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NEWSLETTER

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**Welcome to any
 new readers!
 Why not join us?**

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Actinotus minor

Image: www.friendsoflanecovenationalpark.org.au

**The Waratah and Flannel Flower Study Group is affiliated with the
 Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) - ANPSA
 Newsletters are sent out in May and November (electronic only).
 Membership is restricted to individuals (including partners) and not groups.
 Membership is FREE for individuals and APS groups.
 Regions please pay \$5.00 per membership.
 There is no deadline for newsletter contributions - send them anytime, sooner rather than later.**

Maria writes:

This year I finally achieved a dream which has been on my bucket list for several years. In June my husband and I travelled to Amsterdam where we bought two second hand big Dutch bikes and then cycled to Copenhagen unassisted carrying camping gear, sleeping bags and a few clothes. The journey took seventeen amazing days and we were immersed totally in Dutch, then North German then Danish culture as we cycled through the countryside totally off the beaten track. The only problem with that was frequently getting lost - however the locals were just fabulous, especially after we told them we were a couple of mad Australians.

My husband Don is 70 and I'm getting close so our age attracted a bit of attention - most Europeans cycle from village to village but apparently few older people take on the sort of journey that we did especially on big Dutch bikes. We saw several long distance cyclists but they had good fast bikes like the ones we have at home.

Along the way we drooled over the green fields and copious water in the ever-present canals, visualising the dry paddocks of our drought affected property back in Oz. There were a couple of contrasts however. Dutch gardens are amazingly neat - not a weed in sight and they complement the houses beautifully. In contrast however, the roadsides and canal verges are left unmowed to form corridors of wildflower meadows as habitats for pollinators. Roundup is illegal as far as we could see and we were amazed at the use of flame throwers to kill weeds along the edges. This seemed to be the case in all three countries.

In Copenhagen we donated the bikes to an African charity (couldn't get them on the fast train) and had a well-earned rest. After spending most of a day travelling south to Cologne on Express trains, we bought two more cheap bikes and set off up the Rhine for eight days (including two wet ones) finishing in Offenburg where my relatives live. Here we sold the bikes (not easy) and then Don and I parted ways - he was off to France to visit a large number of archaeological sites while I visited relatives scattered in Germany and Austria.

It is always great to return home to Australia - the first impression is always the light - it's so bright and our skies are so blue. There's a certain casualness about Australia which is so welcoming and the familiarity with places and systems is wonderful after negotiating one's way through airports and rail stations where the language may present a problem. I flew back a few days after MH17 was brought down so it was a bit of a nervous journey as the Emirates flight made its way over Northern Iraq. It's since deviated a bit.

Amazingly the garden survived my absence with paper daisies blooming away, thriving on neglect. Some of my waratahs were suffering from an infestation of mealy bug but I think I've now got that under control. I was really pleased with a batch of Flannel Flower seedlings which came through winter in the igloo without any losses. I used a lot more sand in my mix this time and that seemed to do the trick. So now it's back to business as usual. I look forward to hearing from you and how your plants are faring.

Maria

Seedbank

I am holding quite a number of packets of Flannel Flower seed donated by Margaret Guenzel. If you would like me to post you some please send me an SAE (2 stamps required). Growing instructions are enclosed with the seed. I always welcome fresh FF seed for our seedbank so any contributions are welcome. Please make sure you add the date of collection to your packet. I am also looking for any Waratah seed - must be collected off private property or garden.

From the members

Margaret Lee writes:

I note several references to scale in the latest W & FF newsletter. I have a formidable problem with scale in my waratah plantation this year. Last year a couple of plants were affected and I sent images to David Hockings, who identified it as "mussel scale". I've attached a photo (which you may need to enlarge to see). Is this the same scale to which you refer?

I've tried both Confidor spray and tablets, without any success at all. Then Yates scale spray, which was more effective, but as I could only get it in a small spray bottle, not suitable for a plantation of more than 50 large plants. Difficult to spray backs of leaves, too.

In one area I removed every leaf from several plants with scale on every one back in July. The plants have now sprouted again, but the leaves are rather sparse, and I don't know whether they'll recover properly.

I'm in the process of drastically pruning all plants and trying to remove most of the affected leaves and open up the plants to more air movement.

I tried to find out from SARDI whether there was a biological control, but they were not interested, as waratah-growing is not regarded as a primary industry in SA.

It's the first time in over 20 years of growing waratahs that I've seen the scale.

It would be interesting to know if any of the commercial growers in other states have this problem and if so, how they deal with it.

Does Cathy Offord know whether it has appeared in the Botanic Garden there? I believe it is in Mt. Lofty Botanic Garden here.

If any members know of any biological control I'd be very interested.

Attached is a brochure on Palm Scale, which is the name for the scale on the leaf in your photo, that was put together a few years ago. It is endemic and therefore cannot be eliminated, only managed. It is worse in some years. It is easier to control when it first appears, and yes, it is most common under leaves, but will occur anywhere on a plant, and if left unmanaged a plant will visibly suffer.

The best time to try to get scale under control is immediately after pruning when most scale has been taken out. Oils such as Infopest or Eco Oil are used to smother the scale. If plants have to be sprayed, commercial oils (not winter oil) such as those mentioned are used, possibly in conjunction with a pesticide. A product called Pest Oil includes the pesticide Maldison (which will also control bud borer). It is formulated for the home gardener. Another product Azimax, based on neem oil is a biological control in that it is mostly insect friendly, but it is expensive.

The whole plant must be sprayed. Oils should not be sprayed if the temperature is over 30 degrees C as leaves are likely to burn. No matter what products are used, at least 3 sprays are needed approx. 2 weeks apart to gain some control over scale. Regular and frequent inspections of plants for scale need to be made throughout the year, and if necessary, the treatment repeated.

With 50 plants, I suggest you will need a 15 litre back pack spray with an adjustable spray nozzle to get good coverage. It is also possible to get the wand into all parts of a plant.

Jim Ward (Blue Mountains Group) writes:

My understanding from the locals, particularly Jill Dark, is that *Actinotus forsythii* appears the year following the bushfires when there has been good rain in the intermediate period. This was certainly the case with the ones which appeared at Katoomba year ago.

We were wondering if they will appear at Leura this year, as there were fires there last year. I have not had a chance to go and have a look yet (largely because of the bushfires) but will make an effort to go after Christmas. I will keep my ears open for any reports of them anywhere this year - last years experience led to quite an interest in them, not only within the Blue Mountains Group but also in the local Japanese community. (The Japanese like *Actinotus belianthi* for what reason I do not know.)

The recent fires were mostly along the Darling Causeway and Bells Line of Rd in the upper mountains. I doubt we would find them in the areas burnt out by the Winmallee - Yellow Rock fire.

Murray Henwood writes:

Cathy Offord kindly passed your news letter to me, and I wanted to let you know how pleased I was to see your group's interest in *Actinotus*. Cathy and I share research projects on *Actinotus*, although I am concerned mostly with the systematics and evolution of the genus. I am also the lead developer of eBot that you referenced in your news letter. You might be interested to know that a very useful resource for locating current lists of species (and their synonyms) can be found at:

<http://chah.gov.au/chah/apc/interim/Apiaceae.pdf>

This should help you to fill out your list of species recognised in Australia. You might also be interested to learn that there is one species in New Zealand – *Actinotus novaezealandiae* – that is restricted to Te Wai Punamu (South Island) and is very closely related to *A. sufficatus* and *A. bellidioides* from Australia. Anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help.

Ed: I am grateful to Murray for assisting me in updating the list of Actinotus species in the checklist on p. 10.

Margaret Sleigh (Temora) writes:

The hot weather has not been kind to the Waratahs. Luckily we had begun to put up the shade cloth coverings as the leaves had begun to get burnt. I had noticed this browning on the leaves of some plants and two "garden people" told me it looked like something was eating them. I found it hard to believe myself at the time but could not think of anything else that it could be so I sprayed like mad. Well maybe that was the case with the Hydrangeas although I now believe that it is scorching by the sun. One Waratah became quite badly damaged despite the shade cloth until I realised that the sun was getting into a gap that we had left facing the house. We thought it was protected on the house side but the sun shines down over the roof and just gets it at a certain time in the afternoon when sane people are well out of it. The gap has been covered in and they are all getting very long drinks every few days. The Waratah that was damaged the most is growing new little replacement leaves. I think it must think that it just missed the bushfire. They all still continue to grow taller and there are some new buds already.

My daughter bought me "Pink Tutu" for Christmas.

Ed: Yes it's a strange thing but Waratah leaves seem to be frost hardy but not sun hardy. I lost one in a tub out in the open (against an eastern wall). They seem to need that overhead shade. The weather this summer has been dreadful, hasn't it? I don't know how you can survive 43C. I go to pieces when it reaches 35C. You are doing the right thing - keep it up. 'Pink Tutu' is entered as T. speciosissima 'Tutu' in our list. Not sure of the origins.



Trickett's *Telopea* hybrid

Phil and Catriona Trickett write:

Here is a photo of our *T. speciosissima x oreades* hybrid which is flowering again. The Eastern Spinebills and little Wattle Birds are having a great time. Our *Telopea mongaensis* and *T. speciosissima* plants also repeat flowered but not to the same extent. Do you know if this repeat flowering behaviour is unusual?

Ed. Repeat flowering does seem to be fairly common among the hybrids. That's interesting about the straight species repeat flowering. I wasn't aware of that. It could have something to do with your fertiliser or soil. Does anyone have any ideas?

Margaret Lee writes:

It would be great if we could find someone willing to try to extend the flowering season for waratahs. Perhaps if we all sent information about the selection we find flowers first in the season (and when) and that which flowers last it would be a beginning. It will probably differ between the various geographical regions, too.

I am constantly asked for waratahs for weddings and have to disappoint enquirers when I say the season is only from mid-September to mid-October here. Perhaps someone needs to grow them in poly-houses where they can control them better. We have a member at Waikerie in the SA Mallee, who grows them under white shadecloth with water from the Murray and fertigation. The temperatures up there are extremely hot and dry in summer and very cold in winter.

Ed. That's an excellent idea Margaret. Probably the easiest way would be to send people a flower calendar and get them to add the species and tick the column then return to me at some stage. I'll attach one with this newsletter.

Telopea speciosissima x mongaensis
'Corroboree'



Telopea 'Corroboree' (Image: anbg.gov.au) was selected in 1974 by Nanette Cuming from seedlings of *Telopea speciosissima* purchased from Breakoday Nursery of Box Hill, Victoria. The name reflects the extended styles which resemble a circle of dancing figures. Bushy pruned plants reach a height of 1.5m but may be taller when left unpruned. The 120mm x 120mm bright red flower heads

are very compact making them ideal for cut flower production. They are also heavy croppers producing many flowering stems after two years. Plants respond well to applications of slow release Nutricote and pruning after flowering.

Austraflo lists this species as one of the neatest of all the waratahs. They recommend it as a single specimen, in a formal hedge, in large containers or as a transitional plant on fernery or rainforest margins. nectar flow is strong leading to many bird visitors. They suggest it could be grown in full sun or part shade in a temperate garden, in well-drained moist clay loams. It is frost tolerant and will handle sea breezes making it suitable for protected coastal planting.

References:

<http://www.austraflo.com/telopea-corroboree-waratah/>

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/acra/descriptions/acc457.html>



Actinotus minor

Image: david.noble.net

Publications to Download

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (Australia) has some wonderful documents you can download.

Go to this site:

<http://www.rirdc.gov.au/publications>

Click on publications on the left.

Then go to the search bar (along from Recent Publications) and scroll down to Wildflowers and Native Plants. This will bring up a large range of excellent publications. Click on more... and then the download feature will appear.

Actinotus minor Lesser Flannel Flower

This is the miniature form of the better known *A. helianthi*. It is a spreading perennial with wiry flowering stems which can grow up to 50 cm in height. The species is not common but is found in heath and on rocky sandstone hillsides in open forest from Ourimbah south to Milton and Robertson. Flowers resemble *Acacia helianthi* but are smaller - no more than 12mm in diameter and appear mainly in summer but sporadically throughout the year. The greyish green divided leaves are sparsely scattered on the shrub. It doesn't appear to be threatened possibly because it is not a showy plant and is conserved in various reserves.



Image:

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Actinotus-minor>

The species first appeared in scientific literature in the year 1830, in the *Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis*. Authored by the prominent Swiss botanist, [Augustin Pyramus de Candolle](#).

According to the Virtual Herbarium, several collections have been recorded. A collection was made in the Northern Budawang Range,

on the Wog Wog Ck-Corang trig track by J. Pulley and Ian Telford in September 1991. An earlier collection was made in the same area by Ian Telford in 1968. E. M. Canning collected flowers and fruits at Palerang, 13.3 miles [29 km] from Tomerong, toward Braidwood in January 1968 and in February 1968 in the Yadboro State Forest (Kalianna Ridge track toward the Castle). B.G. Briggs collected a sample in 1973 at Sallee Creek, 2 km south-southwest of Foster Mountain, Budawang Range, west of Milton. Another collection at the University of Sydney herbarium was collected in March 1993 1.2 km along Mt Irvine Rd from Bilpin-Lithgow Road, NSW by Murray Henwood.

Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Lane Cove Rd Ingle side NSW lists it as occurring on the sunny ridges and flowering in January. It has also been noted as being plentiful in moist sandstone heath at the Bulgandry Aboriginal Site in the Brisbane Waters NP.

Judy Evans (Plant Profiles Flannel Flowers) says it is a spreading short lived perennial.

I have not been able to find any information regarding propagation of this species but I assume it would be similar to *A. helianthi*. John Wrigley (Australian Native Plants 4th Ed. p. 128) says that it would add interest to a small rock pocket. It is tolerant of most soils and will grow in full sun or part shade. It is also frost hardy.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actinotus_minor

<http://www.sciences360.com/index.php/plant-profiles-flannel-flowers-9148/>

<http://www.growingpassion.org/2008/01/central-coast-field-trip-bulgandry.html>

Has anyone grown this species?
Please tell us about your experience.

Checklist of *Telopea* species and varieties (Recent additions are in blue)

Species:

<i>Telopea aspera</i>	Gibraltar Range NSW
<i>Telopea mongaensis</i>	Braidwood Waratah - NSW
<i>Telopea oreades</i>	Gippsland Waratah - Vic.
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	NSW Waratah
<i>Telopea truncata</i>	Tasmanian Waratah

Pink Cultivars:

<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Pink' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Pink Passion'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Shade of Pale'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>T. truncata</i> <i>lutea</i>	'Champagne' (Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>truncata</i>	'Digger' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>mongaensis</i>	'Mallee Boy' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Tutu'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Clarence Pink'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'In the Pink' (Yellow Rock Nursery/Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x ' <i>Wirrimbirra White</i> '	'Dreaming' (Fitzpatrick)

Red Cultivars:

<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Ballerina'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Blush' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Early' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Cardinal'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>mongaensis</i>	'Corroboree'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Corrakee' (Karwarra Gardens)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>oreades</i>	'Emperor's Torch' - Ausflora Pacific, Gembrook Vic.
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Fire and Brimstone' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Fire 'n Ice' (Roy Rother, Emerald Vic/Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>oreades</i>	'Gembrook' - Ausflora Pacific, Gembrook Vic.
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Green Bracts'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Mirragon'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Olympic Flame' - Mt Annan (Cathy Offord)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Red Centre'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Roger's Red' Gordon Meiklejohn (Brimstone Waratahs)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Songlines' - Yellow Rock Nursery , Winmallee NSW
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Starfire' Gordon Meiklejohn (Brimstone Waratahs)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Stringers Late'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Sunflare' - Mt Annan (Cathy Offord)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Sunburst' University of Sydney (Offord, Nixon, Goodwin)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>mongaensis</i>	'Braidwood Brilliant'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>oreades</i>	'Shady Lady Crimson' - Proteaflora
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>oreades</i>	'Shady Lady Pink' - Proteaflora

Red Cultivars:

<i>Telopea mungaensis</i> x <i>speciosissima</i>	'Canberry Gem' - (Dougs hybrid/Canberry Coronet)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>truncata</i>	'Sugar Plum' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea truncata</i>	'Tasman Red'

White Cultivars:

<i>Telopea oreades</i>	'Errindundra White'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Wirrimbirra White' (also marketed briefly as 'Shady Lady White' - naturally occurring <i>T. speciosissima</i> clone found in the NSW Water Board area by Thistle Stead. Link http://www.wirrimbirra.com.au/Wirrimbirra%20white.htm
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>oreades</i>	'Shady Lady White' (improved) same as 'Bridal Gown' (Downe)
<i>T. speciosissima</i> x <i>truncata</i>	'Snow Maiden' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)

Yellow/Cream Cultivars:

<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>truncata</i> <i>lutea</i>	'Shady Lady Yellow' same as 'Golden Globe' (Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i> x <i>truncata</i>	'Georgie Girl' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea truncata</i>	'St Mary's Sunrise'
<i>Telopea truncata</i>	'West Coast Yellow'

***Can you add to this list?
Do you have any information
on growing any of these
species or varieties?***

Checklist of Actinotus species and varieties

<i>Actinotus bellidioides</i>	Vic (presumed extinct), Tas
<i>Actinotus forsythii</i>	Kings Tableland, Mount Hay, Narrow Neck, Hargraves Look out, Kanangra Walls, above scenic railway (Blue Mts) NSW VIC
<i>Actinotus gibbonsii</i>	NSW, QLD
<i>Actinotus glomeratus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	NSW, Qld (Flannel Flower), VIC (naturalised)
<i>Actinotus humilis</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus laxis</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus leucocephalus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus minor</i>	NSW
<i>Actinotus moorei</i>	TAS
<i>Actinotus omnifertilis</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus paddisonii</i>	Bourke NSW, Qld
<i>Actinotus periculosus</i>	QLD
<i>Actinotus rhomboideus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus schwartzii</i>	MacDonnell Ranges NT
<i>Actinotus suffocatus</i>	TAS
<i>Actinotus superbus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus sp. Comet Vale</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus sp. Walpole</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus whicheranus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus novaezealandiae</i>	Te Wai Punamu (South Island) New Zealand

Cultivars:

<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	'Starbright'
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	'Federation Stars' TM
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	'Parkes Star'

Ref: <http://chah.gov.au/chah/apc/interim/Apiaceae.pdf>