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# NEWSLETTER

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**Welcome to any  
new readers!  
Why not join  
us?  
It's free!**

In this issue. . .	
Maria writes:	p. 2
Waratahs at Springbrook	p. 3
From the members	p. 4
Telopea truncata	p. 5
Actinotus laxus	p. 6
Up close and amazing	p. 7
Balance Sheet	p. 8
Flannels at Sylvan Grove	p. 9
Checklist of <i>Telopea</i> species and varieties	p. 10-11
Checklist of <i>Actinotus</i> species and varieties	p. 12



Australian Waratah painting - Amber Gittins  
[Art Lovers Australia](http://www.artloversaustralia.com)

**Website**  
**Bookmark it today!**  
[waratahflannelflowersg.weebly.com](http://waratahflannelflowersg.weebly.com)

**Past Newsletters  
are available  
on the website**

**The Waratah and Flannel Flower Study Group is affiliated with the  
Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) - ANPSA**  
This is an **electronic only** group.  
Newsletters are sent out twice a year (electronic only).  
**Membership is free to individuals and APS (SGAP) groups.**  
There is no deadline for newsletter contributions - send them anytime, sooner rather than later.

**Maria writes:**

This will be my last newsletter. All good things must come to an end. I have just given my notice to the Study Group co-ordinator that I will be stepping down as Leader of this group from 31 December 2019. After 9 years I feel I've achieved most of what I wanted to do and perhaps one of you (or an association) would be interested in taking it on. Otherwise the group will go into recess. I'd offer all assistance of course.

Thank you to all the members who contributed over the years. It's been an interesting journey and I value your friendship. I'm open to continuing those relationships should any of you wish to do so on a one to one basis.

Since my last newsletter the drought has intensified and we are now seeing fires everywhere due to the low humidity and strong winds. Armidale is currently on level 5 water restrictions. People are in shock! Gardens all over the district are dying. The bush is dying. We are in uncharted territory and the future is not looking very bright. The past six years have been difficult with occasional wet periods followed by long dry stretches. This has been coupled by a gradual increase in summer temperatures and high evaporation rates.

When I first moved to Armidale in early 1974, summer came on a Tuesday. It was unusual to get summer days over 28C. We rarely had temperatures of 30C – that has now changed. Last summer we had weeks over 30C with the highest being 37C. Armidale is almost 1000m above sea level and I live at 1100m. The Table-

lands are known as cool climate country. Thankfully I have an independent water source but it is restricted.

My Waratah collection is in big tubs and surviving. Plants get watered daily, they are in shade and sheltered from wind. It's still difficult to get hold of varieties other than the normal Shady Lady series. My cuttings technique is working well and I lose few cuttings this way. I've now embarked on the long road to finding a successful grafting stock and wish I were 30 years younger as it may take some time. My first efforts failed unfortunately.

The Flannel Flowers are doing well in those terracotta pots - it's surprising the range of flower sizes that one gets. See p. 8

I've been selectively collecting seed from different forms - Margaret Guenzel did this and developed her Little Edelweiss. Commercial growers are looking for the biggest flowers and the longest stems - it's all very interesting. we don't seem to have any reliable cultivars yet due to the difficulty of growing from cuttings. No doubt one day we will get there.

I've started a new book on Waratahs and if I don't keep being interrupted I might even finish it in the near future. Good luck to all those Waratah growers out there. Keep trying and experimenting. It's a worthwhile project and when you succeed you'll have that Wow factor to show off to visitors.

Goodbye to all of you lovely members!

Maria

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## Seedbank

If you would like me to post you seed please send me an SAE (2 stamps required). Growing instructions are enclosed with the seed. I always welcome fresh FF seed for our seedbank so any contributions are welcome. Please make sure you add the date of collection to your packet. I am also looking for fresh Waratah seed, in particular *T. oreades* - must be collected off private property or in the garden. Unfortunately commercial seed is often very old and not viable. Collect in Autumn when pods start to colour up - need not be open.

### Wanted!

**Seed of *Actinotus minor***

**Can you help?**

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**Shirley Hardaker Armidale**



Your talk at National Seniors reminded me of the flannel flowers out at the block we owned for many years at Booroolong. To begin with we had about two square miles. Different areas would have masses of one certain plant and in one area where there were a lot of granite rocks we would get these masses of flannel flowers. John Williams said there was another smaller one somewhere but I didn't ever get a photo. I don't think you ever came out there, but it was a lovely block. We did a lot of fencing and took lots of people out there. With help we had about 360 plant species named, and Peter Metcalfe did the birds. We had a voluntary conservation agreement over much of it, in perpetuity, and it is still owned by someone from UNE who presumably likes it that way! My special interest was ground orchids. We found 27 different species.

**Judith Khouw Springbrook Qld** sent this message:

These are the waratahs I have planted so far:

- Braidwood Brilliant
- Brimstone Princess
- Corroboree
- Gembrook
- Shady Lady Crimson
- Shady Lady Red
- Shady Lady White
- Shady Lady Yellow
- Wild Brumby - Sugar Plum
- Wild Brumby - Mallee Boy.

The majority of them are only 2 years old and have not produced any flowers so far. However, the Brimstone Princess is about 4 years old and has flowered twice. I have included 2 photos. My white one has just flowered and it looked terrible.



*Telopea* 'Brimstone Princess'

Images: Judith Khouw

The Noisy Miner bird in the top photo is a real pest in gardens as they are very territorial and chase away small honeyeaters. Their beaks are not designed to poke into tubular Proteaceae flowers but they will have a good go probably damaging the flowers in their attempt.

Can anyone comment on this?

## From the members:

### Judith Khouw Springbrook Qld

also asked for some help.

Do you know if there is a bug which caused my white waratah flower to look brown in the middle and did not open fully as shown in the photos? This is the first time it flowered. It looked like there is a bug which penetrates the flower buds. (see article on this page)



Harry Loots Flannel Flowers in full bloom

### Barbara Melville Central Coast NSW

When we left for WA in mid September there were two buds on our Waratah. I fully expected them to be leaves only but surprise surprise there are two flowers. They are very very small but this is a better result to last year. Perhaps a tougher prune this year?



*Ed. T. speciosissima should be pruned almost to ground level. Hybrids should be pruned leaving at least two leaf buds from the junction.*

### Macadamia Bud borer

One of the most serious and difficult-to-control pests is the macadamia bud borer. It damages flowers by burrowing into them at the bud stage. The insect appears to be most active in the spring and then again in late summer to autumn as buds are developing. Therefore, protective spraying of the plants needs to take place in late spring and early summer to protect the newly emerging vegetative shoots and again in later summer to early autumn as the flower buds begin their development.

There is a pdf which is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to grow waratahs successfully.

See Appendix 4 on p. 53

'Growing Waratahs for Cut Flowers'

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/12-087.pdf>

*Telopea truncata* - photos taken by Maura Elizabeth Chamberlain and posted onto the Tasmanian Waratahs Flowering FB page on 18 November



*Telopea speciosissima* - asparagoid form growing in a garden at Woy Woy Bay - photo taken at the beginning of October. All of the stems had multiple flowers. The grower stated that it doesn't always happen. Does anyone have any theories?

***Actinotus laxus***  
**a diminutive insect pollinated**  
**Apiaceae species**

Greg and Bronwen Keighery

Wildflower Society of WA Newsletter May 2019

*Actinotus laxus* is a species from a small group of summer flowering wetland *Actinotus* species. Other species in the group are *A. omnifertilis* and *A. repens*.

The small plants are hidden amongst the dense shrubs, herbs and sedges of the wetlands (photos centre spread, page 31). The tiny flowers are in small umbels on the ends of the fine, long and leafy stems (photo opposite and below). Thousands of flowers are found on each plant. Tiny insects pollinate the flowers, including midges and male mosquitoes. The female mosquitoes are busy sucking your blood!

These swamps are great places to visit at any time in spring through to autumn for flowering wonders. The Pitcher plant is found in the wetter peaty soil sections of these types of swamps.

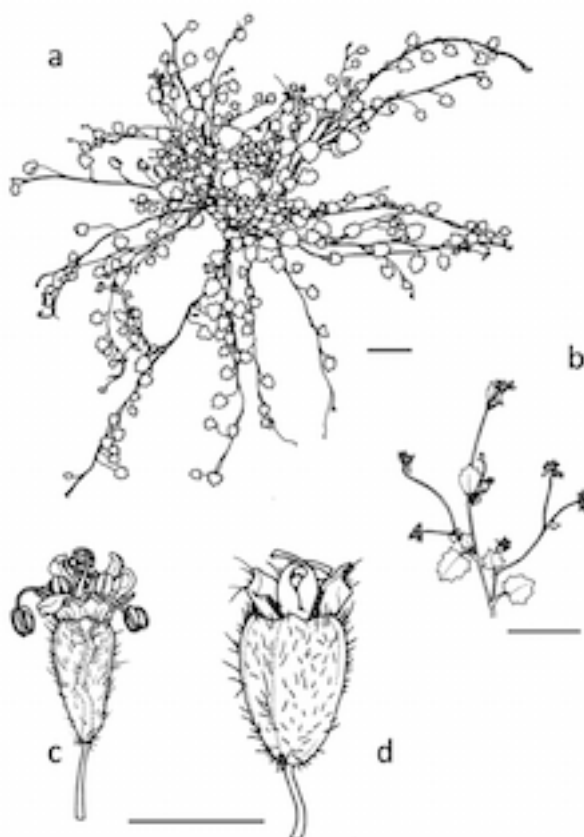


*Actinotus laxus*

Image: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/12958>

Straggling or slender erect perennial, herb, to 0.4 m high, with long slender lax flowering branches & very small inflorescences. Fl. white-

cream, Dec or Jan to Mar. Sandy peaty or clayey soils. Winter-wet flats, fresh, usually permanent swamps. (Amanda Spooner).



*Actinotus repens*

Illustration of *Actinotus repens* Keighery ex Henwood: a, habit; b, flowering branch; c, flower; d, fruit with sepaline rim partially removed to show the crossed styles. Based on R.W Hearn ARA 58861. Scale bar a & b = 15 mm, c & d = 1 mm

Image: [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Illustration-of-Actinotus-repens-Keighery-ex-Henwood-a-habit-b-flowering-branch-c\\_fig1\\_269575955](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Illustration-of-Actinotus-repens-Keighery-ex-Henwood-a-habit-b-flowering-branch-c_fig1_269575955)

### Up close and amazing!

This is a fabulous close-up of the inflorescence of a Flannel Flower. The inflorescence is made up of many tiny flowers. The white bracts around the outside have a protective function as well as luring insects to the flowers. The bracts fold back over the developing ovaries while seeds form then open up again when seeds are ready to disperse.



Image: Simon Bastin



*Actinotus gibbonsii*

Scanning electron micrograph of the nectary, located at the base of the style.

Creator: Murray Henwood

Copyright owner: University of Sydney



*Actinotus helianthi* seedhead

Image: Wikimedia Commons



A

A new perennial species, *Actinotus periculosus*, is described from the Leichhardt District of Queensland. Read the article.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237396855\\_Actinotus\\_periculosus\\_Apiaceae\\_a\\_new\\_perennial\\_species\\_from\\_eastern\\_Australia](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237396855_Actinotus_periculosus_Apiaceae_a_new_perennial_species_from_eastern_Australia)



My collection of *A. helianthi*  
 The flowers range from quite small to large - some have definite green tips while others have none.

**Wanted!**  
**New Study Group Leader**  
**for the**  
**Waratah**  
**and Flannel Flower**  
**Study Group**

**Contact Jane Fountain**  
**Study Group Co-ordinator**

[studygroups@anpsa.org.au](mailto:studygroups@anpsa.org.au)

**Bank Account Balance Sheet**

<b>Balance Dec.18</b>		<b>\$223.42</b>
<b>Jan 9</b>	<b>Cheque deposit</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
		<b>\$233.42</b>
<b>Mar 4</b>	<b>WIN Subscription</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
		<b>\$158.42</b>
<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>Access fee</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
		<b>\$153.42</b>
<b>Jun 5</b>	<b>FF Postcards</b>	<b>\$73.62</b>
		<b>\$ 79.80</b>
<b>Jun 21</b>	<b>Donation</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
		<b>\$129.80</b>
<b>Jun 30</b>	<b>Access fee</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
		<b>\$124.80</b>
<b>Jul 8</b>	<b>ANPSA</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
		<b>\$144.80</b>
<b>Jul 15</b>	<b>Donation</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
		<b>\$164.80</b>
<b>Jul 16</b>	<b>Donation</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
		<b>\$174.80</b>
<b>Sep 16</b>	<b>Donation</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
		<b>\$199.80</b>
<b>Nov 19</b>	<b>Waratah/FFcards</b>	<b>\$131.66</b>
		<b>\$ 68.14</b>
<b>Nov 30</b>	<b>Access fee</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
		<b>\$ 63.14</b>
<b>Balance Dec. 19</b>		<b>\$ 63.14</b>

**Notes:**

The Waratah and Flannel flower How to Grow Postcards are given out free when I give talks to groups. They are very popular. I get them printed by Vistaprint.

The WIN subscription is the Wildflower Industry Network - commercial waratah and flannel flower growers.

Access fee is the Bank fee if the account is used that month.



### Flannel Flowers at Sylvan Grove

Photos sent by Jim Mackay



## Checklist of *Telopea* species, cultivars and hybrids

### Species:

<i>Telopea aspera</i>	Gibraltar Range NSW
<i>Telopea mongaensis</i>	Braidwood Waratah - NSW
<i>Telopea oreades</i>	Gippsland Waratah - Vic.
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	NSW Waratah
<i>Telopea truncata</i>	Tasmanian Waratah

### Pink Cultivars:

<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Pink' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Pink Passion'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Shade of Pale'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Tutu'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Clarence Pink'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'In the Pink' (Yellow Rock Nursery/Nixon)

### Red Cultivars:

<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Ballerina'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Blush' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Early' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Princess'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Cardinal'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Corrakee' (Karwarra Gardens)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Fire and Brimstone' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Fire 'n Ice' (Roy Rother, Emerald Vic/Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Green Bracts'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Mirragon'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Olympic Flame' - Mt Annan (Cathy Offord)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Red Centre'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Red Embers' NZ and USA
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Roger's Red' Gordon Meiklejohn (Brimstone Waratahs)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Scarlet Ribbons'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Songlines' - Yellow Rock Nursery , Winmallee NSW
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Starfire' Gordon Meiklejohn (Brimstone Waratahs)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Stringers Late'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Sunflare' - Mt Annan (Cathy Offord)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Sunburst' University of Sydney (Offord, Nixon, Goodwin)
<i>Telopea truncata</i>	'Tasman Red'

### White Cultivars:

<i>Telopea oreades</i>	'Errindundra White'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Wirrimbirra White' (also marketed briefly as 'Shady Lady White' - naturally occurring <i>T. speciosissima</i> clone found in the NSW Water Board area by Thistle Stead. Link <a href="http://www.wirrimbirra.com.au/Wirrimbirra%20white.htm">http://www.wirrimbirra.com.au/Wirrimbirra%20white.htm</a>

### Yellow/Cream Cultivars:

<i>Telopea truncata</i>	'St Mary's Sunrise'
<i>Telopea truncata</i>	'West Coast Yellow'

Red Hybrids:

<i>Telopea speciosissima x mongaensis</i>	'Braidwood Brilliant'
<i>Telopea speciosissima x mongaensis</i>	Flora Design 'Scarlett'
<i>Telopea mongaensis x speciosissima</i>	'Canberry Gem' - (Doug's hybrid/Canberry Coronet)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x mongaensis</i>	'Corroboree'
<i>Telopea speciosissima x</i>	
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Emperor's Torch' - Ausflora Pacific, Gembrook Vic.
<i>Telopea truncata yellow complex</i>	'Essie's Gift' - Brian Fitzpatrick
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Gembrook' - Ausflora Pacific, Gembrook Vic.
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady Crimson' - Proteaflora
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady Pink' - Proteaflora
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady Red' - Proteaflora
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Sugar Plum' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'T90-T-0-T' - Proteaflora ("Shady Lady" seed)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Nina' Col Terry

Pink Hybrids

<i>Telopea speciosissima x T. truncata lutea</i>	'Champagne' (Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Digger' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x mongaensis</i>	'Mallee Boy' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x 'Wirrimbirra White'</i>	'Dreaming' (Fitzpatrick)

White Hybrids:

<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady White' (original) similar to <i>T. speciosissima</i> 'Wirrimbirra White'
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady White' (improved) same as 'Bridal Gown' (Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Snow Maiden' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)

Yellow/Cream Hybrids:

<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata lutea</i>	'Shady Lady Yellow' same as 'Golden Globe' (Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Georgie Girl' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)

**Related Genera**

<i>Alloxylon brachycarpum</i>	Indonesia, Papua New Guinea
<i>Alloxylon flammeum</i>	Queensland Tree Waratah (Red Silky Oak)
<i>Alloxylon pinnatum</i>	Dorrigo Waratah
<i>Alloxylon wickhamii</i>	

***Can you add to this list?  
Do you have any information  
on growing any of these  
species or varieties?***

**Checklist of *Actinotus* species and varieties**

<i>Actinotus bellidioides</i>	Vic (presumed extinct), Tas
<i>Actinotus forsythii</i>	Kings Tableland, Mount Hay, Narrow Neck, Hargraves Look out, Kanangra Walls, above scenic railway (Blue Mts) NSW VIC
<i>Actinotus gibbonsii</i>	NSW, QLD
<i>Actinotus glomeratus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	NSW, Qld (Flannel Flower), VIC (naturalised)
<i>Actinotus humilis</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus laxis</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus leucocephalus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus minor</i>	NSW
<i>Actinotus moorei</i>	TAS
<i>Actinotus omnifertilis</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus paddisonii</i>	Bourke NSW, Qld
<i>Actinotus periculosus</i>	QLD
<i>Actinotus rhomboideus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus schwartzii</i>	MacDonnell Ranges NT
<i>Actinotus suffocatus</i>	TAS
<i>Actinotus superbus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus</i> sp. Comet Vale	WA
<i>Actinotus</i> sp. Walpole	WA
<i>Actinotus whicheranus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus novaezealandiae</i>	Te Wai Punamu (South Island) New Zealand

Cultivars:

<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	'Starbright'
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	'Federation Stars' <sup>TM</sup>
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	'Parkes Star'

Ref: <http://chah.gov.au/chah/apc/interim/Apiaceae.pdf>