

# AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY

## CANBERRA REGION (INC)



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**Cover:** *Chiloglottis reflexa*, Mongarlowe; 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 and may be 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.

The deadline dates for submissions are 1 February (for March edition), 1 May (June), 1 August (September) and 1 November (December). Send articles or photos to:

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## Autumn Walks 2015

Ros Cornish

*Allocasuarina littoralis* female flower, Mongarlowe; Photo: Gail Ritchie-Knight

We missed a few Wednesday Walks this autumn, due to bad weather. However, the walks we managed were rewarding and we saw some great things, re-visiting a private property near Burra and returning to some favourite places.

### Mongarlowe cemetery and roadsides

Mongarlowe is a small township east of Braidwood. The cemetery has a surprising number of native species in it including the rare Mongarlowe Midge Orchid – *Corunastylis oligantha*. We were lucky enough to see a few of them flowering on this early March visit, along with a number of other orchids species – *Eriochilus cucullatus*, *Corunastylis ostrina*,



Mongarlowe Midge Orchid – *Corunastylis oligantha*

Photo: Roger Farrow

*C. apastasioides*, *Diplodium truncatum*, *Specularantha* sp. and *Spiranthes australis*.

There were some other plants that were flowering: *Mirbelia platylobioides*, *Solenogyne gunnii*, *Boronia nana* var. *hyssopifolia*, *Epacris microphylla*,

*Comesperma ericinum*, *Monotoca scoparia* and *Lobelia pedunculata*.

We then moved on to a roadside stop on Charley's Forest Road, just out of the town of Mongarlowe where some more *corunastylis* were found and some other flowers:—*Goodenia bellidifolia*, *Coronidium oxylepis* ssp. *lanatum*, *Rhytidosporum procumbens* and *Wahlenbergia multicaulis*.

We also saw *Hakea laevipes*, *Allocasuarina nana*, *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Dampiera stricta*, *Isopogon prostratus* and *Acacia trachyphloia*.

We decided to go down Half Moon Creek Road to have lunch and look at the roadside and were pleased that we did. The vegetation was very much

*Allocasuarina nana* heath and a bit impenetrable. However, a scout found several plants of *Pomaderris pauciflora*. We have only seen this before near Bombay Reserve.

Other new species found for the day were *Patersonia longifolia*, *Mitrasacme polymorpha* (flowering), *Chloanthes parviflora*, *Cryptandra amara* var. *floribunda* (in bud), *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Caesia parviflora* (flowering), *Comesperma sphaerocarpum* (flowering), *Eucalyptus sieberi*, *Banksia spinulosa* (flowering), *Leonema diosmeum*, *Persoonia mollis* and *Gleichenia dicarpa*.



*Allocasuarina littoralis*, Mongarlowe  
**Photo: Gail Ritchie-Knight**



*Comesperma sphaerocarpum*, Mongarlowe  
**Photo: Martin Butterfield**



*Mirbelia platylobioides*, Mongarlowe  
**Photo: Martin Butterfield**





*Comesperma ericinum*, Mongarlowe

**Photo: Roger Farrow**



*Adriana tomentosa* female, Bullen Loop

**Photo: Roger Farrow**

## Bullen Loop

The walk begins from the Cotter campground, crosses the river then follows the river around to the limestone caves, finally reaching the main picnic area. A few years back the bridge was washed away so we have been unable to do the walk for a while. The area was severely burnt in the 2003 fires but there has been much regeneration, particularly from the various pomaderris species. It is a pomaderris hot spot with *Pomaderris angustifolia*, *P. subcapitata*, *P. betulina* ssp. *betulina*, *P. betulina* ssp. *actensis*, *P. eriocephala* and the endangered *P. pallida*.

Of greatest interest was a healthy specimen of the endangered ACT endemic, *Bossiaea grayi*. We also saw many *Adriana tomentosa*; male and female, and *Gynatrix pulchella*.

Other plants of interest were *Cryptandra propinqua*, *C. amara*, *Astroloma humifusum* with a few red flowers, *Xanthorrhoea glauca* ssp. *angustifolia* and the grasses *Cymbopogon refractus*, *Dichanthium sericeum* and *Enneapogon nigricans* all flowering well.



*Adriana tomentosa* male, Bullen Loop

**Photo: Roger Farrow**

## Big Badja

Big Badja is part of the Great Dividing Range and provides 360 degree views from the trig, which is about 1400 m above sea level.

We drove to Pikes Saddle on the Krawaree Road then walked the Badja fire trail to the summit where we had lunch.



Summit of Big Badja  
**Photo: Pamela Finger**



*Grevillea oxyantha*, Big Baja  
**Photo: Fran Middleton**

Roger Farrow has written a comprehensive article on our visit on page 16 in the previous Journal (Vol. 18 No. 4 June 2015).

### **Cowangerong Fire Trail**

The Cowangerong fire trail is in the Tallaganda range, east of Captains Flat and starts from Parkers Gap. It rises gradually to the trig where the radar weather station for the Canberra area sits.

The walk starts in wet sclerophyll forest dominated by narrow-leaved peppermint (*Eucalyptus radiata*) and mountain gum (*E. dalrympleana*) with an understorey of *Pittosporum bicolor*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Tasmannia lanceolata* and *Lomatia myricoides*, among others.



*Leucopogon lanceolatus* fruit, Cowangerong fire trail  
**Photo: Martin Butterfield**

As we ascended there was an abrupt change to a broad-leaved peppermint association (*E. dives*) with a more diverse understorey of *Monotoca scoparia*, *Pultenaea subspicata*, *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Tetratheca* sp., *Patersonia sericea* and several leucopogon species. There were not many flowers on this visit, the most being on *Monotoca scoparia* and *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, a few *Stylidium graminifolium*, *Brachyscome spathulata*, *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Goodenia hederacea* ssp. *alpestris* and *Hibbertia obtusifolia*.



*Xerochrysum bracteatum*, Cowangerong fire trail  
**Photo: Martin Butterfield**



*Polyscias sambucifolia* fruit, Cowangerong fire trail  
**Photo: Roger Farrow**

A highlight was a large number of purple fruit on many *Dianella tasmanica* and fruit also on *Pittosporum bicolor*, *Tasmannia lanceolata*, *Persoonia silvatica* and *Lomatia myricoides*.



*Pittosporum bicolor* fruit, Cowangerong fire trail  
**Photo: Martin Butterfield**



*Cassinia trinerva*, Cowangerong fire trail  
**Photo: Roger Farrow**

## The Big Hole

There is quite a drive to the start of the walk, over the Tallaganda range to the Krawaree Road, near Gundillion cemetery. Shortly after starting the walk, the Shoalhaven River has to be crossed. On this occasion it was a little challenging but achievable with some



getting wet above the knees. The walk then continues through forest to emerge in *Allocasuarina nana* heath. It then goes into forest again before reaching the spectacular limestone formation where there is a big hole!

There was not much flowering on this visit, but there are many interesting plants that we don't see often.



*Philotheca salsolifolia*, the Big Hole  
**Photo: Martin Butterfield**



The Big Hole  
**Photo: Martin Butterfield**



*Allocasuarina nana* heath, the Big Hole, **Photo: Martin Butterfield**

We also added a number of species to our list; this was our first visit in April. Of particular interest were *Acacia terminalis* (flowering), *Trachymene composita*, *Persoonia asperula*, *Xanthosia*



*atkinsoniana*, *Pultenaea altissima* and *Schoenus villosus*.



*Schoenus villosus*, the Big Hole  
**Photo: Roger Farrow**

### Percival Hill

Percival Hill is part of Canberra Nature Park and is located in the suburb of Nicholls near the golf course and borders on the Barton Highway. It has received a number of plantings over the years but has some species-rich original areas of woodland and grassland.

We followed our usual route of exploring the north-western side near the golf course, which contains the original vegetation. We then made our way to the summit, which is weedy but has a good view.

We then had lunch at a rocky outcrop and admired the big patch of *Melichrus urceolatus* in bud and the huge, very

old *Eucalyptus rossii*, *E. melliodora* and *E. mannifera*. We got up close to some *E. blakelyi* leaves heavily infested with psyllids.

As expected in late April, there were not many flowers, several on *Astroloma humifusum*, a few *Eriochilus cucullatus*, one *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, one *Convolvulus angustissimus* and some grasses.

We added *Glycine tabacina* and *Pimelea glauca* to our already lengthy list. The *Leptospermum multicaule* was showing lots of lovely new growth and the patch of *Cryptandra amara* var. *longiflora* was budding up well.

### Mulligans Flat (West)

We began the walk from the entrance at the end of the new suburb of Bonner, on Mulligans Flat Road. This part of the reserve is mainly open woodland with some grassland. We walked north through the grassland before heading west and up the hill for lunch with a view.

We were able to have a lot of practice identifying plants without flowers, some were a bit challenging.



*Astroloma humifusum*, Mulligans Flat  
**Photo: Masumi Robertson**

Many things were re-appearing such as *Craspedia variabilis* and *Leptorhynchus squamatus*. *Melichrus urceolatus* was flowering and there was the odd flower on *Vittadinia muelleri*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* and *Hypoxis hygrometrica* and many buds on *Cryptandra amara* and *Leucopogon fletcheri* ssp. *brevisepalus*.

It was interesting wandering from grassland to woodland and seeing the change in species. The views from the top were fantastic although slightly disturbing with the suburbs up to the southern boundary.

### Orroral Loop

This walk begins at the Orroral campground in Namadgi National Park. It follows the Orroral River for a while then climbs to a high point before descending to the river again, opening into grassland in the Orroral Valley. The return is on the road. The area continues to recover from the 2013 fire.



*Banksia marginata* cone, Orroral Loop  
**Photo: Gail Ritchie-Knight**

It is a delightful walk, quite species rich and there are some lovely trees, both big, old and young ones and the contrasting foliage was interesting; *Eucalyptus rubida*, *E. dives*, *E. stellulata*, *E. pauciflora*, *E. bridgesiana* and *E. viminalis*.

We had morning tea beside the river, admiring a large stand of *Phragmites australis* and we also saw *Carex fascicularis* (new to our plant list). Other interesting plants in the forest part of the walk were *Pimelea pauciflora*, *Oxylobium ellipticum*, *Leptospermum obovatum*, *Olearia lirata*, *Acrothamnus hookeri*, *Gynatrix pulchella*, *Veronica derwentiana*, *Dianella longifolia*, *Acacia pravissima* and *A. siculiformis*.

We had lunch beside the river as it emerged into the valley and pondered over some of the water plants; *Gratiola peruviana*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Ranunculus? amphitrichus*, *Schoenoplectus validus*.

Walking back down the road we added some new plants to the list that have probably only just reached noticeable height since the fire; *Bedfordia arborescens*, *Indigofera australis*, *Podolobium alpestre*, as well as some *Banksia marginata* flowering.



*Banksia marginat*, Orroral Loop  
**Photo: Gail Ritchie-Knight**

## Burra Property

We re-visited a private property between Burra and Williamsdale on a steep hill with a northerly aspect. The trees were magnificent, some were huge and there were many young seedlings as well; *Eucalyptus bridgesiana* and *E. melliodora* mainly with *E. pauciflora*, *E. rubida* and *E. stellulata* seen on the drive in.

There were also many *Allocasuarina verticillata*, some with an impressive number of cones.

The understorey shrubs were mainly *Cassinia longifolia*, a few *C. quinquefaria*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Bursaria spinosa* and *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *angustissima* but we probably spent most time looking at the smaller things, adding to our list: *Glycine tabacina*, *Desmodium varians*, *Opercularia hispida*, *Scleranthus*

*diander*, *Solenogyne dominii*, *Asperula conferta*, *Clematis leptophylla* and *Stackhousia monogyna*.

There were not many flowers, just a few *Wahlenbergia communis*, *Vittadinia cuneata*, *V. muelleri*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and *Astroloma humifusum*.

The views were wonderful from the top, as was the old convict-built boundary wall.

We had a rather steep descent after having lunch at the top and spent some time in a grassland area and around a lovely dam, adding a few more species to the list.

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>



*Eucalyptus bridgesiana*, Burra property

**Photo: Martin Butterfield**



# ANPS Book Working Group award presentation

The 5th edition of the *Australian Plants for Canberra region gardens and other cool climate areas* was launched on 15 March 2015. This was the result of a small group of people worked on producing this book over the past seven years.

At the May monthly meeting this group were acknowledged and presented with bunches of native (of course) flowers in appreciation of all their hard work.

From left to right:

An Van den Borre (convener), Jenny Campbell, Anne Campbell, Greg Quinn, Masumi Robertson and John Robertson.

Photo: Vanessa Hagon



# Field Trips 2014-2015

Roger Farrow



The field trip season between spring 2014 and autumn 2015 was a busy one for the Society with six excursions and was particularly rewarding for flowers because of the excellent seasonal conditions following consistent rainfall events throughout the period.

## 2014

We started the spring season in **September** with a trip to **Goonoo Nature Reserve** near Mendooran in western NSW. After travelling through this area on many occasions in past years I was always impressed by the massed spring flower display from the wattles and peas in the ironbark forests

Spurwing wattle; *Acacia triptera*



so it was time for a field trip here. There was no better person for advice than ANPS members Anthony O'Halloran and Annabelle Greenup of Bilby Blooms at Binnaway and they devised a car crawl

Howells mint bush *Prostanthera howelliae*



Pink phebalium *Phebalium nottii*





Warrumbungle NP Main Range in background

for us through the fire trails criss-crossing the reserve to see the best of the spring flower display. We were rewarded by a mass display of many wattles as well as a variety of other special plants such as the local *Phebalium nottii* and *Prostanthera howelliae*. Other plants of note were *Grevillea floribunda* (inconspicuous brown flowers!), green and red flower forms of *G. lanigera* growing side by side, large swathes of *Calytix tetragona*, blue clouds of *Dampiera stricta*, among the white of *Philotheca salsolifolia*, plus many others too numerous to document.

On our second day there Anthony took us into the Warrumbungles where we saw the effects of the great bush fire and the herbaceous plants arising from the ashes, notably a variety of orchids. Recovery of the larger shrubs and trees will take many years because of the intensity of the fire.

Wax-lip orchid *Glossodia major*



Purple beard orchid *Calochilus platychilus*



Small gnat orchid *Cyrtostylis reniformis*



**October** involved an extended trip to **Wilsons Promontory** where we stayed at Tidal River with its marauding wombats and lethargic tiger snakes. Our walks coincided with the peak flowering of the coastal tea-tree, *Leptospermum laevigatum*, which was a veritable sea of white over the heathlands. We trekked to Mount Oberon, Millers Landing, Whale





Coastal tea tree, *Leptospermum laevigatum* as far as the eye can see

Rock and Pillar Point, Derby Saddle and Sparkes Lookout, and Picnic and Whisky Bays, covering a wide range of vegetation types and seeing many species new to us such as *Gompholobium ecostatum*, *Isopogon ceratophyllus*, *Leptoceras menziesii*, *Olearia rugosa*, *Platylobium obtusangulum* and *Stackhousia spathulata*, among others. As well, we saw familiar species like *Epacris impressa*, *Corea reflexa*, *Goodenia ovata*, *Kunzea ambigua* (a spectacular large-flowered form) and *Pultenaea daphnoides* and many others.

Horny cone bush *Isopogon ceratophyllus*



Wrinkled daisy bush *Olearia rugosa*



Dwarf wedge pea *Gompholobium ecostatum*



We also saw well camouflaged spider orchids, *Caladenia dilatata* edging many of the coastal tracks. The interesting *Pomaderris* of the area have already been reported on in the journal (December 2014).

Finally for some of us there was a bonus post-trip visit to the nearby Celia Rosser Gallery where we had coffee with the grand lady herself and a personalised tour of her Banksia paintings.

*Leptoceras menziesii* Rabbit orchid



Green comb spider orchid *Caladenia dilatata*



The track to Pillar Point, *Kunzea ambigua* in the foreground





**November:** We visited the **Rules Point** area of Kosciuszko National Park staying at the Talbingo campground. On our first day we traversed the Long Plain frost hollow where we have held several field trips in the past but the area always reveals something new, such as the plants found at our morning tea stop near the Murrumbidgee, namely *Asterolasia trymaloides*, *Pimelea bracteata* and the endangered orchid *Prasophyllum retroflexum*. Further down

the track we paid our usual pilgrimage to the weeping snow gum (*E. lacrimans*) knoll where there is also a big population of the threatened burr daisy, *Calotis glandulosa*. This time we continued to the isolated Peppercorn Flat on a deteriorating fire trail to see a great population of highland moth orchids, *Diuris monticola*.

The next day we took the Cumberland Range to the Landers Falls lookout

Alpine star-bush *Asterolasia trymaloides*



Mauve burr daisy *Calotis glandulosa*



Among the billy buttons, *Craspedia coolaminica*, on Long Plain





Highland golden moths *Diuris monticola*



The weekend finished off with a tour of one of the Yarrangobilly caves where the guide assisted the author in photographing a rare cave cricket.

Hoary Sunray *Leucochrysum albicans*



through wet sclerophyll forest with many stops to see a great display of sun orchids. As well, there were unusual white flowered forms of *Stylidium armeria* and *Euphrasia collina* and an orange-flowered form of *Leucochrysum albicans*.

Collared sun orchid *Thelymitra simulata*



In **December** we visited the **Barren Grounds and Budderoo Nature reserves**, especially to see the Christmas bells, *Blandfordia nobilis* and yellow-eyes, *Xyris* sp.

Our first day was a stroll along the main trail into the Barren Grounds. The wet

Christmas Bells *Blandfordia nobilis*



Broad-leaved Trigger Plant *Stylidium armeria*





Yellow eyes *Xyris* sp



Blood root *Hamaedorum planifolium*

heath along the mown trail supports a great diversity of plants including *Baeckea diosmifolia*, *Boronia barkeriana*, *Goodenia bellidifolia*, several species of *Epacris*, *Oxylobium cordifolium*, *Sowerbaea juncifolia* and many others.

The second day we walked down the main trail into Buderroo NR. The area was still recovering from a controlled burn in the preceding season. Although close to Barren Grounds there were different plants

Cow Orchid *Cryptostylis subulata*



Forked Sundew *Drosera binata*



Smoke bush *Conospermum taxifolium*





to see such as *Haemadorum planifolium*, *Persoonia oxycoccoides*, *Pultenaea tuberculata*, *Scaevola ramosissima*, *Sphaerolobium vimineum*, and *Stackhousia nuda* among others

## 2015

In **January** we visited the **Snowy Mountains**, some of us camping at Island Bend (Guthega) and others staying at Sawpit Creek. Our first day was a trek along the Illawong trail, crossing the Snowy River on the suspension bridge and climbing a couple of km on the Mt Tate trail to the alpine herbfields.

The walk traverses a large area of alpine shrubbery dominated by *Nematolepis ovata* but the first climb from Blue Cow creek ends in a look-out up the Snowy River where there is a colourful patch of *Podolepis robusta* and *Craspedia aurantia*.

Once across the bridge we encountered large patches of *Celmisia* and *Microseris* (alpine form), *Stylidium montanum* and large numbers of *Prasophyllum alpestre*.



Mountain lettuce *Podolepis robusta*



Alpine trigger plant *Stylidium montanum*

Alpine Leek Orchid *Prasophyllum alpestre*





The next day, after a delay caused by a morning storm, we decided to take the short walk to Rainbow Lake near Smiggins. This walk traverses snow gum woodland and patches of fen before arriving at the picturesque dam. There were a surprising number of orchids

seen along this walk before the dam was reached when tragedy struck and a gust of wind blew one of our member's hat into the water but we rose to the challenge and rescued it from the grips of the *Nymphoides*.

Congested Leek Orchid *Prasophyllum retroflexum*



Mountain Cinnamon Bells *Gastrodia procera*



A lost hat among the *Nymphoides montana*





Large Mountain Greenhood *Pterostylis monticola*



Yam Daisy *Microseris alpine* form

In **February** we re-visited **Nunnock Swamp** in the South East Forest NP after a break of 8 years, staying at the picturesque campground. Our last visit was during a drought and the bed of the swamp was dry but this time it was full of water but still accessible from well-sign-posted walking tracks crossing the park.

On the first day we took the track from the campground that passes through wet sclerophyll forest, sedge swamps and open grassland before reaching the swamp edge boardwalk and circling the swamp through the forest edge. In the forest we saw a surprising range of *Diplodinium* greenhoods including *D. coccineum* as well as *Trachymene humilis* and *Cullen microcephalum*.



Large headed Daisy *Brachyscome diversifolia* and Rainbow Lake

Alpine trachymene *Trachymene humilis*





In the sedge-dominated swamps there were displays of *Geranium neglectum*, *Spiranthes australis* and *Epilobium* sp. In the grasslands there was a colourful display of daisies, *Brachyscome* sp. *Coronidium* sp., but the highlight was a tall, white-flowered leek orchid that Mark Clements subsequently identified as *Prasophyllum caricetum*, the Cathcart leek orchid that is a local endemic.

Daisies *Brachyscome* and *Coronidium* spp



Cathcart leek orchid *Prasophyllum caricetum*



Variable groundsel *Senecio lautus* var *alpinus*

Nearer the swamps there were large patches of the swamp everlasting *Xerochrysum palustre* although an immobile Peron's tree frog posing on the lookout had many of us deceived. The swamp contained the usual array of *Lobelia*, *Utricularia* and *Nymphoides* in flower and we also encountered some stands of the endangered small-leaved gum, *Eucalyptus parvula*.

Swamp everlasting *Xerochrysum palustre*







Peron's Tree Frog, *Litoria peronii*. Note the diagnostic 'cross' on the eye

Ladies tresses orchid *Spiranthes australis*



Mountain marshwort *Nymphoides montana*



Packers Swamp, purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*

The next day we drove to Wilkinson's hut and took the circuit track that winds its way through forest and grassland followed by a short visit to Packers swamp where we found a large patch of *Drosera binata*.

Twin leaf sundew *Drosera binata*



complete the Bournda Lagoon circuit through coastal woodland and vine thicket. We passed stands of *Beyeria lasiocarpa* (Euphorbia family) that has separate male and female plants, as well as several species of Pomaderris in bud.

Grey pomaderris *Pomaderris cinerea*



Bolwarra *Eupomatia laurina*



In **March** our last trip of summer was to **Bournda NP** on the south coast with its picturesque National Parks and Wildlife Service campground at Hobart Beach (and hot showers) on the edge of Wallagoot Lake.

We have visited this park several times but compared with previous visits it was much drier and we were able the

Wallaby bush female *Beyeria lasiocarpa*



Bleeding Heart *Homalanthus populifolius*







Bournda lagoon lookout

In the gallery forest we spotted the fruit of Bolwarra, a small rainforest tree that grows all the way from Victoria to Cape York and a rainforest pioneer, Bleeding Heart, which has a similar distribution.

We also visited Bondi Lake, an ancient perched lake with a unique flora and

fauna. On our second day we met at Tathra for a walk through a spotted gum reserve where this gum is at its southern limit of distribution.

Rough-fruit pittosporum *Pittosporum revolutum*



Coastal rosemary *Westringia fruticosa*





# Native plants for a cottage garden

Brian Roach, North Shore Group

Nearly 10 years ago, in August 2004, I had my first opportunity to promote our wonderful native flora to a group of dedicated gardeners outside the umbrella of ANPS. I remain grateful to the Berowra Garden Club asking me because, from that first engagement, I have addressed over 30 general gardening groups in the Sydney area, some on three or four occasions. I say this only to establish my credentials in asserting that the interest in Australian plants in the broad gardening community has significantly increased over that period. Because I've been invited back to speak again, on occasions I have had to change the title of my talk, and recently I've used the banner 'Native Plants for a Cottage Garden'.

Dwarf Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthos* 'Bush Pearl'



At first, I mulled over just what was a 'cottage garden'. I found a wonderful description in the book *Creating an*

Australian Garden by Angus Stewart and with his permission I've incorporated it into my presentations. Angus says (p. 42) 'Cottage gardens are cheerful, romantic and informal. To the casual observer, they may seem haphazard, even messy. In reality, they are examples of carefully organised chaos'. That always gets me off to a good start. Thanks Angus!

Primarily I see a cottage garden being made up of colourful, herbaceous plants, i.e. those not developing a woody stem. For that reason, plants such as *Brachyscome*, *Scaevola*, *Chrysocephalum* and *Anigozanthos* feature prominently in the photographs I present.

*Scaevola* Purple Fanfare



But the image that always gets the greatest 'wow' is of *Isotoma axillaris* (Rock Isotome).

What a great plant this is. Best treated as an annual, it puts on a wonderful display from mid-spring through to autumn. And

little babies always pop up the following year. The only problem I've encountered (apart from the white sap it exudes) is a little, light green, hairless caterpillar that quickly becomes a much bigger caterpillar if left to its own devices. I've never seen this blighter on any other plant, but it loves *Isotoma*.

No doubt the greatest disadvantage I see in cottage garden-type plants is their vulnerability to extended dry spells. This is due to their shallow roots. At least a few species, such as *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, (Common Everlasting or Yellow Buttons) spread over time by suckering. While they increasingly look bedraggled as the dry sets in, as soon as we get a bit of decent rain they're chirping their little heads off. And while these dry spells inevitably bring little, and sometimes monumental, disasters in any garden, at least these cottage garden natives are easy to propagate by cuttings.

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*



In my 35 years of dabbling with the propagation of native plants, I still get a kick out of seeing roots form on *Brachyscome multifida* (Cut-leaved Daisy) cuttings, so

if you're not into propagation, get out there and have a crack!

*Brachyscome angustifolia*



I think our Westleigh garden in northern Sydney would comfortably fit any definition of a cottage garden. In my 35-year love affair with Aussie flora (some of you may know her), I've slowly moved from the bigger growing plants to the smaller ones, largely because I can grow more of them. And there's always room for another *Isotoma axillaris*.

*Isotoma axillaris* grown in a tight clump



*This article first appeared in the Native Plants for NSW Vol 49 No 1 January 2014*

# Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand state of native plants in the ACT - Symposium, 20 August 2014

*Report for ANPS by John Fitz Gerald*

The program for the day is reproduced on the following page and demonstrates the breadth of topics addressed. The people attending (and speaking) ranged from the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, representatives from Greening Australia, CSIRO, ANBG, TAMS, Environmental Defenders Office and individuals involved in landcare, parkcare and related special interest groups.

Some of the presentations set out to update the current regional situation, including reviewing the listings of threatened plants, and of communities including woodland and grassland. Some of the conservation and research activities in the region were also updated, including population genetics and paddock restoration.

I can provide further details as needed, but thought, instead of a long description of all presentations, that I would highlight three directions which are most likely to interest different ANPS members.

1. David Hogg spoke about the influence of native plants on the planning and development of Canberra. The early perceptions of native plants related solely to trees and the earliest ACT plans involved plantings of forests and

woods and experiments with species from around the nation. This changed in the 1970s where the full variety of native plants became important, and the concept of regionality recognised. One example he quoted was the way that the endangered status of Button Wrinklewort had influenced land use plans for Stirling Park where it occurs naturally. Members might be interested to learn that the material came from a chapter that David is compiling as part of his future book on Canberra's Environmental History.

2. Rob Armstrong detailed of the massive process of vegetation mapping and analysis that has led to the recent new classification of plant communities in the Upper Murrumbidgee catchment in NSW and ACT.
3. Many powerful new tools have recently become available for use on desktops and smartphones. One of these is Canberra Nature Map which offers fabulous capability for the community to participate in logging information about plant locations, and to perform powerful searches to find locations of common and uncommon plants in the ACT's public spaces. Another is a weed mapping application that allows landcare members to identify common environmental weeds and



feedback location and abundance data, ultimately to the ACT authorities controlling weeds. Another involves vegetation and habitat condition monitoring, again largely through data input by community members. Finally, the ACT government reported that it was essentially ready for its ACTMapi land system to be run on hand-held devices with internal GPS capability. This all combines to illustrate just how fast possibilities are progressing and how much power is coming to the fingertips via these new 'phone' devices.

## State of native plants in the ACT

9:00 am – Issues concerning native plants in the ACT between the years 2000 to 2011

9:20 am – Current legislative protections for threatened native plants in the ACT

9:40 am – Outcomes for ACT native plants - Grassland and nature reserve investigations

10:00 am – Plant communities of the upper Murrumbidgee catchment in NSW and the ACT

10:20 am – Morning tea

10:40 am – Threats to native vegetation from environmental weeds in the ACT

11:00 am – State of native vegetation within the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve

11:20 am – Update on native plant conservation research and vegetation mapping in the ACT

11:40 am – Mechanics of accessing significant plant and vegetation data from ACTMAPi

12:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm – New approach to spotting weeds that threaten native plants in the ACT

1:20 pm – Practical examples of implementing revegetation in the ACT

1:40 pm – Whole of paddock revegetation, a fresh approach to large scale revegetation

2:00 pm – Census of Vascular Plants of the ACT

2:20 pm – Afternoon Tea

2:40 pm – An update on Yellow-Box Woodland genetic research in the ACT

3:00 pm – The influence of native plants on the planning and development of Canberra

3:20 pm – Canberra's uncommon native plants—reducing risk of extinction

3:40 pm – Monitoring vegetation condition and habitat

4:00 pm – Drinks at the Fellows Bar

# Summer survivors

Leigh Murray

The past summer (of 2013–2014) was really tough on our plants. At home in Queanbeyan, we had many hot days plus two 5–6 day runs of 38°C–40°C maximum temperatures. Temperatures as high as these are unusual for the Canberra area, and these high temperatures were much longer lasting than the norm. Also, the soil was powdery dry.

At Tuross, during a long period without rain, the temperatures were much milder, but the winds were something else, and they desiccated many plants almost as much as a heatwave.

Banksias, correas and callistemons have been among the strongest survivors. Banksias didn't blink at Tuross. But metre high plants of *Banksia integrifolia*, growing slowly in awful spots at home (fully exposed to the western sun on a bare, rocky ridge), were badly burnt. Yet, amazingly, with only one or two leaves left unscorched, they're on the way to recovery, helped by autumn rain. It's a lovely sight to see new growth among a mass of dead leaves.

*B. integrifolia*, the Coast Banksia, does of course do brilliantly at Tuross, but it's been a surprising success at Queanbeyan, where apart from a magnificent *B. spinulosa*, it's the banksia that copes best with our conditions, even beating *B. marginata* for toughness.

Callistemons at home (a wide variety: mainly cultivars of *C. citrinus* and *C. viminialis*, plus *C. pinifolius*) actually appeared to revel in the heat, putting on new

growth during the heatwave (everything else looked stunned), and those at Tuross (*C. citrinus* cultivars mainly, plus Council planted *C. 'Dawson River'*) didn't blink during the long, windy dry period.

A couple of the correas at home had some burnt foliage, and others drooped strongly but they all recovered well, and many are flowering now as I write this in early April (e.g. several forms of *Correa glabra*, plus *C. decumbens*, *C. pulchella* and *C. reflexa*). *Correa glabra* is a wonderfully hardy shrub for inland conditions but doesn't do particularly well at Tuross, whereas *C. baeuerlenii* thrives in both places.

Croweas (e.g. the gorgeous *C. 'Poorinda Ecstasy'*) toughed it out at home; they didn't even droop. (I haven't tried any at Tuross since several died in our early years. I've found them to be susceptible to root rot, a constant threat there.)

Tufty plants such as *Dianella revoluta*, *D. tasmanica* and *Lomandra longifolia* hardly blinked; their foliage tended to go yellowish in the heatwave, but it soon greened up again once we had rain, and wind doesn't seem to bother them.

Most climbers (such as *Clematis aristata* and *C. microphylla*, *Pandorea pandorana* and *Eustrephus latifolius*) did well in both gardens. But an *Hibbertia scandens* and a couple of *Cissus antarctica* that had been growing happily on a northern fence are only just beginning to recover from those drying winds at Tuross, which also burnt foliage on some lilly pillies (e.g. *Syzygium smithii*). The *S. smithii* seem pretty tough,

surviving for us at Tuross in some of the harshest spots (wind-exposed and/or under Norfolk Island Pines). (I haven't tried growing them in Queanbeyan, but an *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* is doing nicely there, so they too might do well under eucalypt cover.)

Hit hard were some of our grevilleas. Quite a few became distressed by the heat (although the wind didn't bother them). Elderly grevilleas (20 years plus) such as *Grevillea* 'Bronze Rambler' and *G.* 'Clearview David' decided they'd had enough. *G.* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle' fought hard against the heat: a couple of smaller plants succumbed, but the others are shooting back from burnt foliage.

I did what I could to shade sun-exposed plants at home (by mulching and by draping smaller plants with bits of shade cloth or leafy branches), and this did seem to help. The effects of the drying winds at Tuross came as such a surprise given the mild temps, that all I could do was water the plants belatedly once I found them in a distressed state.

To our delight, the autumn rain in both places led to a resurgence of growth, especially in Queanbeyan where indigenous plants such as Cassinias are popping up in areas that were previously bare.

*This article first appeared in the Australian Plants Society South East NSW Group Newsletter No. 100 May 2014*

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*Allocasuarina verticillata*, Burra Property. **Photo: Martin Butterfield**





# Membership news

I am pleased to report that we have about 250 memberships and this number has remained the same for the past two years, halting the erosion of members in previous years. We had 35 new members last year to welcome to our society! They joined through various activities such as Wednesday Walking, the Propagation group, plant sales and member meetings. Some joined when encouraged by friends who are members. Do you have friends who are interested in Australian native plants??

About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our members are receiving their monthly Bulletin by email only. The collation team will post printed Bulletins to those without emails (just a handful) and those who request printed Bulletins. We recommend that members chose the email only Bulletin option, saving printing and mailing.

Council decided to keep the membership fees the same for the regular members and to lower the concession rates by two dollars. Concession rates are available to those who hold Centrelink Concession cards, full time students and those seeking employment. The Treasurer is looking into what membership fees cover and he will present membership subscription costing to Council.

## Membership renewal 2015-2016

It is time to renew your membership, since your 2014–2015 membership expires soon.

**Please renew your membership after 1 October and preferably before 30 November 2015.**

*To renew, send:*

**1. your membership form**

AND

**2. your payment** (fees are shown on the form and the back cover of the Journal)

The 2015–2016 membership covers the period 1 November 2015 to 31 October 2016.

Yes, we need your membership form each year. All postal correspondence needs to be clearly marked **Membership**, so that your form and payment are directed to the Membership Secretary. Remember, also, to use your name when paying by EFT. If we do not know who paid, we cannot renew you. Some PayPal payments are on an automatic repeat schedule. For these, please set the payment date for October and November, not January or February. Your renewal before the end of 2015 saves a LOT of paperwork. Thanks to those 200 members who renewed in October to December last year. It would be great to increase this number.

If you are not sure whether you have paid for your membership or not, please contact the Membership Secretary. I am happy to check the record. Also please let me know if you are not planning to renew. This will also save paperwork.

As a member, you will receive a monthly Bulletin and quarterly Journal published in December, March, June and September. You can also subscribe to the quarterly ANPSA publication, *Australian Plants*, for only \$15 a year. About 60% of our members subscribe to this publication, which is full of interesting information on Australian plants.

Why not consider giving a membership to your friends and family members? It is a great gift for anyone interested in Australian native plants.

Should you require any further information, please contact the Membership Secretary.

*Masumi Robertson*

[membership@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:membership@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

Telephone: 6251 6525

# Lowden Forest foray

Alison Milton

On what was perhaps one of the coldest, windiest days of the year thus far, with gloomy skies, and weather forecasts predicting an 80% chance of rain, a group of eight brave souls ventured out in near blizzard conditions to Lowden Park Forest.

Lowden Forest is south-west of Braidwood, in the middle of Tallaganda State Forest, which straddles the Great Dividing Range and extends for a distance of around 50 km. The landscape ranges from dry, open woodland and ferny groves, to vast forests of eucalypts.

The forest is home to four main variety of gums: brown barrel, (*Eucalyptus fastigata*), messmate stringybark, (*E. obliquia*) ribbon gum (*E. viminalis*) and narrow leaved peppermint (*E. radiata*). We had plenty of examples of leaves to study, they being tossed down by the strong winds.

With the winds howling through the treetops, threatening falling trees or branches we first inspected the water-wheel at the camping/picnic site, then ventured along the Fern Gully Walk,

which winds its way down to Lowden Creek. The gum trees towered over us.



The dry gully on the way to the water wheel boasted a number of fungi species. These included several examples of earth star fungi.



Once on the track, a mass of interesting toadstools around the base of a tree drew our attention.



We also saw some nice examples of coral fungi.



While the track had mainly been through eucalypt forest upon reaching the creek the ferns and tree ferns became more evident. A rotting hollow tree trunk alongside the track was home to a number of red fungi.

We not only saw fungi, but also admired the colours of fallen bark and the texture and colour of lichen and mosses.





One of the more unusual sightings were what some members thought were slime mould. Most examples were of dried mould on sticks, looking very much like dried white paint. On the afternoon walk, we found what was thought to be a live specimen.

Another unusual sighting, at least for me, was a purple fungus that I had not previously seen but there were a number of examples near the end of the Fern Gully walk (*Cortinarius archeri*).



One fallen and forgotten tree demonstrated the sheer height of some of the felled trees. It also housed an interesting 'garden' of fungi growing in its now hollow trunk.



After lunch we headed up the walking track leading to the source of the water for the waterwheel. While initially thinking that it was drier with few fungi, we soon began to see many more examples.

At the small bridge spanning the creek there were some lovely examples of moss. I was amazed at the intricate detail in the leaves.



Many of the fungi on this track were quite different to those we saw on the morning walk.



# Study Group Notes

Lesley Page

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

## Acacia Study Group

Newsletter No. 129 June 2015

- From the Leader
- From the Members and Readers
- Some Notes from Yallaroo
- Wattles with Minni Ritchi Bark
- Introduction of Australian Acacias to South America
- Max's Interesting Wattles
- An Acacia dealbata question from Sweden
- Pre-treatment of Acacia seeds
- *Acacia fimbriata* dwarf Crimson Blush books
- Seed Bank.

## Dryandra Study Group

Newsletter No. 69 July 2015

- *Dryandra conferta* Project
- News from Denmark
- Some beautiful photographs of Dryandras
- Dryandra Get Together
- Some problems with *D. nobilis* and *D. longifolia*
- *Dryandra praemorsa* "Pygmy"
- *Dryandra cuneata*, a very versatile species
- Some photos from Margaret's earlier trips

## Eremophila Interim

Newsletter No. June 2015

- Lyndal Thorburn is the New Leader
- Early Newsletters
- Article from Kay Bartlett – *Eremophila macdonnellii*
- Eremophilas – My Friends
- Frost damage ratings
- Recent Eremophila Research – Ian Tranter

## Fern Study Group

Newsletter No. 133 June 2015

- Program for South-east Queensland Region
- Program for the Sydney Region
- Reports
- Fern Study in North Queensland
- "Australian" *Adiantum* Cultivars
- Growing old with the ferns
- Presumed Extinct Plant Species Rediscovered

## Garden Design Study Group

Newsletter No. 90 May 2015

- Leader's Comments
- Correspondence
- Recording gardens
- The 7 best pieces of garden advice I've had
- Quotations of the Season

- “Reinterpreting Glovers Garden
- Report of Melbourne garden visit and meeting on
- Sunday 15 March
- Plants for a shady, dry garden
- Visit to Peter and Lyn Woodbury’s property at Googong

## **Grevillea Study Group**

Newsletter No. 101 July 2015

- Editorial
- Grevillea Study Group SE Qld meeting report
- Who is sleeping with whom?
- On the etymology of *Grevillea treueriana*
- *Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *brindabella*
- A new cultivar released in Western Australia
- Vale Dr Joan Webb
- The Coominya Collection of Grevilleas
- Ramblings
- In your garden

## **Hakea Study Group**

Newsletter No. 58 June 2015

- Letter from Paul Kennedy
- Propagating
- Wanderings
- Letters from members
- DNA results

## **Waratah & Flannel Flower Study Group**

Newsletter No. 9 June 2015

- Maria writes:
- From the members
- Propagating *Actinotus forsythia*
- WIN Wildflower farm tour
- Checklist of *Telopea* species and varieties
- Checklist of *Actinotus* species and varieties

That’s all folks. I am looking for a new Study Group Liaison Officer for ANPS Canberra. The job is not onerous, just a report for the journal every three months. In return you get all these wonderful newsletters, which are very interesting.

Please contact me at [lespage26@gmail.com](mailto:lespage26@gmail.com) if you would like to do this job.

Lesley Page

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# 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: Masumi Robertson 6251 6525  
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**Back cover:** *Corunastylis ostrina*, Mongarlowe; Photo: Roger Farrow

