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Cover: Coccinella transversalis Isopogon anemonifolius Asgard Tr; 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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March journal temporary Editor

Gail Ritchie Knight does a great job of editing the journal every quarter. However, she has unexpectedly been called away and the March journal has been edited by temporary fill-in Editor Alison Milton.

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Acacia siculiformis Mologo Gorge; Photo: Roger Farrow

You will find a new name on the Wednesday Walks reports for the journal to replace our long term leader of walks, Ros Cornish, who is moving to greener bushland on the central coast. She will be greatly missed by our group not only for her expertise in plant identification but for choosing a range of interesting walks each week compiling the plant list and maintaining the web site and in fact being quite irreplaceable.

Following a wet winter the native wildflowers put on a sensational display this spring and we ran out of time to visit all the local botanic hotspots but we did have an emphasis on new areas including Lake Bathurst, Rowes Lagoon and the Old Wool Trail at Nerriga. Also

for this period no walks were cancelled because of inclement weather although we came close, e.g. Mt Clear.

McQuoids Hill, Kambah, 16 September

It was perfect weather for my first spring walk around and over McQuoids Hill at Kambah. From the distance the dried remains of St John's Wort seem to dominate much of the hillside and summit area but we soon found that native vegetation is holding its own against the weeds in many parts of the hill.

We did an anti-clockwise circuit and were soon encountering early Nancy *Wurmbea dioica* and checking the sexuality of the plants. Other plants on

this slope included *Cassinia longifolia*, *Lomandra bracteata* with its basal flowers (new to the list) and the fern *Cheilanthes distans*, but many plants were still at a pre-flowering stage like *Daucus glochidiatus* (also not listed).



Lomandra bracteata McQuoids Hill; Photo: Roger Farrow

There were some magnificent yellow box to be seen and other yellows were from some exotic wattles, *Acacia decurrens*, *A. baileyana* and *A. vestita*.



Clematis leptophylla McQuoids Hill; Photo: Roger Farrow

After morning tea on the granite boulders we continued counter-clockwise to a boulder field attracted by two spectacular clumps of *Clematis leptophylla* (formerly *C. microphylla*) in flower, a male and a female plant fortuitously.

Also present in flower there were Solanum cinereum, Hardenbergia violacea, Glycine clandestina and some shrubby Acacia melanoxylon. We crossed a large patch of Chrysocephalum semipapposum that was holding its own against the wort.



Solanum cinereum McQuoids Hill; Photo: Roger Farrow

The scrub was much thicker on the western side, mostly *Bursaria*, and we descended by kangaroo trails, but we found a clearing with some large patches of emerging *Bulbine bulbosa*, a spectacular clump of *Cymbonotus lawsonianus* in flower and, at last, a single *Indigofera australis* as well as *Melichrus urceolatus* in flower and fruit.

The best was probably to be seen as we emerged into a wet *Themeda* grassland on our return along the main track, namely, *Stackhousia monogyna*, *Drosera*

sp (new), Cryptandra amara and Asperula conferta, as well as a curious specimen of a Dodonaea, possibly a garden escape or hybrid, although we never encountered the Pomaderris pallida as there is much more to be covered in this extensive nature park.



Cymbonotus preissianus McQuoids Hill; Photo: Roger Farrow



Stackhousia monogyna McQuoids Hill; Photo: Roger Farrow

Molonglo Gorge Queanbeyan, 23 September

As far as I can ascertain this is our first visit to the Gorge in early spring so it's not surprising that we added so many plants to the list as well as recognising many listed plants. Our last visit was in March 2005, 10 years ago. The most interesting plant seen was a conspicuous, mauve-flowered species that appeared to be a *Cardamine*, probably *C. lilacina*, that I have only seen in alpine areas, but it is on the ACT Census.



Cardamine lilacina Molonglo Gorge; Photo: Roger Farrow

It was wattle time in the Gorge with Acacia rubida dominating but we also found A. siculiformis that we rarely see in flower because of timing. Other plants in flower included Craspedia variabilis, Cryptandra amara, Dodonaea viscosa ssp angustissima, Exocarpos strictus, Hardenbergia violacea, Hovea heterophylla, Leucopogon fletcheri, Pim elea liniifolia, Phebalium squamulosum ssp ozothamnoides and Pultenaea microphylla.



Hovea heterophylla Molonglo Gorge; Photo: Roger Farrow



Leucopogon fletcheri Molonglo Gorge; Photo: Roger Farrow

Among orchids we found *Pterostylis* nutans and *Petalochilus* fuscatus(?) in flower and some clumps of heart-shaped leaves, probably belonging to the Gnat Orchid, appropriately named *Cyrtostylis* reniformis.

We also saw three species of *Pomaderris:- P. angustifolia, P. andromedifolia* ssp. *confusa,* and *P. eriocephala.* Other plants

of note were *Rhodanthe anthemoides* and *Brachyscome diversifolia*, both about to flower (the latter not previously recorded) and *Pimelea curviflora* var *acuta*. The views of the Gorge with its rapids and falls and the eroded rocks added a special dimension to the walk as well as the passing country line train.



Pterostylis nutans Molonglo Gorge; Photo: Roger Farrow

Farrer Ridge, 3 September

Thanks to Julie for leading such an interesting walk around Farrer Ridge and seeing the recovery from the bush fire. In the burnt area the blue flowers of the Stypandra, pink of the Indigofera and white of the Stackhousia and Pimelea were exceptional. Undoubtedly, the release of nutrients from the fire contributed to the large size and number of flowers. In time this area will also be a picture of bush pea flowers, Dilwynnia sericea and Pultenaea procumbens, whose seedlings were growing everywhere. Patches of a smallflowered *Microseris lanceolata* were also seen next to the morning tea spot.



Stypandra glauca Farrer Ridge; Photo:



Indigofera australis Farrer Ridge; Photo: Roger Farrow



Microseris lanceolata Farrer Ridge; Photo: Roger Farrow



Pimelea linifolia Farrer Ridge; Photo: Roger Farrow

Away from the burnt area, there were extensive patches of *Leucopogon attenuatus* and *L. fletcheri* at the end of their flowering. Julie located the colony of *Caladenia (Arachnorchis) tentaculata* that were at the bud stage and then a species not on the list, namely *Pelargonium australe*, a clump of *Leucopogon virgatus* in full flower and a patch of *Indigofera adesmiifolia* in bud.

The southern end of the ridge opens out into a series of open wet drainage lines, dominated by *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Calotis anthemoides*, *Craspedia variabilis*, and *Drosera peltata*, where we stopped for lunch on a boulder pile. Here we also located a single *Thelymitra* in bud and a small *Hymenochilus muticus*.



Drosera peltata Farrer Ridge; Photo: Roger Farrow

We recorded all seven species of listed eucalypts and noted the urn-shaped buds of *E. goniocalyx*, plus the 8 species of *Acacia*, with a good display from *A. ulicifolia*.

Willow Glen Road and Nadgigomar West Nature Reserve, 7 October

We decided to travel via Willow Glen Road first to see the *Pomaderris* display and although past their best, the array was quite spectacular with *P. lanigera*, *P. andromedifolia*, *P. ledifolia* and *P. elliptica*. *Acacia brownii*, *Hibbertia* sp, *Leionema diosmeum*, *Patersonia sericea* and *Philotheca salsolifolia* were also flowering well here. We also stopped further along the road where more flowers caught our eye and added a large

number of extra species to the list such as *Daviesia acicularis*, a *Daviesia* similar to *acicularis* that needs to be identified, *Drosera peltata*, *Hibbertia* sp., *Hybanthus monopetalus*, *Leucopogon virgatus*, *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Mirbelia platylobioide*, *Phyllanthus* sp., *Rhytidosporum procumbens* and several others.



Pomaderris elliptica Willow Glen Road; Photo: Roger Farrow



Patersonia sericea Willow Glen Road; Photo: Roger Farrow

After morning tea we drove to the gate leading to the central fire trail of Nadgigomar West Nature Reserve. This area was subject to a control burn two years ago resulting in a resurgence and spectacular flower display of herbacious

plants notably *Philotheca salsolifolia, Leionema diosmeum* and *Stackhousia monogyna*.



Leionema diosmeum Willow Glen Road; Photo: Roger Farrow

We also recorded Aotus ericoides. Conspermum taxifolium. Cryptandra amara, Dampiera stricta, Daviesia acicularis, several species of Hibbertia, Lomandra filiformis, and Tetratheca ericifolia in flower, among others. We also saw an unusual yellow pea, possibly a species of Pultenaea and yet to be identified.



Dampiera stricta Nadgigomar NR W FT; Photo: Roger Farrow



Conspermum taxifolium Nadgigomar NR W FT Photo: Roger Farrow



Lomandra filiformis ssp *coriacea* Nadgigomar NR W FT; Photo: Roger Farrow

orchids Among the were large numbers of a small dark Diuris, possibly D. maculata, a scentless Caladenia (Stegostyla) sp., a Caladenia (Petalochilus) fuscata and some closed Thelymitra sp. We reached the 'T' junction joining the central fire-trail where we were able to compare the appearance of an area of unburnt vegetation. The composite plant list for this reserve is quite large and we only recorded less than half the known species.

Moreton National Park, Nerriga Road 14 October

Our first stop was at the top of the Pagodas and what a difference a month earlier makes from our last visit in November 2014 and instead of a short stroll we spent 2 hours finding many new plants and exploring a new track through the sandstone. Next to the sandstone cliff there was a great display from the prostrate purple Mirbelia rubiifolia, and from Epacris microphylla, Dampiera stricta, Philotheca scabra subsp latifolia, Hakea dactyloides, Isopogon anethifolius, Xanthosia pilosa and Grevillea patulifolia as well as scattered plants of Goodenia heterophylla, Stackhousia nuda and some difficult peas. Allocasuarina distyla with its large pointed cones was also noted.



Mirbelia rubiifolia Moreton National Park; Photo: Roger Farrow

We climbed onto the rock shelves dominated by *Calytrix tetragona*, *Grevillea baueri* ssp *asperula*, and followed a new track where Martin discovered a very rare orchid, *Caladenia* (*Stegostyla*) *transitoria* characterised by its greenish hue (see Alan Stephenson's orchid book) as well as a *Calochilus* sp.



Caladenia transitoria Moreton National Park; Photo: Roger Farrow



Calochilus sp Moreton National Park; Photo: Roger Farrow

We continued down this track to find three species of Lomandra, Leucopogon juniperinum and a new yellow-flowered Drosera, D. glanduligera as well as D. pygmaeum and D. spatulata. We decided that this track (the old wool trail?) would be worth exploring further on a future visit. On our return through the woodland we found Boronia algida, Astroloma pinifolium,

Hybanthus monopetalus, and on the old road, Comesperma ericinum and Olearia viscidula.



Boronia anethifolia Moreton National Park; Photo: Roger Farrow



Drosera glanduligera Moreton National Park; Photo: Roger Farrow

Then we moved to Tianjara Falls where the car park loop provided some gems such as *Calochilus campestris*, *Sphaerolobium vimineum*, *Viminea juncea* (the same bush as last year), *Mirbelea rubiifolia*, *Dampiera stricta*, *Burchardia umbellata*, the leafless *Daviesia alata*, *Hibbertia* sp, *Grevillea patulifolia* and a large *Grevillea aspleniifolia* (how we missed this on our last visit is surprising).



Grevillea aspleniifolia Moreton National Park; Photo: Roger Farrow



Daviesia alata Moreton National Park; Photo: Roger Farrow

Out on the cliffs we saw the usual patches of flannel flowers, Actinotus helianthi, many Mitrasacme polymorpha, Ziera sp, Boronia anethifolia, Poranthera ericifolia, Chloanthes stoechadis, Scaevola ramosissima, Olax stricta, Amperea xiphoclada, and Melaleuca capitata and nearer the lookout, the leafless Bossiaea ensata and Kunzea capitata.

Back down the Nerriga Road beyond Sassafras we stopped to see the *Darwinia taxifolia* but did not list the other plants because of time constraints. Next was the power line stop near the Pagodas

on a sandstone escarpment where we found the spectacular *Conospermum taxifolium*, *Dillwynnia floribunda?*, a very large flowered form of *Leptospermum rotundifolium*, and *Epacris calvertiana* growing on cliffs. Finally on the grassland roadside reserve east of Tarago we checked out the *Diuris* aff *behrii* that were flowering well.



Kunzea capitata Moreton National Park; Photo: Roger Farrow

Barracks Flat Reserve, Queanbeyan, 21 October

The rain held off today while we had another flower-studded walk in the Barracks Creek catchment near the Old Cooma Road. I had been watching the burst of flowering peas and other plants on our drives into Queanbeyan and we almost missed them as the hot weather in the previous week took its toll.

We started from the Edwin Land parkway end and walked up parallel to the road through the open woodland and shrubbery across a tributary of Barracks Creek to the ridge line bordering the Knowles property. We then returned via the Barracks Creek valley fire trail with some of us descending to the actual creek line where we followed a convenient bike track.

The understory of flowering shrubs was quite spectacular although the *Pultenaea microphylla* was finishing but there was plenty of colour from the *P. procumbens* and *Dilwynnia sericea*, and from *Brachyloma daphnoides* and *Leucopogon virgata*. As well, there were large areas of *Veronica perfoliata*, while the *Leucopogon fletcheri*, *Lissanthe strigosa* and two species of *Cryptandra* had largely finished flowering.



Dilwynnia sericea Barracks Flat Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow

Among the herbacious plants or forbs there were eye-catching clumps of *Scleranthus diander* and *Poranthera microphylla* (not on the composite list), a few *Stylidium graminifolium* and the pungent sticky form of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* as well as four species of *Lomandra*, most in flower.



Scleranthus diander Barracks Flat Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow



Lomandra multiflora Barracks Flat Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow

In a damp seepage patch near the morning tea spot we saw *Geum urbanum*, *Asperula conferta* and *Ranunculus lappaceus*. While in the rocky area around the creek nearby, there were clumps of *Bulbine glauca*, *Microseris lanceolata*, *Stackhousia monogyna* and *Veliaea paradoxa*.

Throughout the walk there were several orchids in flower including *Diuris* pardina, *D. sulphurea* and *D. sp* as well as a greenhood *Hymenochilus muticus*, a *Thelymitra* in bud and a spider orchid probably *Caladenia* (*Arachnorchis*) tentaculata.



Diuris sulphurea Barracks Flat Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow



Poranthera microphylla Barracks Flat Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow



Caladenia atrovespa Barracks Flat Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow

Along the actual creek was a dense thicket of *Pomaderris eriocephala*, with encroaching blackberry. I have not mentioned the many species of forb, grass, shrub and tree that were not in flower but will be on the list.

Thanks to Kris for compiling the day's plant list.

Lake Bathurst and Duck Flat TSR, Targo Road, 28 October

A century ago the Edwardians used to travel by train to Lake Bathurst where there was a special siding (the platform is still there) and engage in boating and picnicking activities for the day. The last time the Lake was full was probably in the 1970s. Now the clay and gravel pans of the dry lake bed are known for their endemic plants although they are fighting a battle with invading serrated tussock.

We walked along the southern shore of the lake through the clay and gravel pans and the protruding granite rises. The dominant plant of the pans is the prostrate *Wilsonia rotundifolia* and there was a spectacular massed display of

Wilsonia rotundifolia Lake Bathurst Photo: Roger Farrow

cream-coloured flowers. This plant is in the Purslane family, Portulacaceae, and is on the endangered list because of its rare occurrence in lake beds of southern Australia. It is abundant at Lake Bathurst and Lake George where it could be a clonal species and it survives long periods of inundation.

Also found on the pans is *Sellieria* radicans a prostrate succulent member of the Goodeniaceae but it was not flowering. The rocky rises were home to another endangered species the Omeo Storksbill, *Pelargonium* sp GW Carr 10345 that occurs in three other locations in NSW around ephemeral lakes in the Monaro, but we saw high levels of recruitment at Lake Bathurst.



Pelargonium sp GW Carr 10345 Lake Bathurst Photo: Roger Farrow

The rarest plant we saw was Lawrencia spicata that is restricted to Lake Bathurst in NSW where about 100 plants exist, but it is known from salt pans in the other southern states. It belongs to the Malvaceae family and flowers in summer. The last endangered species seen was a familiar one to us Dodonaea procumbens

that occurs on a few gravel rises and was in flower.



Dodonaea procumbens F Lake Bathurst Photo: Roger Farrow



Lawrencia spicata Roger Farrow

There were several other plants that were new to us, namely the yellow tendrils of a dodder, *Cuscuta tasmanica*, a furry *Dichondra* species A, a tiny endemic shining sedge, *Schoenus nitens*, for which Lake Bathurst is the only inland location, a larger sedge, *Carex bichenoviana*; an unidentified dwarf buttercup, *Ranunculus diminutus*; and a small *Convolvulus*, *C. graminetinus*.



Cuscuta tasmanica Lake Bathurst Photo: Roger Farrow



Ranunculus diminutus Lake Bathurst Photo: Roger Farrow

We also saw 3 species of *Vittadenia*, the tiny *Isotoepsis graminiflolia*. We recorded over 30 species not including some of the grasses.

After lunch we moved to the Duck Flat TSRs (1 & 2 of 24 ha) on the Bungendore-Tarago road. This TSR is part of the 'Grassy Box Woodlands Conservation Management Network' because of the presence of the endangered Black Gum, *E. aggregata* that is found along the creek line in the middle of the TSR2. We last visited in December 2004. The understory is dominated by tussock

grasses, notably *Themeda triandra* that is very dominant. The dominant flowers are common buttercup *Ranunculus lappaceus* but we also saw a dark blue *Ajuga australis* and we added a considerable number of new plants but nothing out of the ordinary except for what is possibly a hybrid eucalypt whose progeny have very reddish foliage.

Rowes Lagoon, Collector, 4 November

We walked out onto the bed of the lagoon where the waterline was about 50 m from the boundary fence. We soon found the signature species of the site, *Commersonia (Rulingia) prostrata*, which was in flower.



Lobelia fluviatilis Rowes Lagoon; Photo: Roger Farrow

Two species of Ranunculus, R. diminutus and R. inundatus, (the latter with fernlike leaves), were observed on the bed, and in the damper part, a good display of Utricularia australis. In an even damper part there were many leaves of Nymphoides montana, with a few flowers. Other plants seen were Lobelia (Isotoma) fluviatilis (in flower), Myriophyllum sp., a carpet of Centella asiatica and Selliera radicans, a daisy Triptilodiscus pygmaeus and an array of sedge- like

plants including *Lepidosperma australis*, *Triglochin* sp., *Schoenus apogon* and *Carex appressa*. A rather fleshy leafed plant with yellow Cotula-like flowers (Asteraceae) was later identified as water buttons, *C. coronopifolia*, unfortunately an exotic from southern Africa.



Ranunculus inundatus Rowes Lagoon; Photo: Roger Farrow



Triptilodiscus pygmaeus Rowes Lagoon; Photo: Roger Farrow

After morning tea we moved away from the lagoon on to the surrounding hillside, well covered with beautiful old eucalypts including many specimens of *E. rossii, E. bridgesiana, E. dives and E. pauciflora.* The peppermint was close

to finished flowering but the Snow Gum was in full blossom. Smaller numbers of *E. melliodora* and *E. rubida* were also found. On one tree, an *E. rossii*, we found two different adjacent mistletoes, *Amyema pendula* and the much rarer *Muellerina eucalyptoides*, characterised by its external runners.



Muellerina eucalyptoides Rowes Lagoon; Photo: Roger Farrow

The slopes were covered with a bed of Chrysocephalum apiculatum in full flower and the occasional Glycine tabacina plus a nice collection of lilies including Athropodium fimbriatum, Bulbine bulbosa and Thysanotus tuberosus. Grasses included Austrodanthonia carphoides, Austrostipa glabra and Microlaena stipoides.

We returned through the snow gum woodland to find carpets of buttercup,

Ranunculus lappaceous, more stands of Chrysocephalum apiculatum, as well as the occasional blue devil, Eryngium ovinum, the everlasting, Coronidium scorpioides, and a patch of Calotis anthemoides.

The only flowering orchid seen was a *Microtis unifolia*. Also puzzling us was an unusual Acacia in flower resembling *A. rubida*, possibly an escapee or hybrid derived from the acacias planted along the nearby highway.

We have added approximately 40 species of plants to the 120 on the ALA baselist for the site (of which we had seen 45 giving a total somewhere north of 80 species for the day).

Grassy Flat, Mt Clear, 11 November

Given the poor state of the weather, a sizeable group of hardy Wednesday Walkers assembled in drizzle at the Namadgi Visitor Centre. Having got this far most of us decided to press on. As the road climbed the range and turned to muddy gravel the drizzle turned to steady rain and thick cloud. Undeterred we pushed on but as we commenced the descent to Naas Creek the rain cleared and the cloud lifted and we could see the Grassy Flat ahead. And so it stayed for the rest of the day and our mission to achieve a circuit of the Grassy Creek valley was accomplished.

From the Mt Clear campground carpark we crossed a small ridge of snow gum and black sally woodland with an understorey of *Acrothamnus hookeri*. Also seen here were an array of cushions of *Scleranthus biflorus* and *S. diander* and

a low pea, possibly *Pultenaea capitellata*, as well as *Stackhousia monogyna*, *Poranthera microphylla* and a largeleafed *Senecio*, possibly *S. linearifolia* (flowers needed).

We descended to the grassland and crossed the Grassy Creek finding spectacular orange patches of the prostrate pea *Dillwynia prostrata*, and rosettes of the large flowered *Geranium*, *G. antrorsum* and a scattering of *Swainsona monticola*.



Geranium antrorsum Grassy Flats, Mt Clear; Photo: Roger Farrow

The shrubby heath of the *Dillwynia* and scattered *Mirbelia oxylobioides* and *Bossiaea foliosa* on the way to the fire trail yielded more gems including the orchids *Diuris monticola*, *Hymenochilus* sp., possibly *H. crassicaulis*, as well as dwarf *Pimelia longifolia* and *Calotis scabiosifolia* and several anchor plant, *Discaria pubescens*, in full flower, *Podolepis hieracioides* in bud and *Stylidium? montanum* rosettes.

We continued south along the fire trail passed a stand of Candle bark, *E. rubida*



Hymenochilus crassicaulis Grassy Flats, Mt Clear; Photo: Roger Farrow



Discaria pubescens Grassy Flats, Mt Clear; Photo: Roger Farrow

to a trackside embankment where I had previously seen Muehlenbeckia axillaris in 2006 and found it well marked with star pickets! The plants were in full flower and appeared to have spread since our last visit in 2006 when it was nearly wiped out by a bulldozer enlarging the track. The leaves were infected with numerous red galls. I took a small sample home and sliced the galls open under the microscope. The hollow interior revealed an infestation of tiny eriophyid mites too small to be photographed. These mites are elongate like a grain of rice, about 0.5 mm long with the legs bunched at the front end. For a picture consult the oracle. Not a new find as Dave Mallenson has recorded them and I found a report of the same from Muehlenbeckia in NZ. M. axillaris is not a common plant and only about six locations are known from the ACT including one at Googong.



Muehlenbeckia axillaris Grassy Flats, Mt Clear; Photo: Roger Farrow

Nearby we found a large spread of a prostrate *Cryptandra amara* and a *Bossiaea buxifolia* hanging down the embankment. In the adjacent woodland Daviesia ulicifolia was in flower.

After lunch, we found a crossing over the creek by watching where the kangaroos passed so no wet feet and we regrouped for photos at the remains of a stone cottage, just the fireplace remaining, before turning turned back north along the NPWS vehicle track. This eastward-facing slope is wetter with Lobelia (Pratia) pedunculata and many of the aforementioned plants but more Microseris aff. lanceolata and Senecio pinnatifolius were seen as well as a small stand of Leopard orchid, Diuris semilunulata, with its characteristic zig zag branching of the flower stems and a dwarf stinking hydrocotyl, Hydrocotyle laxiflora.

We then walked through the woodland leading to the road into the camping area and recorded Tetratheca bauerifolia. Brachyloma daphnoides, and scattered Stegostyla? moschata but no musky smell. Once on the road we found Oxylobium ellipticum standing out through the Mirbelia and a single Euphrasia collina diversicolor with violet-coloured flowers. We also checked out a large daisy with cascading flowers in tight buds, which possibly Ozothamnus conditus. Nearby were white sprays of a single Olearia lirata and a leafless Bossiaea, B. riparia. Throughout the day's walk a range of Senecio spp with 'closed' flowers proved difficult to id.

All in all another great day as we saw most plants of the existing list except for some of the grasses and added 27 new species (the difference between a spring and autumn walk).



We held three field trips between September and December starting with a visit to Goobang National Park in the Harvey Range east of Peak Hill. We followed this with a visit to the Blue Mountains National Park in October. There was no trip in November because of the ANPSA conference held in Canberra. In December we visited the Nimmo/Gungarlin region northwest of Berridale, including part of Kosciuszko National Park.

September: Goobang National Park

This park runs the length of the Harvey Range and marks the boundary between the western plains and the slopes. It contains forests, woodlands and heaths and supports a rich and varied flora including such rarities as *Pomaderris queenslandica*, *Prostanthera howelliae* and *Phebalium nottii*. It also has a very picturesque NPWS camping ground at Wanda Wandong where most of us stayed.



Prostanthera howelliae Goobang National Park



Pomaderris queenslandica Goobang National Park

^{*} Sprummer, the changeover season named by Tim Entwistle in his recent book on the 6 Australian seasons

Our first walk was a circuit along fire trails to the main ridge and back. Our first encounter was a display of a variety of orchids around the camp ground including Caladenia (Arachnorchis) denticulata, Petalochilus fuscatus, Hymenochilus muticus and a great show from Glossodia major.



Caladenia (Arachnorchis) denticulata; Goobang National Park

Several wattles were still blooming including Acacia spectabilis, brownii, aspera, decora and gladiformis. The walk provided an array of different colours from among the many shrubs in flower including Boronia glabra, Dampiera adpressa, Dilwynnia sieberi, Gompholobium virgatum, Leptospermum spp., Leucopogon spp., Phyllanthus hirtellus and Pultenaea cinerescens.



Pultenaea cinerescens; Goobang National Park



Dampiera adpressa; Goobang National Park



Acacia spectabilis Mudgee Wattle; Goobang National Park

The next day we drove to the Caloma lookout stopping en route to look at Boronia glabra, Westringia eremicola, Leucopogon muticus, Grevillea floribunda and finding a greenhood, Linguella clavigera. The heathland around the summit area is dominated by the spectacular flowers of Phebalium nottii under a canopy of an unidentified mallee. From there we continued to the southern camp ground through denser forest where we found Acacia paradoxa, Hakea decurrens and Melichrus erubescens in flower.





Phebalium nottii; Goobang National Park



Linguella clavigera; Goobang National Park



Grevillea rivularis; Goobang National Park



October: Blue Mountains National Park

We stayed in the centrally located Blackheath Tourist Park. On our first day we walked the Lockley Pylon trail to a spectacular lookout over the Grose Valley. The second day was a visit to Asgard swamp and Thor Head where we were accompanied by local bushwalker and plant expert lan Olsen and his wife Sue. On our third day we took the Braeside walk to Govetts Leap and descended the cliifs below the waterfall to see some rare plants such as *Isopogon fletcheri, Epacris muelleri Celmesia* aff. *Iongifolia* and *Sprengelia monticola*.



Grevillea laurifolia: Blue Mountains National Park

The walk to the Pylon was mostly through low heathland and grassland with some woodland and a great variety of plants in flower, many of them new to us. One of the most conspicuous was the pea Dilwynnia retorta but we also saw Philotheca obovalis, Pseudoanthus pimelioides (Euphorbiaceae) with its conspicuous male flowers, Boronia floribunda, Conospermum taxifolium, Grevillea sericea, Hakea pachyphylla, Lasiopetalum ferrugineum, Phyllota grandiflora Sphaerolobium vimineum and a large patch of Prostanthera ovalifolia.

Among the herbs there was an abundance of *Sowerbaea juncea* and sun orchids *Thelymitra ixioides*.



Thelymitra ixioides; Blue Mountains National Park



Lockley Pylon; Blue Mountains National Park



Dilwynnia retorta; Blue Mountains National Park



Conospermum taxifolium; Blue Mountains National Park



Grevillea sericea; Blue Mountains National Park



Pseudoanthus pimelioides; Blue Mountains National Park



Prostanthera ovalifolia; Blue Mountains National Park

The walk to Asgard swamp was through forests that had been burnt from the 2013 Lithgow fires resulting in a spectacular regrowth and display of waratah flowers. We also saw numerous large sun orchids, *Thelymitra ixioides*, their size no doubt stimulated by the abundance of nutrients from the fire, as well as an interesting red-flowered and unidentified *Phyllanthus*, a dwarf gahnia, *G. subaequiglumis, Patersonia sericea, Sphaerolobium vimineum* and mats of the prostrate grevillea, *G. laurina*.



Sphaerolobium vimineum; Blue Mountains National Park

We crossed a swamp containing, among the sedges, Utricularia uniflora, Olearia myrsinoides, Viola banksii and Drosera spatulata and passed an interesting rock face with Dracophyllum secundum and Epacris crassifolia, a new plant for us. At a track junction marked by a large specimen of the local swamp brittle gum Eucalyptus mannifera qullicki, we turned up to Thor Head with spectacular views over the upper Grose Valley. Along the route we found a double flowering Hibbertia cisticola. Among the summit rocks there were clumps of Thelionema umbellata, Tetratheca rupicola, more Dilwynnia retorta and Boronia floribunda. On our return we stopped in a heathland to see large patches of rush lily, Sowerbaea juncea.



Hibbertia cisticola Double; Blue Mountains National Park



Sowerbaea juncea; Blue Mountains National Park



Thelionema umbellata; Blue Mountains National Park



Tetratheca rupicola; Blue Mountains National Park

On our last day we walked down Govetts Leap brook on the Braeside walk and found yet more new species in the wet environment, notably *Grevillea acanthifolia* (that survives well in my cold and dry Urila garden), *Patersonia fragilis*, *Epacris paludosa*, *E. muelleri and E. obtusifolia*, *Comesperma ericinum*, *Dampiera purpurea*, *Bauera rubioides*, *Sprengelia incarnata* (white) and *Gompholobium grandiflorum*

After arriving at Govetts Leap a small group descended the cliff face towards the Bridal Veil Falls principally to see the very rare *Isopogon fletcheri* that only grows on cliffs in the Blue Mountains where there is a constant spray of water. Other species found in this habitat were *Celmesia* aff. *Iongifolia*, *Drosera binata* and *Sprengelia monticola*. Others growing on the cliff face were *Boronia*

barkeriana, Grevillea acanthifolia and Billardiera scandens.



Grevillea acanthifolia; Blue Mountains National Park



Bauera rubiodes; Blue Mountains National Park



Patersonia fragilis; Blue Mountains National Park



Comesperma ericinum; Blue Mountains National Park



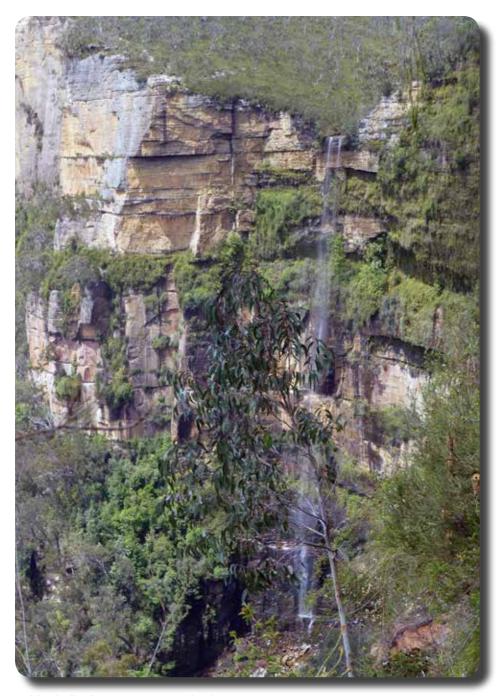
Epacris obtusifolia; Blue Mountains National Park



Sprengelia incarnata white; Blue Mountains National Park



Isopogon fletcheri; Blue Mountains National Park



Bridal Veil Falls; Blue Mountains National Park



Celmesia aff longifolia; Bridal Veil Falls



Drosera binata: Bridal Veil Falls



Boronia barkeriana; Bridal Veil Falls

December: Nimmo Hill and the Gungarlin

Our last trip of the year was to a member's property near Berridale where we held our annual Christmas party. Our hosts, Jean Smith and Bob Small, took us out to Nimmo Nature Reserve and Gungarlin River on the edge of the Kosciuszko National Park where, apart from the attentions of the March flies, we had an excellent plant day.

Our first stop was on the Nimmo Hill ascent in a cleared area in snow gum woodland where we found in flower *Persoonia chamaepeuce, Tetratheca ciliata* (with very visible hairy stems), *Grevillea lanigera* and a rustyhood orchid, *Oligochaetochilus aciculiformis*.



Persoonia chamaepeuce; Nimmo Hill



Further down in a swampy area we stopped on our return for a prostrate *Epacris microphylla* and several orchids *Prasophyllum sphacelatum, Diuris subalpina* and *Thelymitra pauciflora*.



Diuris subalpina; Nimmo Hill

Tetratheca ciliata; Nimmo Hill

At the saddle near the summit at 1400 m we stopped to see *Podolobium alpestre*, *Stylidium montanum* and a mass flowering of *Acrothamnus hookeri*.



Prasophyllum sphacelatum Nimmo Hill

Stylidium montanum; Nimmo Hill



Walking to Davies Hut; Gungarlin

We continued down the Island Bend Firetrail to the Gungarlin River from where we walked to Davies Hut across a grassy plain covered with drifts of flowers including Podolepis jaceoides, Brachyscome aff. tenuifolia, B. scapigera, Rhodanthe Geranium antrorsum. anthemoides, Wahlenbergia densifolia and clumps of shrubs including Kunzea muelleri, Cassinia monticola, Epacris glacialis/microphylla, Ozothamnus secundiflorus, Pimelea linifolia and Pultenaea subspicata.



Wahlenbergia densifolia; Gungarlin



Podolepis jaceoides; Gungarlin



Kunzea muelleri; Gungarlin



Ozothamnus secundiflorus; Gungarlin

In the wet creek lines we found *Gratiola* nana, Neopaxia australasica, Ranunculus pimpinellifolius, Hydrocotyle tripartita and Stellaria angustifolia.



Ranunculus pimpinellifolius; Gungarlin

The banks of the Gungarlin river had some interesting plants including tall gruggly bushes, *Melicytus* (Hymenanthera) dentatus, Melaleuca pityoides, a cascading Muehlenbeckia axillaris, a prostrate Cryptandra amara, and Swainsona behrii

A fitting end to sprummer

Article and photos by Roger Farrow.



Melicytus dentatus; Gungarlin



Muehlenbeckia axillaris; Gungarlin

Mexican Feather Grass (Nassella tenuissima)

In early 2008, ACT Parks, Conservation and Lands staff discovered the first recorded naturalised population of Mexican feather grass (MFG) in the ACT near the Bendora Homestead in Namadgi National Park. It was not known to be naturalised in Australia before this discovery. Approximately eight mature plants were found with c. 30 seedlings. All the plants were removed and the site was monitored for some time to ensure there was no further recruitment of seedlings. The infestation almost certainly originated from a planting.

In late in 2015, it was fortunate that a sharp-eyed former ACT weed officer noted an unusual grass growing at Fraser Primary School. Subsequent investigation revealed the plants were donated by a well-meaning person for a recently developed garden area at the school, with the recommendation that '...it will grow anywhere.' The home garden from which the donated plants were taken was soon located.

The nature strip contained scores of mature plants and many hundreds of seedlings. Nearby properties also had occasional plants growing even in well-grassed areas (despite some research that states germination only occurs in the absence of competition from the shoots and roots of other plants) and small plants were growing in kerbline cracks and stormwater sumps. The ACT government weed officers acted



Mexican Feather Grass

quickly to remove all the plants, which were bagged for deep burial, and the area treated to prevent germination of any soil-borne seed. However, the whole area will need to be monitored for at least four years, which is stated to be the life of soil-borne seed. This may also be an under-estimate given related species have been known to germinate 25+ years later.

Seed of MFG is advertised for sale on many Internet sites of overseas seed suppliers. It was permitted entry to Australia and was sold as Pony's Tail and Angel's Hair (*Stipa tenuissima*), a previous name for this species. It has been sold in nurseries in Victoria and New South Wales since under the name Elegant Spear Grass (Stipa elegantissima), a native species. Stipa is permitted entry to Australia, whereas Nassella species are not.

MFG is regarded as a 'weed' in its countries of origin (Argentina, Chile, New Mexico and Texas) as it is of low palatability. MFG has escaped in New Zealand and has become a weed that is continuing to spread. In Australia, it has a large potential distribution, potentially wider range than Serrated tussock. One estimate made is that it has the potential to infest up to 65% of New South Wales, causing major economic and environmental damage in pasturelands, native grasslands and woodlands.

Description: MFG is a perennial grass forming dense tussocks to 0.8 m high.

Synonymous names: Stipa cirrosa, S. geniculata, S. mendocina, S. oreophila, St. subulata, S. tenuissima, S. tenuissima var. oreophila, S. tenuissima var. planicola.

Common names: Mexican Feather Grass, Texas Tussock, Fine-stem Tussock Grass, White Tussock, Pony's Tail Grass and Tussock Grass.

Spread: Spread by seed from ornamental plantings. If naturalised it is likely to spread through farm machinery, and a contaminant of fodder and seed products. Seeds readily adhere to clothing and livestock.

Please remain aware of this species, and if you have any suspicion of plants in domestic gardens or public plantings in the ACT, contact the Territory and Municipal Services.

References

Further information on this species can be located at:

http://www.weeds.org.au/cgi-bin/weedident.cgi?tpl=plant.tpl&card=G13

http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/state-prohibited-weeds/mexican-feather-grass

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-12-17/noxious-mexican-feather-grassweed-spotted-in-the-act/7039030

2015 Biennial Conference Canberra, ACT: Bush Capital / Garden City

Every two years, the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA) holds a week-long conference, which is hosted and organised by one of the 7 Regions that make up ANPSA. In 2013 Queensland held the conference while this past year, 2015, it was ANPS Canberra Region's turn. Tasmania will host the next conference in Hobart in January 2018.

These conferences are usually preceded by extended field trips and followed by other field trips. The number and extent of these trips depend on the ability of the hosting Region to organise them. The Conference itself consists of lecture presentations, excursions and often workshops that emphasise the native plant diversity within the hosting region.

The 2015 Conference was held here in Canberra in November and attracted just over 200 registrants from all Regions. The major pre-conference field trip to the coast was organised by Phil Trickett, Cationa Bate, and John and Sue Knight. Thirty people participated in the trip, which in addition to the organisers, was assisted by Peter and Margaret Olde. The trip included the tablelands of the ACT, down the escarpment of the Great Dividing Range to the South Coast of NSW. Participants saw a range of ecosystems, including wet and dry sclerophyll forests, rainforest and heathland, taking in the South East Corner and Sydney Basin bioregions. The five days included visits to national parks and reserves, and

private and public gardens in the Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven areas.

On the Saturday before and Saturday after the conference, lan Fraser took 20 participants up into the Brindabella Mountains on a natural history excursion. On the Saturday before, the weather was cool and cloudy and most of the trip was in some fog ,which participants said was very atmospheric. The trip after the conference was warm and sunny and again everyone had a great time.

On Sunday 15 November, the Biennial meeting was held, which included all the ANPSA officers, appointed officers and two delegates from each Region. This meeting discussed the issues that face ANPSA and elected the new Executive for the next two years. The following were elected:

President: Ben Walcott

Vice President: Lawrie Smith

Vice President: Riitta Boevink

Treasurer: Neville Page

Secretary: John Carter

Study Group Coordinator: Jane Fountain

Also on Sunday, a culture bus ran from the Australian Institute of Sport to cultural sites such as the National Museum, National Library and Australian National War Memorial. The bus made

4 circuits over the course of the day and was popular with participants not involved in the Biennial meeting.

The Conference itself ran from Monday through Friday with talks for half the day and excursions on the other half of the day. The lecture program consisted of some longer talks interspersed with shorter talks from Leaders of the ANPSA Study Groups. The excursions were to the Kowen TSR Nature Reserve, the Pillans Garden and Queanbeyan Nature Reserve, the Arboretum and Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park, the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the Walcott Garden

The talks started on Monday with a Welcome to Country by Violet Sheridan. David Headon gave an historical overview of the influences that shaped the creation of the Nation's capital, Canberra, as a bush capital/garden city and its design by the Griffins. Edwina Robinson talked about the ACT program to create wetlands to slow run off and increase absorption into the ground water system. Brad Pillans presented the new

Master Plan for the National Rock Garden that is in the process of development on the lake shore near the Arboretum.

On Tuesday, David Taylor talked about the history and future of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Rosemary Purdie talked about plant surveys that she had done and compared the plants of Black Mountain with those of central Australia. On Wednesday, Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn described the family Asteraceae showing the evolution of the family and diversity of these plants in Australia. Anthony O'Halloran described the massive bush fires that destroyed a significant part of the Warrumbungles and talked about the recovery that had taken place. Roger Farrow then talked on the plants of the alpine regions of Australia many of which would be seen on the Post-Conference field trip.

Wednesday evening started with a book signing by Angus Stewart promoting his new book The Australian Native Garden written with AB Bishop. This was followed by the presentation of the Australian Plant Awards. One award in the Professional category was made to

Lecture in progress; Photo: Lucinda Royston



John Arnott of Victoria. He is currently Manager of Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne and was involved in the plant landscape of the Melbourne Zoo for many years before that. The other award for an Amateur was to Peter Olde from New South Wales who has been active in the native plant societies for many years and been leader of the Grevillea Study Group. After the awards, Angus Stewart presented the A.J Swaby address. Angus talked on using native plants in gardens and illustrated species and cultivars in the plant trade.

On Thursday, Mark Clements showed how using DNA analysis was used to classify orchids and provided important information on orchid evolution. Geoff Butler talked on the weeds of the ACT and NSW showing how invasive some are and what methods are being used to control them. Maria Hitchcock talked on rare and endangered Australian native plants and a program "Save our Flora" that she and Bob Ross have founded. At the Conference Dinner on Thursday

evening, lan Fraser talked on interesting plant/animal relationships. The talk clearly demonstrated the interconnectedness of the natural world. On Friday afternoon, Rainer Rehwinkel talked on the plants of the ACT/NSW grasslands and their diversity. After that, the team from Tasmania gave a presentation on their plans for the next Conference to be held in Hobart in January of 2018.

All the lecture presentations were held in the AIS Theatre which was decorated with masses of native flowers organised by ANPS Canberra volunteers. The setting thus was both dramatic and appropriate. During the conference, all lunches were held in the "Combat Hall" of the AIS. Poster boards around the hall displayed artwork for sale done by local artists. This work had been judged for its botanic accuracy and artistic merit. Also many of the Study Groups had displays of their activities including one display from the Acacia Study Group which experimented with the best methods

Posters; Photo: Lucinda Royston



of preserving acacia flowers in vases. Upstairs, books were for sale, which was very popular with the participants. On the Friday afternoon, several ANPS Canberra member growers held a plant sale, which was popular with many interstate visitors who came by car.

After the Conference, 20 participants embarked on two small buses for a field trip from the tablelands to the mountains for 5 days. The trip was organised by Roger Farrow and Christine Kendrick. Participants stayed at the Lake Jindabyne Hotel and went on day trips to the surrounding country. Linda Spinaze, Bob and Jean Smith were along as guides identifying plants for all the avid photographers. They found most of the plants that they expected as outlined in the booklet that Roger prepared. The weather was kind except towards the end when high winds required a change of walks.

Feedback from participants was very positive. People really liked the breaking up of each day and appreciated the talks and excursions. Many people commented on how pleasant everyone was and how smoothly the conference went. This was in large part due to large number of Canberra ANPS members who turned up to help with all the tasks that made the conference run.

ANPS Canberra would like to thank the Organising Committee of Fran Middleton, Pamela Finger, John Carter, Neville Page, Tony Lawson, Ros Walcott, Janelle Chalker, Roger Farrow, Phil Trickett, Catriona Bate and Ben Walcott for all their hard work over many months to manage the many different aspects of the Conference. Many thanks also to Lucinda Royston who organised the many volunteers. Thanks also to the many Canberra members who helped out at the Conference.

Ben Walcott

Mt Stillwell; Photo: Roger Farrow



Study Group Notes

Brigitta Wimmer

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

Acacia Study Group

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- · Vale Russell Best
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- From Members and Readers
- An Experiment
- Pictures and Manuscripts collections at The National Library of Australia
- Different Scarification Treatments
 A. cyclops and A. victoriae
- Acacias and Allergies
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- Seed Bank
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- Seed Bank List

Australian Plants as Bonsai Study Group

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- Styling River She Oaks
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Dryandra Study Group

Newsletter No 70 January 2016

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 D. conferta var. conferta,
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- · Further Afield
- Dryandra Get Together Oct 20–21, 2015

Eremophila Study Group

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 - · Ssp. latrobei
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 - Frank Fitzpatrick
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Eremophila Study Group

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 - · Results of member survey
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- Lace Bug Pests on Eremophila
- The genus Eremophila in Australia's Arid Zone: phylogeny and biogeography
- Post script on Eremophila latrobei
- Eremophila christophorii
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- Frost
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Garden Design Study Group

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- Tiny Daisy gives Western Australia its 10,000 native plant
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- Report of Melbourne garden visit August 16
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- Visit to the Garden of Janine Hunstone
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Garden Design Study Group

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Hakea Study Group

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Photos and line drawings of leaf cross sections

Waratah and Flannel Flower Group

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- Alloxylon pinnatum
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- Checklist of Telopea species and varieties
- Checklist of Actinotus species and varieties

ANPS sponsors botanical art prize

In recent years, ANPS has sponsored a \$200 prize for a 'Work featuring or including Australian native plants' at the Wildlife and Botanical Artists' annual exhibition held at Floriade in October.

The prize-winner at the 2015 Wildlife and Botanical Artists (WABA) members' exhibition 'The Art of Nature' was Pauline Dewar, with her work 'Square-fruited mallee with cowboy beetle', an exquisite small painting (Size 49 x 44 cm) in watercolour on vellum. Pauline is one of WABA's interstate members from Victoria.



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

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.

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Back cover: Phebalium squamulosum spp. ozothamnoides Molonglo Gorge; Photo: Roger Farrow

