



Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc.

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*Wahlenbergia
gloriosa*

ABN 17717 346 075

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

Bulletin

May 2010

Members Meeting: Thursday 13 May, 8pm
CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain

Speaker: Roger Farrow

Roger had a long career in CSIRO Entomology investigating locusts, insect migration, and the role of insects on the rural dieback on eucalypts. A late comer to the study of our native plants he has spent retirement expanding his native garden and travelling with his partner Christine to look at the floras (and grasshoppers) of different parts of the world, especially alpine floras, and spending the winter months at his rainforest retreat in the Daintree.

Topic: Chasing Sheep in New Zealand: the Gondwana Connection

Although New Zealand is so different from Australia in terms of geology, climate and glaciation the flora is instantly recognisable to anyone familiar with the Australian Flora because of the Gondwana connection. New Zealand split from Antarctica 85 million years ago with a raft of Podocarps and Angiosperms which have diversified till today. Because it has not undergone the drying out that has influenced the Australian biota, the species rich, dry sclerophyll vegetation typical of much of Australia never evolved. Our trip through the alpine and sub-alpine areas of the South Island uncovered a different kind of species richness comparable to what is seen in upland Tasmania.

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 Ben Stocks.

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

Daytime Activity: Tuesday 18 May, 10.30am – 12 noon **Using your GPS**

This practical meeting will focus on helping ANPS members to use their GPS in the bush as a navigation tool and to way-point important places and plants. People who own a GPS are asked to bring their GPS, the instrument's manual, a notebook and any topographic maps. We will meet outside the ANBG Visitor Centre. The mini-course will be lead by Graeme Kruse and Bill Willis

Contact: Bill Willis ☎ 62975615 or 0407268797

May Field Trip Mungo National Park May 24-27

(4 Days 3 Nights option to extend)

It takes a long day to drive from Canberra to Mildura the nearest town to Mungo. We suggest participants drive to Mildura on Sunday 23 (or a day earlier if you like Mildura) and continue to the Park on the Monday. There are lots of motels and several Caravan Parks at Mildura. The program at Mungo will be devised once we arrive and discuss options at the Visitors Centre but will include drives through the park and adjacent Willandra Lakes to see the vegetation (lots of saltbush) as well as some of the historical and cultural features of the Park. I suggest meeting at the **Mungo Visitors Centre at noon** on Monday 24. It would be worth stopping at NPWS Buronga Office on the outskirts of Mildura on the NSW side for information. The campers will set up at the main Campground. For non-campers there are various options although the Shearers Quarters in the Park are booked out.

There are 2 lodges near the park, Mungo Lodge www.mungolodge.com.au and Turlee Station Stay www.turleestationstay.com.au.

Contact through website for availability and costs. The other option is to stay in Mildura and drive out daily about 1 hour. We plan to stay until at least Thursday depending on what we find to do. If you intend coming please investigate the NPWS Mungo website for more information. There could be lots of bushflies and veils are desirable. Heavy rain could make the park inaccessible. Park & Camping Fees apply. Contact Roger ☎ 6236-3105 or email r.farrow@iimetro.com.au.

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

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.

Clarks Visit

Gwyn and Geoff Clarke will be visiting Canberra in May. They will attend our May meeting, but would also like to meet up with others that may not be able to attend the meeting. They will be at the ANBG on Saturday 15 May for a walk between 10am and 2pm. They will most likely be at the café about 12 noon for lunch if anyone would like to join them.

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 ☎ 62 816 118 or email jansimpson@homemail.com.au

Propagation Potting Up/Division

11am-2pm, Sunday 30 May
3 Considine Close, Queanbeyan
Note later start time

We will be potting up cuttings previously struck and hope that some of these may be ready for sale in spring. Sale of propagated plants is the main source of income for the society, and subsidises many other activities, and your fees - so **please support** the propagation group! There will also be a demonstration and lesson on dividing Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthos* spp) - so if you have large unwieldy clumps of Kangaroo Paw in your garden, dig some up and bring them along too (wrapped so the roots don't dry out). Take your newly divided plants home - and donate some to ANPS for sale if you want!!

All welcome, beginners and experienced bodies alike. Please bring secateurs, gloves if you need them, and your lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Participants also receive a free ANPS plant from the Queanbeyan igloo.

Many thanks to Alison, Andrew, Ann, Barbara, Ian, Jan, John, Masumi, Nola and Tom who produced 57 punnets of cuttings at the cutting bee in April. It was a great day and enjoyed by all.

Contact: Tom and Lynda ☎ 6297 2437

Lake Burley Griffin

6pm, 12 May, Conference Room, ALIA House
9-11 Napier Close, Deakin

Shirley Pipitone will be giving a talk to the Australian Garden History Society ACT Branch about some of the results of her study on the social value of Lake Burley Griffin. For the full report of the study see www.nationaltrust.org.au

ANPSA Correa Study Group Correa Crawl

12-14 June, 2010

Program is as follows:

Saturday 12 June – Accommodation needed at Port Fairy, Killarney or Warrnambool Caravan Parks. Geelong Botanic Gardens, Winchelsea, Deans Marsh, Killarney. Dinner at Densley's in Killarney

Sunday 13 June – Accommodation needed on Cherree Densley's block, Sawpit Camping

Ground, Heywood or Portland. Densley's garden, Portland, Port Fairy, Mt. Clay State Forest. Dinner at Cherree's Mt. Clay property. Camp on block or Sawpit Camping Ground
Monday 14 June – Drive to Warrnambool to Granny's Grave, Bush House Nursery, Allansford. Correas for sale and cuttings available.

☺ A very warm welcome to all
our new members ☺

☺ Jenny Rees

☺ Gregory Ible

Weed Swap

Volunteers really appreciated the hosting of Weed Swap by Corkhill's & CSG's large garden-waste recycling sites off Mugga Lane and in far west Belconnen last month. Environmental weeds were delivered for mulching and high-temperature composting by murderous gardeners. Donors were rewarded with a thousand free, locally-grown native plants. There was re-kindled enthusiasm for thoughtful gardening and the planting of species that will happily face Canberra's climate but not invade the bush. Weeds constitute the second most devastating threat to Australian biota after habitat destruction. Next year Weed Swap is ten years old. Rosemary Blemings

Quote of the Month

'Here is my tip for the best, quickest growing, floriferous, bird loving screen – *Grevillea* 'Elegance', which has to be one of the best grevilleas around. It comes in two colours, pink and orange, although in truth there's not a lot between them. The thing that strikes you most about these plants is that they just look great all year round and they provide a visual screen between us and our neighbours... they do need regular pruning and I suppose my only complaint is that they grow up as well as out. So you need a good-sized ladder and a long pole snipper... to keep the lower areas full and thick.' Graeme Davies, 'A Beautiful Screen', p. 19, *Native Plants for New South Wales*, v.45(1) January 2010.



Grevillea 'Elegance' Photo by Ben Walcott

Photo of the Month



Mt. Burns , NZ

Photo by Roger Farrow

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Horticultural Produce Handling

Borrry Gartrell

Thursday 6 May, 12.30pm

Seed Ecology and Conservation

Gemma Hoyle

Thursday 13 May, 12.30pm

Thematic and Aesthetic Landscaping at the ANBG

David Taylor

Thursday 20 May, 12.30pm

Seed Bank Opening

Thursday 27 May, 12.30pm

Contact: Visitor Information Centre

☎ 6250 9540

What's On – May 2010

Next Council Meeting:

12:30-2pm, Monday 17 May. Optiportal Room, CSIRO Discovery, Black Mt.

Next Collation:

7pm, Tuesday 1 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 June *Bulletin* reaches me by Wednesday 26 May.

Calendar of Events

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 13 May | Members Meeting |
| 17 May | ANPS Council |
| 18 May | Daytime Activity |
| 24-30 May | Field Trip Lake Mungo |
| 26 May | June <i>Bulletin</i> Items Due |
| 1 June | ANPS Collation |
| * October 16 Spring Sale* | |

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