

Save our Flora

AN ONLINE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL PROJECT
Conservation through Cultivation

Project launched on 14th November 2013

Maria Hitchcock Administrator
Bulletin Editor

Bob Ross Conservation
Legislation

Membership Individuals: 148
Groups: 19
International 3

Membership is free.

Please encourage others to join.

Bulletins are sent by email only.

Feel free to pass them on.

New members will receive the latest e-Bulletin only. Earlier Bulletins can be accessed online. (See box)

This is an informal interactive sharing group. We welcome your emails, articles and offers of seed and cuttings at any time.

Your privacy is respected and assured with this group. You may unsubscribe at any time.



Hibbertia tenuis SA

Image: saseedbank.com.au

**You can now access all our
previous E-Bulletins online**

Go to

[http://coolnatives.com.au/
SaveOurFlora.html](http://coolnatives.com.au/SaveOurFlora.html)

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Unsure if you have any rare or endangered plants? Check them out on the EPBC list

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=flora>

Save our Flora

Maria writes:

In Bulletin 8 I wrote about the campaign to save our local Dumaresq dam which consumed all my spare time at the end of last year. Well we won! The response from the community was overwhelming and Council will now be looking for the money required to strengthen the wall which is almost 120 years old. The role of my Save Dumaresq dam Facebook page was pivotal in the success of this campaign. Although we only have a population of 24,000, the FB page was attracting 1600 visitors weekly during the height of the battle. Many of these visitors are younger residents who don't read newspapers and would never be involved in an environmental campaign. They are good at sharing photos and sites however with their friends thus involving people not accessible in any other way. From the outset we framed the debate into three easy to remember ideas:

- the recreational value of the dam to the community
- the environmental value of the dam to the community
- the value of the dam as a fire fighting resource

Council received 79 written submissions, 500 online survey responses and 1807 petition signatures. The interesting thing is that the three values ideas came through in most of the submissions, letters to the editor, etc. People were able to use their own experience as evidence but the message was clear. The petition also gave council one option only - to reinforce the dam with a concrete buttress (Consulting Engineer's solution).

This meant that Council could not waste more time and money looking for an alternative solution. They had already spent over \$200,000 on expert advice. The problem has been on Council's books for 15 years and they have wasted much money over the years on this and that investigation and basically stalling (it's in the too hard basket - low priority etc.) until the NSW Dams Safety Committee gave them an ultimatum date of 30 June 2013.

The campaign also allowed residents to offer a small levy in their rates to pay for it thus obliterating one of Council's major objections to saving the dam (no money). Strangely enough they are now applying for a loan and other funding. It's been a fascinating exercise in democracy in action. I hope that this example may help others of you involved in various campaigns. Just remember the KISS principle - 'keep it simple stupid' and don't be frightened of providing leadership with a clear and simple message.

Critically endangered

Acacia cochlocarpa subsp. *velutinos*a WA

Acacia equisetifolia NT

Acacia purpureopetala QLD

Acacia unguicula WA

Hibbertia priceana WA

Hibbertia puberula subsp. *glabrescens* NSW

Hibbertia tenuis SA

Epacris granitica TAS

Epacris limbata TAS

Epacris stuartii TAS

Endangered

Hibbertia basaltica TAS

Vulnerable

Hibbertia crispula WA, SA

Hibbertia humifusa subsp. *debilis* VIC

Hibbertia humifusa subsp. *erigens* VIC

Hibbertia marginata NSW

Epacris sparsa NSW



Dipodium punctatum Hyacinth Orchid at Dumaresq Dam

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From the Members:

Carmel Spark writes:

I found a rare acacia plant near roadworks in Mudgee. The plant had been sent to Botanical gardens for ID and they wrote back that it was not to be disturbed at all because of its classification. I showed this letter to the council's environment officer and they immediately roped off the area and no roadworks were allowed to proceed there. That was years ago and it is still roped off today and the plants are going well.

Ruth Crosson writes:

In Gladstone Regional Council area, the Conservation Officer, Lindsay Boyd (SGAP member) has to do plant surveys along all roads where widening or realignment is proposed. A petition to the Golf Club (also to its members) and a field trip to show them and others in the community this beautiful plant may help sway the Council to preserve this patch. In Gladstone, the

public are starting to go to the media, when they don't agree with Council's proposals to remove trees etc. The pressure is put on the council officers and Aldermen by these articles and then they come and look at it again and in most cases the public outcry wins, and the vegetation is saved.

Richard Thomson writes:

There are areas of vegetation between fairways. Maybe the mint bush can be planted on these. I am aware of several golf clubs that have orchids in their rough and proudly look after them including a rare and threatened orchid on a golf course in Tasmania. The long term problem may be if somebody decides to redesign the layout of the course. It may mean finding a sensitive person who is a member of the club to discuss with. The club will probably be frightened of being told what they have to do on 'their' golf club. Maybe members can plant them. If they have a groundsman he will be a key to any progress. Members can proudly show it to visiting golfers. Maybe a trophy can be named after the bush - the Marifolia cup. One of the CWA's in the Riverina had the flower of their rare plant sculpted as a large flower - about 1.4 m high statue.

Margaret Kerr writes:

We have problems on our property with people burning mangroves and native trees for firewood, but if we cleared them big trouble. All we want to do is protect a little of the remnant rainforest but the authorities will not help. Sadly the 2013 flood took the whole 5 acre area away, so all we have left is one mangrove and still trespassers try to chop it down. I do not know the answer. Council don't seem to have any practical workers who care for the environment. We watched after the floods as the only area of native trees left were excavated away to fix drainage for the local cane farm. It had always been a natural watercourse where birds nested in trees etc. Now it has been destroyed in one day, the whole river has been devastated and on top of that the Council had to clear the only remaining habitat for birds in our area.

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From the Members cont.

Anthony O'Halloran writes

In conjunction with the Burrendong Arboretum, we are propagating the *Prostanthera marifolia* (very successfully...). Here is a photo showing the relentless happy flowers that this species has ALL year (even when in the cutting bed). We have not put it in the ground yet, just continually through propagation, sending plants off to ANBGs, Burrendong etc.



Prostanthera marifolia

Marion Jarratt writes:

Re *P marifolia*.

Burrendong Arboretum together with Bilby Blooms [native plant nursery] and ANBG are working with Trevor Wilson [RBG Herbarium] to set up ex situ populations. Cuttings were taken just over a year ago and there has been some success although we are hoping to get more cuttings in the near future. Please contact me if you would like more info.

Ruth Crosson writes (1 April am):

Council workers have cut down my *Atalaya collina* that I have been growing since about 1982. Ted Johansen was living on Boyle's Property at Yarwun, he collected some seed, before it was even identified and named. I had a seedling planted in front of 230 Goondoon Street, it had a wire mesh guard around the trunk, staked with black and yellow tape to note the importance of this tree. Council workers chopped it down yesterday 31st March. It was about 15 to 20 feet tall, had mature leaves, but had not yet flowered. This is a rare and endangered species with only five plants on the Yarwun Property. I want the Council to replace my tree. I do not have any seed. The workers are actually working fifty to one hundred yards up the street trying to fix a leaking water main. But actually attacked my planting all this distance away. They destroyed plants I have planted and cared for and watered. I even bought two truck loads of soil/sand mix to landscape this area, which was previously a mass of Mother of Millions. More plants have been destroyed by Council workers in this area on Radar Hill, than I can count. We planted a park several times to just watch Council workers destroy most of the planting. Stop the chop please.

Maria: I immediately emailed Mayor Sellers of Gladstone Regional Council with this note.

'This is an item I placed on Twitter today.

Gladstone Regional council workers destroyed 32 year old critically endangered Atalaya tree. Only 5 trees left in wild. Disgusting!

I told Mayor Sellers that I shall be writing to the Minister for Local Government as well as the Federal Minister for the Environment about this matter. I shall also be requesting my members write to your councillors expressing their concern. Gladstone Council urgently needs to review its policy regarding tree removal which should include a thorough investigation of the value of the trees to be removed before workers start wielding chainsaws in such a cavalier fashion. This particular tree was planted as a seedling in 1982

obtained from seed (almost impossible to get) off one of five trees on a Yarwun property. We believe that property is now owned by Rio Tinto. I have written to Rio Tinto with a view of trying to obtain some seed so that the species and genotype will not become extinct.

Council's Environment and Conservation section does not seem to include a tree preservation policy. They urgently need one.



Image: Ruth Crosson

*Tree stump is visible in the foreground. It was not a large tree and the larger trees nearby make it a bit of a mystery as to why this particular tree was chopped down. Surely they would have created much more of an interference than the small *Atalaya*. It's unlikely to shoot from the stump.*

Email from **Ruth Crosson** 1 April pm:
Thanks for your letter to Council. It had an impact and people were down at 230 Goondoon St, looking at the mess. I caught up with the actual workers later about 1 pm and discussed the incident with them. They said they did not know it was a rare and threatened tree, and would not have cut it down if they knew about it. It was just in the way, so they got rid of it, cutting it down to one foot high. I don't know if it will ever re shoot again. Well it has certainly had a response. I have a message left by the Conservation department of Council as well and an email to which I have replied. The workers have cleared away all the cut material, and now I am requesting a replacement. I pointed out another is planted in the Gladstone Dawson Rd cemetery and that needs some notice to prevent its destruction by a chain saw or damage by mowers.

They just run into the trunk and you know what that leads to.

Ruth Crosson writes: (2nd April)

I don't know who owns the land that was Boyle's property. A lot of properties in the region were bought up because of industrial development, and Boulder Steel was one that was close to Boyles. They have resumed or control land part the way up the western side of Mt. Larcom, which I was trying to get listed as National Park. We have tried for years. But without success. The Government won't commit saying it will be surrounded by industry and that would put restrictions on those industries. It may get listed as an Environmental Reserve and that means it could be mined. I have been successful in getting a tree listed as a Significant Tree on the Register of Heritage Trees. I then researched many trees in Gladstone found their history, went to council and asked for a list of these trees be kept by council and that would hopefully protect them. They have the list. They hired a specialist to come to Gladstone and look at the trees for their health, made recommendations to council on how to look after trees, etc. One was planted by my father to celebrate the end of the war. It was on the list but council did nothing to stop a new property owner having it chopped down, saying Council did not ratify the Significant Trees program.

They destroy many trees here. The public are starting to cry out and get lots of media coverage and it has worked in two cases recently .

Brent Braddick may have some seeds because Tondoon BG has a seed bank, stored in refrigeration. They have two trees planted in Tondoon car park area. I don't think they have ever flowered. *Atalaya* flowers around October - November. Only five trees were there in the paddock and we had ribbons around the trunks to warn the property owners, of their importance.

I am glad you took up the case, because you got replies, and while that can't bring back the tree, it will help raise awareness at Council level and hopefully get someone interested in propagating these trees and using them in this region in landscaping .

Save our Flora



Image: Ruth Crosson

Council worker clearing vegetation from site

Gail Sellers (Mayor of Gladstone Regional Council) writes (2 April):

We have done investigations across our council into this event. Resulting in the following information:

- The tree was in a Road Reserve.
- The reason the tree was removed was due to staff trying to access the water main valve as a result of a water leak and trying to bleed the water line.
- The tree was obstructing the water valve to allow staff to be able to turn the handle freely because of the tree trunk prohibited this to happen, and it was necessary to bleed the line from air.
- Our Water Services staff removed the tree.

This was a terrible course of events because it would have been difficult even for our Parks staff to identify its species, let alone water staff who at the time were focused on getting the water leak sorted, and services back on to the community.

Further discussions with staff

Would a larger tree have attracted an inspection? Yes it would have but, in this case it was not because it was not an overly large tree, it was the obstruction and there were no defining plaques or tags to alert staff to this rare or protected tree. Parks and Engineering staff will work together to ensure that if possible this will not happen again.

Our staff has advised that there are some seedlings in the Tondoon Botanic Gardens nursery and this will be offered as a replacement plant, but not in the same location. I am aware that it was a Rare and Threatened Species - *Atalaya collina*

We do have seeds in our Herbarium at the Tondoon Botanic Gardens and we do have several seedlings. I admit it was most unfortunate and we as an organisation are disappointed that it has happened. We will learn from this and as stated, we will provide Ruth with a tree for planting in a different location, we will plant some more trees in a new location. As well, we will work across GRC to put in place a method of identifying Rare and Threatened Species so that this does not occur again.

My reply to Gail Sellers (2 April):

Thank you so much for your prompt action Gail. Yes I'm aware that the tree was on a road reserve. That might not have been a problem 32 years ago when it was planted but with today's water infrastructure it obviously presented an impediment as you say. Ruth told me that Council has a significant trees register. It might be worth pulling it out and making staff aware of it whenever any clearing is to take place. Hopefully such an unfortunate incident will not re-occur. Since there is a seedbank available (although very small I'm told), it might be an interesting project for Council to undertake planting a small grove as a tourist feature. I believe in conservation through cultivation and am keen to have threatened species planted widely to ensure their survival. It was a pleasure communicating with you.

Maria: All's well that ends well. I won't be pursuing the matter any further and there is no need for members to do so either. If only other Councils (like my own) would be so responsive. Within two days we had a positive outcome. Here are a few questions you might like to pursue.

Does your Council have a significant trees register? Are they aware of any rare or threatened flora in your area? Do they take these into account when planning any vegetation clearing for infrastructure projects?

I'd appreciate your thoughts on this topic.

Prostanthera rotundifolia

Which form?

In the last bulletin I mentioned that a form of *Prostanthera rotundifolia* is being marketed as Native Thyme. **Ian Telford** of the UNE Herbarium has sent this information.

‘Currently we believe there are 6 distinct entities currently referred to as *P. rotundifolia*, 3 of which have names available:

P. rotundifolia R.Br. The correct species.

Type collection from near Launceston, Tas. Occurs in coastal Tas., Vic. and south-eastern NSW.

P. cotinifolia Benth. Type from Wellington, NSW. Occurs from Wellington to the Pilliga.

P. latifolia (Benth.) Domin. Type from Hastings River, NSW. Apparently restricted to the mountains south-east of Walcha.

P. sp. Mount Buffalo

P. sp. Blue Mountains

P. sp. Barren Mountain. Will be naming this after Lachlan as *P. copelandii*. Restricted to around Barren Mountain, New England National Park’.

Prostanthera rotundifolia R.Br., Prodr. 509 (1810)

A much branched, woody shrub up to 2 metres. The branches have a covering of hair that gives them a white appearance. The leaves are dull green, round or fan shaped, between 4-10 mm long with a stalk that is nearly as long as the blade. The flowers are purple to lilac and between 6-8 mm long. The petals are joined into a cup-shaped corolla that is strongly aromatic. Flowering occurs from September to October. The fruit consists of 4 nutlets.

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Prostanthera rotundifolia* occurs in the north and east of the State, along riverbanks and on rocky hillsides (Curtis 1967). There is estimated to be 12 populations in Tasmania with greater than 2000 individuals in total (TPLUC 1996). This species is found in the Cataract Gorge Council Reserve, German Town Forest Reserve, Lefroy Forest Reserve and in the Trevallyn State Recreation Area. They prefer well drained, moist conditions and are not as sensitive as some other Australian plants to phosphorus. Propagation is easy from cuttings but seed can be slow to germinate. This species is predominantly insect pollinated (SGAP 2002).

Ref: <http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Prostanthera-rotundifolia.pdf>

Native Plant Propagators

Are you an expert native plant propagator?

Would you be interested in propagating for ex-situ plantings of rare and threatened flora?

I am compiling a register of propagators

with contact details to send to Botanic Gardens.

Save our Flora

PowerPoint Presentation

Ready to go!

30 slides approx 30 mins. talk

If you are interested in obtaining this presentation please email me

I can send it in an email (4.3MB) or as a CD

Send me a C5 stamped addressed envelope

Attach 2 stamps

or on a memory stick

Send me a blank memory stick plus a stamped addressed envelope - 2 stamps

If you want to see some fantastic photography go to Bruce Cooper's website

Sydney Wildflower images

<http://sydneywildflowerimages.com>

Save our Flora

Seed and Cuttings Exchange

Please send all requests directly to the person making the offer.

Please follow the correct protocols for requests of seed or cuttings. These are detailed on the next page. Please note that some species are in very short supply and cutting material may be limited. Please note that in order to streamline this activity addresses will be published with the offers so that people can apply to the grower directly. Where there is no address please send your request to saveourflora@gmail.com

Maria Hitchcock

16 Hitchcock Lane Armidale NSW 2350

Correa eburnea

Correa calycina

Callistemon pungens

Grevillea wilkinsonii

Zieria adenodonta

Zieria prostrata

Arthur Baker

55 Moran ST Gatton Qld 4343

Gardenia psidiodes

Grevillea quadricauda

Grevillea glossadenia

Eucryphia wilkiei

Graptophyllum ilicifolium

Xanthostemon formosus

Phaius tancarvilleae

Plectranthus nitidus

Zieria prostrata

Grevillea mollis?

Eremophila nivea

Dodonaea rupicola

Xanthostemon arenaris

X verticulutus/seeds or cuttings

Kunzea flavescens

K granitica

Callistemon pearsonii

C flavovirens{seeds}

Melaleuca irbyana

Lilaeopsis brisbanica {Water plant}

Hernandia Bivalis

Spathoglottis Pauliniae {Tropical ground orchid}

Rhododendron Lachiae

Charles Farrugia (email saveourflora@gmail.com)

Eremophila denticulata ssp trisulcata

Eremophila denticulata ssp denticulata

Eremophila nivea (blue form)

Eremophila nivea (white form) - limited.

Eremophila vernicosa – extremely limited – plant just recovering from a winter battering also I need to do some more grafts.

Russell Dahms (email saveourflora@gmail.com)

Boronia clavata

Denise & Graeme Krake

752 Warrigal Range Rd. Brogo NSW 2550

Seed of

Hakea dohertyi

Hakea ochoptera

Hakea longiflora

Grevillea maccutcheonii

Geoff & Gwynne Clarke

Grevillea humifusa - cuttings

Angophora robur - seed

Dodonaea crucifolia - cuttings or seed

This was named a couple of years ago by Ian Telford who came down from Armidale to look over our block. Many people were calling it *Dodonaea hirsuta*, but it is not very hairy and has no hairs at all on the fruits. It also grows in a nearby flora reserve. If people would like to try this I can make it available when the material is ready. I have grown it successfully from cuttings, but it does not live long after planting out. It also produces seed and I can collect that after the next flowering (spring fruits). It grows happily around the block, popping up from seed here and there, produces plenty of seed, but it is not long lived even when self sown. Fruits are showy reds. I think it's worth a try.

Bob O'Neill

7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South, Vic. 3805

I want to increase our range of Lechenaultias and *Correa pulchellas*. Can anyone help us out? Both of these groups of plants are doing well for us at Narre Warren South, Vic. I would be delighted to offer cuttings from our range to interested people. Some plants may be available to people who are able to come to our home address.

Paul Kennedy (Leader ANPSA Hakea SG) (email

saveourflora@gmail.com)

I am looking for seed or cuttings of *Hakea pedunculata* which grows naturally on Cape York near swamps. We have moved into our new home at 210 Aireys St. Elliminyt Vic. and have now begun the task of reintroducing all the Banksia and Hakea species.

Do you have any EPBC plants growing in your garden with sufficient foliage to share cuttings with our members? Let me know and I'll print it here. It would be easier if we can add your address so that members can contact you

Save our Flora

Requesting and sending seed by post

Please follow these simple steps.

Make a request

1. Send your request by email first. It will be forwarded to the grower so you can request seed and ask for the address.
2. Send your request enclosing a self-addressed envelope with two 60c stamps attached. Post the envelope.

Send seed

1. When you receive an envelope with a seed request, package up the required seed which includes the name, provenance (if known) and date of collection. Add any tips on germinating the seed and post.

Receiving seed

1. Seed should be stored in paper (small manilla seed packets are best but any cheap envelopes will do) and kept in a cool dark place. Some people use those small paper lolly bags and staple them at the top. Add mothballs if you like. This will prevent insect attack. I save moisture absorbers from medicine bottles and add them to my seed drawer to ensure the seeds do not rot.

Seed life varies according to species. Acacias will last for many years while Flannel Flower needs to be really fresh. Old seed may not germinate and needs to be thrown out. Test some of your seed periodically. It's worth asking seed suppliers for the age of certain species of seed before purchasing.

Group Members

ANPSA Groups

APS Melton Bacchus Marsh Vic
 SGAP Ipswich Qld
 SGAP Sunshine Coast and Hinterland Qld
 APS Echuca Moama Vic

Botanic Gardens and Reserves

Hunter Regional Botanic Gardens
 Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens
 Lindum Park Flora and Fauna Reserve
 Burrendong Arboretum Wellington

Nurseries

Bilby Blooms Binnaway NSW
 Cool Natives Nursery Armidale NSW
 Mole Station Native Nursery Tenterfield NSW

Requesting and sending cuttings by post

Please follow these simple steps.

Make a request

1. Send your request by email first. It will be forwarded to the grower so you can request cuttings and ask for the address.
2. Purchase an Express Post small satchel for \$10.55. it will hold up to 500 gms.
3. Self address your satchel and place it in an envelope with your cuttings request. Add a label/s with the name of the species and sender. Pencil is best for writing on labels.
4. Post the envelope.

Send cuttings

1. When you receive an envelope with a satchel inside, cut about 6 stems of the requested species. The best time to do this is early morning. Store cuttings in the crisper part of the fridge until they are ready to be posted.
2. Wrap the cuttings in damp newspaper and place them in a cliplok plastic bag. Make sure you label each parcel with the names of the species and sender. Squeeze air out of the bag and fasten top.
3. Put the bag in the satchel and post.

Receiving cuttings

1. As soon as you receive your cuttings put the unopened plastic bag in the crisper part of the fridge until you are ready to prepare them.

Seed Suppliers

Victorian Native Seeds

Study Groups

Acacia SG
 Correa SG
 Epacris SG
 Garden Design SG
 Grevillea SG
 Hakea SG
 Waratah & Flannel Flower SG

Do you belong to a group interested in growing or conserving native flora?

Why not ask them to join us?