first at an area devoid of trees but with low shrubs which turned out to be because of a big rock formation underneath. Near here we found *Darwinia taxifolia* flowering — bright red flowers and a first

for many of us. Our final stop was at the rock platform above Bulee Gap to see the amazing view. It was a memorable trip, no doubt to be repeated at other times of the year.



One of the locals; Photo: Martin Butterfield

Plants for ANPS sales

The twice-yearly plant sales are a very important activity of ANPS Canberra. It is imperative for the buying public and for the Society's reputation that all plants supplied to the sales are healthy, well-sized and are identified and described accurately.

These are the most recent versions of the documents which describe the way the Standards Committee and the Plant Label Database (PLDB) Team try to ensure that these objectives are met and the plants are the best they can be.

Conditions for Supply of Plants

Species	Species nominated must be on the ANPS Plant Label Database. The final decision on species and the numbers of plants proposed by Plant Suppliers will be made by the ANPS Standards Sub-committee.
Numbers	To be decided by the Plant Sales Coordinator (PSC) and Standards Sub-committee.
Payment	Treasurer will pay on the number of "Plants sold at sale" as calculated from the Consignment Receipt.
Pots and racks	Plants are to be supplied in the following pots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70mm square pots, black or terracotta coloured (small) • 90mm square pots (medium) • 140/150 round pots with root training sides (large). 70mm and 90mm pots are to be delivered in racks.
90mm pots required	The following plants must be supplied in 90mm pots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all plants listed in the 'tree' category on the plant label database, and • any plant listed on the database as growing to 6m or more in height.
Potting mixes	Recommended ingredients are: aged pine fines, washed river sand, cocopeat, peat and suitable fertiliser and mixes should not contain soil or garden loam
Criteria	<p>The 'acceptable' plant should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be free of all pests, diseases and weeds and healthy foliage • have a well-developed root system, with the roots visible on all sides of the plant to the base of the pot and not be pot bound. • be big enough for sale and of reasonable size for its container. In general, the height would range from at least half the size of the container to three times the size of the container (groundcovers excluded). • be appropriately pruned (we strongly suggest any pruning should be carried out 4–6 weeks before the sale and showing new growth). • be correctly labelled with ANPS labels • be hardened off with increased light at least a week before delivery • be grown in the Canberra region (within 50 kms of Canberra) or under similar climate conditions elsewhere. <p>Plants will be checked by the Standards Sub-Committee and any that do not meet these criteria will be returned to the Plant Suppliers and de-consigned. Plants considered to be incorrectly labelled will be removed and returned unless an alternative label is available (Plant Suppliers will bear the costs of printing additional labels).</p>

Labels	<p>Plant Suppliers participating in the sale will be required to use standard ANPS labels with information supplied by the most recently updated ANPS database. Labels may not be altered without permission.</p> <p><u>The only identifying feature will be the Plant Suppliers' coloured mark on the back of the label.</u></p> <p>Position of labels in the pots</p> <p>Labels should be inserted parallel to the long side of the rack and behind the plant. They should also be inserted to a minimum depth of 6 cm.</p> <p>Use of labels with old names and descriptions</p> <p>Plant Suppliers may use labels with old names and descriptions for one sale after the name change.</p> <p>On delivery, plants will be checked to ensure that Plant Suppliers' plants are labelled with the appropriate mark on the back of the label.</p> <p>Plants incorrectly labelled</p> <p>If you need additional or replacement labels, please let Masumi Robertson know what you require. All replacement labels must be marked with the appropriate Plant Suppliers' mark and shown to Philip Fradd before being placed back in the sale area.</p>
Pricing	<p>Prices paid to Plant Suppliers by ANPS at this sale for sold plants will be:</p> <p>Small pot — \$ 4.00; Medium pot — \$5.50; Large pot — \$ 6.00</p> <p>This price is to include GST, if any. Plant Suppliers are required to take back their unsold plants.</p>
Transport Myrtle Rust check Consignment Plant identification and quality check Attendance	<p>Day prior to sale (Friday)</p> <p>Plant Suppliers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Are responsible for transporting their plants to the sale site by 2.00pm All large deliveries to be in before 12 noon Must agree to appropriate delivery times On arrival plants must be organised so that all Myrtaceae plants can be removed first and no other plants may be off loaded until the Myrtle Rust check has been completed Plant Suppliers must be present during the checking of their plants for Myrtle Rust and between 2.00–5.00pm for the plant identification and quality check. The only exception to rule 'a' is if the PSC or delegate has allowed for plants to be added on Saturday morning Any plants not accepted by the Standards Sub-Committee must be deconsigned by the Treasurer or his/her delegate and then removed from the sale area that day. Times may vary according to circumstances. All plants must be consigned in upon delivery by Treasurer or his/her delegate. <p>Sale Day (Saturday)</p> <p>Plant Suppliers are required to be in attendance throughout the sale, and to be available to help, including with sale construction and putting away equipment, giving cultivation advice, checkout service, watering plants and the like. At the end of the sale, Plant Suppliers must be available to deconsign and remove their unsold plants.</p> <p>*Note: Deconsignment will not begin until all plant sale materials have been put away.</p>

Guidelines for Requests for Additions and Alterations to the ANPS Plant Label Database

(7 November 2014)

- The Plant Label Database has been developed since the mid-1990s to provide clear and accurate information for buyers at the twice yearly ANPS sales.
- Labels are our primary means of sharing essential information about Australian native plants growing in Canberra conditions with ANPS members and the public: describing the plant and how to grow it.
- The label description is based on the best available information which is gathered from our members and other sources.

There are almost 2500 entries in the PLDB. Label descriptions explain the best growing conditions for each taxon (species, subspecies, variety, form or cultivar) in Canberra's harsh climate of prolonged winters with frosts to -7C regularly, coupled with very hot summers, unpredictable rain fall and heavy clay soil in most areas. The experience of these conditions over the last 20 years has accumulated valuable information for Canberra and a good reputation for ANPS Canberra.

The procedure for addition or alteration to the database has also been developed over many years and has been published in the Growers' Bulletin as changes were introduced, eg the requirement for plant material to allow correct identification of plants was introduced after some plants supplied were found to be incorrectly identified (including by nurseries or seed suppliers) and even to be non-native weed species.

As the purpose of the database is to provide labels for the sales, updates to the database are undertaken twice yearly and processed in time for the two sales.

When a Member Grower or a member of the Propagation Group wishes to provide for sale a taxon not already in the database they should apply by filling in the PLDB form. All ANPS members are encouraged to suggest alterations to a label's text when they notice an error or inconsistency.

Taxon to be added should:

- be likely to be provided for sale soon
- be significantly different from any taxa already in database
- be correctly named
- be able to be accurately identified
- have been grown in the ACT region for approximately two years preferably in more than one garden.

Detailed Process

Requests for additions and/or alterations are accepted by the cut-off dates of:

- 10th May to allow processing by August for the October (Spring) Sale, and,
- 10th November to allow processing by January for the March (Autumn) Sale.

Requests may be submitted at any time up to these dates but will only be processed after the cut-off dates.

Each applicant may submit up to five requests per cut off. In some exceptional

cases there may be a perceived need for more than five and this may be discussed with the database team.

The application must be made on the 'PROPOSED ADDITION/ALTERATION TO ANPS PLANT LABEL DATABASE' Form (see attached) which has been designed for the purpose.

For each request the database team seeks further information using published and other references to enable the description to be as accurate as possible. The team encourages an applicant to provide as much information as possible.

The correct identification of each plant species offered for sale is very important and all applications must be accompanied by a flowering sample, plus other plant parts such as fruit, leaves or roots, etc if these are necessary for a correct ID. If suitable plant material is unavailable, some other method of confirming the ID, eg a pressed herbarium specimen or a taxonomist's report could be considered.

NOTE: Material provided must be from the plants to be offered for sale or their immediate source.

On label names

- Plant names are kept up-to-date with recent taxonomic changes when they have become widely accepted.
- Normal botanic usage is followed ie *Genus species* followed by a cultivar name or a form designation if needed.
- Cultivar (cultivated variety) names are only used if they are registered ACRA cultivars, previously covered by Plant Breeders Rights or have been in the trade for a long time and are

widely known. They are designated by ' ', for example *Banksia spinulosa* 'Birthday Candles'.

We cannot sell plants covered by Plant Breeders Rights so these would not be added.

- Plant forms describe plant size, flower colour, leaf shape or colour or provenance. The forms are indicated by (), for example *Correa pulchella* (orange), *Correa reflexa* (Merry Beach).
- Cultivars and forms must be propagated by cuttings or other vegetative propagation methods (division, tissue culture) not from seed.
- Generic names (those without cultivar or forms specified) may be grown from seeds, but growers must be aware of hybridisation when seeds are collected in an area with other species of the same genus. Hybridisation can occur in gardens and in the wild. Commercial growers' seeds must certify identity and purity. Grevilleas, Callistemons and Melaleucas are particularly prone to hybridisation.
- Plants labelled as [LOCAL] must have originated within a 50km radius of Canberra GPO, ie are of local provenance. This excludes plants growing in your garden, which originated elsewhere, unless local.
- Growers are reminded that you require a permit to collect seeds and cuttings from Nature Parks and reserves in the ACT. A similar permit is required in NSW.
- Member growers are encouraged to have a basic understanding and appreciation of plant taxonomy and current rulings.

Recommendations for growers

- It would be useful if the applicant would explain their recommendation of the plant, ie why they think it should be added.
 - Plants to be added should have been grown in a Canberra garden (preferably more than one) for two years (two winters and two summers) in conditions in which the plant is expected to be used. Preferably growers will have trialed the plant themselves and decided that the plant has sufficient merit to be added to the PLDB. It would be an advantage if they have had their friends try their plants and can give details of these trials.
 - When details such as frost and cold tolerance are uncertain, the plant will have "Not tried in Canberra" on the label and may be placed under "spring sale only" category.
 - Any additional information not specified by the form may be provided.
- If any questions, please contact the Plant Label Database team at PLD@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

November 2014

PROPOSED ADDITION / ALTERATION TO ANPS PLANT LABEL DATABASE

DATE _____

Please fill in as much as you can and do not alter the form. Forward the completed form to PLD@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au, or hand deliver to the PLDB team, along with your flowering samples.

1) Plant name: _____

Form (if applicable, eg prostrate, pink): _____

- 2) ☐ addition to database ☐ proposed alteration to existing description
(please go to Section 8 on reverse side)

How did you obtain the name for this plant?

- ☐ from plant label / commercial nursery. Name of supplier:
☐ personal communication (e.g. garden owner). Name:
☐ identified the plant yourself, or ☐ had someone identify it for you. Name:

3) Why do you want to add this plant?

4) How does this plant differ from plants already in PLDB? (eg new species)

5) Flowering sample with leaves and stems is supplied Yes ☐ No ☐

If not accompanying this form, when was the sample supplied? _____

6) Label description for this plant if available, copy of a colour plant label may be attached (not an intended label description for PLDB):

7) Have you grown this plant? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide as much of the following information as you can.

Where plant is/was growing (name of Canberra suburb, country town, geographic location of property):

Length of time grown: _____ years _____ months

Approximate size: _____ m high x _____ m wide

Grown in: ☐ pot/container ☐ in ground

Growing conditions:

Soil/drainage: _____

Aspect/slope: _____

Amount of sun/shade: _____

New or established garden (degree of protection from other plants):

frost tolerant to -7C ☐ some damage by frost ☐ frost tender ☐

Watering regime: _____

Flower colour: _____

Flowering time: _____

Any other significant features of this plant or relevant information:

8) Proposed alteration to database

Please specify the existing wording which you would like to see changed:

Please indicate how you think it should be changed and why you think so.

Suggest:

Reason:

(Section 4 may be completed if you wish to provide details of your cultivation experience in your reason)

NB. Your views will receive careful consideration, but your proposal will not necessarily be adopted by ANPS.

Your name: _____

Contact information ph: _____ (ah) _____ (bh)

email:



Australian Native Plants Society (Australia)

Biennial Conference 2015
AIS Canberra, Bruce ACT

Keynote speakers

- Angus Stewart — Swaby Lecture
- Ian Fraser — Conference Dinner
- David Headon

Field trips

- NSW South Coast — pre-conference
- Sub-alpine areas in Perisher Valley, Kosciuszko National Park — post conference
- Brindabella Range with Ian Fraser — optional extra
- Australian National Botanic Gardens
- National Arboretum
- Local nature parks
- Private gardens

Program

Saturday, 14 November
Excursion to Brindabella Range with Ian Fraser — optional

Sunday, 15 November

ANPSA Delegates meeting
Free bus service to National Museum, National Portrait Gallery, National Gallery, War Memorial

Monday, 16 November

Morning presentations; afternoon excursions

Tuesday, 17 November

Morning presentations; afternoon excursions

Wednesday, 18 November

Morning presentations; afternoon excursions
7.30 pm Awards and Swaby Lecture with Angus Stewart

Thursday, 19 November

Morning presentations; afternoon excursions
7 pm Conference dinner with speaker Ian Fraser

Friday, 20 November

Morning excursions; afternoon presentation and plant sale

Saturday, 21 November

Excursion to Brindabella Range with Ian Fraser — optional

For more information and expressions of interest:

Email: conference2015@anpsa.org.au

Website: <http://conference2015.anpsa.org.au>

Post: ANPSA Conference 2015

PO Box 187

Deakin West ACT 2600

Study Group Notes

By Lesley Page, Study Group Liaison Officer, ANPS Canberra Region

Acacia Study Group

Newsletter No. 127 December 2014

- From the leader
- Welcome
- From members and readers
- Reports on growing from seed
- Some observations on seeds
- Fungus on *Acacia baileyana*
- A fire of Gidgee coals
- *Acaciapsus* — a new plant bug genus
- Acacias in the news
- Photos of wattle places
- Seed bank

The Chef's Cap

Newsletter of the Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, December 2014

- Coming events
- President's report
- Gardens manager's page
- An outstanding community asset
- Launch of the Gardens calendar for 2015
- Schools at ERBG
- Breakfast with the birds
- Trivia night

- My thoughts on Tim Entwisle's radio talk
- Giant plant sale
- Making mosaics at the Gardens

Fern Study Group

Newsletter No. 132

- From the editor
- Program for south-east Queensland region
- Program for the Sydney region
- Sydney area meeting reports
- South-east Queensland meeting reports
- Cyclone survivor
- Spore list

Garden Design Study Group

Newsletter No. 88 November 2014

- Leader's comments
- Correspondence
- Walcott garden stamp!
- Barfield garden
- Can south-east Australia expect drought soon?
- In love with groundcovers
- The Gothenburg Botanical Garden
- Who leaves \$100 million to a garden library?
- Quotes of the season
- A vertical garden in Melbourne

- “The Millennium Garden”
- Australian landscape design awards 2014
- Report of Melbourne garden visit meeting on Sunday August 10, 2014
- Report of Melbourne garden visits, Monday October 6, in the Grampians area
- Site of WAMA (Wildlife Art Museum of Australia)
- Greg and Glenda Lewin’s garden
- Neil and Wendy Marriott’s garden
- GDSG visit to a bush garden in Aranda

Waratah & Flannel Flower Study Group

Newsletter No. 8 December 2014

- Maria writes:
- From the members
- Mt Tomah Waratah Festival
- *Alloxylon pinnatum*
- Waratah pests and diseases
- Checklist of *Telopea* species and varieties



Arrangement of *Eucalyptus lehmanii* from Potato Point, South Coast NSW; Photo: Elizabeth Stergiou

Australian Native Plants Society, Canberra Region Inc.

The aims of the Society are to foster the recognition, conservation and cultivation of Australian native plants.

Meetings are held at 8pm on the second Thursday of each month, February to December, in Canberra. Visitors are always welcome.

Day and weekend field trips to locations of outstanding botanical interest are organised on a regular basis.

The Society publishes a Bulletin in all months except January, and this quarterly Journal in March, June, September and December.

Website: nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Council

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Other Council Members

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Nola McKeon

Peter Woodbury

Phil Price

Masumi Robertson

Vacant

Membership Fees

Single or family memberships are the same price.

Basic membership including Bulletin and Journal — \$35 (\$20*)

Full membership including Bulletin, Journal and Australian Plants — \$50 (\$36*)

Life member subscribing to Australian Plants — \$15

* Concession rates apply to pensioners (Centrelink), full-time students and unemployed.

Membership Secretary: Masumi Robertson 6251 6525
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