



Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc.

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*Wahlenbergia
gloriosa*

ABN 17717 346 075

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

Bulletin

June 2010

Members Meeting: Thursday 10 June, 8pm
CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain

Speaker: Lana Mitchell

Lana runs Back Creek Country, a flannel flower production company located in Gundaroo. Originally from Canberra, she spent 15 years in the United States in the hospitality sector. On returning to Canberra she looked for something in horticulture, as she had always been interested in that area and her first job at school was with Paul Whalen's garden nursery in Kambah. She discovered that in the native flower market the most in demand and in least-supply bloom was the flannel flower and began from there. Lana has recently won the NSW Rural Women's Award for her work. She will use her \$10,000 award to study marketing in Europe. She is the editor of the national flower industry magazine and runs the native flower arranging competition country wide. She has written the curriculum for TAFEs to ensure that each student knows what our native flowers are, the foliage and how to use them in design and get the best vase life for them.

Topic: Growing and Selling Flannel Flowers

Five years ago Lana started her flannel flower farm which last year produced 30,000 blooms hydroponically and is on track to double that figure. She has developed her own flannel flower cultivar called 'White Romance'. Her most lucrative market is Japan, but the flower is also popular in Europe, the US and for the Australian market, especially for bridal bouquets. Native flowers make up just 10 per cent of our cut flower industry but Lana is attempting to change that.

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: Raffle prize plants this month are kindly donated by Julie Lindner.

To donate future raffle prizes **please contact** Paul Carmen or Cathy Hook ☎ 6288 4208 or **email** info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

Daytime Activity: Tuesday 15 June, 10.30am
See the Garden at 10A Ebdon Street, Ainslie

Join Phil Trickett for a cuppa and a chat about being a member of an ANPS study group before looking at Phil and Catriona's garden with its emphasis on plants nurtured for the study groups.

Contact: Shirley Daniels ☎ 6231 0852 or see Phil at the June meeting

FieldTrip, 12-14 June

Burrendong Arboretum

Last year the Society donated \$2000 to the Burrendong Botanic Gardens and Arboretum using money collected from the monthly raffle. At that time we suggested to the Arboretum that members of the Society might like to participate in a working bee at the Arboretum. A field trip to the Burrendong Arboretum has been arranged for the June long weekend. The draft itinerary for the trip is: Saturday, 12 June--arrive; Sunday, 13 June--working bee; Monday, 14 June--morning tour of the Botanic Gardens and Arboretum, lunch and afternoon departure. Options for activities on the Saturday for early arrivers are being considered. Accommodation has been booked for a maximum of 6 couples and 2 singles in 2 cabins adjoining Lake Burrendong. The accommodation is self-catering and people will also need to bring bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets and towels). The cabins are recently built with the modern appointments you would expect. (Other accommodation is available in Wellington which is 20 km from the Arboretum.) Council has agreed that the **Society will meet the cost of accommodation in the cabins** because the activity is a 'working' field trip and part of our contribution to the Arboretum. For further information and to sign up for the field trip (on a first come, first served basis), contact John Carter ☎ 6277 4306 B/H; ☎ 6231 7055 A/H; or email John.Carter.reps@aph.gov.au.

Advance Notice for Field Trips for the Remainder of 2010

June - Burrendong Arboretum - John Carter
July 16-19 - Royal National Park Bundeena - Warwick and Pat Wright
August 20-23 - Nangar National Park (Grenfell) - Jean Smith and Bob Small
September 17-20 - Mt Imlay Area - Roger Farrow and Jackie Miles
October 22-25 - Dunns Swamp, Gardens of Stone - Warwick and Pat Wright
November 19-22 - Wee Jasper - Roger Farrow
December 10-13 - Erinunderra Plateau - Roger Farrow

Nominations for Life Membership

Nominations for Life Membership of the Society for 2010 are due to the Secretary by 30 June. Nominations must be in writing, signed by two financial members, and each nomination must be supported by a citation of the service rendered to the Society by the nominee. Please send your nominations to Secretary John Carter ☎ 6277 4306 or email john.carter.reps@aph.gov.au.

Storage Needed

As Phil Trickett is moving to the south coast Council is looking for someone to take responsibility for ordering and storing pots and racks used by the ANPS Canberra propagation group. You need to be able to store up to 25 boxes of 70mm pots and 30 packs of 90mm pots, plus a few racks.

Many thanks to Phil for doing this job for us for the last three years.

Contact: Secretary John Carter ☎ 6277 4306 or email john.carter.reps@aph.gov.au.

Wanted - Banksia Seed For Beginner Propagators

Jan Simpson has an article in our upcoming *Journal on Growing Banksias from Seeds*. She would like to make a list of those happy to give away Banksia cones/ seeds **for free**, for those wanting to try growing Banksias from seed. Please add a label with the name of the species and the date it was picked. Send your own details to Jan Simpson ☎ 6281 6118 or email jansimpson@homemail.com.au

Propagation Cutting/Seed Bee

11am-2pm, Saturday 19 June
4 Beeby St., Ainslie

Come to help produce plant cuttings in a sheltered, sunny courtyard in the company of like-minded members. Newcomers are encouraged to attend. Bring your lunch. As well as tea and coffee, I'll be making a warming soup.

Plants that have grown well at this time of year include Banksia spinulosa, Correa, Eremophila, Grevillea, Bauera, Lasiopetalum, Olearia, Prostanthera, Westringia, Thomasia and Ziera.

Please bring any reliably identified cutting material you may have in your garden. If there is anything you would like to see for sale at the Plant Sales, please bring it along, and we'll help it happen.

Contact: Pauline Adams ☎ 6247 4643

Journal Editor's Contact

Here is Helen Parson's contact information again for those who would like to submit information for the next issue of our *Journal*. Please consider writing a short article about your favourite plant, area or field trip.

Contact: helen.parsons@anu.edu.au or home phone ☎ 6238 2673 and home address P.O. Box 1114, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Access to Touda Plateau and Ettrema Creek Banksias

In 1984 Alex George took SGAP Canberra to Touda Plateau to check banksias for the *Banksia Atlas*. Our society has been back to the area twice since then but widening the road from Braidwood to the coast has chewed right through the 'jump-ups' which were the marker for the turn to the north. The roadworks may have improved the road, but they have wrecked the southern side of the coastal sandstone escarpment. The 'jump-ups' begin 7km and end 8.1km from Nerriga. A solid fly-over bridge gives access from bottom to top and if you look down you will see the old road. Access to Touga Plateau and Giera/Tolwong is 9.1km from Nerriga still going uphill, so it is easy to drive past it. The road is labelled Touga Road with no mention of Tolwong Road until the Y junction at 10.8km in where there is an old sign with Giera handwritten on it to help those looking for access to Ettrema Creek. The road is quite good. Red flowering *B. ericifolia*, black and gold flowering *B. spinulosa* and non-flowering *B. plaudosa* were everywhere in May. *B. marginata* is in the wooded patches nearer Braidwood and scarce in the sandstone.

The roadworks have also built up the road and 'tidied' the off ramp access to the Endrick River, which has two picnic area. Openings in the fence are narrow and at awkward angles so you need to travel slowly. Endrick River is 4.9km from Nerriga.

Jan Simpson



Banksia integrifolia var integrifolia
Photo by Ben Walcott



Banksia spinulosa var cunninghamii
Photo by Ben Walcott

Flora of Australia

Barbara Harrison has the following volumes of *Flora of Australia* for sale – volumes 1,4,8 and 29. Please contact Barb ☎ 6238 3525 or email Barb.Harrison@internode.on.net

Quote of the Month

'Several species of *Calothamnus* are now in cultivation. Propagation is fairly easy. The seeds are retained in persistent nuts. If a few of these are removed, placed in a paper bag and allowed to dry, the seeds fall out and can be easily collected. Although the seeds are tiny they germinate well as is shown by the widespread use of *C. quadrifidus* in roadside direct seeding.. We are perhaps a bit blase about *C. quadrifidus* as we see it so frequently. Perhaps we need to be reminded that it is a very attractive plant with its bright red flowers contrasting with dark green leaves.'

Jim Barrow, pp.21-22, *Wildflower Society of Western Australia Newsletter*, February 2010, v. 48(1).



Calothamnus quadrifidus Photo by Ben Walcott

Photo of the Month



Actinotus helianthi - Flannel Flower
Photo by Julie Lindner

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Greening Australia and Seedbank Partnership

Stuart Johnson

Thursday 3 June, 12.30pm

Growing Native Plants

Ben Stocks

Thursday 10 June, 12.30pm

Eucalypts in the Garden

Murray Fagg

Thursday 17 June, 12.30pm

The Nature of Sri Lanka

Ian Anderson

Thursday 24 June, 12.30pm

Contact: Visitor Information Centre

☎ 6250 9540

What's On – June 2010

Next Council Meeting:

12:30-2pm, Monday 14 June, Sponsorship Board Room, CSIRO Discovery, Black Mt.

Next Collation: 7pm, Tuesday 29 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 23 June.

Calendar of Events

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|------------|--------------------------------|
| 10 June | Members Meeting |
| 12-14 June | Field Trip Burrendong |
| 14 June | ANPS Council |
| 15 June | Daytime Activity |
| 19 June | Cutting/Seed Bee |
| 23 June | July <i>Bulletin</i> Items Due |
| 29 June | ANPS Collation |
- * October 16 Spring Sale***

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