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Cover: *Eucalyptus pressiana* flower; Photo: Glenn Pure

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. Contributions may be typed or handwritten, and accompanied by photographs and drawings.

Submit photographs as either electronic files, such as JPEGs, or prints. Set your digital camera to take high resolution photos. Please send JPEGs separately and not embedded in a document. If photos are too large to email, copy onto a CD and send it by post. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your prints returned. If you have any queries please contact the editor.

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President's Report to Members

I'm pleased to present this, my first President's Report to members of the Australian Native Plants Society — Canberra Region. During the past six months the Society has experienced a high level of activity, not to mention some controversy as well. Highlights have been:

2015 Conference

The ANPSA Conference in November 2015 will be hosted by Canberra ANPS. The conference committee, under the leadership of Ben Walcott, has made considerable progress in mapping out a plan of activities. The conference will be held at the Australian Institute of Sport, with the theme "Bush Capital — Garden City". A number of prominent speakers have been lined up, and work is currently under way towards creating the Conference website.

Membership

Our membership currently stands at 240, including life members. This number includes family membership, so the number of people actually subscribing to ANPS activities exceeds 240. Member meetings have been well-attended, with about 40 to 50 present on each occasion. In February, fellow member Roger Farrow spoke about the ANPS field trip to the Flinders Ranges in 2011. In March we had Michael Anlezark talk about planning for the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens, and in April Associate Professor David Watson from Charles Sturt University gave a most interesting presentation on mistletoes.

Privacy

In recent times our email communications have experienced some "address harvesting" by people who then use those email addresses for purposes unrelated to ANPS activities. With a view to protecting member privacy, we have set up a number of closed email distribution lists, which have inbuilt protection against improper use. There are lists for Wednesday Walkers, Daytime Activities and Field Trips. Any member is entitled to have his or her email added to one or more of the lists. Individual email addresses do not appear on emails sent to the respective group, only the list address. An additional closed list will be created for plant sale participants, such as growers, shadehouse minders, propagation members etc.

Autumn Plant Sale

A successful plant sale was conducted at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) in March 2014, though some "volunteer fatigue" was apparent at the end of the day. On the Friday (set-up day) we had 32 volunteers present, and on the Saturday (sale day) we had 37 volunteers present. The sale had a 70% clearance rate, which is about normal for the Autumn sales. At our Spring sales on the other hand, we usually sell out. The economists among you would put that down to the simple law of supply and demand. The more favourable growing conditions over the summer period result in more plants being available for sale at Autumn sales,

but our customers tend to prefer the Spring sales for planting purposes.

We can address the demand side of the equation in part by improving our advertising. In that regard, I'm pleased to advise that Anne Campbell has kindly agreed to manage the sale advertising. Anne has put together an excellent advertising proposal that we will put in place for the Spring sale and subsequent sales. I'd like to thank Anne very much for taking on that job. Whilst wanting our plant sales to be successful, we must also be conscious of our capacity constraints.

One constraint is the size of the selling area at ANBG, and the other key constraint is the number of member volunteers we have to run the sale. The ANPS Council is monitoring these factors to ensure that the sales are successful whilst remaining manageable.

Plant Label Database

The ANPS Plant Label Database was set up a number of years ago to provide accurate descriptions of plants offered at our plant sales. It is maintained and updated by volunteers who form the Database Group. As well as providing accurate descriptions and characteristics, the label database also ensures that the high reputation for plants bought at the ANPS sales is maintained.

Recently some reservations have been expressed by growers about process and timeliness. The Council has decided to close the database for six months, during which time no new plants will be added. Exceptions were made for a small number of additions which were already in progress at the time of closure. The six

months period of closure will be used to investigate whether any changes should be made to the process. At the end of the six months (September) Council will decide whether to re-open the database, or extend the closure for a further period.

Group Activities

For the past few years, Shirley Daniels has carried out the role of coordinator of the ANPS Daytime Activities Group, previously known as the Tuesday Meeting Group. Shirley has now handed over the role to Bill Willis. I'd like to thank Shirley sincerely for a job well done, and wish Bill all the best in this new endeavor.

Wednesday Walks (WW) continue unabated, challenged only by the occasional bad weather. Organiser Ros Cornish, together with other members of the Wednesday Walkers Group, has just completed a revision of the WW Guidelines. Additional information about forthcoming walks etc will soon be available on the ANPS website as well. Monthly Field Trips continue to attract a good number of participants, including trips to the Victorian Alps, Newnes and Bundanoon. Lots more exciting trips are planned for the rest of the year.

As you can see from the foregoing comments, ANPS remains a vibrant and active Society catering to a wide variety of member activities. So let's keep it that way.

With best wishes
Neville Page



Wednesday Walkers, Bald Hill Fire Trail; Photo: Lucinda Royston

We were surprisingly lucky this summer in not having to miss any scheduled walks because of hot weather. We covered a lot of ground ranging from deep in Namadgi National Park out to the Corn Trail in the coastal range and lots in between.

Smokers Flat and Orroral Valley Lookout

The walk is along part of the Square Rock walking track. It climbs gradually from the car park on Corin Dam Road through tall forest to Smoker's Flat where there are several interesting swamps. There were many interesting plants flowering in early December, allowing us to stop many times to catch our breath — *Olearia erubescens*, *O. lirata*, *O. megalophylla*, *Calotis scabiosifolia* var. *integrifolia*, *Bulbine glauca*, *Daviesia mimosoides*, *D. ulicifolia*, *Podolobium alpestre*, *Pultenaea capitellata*, *Stylidium graminifolium*, *S. armeria*, *Coprosma*



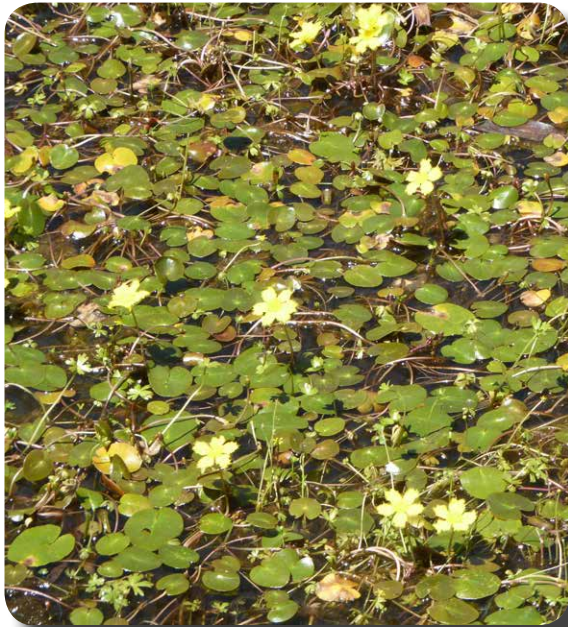
Pimelea treyvaudii, Smoker's Flat; Photo: Jean Geue

hirtella, *Ozothamnus thyrsoides* and many *Cassinia aculeata* in bud (pink as well as white). *Ozothamnus stirlingii* was also in bud. We saw a few orchids too — *Stegostyla moschata*, *Petalochilus carneus*, *Diuris sulphurea*, *Gastrodia sesamoides*, *Calochilus paludosus* and *Diuris monticola*.

We continued on past the swamps to the Orroral Lookout where we had lunch with spectacular views to the Orroral



Nymphoides montana, Smoker's Flat; Photos: Roger Farrow (above) and Martin Butterfield (below)



Valley and surrounding hills. We then retraced our steps, exploring one of the smaller swamps where we found *Ranunculus inundatus* and *Nymphoides montana* (lovely frilly yellow flowers) and near the middle, a big patch of purple *Utricularia dichotoma*. There had been quite a lot of track management burning so for most of the walk we had lush vegetation on one side and recovering burnt vegetation on the other which actually provided some extra interest and different plants.

Bald Hill Fire Trail

This was a new area for us and proved rewarding. We approached the Bald Hill Fire Trail (FT) from the Mulloon Fire Trail in Tallaganda National Park. Our first stop was on the Mulloon FT at the top of the Range where the North Black Range FT intersects. Immediately we saw the "plant of the day" — *Thysanotus tuberosus*. At most of the stops we saw lots, with many flowers and showing up really well against the largely dark grey forest floor.



Thysanotus tuberosus, Bald Hill FT; Photo: Graeme Kruse



Podolepis jaceoides, Bald Hill FT; Photo: Graeme Kruse



Persoonia asperula, Bald Hill FT; Photo: Graeme Kruse

them. We had a lovely stroll in a not-quite-swampy area near the Jinglemoney fire trail and have ear-marked it as the lunch stop for next time. Our final stop was after we'd left the National Park and in a wet forest area where there were many tree ferns, *Blechnum* sp. and *P. monticola*.

We were in forest all day, the main trees being *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, *E. viminalis*, *E. dalrympleana*, *E. radiata* and *E. dives*. We found many things of interest at our four stops. Flowering were *Brachyscome spathulata*, *B. decipiens*, *B. scapigera*, *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Lagenophora stipitata*, *Persoonia asperula*, *P. silvatica*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Stylidium graminifolium*, *S. armeria*, *Pultenaea subspicata*, *Hypoxis hygrometrica*, *Drosera auriculata*, *Ranunculus lappaceus*, *R. scapiger* and some orchids — *Chiloglottis trilabra*, *Dipodium roseum*, *Microtis* sp., *Pterostylis falcata* and *P. monticola*.

We also saw many large, spent Thelymitra — probably *T. alpina* — with a very wide leaf and we counted 21 flowers on one of



Pterostylis monticola, Bald Hill FT; Photo: Graeme Kruse



Choretrum pauciflorum, Bald Hill FT;
Photo: Martin Butterfield

Kowen Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR)

The TSR is now by-passed by the King's Highway, between Queanbeyan and Bungendore, and entry is from Sparrow Hill Road. The new starting place provides an interesting walk through very good grassland/woodland with excellent diversity. Many things were flowering. One of the first plants spotted was *Eryngium ovinum*. We saw many during the walk, some already electric blue.



Eryngium ovinum, Kowen TRS; Photo: Graeme Kruse

Other flowers were *Hypericum gramineum*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *C. semipapposum*, *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor*, *Velleia paradoxa*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *Convolvulus angustissimus*, *Microtis* sp. and some lovely grasses — *Sorghum leiocladum*, *Poa sieberiana*, *P. labillardierei*, *Rytidosperma laeve*, *Austrostipa scabra* ssp. *falcata* and *A. bigeniculata*.



Convolvulus angustissimus, Kowen TRS;
Photo: Graeme Kruse

Then we got to the TSR and found many of the same plants but added quite a few extras including *Podolepis jaceoides* (finished), *Calotis scabiosifolia* var. *integrifolia* (a few flowers), lots of *Lotus australis* — some in full flower and some seeding — and the big desmodium, *D. brachypodum* and some rather astonishing *Lomandra multiflora* in full flower. It was nice and shady in the TSR with some huge trees (mainly *Eucalyptus melliodora* and *E. nortonii*) as well as many *Exocarpos cupressiformis* and *Callitris endlicheri*.

Settlers Track

The Settlers Track is a relatively new walk in Namadgi National Park which we have done once before a few years ago. It is a moderate six kilometre return walk



Brayshaw's Homestead, Settlers Track; Photo: Jean Geue

along a marked trail with interpretive signs. It begins from the Boboyan Road near Brayshaw's Homestead where it first passes through grassland then climbs through woodland before descending to the Grassy Creek valley. It then crosses Grassy Creek, joins Grassy Creek Fire Trail and comes to Westerman's Homestead where it turns off the fire trail to rise through woodland then down through grassland to the end.

The plant list is extensive and on this occasion we saw a lot flowering — *Lomatia myricoides*, *Cullen microcephalum*, *Baekkea utilis*, *Podolepis hieracioides*, *Helichrysum rutidolepis*, *Calotis scabiosifolia* var. *integrifolia*, *Brachyscome graminea*, *B. scapigera*, *B. obovata*, several wahlenbergia species including *W. stricta*, *W. multicaulis*, *W. ceracea* and

W. luteola, *Cynoglossum australe* and *C. suaveolens*, *Dillwynia prostrata*, a few flowers on *Bossiaea foliosa*, a lot of *Lotus australis* and even some *Velleia paradoxa*. As we turned off the fire trail at Westerman's Homestead there was a lovely massed display of *Podolepis hieracioides*, also *Rhodanthe anthemoides* and *Convolvulus angustissimus*.

There were also some interesting sedges on the walk — *Carex incomitata*, *C. appressa*, *C. iynx*, *Baloskion australe* and *Empodisma minus*. We could have spent a long time in the swampy area where there were a lot of brachyscomes, *Hypericum japonicum*, *Stellaria angustifolia*, *Utricularia dichotoma*, *Montia australasica*, *Arthropodium milleflorum* and lots of other things.



Lunch with Black Sallys, Settlers Track; Photo: Di Mortimer

Monga Fire Trails

Rather than our usual circuit in Monga National Park, we decided to explore some different fire trails. We started off on Monga Mountain Road, shortly after turning off the highway at River Forest Road. We had a short (in distance) walk trying to put names to many unfamiliar things then had a late morning tea while various books were consulted. Plants of interest were *Choretrum candollei*, *Persoonia linearis*, *Hibbertia* sp., *Gahnia* sp., *Amperea xiphoclada*, *Goodenia hederacea* ssp. *alpestris*, *Lagenophora* sp. — all flowering. We then retraced our route to the Woodleigh Fire Trail and followed that north for most of the day, stopping at a few places. There was some *Epacris impressa* flowering as well as *Persoonia mollis* ssp. *budawangensis*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Dipodium roseum*, *Geranium neglectum* and the impressive

club moss *Lycopodium deuterodensum*. All of this was in tall, wet forest — *Eucalyptus radiata*, *E. obliqua*, *E. viminalis* — along with *Cyathea australis*, *Gleichenia dicarpa* and various *Blechnum* sp.



Persoonia linearis, Monga Fire Trails; Photo: Jean Geue



Persoonia mollis ssp. *budawangensis*, Monga Fire Trails; Photo: Roger Farrow



Lycopodium deuterodensum, Monga Fire Trails; Photos: Linda Spinaze, Martin Butterfield (close-up)



prostratus, a couple of *Petrophile* sp., *Conospermum taxifolium*, *Mitrasacme serpyllifolia*, *M. polymorpha*, *Thelionema caespitosa*, *Goodenia bellidifolia* (flowering), *Persoonia chamaepeuce*, *Epacris microphylla*, and *Gompholobium minus*. *Lomatia myricoides* and *L. ilicifolia* were both flowering beautifully.



Persoonia chamaepeuce, Monga Fire Trails; Photo: Roger Farrow



Lomatia ilicifolia, Monga Fire Trails; Photos: Jean Geue (above) and Roger Farrow (below)



After lunch we continued on to an open area which was very different and we wondered how it had come about. The tallest things were one *Allocasuarina littoralis*, a few *Acacia melanoxylon* and *A. trachyphloia* and one *Leptospermum brevipes*. Everything else was low to prostrate. There were lots of *Patersonia sericea* (a few flowers), *Isopogon*

The biggest surprise for some was a few plants of *Spyridium schortechinii* which we've only seen once before on Northanger Road.

We continued on, crossing a creek then up to the intersection with the Northern Fire Trail where we were in *E. sieberi* and *E. radiata* forest with similar understory to the earlier forest — perhaps a little drier. We returned to the creek and had our final stop before crossing, finding *Hakea microcarpa*, *Pultenaea altissima*, carpets of *Helichrysum rutidolepis* flowering and *Prostanthera lasianthos* with a few flowers.



Helichrysum rutidolepis, Monga Fire Trails; Photo: Roger Farrow

North Black Range

The North Black Range runs off the Mulloon Fire Trail along the north-western side of Tallaganda National Park. We made a stop about one kilometre along the fire trail to look at the good display of purple *Dianella tasmanica* berries.

There were also some lovely trees and tree ferns — *Cyathea australis* — as well as *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (with closed flowers) and red berries on *Coprosma quadrifida*. At the second



Dianella tasmanica (flower and unripe fruit), Bald Hill Fire Trail; Photo: Graeme Kruse



Dianella tasmanica (fruit), North Black Range; Photo: Roger Farrow

stop we walked along an old track to the no longer used trig on some huge granite boulders. Interesting plants were *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Pomaderris aspera* and *Persoonia silvatica*. We then



Persoonia silvatica (fruit), North Black Range; Photo: Martin Butterfield

drove further and explored a swamp and found some flowers on *Epacris microphylla*, *Leptospermum myrtifolium*, *Arthropodium* sp., *Geranium neglectum*, *Baeckea utilis*, *Brachyscome graminea*, *Xerochrysum subundulatum*, *Utricularia dichotoma*, *Dipodium roseum*, *Eriochilus magenteus* and also found a population of *Diplodium coccinum* in full flower.



Geranium neglectum, North Black Range; Photo: Roger Farrow

Corn Trail — old start

The Corn Trail now begins from the Dasyuris picnic area in Monga National Park. We rather like to return to the old start to the Corn Trail which is on the Kings Highway, opposite the large pull-in area prior to descending Clyde Mountain. The dominant plant along the trail is the Coral fern (*Gleichenia* spp.) which smothers most ground cover plants. In flower were *Baeckia linifolia*, *Epacris impressa*, *Goodenia bellidifolia*, *Mitrasacme polymorpha*, *Persoonia mollis*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Platysace lanceolata*, *Gratiola peruviana*, *Leptomeria acida* (abundant), *Leptospermum polygalifolium* and *Mitrasacme serpyllifolia*. Our walk was curtailed when a smart phone showed a rapidly approaching storm. We didn't make it back to the cars before the usual deluge every time we visit!



Epacris impressa, Corn Trail; Photo: Jean Geue



Eucalyptus rubida, Orroral Campground Loop; Photo: Gail Ritchie Knight

Orroral Campground Loop

The Orroral Campground is in Namadgi National Park. In late February, we wanted a short walk prior to our much delayed Christmas Party get together! The picnic area proved to be a very good venue with ample room in a convenient shelter which protected us from a passing storm. Before the festivities (and rain) we did the one-kilometre-loop walk which meanders through fairly dry eucalypt forest initially and returns alongside a creek. *Eucalyptus rubida* was the highlight of the day with lovely red bark and lots of glaucous juvenile leaves which looked even better when

wet. Other trees were *E. pauciflora*, *E. stellulata*, *E. bridgesiana* and *E. dives*.

There was not much flowering at that time of year — some *Hypericum gramineum* and *Lythrum salicaria*. Other plants of interest were *Pimelea pauciflora*, *Dianella longifolia*, *Carex iynx*, *Olearia microphylla*, *Gompholobium huegelii*, *Acacia siculiformis*, *Desmodium gunnii*, *Leucopogon fraseri*, *Acrothamnus hookeri*, *Leptospermum myrtifolium*, *L. obovata* and *Gynatrix pulchella*.

You can read a short description of our various walks, look at the list of plants we found and often, the birds and insects we spotted, as well as some photos in the Wednesday Walks section of the ANPS website — <http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au>.



Eucalyptus rubida, Orroral Campground Loop; Photo: Gail Ritchie Knight

Jacques Labillardière

By Lesley Page

Plant collectors have to be intrepid as Charles Kingsley in *Glaucus* (1855) writes:

“Our perfect naturalist should be strong in body, able to haul a dredge, climb a rock, turn a boulder, walk all day, uncertain where he shall eat or rest; ready to face sun and rain, wind and frost, and to eat or drink thankfully anything, however coarse or meager; he should know how to swim for his life, to pull an oar, sail a boat, and ride the first horse which comes to hand; and finally he should be a thoroughly good shot, and a skillful fisherman; and if he go far abroad, be able on occasion to fight for his life.”

All of us have mused what would Australia be like if the French planted her flag on our shores rather than the British. For we Pages we would not be Australian, something else?

Jacques Labillardière (there is more to his name but let's keep it simple, as he was a Republican of France) was born on 28 October 1755 in Alençon, France. He died in Paris on 8 January 1834. Jacques trained as a medical practitioner however he took to Botany instead.

After several trips to other parts of the world, he joined an expedition to the South Seas with Admiral D'Entrecasteaux — mission: to find out what happened to La Perouse?



Jacques-Julien Houtou de La Billardière (1755–1834);
Lithograph 1821 by Julien Léopold Boilly (1796–1874)

The trip included Van Diemen's Land and New Holland. To read quotes of pristine landscapes such as Tasmania before man plundered for material worth is like a breath of fresh air:

“We were filled with admiration at the sight of these ancient forests, in which the sound of the axe had never been heard. The eye was astonished in contemplating the prodigious size of these trees, amongst which there were some myrtles more than 50 metres in height, whose tufted summits were crowned with an ever

verdant foliage; others, loosened by age from their roots, were supported by the neighbouring trees, whilst, as they gradually decayed, they were incorporated piece after piece with the parent — earth. The most luxuriant vigour of vegetation is here contrasted with its final dissolution, and presents to the mind a striking picture of the operations of nature, who, left to herself, never destroys but that she may again create.”
Saint-Hilaire, *Discours prononcé le 10 janvier 1834, sur la tombe de M. de La Billardière.*

What did Labillardière find? Lots and lots of new plants. *Eucalyptus globulus* is a tree to think about — floral emblem of Tasmania and a tree of many uses. D'Entrecasteaux' expedition made use of the timber, improving their oared boats. Globulus refers to the shape of the operculum. Another beautiful plant is *Actinotus helianthi*, flannel flower mostly seen growing in sandstone areas of the Blue Mountains of New South Wales. It is the badge of the Sydney Bush Walkers of which I am still a member. It has romantic associations as that is where I met my husband Neville.

Labillardière is most famous for his account of his voyage, which unfortunately for me is written in French. Between 1804 and 1807 he also published *Novae Hollandiae Plantarum Specimen* — a description of the flora of Australia.

Sources

- *Citizen Labillardière: A Naturalist's Life in Revolution and Exploration (1755–1834)*, Edward Duyker, Sydney historian, 2003
- Wikipedia



Actinotus 'Federation Star';
Graphite drawing by Lesley Page

Note

Actinotus 'Federation Star' was chosen as the NSW floral emblem for the Centenary of Federation (1901–2001). 'Federation Star' is a cultivar of *Actinotus helianthi*.



The most recent house with its two-year-old garden

Words by Ros Walcott
Photos by Ben Walcott

Horse Island is an 80 hectare private island surrounded by the Tuross Estuary, located on the south coast of NSW near Bodalla. It was originally used for food crops and grazing, but for the last 25 years it has been lovingly cared for by Christina and Trevor Kennedy. When they purchased the island it was covered in weeds, particularly blackberry, which they have cleared. The island is now under conservation covenants, including all the foreshores. To get to the island you cross a private bridge at a narrow part of the river.

Over the years they have added three houses, a pavilion and pool, horse paddocks and stables, an airstrip, tennis court, a challenging golf course, various other buildings and oyster racks in the river. The garden is an enclosed area of about 20 hectares, wrapped around a

picturesque bay of the Tuross Lakes. The buildings and gardens are on the highest part of the land, which does expose them to the winds, but also protects them from any frost. Different gardens surround each building and structure and are unified by mown lawns.



Pool Pavilion

The gardens around the original cottage are now about 25 years old and around the newest cottage only two years old, so the garden is evolving and changing over time. The original trees are the

magnificent Spotted Gum (*Eucalyptus maculata*), Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) and Southern Mahogany (*Eucalyptus botryoides*). Most of the plantings are shrubs, particularly grevilleas, banksias and baeckneas. The grevilleas grow marvellously in this garden, especially the dramatic large flowered ones, as you can see below.



Grevillea 'Golden Lyre'



Standard grevilleas and mature Spotted Gums

There are mature hedges of *Syzygium*, *Grevillea* and *Callitris*. One hedge around the tennis court is a 'tapestry' hedge of *Agonis flexuosa nana*, *Acacia baileyana* and *Callistemon 'Great Balls of Fire'*. It is a spectacular success as can be seen below.



Tennis court with 'tapestry hedge' of *Agonis flexuosa nana*, *Acacia baileyana* and *Callistemon 'Great Balls of Fire'*



Grevilleas and Gynea Lily, *Doryanthes excelsa*

The 'Big House' has a croquet lawn surrounded by clipped Blueberry Ash (*Eleocharis reticulatus*), which is a particularly restful spot. Christina has used many Kangaroo Paws in her garden design, particularly the series 'Bush Gems' by Angus Stewart.

Everywhere is the natural backdrop of foreshore growth of *Casuarina glauca* and some wonderful stands of Forest Red Gums (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*).



Foreshore and estuary

Christina has adhered to her Australian native plant palette almost exclusively, but has allowed some magnolias into her design, as they are a traditional tree with her family in this area. Christina is an adventurous gardener who loves to try difficult or newly developed plants. She has found a perfect spot for Peter Ollerenshaw's *Eucalyptus 'Blue Veil'* which hangs decoratively from this pergola.



Eucalyptus 'Blue Veil'

She has one garden, originally designed by Peter Olde, called by her children the 'Oldie Garden', which is full of interesting grevilleas. She also has many standard

grevilleas and banksias along one path which gives another level of bloom to the garden.

The vegetable garden has a spectacular view of its own and consists of built up beds with hydroponic equipment.

There is one wall of enormous Macrozamia underplanted with Elkhorn Ferns which provides another magnificent picture.



Vegetable garden with a view



Open Gardens Australia

Natives on the South Coast with Angus Stewart

On Saturday the 30th and Sunday the 31st of August 2014, Open Gardens Australia together with Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, will host two workshops entitled "Natives on the South Coast with Angus Stewart". The first half of the day will be held at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. During the second half of the day guests will be transported via hired mini buses to and from Horse Island, near Bodalla. The workshops will be a ticketed one-day event for 58 paying guests. The Sunday workshop will be a repeat of the Saturday workshop.

Tickets

\$125 per person. No concession rates. No children. Morning tea and lunch included. Open Gardens Australia will manage all ticket sales through their website, www.opengarden.org.au.

This article was first published in the Garden Design Study Group Newsletter No. 86 May 2014.

ANPS Autumn Plant Sale Report 2014

By Paul Carmen

It is now April and I have finally recovered from the task of running and organising another ANPS plant sale. Thankfully members are still coming to help and while the volunteer turnout was lower this time, we still managed to get through the work and have a very successful sale! The weather was kind this time and I was relieved that it was neither very hot nor windy as these conditions would have been very trying. As it was there were quite a few exhausted volunteers by the end of the sale!

The Autumn sale is often well attended by the public and this year was no different. It has a more laid back atmosphere than the hustle and bustle of the Spring sale. As usual there were lots of really good plants and plenty of time for people to browse, think about and discuss their selections. This is advantageous for ANPS members because there is more time to spend with the customers providing information about the plants and promoting Society activities.

I recently heard a comment that the main purpose of ANPS plant sales is to provide a large variety of interesting native plants. This struck me as being very limited and although this is one aspect of the ANPS plant sales, I believe that there is so much more to them than that.

In fact I believe a more accurate statement would be: **the ANPS plant sales provide a wide range of good quality, well labelled Australian plants to the Canberra public with the best cultivation information to help them be successful in growing their plants.**

There are two important messages here: one is about our commitment to quality and the other is our commitment to accurately labelling the plants.

The quality control aspect is largely governed by the desire of ANPS members to propagate and grow good quality plants.

At ANPS plant sales, a quality control check is carried out by the Standards Committee team (John Robertson, Philip Fradd, Phil Price and myself) when the plants are presented for sale. The purpose of this check is to try to ensure that the plants presented for sale to the public are ready to be planted and are correctly identified to the best of our knowledge. Thankfully, in most cases, only a small percentage of plants are rejected because of size or the condition of the roots.

If all the plants for sale are of the best quality we will have succeeded in our first commitment.

The labelling involves the supply of plants which have been accurately identified with the correct label attached. We always encourage members to grow the plants in the Canberra region or in similar climatic conditions before propagating them. If we have prior knowledge of growing a plant and have seen it flower, we can be sure that it is correctly identified and learn about its cultivation requirements. We can then pass this knowledge on to our customers via the information on the label. Doing this meets the requirements of our second commitment.

The Plant Label Database team (Merren Sloane, Cathy Hook and Masumi Robertson) make additions and changes to the database twice a year. The role of the database is to provide the name of the plant, an accurate description and

cultivation information for the Canberra region. This information is based as much as possible on the collective cultivation experience of our ANPS members with additional information coming from sources such as the ANBG ie horticulturalists and its database, and other people who grow Australian plants in the Canberra district.

ANPS Canberra has a great reputation for expertise in growing Australian plants and our plant sales provide a first-hand opportunity to share our experiences with others.

So I hope you will all join me in ensuring that we continue to provide a **wide range of good quality, well labelled Australian plants to the Canberra public** at our plant sales for many years to come.



ANPS Plant Sale Autumn 2014, Saturday 8am, last bit of organising, putting out plant labels, Sale opens at 8.30am; Photo: Lucinda Royston

Plant Science Group of Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

By Janet Russell

The Plant Science Group was established on 28 June 2013 to act as an umbrella group for Friends' volunteer activities of a more technical, scientific and research nature than their usual activities. The group is only open to the Friends.

I became aware of the talks the group hold each month and attended the March talk by Brendan Lepschi, titled, *An Update on the ACT Plant Census*.

The Census is only updated when there is a significant increase in the number of new taxa to be recorded. All plants are recorded, whether they are native or not. Version 3 is currently on the website and Brendan advised that version 4 was not far away. The census of vascular plants can be found at:

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/ACT-census-2012/index.html>

There is information on this page that explains the census table headings and there are also a series of statistics about the census. You can select to view the vascular plants by family or by genus. Once you have the census open there is a link from the species name in the last column to APNI, (Australian Plant Name Index) that shows the scientific usage of the plant names over time. If a photograph of the species is available,

you can click on the camera icon on the APNI entry and it will take you to the photograph.

The census can be an extremely valuable resource and if you find something unusual out in the field it is worth checking to see if and when it was last recorded. The ANBG has a free plant identification service available to members of the public for non-commercial purposes and information regarding this service can be found here:

<http://www.cpbr.gov.au/cpbr/plant-enquiry-service/index.html>

A version of this article first appeared in the May-June issue of the Friends of Grasslands newsletter.

Correction

On page 34 of the previous issue (*Journal* Vol.17 no. 9) the captions on the two lower images were incorrectly reversed. *Eremophila psilocalyx* should refer to the bottom left image, while *Grevillea Winpara Gold* should refer to the bottom right image.

Bridging the Murray

Words and photos by Victoria Tanner

I recently attended the Victorian Australian Native Plant Society's quarterly get-together based in the Albury–Wodonga region (a joint effort by the Wangaratta and Albury regional groups). The weekend and its activities were well organised, interesting and extremely varied.

On Saturday morning after registering in downtown Albury, participants took to their cars driving to two very different private gardens. The first garden was not a traditional or native garden, but it certainly was very interesting. It was based on recycle/reuse and sustainable gardening principles despite being sited on quite a steep block. The owner was extremely enthusiastic and very keen on encouraging native bees, creating artistic native bee 'motels' and also creating some lovely photographs of the little critters.

The next private garden was located at Thurgoona, NSW (Ilott garden). This garden had some beautiful, flowering grevillea hybrids which are loved by bees. There was also a small native plant sale that included native orchids.



Native bee 'motel', Datson garden
Various native bees prefer different sized holes and materials.



Grevillea "Pink Surprise", Ilott Garden



Grevillea "Peaches and Cream", Ilott Garden

After lunch in the Albury Botanic Gardens, which is celebrating its 135th birthday, we were shown the garden's significant native trees by the curator of the gardens. Specimens included magnificent Araucarias, a very tall *Corymbia citrodora* and a number of *Stenocarpus*. Like a number of public gardens around Australia, the Albury gardens are presently being visited by grey-headed fruit foxes/fruit bats, which are causing some damage but will hopefully move away soon. A florilegium of significant trees planted in the gardens was recently commissioned as part of the garden's celebrations and later that day we had the pleasure of learning about the artwork and the process of a major contributor, botanical artist Moira Russell. Later that afternoon, Moira provided the audience with a very interesting and emotive insight into how

she produces her watercolours of various trees and plants, many natives.

Other afternoon activities included another lecture and the opportunity to view and buy wonderful native plant and associated books from the Victorian ANPS (thanks Bill and Sue).

Through her own involvement in the project, Glenda Datson explained how the Albury/Wodonga Development Retained Environment Networks and Development Corporation planned and planted a significant number of trees in preparation for the large residential development planned at Baranduda, Victoria. Aims of the tree plantings were to have mature trees *in situ* before any residential housing was built and to save significant surrounding areas important for flora and fauna. Another aim was to create corridors to allow fauna to

travel to and from major reserves in the development area. The topical issue of 'offsets' was also discussed with Glenda adamant that the environmental offsets were permanently set aside. On Sunday afternoon and despite the rain, the information and benefits from the project were practically reinforced by a visit to Stringybark Reserve in the Baranduda residential area (Wodonga Retained Environment Network Project), guided by the enthusiastic and laconic Senior Flora and Fauna Officer, Glen Johnson. The pressures of the surrounding residential developments on the restoration and preservation of the reserve were discussed including the need to plant endemic species and the success of the many nest boxes.



Acacia pravissima 'cascading form', Datson garden

Saturday evening's dinner featured an extremely interesting talk by Dr David Watson, an expert and author on mistletoes.

Sunday's weather looked doubtful early, but the group did at least have a short time at Glenda Datson's garden before the rain started (and did not stop). Glenda is a member of the Garden Design Study Group and said that she had tried to incorporate garden design principles in her garden. Her garden had a wonderful display of how to use prostrate acacias with prostrate forms of *Acacia pravissima* and *A. cardiophylla* planted wisely. I can only imagine what they would be like in flower!

Another highlight of this garden was the flowering *Eucalyptus erythrocorys* (Illyarrie) with brilliant red operculum and bright yellow flowers, a showstopper!



Acacia cardiophylla 'Kuranga Gold Lace', Datson garden



Eucalyptus erythrocorys, Datson Garden

In the afternoon after grabbing some lunch on route, the group headed to the nearby village of Yackandandah to view the rural garden of Dianna Rigg and Martin Leggatt, "Eremaea" as well as to spend up at the wonderful plant sale. Despite the constant rain, we all found this garden very special as we wandered around its paths. The numerous mounds and raised beds of the garden contained a diverse range of native plants (many hard to grow or rare), in a beautiful setting. Hanging mist and clouds could be seen over the distant foothills and valley.

I previously knew Martin from the Grevillea Study Group trip and knew that he worked creating such landscapes and gardens, but I was not aware of the wonderful, diverse and often difficult-to-grow plants included in his garden. Well done Martin and Diana, 14 years of hard work has paid off!

Although there were many surprises and highlights as we explored the garden, the highlights for me included *Acacia merinthophora*, (although not in flower, it is often difficult to grow), the numerous hakeas, many grevilleas and the flowering Firewheel Tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*).



Acacia merinthophora in the rain, Rigg and Leggatt garden



Stenocarpus sinuatus (Firewheel Tree) in flower, Rigg and Leggart garden

Mid-afternoon with the rain still pouring down and many bought plants to drive home, I reluctantly left this wonderful garden and the much enjoyed 'Bridging the Murray' ANPS weekend. Unfortunately the rain followed me all the way home. Despite the weather, I would still thoroughly recommend the Victorian ANPS quarterly meetings for those interested in seeing a diverse range of gardens and meeting with other native plant fans who also have a wide range of complementary interests. Thank you to both the Albury and Wangaratta

Groups for organising and running the excellent and diverse activities and sights over the weekend. Thanks also for allowing a visitor to share your wonderful and wet, weekend.



Enjoying the Datson garden, Baranduda, despite the rain

Propagation Workshop Report

By Paul Carmen

On Saturday 10 April, Peter and Jenny Ollerenshaw very generously volunteered their time and nursery materials to show nine very enthusiastic ANPS members how to propagate plants from cuttings, germinate seed using smoke and how to cross-pollinate grevilleas and correas.

The workshop began with Peter showing participants how to select the kind of plant material to prepare for cuttings, the tools he uses, and which rooting hormones work best and why. Everyone then got stuck in and prepared many cuttings which they all took away with them at the end of the workshop.

Morning tea was followed by a demonstration on potting up with an emphasis on selecting cuttings with an acceptable number of roots to produce the best plants.

Peter then cranked up his seed smoker, a simple set-up but at the same time very effective. Now that everyone has seen how easy it is, there will probably be more emphasis on trying to propagate more recalcitrant species in this way.

Peter then showed everyone how he cross pollinates the flowers to breed the huge range of wonderful leptospermums, grevilleas and correas.

Everyone was then treated to a quick tour of the rest of the nursery including some incredible new varieties of correas, some of which took everyone's breath away! We now look forward to seeing them released on the market soon and we can plant them in our gardens.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable morning. Thanks again to Peter and Jenny and everyone who attended.



Prostanthera ovalifolia Dwarf Pink;
Photo: Glenn Pure

Study Group Notes

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

We have sad news from the Hibiscus and Related Genera Study Group. Leader Geoff Harvey died recently, following a period of ill health. Geoff was leader for 10 years; he will be sadly missed by friends and family.

Hibiscus and Related Genera Study Group Newsletter No. 30 December 2013

- Editorial: Geoff Harvey, Geoff's great contribution to the Study Group
- Information on *Hibiscus* 'Geoff's Haze'
- Breeding and Developing Australian Species: a Geneticist's Perspective, Introduction by Dr Dion Harrison
- *Hibiscus heterophyllus* Glen Geddes form by Geoff Harvey
- *Hibiscus burtonii* by Martin Bennett
- Pollination in native hibiscus by Colleen and Geoff Keena

Grevillea Study Group Newsletter No. 97 February 2014

- NSW Program 2014: The Sydney Grevilleas: October long weekend Friday 3 October–Tuesday 7 October
- SE Qld Program 2014: Sunday 29 June, Venue: Jan and Dennis Cox, Grevilleas discovered from their trip to Cape York and Atherton Tablelands area
- Grevillea key project
- Grevillea miscellany

- *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* — Graytown form
- The Flame Grevilleas, *Grevillea dimorpha* F. Mueller, a rare Grampians endemic
- Grevilleas in a cold climate
- Grafting *Grevillea* standards — success first time
- A problem with the cultivation of *Grevillea* 'Firesprite'
- Summer-flowering Grevilleas

Eucalyptus Study Group Newsletter January 2014

- Giant eucalypts sent back to the rainforest
- Abstract: Leaf traits of *Eucalyptus arenacea* as indicators of edge effects in temperate woodlands of south-eastern Australia
- Old trees in big trouble
- Australia's gum trees could 'tip over the edge'
- Abstract: Buds, bushfires and resprouting in the eucalypts
- Manganese deficiency in cycads and eucalypts
- Manganese toxicity in eucalypts
- Nutrient deficiencies in Eucalyptus

Garden Design Study Group Newsletter 85 February 2014

- Report from the Newsletter Editor Ros Walcott

- Walcott garden in Garden Drum
- Book reviews
- Quotes of the season
- Design, memories and moods of a garden
- Small garden spaces
- Glen Iris design
- Happy 80th birthday to John Brookes
- Garden visits and meetings
- Canberra GDSG visit to RBG, Cranbourne
- Report of Melbourne garden visits and meeting Sunday 17 November
- Photos of the season
- Treasurer's report

Dryandra Study Group Newsletter No. 66 January 2014

- *Dryandra arborea*
- Dryandras, heat and watering
- Travels in 2013
- News from members
- National Botanic Gardens, Canberra
- *D. falcata* at Cape Riche

The Chef's Cap Newsletter of the Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Gardens March–April 2014

- President's report
- Constitutional amendments — again
- Unwrap your creative talents
- Our Strategic Plant, what exactly does it mean?
- First quarter 2014: Seed bank update
- Fund raising
- BGANZ NSW Inc Conference — Dubbo 21–23 November 2014
- Association of Friends of Botanic

Gardens Conference — Gold Coast, 8–10 August 2014

- Take a closer look

Acacia Study Group Newsletter No. 124 March 2014

- From the leader
- Study Group field trip
- Helena and Aurora Range
- *Acacia baueri*
- *Acacia elata*
- *Acacia elata* and A J Campbell
- National Bonsai and Penjing Collection and National Arboretum Canberra
- New Kimberley wattles
- Problem with *Acacia iteaphylla*
- Australian plant bug genus *Rayieria*
- And more

Fern Study Group Newsletter No. 130

- Program for South-east Queensland region
- Program for Sydney region
- Sydney area meeting reports
- Sydney Fern Group February 2014 Asplenium study
- South-east Queensland meeting reports
- Other articles — White louse scale; Coomera Circuit walk
- Spore list — February 2014

Correa Study Group Newsletter No. 49 January 2014

- Editor's comments
- Leader's message
- Correa crawl 2014
- *Correa decumbens*

- *Correa* 'Western Pink Star'
- Phil Hempel Diamond Valley and Kinglake area
- Correas in December — Bob O'Neill

Hakea Study Group Newsletter No. 54
February 2014

- Letter from the leader
- Propagation
- Pollinators
- December issue of AP No. 217
- News from members
- Field trip in WA 2014 mid-September
- *Hakea propinqua* and *Hakea constablei*

Australian Plants as Bonsai Study Group Newsletter No. 25 December 2013

- *Melaleuca ericifolia* — coast paperbark
- Tasmanian exhibition trees
- Ancient Australian trees
- Very old *Banksia marginata*
- Naturally inspired
- Ultra miniaturization of leaves — pros and cons
- Victorian Native Bonsai Club
- Melaleucas: botany, essential oils, uses



Monga Fern; Pen and ink drawing by Lesley Page

Australian Native Plants Society, Canberra Region Inc.

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

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

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

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

Website: nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Membership Fees

Single or family memberships are the same price.

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

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

Life member subscribing to Australian Plants — \$15

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

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Back cover: *Eucalyptus pressiana* pod; Photo: Glenn Pure

