



Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc.

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*Wahlenbergia
gloriosa*

ABN 17717 346 075

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

Bulletin

June 2009

Members Meeting: Thursday 11 June, 8pm
CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain

Speaker: Dr. Dean Rouse

Dean has a Ph.D from the School of Botany, La Trobe University, Melbourne. He currently works at the School of Biology, Australian National University, studying embryogenesis in plants. Dean has an ongoing collaboration with David Jones (formerly of the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research) describing new species of *Prasophyllum* (Leek Orchids) including a number of species from the ACT and surrounding areas of New South Wales.

Topic: The Orchids of Southern New South Wales

The orchid flora of southern New South Wales contains a number of rare and restricted species. In this talk Dean will concentrate on these species and in which of the main ecogeographical floristic divisions of New South Wales they occur (Coastal, Tablelands, Western Slopes and Western Plains). He will also discuss the vegetation types and associated orchid flora that occur within these divisions and the time of year a trip to these regions could be planned to maximize the number of orchid species seen in flower.

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: No Daytime Meeting this month

Future Daytime Meetings:

July 14: Namadji - Before and after the bushfires **Contact:** Jean Geue

August: No meeting (If you wish to organise an activity please contact Ros Walcott ASAP)

September 8: Stroll on Farrer Ridge **Contact:** Julie Lindner

October 12- 13: Booderee Botanic Gardens and Jervis Bay area. Overnight excursion using motels, cabins or camping. **Contact:** Shirley and Warwick Daniels

November 10: Visit to Jo Walker's "Wildlife Refuge" at Wamboin **Contact:** Jo Walker

December 8: " Behind the Scenes" at the National Library to view the Ellis Rowan collection with Barrie Hadlow **Contact:** Christine Kendrick

ASGAP 2009 Conference Geelong, 26 Sept. – 1 Oct.

ASGAP meeting is on Saturday 26 September and Monday, Wednesday and Friday are the Speakers' days. Lectures will be held at Costa Hall, Deakin University. The other days are set aside for excursions, including a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Pre and post conference tours are to Melbourne and South Gippsland; Grampians and the Little Desert; Otways, Shipwreck Coast and Coleraine; and the Goldfields and Murray River. Please register early if you are going on tours and **to get early bird discount prices you must register by June 30.**

Delegates to ASGAP

Please nominate an ANPS Canberra member to represent us at the annual meeting of ASGAP in Geelong or volunteer yourself. Some support to attend the meeting is available.

Contact John Carter **email** info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au.

June Field Trip

No field trip for June

July Field Trip

Date to be advised. Royal National Park, Bundeena/Mittagong.

Contact: Jean Smith and Bob Small
info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au.

or write to

PO Box 157 Berridale NSW 2628.

Centenary Correa



A Correa cultivar has been selected as the native plant to commemorate Canberra's Centenary 2013 and ANPS members are invited to make suggestions on the common name for this beautiful new plant bred by our ANPS member Peter Ollerenshaw. To suggest a Centenary native plant name online please visit www.canberra100.com.au before 31 July 2009.

☺ A very warm welcome to our new members ☺

☺ Yvonne Robinson

☺ Doug Laing

☺ Darren Tinker

Raffle Profits

We are going to donate our accumulated raffle profits (\$2,000) to the very worthy Burrendong Arboretum near Wellington, NSW. The Arboretum has had two damaging storms in the last two years which have resulted in diverting their plant funds into bridge and causeway repairs.

Life Membership

Call for Nominations

Please consider nominating one of our Society members for Life Membership. A member who has given outstanding and meritorious service in furthering the objectives of the Society may be awarded Life Membership. Nominations for Life Membership must be in writing and signed by two financial members and forwarded to the Secretary by 30 July 2009.

Contact John Carter **email** info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au.

Plants to Grow in the Current Climate (Nature and Society Forum)

Ian Anderson, 7.30pm Wednesday 17 June
CSIRO Discovery Centre

This talk will consider plants to grow in Canberra gardens as well as the surrounding rural landscape, although principles raised could have application in the wider Australian landscape. Emphasis will be given to growing food plants in the suburbs, blended gardens of native plants (mainly for wildlife habitat) and such food plants, as well as the potential of tree crops in rural areas. There will be reference to the significance and potential of native grasses and associated forbs for gardens as well as in rural landscapes.

Australian Plants as Bonsai

This ASGAP study group is led by local member Roger Hnatiuk. Please contact Roger **email** info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au.

Further information from

<http://asgap.org.au/bonsai.html> and images at <http://www.anbg.gov.au/bonsai/>.

Garden Design Study Group

Contact: Shirley Pipitone **email** info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au.

Grasses Group

This group practices grass identification at the ANBG every fortnight. For more information

contact Merren Sloane email info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au.

Propagation Cutting/Seed Bee

11am-2pm, Saturday 20 June

4 Beeby St., Ainslie

Contact: Pauline Adams

info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au.

Please bring secateurs, lunch, hat and sunscreen. There is plenty of room in the hot bed. Cuttings known to do well at this time of year include *Banksia spinulosa*, *Bauera*, *Correa*, *Grevillea*, *Lasiopetalum*, *Olearia*, *Prostanthera*, *Rhodanthe*, *Thomasia*, *Westringia* and *Ziera*. We have a lovely sheltered courtyard if it is sunny, but if it is pouring with rain, (which we would prefer) we have a big carport to shelter under. There will be hot drinks provided. If you would like to grow plants for your own garden, this is the opportunity to learn how.

Advance Notice

Cutting Workshop

11am- 2pm, Saturday 25 July

13 Chevalley Loop, Gordon

Contact: Linda Johnston ☎ 6294 3390

This workshop is for beginners only so numbers are limited. Please book your place with **Inarid Adler** ☎ 6231 4919

wonderful bird attractors, but they are also some of the most attractive plants from a botanical point of view. Eucalypts and their allies are by far the most abundant sources of nectar in the bush. Try to plant a range of species so that you have flowers all the year round.

Seeds Seeds form an important part of many birds' diet, but especially the Finches and Parrots. Allowing native grasses and other plants to run to seed will greatly increase the diversity of birds in your garden.

Fruit Many bird species include fruit as part of their diet.

Insects Plants that attract insects will in turn attract insectivorous birds, such as Willie Wagtails, Flycatchers and Whistlers. All the nectar-producing plants mentioned earlier will attract insects as well as birds, so there is a double benefit from planting these species. Honeyeaters supplement their diet with these insects to obtain the vital proteins they need.

Shelter Shelter is probably the most overlooked aspect of attracting birds, but it is just as important as food and water. Birds need shelter, both to escape from predators and for nesting sites for breeding... You don't need to plant your whole garden with trees and shrubs but those areas should be contiguous... Small birds should not have to cross wide areas of open space. Peter Storer, 'Attracting Birds to Your Garden' p. 32-38, Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) *Bulletin* 48(1), June 2009.

Quote of the Month

'As with all wildlife, birds have three basic needs: water, food and shelter. When planning a new garden - or if you are modifying an existing one - to attract birds these are the three key elements you should provide.

Water A good supply of clean water is an essential for most birds, but it is one that is sometimes overlooked. Birds need water not only for drinking, but most also use it for bathing to keep their feathers in good condition...

Food Food is probably the most obvious (element) when we think of attracting birds. However, most ecologists and wildlife experts would strongly discourage artificial feeding for three reasons. Firstly, the birds can become heavily dependent on the food source. Secondly it tends to attract only the most aggressive species ... to the detriment of small birds. Thirdly it is extremely unlikely that you can provide a truly balanced artificial diet for most birds. So what is the best way to provide food?

Nectar When people think of native plants that attract birds, they usually think of nectar producers such as Grevilleas, Banksias, Callistemons and Melaleucas - not only are they



Gang-Gang eating nuts
Photo Ben Walcott

Plant of the Month



Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream' a natural hybrid of *G. banksii* and *G. bipinnatifida*
Photo by Ben Walcott

What's On – June/July 2009

Next Council Meeting:

12:30-2pm, Monday 15 June. Sponsorship Board Room, CSIRO Discovery, Black Mountain.

Next Collation: 7pm, Tuesday 30 June.

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

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

Note: Please ensure material for the July Bulletin reaches me by Wednesday 24 June.

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Botanical Illustration

Helen Fitzgerald

Thursday 4 June, 12.30pm

Landscape, Climate and Soils in Australia During the Tertiary

Peter Wellman

Thursday 11 June 2009, 12.30pm

Centre for Plant Diversity Research Judy West

Thursday 18 June, 12.30pm

Weed Risk Assessment System

Owen Harrod

Thursday 25 June, 12.30pm

All talks at ANBG Theatrette, except when otherwise specified

Contact: Visitor Information Centre

☎ 6250 9540

Calendar of Events

9 June Daytime Meeting

11 June Members Meeting

15 June ANPS Council

20 June Cutting/Seed Bee

24 June July *Bulletin* Items Due

30 June ANPS Collation

17 October Spring Sale

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