



Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc.

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*Wahlenbergia
gloriosa*

ABN 17717 346 075

<http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au/>

Bulletin

August 2011

Members Meeting: Thursday 11 August, 8pm

CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain

Speaker: Janine Hunstone

Janine has worked at Yarralumla nursery since 2001, mainly in the retail garden centre. During this time, she has also been successfully running a native garden design business. She is a native plant enthusiast, and has conducted gardening workshops, and presentations on plants endemic to this region for the Conservation Council. Janine has also worked with ACT Sustainability Programs team in an advisory capacity, in order to develop the plant selector web tool now available to all ACT residents.

Topic: Selling Native Plants in Canberra

Janine has a thorough knowledge of the current market for plants in Canberra, with an emphasis on Australian native plants, from the point of view of home gardeners and the landscaping industry.

Show and Tell: Please bring along whatever you think we would like to see (limit 3 items per member). Please label your plants, with both the plant's name and your name, and be prepared to say a few brief words about your contributions.

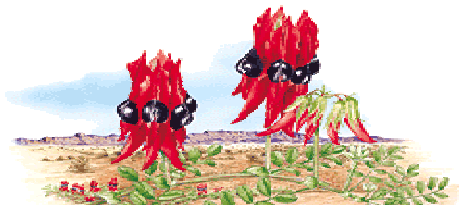
Plant Sale: There may be plants for sale this month.

Raffle Prize: The raffle prizes this month will be plants from IDP Nursery – thanks, Iris. To donate future raffle prizes **please contact** Paul Carmen or Cathy Hook ☎ 6288 4208 or **email** inf@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

No Daytime Activity for August

Biannual ANPSA Conference 2015

Canberra will be hosting the ANPSA conference in 2015 and planning needs to start soon. Council has agreed to create a steering committee chaired by Ben Walcott to begin this task. Anyone who is interested in helping with planning, (venue, accommodation, field trips, speakers), should see Ben or a member of Council. Only one volunteer so far – please consider being involved in the Canberra ANPSA Conference.



No Field Trip in August

Propagation

Potting Bee

11am-2pm Sunday 28 August

3 Considine Close, Queanbeyan

We will be potting up some of the plants from the May cutting bee. Bring gloves, hats, and something to eat or share for lunch. Hosts provide tea and coffee. All participants take home a free plant from the Queanbeyan Igloo. We expect to finish between 1pm and 2pm, depending on numbers (of plants and of people).

Contact: Tom Jordan ☎ 6297 2437

Garden Design Study Group Garden Visit, Yass

10am-12noon, Sunday 28 August

Diamond garden, 4 Archer Close, Yass

Ever wondered what it's like to start a garden from scratch? Robyn and Dick Diamond have built their own house on 3 acres and are now turning their attention to the garden. What they need are ideas. The garden is pretty much a building site – lots of potential but in need of some really good, and practical, design ideas. Following the garden visit is an optional lunch at the recently restored Bowning pub, about 10 mins from Yass. After lunch, you can visit the nearby Crisp Galleries or perhaps call into a few wineries on the way back to Canberra. Visit is on regardless of weather. Bring a warm jacket.

Please RSVP for the garden visit, indicating whether you would like to come to lunch at Bowning pub. RSVP to Ros Walcott by **25 August**, ☎ 6161 2742 or email

rwalcott@netspeed.com.au. All welcome.

Robyn's Phone: ☎ 6226 6338 or 0417 442 051

Directions: Take the Yass exit off the Barton Hwy, head towards Yass. Drive right through town, cross the river, continue on until you see the Franklins/Home Hardware shopping centre on the right. Turn right just after the shops into Orion Street. Turn left at the top of the hill into Cooks Hill Road. Turn second left into Archer Close. Drive takes around 50 mins from Civic.

☺ **A very warm welcome to our new members** ☺

☺ Damian Jaccoud

☺ Jack Gevorgian

The Acacia Debate

25 July, 2011

International Botanical Congress,
Media releases

A plant name dispute that has bubbled away for a decade has finally been resolved at the XVIII International Botanical Congress in Melbourne. The species concerned are the acacias, which until now has included the Australian wattles and the thorn trees of the Serengeti - both highly recognisable and iconic groups of plants. Kevin Thiele reports on the discussion. Acacia taxonomy has generated much controversy in the scientific and wider community over the past decade. Careful research has shown that Acacia should be split into several genera, and a difficult decision was required as to whether the name Acacia should be used either for a very large group of species found mainly in Australia or for a smaller group found mainly in Africa and Central and South America. Under the internationally accepted rules governing the correct naming of plants, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the name would normally have remained with the African-American group, as this includes the species *Acacia nilotica*, which is the nomenclatural type species, the species which fixes the application of the genus name. However, a special provision of the Code allows for the name of the type species of a genus to be changed in cases like this, where strict application of the rules would require a large number of species to be renamed, and would cause confusion or significant difficulties for taxonomists or the wider community. An application under this provision was made in 2003 by two Australian botanists who sought to make an Australian species the type species for Acacia. This was considered by the relevant botanical committees, who decided in its favour. The International Botanical Congress at Vienna in 2005 ratified this decision. The proposal was highly controversial, however. Acacia is an important genus in both Africa and Australia: in Africa it includes iconic and characteristic savannah species such as many flat-topped thorn trees, while in Australia it is the dominant genus over much of the continent and includes the Australian floral emblem (the Golden Wattle, *Acacia pycnantha*). The Melbourne Congress, in two important votes on the first day of the Nomenclature Section, supported the procedure used in Vienna by a large majority. Support for this decision was widespread and not confined to Australian delegates. This vote effectively confirmed that the type species of Acacia is now an Australian species. Later in the Nomenclature Section meeting, proposals were considered to amend

the rules under which plants are named, to allow a "compromise solution" to the Acacia problem. One proposal would have allowed botanists to continue to use the name Acacia for all the segregate genera; a second proposal would have created new names - Austroacacia and Protoacacia - for the Australian and African-American groups respectively. Delegates at the Section voted, again by large majorities, to reject these compromise proposals. While many expressed an understanding of the difficulties caused by the renaming of the African-American acacias, many argued that the compromise proposals unacceptably compromised the rules of nomenclature and created a dangerous precedent. In summary, the decisions taken in Melbourne confirm that the Australian acacias retain the name, while a new name is needed for the African and American species. Several options for achieving a good result in Africa and the Americas are available, and will be discussed and considered in the months ahead.



Acacia aff. verniciflua 'Avenal' – Sigma Wattle



Acacia spectabilis **Photos by Ben Walcott**

Advance Notice

Black Mountain Wildflower Ramble

9.30am sharp to 12 noon (or later)

Saturday 15 October

Quote of the Month

APS (Victoria) Growth and Development Workshop 1

'The first topic discussed was 'How do we make APS Vic relevant to today's society?' After briefly discussing our membership profile we looked at ways we can let people know we exist. Options explored included our website (this should attract interest), tapping into existing horticultural courses, running Australian plants workshops for the public, targeting professionals and tradespeople with information and advice about Australian plants, and writing items for other organization' newsletters. Suggested methods for reaching our target audience included putting our resource kit on the website, running an APS version of the Open Garden Scheme, running an Australia Plants Expo, plant sales, running courses or 'Bunnings' type talks, putting a supply of APS Vic brochures in every nursery that sells Australian plants (whether exclusively or not), using local radio segments, posting a plant selection guide on the website, providing purpose-specific plants lists to professionals (with a view to attracting them as members), and a 'big bang' publicity exercise of some as yet undecided nature. '

Ross Field, p. 14, *Growing Australian* (Australian Plants Society Victoria), v.54 (3), No. 216, June 2011.



Garden Design Study Group visiting 'Cockatoo'
Jodie and Mark Durrant's Wamboin property in July

Photo of the Month



View from 'Cockatoo' down Wamboin Valley

Calendar of Events

- 11 August Members Meeting
- 16 August ANPS Council
- 24 August Sept. *Bulletin* Items Due
- 28 August GDSG Visit, Yass
- 30 August ANPS Collation
- * **Spring Sale October 22** *
- * **Weed Swap November 5-6** *

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Sue Mathams

Travelling Stock Reserves

12.30 pm, Thursday 4 August

Julia Cooke

Fennessy Memorial Lecture

12.30pm, Thursday 11 August

Betty Wood

Costa Rica

12.30pm, Thursday 18 August

Alex Smart

Friends of Australian Botanic Gardens

12.30 pm, Thursday 25 August

Terry Fewtrell

Part of the Australian Story

12.30 pm, Thursday 1 September, Wattle Day

Contact: Visitor Information Centre

☎ 6250 9540

What's On – August 2011

Next Council Meeting:

12:30-2pm, Monday 16 August, Sponsorship Board Room, CSIRO Discovery, Black Mt.

Next Collation: 7pm, Tuesday 30 August.

Collation is from 7pm at Pauline Adams, 4 Beeby Street, Ainslie. Please come along to help.

Bulletin Editor: Rosalind Walcott ☎ 6161 2742 or email bulletin@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au.

Note: Please ensure material for the September *Bulletin* reaches me by Wednesday 24 August.

If undelivered return to:
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