

# AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY

## CANBERRA REGION (INC)



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Cover: Tunnel Creek, The Kimberley; Photo: John Carter

## 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 or drawings. The editor reserves the right without exception to edit all articles and include or omit images as appropriate.

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 or USB drive 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.

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The deadline dates for submissions are 1 February (for March edition), 1 May (June), 1 August (September) and 1 November (December).

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## President's Report

By Ben Walcott

At the November AGM, a new Council was elected (see inside back cover for list) and a number of previous members have decided not to continue. I would particularly like to thank Philip Fradd for his five years of service on Council and Lucinda Royston who served her full three-year term as President. I would also like to thank Naomi Boccola, Darren Boulton and Megan Dixon for all their work on Council for the past year.

We are grateful to those new Council members who have agreed to serve for this year. Our Constitution calls for a Council with five office bearers and up to six regular Council members. It is important for the proper operation of the Society that all these positions are filled as the Constitution states 'The Society shall have its affairs controlled and managed by a Regional Council'.

The spring October plant sale went very well with over 11,000 plants sold to over 800 customers. People started lining up well before 7am and the gates opened at 8:30am with the usual rush. The majority of plants were sold by 10:30am and the sale finished by 11am. As we were cleaning up, a thunderstorm rolled in which stimulated a rapid move to get everything under cover. Fortunately, it didn't happen during the sale itself.

A big thank you to all those volunteers who came on Friday to help with the setup and Saturday to run the sale. The

sale couldn't happen without all the volunteers and the customer feedback was very positive about how smoothly and efficiently the sale is run. It is always very encouraging to see all the young families purchasing our plants and taking them home to their gardens. The Society fills an important niche providing a large variety of suitable plants for Canberra gardens.

Over the past two years or so, Council has been considering ways to make our Society more relevant to the general public and make them aware of what we do. To that end, a decision was made to engage Giraffe Visuals to go through a 'branding process' and to develop a new website linked to social media. In addition, it was decided to integrate the membership system in the new website and to simplify it. The new website is running (<https://nativeplantscbr.com.au>) and the membership system is being developed.

As you will see in articles in this issue of the *Journal*, Council is asking for feedback on the new website, what you would like but can't find etc. Giraffe developed a new logo for the Society which many members of Council thought was appropriate. There will be more discussion about this over the next months in the new Council.

Please feel free to send me your thoughts on any issues to improve the functioning of the Society, send them to [president@nativeplantscbr.com.au](mailto:president@nativeplantscbr.com.au).

# Is it Time?

## A Proposed New Logo for ANPS Canberra Region

By Geoff Butler

This article is based on a submission to Council by Megan Dixon (a former Council member) to communicate with the membership about a proposal to change our logo, which is currently *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* (Royal Bluebell).

The proposal to change the logo was raised at a members' meeting earlier this year, and some consternation was expressed by a few members. Council understands and accepts that many members have a long-standing affinity and love of the current logo.

The proposed change is an important issue, as a logo is the symbol of the Society. Hopefully, the following provides a context for the proposed change.

### Background

For the last 18 months, Council has been concerned about the usability and appeal of the ANPS Canberra website, particularly for those outside the Society. Websites require a refresh every five years, to keep pace with functionality and design.

Council decided that it would engage a professional web design and brand

management company to assist with refreshing the website. Briefly, the various issues with the website were:

- unfriendliness when using smart devices (especially mobile phones);
- the Joomla platform, which compared with new content management systems like Wordpress and Drupal, is less friendly for new (non-IT) people wanting to help manage the website;
- the Membership database is currently separate from the website. It is a manual system and very labour intensive. New tools are available to enable much simpler and more efficient management through the website;
- the plant label database is also a separate system and needs to be integrated into the website and then made more accessible and user-friendly;
- the website is unappealing and difficult to find information/events for a new audience (ie new younger people or anyone not familiar with the Society) and needs a fresher look.

### What is happening?

Council approached five design companies and selected to engage Giraffe to develop the new website. Giraffe is an experienced and dynamic branding company that assists older organisations to appeal to newer markets, particularly younger people. As part of the website redesign process, Giraffe was also engaged to devise a branding strategy for the future.

### Why is it proposed to change the logo?

Giraffe advised Council that it thought the current logo, while obviously a thoughtful piece of artwork, did not work particularly well as part of any new branding strategy. In short, it was considered that the logo was not a stylised, unique, recognisable and distinctive design or device for identifying the organisation (ie the current logo was not a brand per se).

Council voted to reconsider the logo as part of the website design based on this advice, as the refresh of the logo helps signal the refresh of the organisation, in terms of its people, outlook and activity.

Giraffe sought images for plants that could be used for a new logo. Over 50 images of plants were supplied. Giraffe was cognisant of the existing logo and the plant on which it was based. Many of the younger Giraffe designers were well aware of *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* and its use as the logo for the ACT government and other organisations, thus diminishing its uniqueness as a logo, and more importantly, a brand.

Various plant images circulated at a members' meeting earlier this year

resulted in a majority preference for *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* (Red Box) as an alternative logo.

Giraffe developed an alternative logo on this plant and agreed that this selection has the makings of an iconic and unique branding for the ANPS Canberra Region. The design of the new website would be integrated around the look and feel of the new logo in all facets. Council discussed the proposed new logo and Giraffe was asked to proceed with the website redevelopment on this basis.

A lite version of the website has been launched for members' consideration and this can be found at: <http://nativeplantscbr.com.au/>

Members can see how the logo works on the site, and provide comments on its appeal and design. Members are now requested for constructive feedback both in support or lack of support for the proposed new logo.

Email your comments to: [feedback@anps-canberra.asn.au](mailto:feedback@anps-canberra.asn.au) no later than the end of December 2018. Depending on the comments received, the new Council will then make a final decision.



An example of the proposed new logo

# The ANPS Canberra Logo Why Change It?

By Greg Quinn

Geoff Butler's article on behalf of Council poses the question 'Is it time?' for a new logo for ANPS Canberra.

Here I argue that the *Wahlenbergia*'s time is not up yet.

The developers of the new website 'considered that the logo was not a stylised, unique, recognisable and distinctive design or device for identifying the organisation'. They were probably looking at Pamela Finger's artwork when making this judgement.



This drawing adorns the frontispiece of the fifth edition of our book and is used on the temporary website that has been showing at <http://anps-canberra.asn.au> for most of this year.

It was thought that 'the current logo, while obviously a thoughtful piece of artwork, did not work particularly well as part of any new branding strategy.'

Of course it was never intended as part of a 'branding strategy'; nor as an icon. It was the ultimate evolution of the image that has served as our identity for many years, on the masthead of the Bulletin and on our plant labels. It is our brand. Literally hundreds of thousands of labels with this drawing have been sold with our plants and are out there in the community.



The *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* is the floral emblem of the ACT. We benefit from that association, and it is entirely appropriate for the Australian Native Plant Society of the ACT to display the emblem of our Territory. Has ANPS NSW ditched the Waratah? ANPS Victoria thrown out the Epacris?

The fact that *W. gloriosa* does not grow well in Canberra has been used as an argument against it, but that is irrelevant. Any *Wahlenbergia* would suffice, in a stylised form, for a logo. Was a *Wahlenbergia* offered to Giraffe as a possible basis for a logo?

## No, it was not.

The candidate plant pictures that were shown to the designers were not presented to a Members Meeting before the choice of *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* leaves was made. That was only done after the 'new logo' appeared on the June Bulletin and members raised their concerns.

The proponents of the new logo say that 'significantly changing the logo would require re-doing the entire website'. The argument seems to be 'it's too late now, we can't change the new logo'.

I agree that the integration of a logo, particularly its colour scheme, with a website is important. But to say that a change at this stage cannot happen is either wrong or indicates an inflexible website design.

We are, after all, still in the design phase of the new website and it has yet to be approved by the ANPS Canberra membership. I'm very glad that Geoff's article starts a consultation period about the website and the proposed logo. The views of members on this important decision have not been seriously considered before now.

All this pre-supposes that we need a logo that is a 'stylised, unique, recognisable and distinctive design or device for identifying the organisation'.

Is that something that can be used on a smartphone button to start our app? If that is the case, what is wrong with a stylised and unique version of a *Wahlenbergia*? An echo of our traditional *Wahlenbergia* drawing?

Here's a simple example, something to be improved upon by a skilled graphic designer, but even in this drawing you can get the idea of a *Wahlenbergia*, the leaves and flowers made of a small number of elliptical shapes and two colours.



With a trivial change to a stylesheet, the two colours in such a simple design should be able to be applied to the design elements of the new web pages.

And not only that, Pamela's lovely drawing deserves a prominent spot in our web pages.

Please make your views known by email to [feedback@anps-canberra.asn.au](mailto:feedback@anps-canberra.asn.au) — we should not let the identity of our Society be driven by the spurious need to conform to an inflexible web page design.

# A Pomaderris Crawl

## Around the Mayfield Circuit along Cullulla, Sandy Point and Willowglen Rds

Text and photos: Roger Farrow

There are two places to **see** the greatest diversity of Pomaderris in our area: the first is along the Mulloon Fire trail, with nine species, dominated by *Pomaderris* sp. 'Bundanoon', and the second is the Mayfield area circuit with seven

species, dominated by *P. elliptica* and including the endangered *P. delicata*.

The visit on Wednesday 3 October to Mayfield was also to celebrate Jo Walker's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and to recognise her great contribution in raising the profile of this



Jo Walker photographing *Pomaderris ledifolia*, Willowglen Road 2010

underappreciated genus of hardy flowering shrubs.

Our first stop on the circuit was the Cullulla Quarry where we have followed the colonisation of a gravel bank since it was constructed during road realignment in about 2010.

The seemingly inhospitable-looking bank had been colonised by a range of acacia, pea and pomaderris species, among others, and in more recent years by the slower growing casuarinas and stringybarks.

This year the prolonged drought had set back the health and flowering of many plants and the

miserable weather cut short any prospect of a decent plant survey. We noted the *P. ferruginea* and *P. andromedifolia* in their same spots as well as the remains of a Mitsubishi Pajero hidden in the bush above the bank.

A short distance away is a small stand of the endangered *P. delicata* that was almost destroyed by road widening operations a few years ago but has now made a great recovery with new plants regenerating inside the adjacent property underneath a cover of *Allocasuarina littoralis* and stringy-barks, as well as along the road edge.



Cullulla Quarry 2012



*Pomaderris delicata*, Cullulla Road



Cullulla Quarry 2018



Regeneration at road edge

Further down the Cullulla Road we stopped to look at a conspicuous, free-flowering daisy bush that we identified as *Olearia microphylla*. Growing nearby was another daisy bush that is common around Bundanoon, *O. viscidula*.



*Olearia microphylla*, Cullulla Road

Acacia, *A. obtusata* that we rarely see (should make a good garden plant because of its small size). This area was dominated by prickly stands of *Hakea sericea* in full flower, but not much else due to the dry conditions.



*Acacia obtusata*, Willowglen Road



*Olearia viscidula*, Cullulla Road



*Hakea sericea*, Willowglen Road;  
Photo: Brigitta Wimmer

We then turned down the Sandy Point Road to Willowglen Road constructed during the '90s to access a series of subdivisions. Road construction involved a series of cuttings and embankments that favoured the establishment of a diverse range of Pomaderris species that presumably existed in the understory of the adjacent casuarina and eucalypt woodland.

We stopped for morning tea at the start of the road where we noted a small

The *P. elliptica* were in poor shape in this area so we briefly returned to a spot on the Sandy Point Road to visit a known stand in full flower and were not disappointed. Also seen was one of the main pollinators of Pomaderris, the flower fly, *Sapromyza* sp (Lauxaniidae).

We returned to Willowglen Road to a site where there were known to be a number of prostrate shrubs growing along the road easement. Despite



*Pomaderris elliptica*, Sandy Point Road



*Daviesia acicularis*, Willowglen Road



Flower fly, *Sapromyza* sp. (Lauxaniidae) on *P. ferruginea*



*Cryptandra amara*, Willowglen Road

the dry conditions, there was a fine display from *Mirbelia platylobioides* and *Daviesia acicularis*, plus a few *Cryptandra amara*, *Acacia brownii*, *Rhytidosporum procumbens* and *Gompholobium minus*.



*Gompholobium minus*, Willowglen Road



*Mirbelia platylobioides*, Willowglen Road

The road then ascends through the stony embankments where we start to see the Pomaderris appearing and growing in the most inhospitable looking substrate. The junction with Coghill Road is a regular stop and was a good place for lunch except for the wet weather that suddenly swept in.

We did get to see *P. ferruginea* with its 'hanging' leaves and *P. andromedifolia* subsp. *andromedifolia* and a prickly pea, *Dillwynia sieberi*. Another Pomaderris pollinator, the comb-clawed beetle *Atoichus bicolor* (Tenebrioniidae) was found on the *P. ferruginea* flowers.



*P. andromedifolia* subsp. *andromedifolia*, Willowglen Road



*Dillwynia sieberi*, Willowglen Road



*Atoichus bicolor* (Tenebrioniidae) on *P. ferruginea*



*Dillwynia sieberi*, Willowglen Road

Our penultimate stop was on the next crest where there are extensive stands of *P. elliptica* and *P. ledifolia* and a few *P. andromedifolia* subsp. *andromedifolia*.

We had been searching for the second sub-species of *P. andromedifolia*, *P.a.* subsp. *confusa* and we finally saw this on our last stop a short distance away. It is distinguished from the nominate subspecies by its more rounded leaves and hairs on the lower leaf surface.

And so to afternoon tea at the Woodworks Cafe in Bungendore where friends of Jo gathered to celebrate her birthday.



*Pomaderris. elliptica*, Willowglen Road



*Pomaderris ledifolia*, Willowglen Road



*Pomaderris elliptica*, Willowglen Road



*Pomaderris andromedifolia* subsp. *confusa*, Willowglen Road



Jean Geue (left) forever the photographer at Jo's (right) 80th birthday party; Photo: Gail Ritchie Knight

# J and J – those Wednesday Walkers

By Brigitta Wimmer

Well, like most groups the Wednesday Walkers wax and wane but there are some walkers who just seem to keep going and going. This year we were celebrating the 80-milestone birthdays for two of our most enduring walkers (and yes, they are the oldest ones too).

Both Jo Walker and Jean Geue have been walking for what seems to be an eternity — at least they were already an institution when I joined ANPS Canberra many years ago.

From what I have heard Jo was particularly instrumental in instigating the walks. These started on a casual basis with a few like-minded friends and eventually turned into a regular weekly

activity for a whole group of local ANPS members. Her botanical knowledge, coupled with a lot of patience, obviously was a big draw card for newcomers eager to learn more.

Jean was and is an avid photographer who assiduously documents location, vegetation and individual plants of wherever the walks lead. She most likely has the largest historical image collection from all these decades, quite often showing changes after events such as fire and the ensuing regrowth.

They have greatly contributed to making the Wednesday Walks one of our successful activities where people learn and share — and of course have fun and socialise too!



An 80th birthday toast to Jean at her party;  
Photo: Gail Ritchie Knight



Brigitta (right) presenting a gift to Jo;  
Photo: Gail Ritchie Knight

Jean trumped Jo and celebrated her birthday with family, friends and colleagues in August whilst Jo had to wait until September before she could do likewise. And here are a few photos to prove it.



Jo at the trig, Big Badja, 2015;  
Photo: Brigitta Wimmer



Jean at Mt Franklin in the Brindabellas, 1965



Roger saying a few words at Jo's party;  
Photo: Gail Ritchie Knight



Jean with camera at hand, 2012 Christmas party;  
Photo: Gail Ritchie Knight





# Container Plants

*Text and Photos: Masumi Robertson*

This is the last in the series highlighting 10 plants from each category in our book. Many of the container plants are from Western Australia (WA) or from the warmer areas of northern New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland.

Because they originate in areas with very different environmental conditions, they are unlikely to survive in Canberra gardens due to our temperature extremes (prolonged winter cold and hot summers) and our soil and its pathogens such as *Phytophthora*.

I used to have plants 'drop dead' even though the pots were placed on a continuous hard surface. However, once placed on pot feet, I rarely lose plants this way. While most, if not all plants in other categories, especially small shrubs and herbaceous plants, can be grown in pots, plants listed in the container plants section have the best chance of survival when grown in containers.

Containers can provide conditions best suited for these plants, soils which provide better drainage and are disease-free. By moving the container plants they can be protected from prolonged

cold and frosts by placing them under a structure, such as a bush house, green house or up against the house. These plants are very pretty and will reward you for your extra effort in caring for them.



## ***Actinotus helianthi***

Flannel flower occurs in coastal heath land and it is a common sight at the south coast and around Sydney. It looks

like a daisy, but it is in the same family as carrots, dill, parsley and blue devil.

We have had ours in a pot for almost 20 years, even though each plant may live for four or five years, new plants are produced from fallen seeds.

It does not like the Canberra cold, and even with a well-drained sandy soil, plants do not look well until warm sun-drenched days arrive in our garden. Then, with adequate water and fertiliser, the plant can flower into autumn.

It is a very long flowering plant for us. There are variations among seedlings and some are slightly more cold tolerant. We have had a few plants survive in the garden with frosts.

This is one of the 'odd' plants which do not mind high phosphorus. Experiments carried out at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan showed flannel flower plants thrived when fed with lots of phosphorus! This is also a very good cut flower, lasting for a few weeks in a vase.



## ***Anigozanthos hybrids***

There are many hybrid kangaroo paws suitable for containers. They usually grow to 0.5 m or less and often flower repeatedly over summer in bright

colours of red, orange, pink and yellow. The 'Bushranger' series of hybrids have been around for about 30 years and many more selections are now available.

They do well over summer in well-drained soil in full sun. Because one or more of their parents are short-lived species, these smaller plants are relatively short-lived, even without our cold. So, enjoy the colourful flowers for a few years and replace them with another cultivar when necessary.



## ***Corymbia ficifolia***

The red flowering gum brings a splash of colour to your garden. Native to sandy soils around Albany, it needs well drained soil and protection from the cold.

This small tree can grow up to 10m in its native environment, but it is not likely to grow that large around Canberra, so it can be grown in a large tub. There are many colour forms from red, orange, and pink — as in the image showing 'Lollipops', a grafted cultivar.

Grafted plants may be grown well in protected sites, such as those seen around the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG). Even at the ANBG, we noticed newly planted plants near the

bus shelter were damaged this winter, also some older plants which lost cover from a large *Eucalyptus macroryncha*. So frost protection is a must!



### ***Darwinia oxylepis***

There are several very showy Western Australian Darwinias and *D. oxylepis* is probably the most commonly available. Large red-tipped bells hang from fine-leaved heath-like branches all over the plant in late spring.

This small shrub needs a very well-drained sandy soil (mix in about 1/3 washed, coarse river sand with a well-drained potting soil) and even in a pot, a grafted plant is more likely to do better.

Our first grafted plant lived for 10 years and we are growing another one. This plant also needs frost protection, so ours stay under the eaves on the north side of our house.

We also have a *D. carnea* producing large green bells in spring, on its own roots. Its flowers are not as showy as *D. oxylepis*, but I find its bluish green bracts blushed red very beautiful.



### ***Lechenaultia formosa***

Another pretty plant from the south-west region of Western Australia. The plant grows to only about 20 to 30 cm tall and a similar spread. Bright red, orange or yellow flowers are formed along the twiggly branches from winter into summer, a long flowering plant.

Even when the flowers were all removed by Crimson Rosellas, more buds formed and the plant is flowering again. It needs a very well-drained sandy soil (as above) and sand or gravel mulch. Flowers of this species are a nice contrast to the other commonly available *L. biloba*, which has bright blue flowers.

These plants may live up to 10 years, but usually last about five years, even in a pot. But they are often available at our plant sales, so they are easy to replace.



### ***Pterostylis curta***

This is one of the greenhood ground orchids and this species is probably the easiest to grow. They grow quite well in pots as we have seen during show and tell.

This species occurs in the ACT, and if you can provide conditions similar to where they grow in the bush, they can be grown in gardens. They need compost-rich soil, kept moist from March until November and no hard frosts. They also do better when re-potted every 3–4 years and fed when actively growing.

Even during the dormant period over summer, the pots are best kept in shade with occasional spray, possibly to keep mycorrhizal fungi alive. I find it easier to provide favourable conditions in pots, and also to keep slugs away. Other species of greenhoods, including the *Diplodium* species, can be grown in pots under similar conditions.

### ***Swainsona formosa***

Sturt's desert pea is a show stopper. Large red pea flowers with a black central blotch are held above soft grey leaves. I grew mine from seeds, started in spring and the plants flowered from January into May when the Canberra



### ***Swainsona formosa***

cold became too much even for plants from the central desert. Our plants did survive the first winter, and flowered really well the second year from earlier in summer into autumn.

But that was it. As the description says, treat it as an annual, or it may live for two years. It needs well-drained soil in full sun. Ours were in a 'normal' pot with lots of sand mixed into the potting mix.



### ***Thelychiton kingianus***

This pink rock orchid is one of the easiest epiphytic orchids to grow in Canberra. The plant grows to about 30 cm high and our original plant, from Gwyn in 1995, grew to over 60 cm wide when it had to be divided to make it easier to handle.

Flower buds are formed in autumn, about April or May. Once these flower buds are set the plants can be brought into a warmer spot, like inside the house for it to flower in June, or left outdoors protected from frosts and cold air to flower in October, or any time in between depending on when and how warm the plant is over winter. So orchid flowers and their beautiful scent can be enjoyed from June to November.

They are frost tender and need cold protection such as a purpose-built orchid house or some protected areas around the garden. Ours live outdoors all year round against the house facing south-east, even though some plants do get cold damaged in some winters, like the one we just had. They are best watered regularly during the warmer months, less so in autumn and spring and very little over winter.

There are many different forms of this species ranging in colour from pink to white, some very dark pink to magenta. There are also numerous hybrids derived from *T. kingianus* and other Australian Thelichiton (syn. *Dendrobium*) species.

This and other Thelichiton species and their hybrids are similar in cultural requirements, but I do find slight differences in cold tolerance. Orchids are tough plants, but as with many other plants, regular water and feed with enough sun and good air movement do produce more flowers.

### ***Verticordia mitcheliana***

Verticordias, or featherflowers, are really spectacular to see in the wild. Lots of showy fluffy flowers in white, pink, red



### ***Verticordia mitcheliana***

and yellow. Most verticordias originate in the south-west region of WA, in deep sand. Not even sandy soil, just plain sand. So the 'soil' needs to be very well drained.

*V. mitcheliana* has been cultivated for a long time and it is one of the more commonly grown (and available) verticordias. It has showy red flowers from late spring into summer. It has been listed in the society label database for a long time, even though I have not yet seen one for sale.

We finally bought a grafted plant, in flower, from P. Vaughan last year and the plant has grown well over summer and suffered no damage from the cold during winter. There are lots of buds waiting for warmer weather and they are starting to open (late October).

Other grafted verticordias from him are doing equally well, so after failing to grow *V. chrysantha* on its own roots, grafted plants may be the best option in our environment, even in containers.

### ***Wahlenbergia gloriosa***

The government announced on 26 May 1981 that the royal bluebell would be the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)



### ***Wahlenbergia gloriosa***

floral emblem. A committee included Dr Boden, Mr Gray, Professor Pryor, Mrs Ruddock and Mr Wrigley. Shortly afterwards in September 1982, our society published in our newsletter (present day Journal) that the plant, and indeed the original botanical drawing by Marjory May used in this announcement, would be our society logo.

This is a LOCAL species, found in the higher elevations of ACT in Namadgi.

Because it is a subalpine woodland species and shallow rooted, it can be difficult to maintain in the ground. But the plant grows very well in containers with compost-rich soil kept moist, but not wet.

Julie Lindner has had hers in the garden for many years and I managed to keep one clump in our garden for about five years, growing among other plants. Its large blue flowers are spectacular from late summer into autumn. The Visitor Information Centre at ANBG usually has a plant on display at the door when in flower. Well worth the effort to find and grow one.

I would like to thank Masumi for presenting this excellent series of articles over many editions of the Journal. This has been an editor's dream — articles appearing regularly without pleas for copy. Sadly the series has ended but I encourage all readers to submit stories, however large or small, scientific or otherwise. I am forever hopeful. Ed.

## Proposed Field Trip 2019

By Margaret Pieroni

Are you planning to visit Western Australia for the ANPSA Conference, next year?

If so, would you be interested in a four-day tag-along tour either before or after the conference itself, that is 28 September–4 October? I will be staying in Albany for that time during the exhibition of Botanical Art.

My thoughts, at present are to leave

from and return to Albany and to visit areas such as the Stirlings, Fitzgerald River National Park, Ravensthorpe, Lake King, Newdegate, Corrigin and Dryandra.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested, what would be your preferred dates and whether there is any particular location you would like to visit. I will need to book accommodation early.

Margaret, phone **0898483331**, email [mpieroni@bigpond.com](mailto:mpieroni@bigpond.com)

## ANPSA Meetings with Politicians Canberra August 2018

By Dr Eddy Wajon,  
National Conservation Officer

On 21 and 22 August 2018, representatives from Australian Native Plants Society Australia (ANPSA) met with a number of politicians, advisers and public servants in Canberra to express concern about proposed clearing of remnant vegetation at Jandakot Airport, in Jandakot, near Perth, Western Australia. The ANPSA representatives were the following:

- Dr Ben Walcott, past President
- Dr Margaret Matthews, in-coming President
- Dr Eddy Wajon, National Conservation Officer

They were accompanied by Mary Gray, President of the Urban Bushland Council of Western Australia.

They met with the following politicians and public servants:

- Mr Steven Campbell, Senior Advisor (Aviation) to Hon Michael McCormack, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
- Ms Leonie Horrocks, General Manager Airports, Aviation and Airports Division, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
- Ms Alannah Pentony, Advisor to Hon Melissa Price, Assistant Minister for the Environment

- Hon Tony Burke, Shadow Minister for Environment
- Mr Jeff Singleton, Senior Advisor to Hon Anthony Albanese, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure
- Mr Matt Whitting, Director, Major Projects Section, Department of Energy and Environment

The purpose of the meetings was to express concern about the proposal by Jandakot Airport Holdings (JAH) to clear several parcels of land totalling 76ha for the purposes of commercial development. JAH is required to conserve this bushland in perpetuity as a consequence of a 2010 Master Plan approval to clear 167ha of remnant vegetation for the purposes of aviation and commercial development.

JAH holds a 50-year lease from the Commonwealth of Australia to operate Jandakot Airport. Under the Federal Airports Act, JAH is required to prepare and review its Master Plan every five years. Under this Act, JAH is required to consult with State and Federal conservation bodies.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act is the key environmental legislation for regulating development of airports, but the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport gives the final approval for the Master Plan.

In the Federal Environment Minister's Approval Conditions for the 2009 Master Plan, which was to construct a fourth runway and associated taxiways etc. (EPBC 2009/4796), and included approval to clear 167ha of Banksia woodland, Ministerial Condition Number 3 was that 'the person must conserve in perpetuity all land in Conservation Precincts 1A, 1B, and 2' (see Figure 1).

Conservation Precincts 1A, 1B, and 2 consist of the Commonwealth-listed Threatened Banksia Woodland Ecosystem and supports Commonwealth-listed Threatened species Carnaby's Cockatoo and the Grand Spider Orchid, three Matters of National Environmental Significance (see Figures 2, 3 and 4).

Each of these Matters of National Environmental Significance have declined significantly in the Perth metropolitan area in the last 10 years as a consequence of clearing for road, residential, airport and health infrastructure, and where they were once very common, are now increasingly rare.

Now, in releasing its intentions for its 2019 Master Plan, JAH has indicated it is seeking to have Ministerial Condition Number 3 revoked and is seeking approval to clear 76ha (65%) of the 119ha of Banksia woodland in Conservation Precincts 1A, 1B, and 2 which is supposed to be protected in perpetuity (see Figure 5).

The purpose of this clearing is solely for commercial, not aviation, development. JAH, in meetings with WA State conservation agencies, apparently

stated that clearing this vegetation for commercial purposes was much better use of the land than retaining it for conservation.

In seeking approval to clear this remnant vegetation, JAH is proposing to give the Conservation Precincts 1A, 1B and 2 new names and boundaries as follows:

- Precincts 1A and 1B changing to 8 and 8A with changed boundaries;
- Precinct 2A changing to 7 and 7A.

This is confusing and obfuscates transparency in the review process, and may be being used to hide the proposed clearing which would be in breach of Ministerial Condition Number 3.

ANPSA believes the proposed clearing is totally unacceptable and unnecessary and sought meetings with politicians and public servants to alert them to this proposal while it was still in the draft stage.

So, in June 2018, the ANPSA National Conservation Officer held meetings with Federal and State parliamentary representatives whose electorates encompassed the location of Jandakot Airport, as well as the electorate of the National Conservation Officer.

These were Hon Ben Morton, Liberal Member for the Federal seat of Tangney, Hon Josh Wilson, Labor Member for the Federal seat of Fremantle, and Mr Yaz Mubarakai, Labor Member for the State seat of Jandakot.

Each of these politicians supported ANPSA's position, and were opposed to JAH's proposal to clear 76ha of remnant bushland in Conservation Precincts 1A,

1B, and 2. Mr Morton wrote a letter to Mr Michael McCormack, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, expressing this opposition. Mr Mubarakai wrote to WA's State Planning Minister Ms Rita Safiotti opposing the proposed clearing, and Ms Safiotti replied, confirming the WA State Government's opposition to the proposal, and promising to write to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure expressing that opposition.

Mr Morton and his officers then sought a meeting for ANPSA representatives with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Minister for Environment, or their staff, in Canberra during the sitting of the Federal Parliament in the last two weeks of August 2018.

Mr Wilson also sought a meeting for ANPSA representatives with the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and the Shadow Minister for Environment, or their staff, during the same timeframe. Separate meetings were requested with officers of the Federal Department of Energy and Environment.

All the requested meetings were arranged and confirmed during the week prior to the scheduled dates of 21 and 22 August 2018. Advisors from Mr Morton's and Mr Wilson's offices facilitated the meetings, and met ANPSA officers at Parliament House in Canberra, also attending some of the meetings.

The meetings with the Ministers and Shadow Ministers, and/or their advisors, and public servants were very cordial and professional, lasting between 30 and 60 minutes each over two separate days. Each of the Ministers and Shadow

Ministers indicated that they thought ANPSA presented a very strong case for JAH's proposal to clear any remnant vegetation in the Conservation Precincts to not be approved. This was because the clearing was clearly at odds with, and in contravention of, the approval of the 2009 Master Plan.

However, the Ministers and Shadow Ministers indicated that they could not force, or even recommend to, JAH that they remove their proposal to clear the remnant vegetation in the Conservation Precincts.

They all indicated that due process needed to be followed, and that ANPSA (and others) needed to submit written comments on JAH's draft 2019 Master Plan when it is released for a statutory 60-day comment period, probably towards the end of 2018. Nevertheless, they thanked ANPSA for meeting with them to discuss, and in some cases alert them to, this proposal.

It was disappointing that none of the Ministers and Shadow Ministers were able to assist ANPSA to pre-empt the proposal by JAH to clear any of the remnant vegetation in the Conservation Precincts prior to formalising the proposal in their Master Plan documentation.

The meetings with the Ministers and Shadow Ministers and/or their staff provided them information about the proposal, and the biodiversity significance, composition, quality and value of the areas JAH proposed to clear. It also gave ANPSA's representatives the opportunity to present the local community's vision of an Urban Bushland Experience Destination for

the area, which includes a 54ha Bush Forever conservation reserve adjacent to the areas proposed to be cleared, connected to a proposed new Railway Station and two closed landfills, via a green corridor (see Figure 6).

Further, the meetings with the Ministers and Shadow Ministers provided an opportunity for ANPSA representatives to introduce them to ANPSA, its aims and objectives, skills and areas of expertise, number of members and activities, including

propagation, education and advocating for conservation of native flora and vegetation. This opportunity is rarely afforded to community groups and should stand ANPSA in good stead as it continues and expands its horticultural, promotional and conservation activities.

The ANPSA representatives who attended these meetings greatly appreciate the full support of the entire ANPSA executive, as well as a financial contribution to the cost of the airfares from Perth to Canberra.

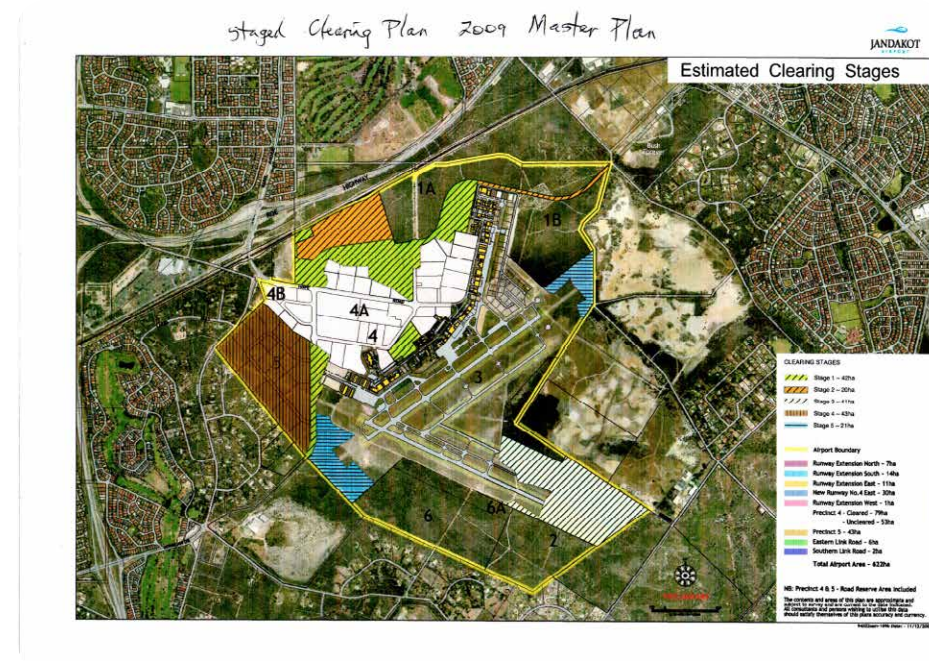


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4 (left)

Figure 6 (below)

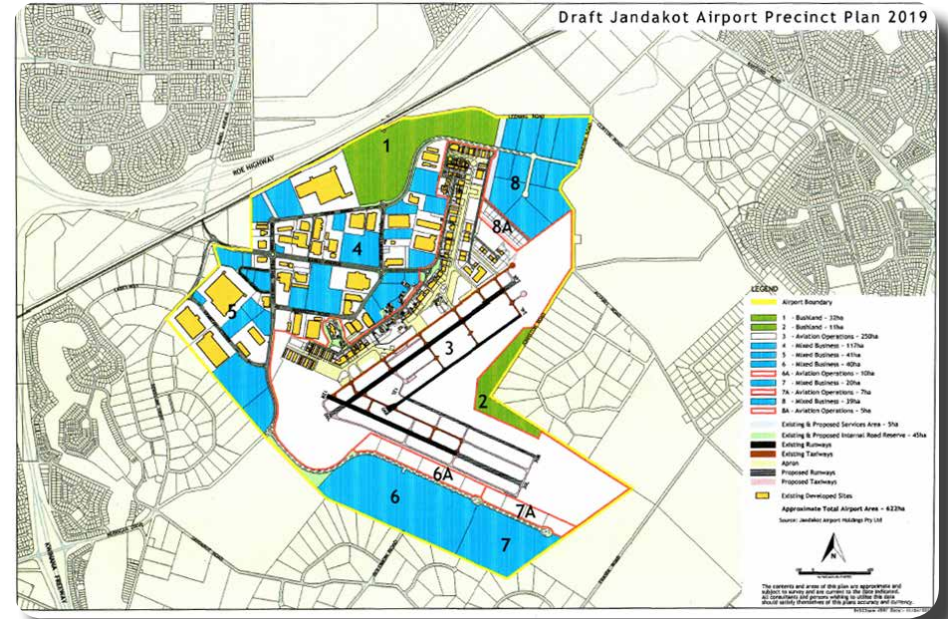


Figure 5



Pandanus palms, Purnululu National Park; Photo: John Carter

# A Flora in Miniature

## The Field Trip to Narrandera Sep 2018

Text and Photos by Roger Farrow

One of the adaptations of herbaceous plants to life in the arid zone is to be an annual and to persist in the seed bank germinating whenever rains occur, followed by flowering and seeding in a short space of time. When rainfall amounts are low but sufficient to induce germination, the pressure to reproduce is such that vegetative growth is limited resulting in miniature flowering plants.

Daisies Asteraceae dominate this life form. In the Narrandera, area there is generally reliable winter rainfall and annual plants germinate in autumn, flower in spring and die off in summer, but this year the winter rains failed. Even perennials that re-sprout in spring have their growth restrained by dry conditions and flower when of small size.

This was one of the main features of the herbaceous vegetation seen during the joint Friends of Grasslands/ANPS September field trip to Narrandera led by Rainer Rehwinkel.

A second adaptation to the dry environments of the inland is the succulent habit. Saltbushes, Chenopodiaceae and purslanes Portulacaceae, are the dominant

families of succulents in Australia whereas the succulents in the families Euphorbiaceae and Crassulaceae, that dominate the succulent flora of Africa and Asia, are poorly represented. Saltbushes and purslanes also contain miniature plants that were seen on this trip.

Narrandera is at the junction between the western slopes and plains of NSW. There are a range of environments in its immediate vicinity, including natural temperate grasslands, riverine woodlands dominated by river red gum, grassy box woodlands, cypress pine sand hills, salt lakes and improved pastures and irrigated croplands. This article covers a selection of the places visited during our weekend stay.

Our first stop was Millthorpe's Travelling Stock Route (TSR) on the Murrumbidgee Flood Plain, dominated by majestic river redgums, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and grey box, *E. microcarpa*. Looking severely drought affected and depauperate, it was only when we looked closely that we could see the scattering of annual paper daisies, *Rhodanthe corymbiflorum*, and a perennial burr daisy, *Calotis cuneifolia*.

Also present was a perennial minnie daisy, *Minuria leptophylla*, some shrivelled scrambled eggs, *Goodenia pinnatifida*, a succulent-looking poison pratia, *Lobelia concolor*, and the prostrate amulla, *Myoporum debile*, with its conspicuous purple fruit. We cannot leave this TSR without mentioning the superb parrots, the first of several that were seen on the trip.



Poison pratia *Lobelia concolor*



Paper daisies, *Rhodanthe corymbiflorum*



Amulla, *Myoporum debile*



Burr daisy *Calotis cuneifolia*



Superb parrot



Minnie daisy, *Minuria leptophylla*

Our next stop was Buckinbong State Forest, a sand hill association dominated by the white and Murray cypress pines, *Callitris columellaris* and *C. preissii* subsp. *murrayensis* and yellow and grey box. The ground was covered with carpets of tiny golden sunray, *Hyalosperma* (formerly *Helipterum*) *semisterile*.

Along some damp depressions formed in wheel tracks, we found some seriously tiny plants, camel dung, *Actinoble uliginosa*, and woolly heads, *Myriocephalus rhizocephalus*. Also present were the burr daisy, *Calotis cuneifolia*, a tiny bindweed, *Convolvulus graminetinus*, and the bottle fissure weed, *Maireana excavata*.



Camel dung, *Actinoble uliginosa*



Buckinbong State Forest. Cypress pines and a sparse carpet of golden sunray



Yorkey's Plain TSR is natural temperate grassland, dominated by perennial tussock grasses, where herbaceous plants occupy the inter-tussock spaces. The most conspicuous plant in flower was the large perennial, plains plover daisy, *Leiocarpa* (formerly *Ixiolaena*) *brevicompta*.

Also present were the sunrays seen earlier, scrambled eggs, the rough burr daisy, *Calotis scabiosifolia*, and a prostrate nightshade, possibly *Solanum cleistogamum*. Also present were the blue spikes of the Broughton pea, *Swainsona procumbens*, shown on the cover, with its curious twisted keel.



Rough burr daisy, *Calotis scabiosifolia*



?Shy nightshade, *Solanum cleistogamum*



Plains plover daisy, *Leiocarpa* (formerly *Ixiolaena*) *brevicompta*

Our final visit was to Lake Coolah, a dry saline lakebed, dominated by saltbushes and the curious spiny lignum, *Duma* (Formerly *Muehlenbeckia*) *horrida*, an apt name. The gravel margins of the lakebed are occupied by a range of tiny plants, including the paper daisies seen earlier, several blue saltbushes, including possibly *Maireana humilima*, a fuzzweed, *Vittadenia cuneata*, and a prostrate pussytail, *Ptilotus spathulatus*, among other plants.

The lake bed itself contains the clumps of the spiny lignum that was in flower, rosettes of a storksbill, *Erodium* sp. and several unidentified prostrate Chenopods, probably in the genus *Maireana*, plus a small annual buttercup possibly *Ranunculus pentandrus*.



Golden sunray, *Hyalosperma semisterile*



Dwarf bindweed, *Convolvulus graminetinus*



Bottle fissure weed, *Maireana excavata*



Scrambled eggs, *Goodenia pinnatifida*



The genus *Maireana* comprises at least 35 species from western NSW and probably a dozen in the local area that are not easy to identify.



Bluebush, *Maireana humilima*  
(above and close-up below)



Prostrate ?bluebush, *Maireana* sp (above and below)



Pussytail, *Ptilotus spathulatus*

Small purslane, *Calandrina eremaea*



Smooth buttercup, *Ranunculus pentandrus*



Storksbill, *Erodium* sp



Spiny lignum, *Duma* (Formerly *Muehlenbeckia*) *horrida* Male flowers inset

The small purslane, *Calandrina eremaea*, an annual, is found on rocky sites at a number of locations. It is a typical succulent with swollen, water-storing leaves.

identify those we saw from my photos using the Plants of Western New South Wales field guide, so I would welcome any corrections/suggestions.

I am not familiar with the plant species of this area and have attempted to

# ANPS Canberra Spring Plant Sale

By Dave Herald

I have helped set up for the plant sales for some six or seven years but never attended the actual sale. This year I did attend, and that experience has led me to write this short article. Regrettably I did not have a camera to record the experience although I probably would not have had the opportunity to use it!

ANPS has been conducting spring and autumn plant sales for many decades. The overwhelming impression I have is that the plant sales are a well-oiled process, with huge levels of cooperation and good spirit by all the volunteers involved.

A critical input to the plant sales is (of course) plants for sale! I'm not going to go into their contribution, as that is beyond the scope of his short article. However it is appropriate to recognise the contributions of the propagation group, member growers, the sale coordinator and many others who contribute behind the scenes.

## Setting up

Setting up for the sale occurs on the Friday (with the sale on the Saturday). The venue is one of the car parks at the Australian National Botanical Gardens (ANBG). An interesting advantage of using the car park is that the lines

for marking car spaces provide a convenient alignment marker for all the racks of plants. At the head of each line marking, a large index is provided of the plants to be found on either side of the line.

The setting up process involved the following (probably non-exhaustive) steps

- Grower arrives with their plants either by the car-load or trailer load....
- Myrtaceae plants are inspected by ANBG staff to ensure there is no sign of disease
- All the plants of each grower are counted and logged — critical for the ultimate payment to growers, and for the return of unsold plants
- Once counted, the plants are sorted into racks by type — such that only one plant type is in any rack, and the labels are all facing in the correct orientation. This typically involves six or more people, located under an awning that provides shelter from the sun.
- The racks of plants are then placed out in the car park, using the index at the end of the line markings. This process typically involves perhaps 10 or more people, with much walking. Good exercise!

The delivery of plants is governed by a schedule given to the growers. Plants start arriving at about 8am and continue until the early afternoon. For this sale the initial indication of plants that would be arriving was as high as 14,000. However the number of plants that are actually delivered is always less than initial indications, and for this sale the actual number of plants was a little over 10,000.

I have assisted with many set-ups. I continue to be impressed by the attitudes of all those who participate. Apart from a strong sense of purpose, there is a warm camaraderie with everyone contributing to the best of their abilities. (Given the typical age group of the volunteers, physical capabilities do vary!) In one sense it is a hard day's work, but in another sense it is a most rewarding day's work.

## Sale day

I had heard various tales about what the typical day of a sale was like. For an event that was not much advertised beyond an entry on the Society's Facebook page and web page, the tales seemed to me to perhaps involve some exaggeration. [See Editor's note below]

The sale was due to start at 8:30 am, when the gates to the ANBG would be opened. I arrived at 7:30am and noted a queue of people that was a good 20 metres long had already formed. Apparently the queue had started before 6:30am, when the first of our volunteers arrived! This was the first sign of things to come.

Before the gates were opened there was much activity to ensure pictures of the

plants were in place for all plants where there were at least 10 for sale. There was also the final setting up of the tables for processing the sales; these involved five queues — one taking cash payments, and four taking credit cards and Eftpos. Also there were various miscellaneous activities to be ready for when the gates opened.

I went down to the gates at 8:20 (10 mins before they were due to open). I was somewhat taken aback to see the queue extending from the botanic gardens towards the road entrance into the ANU with the end of the queue being nowhere in sight. Indeed, by that stage people were turning up for the sale and left because they had no desire to join such a long queue. It was at this point that I started to realise the tales I had heard about past sales were anything but fictional.

The gates were opened at 8:30am by the ANBG staff. My overwhelming impression was that the event was like Boxing Day sales in the major cities — except that everyone was extremely well behaved. People walked at a suitably brisk pace from the gates to the plant area, with no pushing or shoving, or people trying to overtake others in the queue. This stream of people continued for a long period of time (an hour or more....).

There was significant variation in the level of preparedness of the people. Some were well organised with wheeled containers or appropriate boxes to hold their plants, and lists of what they wanted. Others were less prepared with shopping bags of various types for their plant selections. I never had

the opportunity to inspect the crowd conduct in the plant area. However it was undoubtedly very congested, with the apparently wide space between the rows of plants being in fact quite narrow for the number of people present.

The first person arrived at the sales counters at about 8:45am. Within a few minutes, the number of people turning up to pay expanded from that one to perhaps 100. For those of us handling the sales processing, it became totally full-on until about 10:30, when all of a sudden the queues dropped to quite small numbers, slowly tapering off to individuals.

Again I was impressed by the good humour of the people queuing, the overall sense of patience, and the total lack of any pushing or shoving. Furthermore the ANPS volunteers maintained good humour and got on with the job in dealing with the hordes. The only significant glitch was that towards the end of the sales, two of the eftpos machines ran out of paper for printing receipts — with a scramble to find spare rolls.

I took the opportunity to have discussions with several purchasers while they were waiting for movement in the queue. Again I was impressed by the overall civility of everyone — you readily got the impression that you could be friends with almost all of them. I was also greatly impressed by the huge level of interest in native plants. A common comment (from the few I spoke with) was that they valued the ANPS sale because it provided access to a huge range of native plants, most of which were not readily available from retail outlets.

By 11:30 the sale was effectively over, with only a handful of customers present. At that time we started hearing thunder, and quickly started packing up the tents/tables etc before the storm arrived. In the plant area there were some plants remaining. From my recollection, the majority were in three or four trays of particular plant types; in any event, the total number of unsold plants was (at a guess) of the order of 100 — just 1% of those offered for sale.

### Some statistics

Whichever way I look at the plant sale, I cannot help but be impressed by the event. To emphasise this, the following is a short order-of-magnitude summary of the sale:

- Number of plants sold: 10,000
- Number of customers: 800
- Dollars collected: \$83,000
- Duration of the main sale activity: 1h 45m

This approximately equates to:

- eight customers per minute
- 100 plants per minute, or 1.6 plants per second!
- \$830 per minute, or \$14 per second

I was pleased to note that many attendees were relatively young couples; indeed, the overall age profile was quite a deal younger than attendees at ANPS meetings. Also, on my estimate most attendees were present as a family group, with individuals being the exception. Given we had 800 sales, my guess is that we had well over 2000 people attend the sale. Not bad for an unadvertised event.

## Conclusion

The ANPS plant sales are a well-organised activity with processes that have developed over many decades. Its success depends critically on three factors:

- The team that manages the sale, including those who do a lot of the behind-the-scenes work:
- Having native plants for sale — as provided by growers (including ANPS growers)
- Volunteers for setting up and running the sale

I'm not into growing the plants from cuttings etc (I would probably put the wrong end into the ground!). However as a volunteer to set up and run the sale I get to be involved in an enjoyable activity with great social interactions. It might at times be hard work (but you are never pushed beyond your capabilities).

The satisfaction of a job well done is well worth it, and I heartily encourage ANPS members to be involved in this regular activity.

*[Editor's note: The Society advertised on its Facebook page which was regularly updated reaching about 7,000 people. As is the nature of Facebook, these posts were often shared thereby increasing our outreach to the public.]*

*John Carter, currently vice-president, was interviewed on local ABC radio. The sale was listed in The Canberra Times' Private Capital's 'Five things to do this weekend' on Wed Oct 17th. Road signs were strategically positioned throughout Canberra streets. The event was posted to the ANBG/Parks Australia web and social media sites. It was included in the monthly 'October in the Gardens' poster and distributed widely at the ANBG. ANPS also maintained supplies of flyers to the ANBG Visitors Centre.*

*Given the popularity of our previous sales, traditional forms of paid advertising were not thought necessary. This proved correct as, once again, we had a sellout within a couple of hours as Dave writes later in this article.]*



Lotus, Parry's Lagoon; Photo: John Carter

# Life Membership Award

## Precis of Nomination of Lyndal Thorburn and Tom Jordan for Honorary Life Membership of the Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc

Lyndal Thorburn and Tom Jordan joined ANPS Canberra in 1979 and have been devoted members ever since (39 years). Lyndal was active on ANPS Council during the decade of the 1980s, taking on a variety of roles: secretary, bulletin editor and treasurer.

Lyndal and Tom invited ANPS to place an igloo on their property in 1985 and have hosted 3–4 cutting and potting bees there every year since. These bees provide an opportunity for those interested in propagation to come together to discuss propagation techniques and ways to improve propagation success. They estimate that they have hosted between 60 and 90 propagation group events. Lyndal and Tom have also hosted grafting workshops.

Lyndal and Tom are responsible in large part for introducing eremophilas as garden subjects to the ACT region. They joined the Eremophila Study Group (ESG) in 1985 and enthusiastically started collecting species of this genus, discovering that many are quite frost hardy.

Since the 1990s Lyndal and Tom have introduced many species and forms of eremophila to the propagation group, through their own purchases of plants

from nurseries and growers in Victoria, South Australia and NSW.

Lyndal has managed the ANPS propagation database since 2006, adding a number of improvements to data collection that has enabled the Society to analyse the results of propagation efforts and the effect of different treatments.

Tom and Lyndal have proposed inclusion of over 50 new species into the ANPS Canberra plant label database since 2009, including several in the most recent update. While the majority of these are eremophilas they have also been responsible for proposing inclusion of grevilleas, melaleucas, prostantheras, hakeas, dodonaeas, scholtzia and correas.

Tom and Lyndal both provide time and effort to the plant sales. In addition to their role in the propagation group, Tom transports plants from the Queanbeyan igloo to the plant sale. In earlier years he and Lyndal would attend the sale and advise the public on plant selection.

Tom has been responsible for organising the Society's supply of soil for its propagation group for some years. This involves collecting the soil, decanting it into 50 litre tubs which are then transported to each potting bee.

Tom has also saved the Society considerable expense in applying his practical skills to improving propagation equipment.

Lyndal and Tom were also two of the four-member editorial committee for the fourth, 2001, edition of *Australian Plants for Canberra Region Gardens*. They, with Gwynn and Geoff Clarke, selected the species and determined the information to be included and how it would be presented to make it easy for purchasers to understand. Tom played a major role in recording the information in a form that simplified its export into the book format.

Lyndal presented a paper recently at the ANPS monthly meeting on eremophilas. She has been the leader of the ESG since 2015 and recently organised and presented several papers at an ESG event in South Australia. Over 40 people from all states and territories except Western Australia attended a very successful event in September 2017. She is now involved in planning the next event in Queensland.

Lyndal visits other ANPS groups in her role as leader of the ESG and gives talks on horticulture of that genus. As leader of that group she has recently launched a project to include a photo of every species of eremophila on a photo gallery as part of the ESG web page.

Lyndal and Tom have participated fully in the activities of the Society over many decades and are very well deserving of life membership in our Society.

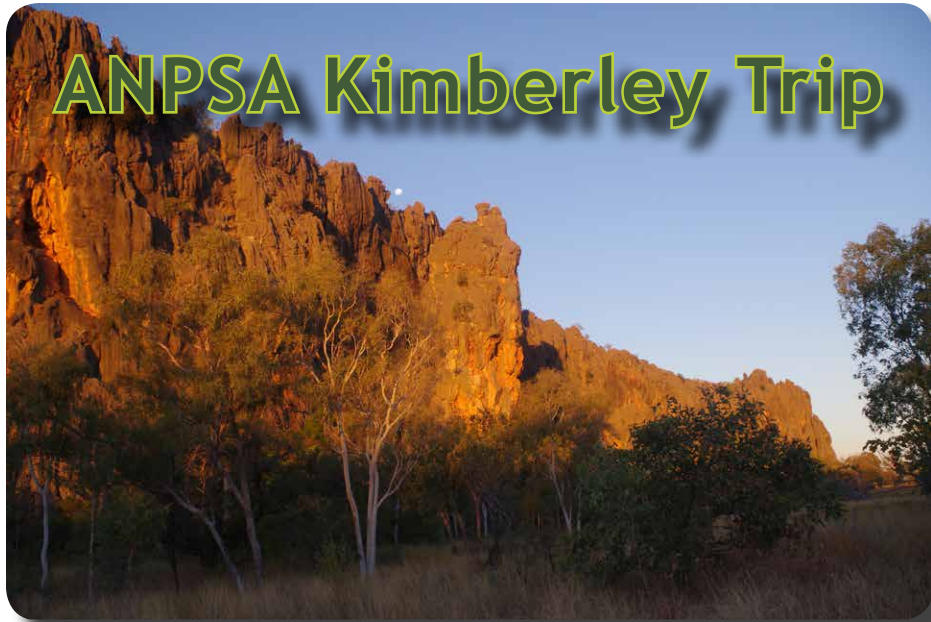
Congratulations Lyndal and Tom.

## Nominated by:

Phil Price, Ian Tranter and Ros Walcott

*Council approved the nomination and awarded life membership to Lyndal Thorburn and Tom Jordan at the November 2018 members' meeting.*





Winjana Gorge

*Text and Photos: John Carter*

For the past three years in June, Coates Wildlife Tours has conducted a 12-day trip to the Kimberley for ANPS members. The tour commences in Kununurra and travels to Purnululu National Park (Bungle Bungles) and locations along the Gibb River Road including Home Valley and Mornington Stations, Manning, Galvins, Bell and Windjana Gorges. The tour ends at Broome.

Eleven native plants society members including myself and Wendy Smedley participated in the 2018 trip. We were magnificently served by the bus driver/cook, David (Red) Morrell, and an experienced naturalist leader, Jolanda Keeble. The style of trip comprised camping at the various locations and easy-style walks into the surrounding bushland and gorges. By the end of the

trip we were all expert at quickly setting up tents and breaking camp.

The Kimberley has a wealth of nectar and seed producing plants and is a haven for birdlife. Consequently, much of the trip was bird-focused but gradually morphed into a 'Grevillea quest'.

*Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* (syn *Bauhinia cunninghamii*) was dominant at several campsites and provides nectar to a myriad of small and medium birds including the Great Bowerbird and the Olive Backed Oriole. The tree has a back to back leaf arrangement and is called the Jigal tree (Mother-in-Law Tree) because of the aboriginal tradition that men should not face their mother-in-law!

Our Kimberly tour commenced with two full days based at the south end of Purnululu National Park.



*Bauhinia cunninghamii*

At the Park there is an early morning 'must-do' helicopter flight. Wendy and I chose the 40-minute flight which traversed the whole of the Park. The helicopter had no doors which was quite a challenge to someone who doesn't like heights! The flight provided magnificent views of the beehive structures, a heavily eroded remnant impact crater and the northern crocodile and snake rock formation.



Beehive structures, Purnululu National Park

After the flight we saw great stands of *Grevillea wickhamii* as we accessed the Park to walk one of the many trails among the beehive formations. The following day we visited Echidna Gorge in the north, on the way spotting *Grevillia miniata* along the roadside. You access the Gorge along a hot and dry boulder-strewn creek bed and we passed the brightly coloured



*Grevillea wickhamii*



*Grevillea miniata*



*Polycarpaea longiflora*

*Polycarpaea longiflora*, *Wrightia saligna* and, upon entering the Gorge, beautiful stands of pandanus palms set against the red conglomerate rock. (Blocky conglomerate comprises the geology of this end of Purnululu in contrast to the layered formations in the south.)

After three nights camping at Purnululu we headed south and, after a stop at Wyndham for supplies (not somewhere



Pentecost River

I would visit again), we joined the Gibb River Road. We enjoyed a stop at Marlgu Billabong in the Parry's Lagoon Reserve at the head of Cambridge Gulf. We saw lots of waterbirds at this RAMSAR site and were given the 'once over' by the resident saltwater crocodile. Then it was on to Home Valley Station where we camped for two nights on the Pentecost River (but not too close to the river because of salties) with its splendid sunset views of the Cockburn Ranges.

Westward from Home Valley Station we came across substantial stands of *Grevillea pteridifolia* along the roadside. There were lots of forms and were spectacularly in flower. Many stands seemed to be in single cohort monocultures giving the impression of post-fire germination events, just like acacias.



*Grevillea pteridifolia*

Occasionally on the roadside there were flowering *Grevillea pyramidalis*. Unfortunately, the steeply winding road prevented stopping for images of either species which fuelled the hunt for photo-accessible plants. We were however able to capture *Grevillea prasina* at a brief stopover at Bindoola Creek before camping overnight at Manning River — which has a great swimming spot.



*Grevillea prasina*

The following morning we spotted a Tawny Frogmouth in the campsite which proved to be very accommodating for the birdwatchers. We then diverged from the Gibb River Road to travel to Mornington Station with a stopover for a swim at Galvins Gorge with its sentinel boab tree. Boabs, *Adansonia gregorii*, are a feature of the northern savannah country and are frequently found along creek lines.



*Adansonia gregorii*

Mornington Station is a 3000 km<sup>2</sup> property owned by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy and is a haven for birdlife including the Gouldian Finch (unfortunately we didn't cite this species). During our stay we spent time walking the spectacular Sir John Gorge where we 'bagged' *Grevillea*

*refracta*. This plant naturally forms an open conical bush and would be a great garden plant.



*Grevillea refracta*

At the gorge we were also able to get up close and personal to the Kimberley Rose, *Brachychiton viscidulous* and the Kapok Tree *Cochlospermum fraseri*. Wendy recalls the use of kapok as a cushion stuffing material during her youth in Western Australia. It was harvested in the Kimberley.



*Brachychiton viscidulous*, Kimberley Rose



*Cochlospermum fraseri*, Kapok Tree

Besides a walk to Sir John Gorge, Mornington Station hosts the Diamond Gorge and a well-curated termite mound walk.

After Mornington Station we returned to the Gibb River Road and headed for the Silent Grove campsite. At a refuelling stop there were groves of the quinine tree, *Petalostigma pubescens*. This plant is used extensively in aboriginal medicine.



*Petalostigma pubescens*, Quinine Tree

Along the way we visited Bell Creek Gorge. Access is via a hot and dusty track down into the river valley followed by a relatively easy walk along a narrow path. The slog was really worth it because at the end there awaited a truly fabulous swimming hole. Next to the Bell Creek Gorge parking spot was a fine specimen of the orchid *Cymbidium caniculatum*.



*Cymbidium caniculatum*

Silent Grove has a short walk where we saw screw palms, *Pandanus spiralis*, and a scrappy specimen of *Grevillea agrifolia*, its reputation salvaged by its beautiful flowers. We were unable to meet up with the resident python but did see growing alongside the python's fig tree a *Eucalyptus phoenicia* in full flower. Frogs were abundant throughout the trip — you only have to look in the toilet cisterns to find them!



*Grevillea agrifolia*



*Eucalyptus phoenicia*

Departing from Silent Grove we travelled through the King Leopold Range with its outcrop, Queen Victoria's Head, to Windjana Gorge. We ticked off *Grevillea pteridifolia* along the way, the plants were a poor substitute for the magnificence we had seen earlier.



Aboriginal rock art



*Ficus racemosa*



Boab Prison Tree Derby



*Grevillea pyramidalis*

We arrived at Windjana in time for a short walk into the Gorge where we were greeted by our first freshwater crocodile. Windjana Gorge was created by the Lennard River as it carved a passage through the Devonian limestone barrier reef which now forms the Napier Range.

The days spent here were the highlight of the trip. There were plenty of birds including a Great Bowerbird which entertained us with its amorous display in front of its bower which it had built adjacent to the path into the Gorge.

A short drive from Windjana Gorge is Tunnel Creek. The walk comprises a trek along a river bed, sometimes wading through water, as it tunnels through the Napier Range to an oasis at the end. We spotted the eyes of freshwater crocodiles along the route and at the end were able to view aboriginal rock art and the Cluster Fig, *Ficus racemosa*.

Our final day was spent travelling from Windjana Gorge to Broome via Derby and visiting the famous (or more aptly the infamous) Prison Boab Tree. Before arriving at Derby we completed our quest by finding a stand of *Grevillea pyramidalis* in full flower.

After our trip, Wendy and I spent a couple of nights resting in Broome before travelling north to Cape Leveque. But that is another story .....

For information about future Kimberley trips contact Nicky Zanen [nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk) or Coates Wildlife Tours.

# Harolds Cross

By Janeen Greig

A few years ago we bought 6+ hectares of land just east of the Great Dividing Range and west of the Shoalhaven River at a place called Harolds Cross. It is a north-facing block ranging from 920m above sea level at the road to 950m at the top of the hill. The north-facing slope is granite and the south-facing slope is basalt. There is a dam down near the road. The north-facing slope is mostly cleared land.

Rainfall is nearly 1000ml per year, as we often get sea mists coming up over the coastal range. We also get plenty of strong winds from the Alps and occasional snow. Overnight temperatures in winter are generally not as low as Canberra and summer heat is usually 2–3° cooler.

The land had previously been used for cattle grazing, though not for some years. However there were few shrubs. Predominant vegetation is *Eucalyptus pauciflora* and *Acacia melanoxylon* with an understory of *Poa labillardierei* and *Themeda australis*.

The first task was to establish some fast-growing screen plants above

the dam, for privacy. We planted a number of acacias: *A. covenyi*, *A. longifolia*, *A. cultriformis*, *A. vestita*, *A. penninervis*, *A. kybeanensis*, *A. siculiformis*, *A. rigens* among others with the odd callistemon. Our second task was to plant understory species, especially flowering natives as food for small birds.

Our other passion is birdwatching. There are plenty of large species, from wedge-tailed eagles, magpies, pied and grey currawongs, wattlebirds etc and middle-sized ones including choughs, grey-shrike thrushes and satin bowerbirds, and migratory honeyeaters and robins.

One aim of the planting has been to provide spiky plants such as hakeas as havens for small birds, coupled with overlapping flowering times so that there are year-round food sources as well. We have planted food for nectar-eaters, fruit feeders and there are the grasses for seed eaters.

Our planting method is to mark locations for plants, numbered and noted on rough plans of the landscape, then sprayed weeks before planting with glyphosate to subdue grasses and weeds. At

planting time we use a motorised auger of the appropriate size to dig the holes (we're not getting any younger) then fill all holes with water a few times. We then scarify the hole walls to allow root penetration.

We use a mixture of native plant mix and ordinary potting mix 2:1 with a little powdered native plant fertiliser mixed in. After planting we water with Seasol to encourage root growth, surround with coarse mulch then water again a few days later, keeping up the watering for a

couple of weeks to a month or two depending on the weather.

Up until the 2018 winter our plantings have survived well, however this year the lower temperatures coupled with way below average rainfall meant we lost a few plants that we expected to survive. Luckily, there are always heaps of lovely plants available for sale at the ANPS biannual sales to get excited about, and we will continue to experiment in future plantings.



*Pandanus spiralis*, Silent Grove; Photo: JohnCarter



# Black Mountain's Messages

## Beyond the Black Mountain Symposium 2018

By Rosemary Blemings

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August over a hundred people attended the Black Mountain Symposium 2018 seeing again or learning anew why Black Mountain is a special place. The Friends of Black Mountain brought contributions together to celebrate billions of years of geomorphology, history, legend, culture and natural history.

Ngunawal Elder Wally Bell welcomed us to Country explaining Black Mountain's significance to the region's Aboriginal people and how our personal auras link to the spirituality of place, habitats and species through respect for others and understanding of culture.

Black Mountain has been a special place for aeons, for thousands of generations of Aboriginal people who were its custodians. They were stewards and land managers of its habitats and the species native to the surrounding grassy woodlands, riverine zones and plains on which their lives depended.

Beyond the exploitation and destruction that were the initial reaction of 'whitefellas' to the new land's resources, Black Mountain became a challenging

climb, a bush-walk venue, restorative viewing point, an outdoors laboratory, an outdoor classroom, a place to enjoy and a place to simply be.

The Symposium's presenters accepted the challenge of weaving the threads of their knowledge and Black Mountain experiences into a two-day experiential tapestry. We came to hear how their stories contribute to contemporary knowledge of place, geology, soils, climate, flora, fauna, habitats, communities and impacts. Presenters showed how the interconnectedness of these diverse facets of Black Mountain's origins and evolution created the reserve we value and love today.

### Utilising Black Mountain's messages

Will we now accept or renew the challenge of individually broadcasting the messages from Black Mountain when we are outdoors in our other and close-to-home special places?

Will we help others, even strangers, pause and share the wonders of nature that we observe regardless of the habitats we're in?

Will we show how naturalists' journeys begin with noticing, wondering, sharing, recording, researching things that stimulate our curiosity?

Will we, now that we are citizen scientists, offer nature's stories to those we meet in the other worlds of suburban life?

Will we dare to say: 'Excuse me did you see that Swamp Hen?' 'Look there's a rainbow!' 'Watch out for bees, but have the children ever made daisy chains out of Capeweed flowers?' 'See how the honeyeaters are enjoying nectar from the Ironbark flowers.' 'Which insects are visiting and pollinating these flowers?'

By interpreting nature for others we're creating naturalists. As happened on Black Mountain, naturalists needed to become advocates. New naturalists will be the future defenders of places and species they share habitats with.

Two examples of engaging passers-by and telling stories of adaptation and inter-dependence:

#### Example one



In winter, caterpillars of the Pasture Day Flying Moth *Apina callisto* may be found feeding in grassed areas and amongst disturbed vegetation. By late winter the caterpillars have grown to be 4cm long having eaten grasses, Capeweed, Erodium species. They survive sub-zero temperatures in the open by having an

antifreeze component in their bodily fluids, an invention that precedes our motors' antifreeze by millions of years.

The mature larvae seek hard-packed soil and begin digging a shaft by bringing grains of soil to the surface one by one. The entry hole is of similar diameter to a pencil. The pile of grains can be seen with the darker colour suggesting the larva mixes the soil with saliva or perhaps the sub-soil, even in the current drought retains some moisture. How can something as soft and squishy as a caterpillar grind away at soil to make these portable bites?

The busy larvae were pointed out to a diverse array of 25 busy dog-walkers and families on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August in the course of an hour. 'How would you like to see an amazing caterpillar?' Regardless of their busyness and appearances all were glad to have been alerted to the caterpillars' behaviour.

#### Example Two



On an everyday suburban footpath there's an accumulation of bird droppings.

Even this mess can relate a story to those who stop to observe and join-the-dots.

There's a presence of birds in the tree above the footpath.

Take a step back. There could be a bird about to bring you luck by pooing on your shoulders. Then look up!

There may be a nest above the splodge of poo.

The branch may be a night-time roost site for birds.

If there's a normal weather pattern including showers these splodges of

poo will be damp enough for ants to remove and carry to their nests. If the splodges persist it's a reflection on the drought — dry spell or the lack of sufficient rain with 'wash-away power'.

Ants are extremely important as removers of detritus. There is minimal wastage in natural, balanced systems. What seems to us to be yucky, dirty, waste or messy provides valuable nutrients for other organisms.



Cathedral Gorge, Purnululu National Park; Photo: John Carter

## Study Group Notes

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

### Acacia Study Group

Newsletter 142, September 2018

- From the Leader
- From Members and Readers
- Exciting New Acacia Research
- Coconuts and Elephants
- Myall Park Botanic Garden
- *Acacia neriifolia*
- *Acacia conferta*
- *Acacia boormanii* ssp *gibba*
- More About *Acacia boormanii*
- Wattle Day
- Rare Wattle Outings
- Tara and Kogan
- Nudley-Ballon Forestry
- Books
- ANPSA Study Group Newsletters
- Seed Bank
- Study Group Membership

### Correa Study Group

Newsletter 58, November 2018

- Correa News
- In search of elusive Correas
- My Correas — Michael Lacey
- Any trouble with lack of flowers
- Pests and Diseases
- Grafting of Correas
- Treasured Correas
- Financial Report
- Membership
- Members willing to share details

### Dryandra Study Group

Newsletter No 75, October 2018

- Welcome from Newsletter Editor
- *Dryandra anatona*
- *Dryandra arborea*
- State Government preserves unique Helen-Aurora Range
- Members News
- How long can Dryandras grow in the garden?
- Trip to the Katanning area

### Eremophila Study Group

Newsletter 121, October 2018

- Letter from the Editor
- What's New in the Study Group
- Know Your Eremophila — *E. maculata* yellow forms
- Damping off and Cuttings
- A question
- Eremophila Rescue in WA
- Feature Species — *Eremophila nivea*
- Nescofilm
- More on Carmine Star
- Fleurieu Group Gathering
- Wild Eremophilas from SA to WA
- Eremophilas of western central Queensland
- Sub-Group meetings
- Another new species
- Website Image Database
- From Your letters
- Cuttings wanted
- Next Newsletter themes
- About the Study Group

## Garden Design Study Group

Newsletter 105, November 2018

- About the Newsletter & Themes
- Comments from the Editor
- A Garden Beside the Sea, Jane Burke
- Extracts from Past Newsletters
- Landscape Conference in Melbourne
- Late Winter Garden Visits
- Developing 'Terra Australis'
- Bushland Garden at Logan Village
- Changes in the Garden
- Pocket Handkerchief Rainforest Garden
- From the Post Box
- Coming 'Garden' Events
- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Matters

## Grevillea Study Group

Newsletter 111, October 2018

- Editorial
- Activity Report
- Taxonomy
- Grevillea News
- In the Wild
- In Your Garden
- Seed Bank
- Financials

## Hakea Study Group

Newsletter 68, October 2018

- Letter from the Leader
- Financial
- Welcome to new members
- Members subscriptions.
- Members reports
- Propagation
- The Hakea crawl in the Albany region of WA, October 2018

- In my garden
- Photos

## Isopogon & Petrophile Study Group

Newsletter 23 November 2018

- Editorial
- From our members
- Exchanging cuttings and seed report back: cuttings mail exchange results
- Focus on...pollen presenters
- Western Australia 2018 update
- Jurassic isopogons at Mount Annan
- Profile — *I. formosus*
- Painting *I. formosus*
- Grafting update
- It's time to prune!
- Profile — *P. biloba*
- Leucophiles and isospermums
- Grampians gardens
- In the press
- Financial report

## More Study Group News

### Goodeniaceae Study Group re-activated

First the good news. Jane Fountain, our National Study Group Coordinator, has the rather exciting news that the Goodeniaceae Study Group will be re-activated due to members Royce Raleigh who will be Leader, and Maree Goods who will be Newsletter editor.

The first step has been made and it will take some time to complete. Some of you may have met these two as they have been involved in organising

the 12th FJC Rogers Seminar this year (Subject Goodeniaceae).

However, unfortunately both the Boronia Study Group and Rainforest Study Group have been taken off the 'active' list as there have been no newsletters for some years.

### Excerpt from Acacia Study Group Newsletter

Over the last few years, Sheryl Backhouse has done an amazing job in tracking down and scanning old newsletters from a lot of the Study Groups, in fact she is now over the 1000 mark. These are now all on the ANPSA website. But there are still some missing newsletters. Other than the Acacia Study Group missing newsletters, Sheryl is still searching for the following:

Banksia — Pre Spring 2002 & 21 onwards; Report 3 page 9, 15, 19–26 missing.

Beaufortia and Allied Genera — 12, 14, 15+

Brachychiton and Allied Genera — 15, 16, 39+

Callistemon — 1, 2, post Aug '82 and pre March '83

Calothamnus and Allied Genera — 1, 2, 24+

Calytrix — 1–3, 18+

Container Plants — 1–11, 15, 22, 34+

Dodonaea — 33+

Eremophila — 107

Eucalypts — 1, 3, 4, 16+ in 1st series

Fern — 1–4, 34, 35

Indigenous Palm — 11+

Orchids — 32, 70, 75+

Palm and Cycad — 75, 102+

Prostanthera and Westringia — 1–18, 20, 28+

Regeneration — Vol 2/1, Vol 3/4+

Stylidium — 13+

Verticordia — 1–9, 17, 38, 49+

Wildlife and Native Plants (formerly Birds and Native Plants) — 22, 68+

If you can help with any of these newsletters, please contact: Sheryl ([sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com](mailto:sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com)).

## Acacia books

### Wattles of the Mount Alexander Region

By Bernard Slattery, Ern Perkins and Bronwyn Silver  
Published by the Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests (Mt Alexander Region) 2018, RRP \$10

This book deals with wattles occurring in the Mount Alexander Region of central Victoria. In total, 20 species are covered in the book, being three wattles with true leaves, 13 wattles with phyllodes, two wattles that are rare in the region and two weed species.

For each species, a description of the plant is provided, as well as information on the derivation of its name, details of similar species and information on where to see them. Each species is illustrated with colour photographs and black and white line drawings.

The publication of the book pays tribute to the work of the late Ern Perkins (1934–2016), and notes that he is a continuing inspiration. Along with his wife Lesley and other field naturalists,

Ern strove to discover and document the diverse flora of Castlemaine and surrounds over a period of more than 40 years. The information provided in the book is based on the notes that Ern made about wattles in the district over this period.

## Knowing, Growing Acacia for Food and Conservation

Written and published by Neville Bonney 2018

Neville Bonney comments in this book that he has more than 50 years' experience working with and growing

Acacias, and this is reflected in the various topics covered and information provided. The book includes sections on plant identification, seed collection, propagation, farm forestry, dryland farming, Aboriginal nation uses and history and the use as a food source.

It covers Acacias growing in more temperate, arid, semiarid and open woodland climates, not tropical or rain forests.



Queen Victoria's Head, a granite outcrop, King Leopold Range; Photo: John Carter

## 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 7.30pm 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](http://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.

Membership Secretary: Naomi Boccola  
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**Back cover:** Echidna Chasm, Purnululu National Park; Photo: John Carter

