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Cover: Tree ferns in Penance Grove; Monga; Photo: Martin Butterfield

Journal articles

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Journal Editor

Gail Ritchie Knight
1612 Sutton Road
Sutton NSW 2620
e-mail: whirlwind@argonite.com.au
tel: 0416 097 500

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Spring Walks

By Ros Cornish



Walkers on London Bridge, Googong; Photo: Martin Butterfield

The Wednesday Walkers covered a lot of ground this autumn — mainly return visits to favourite spots but also some new places which proved interesting.

Monga Loop

There is a loop drive from Braidwood which takes in a variety of ecosystems in Monga Forest. On this occasion, we

turned right onto River Forest Road from the Kings Highway. After morning tea at the Dasyuris picnic area beside the Mongarlowe River, we continued through the hamlet of Monga to the Waratah picnic area where we did the short walk through wet forest to Penance Grove. Many *Eucryphia moorei* were flowering, scattering white petals on the track.

The tree ferns, as always, were majestic as we did the boardwalk circuit. We returned to the picnic area for lunch and did the short Waratah Walk beside the river. We then drove along Milo Road to the patch of *Correa lawrenceana* var. *cordifolia* before continuing on Saddleback Road and Granite Bluff Road to the Reidsdale Road and back to Braidwood.

Touga Road

We wanted to explore this fairly new area (for us) at a different time of year so mid-March saw us driving straight to Bulee Gap for a quick exploration of a rock shelf before turning onto Touga Road. An interesting find was the sedge, *Lepyrodia muelleri*, in full flower. We also



Lepyrodia muelleri, Touga Loop; Photo: Roger Farrow

found a few flowers on *Stylidium lineare*, *Grevillea patulifolia*, *Platysace lanceolata*, *Leucopogon ericoides*, *Aotus ericoides*, *Phyllota phyllicoides*, *Goodenia bellidifolia*

and *Grevillea baueri* ssp. *asperula*. At the beginning of Touga Road (Tolwong Rd on the map) we found some orchids new to most of us — *Corunastylis superba*.



Corunastylis superba, Touga Loop; Photo: Roger Farrow

There were also some good displays of *Goodenia heterophylla*, *Boronia algida*, *Viola hederacea* and *Lagenophora stipitata*. We continued along Touga Rd, up The Jumps to the rock shelves we'd been to last time. We had lunch near some lovely *Banksia ericifolia* with new flowers. A good find was many



Boronia algida, Touga Loop; Photo: Roger Farrow

Speculartha glyphida (again, new to most of us), mostly underneath *Calytrix tetragona* and other smallish shrubs on the rocks shelves. We also saw flowers on *Actinotus minor*, *Oxalis stricta*, *Boronia rigens* and *Dillwynia ramosissima*. *Acacia terminalis* was in full flower in some spots.



Ottelia ovalifolia, Main image: Sweeney's Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow. Inset: Oakdale Reserve; Photo: Dave Herald

Sweeney's Travelling Stock Reserve

Sweeney's TSR is a regular destination for us. It is on the Tarago Road between Bungendore and Tarago and is a mixture of grassland and woodland with an extensive variety of native plants and few weeds. There is a dam and a few soaks, adding to the diversity of flora. The display of flowers in spring is astonishing in a good year. We ticked off a large number of plants from our previous list and even added a few — *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Desmodium gunnii*, *Leptospermum myrtifolium* and *Wahlenbergia stricta*. There was a good smattering of flowers — *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Convolvulus angustissimus*, *Eriochilus cucullatus*, *Glycine tabacina*, *G. clandestina*, *Hypoxis hygrometrica*, *Tricoryne elatior*, *Hypericum gramineum*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Astroloma humifusum*, *Isotoma fluviatilis* — and a stunning display of *Ottelia ovalifolia* flowers in the dam.

Stringybark Reserve

Stringybark Reserve is to the east of the suburb of Jerrabomberra, Queanbeyan NSW, and is continuous with bushland on Mt Jerrabomberra. It is woodland with some stringybarks (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) and also *E. polyanthemos* and *E. rossii*. The majority of shrubs had finished flowering and many were in poor condition after a hot summer. We walked south, ascending the main ridge where we turned north-east along the ridge track towards Karabar, returning lower down in a loop near the parkway. We found the majority of plants on the list from our first visit, apart from the spring-flowering orchids, but the only ones in flower were *Styphelia triflora* (in profusion), *Acacia genitifolia*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *Astroloma humifusum*, *Xerochrysum viscosum*, *Brachyscome rigidula*, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* and *Coronidium oxylepis* ssp. *lanatum*.



Styphelia triflora, Stringybark Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow

Collector Reserves

In early April, we visited two reserves in the Collector area — our first visits. **Oakdale Reserve** (13ha) is at the intersection of Marked Tree Road and Collector Road. It is in pretty good condition — mainly grassland with some lovely trees — *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, *E. rubida*, *E. bridgesiana*, *E. cinerea*, *E. viminalis*, *E. macrorhyncha*, *E. dives* and *E. mannifera*.



Eucalyptus pauciflora, Oakdale Reserve; Photo: Martin Butterfield

We walked the boundaries and were interested to find that the north-east corner was drier and had a variety of species such as *Daviesia latifolia*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Pultenaea subspicata*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Indigofera australis* (to name a few) whereas the rest of the Reserve was mainly grassland plants including *Arthropodium fimbriatum*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Convolvulus angustissimus*, *Calocephalus citreus*, *Bossiaea prostrata*, *Haloragis heterophylla* (and many others) as well as many grasses. *Themeda triandra* was



Haloragis heterophylla, Oakdale Reserve; Photo: Martin Butterfield

probably the dominant grass but also *Poa labillardierei*, *Austrostipa scabra* ssp. *falcata*, *Austrostipa densiflora*, *Rytidosperma laeve*, *Eragrostis* sp. and a patch of *Hemarthria uncinata*.

We then drove on to **Lerida Travelling Stock Reserve** which was just as interesting. It contained lots of good habitat with fallen trees and branches and many old trees with hollows. The *E. rubida* were the highlight — some very old ones and lots of seedlings coming. We saw a few *E. melliodora* and also *E. macrorhyncha* and *E. bridgesiana*. The understory was more plentiful and diverse in the TSR and included *Acacia implexa*, *A. dealbata*, *A. mearnsii*, *Lissanthe strigosa*, many *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Indigofera australis*, *Cassinia longifolia*, *C. arcuata*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* as well as many grassland plants — *Calocephalus citreus*, *Eryngium ovinum*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Cynoglossum suaveolens*, *Leptorhynchus squamatus*, *Bulbine bulbosa*. A highlight was finding several *Wahlenbergia luteola*

in flower as well as a patch of Little Dumpy orchids — *Diplodium truncatum*. We had lunch overlooking a nice dam in an area which, according to the map, is a camping ground and is part of the Bicentennial National Trail. Both Reserves deserve future visits, particularly in spring and no doubt our plant lists will be extended.



Wahlenbergia luteola, Lerida Travelling Stock Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow

Dhurrawarri Buranya Walk — Googong

The walk begins from the London Bridge car park in the southern part of Googong. It is initially through grassland which was previously grazed so has some weeds. It crosses over London Bridge — a limestone tunnel through which Burra Creek flows — then continues north on a fire trail to the Queanbeyan River. It winds up to a ridge overlooking Burra Creek and Queanbeyan River, with a short spur to view their merger. The walk returns along the ridge, down some steps and crosses Burra Creek. We have only done the walk before during

drought so it was very pleasing to find expansive views of water in both Burra Creek and the Queanbeyan River. The population of the endangered *Dillwynia glaucula* (Michelago Parrot-pea) was looking very healthy with many new

then rises to a plateau where we found the banksias we were looking for. There were many *Banksia spinulosa* and *B. Paludosa* — from buds through to full flowers in an array of colours. We also found one *B. marginata* in flower. There



Dillwynia glaucula, Googong; Photo: Roger Farrow

seedlings. We also found the *Boronia nana* var. *hyssopifolia* we'd found on an earlier visit. An interesting new species was *Desmodium brachypodum* which we don't see all that often. There were only a few flowers — *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Cassinia quinquefaria*, *Melichrus urceolatus* and *Monotoca scoparia*. Other interesting plants were *Dillwynia phyllicoides*, *Hibbertia calycina*, *Persoonia rigida*, *Einadia hastata*, *Pomaderris betulina* ssp. *betulina* and *Schoenoplectus validus* at the water's edge.

Wog Wog

The Wog Wog camping area is off Charleys Forest Road, not far from the intersection with the Nerriga road. The walk descends through open woodland to Wog Wog Creek, which we crossed,



Banksia spinulosa, Wog Wog; Photo: Victoria Tanner



Banksia paludosa, Wog Wog; Photo: John Wilkes



Banksia marginata, Wog Wog; Photos: Brigitta Wimmer



was the odd pea flowering — *Mirbelia platylobioides*, *Bossiaea prostrata* — one *Dampiera stricta* flower, quite a lot of *Epacris microphylla* with flowers, *Goodenia hederacea* ssp. *alpestris*, *Hibbertia riparia*, *Mitrasacme polymorpha* and *Comesperma sphaerocarpum*. Other interesting plants were *Patersonia sericea*, *P. longifolia*, *Gompholobium minus*, *Chloanthes stoechadis*, *Petrophile sessilis*, *Isopogon anemonifolius*, *I. anethifolius*, *Hakea laevipes*, *H. microcarpa*, *H. sericea* and *Pomaderris phyllicifolia* ssp. *ericoides*. Some of us had a quick foray across the road in another area of Morton National Park to see if it warranted a separate visit — probably.

Black Mt Circuit

We began the walk from the car park at the end of Frith Road. It takes a steep path up Black Mountain to about the

two-thirds point then we turned left onto the circular path which meanders along at the one level. At this time of year (end of April) there were not many plants in flower but some of the *Monotoca scoparia* were covered in flowers, particularly those on the south side of the mountain. There were also a few *Hakea decurrens* flowering well. Some *Acacia genistifolia* had a flower or two and there was the odd flower on *Goodenia hederacea* and *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and the *Melichrus urceolatus* were in bud. Other interesting plants were *Phyllanthus hirtellus*, *Hibbertia calycina*, *Coronidium oxylepis* ssp. *lanatum*, *Persoonia rigida*. There was also some discussion about *Acacia implexa* and *A. melanoxyton* and whether we were seeing both. Subsequent identification confirmed both. We added *Bothriochloa macra* and *Wahlenbergia communis* to our already very large list for Black Mountain.



Hakea decurrens, Black Mountain; Photos: Roger Farrow

South Forest Way, Tallaganda

Tallaganda Forest (and National Park) is east of Captains Flat. Our first stop was at the top of the main range at Parkers Gap where the Cowangerong Fire Trail begins in Tallaganda National Park. We noticed a track heading north which we started to follow into tall forest, mainly *Eucalyptus radiata* and *E. viminalis*, along with *Acacia melanoxylon*, *A. dealbata*, *Pittosporum bicolor*, *Tasmannia lanceolata*, *Olearia megalophylla*, *Acrotriche divaricata*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Lomatia myricoides*, *Dianella tasmanica* and many other things, including a few we couldn't put names to.

Unfortunately we were providing a feed for many leeches so we left and continued down the eastern side of the range to South Forest Way, stopping on the corner for morning tea and to renew our acquaintance with *E. ovata*. Also



Tasmannia lanceolata, South Forest Way; Photo: Martin Butterfield

there, were *E. obliqua*, *Solanum aviculare* with many yellow fruit, *Goodia lotifolia*, *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (some flowers), the first of the *Dicksonia antarctica* and many things we'd already seen.

We made four more stops in total — where our lead car saw something of interest. At one point we found ourselves in a slightly

drier area where we had *Allocasuarina littoralis*, also *Banksia marginata* and *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, both flowering well. At our lunch spot we added *Hakea eriantha*, *Acacia falciformis*, *Pomaderris aspera* and *Stellaria flaccida*. Our final stop yielded a few extra species including some bushes of *Choretrum candollei* in flower. We also saw *Brachyscome spathulata* and *Acacia ulicifolia* — both flowering — *Podolobium ilicifolium*, *Polyscias sambucifolia*, *Persoonia linearis* (lots of fruit and a few flowers), *Billardiera* sp., *Clematis glycinoides* and *Acacia obliquinervia*.

Burra Crown Land

The walk started from the old recycling pull-in on Burra Road. Our previous visit was a short one, but rewarding, and

we decided to return to determine the boundaries, which we did. It is a much larger reserve than we had thought.

Everything was very dry and there were few flowers. However, it was a lovely autumn day and we noted an amazing array of species. Of note were the magnificent trees, some very old ones as well as many saplings — *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*, *E. dives*, *E. melliodora*, *E. nortonii* and *E. rubida*. We had a remarkable plant list from our first short visit in 2011 — over 100 species — and added about 24 more. Interesting additions were *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Clematis leptophylla*, *Eryngium ovinum*, *Leucopogon virgatus*, *Scutellaria humilis*, *Kunzea ericoides*, *Typha orientalis* and *Exocarpos strictus*.



Persoonia linearis, South Forest Way (whole tree, flowers and fruit); Photos: Roger Farrow



Eucalyptus nortonii (buds upper, fruit lower), Burra Crown Land; Photos: Martin Butterfield

Mt Majura North

Our last walk for autumn was the northern end of Mt Majura, from Antill Street, Watson. We had lovely warm conditions but overall it was disappointing because it was so dry. However, it was a good exercise in recognising things without flowers and in some cases, nearly dead. There were some lovely trees — *Eucalyptus blakelyi*, *E. bridgesiana*, some very large *E. rossii* and a few *E. mannifera*, one with many marks from landing gliders. Also, many saplings were growing strongly. We were pleased to see vast expanses of the endangered *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor*.

A highlight was a *Styphelia triflora* still with flowers but the only other flowers were

the odd *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, *Xerochrysum viscosum* and a couple of *Wahlenbergia*, but there were many *Melichrus urceolatus* in bud. Surprisingly, we added a few plants to our previous list including *Calytrix tetragona*, *Astroloma humifusum*, *Daviesia genistifolia*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Tricoryne elatior*, *Acacia ulicifolia*, *Allocasuarina littoralis* and *Bothriochloa macra*.

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>

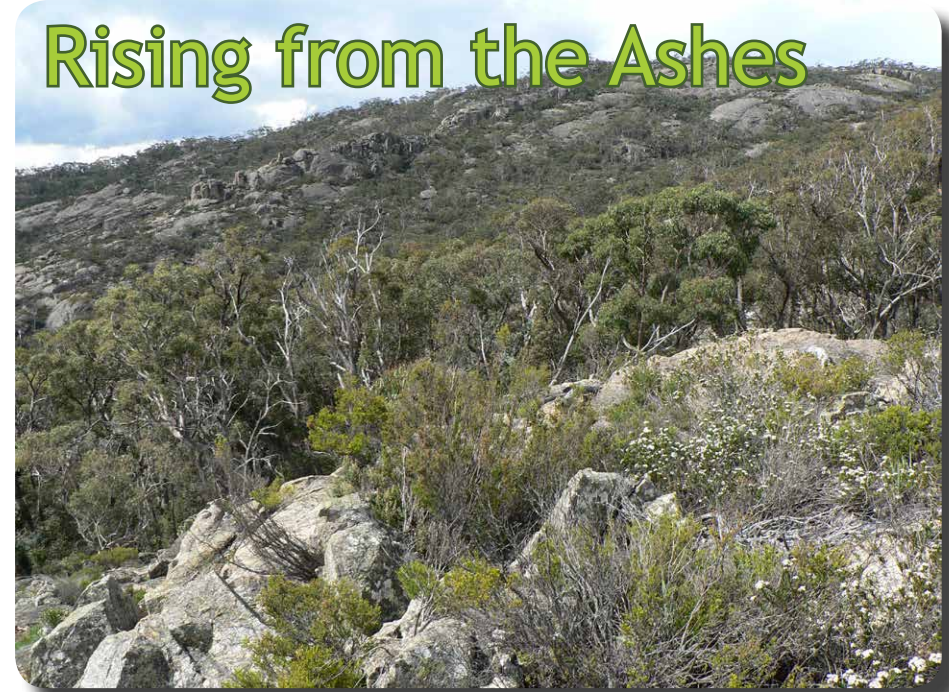
Progress Report on Wednesday Walk Database

By Martin Butterfield

In the previous issue of this *Journal* I reported on the initial stages of entering the species lists compiled by the Wednesday Walkers into a database and providing information from the database

to the *Atlas of Living Australia* (ALA). The database now contains 12,019 records, covering 100 walks, 120 sites and 139 site visits. 9900 records have been posted to the ALA. A reference table now covers 1184 taxa. I estimate I have done about half the walks available to be entered.

Rising from the Ashes



1. View from the first ridge in January 2008

Words and photos by Roger Farrow

On a hot windy day of 17 December 2009 a wild fire ignited from the edge of the Michelago-Burra road and rapidly spread across grasslands towards the Tinderry ranges to the east. By the time it reached the foothills it was a raging inferno burning everything in its path. The fire front crossed the main range and, a few days later, all that could be seen on the southern half of the range were the blackened skeletons of burnt trees and bare granite outcrops, including the peak of Gulwan. All the shrubs and ground covers were burnt to the ground, which was covered with a thick bed of ash and charcoal.

Three years later on November 2012, I walked to Gulwan for the first time since the fire with John Grimshaw, a visiting plant enthusiast. The first part of the walk is along an ascending ridge line of granite boulders and rock shelves which were regularly visited by the Wednesday Walkers before the fire. We used to call it the rock garden because of the diversity of flowering shrubs (Fig 1). To get to this ridge from the road we had to push through a dense regrowth of Silver Wattle.

Once on the ridge I found that the former shrubbery of *Phebalium squamulosum*, *Calytrix tetragona*, *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Oxylobium ellipticum* and *Prostanthera phyllicifolia* had disappeared and was



2. View from the first ridge in November 2013



3. *Thelymitra caespitosa* among dead branches of the shrubs



4. *Platysace lanceolata* Tinderry

replaced by a carpet of lilies, *Thelionema caespitosum*, seedlings of *Acacia costiniana* and small *Platysace lanceolata* (Figs 2, 3, 4).



5. Sun orchid *Thelymitra simulata*

In the rock crevices there was some regrowth of *Grevillea oxyantha* and *Philotheca myoporoides*. Further along the ridge I saw some Donkey and Sun orchids whose underground tubers would have survived the fire which also jumped over some of the rocks leaving some surviving *P. phyllicifolia*, *Leptospermum myrtifolium* and *Callistemon pallidus* (Figs 5, 6, 7). The localised Tingaringy Gum, *E. glaucescens*, was also surviving on this ridge by means of epicormic regrowth.



6. Mint bush *Prostanthera phyllicoides*



7. Pale Bottlebrush *Callistemon pallidus*

The next step in the walk involved crossing a gully of mountain gum, *E. dalrympleana*, some covered in epicormic regrowth and others quite dead. A dense

understorey of wattles *A. dealbata* and *obliquinerva* had regenerated from seed and were now two to four metres in height, together with Elderberry Panax, *Polyscias sambucifolia*, which would have regenerated from underground stems. The endemic Mountain Daisy Bush, *Olearia montana*, also survived the fire here from underground suckers and was in flower (Fig 8).



8. Mountain Daisy Bush *Olearia montana*

The next stage was the steep climb up a granite wall through a regrowth of *Kunzea muelleri* and more extensive fields of *Thelionema* which led to a eucalypt gully, a steep rock shelf and then the sight of the massive granite boulders on the summit of Gulwan.

We then crossed a second gully containing a vivid display of red new growth from the basal epicormic stems of *Eucalyptus moorei*. Below the summit in a boulder field we sighted a blue haze from the *Dampiera fusca* plants. We estimated that there were several thousand two-year-old plants growing amid sprouting gums and *Oxylobium* regrowth (Figs 9,10), covering an ill-defined area of about 20 x 10 m². These plants probably germinated in the winter of 2010 in a damp ash bed following the fire of late 2009. I have never seen *Dampiera* growing in this area despite several visits over the period 1978 to 2008 so where did the seed store originate?



9 & 10 Summit Meadow of *Dampiera fusca*

Two possibilities exist: 1) An incremental accumulation from scattered plants which grow under the dense shrubbery of *Leptospermum juniperinum* and *Oxylobium ellipticum*, and stands of *E. moorei* and *E. pauciflora*, which may have hidden the *Dampiera* from view. 2) From a large seed store dropped after a single cycle of flowering over two to three years following the last major fires which are reported to have occurred in 1965. Given the large area occupied by *Dampiera* and the thousands of plants involved option two is the most likely and is equivalent to a seed longevity of at least 50 years unless there was an unrecorded fire in the intervening period.

Also seen in this area were the tall dead stems of Wild Carrot, *Trachymene anisocarpa*, bearing their characteristic seed capsules. No live plants were found suggesting that species may exhibit a similar phenology to *D. fusca*, but with a shorter life-cycle.

In late January I accompanied botanists from the Australian National Botanic Gardens to collect seed from the same site. After accomplishing this aim we crossed the summit to the east to another flattish boulder field and found an even larger population of

fruiting *Dampiera* measuring about 50 by 30 m (Fig 11). What a site this will be in spring 2013 and for anyone who wishes to see this display please let me know and I will organise a special trip. An interesting fact about this spot is that when we ran a field trip to the Tinderries in November 2004, we passed here and found a single plant of *D. fusca*.

I only walked across a small part of the summit area that was burnt in the fire and many thousands of plants are likely to exist there in pockets over the whole area, at least for the next few seasons, after which they will leave behind a large seed bank. The obvious management question is: how often do these summit areas need to be burnt to sustain the *Dampiera* populations? This largely depends on the longevity of viable seed which the millennium seed bank project at the Botanic gardens will try to ascertain. but clearly intermittent but infrequent fires are a prerequisite for the survival of *Dampiera fusca* in our region.



11. Many thousands of *Dampieras* After flowering

How to Grow Touchy Grevilleas

By Neil Marriott

How many of you have tried to grow the really spectacular small grevilleas such as *Grevillea drummondii*, *G. alpina*, *G. fasciculata*, *G. saccata* and *G. leptobotrys* on their own roots, only to have them drop dead just as they are starting to take off? Most of these species are easy to strike from cuttings so it is such a shame they are not also easy to grow. After decades of trying built-up beds, rockeries, special mixes and the like, I feel I have finally found a technique that works extremely well for me.

When I mixed coarse sand or gravel in the base of the planting hole, I found that there was a definite improvement in time of survival of the plant. However they eventually died. It was clear that, although the drainage was improved, the fine soil particles clogged up the gravel, allowing the roots to rot when saturated with water.

I then thought about soil mixes for the same plants in pots, where it is essential to have a high level of air-filled-porosity for these touchy grevilleas. Air-filled-porosity is the amount of oxygen that is present in a mix after the soil is saturated with

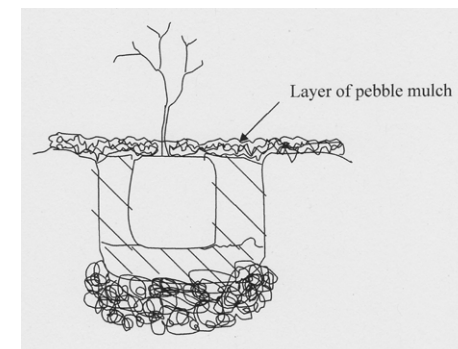
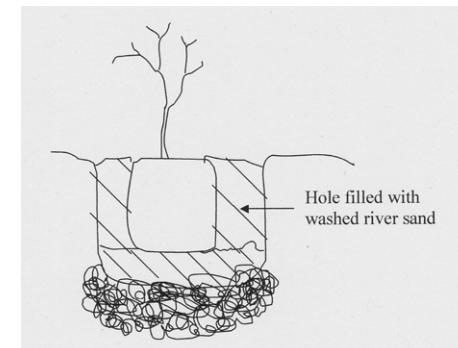
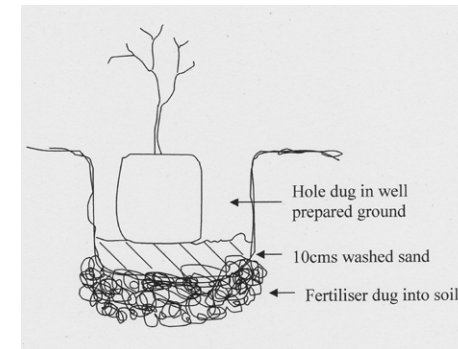
water. I needed to develop a planting technique that replicated this high air-filled-porosity in the garden.

So I then decided to create an area of PERFECT drainage around each touchy grevillea before planting. I did this by digging out the hole deeper and wider than usual, blending fertiliser into the base, and then placing about 10cm of coarse washed river sand into the base of the hole. The grevillea is then placed onto this, and the entire hole is then backfilled with more washed river sand, before mulching with either the same sand or gravel.

I started trialling this technique two years ago when we had record summer rains. Since then I have successfully grown a large range of grevillea species including a number of forms of *Grevillea leptobotrys*, *G. petrophiloides*, *G. obtecta* and many more.

I have also tested the technique on many other touchy plants with similar success. I now have growing successfully in my garden notoriously difficult species such as *Lechenaultia biloba*, *L. formosa*, *Hibbertia stellaris*, *Crocea saligna*, *Pimelia spectabilis* and many others.

I have also used this technique with great success in a number of commercial landscape jobs I have had.



So if you are keen to grow some of our most beautiful but touchy grevilleas I suggest you give this technique a try.

Two words of warning however; the garden bed must be thoroughly prepared so the soil is free-draining and the holes do not form “sumps” when it rains. Also, as the plants are sitting in a large pool of coarse open sand, they will dry out rapidly prior to establishment, so will need regular watering until they get their roots down through the gravel and into the subsoil. They are then usually able to grow on with little further watering needed.

The amazing thing is that when heavy rains do again fall, as happened with us again last summer, the plants not only survive but thrive, as their main root-ball is in the gravel which maintains extremely high air-filled porosity, which is essential to prevent root rot.

This article first appeared in the Grevillea Study Group Newsletter No. 95 June 2013.

Wednesday Walking

The best thing about retirement



Photo of Jean Geue by Di Mortimer, 2012-11-28

Words and photos by Jean Geue

Rambling in diverse bushland and discovering how natural ecosystems work is the great advantage of being retired and living in Canberra. It's not called the *Bush Capital* for nothing. There's surprisingly diverse bushland both within the city and two or three hours' drive away. And, our native plant identification walking group knows just where to find the special places. When I joined the group after retiring in October 1997, I was amazed to find how many species they recognised, even when there was nothing in flower. It was also a thrill to see species whose names I'd typed and indexed for *Our Patch*, a local parkcare field guide.

We walk almost every Wednesday — only stopping if it's over 33 degrees, pouring rain, wet, slippery, roaring gales or that lazy time between Christmas and New Year. Sometimes we are home by 2.30pm and sometimes not till 6pm. We always have morning tea and lunch and mostly take them in our backpacks. It's a great friendly group varying from fourteen to twenty-eight with core regulars and others who join occasionally. Email makes it possible to decide locations a week ahead and for irregular walkers to join when they can. We carpool in our suburbs and again at the meeting spot. Ros Cornish does an absolutely marvellous job with timely emails on where we are going, what sort



Lunch break, Cypress Pines, Mt Tennant, 2000-09-06



Yerrabi walk, 2005-02-09



CornTrail, 1998-10-14



Tinderries, 1998-12-16



MtJerrabombera, 2001-08-22



Orroral Ridge, 2005-08-03



Kowen Travelling Stock Route, 2000-10-25

of roads, how difficult the walk may be and what we saw last walk. Our Christmas party is in January or February to avoid hectic Decembers.

Canberra sits in a beautiful valley in iconic country west of the Great Divide. It is the only city in sympathy with the colours and ambience of the Australian bush. This year's centenary has made much of our heritage from Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin who designed a *city like no other*, who were passionate about Australian landscapes and our unique native vegetation and who kept the Canberra hills free of buildings.

Charles Weston read the riot act to stop clearing the hills, started the urban forest and Lindsay Pryor continued. National Capital Development Authority (Menzies era to self-government) followed suit and protected the values of our bush-clad hills. They even put gravity-feed water tanks on the lower slopes which makes it expensive to build higher. Since self-government, *hills, ridges and buffers* have been *designated* as being of *national significance*. However, *d e v e l o p m e n t* pressure is threatening green spaces, the Griffin vistas and our glorious winter sun.

The 1910's surveyors planned the ACT border on the catchment line to provide adequate water for the nation's capital. National Parks Association campaigned for a 'national park for the national capital' and politician Tom Uren made Namadgi a national park. Twenty-four years of parkcare weed removal has uncovered surprising biodiversity in our Canberra bushlands. ANPS plant identification activities make a valuable contribution to this heritage. We have an awesome natural heritage to uphold as we understand it more fully during Canberra's centenary.

Learning to recognise plants is the first step in appreciating the incredible diversity in Australia's unique flora. We need to name plants so we recognise enough species to understand the diversity. We need diversity to cope with drought and flooding rains — and climate change.

Many species have their own preferred niche and occur in seemingly landscaped patches. My key interest is seeing how the vegetation mix differs from place to place and from season to season. I'm not very scientific about it — I think I use visual recognition rather than keying leaves, buds and flowers. It's strange that I ended up so passionate about the bush and native plants. Perhaps it was my Great Aunt Jean who used to take me walking in the bush around Castlemaine, Victoria when I was a child. Perhaps it was the little Betty Maloney/Jean Walker bush garden books in the mid-1960s.

Wednesday Walkers' group knowledge is just fantastic. It's surprising how many species we find with many spotters, experienced and



South Forest Way, 2009-02-25



Two Sticks Rd, Mt Coree, 2011-03-02



Kowen Travelling Stock Reserve, 2008-01-23



Pomaderris at Tallanganda, 2005-10-05



Krawaree Road, 2007-10-31



Mt Stromlo, 1998-09-16

novice, all happy to look. It's surprising how much we learn from each other. And it is fun. Jo Walker and Merren Sloane are the most knowledgeable of the original walkers who are still walking. Jo is passionate about pomaderris so we have to find at least one for her each walk, hopefully a new location for a rare species.

Merren is a grass enthusiast who has come to grips with this most esoteric of botanic identification. Barbara Daly seems set to keep going even when she reaches 100. Roger Farrow finds new places to walk and sometimes leads us astray. Our walkers have a strange capacity to strike out through unpathed bushland, but not get lost.



Grassy Creek, 2006-02-08



Molonglo Gorge, 2005-03-30

The real leader is Ros Cornish who has developed fantastic identification skills in the last eighteen years. She's a low-key leader who quietly and effectively keeps a mob of Brown's cows on an even keel. Her plant lists started in 1996 when she was learning but have exploded into an invaluable resource about what occurs where in nature reserves, national parks, private

properties and travelling stock reserves within two or three hours' drive of Canberra. People like Roger Farrow, Graeme Kruse, Martin Butterfield, Lucinda Royston and myself contribute photos for the weekly plant lists. The recent reloading of the lists on the ANPS Canberra website has made this information considerably more accessible. [footnote ANPS Canberra Journal June 2013]



Xmas, 1999-01-13



Tinderries, 2009-12-02



Tinderries, 1998-12-16



Mt Taylor, 2009-10-21



Black Mountain Mist, 2000-06-07



Black Mountain, 2009-09-16



Booroomba Rocks, 2009-11-04



Tinderries-Burra, 2000-07-12

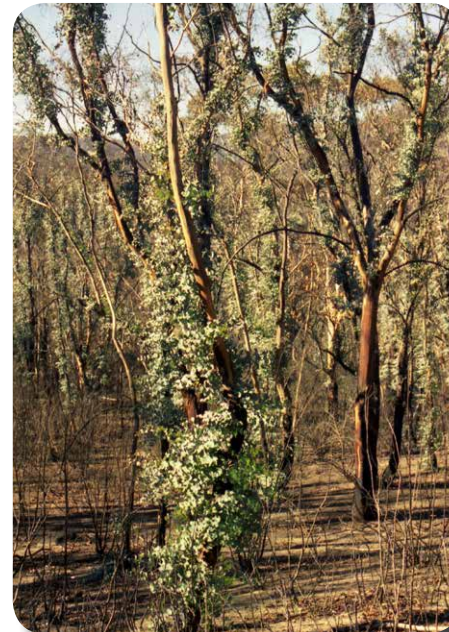


Cypress Pines, 2003-08-20

The January 2003 firestorm placed a different complexion on Wednesday Walking. We were locked out of the national park and most city nature reserves for months. There's a love/hate issue: fascination with the how, what and with the miracle of regeneration plus sorrow that patches will not recover in our lifetime. Tree trunks and soil were black with great holes where tree and grass roots were burnt.

The post-fire spring wildflower displays were incredible with a completely different mix of species. I remember the snowlike cover of *Stellaria pungens* in the Brindabellas and a pink cloud of *Stylidium*, trigger plants on the road to Bulls Head.

The gums were dancing ladies with juvenile silver and red-tipped epicormic growth along the trunks and from the roots. The next December, the eucalypts had mature leaves along the trunk as well as the juvenile ones — strange to see completely different leaves on the same tree. Regeneration and flowering in the mountains has been different each year. We have seen how *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, Snow Gums had silver grey trunks and strong growth from the roots while *E. delegatensis*, Alpine Ash were stands of dead grey trunks. It's fascinating to see the resilience of our Australian bush in action. [ANPS Canberra Journal Sept 2009, March 2010]



BoboyanLoop, 2003-08-16



Camelback, 2005-09-14

We had a big win in March 2004 in finding *Dampiera fusca*, a new plant species for the ACT in Booroomba Rocks, a popular area that had been surveyed for decades. We found lots of plants in a heavily burnt, rocky area high in Namadgi National Park. Flowering peaked in the following years and then other species took over. The same post-fire explosion of *Dampiera* was repeated in the Tinderries recently and the collection story featured on ABC TV. [ANPS Canberra Journal March 2005, Sept & Dec 2007, March 2010]

My most ambitious walk was down the Corn Trail which takes one

down the Clyde Mountain to the NSW South Coast — very steep and long. I did bite off more than I should chew — but persevered (with encouragement) and got to the bottom. I then got proper walking boots. When I had my knees done I set criteria to be able to sit on the ground for lunch and negotiate barbed wire fences and thigh-high slip-throughs. I still carry a three-corner stool, but can sit if needed and am fit enough to climb the steep Booroomba Rocks walking track with its thousands of bush steps up and then down. My photos show challenging fences, logs, streams, steps, rocks and dense scrub with many happy lunch spots.



Lake George Escarpment, 2000-04-19



Corn Trail, 1998-03-18



Molonglo Gorge, 2002-04-10



Orroral Valley, 1998-05-16



Mt Aggie, 1999-01-27



Mulligans Flat, 2009-08-19



Booroomba Rocks, 2004-05-15



Corn Trail, 2011-03-16



Corn Trail, 2011-03-16

Walking in diverse bushland with good company allows quiet times for peace and contemplation that are so critical for health and wellbeing of our people. Surely, this is a critical asset for thinking people in Canberra's intellectual, well-educated society. We must ensure that the green space heritage from the early planners is retained for future generations.



Mt Aggie, 1999-01-27



Lake George Escarpment, 2000-04-19

Propagation Tips

By Jan Simpson

Astroloma humifusum

This almost prostrate plant does well in Canberra. Cuttings are difficult to get, as the plant is slow growing and much branched. Consequently it is not often for sale.

The plant belongs to the Epacridaceae family which all do well with Esi-root™ at 5ml of concentrated hormone mixed with 200ml of water. The best material is just below the tips. If the tips wilt, cut them off. This may leave you with a very short cutting. If so, put them in shallow punnets so their tips are close to the bottom heat in a hot bed. Keep them there for six to eight weeks, or longer in cool months. Give them about a month to harden off to make sure you have plenty of roots before potting on. Take great care when potting up as the roots are very brittle. Too much firming down of the soil will leave you with only a cutting.

***Philothea myoporoides*, *Philothea buxifolia*, *Philothea verrucosa* & cultivars**

These are part of the Rutaceae family and **need IBA/NAA hormone**. This can most handily be bought from Taskmaster in Baillieu Court, Mitchell, under the name Esi-Root™.

Use 5ml of concentrate in 200ml of water. Refrigerate both concentrated and diluted hormones.

Philothea cuttings appear to root best from November to February, ie in hot weather in a hotbed. ANPS has had very few successes at other times. The age of the cutting wood has a lot to do with the quality and number of roots as well as the speed of rooting. Softish hardwood cuttings take ages to strike, but do not rot while SOFT tip cuttings tend to rot. Out-of-season successes have all been of the slightly-past-soft-tips stage, when late summer rains produced a growth spurt. Take a cutting with SOFT tip at one end and a bit of last season's wood at the bottom. Trim off soft tip and recut the base just above last season's wood. Should be perfect.

Grevillea robusta info request

Dear ANPS Canberra Folks:

I am a geographer/researcher in the US at the Smithsonian Institution. My work in bird habitat has taken me into the agricultural realm, where we've seen coffee grown beneath shade trees providing quality habitat for some bird species. In Central America and in India, one species stands out: *Grevillea robusta*.

In Guatemala, this tree is very common as a shade cover in certain coffee regions. My

question is for one of your chapters/members who hopefully can provide me with some insight as to when *Grevillea robusta* was first taken from Australia to coffee regions around the world (esp Guatemala), and who was responsible for the introduction.

If you can provide me with names and contact emails or phone numbers, I can contact whomever might be of help. Thank you very much for any assistance on this.

Regards, Robert Rice ricer@si.edu

Study Group Notes

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

Leaders have been busy producing newsletters. Here are a few notes from each.

Dryandra Study Group Newsletter No. 65 July 2013

There are articles on:

- Revision of *Dryandra mucronulata*
- *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix*
- *D. meganotia* ssp. *recurvistylis* — a new *Dryandra*
- *Dryandra*s at Tresco Abbey Garden in the Isles of Scilly
- News from Margaret Pieroni's Denmark garden
- Summer-flowering *Dryandra*s

Acacia Study Group Newsletter No. 121 June 2013

- Proposed field trip near Chinchilla, Qld 16, 17, 18 August 2014
- Letters from members
- Centenary Wattle Chats — On 5 September, Canberra at ANBG 12.30–1.30pm, Dr Joe Miller — “Wattle Gold”. Recent research into the evolution of the *Acacia*.
- Michael McCuaig reports on *A. decora* root nodules displaying rather interesting formation on his *acacia* seedlings.
- Description of *A. johnsonii*

- Report on the Seed Bank and the procedure for requesting seed

Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No. 106 June 2013

- Field trip 14–15 September at Ken Warnes' and Bev Rice's properties, North of Adelaide
- Common Names and Those Pesky Emus — misuse of plant label and on the subject of emus, inhibitors and germination problems.
- Letters from members

Grevillea Study Group Newsletter No. 95 June 2013

- Field trip report through SE Qld and northern NSW 7–10 November 2012
- Report on *Grevillea* Study Group meeting on 24 February 2013
- Taxonomy — The nucleotide genetic code in protein biosynthesis
- Description of *Grevillea pteridifolia*
- List of *grevilleas* grown at Mt Clunie
- Seed Bank List
- How to grow touchy *grevilleas*

Hibiscus and Related Genera Study Group Newsletter 28 and 29 March 2013

- Alex Nelson writes about *Radyera farageii*, River Hibiscus. Concerns for its gradual disappearance
- Hibiscus and Paper — papermaking using hibiscus

- *Brachychiton bidwillii* in SE Qld and other species
- More on the River Hibiscus
- *Hibiscus heterophyllus* is being destroyed or damaged in SE Qld
- Hibiscus cultivars 'Wirruna' and 'Pink Ice' are discussed
- The Chef's Cap — July 2013
- Ryan Harris gives insights into Cranbourne Botanic Gardens
- The Friends obtained a grant of \$370,000 from the Federal Government's Biodiversity Fund, for a regional Seed Bank.
- Garden News — a very active volunteer group with many projects completed and in the pipeline
- The Common and Less Common Birds of ERBG
- Report on a visit to Monga National Park

Australian Plants Society SE NSW Group Newsletter No. 96 May 2013

- Description of *Bauera rubioides*
- Bournda Environmental Education Centre meeting
- Leigh Murray writes about her gardens at Queanbeyan and Tuross.
- Bob Ross discusses Imlay Mallee — a critically endangered tree.

Waratah and Flannel Flower Group No. 5 May 2013

- Palm Scale on Waratahs
- *Actinotus leucocephalus* description, habitat and cultivation
- *Actinotus helianthi* as Cut Flowers
- Flannels as Pot Plants
- *Telopea mongaensis* description, habitat and cultivation

Garden Design Study Group Newsletter May 2013

- Garden Records — lists significant gardens with a predominance of Australian plants. This list is on the GSDG website.
- Encouragement of members to record the evolution of their gardens
- Visit to Malcolm and Monika Freake's garden in Gisborne South
- Field trip 9–10 November 2013 to Blayney/Bathurst NSW
- Garden visit reports

Fern Study Group Newsletter No. 128

- Request for articles/article, suggestions for the Australian Plants edition on ferns
- Field trip 14–18 October 2013 — Bunya Mountains
- Sydney area meeting reports
- SE Qld meeting reports
- Changes to Australian fern taxonomy
- Spore list June 2013



Swainsona formosa; Drawing by Lesley Page

Australian Native Plants Society, Canberra Region Inc.

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

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

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

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

Website: nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Membership Fees

Single or family memberships are the same price.

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

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

Life member subscribing to Australian Plants — \$15

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

Membership Secretary: Masumi Robertson 6251 6525
membership@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Council

President

Ben Walcott
10 Wickham Cres,
Red Hill ACT 2603
02 6161 2742
president@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au
bwalcott@netspeed.com.au

Vice President

Neville Page
66 Valley View Lane
Wamboin NSW 2620
02 6238 1766
nevpage@bigpond.com

Secretary

Ian Tranter
29 Kensella St
Queanbeyan NSW 2620
02 6284 3547
secretary@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Treasurer

Masumi Robertson
02 6251 6525
treasurer@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au
alison.roach@anao.gov.au

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Vacant
j.mrobertson@bigpond.com

Other Council Members

Paul Carmen
Box 6094, Mawson ACT 2607
0447 603 309
bulletin@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au
Julie Lindner
PO Box 7015
Farrer ACT 2607
02 6286 4730
julil@smartchat.net.au
Fran Middleton
46 Rowntree Crescent
Isaacs ACT 2607
02 6286 5424
fragrant@ozemail.com.au

Lesley Page
66 Valley View Lane
Wamboin NSW 2620
02 6238 1766
lespage@bigpond.com

Alison Roach
6 Temora Place
Queanbeyan NSW 2620
0401 669 878
alison.roach@anao.gov.au

Other useful contacts

Bulletin Editor

Paul Carmen
Box 6094, Mawson ACT 2607
0447 603 309
bulletin@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Study Group Liaison Officer

Lesley Page
lespage@bigpond.com

Propagation aid sales

Glenn Pure
66 Crozier Circuit
Kambah ACT 2902
02 6231 6457

Public Officer

(for Associations Incorporation Act purposes)
Paul Meier
7 Robert Lewis Crescent
Gordon ACT 2906
6294 6601 (h)

All Society correspondence to

The Secretary
ANPS Canberra Region (Inc)
PO Box 217
Civic Square ACT 2608

Back cover: Big Hole, 2005-01-19, Photo: Jean Geue

