

## Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc.

GPO Box 1570 Canberra ACT 2601 ABN 17717 346 075 <u>https://nativeplantscbr.com.au</u> ISSN 1447-1515

# **Bulletin** November 2023

#### **Members Meeting and AGM**

Thursday, 9 November

7.30 pm\*\* note ANBG access times below.

ANBG Theatrette, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain.

\*\* *Please note* –our gate minder will open the ANBG gates at 6.50pm and close them at 7.35pm so (s)he can attend the meeting.

Gate Minder: Peter Woodbury

Meeting Book Sales: See item on page 3.

**November Raffle prizes:** Plants will be provided by: the Society's propagation group

**Show and Tell:** Please bring along any plant material or pot plants you think we would find interesting and like to see.

**Important Reminder:** bring Myrtaceae specimens into ANBG in plastic bags.

## ANPSC's 'concise' Plant Book

ANPSC would like to develop a new 'concise' Plant Book - to complement rather than replace the existing Book. We are calling for expert native-flora growers, interested in helping us.

See the doc. attached to this Bulletin email **'Call for new 'concise' Book Team'** for more details. Stephen Saunders, President.

# Meeting Talk: Getting to know the 'wetland' flora of the Canberra region

This talk presents some recent activities, part voluntary, to do with 'wetland' plants in the Canberra region, and will explain why 'wetland' is in quotes.

#### Guest Speaker: Jane Roberts.

Jane is an Ecological Consultant and has been interested in 'wetland' plants ever since doing an essay in second-year Botany at Canberra University (when it was a CAE). She pursued that interest moving to Adelaide to do a PhD on cumbungi, then worked in ecological research in western NSW at regional CSIRO labs, and eventually moved back to Canberra.

Life as an ecological (vegetation) consultant in the world of water management of rivers and floodplains in the Murray-Darling Basin was intensely busy for 20 years and fraught with deadlines, and it is only recently that there has been opportunity to indulge in her interest in wetland flora. Jane is a member of ANPSC and sometimes Wednesday Walker.

# November AGM and election of Council members for 2023/2024

#### We encourage members to come along to our AGM and elect our Council members for 2024.

All 11 elected Council positions will be declared vacant and elections for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and six ordinary members will be held.

The Society needs members' support and new and different ideas and views to achieve its aims and importantly to enable the Society to continue to function. We need members to step forward and take up roles on Council. You may nominate yourself or another member.

If you have any queries please contact either Stephen Saunders, President at <u>president@nativeplantscbr.com.au</u> or Christine Kendrick, Secretary at <u>secretary@nativeplantscbr.com.au</u>

Deadline for items for our December Journal has been extended to 6 November. We'd love to hear what you have been doing and seeing.

Please send articles, long or short, with or without photos. Send **high resolution** images separately, not embedded in a document. Send them to Gail Ritchie Knight, our Journal Editor, at <u>journal@nativeplantscbr.com.au</u>

## **Open Gardens Canberra**

## A garden opening with sections of Australian native plants:

**18&19 November:** 'Amber's Garden', 8 Andado Place, Hawker.

More information about all the gardens is on the Open Gardens website:

#### https://opengardenscanberra.org.au/events/

Gardens are open 10am - 4pm. Entry is \$10 per person, free to Open Gardens Canberra members and children under 18. Non-members can pay cash on the day or book through Eventbrite (via the OGC website); this is recommended.

## **Exhibitions at ANBG**

Visitor Information Centre 9.30am to 4.30pm, daily

#### Botanic Images 1 to 19 November

A unique collection of botanic art and photographic works donated to the Gardens by the Friends of the ANBG.

The exhibition showcases the talents of the Botanic Art Group and the Photographic Group in depicting botany.

## Illuminate 23

23 November to 10 December

The 10th annual exhibition of the Friends of the ANBG Photographic Group.

The exhibition features a range of photographs taken within the Gardens. All photographs exhibited are for sale as well as unframed

prints, cards, and specialty calendars by individual members.



Wednesday Walk on 25 October

- Lt Thelymitra pauciflora
- Below Diuris sulphurea

Derek Corrigan photos



## ANBG Thursday Talks

12.30 - 1.30pm, Theatrette Bookings open Friday before the talk until Wednesday night or until seating limits are reached. (Tickets are Free). https://www.friendsanbg.org.au/calendar

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2 November	'Conservation time machine: harnessing degraded DNA for wildlife protection' - Dr Erin Hahn.
9 November	'What Birdo is that? Birds and the humans who love them' - Emeritus Professor Libby Robin.
16 November	'Botanical Art & Illustration: Convergence of Art and Science' - Margaret Saul.
23 November	'Lessons learned for solving the ACT's water quality problems' - Dr Ralph Ogden.
30 November	'Evolution of pollinations traits in flowering plants'- Dr Roger Farrow.



 'Gardens for Life'
30 September to 4 October 2024
Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre Hosted by APS Victoria
We encourage all ANPSC members to consider attending this conference.
For more details and to register your interest go to: https://apsvic.org.au/anpsa-biennial-conference-2024/
\*Australian Native Plants Society Australia

## **Plant Sales**

#### Australian Native Plant Market At Cool Country Natives, Pialligo Next Market Day - Saturday 2 December, 8.30am-3pm.

This market is held on first Saturday of the month except in January and June to August.

# *Where to buy Native Plants in the Canberra Region* Brochure

The 2023 version of ANPSC's *Where to buy Native Plants in the Canberra Region* is now available. Go to <u>https://nativeplantscbr.com.au/</u>



## **ANPSC calendar & services**

#### **Book Sales at Members Meetings**

We have a few titles of new books at set prices - all very good value and a good range of second-hand books, donated by members, for a donation of your choice.

Next Council Meeting: Monday 6 November at 12.30pm, Dickson Room, Banks Building, ANBG.

**Council Business - Council Minutes are on** our website in Members Area under 'Minutes'. October Council Minutes will go up on the website after they are approved at the November Council Meeting.

#### Next Bulletin: December 2023: If you have

any items you think would be of interest to our members including photos, please send them by Wednesday 29 November to bulletin@nativeplantscbr.com.au

#### **Members Meeting Speakers**

Send speaker suggestions to our speaker organiser, Roger Farrow at r.farrow@iimetro.com.au

#### Write-ups of Member's Meetings talks

For those who may not be able to attend meetings, we are including articles on the speaker presentations in our Journal.

#### **Updating your email Preferences**

To change your Mailchimp preferences/details:

- Personal details; and
- Members Groups activity preferences.

Go to a link at the bottom of the page of any Mailchimp announcement such as your Bulletin email. Just above the \*\*black rectangle with MailChimp at the very bottom of the page is an underlined link update your preferences. If you click on that you will be sent an email that you use to take you to the webpage where you can change your details. Example:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.



## **ANPSC Contacts**

**President**: Stephen Saunders president@nativeplantscbr.com.au

Secretary: Christine Kendrick secretary@nativeplantscbr.com.au **2** 0403 199 211

Membership Secretary: Karen Brien membership@nativeplantscbr.com.au

Bulletin Editor: Lucinda Royston bulletin@nativeplantscbr.com.au

## **ANPSC Notices**

#### Welcome to our new Members:

- \* Miranda Harris
- Rainer Reuss
- 🏶 Anne Thorpe
- Selena Kearney
- Leonie Hull
- Randall West.
- ℜ Janet Thonson

#### Australian Plants publication

Produced quarterly by the Australian Plants Society, NSW on behalf of the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA). Members who wish to subscribe to Australian Plants contact: office@austplants.com.au For more information go to: https://anpsa.org.au/about/publications/

#### **ANPSC's Plant Database** photos wanted.

You can specify if the Society can use your photos for other purposes or just the online Plant Database. You can check if a species is already illustrated by searching the Database at



https://plantdatabase.nativeplantscbr.com.au Contact for queries is Lyndal Thorburn at lthorburn@viria.com.au



- · Lt Growers delivering
- plants
- · Below Totalling customers' purchases





## Conservation

#### Item of interest

**From Rosemary Blemings** 

# Did you know new tree protection laws come into effect from 1 January 2024?

From 1 January 2024, new laws will provide greater protection for Canberra's trees on public and private land. The *Urban Forest Act 2023* will repeal and replace the *Tree Protection Act 2005*.

The new laws will protect more trees by:

- reducing the size requirements for protected trees on private land and protecting dead native trees of a certain size;
- classifying all trees on public land as protected trees;
- requiring that protected trees approved for removal are replaced or, where new planting is not possible, a financial contribution is made;
- mandating the inclusion of Tree Management Plans in all development, building and driveway applications;
- requiring Tree Management Plans for any works being undertaken in proximity to a protected tree, such as utility installation and maintenance, storage of equipment or machinery, and events on public land;
- introducing a tree bond system to ensure protected trees are not damaged during construction work as our city continues to grow;
- increasing penalties for people caught damaging a protected tree or breaching a Tree Management Plan or direction; and
- expanding the ACT Tree Register which celebrates and protects our most significant trees.

https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/trees-andnature/trees



Hibbertia porcata

Christine Kendrick photo

Hibbertia porcata showing the stamens standing upright.

Peter Chandler photo



## **Members** Activities

#### **Propagation Propagation group queries to**

propagation@nativeplantscbr.com.au

Newcomers are always very welcome to join the propagation group activities and no experience is necessary. You do need to register your interest by emailing propagation@nativeplantscbr.com.au

#### **Propagation Group Cutting Bee** Sunday 16 November, from 10:00 until 1:00 Christine Kendrick and Roger Farrow's Burra property.

We will be able to process cuttings from their extensive collection of native plants in this peaceful setting and appreciate the garden and work that has gone into it over many decades.

Please bring the usual: hat, sunscreen, secateurs, mug plus snack or sandwich. Our hosts will provide tea/coffee.

Directions to the property will be available in the reminder email to be sent out to Propagation Group members in the week preceding this event.

For further information contact and to let us know you're coming contact:

propagation@nativeplantscbr.com.au or Nola 20447 522 753.

#### Thank you to Bill Willis

'We wish to thank Bill Willis (ANPSC member) for giving a talk recently to a CIT horticulture class on behalf of the Society.

His many years propagating a large range of plants, with a background in horticulture and an enthusiasm for passing on knowledge, has been to our benefit and the benefit of the current horticulture students. We are grateful to him for helping us give back something to CIT Horticulture in return for their generosity in making their facilities available for the ANSPC Propagation Group to use.' Nola McKeon

## Field Trips Our Field Trip Coordinator is Jeanette Jeffery

Contact: <u>fieldtrip@nativeplantscbr.com.au</u> Email Jeanette to go on the emailing list and keep up to date with Field Trip arrangements.

For a particular field trip, email the contact person for that trip for more information and to book your spot on their list.

#### There is no field trip planned for November.

#### **Future Trips suggestions**

'If you have thoughts on a place to go with good companions and friends, please make a suggestion. I'm sure you will get takers!' *Jeanette* 

## Wednesday Walkers (WWs)

Contact: Christine Kendrick at <u>secretary@nativeplantscbr.com.au</u>

If you would like to receive information on future Wednesday Walks, go to the bottom of any ANPSC email and click on 'you can update your preferences'.

#### Photos from WWs outing on 25 October









#### Report from WWs outing on 25 October

This Wednesday Walk was to Gail Ritchie Knight's property south of the village of Sutton, NSW. She and her husband Ron manage 50 hectares bordered by the Yass River and Sutton Road. It is predominantly undulating dry sclerophyll woodland with an extensive understory of *Kunzea ericoides* and *Cassinia hewsoniae*.

'There was a lovely group of 12 Wednesday Walkers who wandered over a significant portion of the property. This was no power walk! Many of us continued to stop and photograph or conduct lengthy ID discussions of over 50 plants. We even added about 9 more to the 140 or so already on the plant list.

Being very dry for some time now, I haven't had much of my usual spring show. *Wurmbea dioica* (Early Nancies) and *Caladenia major* (Wax-lip orchids) were pathetic (but it wasn't their fault – they did try) and I've not seen any *Pterostylis* sp (Greenhoods) at all this year. However Diuris sulphurea (Tiger Orchids), *Thelymitra pauciflora* (Slender Sun Orchids) and *Caladenia ustulate* (Brown Caps) did have a show of some sorts. We even found the leaves only of a possible *Eriochilus cucullatus* (Parson's Bands). We've had so many of them in previous years.

Morning tea was on the western side of the property at the highest point – a bit rocky and sloping rather steeply, but the septuagenarains et al managed quite comfortably amongst the Eucalyptus mannifera. The soil on the western side of the hill is very dry, while back up on the plateau looking eastwards the grass cover, albeit low, is substantial. Walking back down there is a significant stand of Cassinia hewsoniae with a dense stand of Eucalypts including E. mannifera, rossii, *macrorhyncha* and especially *goniocalyx* as a backdrop. We continued eastwards, finding more Thelymitra pauciflora, Hibbertia obtusifolia (Hoary Guinea flower) and Goodenia hederacea. Pultenaea procumbens Heathy Bush Pea) and Gompholobium huegelii (Pale Wedge pea) were stunners, not shy at all. And Leptospermum continentale (Prickly Tea Tree) was just gorgeous.

However we were also looking in particular for *Hibbertia porcata*, the guinea flower that Roger Farrow discovered two years ago on my property. Not many observations had been recorded then, but I have since and Walkers found even more! I am stoked. It is such a lovely, happy prostrate plant. Despite the dry conditions that has caused quite a mortality rate, the survivors are doing magnificently. It was indeed a very enjoyable day.' Gail Ritchie Knight.

• Kunzea parvifolia

- Just after lunch, above the Yass River
- Gompholobium hueglii
- Pultenaea procumbens

. Photos by Gail Ritchie Knight, Lucinda Royston

#### **ANPSC Plant Sales**

Our Plant Sale Coordinators are Alison Roach and Georgie Till. Contact: plantsales@nativeplantscbr.com.au

#### **Report on ANPSC's Spring Plant Sale** - Saturday 21 October at ANBG

'Firstly, Georgie and I would very much like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with so many aspects of the Sale. We are listing some jobs (and names) that our broader membership might not know about, and please forgive us if we miss anyone. There are just so many people who help in this enormous endeavour, and all of you make a valuable contribution! These people range from those who do things in the background, like printing extra labels (Greg), updating the plant label database (John and Lyndal), preparing the spreadsheet for growers to fill in, the row lists and the plant lists (David and Els), picking up printing (Rosemary and Nola), putting the row lists on the row stands (Nola), preparing brochures to give to the public (Rosemary and Gail), putting out road signs (Daryl and Damian), contacting the ANBG to make sure our bookings were valid (Christine), updating the website (Ben and Gail), emailing the plant lists to people on the subscription list (Bob), all things money, purchasing, credit card machine, accounting and advice (Merelyn), getting all of the heavy gear out of the under croft on the Thursday afternoon (Peter, Ben, Georgie and Nola), putting things in the Bulletin and reminding us to do so (Lucinda), charming the public queuing at the gate (Anne), greeting the customers on sale day, recording volunteer names and handing out café vouchers (Rosemary), preparing the picture labels (Alison M), the information tent (Andy), washing the yellow volunteer vests (Georgie), growing and delivering the wonderful plants (propagation group, the De Marco family, the Robertsons, Phil Fradd) and we could go on! We'd also like to thank the large number of members who showed up on the Friday set up day and the Saturday sale day to carry things, sort things, quality check things, talk to customers, count things, take the money, guide people in the right direction, pack stuff up and put it away again! Phew!!

Given this was our first time coordinating the Sale, we also really appreciated the handovers for things the coordinators need to know from Linda, Tom, Merelyn, David, Els and Stephen.

The Spring Sale is always busier than the Autumn one, and this Sale went fast. We had just over 5000 plants representing around 250 taxa sell out in two hours. I (Alison) called the sale closed at 10.30 am with around 60 plants left (tall eucalypts, acacias and casuarinas not as popular with household gardeners because of the size they grow to). So, in some respects you could say the sale was a resounding success. We did have a number of disappointed customers, and that is always a hard thing to manage. There is a juggle between advertising the right amount (as in, not too much advertising for a small sale), and not advertising enough. This situation is not new for the Society, and always hard to predict. Certainly, the number of people willing to come out in public seems to have truly recovered after our covid isolation years. Lucinda talked to customers again, asking them how they found out about the sale. Number one was Facebook (a page that I (Alison) administer), our website, road signs then word of mouth and other things. The demographic of customers was predominantly 20- to 50-year-olds people who tend to use social media more than print or radio.

This year for the first time we also had a local volunteer Rural Fire Service brigade and truck come to do some public engagement. We think that also worked out well, but happy to hear any views to the contrary. I know some of the kids attending were fascinated by the fire truck (more than the plants)!

We have received a number of suggestions about minor improvements that could be made to the sale, probably the most significant of which is the Society getting some signs printed up that say 'Sorry, sale closed, all sold out' so that we can inform customers coming in later. If you've got any more thoughts, please email them through to <u>plantsales@nativeplantscbr.com.au</u>, and encourage any growers you know to get in touch about growing for our sales. We've certainly got a good customer base!' Alison Roach.



Set up Friday – plants arriving and being sorted.

Lucinda Royston photo

Plants set out and ready for sale – last minute checks.

Royston photo

Lucinda



8.35am on Sale day Saturday.

Lucinda Royston photo

#### Day Activity Group\* & Garden Design Study Group

Contact: <u>dagsleader@nativeplantscbr.com.au</u>

Coordinating Committee members:

Digby Gascoine, Tom Jordan, Maureen Mallard, Fran Middleton, Pam Morrison.

\* DAG

\*\*Register your interest in DAG in your membership record in our website members area to receive DAG MailChimp emails detailing the next activity.

## 2024 Program

If you have a garden you'd like to share with the group, in 2024 or have a garden suggestion, please contact the DAG Committee at dagsleader@nativeplantscbr.com.au

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#### DAG November Activity Tuesday 14 November, 10.30am Visit to garden of Fran Middleton in Isaacs

'My garden, on a corner block of 884 square metres plus verges, was started in 1990 before I became enthusiastic about native plants. About 10 years ago I began the process of replacing many of the exotic plants with natives and it has been very encouraging to observe that birds, reptiles and insects have joined the cheer squad.

This project is ongoing and often quite challenging but native plants have finally started outnumbering exotics, helped along by propagating my own plants and a hopeless addiction to collecting. Many plant families are represented and I have a particular interest in Rutaceae. While I do appreciate why some people garden exclusively with native plants, I am working with what I have and my design challenge is how to eventually combine natives and exotics in a coherent and pleasing way, not unlike many other people who garden in Canberra. I would say I'm still somewhere on the continuum, moving towards a vision that would be nice to realise before I run out of puff. I look forward to welcoming you to my 'work in progress'.

Fran Middleton

## SAVE the DATE

**Tuesday 19th December 12 noon**, End of year function at Lyn and Peter Woodbury's in Googong.

## Report on DAG October Activity – a visit to Jo Walker's garden in Wamboin

Photos from Paul Goggin

'On 3 October, 20 DAGs enjoyed a morning walk around Jo Walker's garden in Wamboin. Over more than 30 years Jo has created a natural style of garden that blends well into existing native vegetation on her 20 acre sloping bush block. Many of the plants have been propagated by Jo. Prostanthera incisa and P. ovalifolia provided bold splashes of purple along with the more subtle pink of the many self-sown Myoporum bateae. Many Acacias were also in flower, including the sharp A. colletioides that drew a lot of interest. Jo is an acknowledged authority on the genus Pomaderris so it was not surprising to see many species in her garden, including the rare P. delicata. We were led on a walk around the various microclimates, including down to the dam where plants were thriving, including an impressive Eucalyptus maculata.

Many thanks Jo for sharing your garden and extensive plant knowledge with us. Most members then went on to enjoy lunch on the verandah at the Little Sutton Bakehouse.'

Fran Middleton







#### Show and Tell – Flowering now in Ros and Ben's Red Hill garden. Text by Ros Walcott and photos by Ben Walcott.



**Boronia keysii (in a pot)** We planted this rare species of boronia from southeastern Queensland, height to 2m, with aromatic foliage and pink, star-shaped flowers in November 2019. This plant was lost to science for 62 years then rediscovered in 1971.

#### Atractocarpus chartaceus (was Randia chartacea) – Narrow-Leaved Gardenia (in a pot)

We planted this bushy shrub, 2-3m high x 2-3m wide, with dark green glossy foliage and sweetly scented pure white flowers and bright red edible fruit, in a pot, in August 2019. This plant needs protection from direct sun and is native to subtropical rainforest in northern New South Wales and southeastern Queensland.





Boronia heterophylla 'Blue Waves' (in a pot) We planted this evergreen shrub, 1m high and wide, with dark green aromatic foliage and mauve-blue bellshaped flowers, in a pot in October 2021. This plant will tolerate only light frosts so must be protected in the winter.



#### Leptospermum 'Copper Sheen'

We planted Leptospermum 'Copper Sheen' in March 2007 which is expected to grow to 2m high and wide, with bronze foliage and showy scented white flowers with green centres. This plant barely grew and we removed it in May 2010 for failure to thrive. We were given three of these plants by a friend and planted them in the upper sand garden in November 2016. Unfortunately, they have not grown any better than the first plant. Two of them are still alive but very tiny. These plants hail (according to ACRA) from central and western Tasmania, so I do not think that frost is the problem in our garden. We have eventually had some flowers in November 2021, but the plants grow very slowly.



#### Phymatocarpus maxwellii (in a pot)

We planted this bushy shrub, 1-2m high x 1-2m wide, with bluishgrey foliage and bright pink-purple flowers in October 2019. This plant is native to the southern coast of WA, between Albany and Esperance.

## Leptospermum 'Pageant'

We planted five Leptospermum 'Pageant' in 2005-6, but these became infected by webbing caterpillar and were removed. We have planted another four in September 2016 in the upper sand garden, hoping that the light soil and open position would protect them from caterpillars. So far these have grown well to 1 m x 1.5 m and the purple flowers are spectacular for a short period.