



# **Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc.**

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*Wahlenbergia  
gloriosa*

## **Bulletin**

## **November 2008**

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### **Members Meeting: Thursday 13 November, 8pm**

**CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain**

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Native Plants Society, Canberra Region Inc., will be held at 8pm on Thursday 13 November, 2008 and will precede the general members' meeting.

### **Speaker: Matthew Brookhouse**

After completing a Forestry degree with Honours at ANU in 1997, Matthew worked for the Victorian Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) for 6 years. While at DSE he designed and implemented a statewide dendrochronology program, amassing a considerable tree ring data set. His observations led him to return to the ANU to commence a PhD aimed at identifying the potential of eucalypt tree rings for dendroclimatology and reassessing earlier research which had concluded that eucalypt tree ring data held little or no climate signal.

### **Topic: Tree rings in the Australian Alps as a potential source of climatic and hydrological data**

Understanding the impacts of natural climate variability is fundamental to anticipating the impacts of climate change, but long (>100 years) records of climate and river flow are lacking. Dendroclimatology – the science that uses tree rings to reconstruct records of past climate – has the potential to facilitate description of natural climate variability and its hydrological and ecological consequences. Matthew's talk will introduce the principles of the subject, examine the dendroclimatology potential of eucalypts, and describe his current research focussing on the potential of *Eucalyptus pauciflora* to reconstruct past conditions in the Australian Alps.

**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 11 November, 10am**

The Daytime Meeting for November will be a stroll around Farrer Ridge Nature Park Trail. Although the first flush of spring flowers is over, there are usually around 30 local species flowering during November. After the walk there is a café at the Farrer Shops for those wishing to adjourn for a coffee or sandwich. Meet at the Hawkesbury Crescent entrance to Farrer Ridge at 10 am (parking available opposite houses 83 and 85 Hawkesbury Crescent).

**Contact:** Julie Lindner at [info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

### **Membership Renewal**

ANPS member subscriptions are now due. A final renewal form will be sent out with the November *Bulletin*. You can also renew using the society's website and a credit card (click PayPal) at <http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au/>. If you intend to renew your membership, please do so now.

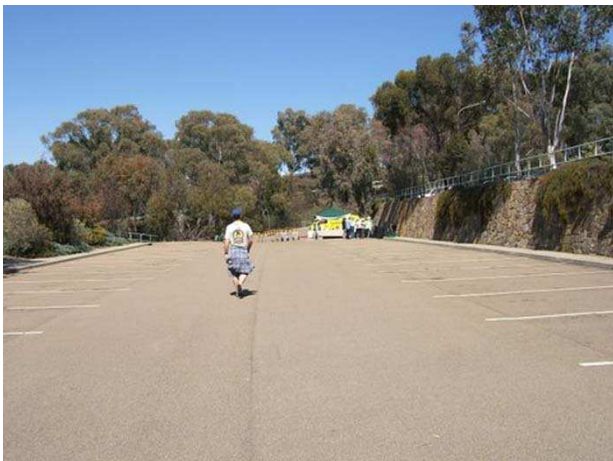
## Spring Sale a Sell-Out

A large, happy crowd turned up at the ANBG on the morning of Saturday 11 October and bought every single plant at our Spring Plant Sale. Lots of very positive comments were again received from customers – some were impressed by the range of plants available, others by the set up, and several thanked the Society for putting on such a great event. It was very pleasing to see many young people among the buyers. So, a **tremendous thank you** to everyone who came and worked hard to help achieve another very successful result. Without you, our dedicated volunteers, it couldn't happen. We would like to especially thank those members who assisted on both the Friday and Saturday, and John Robertson for his excellent organisation of the tally-payment area. And thank you too to our propagation group and member growers who produce all the plants for sale. Well done everyone.

Paul, John and Ben



Plant Sale in full swing, 8.40am. Photo Lucinda Royston



Plant Sale over, 11.30am. Photo Lucinda Royston

## Trial Plants

From time to time the Propagation Group grows plants which cannot be sold to the public until they have been trialled in Canberra conditions. The group is asking for members to volunteer to trial plants and report on their progress. **Contact:** Merren Sloane [info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au) to volunteer. Some plants will be brought to the November meeting.

## December Members' Night

As foreshadowed in last month's *Bulletin*, a Members' Night is planned for the December evening meeting, and several members have already put their names down to give short (5 – 15 minute) presentations. If you would like to give a brief talk about some aspect of our native flora but haven't yet contacted us, please do so soon, so that we can fit you into the program.

Contact Paul Carmen/Cathy Hook  
[info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

## November Field Trip

**SE Forests NP and Coolumbooka Nature Reserves**

**Saturday and Sunday November 29-30**

It is suggested that most campers travel on Friday afternoon meeting up in Nimmitabel coffee shop at 3 pm. Camping at the well appointed Waratah Campground off the Coolangubra Forest Way about 30 km south of Cathcart (well signposted). Non campers can stay at Bombala and travel in via Rocky Springs and Burrumbucca forest roads.

Easy plant-viewing walks to Wyanbra Gorge and Pheasant Mtn. on the Saturday. Short walks to view rare and endangered species in the Coolumbooka Nature Reserves on Sunday.

Our trips will be lead by Jackie Miles from Bega who has an expert knowledge of the local flora.

Maps 1.25,000 Coolumbooka & Nalbaugh.

**Contact:** Roger Farrow [info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

## December Field Trip

**December 13-14**

**Kiandra, Long Plain, Coolemon Plain**

Camping at Long Plain Hut. Non campers should book early at Talbingo, a 20 min drive from Rules Point and Long Plain. It is suggested that campers and non campers arrive on the Friday night. Easy walks for sub alpine flowers on Saturday at Kiandra and 3 mile dam, and Sunday at Long Plain and Coolemon plains.

Contact: Roger Farrow [info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

## ANPS Canberra Region, *Journal*

The editor, Robyn Diamond, is always on the look out for articles from members. Write an article about my favourite plant or my favourite place or a trip you have been on or a book you have read or anything vaguely related to

Australian native plants or their relatives overseas. It makes her job much easier if she has a full quota of articles for future editions of the journal. **Contact:** Roger Farrow or Robyn Diamond [info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

## ANPS Book Survey

Thanks to all who contributed to the ANPS book survey. In total, we received 29 submissions. The draw for the raffle prize will be at the AGM in November. Overall, respondents seemed to be happy with the format of the current edition. The section found to be the most useful in the current edition was the 'Recommended plants' section, followed by the 'Finding your plants', 'The environment', 'Managing your garden' and 'Planning your garden' sections (in order of popularity). People also expressed an interest to add information about local plants, water and grey-water, pruning, pests and diseases to the new issue. About half the respondents were prepared to pay \$20 to \$30 for the book, while the other half were prepared to pay between \$30 and \$40. Over 200 species were put forward as top-ten plants. The most popular was *Correa 'Dusky Bells'*. Other species that were popular included: *Acacia boormanii*, *Philotheca myoporoides*, *Brachyscome multifida*, *Crowea exalata*, *Derwentia perfoliata* and *Pelargonium rodneyanum*. Of the over 130 species identified as having low water needs, the most popular were: *Westringia fruticosa*, *Correa 'Dusky Bells'*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, and *Lomandra longifolia*. If you would like a more detailed report, contact An Van den Borre on [info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

## Propagation

### Twilight Cutting Bee

4pm – 7pm, Thursday November 20\*  
(\*note change of date\*)

8 Bussell Crescent, Cook

Please bring any cutting material you have – we will also raid Barbara's garden.

**Contact:** Barbara Daly [info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

### Potting Up/Seed Planting

10am – 1pm, Saturday November 29

Weetangera Shadehouse

43 Mayo St., Weetangera (enter from the park off Abernethy St. and Kilby Crescent)  
There will be rooted cuttings to pot and we have a good collection of seeds to plant so they will be ready for sale in autumn.

**Contact:** Maki Koyama or Merren Sloane  
[info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

Raffle – John Carter

Please contact [Bill Willis](mailto:Bill.Willis@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au) to join the roster

[info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

☺ A very warm welcome to our new members ☺

☺ Bill Raymond

☺ John Arundel

☺ Conrad van Hest

☺ Peter Beckman

☺ Paul Harris

☺ Mark Sheahan

## WEED SWAP October 2008

### Mugga Lane and Parkwood, Belconnen

When we asked about the origins of their participation this time many people mentioned Floriade. So a double **"Thank you"** to the ANPS members whose volunteering lead to the success of the WEED SWAP on October 25-26. Floriade visitors enjoy talking about weed issues and their gardens and the volunteer-facilitators show their skills when matching member-grown Australian plants with their new owners 'on the day'. Thank you for donating your time to the Society's vision of promoting Australian native plants.  
Rosemary Blemings

## Quote of the Month

"There was a magnificent photo of *Eucalyptus tetraptera* (by Lucinda Royston) in the June 2007 issue of the Canberra ANPS Journal. We grow *E. tetraptera*, and one of our plants is flowering as I write this in June – with only slightly daggier-looking flowers than that photographed beauty. *E. tetraptera* grows as a very open, rather gangly small tree, up to a few metres high and wide. It takes pruning quite well, and it's suitable for training as an espalier on a fence. The square red buds are huge – almost the size of a small cup. When the bud cap falls off, the pinky-red flower appears as a frill at the bottom of the downward pointing bud. Honeyeaters love the flowers. The bright green, leathery leaves are large too (up to about 20cm long by 8cm wide) and the stems are sturdy. The whole effect of the plant isn't so much beautiful as interesting and striking. It makes quite a statement." Leigh Murray, p.2, *Eucalyptus Study Group Newsletter*, April 2008, No. 47.



*Eucalyptus tetraptera*

Photos: T.J. Alford & J.C. Morgan

*Eucalyptus tetraptera*

## Meeting Roster for November

## What's On – November 2008

### Australian National Botanic Gardens

#### How Evolution Works

Adrian Gibbs

Thursday 6 November, 12.30pm

#### Tasmania, Cryptogam Heaven

Chris Cargill

Thursday 13 November, 12.30pm

#### The Evolution of the Australian Flora

Michael Crisp

Thursday 20 November, 12.30pm

#### Coral and Carbon Dioxide

Malcolm McCulloch

Thursday 27 November, 12.30pm

**All talks at ANBG Theatre, except when otherwise specified**

**Contact:** Visitor Information Centre

☎ 6250 9540

## Contacts

### Conservation Council ACT Region

☎ (02) 6247 7808, email

[director@consact.org.au](mailto:director@consact.org.au)

### Friends of the ANBG

Message service ☎ (02) 6250 9548 or email

[friendbg@netspeed.com.au](mailto:friendbg@netspeed.com.au)

### Friends of Grasslands

Margaret Ning ☎ (02) 6241 4065 or email

[margaretning@iprimus.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:bluewrenplants@netspace.net.au)

## Calendar of Events

11 Nov.	Daytime Meeting
13 Nov.	Members Meeting
17 Nov.	ANPS Council
20 Nov.	Cutting Bee
26 Nov.	Dec. <i>Bulletin</i> Items Due
28 Nov.	Field Trip
29 Nov.	Potting Up
2 Dec.	ANPS Collation

### Next Council Meeting:

12:30-2pm, Monday 17 November. Sponsorship Board Room, CSIRO Discovery, Black Mountain.

**Next Collation:** 7pm, Tuesday 2 December.

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](mailto:bulletin@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au).

**Note:** Please ensure material for the December Bulletin reaches me by Wednesday 26 November.

If undelivered return to:  
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