



Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc.

Telephone (02)6251 1501

PO Box 217 Civic Square ACT 2608

Vice-President: Jan Robbins **email** president@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Benjamin Walcott ☎ (02)6161 2742 or **email** membership@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

ISSN 1447-1515

*Wahlenbergia
gloriosa*

ABN 17717 346 075

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

Bulletin

February 2009

Members Meeting: Thursday 12 February, 8pm
CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain

Short Talk:

Topic: A new management plan for the ANBG

The Director of the ANBG, Anne Duncan, and Assistant Director (Policy and Strategic Planning), Lucy Sutherland, will briefly outline some of the issues that are being discussed as the new management plan is being prepared for the ANBG.

Speaker: Ian Fraser

Ian is a local naturalist, author and ABC broadcaster who is fascinated by the whole natural world, but whose special passions are birds and orchids. He has been awarded the Australian Native Plant Society's Australian Plants Award, and the Australian Natural History Medallion, for services to education and conservation.

Topic: Feathers and Leaves; an Ancient Partnership

Ian has provided the following outline for his talk:

"Of course birds couldn't exist without plants, but a surprising number of plants rely entirely on birds too. We'll immerse ourselves in familiar topics like feeding, pollination and seed dispersal, but will also see how plants make flamingoes pink and turacos green, and find out why Darwin dabbled inside pigeons which had floated in sea water for a month. Lots of pictures, some fun, and even some things you might not have known."

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.

Daytime Meeting: Tuesday 10 February, 10.30am **Planning Meeting**

41 Gaunson Crescent, Wanniasa

Help to organize our program for the year. All suggestions welcome.

Contact: Shirley Daniels Info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Autumn Plant Sale 2009

Saturday 21 March

It is time to start planning for the Autumn Plant Sale again and we need all the help we can get. When there is work to be done our members are always willing to assist. However, we need to know when you are coming so that we can co-ordinate all the activities. If you would like to assist on either set up day Friday 20 March, or sale day Saturday 21 March, please contact one of the Plant Sale Co-ordinators, Paul Carmen , Ben Walcott or John Carter : **email:**

plantsales@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Alternatively, you can put your name down on one of the Plant Sale activity sheets which Paul will have at the February evening meeting.

February Field Trip

February 21 & 22 Bundanoon

1 day of easy walks along the escarpment, 1 day a hard walk down into the gorge. Camping at NPWS campground at entrance to Park. Pre booking essential (\$10 per night pp, car \$7 per day), 7 sites already booked & taken, 2 more available as of 25 January. Alternative accommodation at the Y, plus some B & B's (see Bundanoon Web Site), no caravan park. Contact Roger Farrow **email** r.farrow@iimetro.com.au

March Field Trip

Advance notice for March Trip 21-22 , Wadbilliga NP, Camping near park entrance. Easy walks to the Trig, Gentian swamps, Mt Kydra.

Becoming a Member Grower

Have you been growing some Australian native plants for yourself and are now interested in growing plants for the ANPS Sale? If your answer is yes, please contact Merren Sloane for detailed information, then volunteer to help out at the upcoming Spring or Autumn Sale so that you can learn how things work and get a feel for what you will need to do as a grower.

Contact: Merren Sloane **email** sloane.merren@ozemail.com.au

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

- ☺ Robyn Sim
- ☺ Peter Shywolup
- ☺ Jodie Durrant
- ☺ Glen Ryan

Compiling Index

Jan Simpson needs to borrow Volume 1(1) -Volume 2(2) of our *Journal*. Please call her if you are willing to lend those numbers.

Jan Simpson: Info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Propagation

Twilight Cutting Bee

4-7pm, Monday 16 February

13 Chevalley Loop. Gordon
Cuttings needed are *Grevillea* 'Carpet Queen', *Olearia phlogopappa* blues and pinks, *Olearia erubescens*, *Pimelea ligustrina*, Isopogons all colours and sizes.

Potting Bee

9.30am -12.30pm, Sunday March 1

7 Boyce Place Chifley

Contact: Jan Simpson

Info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Bring lunch, hat and sunscreen. Please park behind back fence on Mt. Taylor. Go to the top of Waldock St. and turn south along the back fences. Jan is the third fence along with the green shadehouse.

Native Conifers

The native conifers are a group of plants usually overlooked by gardeners. They are hardy and decorative plants that in many situations could be cultivated instead of the ubiquitous exotic Conifers. During prolonged dry periods exotic conifers are prone to expire suddenly. Native conifers are adaptable to survival in our harsh and variable climate. They have high survival rates in cultivation.

Callitris oblonga is our favourite native Conifer. The species is becoming known as the Pygmy Pine and is native to northern and southern New South Wales as well as Tasmania. The Tasmanian population is known as the Esk River Cypress.

Callitris oblonga develops into a tall shrub or small tree. The foliage is dense and bright green. The cones are egg-shaped or oblong. Each cone contains a number of winged seeds. Warren and Gloria Sheather, 'Sheather Bits and Pieces', p.12, *Native Plants of New South Wales, Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society New South Wales*, v. 43 (3), July 2008.



Callitris oblonga Photo by Warren and Gloria Sheather

Quote of the Month

“Many Canberrans are unaware of the fascinating variety of orchids to be found in our native parks and reserves, often only a few minutes from our home and workplaces. Many of us just step over these little gems in our regular walks around Canberra because we don't know what to look for. But when we learn to recognise them, finding them becomes an addiction. They may imitate flying ducks or mating insects. They grow long beards or pointed hoods and their colour ranges from a near perfect green/grey camouflage to bright purples, yellows and whites. The variety of form, colour, flowering and pollination never ceases to surprise and delight. We are also very fortunate in that one of the world's authorities on native orchids has based his life's work in Canberra. David Jones has documented, described and catalogued hundreds of orchids but he has reserved as special love for the native orchids he finds on his doorstep. Christine Goonrey, p.4, *Field Guide to the Orchids of the Australian Capital Territory*, David Jones with Jean Egan and Tony Wood, National Parks Association of the ACT, 2008.



Calanthe triplicata Photo by Murray Fagg



Kangaloon Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra kangaloonica*) Photo by Dennis Wilson



Spiranthes australis Photo by Tony Wood



Diuris chryseopsis Photo by Tony Wood

What's On – February 2009

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Up the Native Garden Path

Mark Carmody

Thursday 5 February 2009, 12.30pm

The 200th Birthday of Charles Darwin

Julie Ryder and friends

Thursday 12 February, 12.30pm

The World's Best Botanic Garden

Tim Entwistle

Thursday 19 February, 12.30pm

The National Reserves System

Peter Taylor

Thursday 26 February, 12.30pm

All talks at ANBG Theatre, except when otherwise specified

Contact: Visitor Information Centre

☎ 6250 9540

Next Council Meeting:

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

Next Collation: 7pm, Tuesday 3 March.

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

Bulletin Editor: Rosalind Walcott **email**

bulletin@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au. **Note:**

Please ensure material for the March Bulletin reaches me by Wednesday 25 February.

Contacts

Conservation Council ACT Region

☎ (02) 6247 7808, **email**

director@consact.org.au

Friends of the ANBG

Message service ☎ (02) 6250 9548 or

email friendbg@netspeed.com.au

Friends of Grasslands

Margaret Ning ☎ (02) 6241 4065 or **email**

margaretning@iprimus.com.au

SE NSW Group of the Australian Plants Society

Stan Powell ☎ (02) 6495 6584

Wagga Wagga Group of the Australian Plants Society

Claude Paton **email**

bluewrenplants@netspace.net.au

Calendar of Events

10 Feb.	Daytime Meeting
12 Feb.	Members Meeting
16 Feb.	ANPS Council
16 Feb.	Cutting Bee
21 Feb.	Field Trip
25 Feb.	March <i>Bulletin</i> Items Due
1 March	Potting Bee
3 March	ANPS Collation

If undelivered return to:

Australian Native

Plants Society

Canberra Region Inc.

PO Box 217

CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

PRINT
POST

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

ANPS Bulletin

Print Post Approved

PP229219/00061