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**Cover:** *Banksia menziesii* dwarf; Photo: Ben Walcott;

## 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 and may be accompanied by photographs or drawings. The editor reserves the right without exception to edit all articles and include or omit images as appropriate.

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 or USB drive 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.

The deadline dates for submissions are 1 February (for March edition), 1 May (June), 1 August (September) and 1 November (December).

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# Celebrating 50 years with SGAP/ANPS Canberra Region

*Masumi Robertson*

At the December meeting we presented flowers and golden name badges to Ian and Judy Wardlaw to celebrate their 50 plus years of continuous membership with the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP)/ Australian Native Plants Society (ANPS) Canberra Region. They are the first members to reach 50 years with our society.

In 1963 they joined our young society, just a few years old, when they moved into their house in O'Connor as Ian had begun employment at CSIRO Plant Industry. There was very little information on Australian native plants back then for Canberra gardens or in the wild. It was well before *Flora of the ACT* (Burbidge and Gray) was published in 1970.

There were very few native plants at nurseries and many were purchased from interstate. Many of these did not survive in Canberra's harsh climate. Judy compiled a list of plants growing in members' gardens to know which plants were hardy enough to grow here. This was a great asset starting a process of sharing information which eventually



Ian and Judy Wardlaw

evolved into our plant label database. Since the arrival of plant sales, Ian has been a regular, choosing plants for their garden.

Ian and Judy continue to plant native plants in their O'Connor garden, high on the 'hill' avoiding the worst of inner north frosts.

Congratulations Ian and Judy!

# Banksias in Pots and in the Garden

Text by Ros Walcott

Photos by Ben Walcott

I love banksias, not only for their distinguished foliage, colourful cones and variety of form, but particularly because they bloom in winter. In Canberra our banksias flower all through the winter providing nectar for the birds and a feast for our eyes. From the very earliest bud through to the shaggy end of flowering, banksias are a joy in the garden. They change slowly, which gives us a chance to really appreciate each stage of flowering.

We have tried growing 90 different species and cultivars of banksia in our garden over the last 13 years with mixed success. We have planted 225 different banksias and about half of them are no longer with us. Some have died quickly, others after many years of growth, and some have inevitably been removed for

failure to thrive, outgrowing their space or during reorganisation of the garden.

We have 40 different banksias growing in our garden at the present and 17 species in pots. I only grow those banksias in pots which do not like our soils or our frosty winter conditions. Most of the banksias in pots are from Western Australia. They do not like our clay soils and need to be moved under the eaves in winter. I would be very reluctant to forego their beauty just because they do not appreciate our conditions.

We have had spectacular flowering from *B. attenuata*, *B. brownii*, *B. grandis*, *B. lindleyana*, *B. menziesii*, *B. oreophila*, *B. ornata*, *B. pilostylis* and *B. victoriae*. In fact *B. brownii* and *B. grandis* have grown very large in their pots and seem quite happy there. Both these plants have been planted in pots for over seven years and are still thriving.

The soil mix in our pots is one third washed coarse river sand and two thirds native planting mix. I fertilise lightly once a year, as I do not want lots of foliage growth and no development of cones. You have to be patient. Some of my pots are seven years old and still have not bloomed — not too many of those, I am happy to report. Many of the Western Australian banksias are fussy in the east. Some appear perfectly content then die overnight.



*Banksia oreophila*





*Banksia attenuata*

Those of you who came to the ANPSA Conference in November 2015 would have seen a pot in our garden of *B. attenuata* in full lime-green splendour. That magnificent plant died in the heat before last Xmas and will need to be replaced. On the other hand several of our banksias in pots have been flowering prolifically for seven years and show no signs of slowing down.

I also have two *B. brownii* in the garden. These are grafted plants from Phil Trickett (thank you Phil) and so far they are doing well. Frosts do not appear to bother them, but our clay soil does — hence the grafting. I had a magnificent *B. verticillata* which outgrew its pot. I planted it in the garden and it leapt

up only to succumb to the frosts a few months later. I am happy to say that Phil Trickett took cuttings from that plant, so it lives on. I also have *B. occidentalis* and *B. pulchella*, which are grafted, both growing well in the garden.



*Banksia brownii* young flower



*Banksia pulchella*

Two of our desert banksias, *B. ornata* and *B. lindleyana*, are incredibly popular with both birds and insects. *B. ornata* is the only reason that New Holland Honeyeaters come to our garden in the winter. Both these plants were grown from seed by Mark Clements. Ben has

also tried growing banksias from seed from The Banksia Farm, near Albany, WA with mixed success. Many of these banksias, such as *B. sphaerocarpa* var. *latifolia*, are incredibly slow growing, while others, like *B. seminuda*, shoot out of the ground. We have yet to have



*Banksia lindleyana* young (left) and older (above)

continuing success with the coveted *B. audax*, *B. cuneata*, *B. nutans*, and *B. plagiocarpa*.

Our local *B. marginata* is in flower at present and is full of Eastern Spinebills, Grey Fantails, Silvereyes, Leaden Flycatchers and Superb Fairy Wrens, all attracted either to the nectar or to the insects buzzing around the nectar. Spinebills are particularly bold birds and come to feed on banksias in pots right near the house. They are not bothered by our presence at all.

*B. praemorsa*, which reaches its highest magnificence on Kangaroo Island, at the Stokes Bay Bush Gardens, (according to me), is somewhat of a conundrum for us in Canberra. The tree is growing well each year, with plenty of new foliage, but the cones develop to about 2–3cm long then fail to develop any further. Is it our frosts? At Stokes Bay Bush Gardens these banksias develop into large trees covered in both red and gold cones. What a magnificent sight they are with the birds fighting each other for ownership of those prolific sources of nectar.

The best performing banksias for us in the garden are *B. 'Bulli Baby'*, *B. cunninghamii*, *B. ericifolia*, *B. 'Golden Girl'*, *B. marginata*, *B. paludosa*, *B. 'Red Rover'*, *B. robur*, *B. serrata*, *B. spinulosa* 'Honey Pots' and *B. 'Yellow Wing'*. In pots we have had success with *B. brownii*, *B. grandis*, *B. lindleyana*, *B. menziesii*, *B. ornata*, *B. telematiaea* and *B. victoriae*.

I encourage you to try some different banksias in pots if they do not appreciate your garden conditions. They can be very rewarding.



*Banksia paludosa*



*Banksia victoriae*



*Banksia Yellow Wing*





## Summer Wednesday Walks Dec 2015 to Feb 2016

*Geranium neglectum*, Gourock Range

*Text and photos by Roger Farrow*

Summer began with a new walk along the heritage-listed Old Wool Trail at Bullee Gap in pagoda country on the escarpment in Moreton National Park (NP). Next was a visit to three sites in the Cullulla/Oallen Ford area. In January we began with a farewell visit to Ros and John at Widgewa Road and a circuit around their wooded property. This was followed by a very wet trip to the Brindabellas.

In February we had a walk along the Old Boboyan Road in Namadgi NP, a car crawl through the Gourock Range and a walk along Chalet Road in the Brindabellas. In a departure from the preceding articles I am focussing on some of the more interesting (and sometimes new) species seen.

### The Old Wool Trail 2015-12-02

Among the many heathland plants two orchids stood out — the tall leek orchid, *Prasophyllum elatum*, and the flying duck, *Caleana major*.



*Prasophyllum elatum*, Old Wool Trail





*Caleana major*, Old Wool Trail

## Cullulla Quarry, Chain-o-Ponds and Oallen Ford Reserves 2015-12-09

At the quarry we found the everlasting daisy *Helichrysum leucopsidium* in flower. This used to be in the genus *Xerochrysum* but expect it to be removed from the genus *Helichrysum* in the future.

At Chain-o-Ponds, an interesting subspecies of *Grevillea juniperina*, sub sp. *amphitricha* was found in secondary native grassland. It is prostrate and endemic to a few sites between Windellama and Braidwood.

At the Oallen Ford Reserve the *Acacia* aff. *uncinata* was extremely abundant. It is not clear whether this population is related to *A. aureocrinita* from Numeralla but it looks closer to the original *A. uncinata* from central NSW.



*Helichrysum leucopsidium* Cullulla Quarry



*Grevillea juniperina amphitricha*, Chain-o-Ponds



*Acacia uncinata*, Oallen Reserve



Wednesday Walkers photographing *Hakea laevipes*, Oallen Ford Reserve

### **Ros and John's property Widgewa Road, 2016-01-20**

The surprise here was finding *Olearia lirata* near their creek boundary. Normally found in wet sclerophyll forest in the Brindabellas, this dry site is very unusual although there is seepage from the granite outcrops in the vicinity.

### **Bulls Head and Mt Ginini, 2016-01-27**

We identified what we thought was *Pomaderris subcapitata* behind the facilities and this we think will be a new record to the area. There were also many large specimens of *Persoonia subvelutina* in flower.

*Persoonia subvelutina*, Bulls Head





### Old Boboyan Road 2016-02-03

The best display was from a clump of red hot poker, *Kniphofia* X at the remains of the Old Homestead. A native of eastern Africa, it is very drought tolerant but is not invasive and has persisted at this site for many years. Some of the best native flower displays were from the indigenous *Oxalis* that is yet to be identified.



*Oxalis* sp, Old Boboyan South



*Corunastylis nuda*, Gourock Range

### Gourock Range 2016-02-10

Our drive in was entertained by seeing the rock skinks catching the morning sun on the granite intrusions lining the Anembo Road. Once in the forest one eagle-eyed Wednesday Walker spotted the tiny midge orchid, *Corunastylis nuda*, under the snow gums near the roadside. Further in on the Jerrabattgulla Road we stopped at a swamp carpeted with flowers of *Geranium neglectum*.

However the most interesting find was the tall form of *Podolobium alpestre* near the Flora Reserve. This

resembled the iconic Tinderry pea whose taxonomic status has never been elucidated.



*Podolobium alpestre*, Gourock Range

## Chalet Road 2016-02-17

We recorded several new species for this walk including *Hovea asperifolia* subsp. *asperifolia* (formerly *H. rosmarinifolia*), *Olearia phlogopappa*? subsp. *continentalis*, that is not yet in the ACT Census, and *Epilobium pallidiflorum*.

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>.



*Olearia phlogopappa continentalis*, Chalet Road



*Hovea asperifolia* subsp. *asperifolia*, Chalet Road



*Epilobium pallidiflorum*, Chalet Road





Nola McKeon working at the Weetangera Shade House; Photo: Masumi Robertson

### *Nola McKeon*

The Weetangera shade house has been residing in the back yard of Don and Betty Wood for the last 30 years or so. It began life in Hawker. The move from there to Weetangera involved a coming together perhaps a little reminiscent of a 'raising a barn' exercise. It was 'walked' along streets from one backyard to the other, the frame being too unwieldy to transport otherwise. No doubt traffic was quieter back then.

Originally, in Hawker, the plants were laid out on weed matting on the ground in the shade house. It was south facing with rain running through it at times, so puddles, liverwort and moss formed readily. Things have improved much over the years. We've had two iterations of benches and spraying systems with a capacity for over 1000 small pots.

Recently John Robertson added a storage shed. Andy Rawlinson has been the mainstay in setting up the spraying systems, while Don Wood has made regular, necessary fine tunings.

There have been a few different 'minders' over the 30 odd years, Barbara Daly being the longest stayer. Since Barbara, Maki Koyama, then, from 2009, Nola McKeon, Anne Campbell and Ruth Wilson (as a team) have taken on responsibilities for the shade house plants.

The minders' duties are varied. Firstly, when plants arrive following a potting up of successful cuttings, a record is taken. Don keeps a diligent eye out to see that watering is adequate and adjusts the frequency and amount of watering as seasons and weather demand. Minders check on growth,



Potting up working bee with Barbara Daly (centre) Sept 2015; Photo: Masumi Robertson



Don surveying the full shade house for the last time; Photo: Nola McKeon



Ruth counting for an autumn sale; Photo: Nola McKeon



Ruth and Anne making the best of a miserable morning in the rain; Photo: Nola McKeon

health, weeds and pests at varying intervals, depending on the season. There are always some fatalities so those are discarded, pots washed and remaining plants rearranged.

As sale time approaches, plant growth, root development and health have to be assessed and a list compiled of the number of each species proposed for sale. These are entered on the First Plant Sale Spread Sheet. For the Autumn sale, this period often coincides with increased activity of caterpillars and scale attack, so more vigilance is required. Then comes another count for entering numbers on the Final Sale Spread Sheet a week before the sale date. Around this time Myrtaceae need to be separated as they need to be delivered to the sale ahead of all other plants so they can be first inspected for Myrtle rust. Finally, on setting up day, plants are loaded and delivered to the Australian National Botanic Gardens car park. PHEW.



John and Peter dismantling the shadehouse; Photo: Nola McKeon

It has been a great pleasure working in the Weetangera shade house. The beautiful surrounds of Don and Betty Wood's garden have provided perfumes varying with the season, ever changing flowerings, accompanying bird song and the enjoyment of spying on birds bathing in the pond just outside the shade house. Don's cheery 'hellos' and continued interest in our plants and their welfare have been an added bonus. All good things come to an end and I would like to thank Don and Betty for so generously hosting our shade house for all these years.

The shade house is to have a new life at Phil Price's yard in Cook. Recently working bees comprising Phil Price, John Robertson and Peter Woodbury have dismantled the shade house and started the reassembling process. I guess it will be known as 'The COOK Shade House'.



# Field Trip to the Victorian High Plains



Panoramic view with Mt Feathertop in the distance

*Text by Shirley Daniels*

*Photos by Brigitta Wimmer unless otherwise stated*

In January 2016, a large group of native plant enthusiasts gathered in Omeo on Friday night for a weekend of botanising. There had been a light dusting of snow on Mt Hotham the night before we arrived and bushfire warnings were in place for Victoria. We were not deterred.

Fran and Anne must be thanked for organising happy hour at their cabin so that everyone could be informed about each day's activities and arrangements made for sharing transport.

Our instructions from the leader, as there was no resident botanist, were to alert everyone in the group to all special finds each day and confirm identifications using a variety of books, field guides, National Parks brochures, information from previous trips and shared knowledge. Armed with cameras and hand lenses any doubtful identifications could continue to be worked on or allotted to species.

Consequently in the field, second, third and fourth opinions were the order of the day with lots of detailed

observations given as supporting evidence. Many obscure questions such as, 'Are there hairs on the underside of the leaves?' called for closer observation. Altogether this was a very rewarding learning experience.

Because of unpredictable weather, the morning of the first day was spent in alpine woodland, adjacent to Dinner Plain. Lunch was near Hotham with wonderful views of the Victorian high country. The afternoon, with the weather improving, was spent botanising above the treeline along the Mount Loch trail.



*Pimelea ligustrina*





*Brachyscome obovata*



*Prostanthera cuneata*



*Geranium potentilloides*



*Diplodium decurvum* poss



*Bracteantha subundulata*



*Ranunculus lappaceus*



Group botanising, Dinner Plain Track; Photo: Jeannette Jeffery

On Sunday we went on a delightful short walk to Carmichael Falls at Dinner Plain. This was a new walk for most people. One of our newest attendees, Colin, got right into the spirit of things making sure that no one missed the small Greenhood orchid, *Prasophyllum* sp., a recognised valued sighting, beside the track on the way to the falls.

There were many *Melaleuca sieberi* flowering at the start of the track, where we had morning tea. Lunch was once again in the high country with views to forever, followed by alpine botanising near Mount Blowhard hut.

A big thank you to Fran for recommending a hotel in Omeo, where everyone gathered for an evening meal

on Saturday. Slow roasted duck was a recommended highlight. Thank you to everyone for your contributions to identifications and good humour.



*Olearia frostii*





*Ozothamnus alpinus*



*Podolepis robusta*



*Brachyscome rigidula*



*Acrothamnus montanus*



*Kunzea muelleri*



*Wahlenbergia ceracea*



*Prasophyllum alpestre*



*Picris angustifolius ssp merxmuelleri*



*Chionogentias muelleriana subsp. alpestris*



*Euphrasia collina ssp diversicolor*





*Brachyscome spathulata*



Lunchtime amongst the flowers

# What's in a Name

Roger Farrow

Like all sciences, taxonomy is an evolving process in the pursuit of knowledge. It has two distinct phases, a pre-Darwinian one in which organisms were grouped together on the basis of a few often simple characters, and a post-Darwinian or modern stage in which characters were chosen that reflected the evolutionary relationships of the organisms. This is the science of phylogeny, in which the relationships are usually represented by an evolutionary tree. This has been greatly facilitated by the use of statistical programs in which multiple characters and measurements are compared between species by means of multivariate analysis to reproduce the trees or dendrograms with which we are now so familiar.

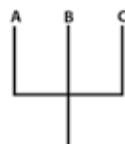
Taxonomy really started with the binomial system of Carl Linnaeus by which individual species were given a generic and specific name. Like genera were grouped into families and orders but Linnaeus and his contemporaries were not able to develop the higher classification of plants that we are familiar with today as the simple characters they used did not reflect their actual relationships. Although many of the species Linnaeus and successors described retain their specific name many have been reassigned to other



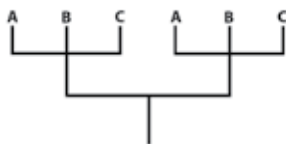
genera and families as the knowledge of their relationships has evolved.

The next step called the Candollean approach (after the French botanist de Candolle) was to cluster like species on the basis of multiple weighted characters but was still pre-Darwinian in concept. Finally the post-Darwinian Hennigan approach is essentially an evolutionary tree of life and is the direction in which modern taxonomy is still progressing.

#### MONOPHYLETIC



#### POLYPHYLETIC



Genera are described as monophyletic when a group of species come from one ancestor and polyphyletic when they come from different ancestors. Modern taxonomy focuses on removing this anomaly by reassigning the species from the latter group to new genera or combining them in the one genus. Much of our flora was described by pre-Darwinian botanists such as Bentham, Brown, de Candolle and Labillardiere, among others, and we are left with this legacy that is still in the process of being updated to the Hennigan approach.

Another issue that has dogged the naming of plants is that the same

species have been described with different names from different specimens by taxonomists working in different institutes, largely in Europe. This is a particular case for Australia where the various early expeditions collected plant specimens that ended up in different institutes in Europe.

The earliest description normally has priority and forms the basis of the type of the species and the other names that have been subsequently applied are synonyms. This process goes on as plant taxonomists work through our flora and check the history of the nomenclature of each species. The Australian Plant Name Index (APNI) is the ultimate repository of current plant names and their history and this is often very complex as shown for *Coronidium scorpioides* below.

Wilson, Paul G. (2008). *Coronidium*, a new Australian genus in the Gnaphalialaeae (Asteraceae). *Nuytsia* 18 326–327 [comb.nov.]

basonym:	<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i> Labill.
nomenclatural synonym:	<i>Xeranthemum scorpioides</i> (Labill.) Poir.
nomenclatural synonym:	<i>Gnaphalium scorpioides</i> (Labill.) Poir.
taxonomic synonym:	<i>Helichrysum bupthalmoides</i> Sieber ex Spreng.
taxonomic synonym:	<i>Helichrysum semipapposum</i> var. <i>gunnianum</i> DC.
taxonomic synonym:	<i>Helichrysum rutidolepis</i> DC.
taxonomic synonym:	<i>Helichrysum gunnianum</i> Hook.
taxonomic synonym:	<i>Gnaphalium gunnianum</i> (Hook.) Sch. Bip.
taxonomic synonym:	<i>Gnaphalium rutidolepis</i> (DC.) Sch. Bip.
taxonomic synonym:	<i>Helichrysum erosum</i> Schldl.
taxonomic synonym:	<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i> var. <i>pygmaea</i> F. Muell.



In recent years the application of molecular and DNA technology to plant species has led to a whole new understanding of the relationships of plant species, genera and families usually represented by dendrograms or evolutionary trees. The finding that this molecular data does not always agree with the traditional morphological data also suggests that some of the characters used to separate genera and families do not reflect their true evolutionary relationships.

## Some Examples

The genus *Helichrysum* is a large genus of Eurasian, African and Australian species and is known to be polyphyletic. The shrubby species in Australia have been reassigned to *Cassinia* and *Ozothamnus* and many herbaceous ones to *Xerochrysum*, *Chrysocephalum* and *Argentipalium*. In 2008 most of the remainder, all herbaceous species, were reassigned to the genus *Coronidium*. There remain a few species like *H. leucopsideum* which is allied to *C. adenophorum* and others such as *H. calvertianum* that remain

in limbo awaiting reassignment.

There is still one 'real' *Helichrysum*, namely *H. luteoalbum*, that was reassigned from *Pseudognaphalium* in 2004.

*Helichrysum rutidolepis*,  
Monga, now *Coronidium*  
*gunnii*.



*Helichrysum scorpioides*,  
Gingera, now *Coronidium*  
*monticola*.





Of all the issues the most contentious has been the incorporation of the genus *Dryandra* into *Banksia* as a result of recent molecular studies by Mast and Thiele (2007). They claim that *Dryandras* are nested within *Banksias* which would make it a polyphyletic grouping, a change which is opposed by George (2014) and colleagues. Another controversial change has been the incorporation of *Callistemon* into *Melaleuca*, again because the original character(s) separating the two genera did not reflect the actual polyphyletic nature of the *Melaleuca/Callistemon* complex (Craven 2006).

The application of molecular techniques has also caused changes at the family level. Many genera of *Scrophulariaceae* have been subsumed into *Plantaginaceae* while the unwieldy *Euphorbiaceae* family has been split up with shrubby species such as *Micranthemum* moved into *Picrodendraceae* and *Phyllanthus* and *Poranthera* going to *Phyllanthaceae*. *Lobeliaceae* (*Lobelia* etc) have been subsumed into *Campanulaceae*; *Sterculariaceae* (*Brachychiton*, *Commersonia* and *Lasiopetalum*)

into *Malvaceae* and *Tremandaceae* (*Tetradlea*) into *Elaeocarpaceae*.

## Cryptic species

New names and name changes also occur when a 'species' is shown to be a complex of several different species in which the populations are usually separated in different geographical regions. Some species vary to a lesser extent as geographical races and are described as distinct sub-species.

Leafless *Bossiaea*s in the 'bracteosa' complex have been shown to comprise five species (McDougall 2007) two of which are local, namely the ACT endemic, *B. grayi*, and the Shoalhaven endemic, *B. bombayensis*. *B. foliosa* has also been shown to be part of a species complex (Thompson 2012) and four local species have been split off including the original *B. foliosa*.



*Bossiaea bombayensis*, Shoalhaven, Bombay NSW



*Bossiaea grayi*, Paddy's River ACT

Another example is found in the *Acacia uncinata* complex which has been shown to be comprised of four species, one of which *A. aureocrinita* is found

in the Numeralla area. We have found another undescribed form at Oallen Ford that does not appear in the paper by Conn and Tame (1996).



*Acacia aureocrinita* at 'Tilembeya' from seed collected near Numeralla



*Acacia aff uncinata*,  
Oallen Ford Reserve

*Grevillea victoriae* used to contain a large number of races from different geographical locations, mostly montane and subalpine. These have been progressively assigned to a number of different species and subspecies including from our local area, *G. bemboka*, *G. oxyantha*, *G. parvula*, *G. rhyolitica* and *G. victoriae* subsp *nivalis* and *G. victoriae* subsp *brindabella* shown below and recently discovered by Wednesday Walkers at Mountain Creek, Brindabella National Park.

Molecular studies also suggest that more cryptic species await to be segregated and described.



*Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *brindabella*

## Splitting and Lumping

The degree to which similar species are assigned to the same or different genera is a prerogative of the taxonomist and it sometimes appears to lack consistency with species switching backwards and forwards between different genera or sub-genera.

Taxonomists can be described as splitters or lumpers. The former use particular characters to split up existing

genera whereas the latter would not accept the significance of such characters.

The genus *Caladenia* was split up by David Jones into nine genera, including *Arachnorchis*, *Cyanicula*, *Jonesiopsis*, *Petalochilus* and *Stegostyla* among others, a move not widely accepted, and recent molecular studies have confirmed the uniformity of the genus.

*Pterostylis* greenhoods were also split by him into 13 genera including *Bunochilus*, *Diplodium*, *Hymenochilus*, *Oligochaetochilus*, *Pterostylis* and *Speculantha* found locally and it is also likely that these will be consolidated once again into the core genus *Pterostylis*.

While citizen botanists, who comprise most of our members, are often ready to take on the names of new species there is often a reluctance to deal with the changes involving familiar species like *Derwentia* and *Pratia* but I feel we have to bite the bullet as our plant lists are available on the internet and should have the current plant names.

I have not listed all the numerous references summarised above but they are easy to locate on the web although I will include one on the *Banksia Dryandra* controversy, namely: K. R. Thiele, P. H. Weston and A. R. Mast (2015). Paraphyly, modern systematics and the transfer of *Dryandra* into *Banksia* (Proteaceae): a response to George. *Australian Systematic Botany* 28, 194–202.



## A Selection of New Plant Names and Groupings for the Local Area Species

Some *Babingtonia* spp to *Sannantha* (Wilson et al 2007)

*Callistemon sieberi* to *Melaleuca paludicola* (Craven 2006)

*Dilwynnia capitata* to *Almaleea capitata* (Crisp & Weston 1991)

*Convolvulus erubescens* to *C. angustissimus* (Wood et al 2015)

*Cryptandra propinqua* to *C. speciosa speciosa* (Kellermann & Udovicic 2003)

*C. amara* var *floribunda* to *C. species floriferous* (WR Barker 4310)

*Euchiton argentifolius* to *Argyrotegium mackayi* (Ward & Breitw 2003)

*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp *albicans* var *tricolor* to *Leucochrysum albicans* var *tricolor* (white & pink)

*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *albicans* var yellow to *Leucochrysum albicans* var *albicans* (yellow) (Dennis & Walsh 2010)

*Platylobium formosum* to *P. montanum* subsp. *montanum* (Thompson 2011)

*Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum* to *Helichrysum luteoalbum* (Barker & Lang 2012)

*Ozothamnus* aff. *hookeri* to *O. cupressoides* (Puttock, Ohlsen & Walsh 2010) (*hookeri* is restricted to Tasmania)

*Scleranthus biflorus* 'loose' = *S. fasciculatus* (ANPS misidentification)

*Trachymene anisocarpa* to *T. composita* (Hart & Heywood 2006)

### Genera

*Callistemon* to *Melaleuca* (Craven 2006)

*Helichrysum* to *Coronidium* (Wilson 2008)

*Hymenanthera* to *Melicytus* (Molloy & Mabb 1996)

*Neopaxia* (Nilsson 1967) to *Montia* (Pax & Hoffman 1934)

*Parahebe*/*Derwentia* to *Veronica* (Briggs & Ehrend 2007)

*Pratia* to *Lobelia* (Lammers 2011)

*Rulingia* to *Commersonia* (Wilkins & Whitlock 2011)

### Family Switches

*Micrantheum* from EUPHORBIACEAE to PICRODENDRACEAE

*Phyllanthus*, *Poranthera* from EUPHORBIACEAE to PHYLLANTHACEAE

SCROPHULARIACEAE (*Gratiola*, *Veronica*) into PLANTAGINACEAE

TREMANDACEAE (*Tetradlea*) into ELAEocarpaceae

STERCULIACEAE (*Commersonia* (*Rulingia*), *Brachychiton*, *Lasiopetalum*) into MALVACEAE

LOBELIACEAE (*Lobelia*) into CAMPANULACEAE



*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *albicans* at Kiandra, formerly *L. albicans* subsp. *albicans* var *yellow*



*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*, Kiandra, formerly *Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *albicans* var *tricolor*

# My Rave Plant for 2015

## *Telopea mungaensis*, the Braidwood Waratah

Dick Burns

*Telopea mungaensis* entered my garden in 1980, a gift from friend, Dave de Little, who grew a few plants from seed for his Burnie garden. I planted mine on the northern boundary; it should have been visible from my balcony but other enthusiastic plantings have obscured the view. This Waratah grew slowly to a four metre open shrub and is regular in flowering.

The flowerheads are the same open form as our Tasmanian Waratah, but larger and with a slight bluish tinge to the older flowers. It is quite happy in my dry clay soil with new shoots coming up in recent years from near the base.

Monga and Braidwood are towns on the edge of the Budawang Ranges in New South Wales, east of Queanbeyan and Canberra. The species has been found further north, near Fitzroy Falls and Moss Vale.

In nature, *Telopea mungaensis* grows to six metres in gullies and adjacent to water courses. Until 1946, it was regarded as a form of the Victorian species *T. oreades*, the Gippsland Waratah. The next closest species is *T. truncata*. The New South Wales Waratah, *T. speciosissima* and Gibraltar Range Waratah, *T. aspera*, have the obvious difference of the domed

flowerheads surrounded by large coloured bracts.

Heading north into Queensland, the ancestral plant has evolved into a different genus, *Alloxylon*. Through the Gondwanan link, there are near relatives in South America, *Oreocallis* and *Embothrium*. The latter genus was the first to be named and described, by Johann Reinhold and Johann Georg Adam Forster, the father-and-son team who were the botanists on Captain Cook's second voyage.

My rave plant was named for its proximity to the town of Monga: the suffix *ensis* indicating origin or place. The genus name went through its own genesis.

First collections of Waratah were of the NSW species in 1791 by surgeon John White from around Sydney and of the Tasmanian species in 1792–93 by botanist Jacques-Julien Houtou de Labillardière or one of his collectors. Both collections were initially placed in *Embothrium*. James Edward Smith described *Embothrium speciosissimum* in 1793 and Labillardière described *E. truncatum* in 1805.

Robert Brown came to eastern Australia in 1803–04; in 1810, he named and described the genus *Telopea* — its feminine gender required the species ending to change. *Telopea* is a most



apt name, from *telepos* meaning 'seen from afar'. Some references give this as the meaning for the Aboriginal word 'warata', others state it means beautiful, or a combination of the two.

*T. mongaensis* is not widely cultivated, but its hybrids are. The first times I visited the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, the entrance was highlighted by healthy vigorous plants that the staff had developed by hybridising *T. mongaensis* with *T. speciosissima*. This hybrid became the first 'Shady Lady'.

The red Shady Lady is the most successful waratah in my garden. I have, as do many Penguin gardens, *T. speciosissima* but my specimen from 1977 or 1979 has large bracts and relatively small flowers. Establishing a replacement has failed, as has any

attempt at getting *T. truncata* going — found plants, bought plants, cutting-grown specimens have all failed.

After the big tree-clearing from my garden a few years ago, I am trying *T. speciosissima* once more in a sunny spot, and just in case, a new Shady Lady hybrid of the species with *T. oreades*. In the Group nursery, we have had some success with cuttings, so after the flowering season, I'll try the Braidwood Waratah, *T. mongaensis*.

*This article first appeared in Eucryphia, The Journal of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. Volume 21 No 8, December 2015.*



*Telopea mongaensis*; Photo: Brian Walters

# Excursions at the Canberra Conference

*Dick Burns*

There was great variety in the choices that our hosts provided to show off the best of Canberra. Unfortunately, no-one from Tasmania was able to join the pre- or post-conference tours so we cannot report on those.

On the day of the Biennial Meeting, buses took us to our choice of four iconic Canberra collections — the National Library of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, National Museum of Australia and the Australian War Memorial. I first went to the Gallery. The international collection is being redeveloped so I wandered through the Australian collection.

I seem to remember that twenty years ago, there were just two corridors in the War Memorial, now it is a maze extending to two floors, crammed with material. The most impressive display for me was the tasteful gathering of Victoria Crosses — the Memorial has the majority of them, including all of the most recent awards. Another great impression was left by the willingness of the guides to assist. I was curious about the source of the pink granite used in steps and

paving — was it from Freycinet? At least five involved themselves in the search: Marulan, Wombeyan or Orange were the best options.

The five days of the conference were split into morning talks and afternoon excursions (reversed on Friday) and our name tags reminded us which bus to join on each day. At each venue, expert guides were there to guide us.

The least impressive place for me was the National Arboretum Canberra. Perhaps it will look something in a hundred years, but currently it consists of a large central hub with mass plantings of small trees — albeit of 94 of the world's most endangered species — marching over adjacent hills.

Inside the hub however is a treasure: The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection. Exotic and native trees have been bonsaied, including *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, River Red Gum. I noticed two Tasmanians, including a *Leptospermum lanigerum* by member Will Fletcher.

Attached to the Arboretum is the Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park, an initiative of the Australian Native Plants Society Canberra. Sixteen



*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (above) and  
*Leptospermum lanigerum* (below),  
National Bonsai and Penjing Collection;  
Photos: Gail Ritchie Knight



local species of eucalypt have been planted along with shrubs and other species that typically grow in association with each eucalypt.

On the way to the Arboretum, we stopped at a new national collection,

the National Rock Garden, initiated by Dr Brad Pillans. Currently the only display is of seven large boulders of rocks meant to typify each [Australian] State or Territory. Part of each boulder has been polished to better show the rock's structure. Tasmania is represented by dolerite, but the columnar jointing is not obvious. I was told that this major lack will be remedied in the future, with plans to establish an attractive and informative display of Australia's geology and landforms.

The other national collection we visited was of course the Australian National Botanic Gardens. In small groups, we were guided by Gardens volunteers. Our guide took us first into the Tasmanian Gully — I intended to check out the Tasmanian Garden later, but the afternoon heat beat me.

We meandered through the older collections to the newest bed, the Red Centre Garden. Red and cream sand alternate, divided by ancient-looking red and brown rocks

with group plantings in defined beds. The Gardens is using its own trained staff to do this work now rather than paying much more to employ outside firms. Because many trees are aging, staff are now trained in arboreal work as well.



There is a large team of volunteers to help ease the burden of maintaining this major asset, but the seventy-odd staff work with a small budget, limited because the National Gardens was placed within a government department many years ago. Over the years, our society and the Australian Association have written to the parliamentarians asking for a better deal. Meanwhile, the National Arboretum is the flavour of the month, and it is there that visiting dignitaries and royals go to plant a tree — the ones I saw were not Australian natives.

We visited two protected natural areas, the Queanbeyan Nature Reserve and the Kowen Reserve. Grasslands are a feature of the Southern Highlands, extending south to become montane tussock grasslands that run into the Australian Alps.

The first-named reserve was established to protect this community. I don't have a great eye for grasses, but I was taken by the bright yellow of the threatened daisy, *Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides*.

Our walk through the Kowen Reserve took us through dry sclerophyll forest and grassy box woodland. Colours of blue wahlenbergias, yellow goodenia and velleia, yellow or white daisies were everywhere. Large patches of *Lotus australis* with pink-to-white flowers



*Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides*; Photo: Roger Farrow



*Lotus australis*; Photo: Roger Farrow

occurred on one slope. It was a truly delightful stroll.

The two gardens offered had concurrences and contrasts. Both had new houses designed for the site, both had no lawn and both used predominantly Australian species. The two gardens make full use of rainwater run-off.

The home of Sue and Brad Pillans is coloured grey-mauve to blend with the local eucalypts but the home of Ros and Ben Wallcott is a bright ochre-yellow. The Pillans garden is on a steep-sloping 4500 m<sup>2</sup> block

with about 1000 specimens in tight well-planned beds. The Wallcott's site is more than twice that size, at 9,300 m<sup>2</sup>. The grounds were fully landscaped at the time of house construction, including a waterfall between ponds of the gathered rainwater. Then 2,500 plants were added.

The Pillans garden is well out of town but the large Walcott garden is surprisingly close to the city. In 1926, it was set up to be a self-sufficient

block, but when that idea failed, French embassy staff moved in. In more recent times, a developer wanted to build multi-storey apartments, but with neighbours bearing the names Packer and Murdoch, he didn't have a lot of hope.

The latest proud additions to Sue and Brad's garden are two mature *Macrozamia moorei* given to them by a friend in Queensland.



Brad Pillans with his newly planted *Macrozamia moorei*; Photo: Sue Pillans



*Leptospermum* 'Aphrodite'; Photo: Ben Walcott

Among the many features in Ros and Ben's garden that caught my eye was a group planting of the hybrid *Leptospermum* 'Aphrodite' that were pruned to mallee form.

Both gardens demonstrated what a good eye for design (and ready access to a great variety of forms) can do with Australian plants: a wonderful experience to visit both.

Thank you Canberra.

*A version of this article first appeared in Eucryphia, The Journal of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. Volume 21 No 8, December 2015.*



# Study Group Notes

By Brigitta Wimmer, Study Group Liaison Officer, ANPS Canberra Region

Jane Fountain, as the ANPSA Study Group Coordinator has advised that the official email address is [studygroups@anpsa.org.au](mailto:studygroups@anpsa.org.au).

In her latest Study Group Newsletter (April 2016) Jane would like to inspire members to join one or more of the active study groups. A look at the various study group websites — <http://anpsa.org.au/study.html> — may help to stimulate interest.

Jane is encouraging Study Group Leaders to continue or improve their sites and hopes that EVERY Study Group will have an active website by the next Conference — Jan 2018 in Tasmania.

Another very topical point that Jane raises is getting people to contribute to newsletters. This is not only an issue for Study Groups but most likely for the Regional Groups as well. Is there anybody out there with good ideas?

## Acacia Study Group

Newsletter No 132 March 2016

- From the Leader
- Welcome
- From Members and Readers
- Lightwood (*Acacia implexa*)
- *Acacia viscidula*

- *Acacia* 'Abundance'
- *Acacia atrox*
- Seed Collecting
- *Acacia latzii*
- Propagation of *Acacia wardellii*
- Acacias in the news
- Seed Bank
- Study Group Membership

## Garden Design Study Group

Newsletter No 94 May 2016

- Leader's Comments
- Garden Design Study Group — Qld Chapter
- Correspondence
- Grasses and other monocotyledons
- Marbled Geckos Helping To Design Our Garden
- Banksias in Pots and in the Garden
- Making Australian gardens with a sense of place
- Melbourne visit to June Cherrey's garden
- Melbourne meeting
- Visit to Wybalena Grove by Canberra GDSG
- Treasurer's Report
- Index

## Grevillea Study Group

Newsletter No 103 February 2016

- Editorial
- Victorian activities
- Obituary Ken Arnold
- *Grevillea burrowa*
- An exploration of *Grevillea alpina* variation; are pollinator switches evident?
- *Grevillea buxifolia* and bee pollination
- A new subspecies of *Grevillea repens*
- Variation in the Creeping Grevillea
- Stimulation of flowering in plants
- In the garden
- *Grevillea calliantha* Black Magic
- *Grevillea johnsonii*
- *Grevillea acropogon*

## Fern Study Group

Newsletter No. 135 February 2016

- Program for South-east Queensland Region
- Program for Sydney Region
- Meeting Reports
- Article 'The Maidenheads' — *Adiantum* species
- Spore list February 2016

## Hakea Study Group

Newsletter No 60 February 2016

- Leaders Editorial
- News from Members
- Seedbank

- Finance Statement
- Hakea Crawl
- Overview of Hakeas (ctd) — broad to narrow leaved
- Images of stunted Hakea growth

## Isopogon & Petrophile Study Group

Newsletter No 18 March 2016

- From the editor
- About our members
- Wildflowers stamp issue
- Mystery growth
- Plant Profile — *Isopogon dubius* (R. Br.) Druce
- Plant Profile — *Petrophile teretifolia* R. Br., Trans. Linn. Soc. London 10: 68 (1810)
- Reinstatement of *Isopogon spathulatus*
- Mark & Carolyn's Glendeuart Garden
- *Isopogon* 'Stuckey's Hybrid' — a plant to remember a great pioneer grower
- Propagation by cuttings, seed and grafting
- Exchanging cuttings and seed
- Investigating *Isopogon* pollination and the implications for seed propagation
- Financial Report

# 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 8 pm 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](http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

## Membership Fees

Single or family memberships are the same price.

Basic membership including Bulletin and Journal — \$35 (\$18\*)

Full membership including Bulletin, Journal and Australian Plants — \$50 (\$33\*)

Life member subscribing to Australian Plants — \$15

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

Membership Secretary: Colin Jeffery 0448 220 214  
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**Back cover:** *Veronica derwentiana*, near Mt Sugarloaf, Victorian High Plains; Photo: Brigitta Wimmer





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Boronia & Allied Genera	Doug Coates	305/87 Yarranabbe Road DARLING POINT NSW 2027	<a href="mailto:doug.coates@bigpond.com">doug.coates@bigpond.com</a>	02 9363 0619	- / - / \$10	Jun
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## ANPSA Member Society Officers — Member Society Secretaries April 2016

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## List of Study Groups and ISSN

Active Study Groups	ISSN	Inactive Study Groups	ISSN
Acacia	1035-4638	Australian Daisy	0818-335X
Australian Food Plants	0811-5362	Australian Plants for Containers	0814-1010
Australian Plants as Bonsai	1445-7407	Calytix	0728-1498
Banksia	1444-285X	Fabaceae	1832-7117
Boronia & Allied Genera	1035-7394	Hibbertia	0728-1536
Brachyton & Allied Genera	0816-178X	Hibiscus & Related Genera	1448-1448
Correa	1039-6926	Indigenous Orchid	1036-9651
Dryandra	0728-151X	Melaleuca & Allied Genera	1030-6633
Epacris	1038-6017	Native Succulents	1449-3039
Eremophila	0811-529X	Palm & Cycad	1442-2425
Eucalyptus	1035-4603	Prostanthera & Westringia Mint	1039-3560
Fern	0811-5311	Lisianthus	1320-8608
Garden Design	1039-9062	Ptilotus	1442-2700
Grevillea	0725-8755	Ramnaceae	1320-2413
Hakea	0727-7008	Verticordia	0811-5346
Isopogon & Petrophile	1445-9493	Wetlands	1832-7125
Rainforest	0729-5413	Wildlife & Native Plants	1038-7897
Wallum & Coastal Heathland	1038-7889		
Waratah & Flannel Flower	1838-9082		