



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

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*Wahlenbergia  
gloriosa*

ABN 17717 346 075

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

## **Bulletin**

## **October 2008**

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**Members Meeting: Thursday 9 October, 8pm**  
**CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain**

**Speaker: Dr. Linda Broadhurst**

Linda is a molecular ecologist at CSIRO Plant Industry in Canberra. Her research primarily centres around improving remnant vegetation management and restoration. By using a range of genetic and ecological tools to understand how remnant vegetation is functioning, Linda is helping to improve the persistence of native vegetation through appropriate management strategies.

**Topic: Genetic considerations for seed sourcing in fragmented landscapes**

Restoring degraded landscapes is now a high priority in most regions of southeastern Australia to address losses in biodiversity and ameliorate against rising salinity and poor water quality. In most of these regions, however, increasing restoration targets and an emphasis on using 'local' seed is likely to have far reaching implications to the persistence of remnant vegetation and the success of restoration efforts. This talk will highlight several important genetic issues that can impact on seed quality, particularly that targeted for restoration projects.

**Special Meeting: Proposed Changes to Our Constitution**

**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 14 October, 10.30am**

The Daytime Meeting for October will be held at Ros and Ben Walcott's place, 10 Wickham Crescent, Red Hill. There is ample parking available along Wickham Crescent. Many grevilleas, eremophilas, prostantheras and even a couple of wattles are in bloom at this time. Please bring your own lunch and the Walcotts will provide drinks. **Contact:** [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au)

**Membership Renewal**

ANPS member subscriptions are now due. A renewal form will be sent out with the October and November Bulletins. 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 soon.

## Help for Spring Plant Sale

We have had quite a good response from members volunteering to assist with the sale so far, however we still need a few more people for both Friday and Saturday. This event represents a great opportunity for members to participate in one of our Society's most successful activities. So if you would like to help please contact [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au)

## December Members' Night

A members' night is planned for the December evening meeting, with several short (5-15 minute) presentations to be given by our members. Is there something about our native flora which you would like to share with other members, perhaps a special place you have visited, some interesting observations you have made or facts you have learnt, or maybe even a poem you have written? If you would like to give a brief presentation, or would like more information, please contact the evening speaker co-ordinators Paul Carmen/Cathy Hook [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au).

## Names for *Journal* and *Bulletin*

Council has decided, after discussion, to leave the names of our *Journal* and *Bulletin* as they are, but redesign the mastheads to emphasize Canberra Region. Thanks to those members who responded with suggestions.

## October Field Trip

**Graham and Leslie McKenzie's property - Araluen Valley**

**Saturday and Sunday October 25-26**

Spring flowers will be at their peak at this picturesque property on the banks of the Araluen river. Graham and Leslie also promise us King Orchids. There will be easy walks on their and their neighbour's property over the two days. Potential participants can email me for more details of the activities as supplied by Graham and Leslie. There is plenty of camping space, and beds in the house, a QS, a double and various singles. There is also a caravan with a double, and our camper. These can be on a first in - first served basis, if needed. **Please let me or Graham and Leslie know if you require a bed.**

**Directions from Graham.** CMA Map Araluen. Their block number is 4269 Araluen Road. Their mail box is appropriately a beer keg on the corner of Araluen Road and Woodbridge Road. Their gate is across Woodbridge Road which the shire claims is still a public road but refuses to maintain it. Through the gate you follow Woodbridge Road down the hill, over the culvert, around the RH hairpin and then up the steepish bit, down again, cross a little creek with spilt concrete causeway, around a siding track for a couple of hundred metres and you're there. There are

directional signs at their boundary and both creeks for the navigationally challenged.

As usual with trips some participants will be going down on the Friday afternoon and returning on the Monday. Participants can come for one, two or three days.

**Contacts:** Graham and Leslie McKenzie [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au).

## WeedSwap

The ANPS next WEED SWAP initiative is scheduled for October 25 and 26. Using NHT grant money we purchase plants from ANPS member-growers and will spend this weekend giving the plants away if gardeners have brought environmental weeds to Corkhill Bros. near the Mugga Lane tip or to Canberra Sand and Gravel, Parkwood, Belconnen. We do need about 20 ANPS members to volunteer to facilitate the exchange and to promote native plants. PLEASE DONATE A COUPLE OF HOURS TO THIS WORTHY CAUSE! The hours are 8.30am to 4pm each day. Please contact me to offer help as your contribution to the Society's outreach efforts.

Rosemary Blemings [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au)

Meeting Roster for September

Raffle – John Carter

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

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

- ☺ Melinda Hayward
- ☺ Ian Lester
- ☺ Cecelia Bradley and Patricia Walker
- ☺ Elizabeth Ann Dorrrough

## Propagation

**No propagation activity in October**

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

## Designers Wanted

Would you like to contribute your drawing skills to

the next edition of the ANPS book? We need a volunteer to help design the symbols for the plant descriptions.

**Contact:** An Van den Borre on

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

## **Black Mountain Spring Wildflower Celebration**

**9.30am to 12.30pm, Saturday 11 October  
Belconnen Way entry, near Caswell Drive**

We will continue the 37th annual Burbidge/Chippendale tradition of an easy ramble around Black Mountain to enjoy the wildflower diversity. Who knows what Spring 2008 will bring? Our beloved Black Mountain has been battered by drought and freeways, but has incredible biodiversity and resilience. An indicator of this diversity is the 59 orchid species out of the 119 occurring naturally in the ACT. Hopefully, we will see some orchids despite the lack of rain and should see lots of bush peas.

The walk will be led by Peter Ormay and everyone is welcome, beginners and long term enthusiasts. Bring morning tea, hats, sunblock, water and stout shoes. Meet from 9.15am at the Belconnen Way entry just before Caswell Drive and the new freeway overpass. **Contact** Jean Geue [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au).

## **Australian Plants as Bonsai**

This ASGAP study group is led by local member Roger Hnatiuk. Please contact Roger [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au)

## **Garden Design Study Group**

**Contact:** Shirley Pipitone [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au)

## **Wednesday Walkers**

Walks are posted on the calendar on the ANPS website each week. To find out more please phone either Jo Walker or Ros Cornish [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au)

## **Grasses Group**

This group practices grass identification at the ANBG every fortnight. For more information contact Merren Sloane [info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au](mailto:info@nativeplants-canberra.com.au)

## **Quote of the Month**

“The Australian Plants Society is interested in all plants that are native to Australia and hold plant sales, flower shows and speak at local meetings to spread their message. They are not greatly bothered if the plant is indigenous or not, except if it is a weed species, then it is not grown. There are people within this group that are only interested in original, bush grown plants and readily accept natural hybrids found in the wild. They are not really interested in Australian cultivars. They do not see cultivars as “genuine” Australian native plants...”

What does this mean for the future? Will a separate Australian cultivar group be formed to embrace the huge cultivar range that is now appearing on the market? Will the interest in cultivars be left to general garden clubs? Is the APS going to accept or reject cultivars, totally or partially... Maybe we need a Study Group on cultivars to look at and recommend cultivars for certain growing conditions and areas. Plant labels on new cultivar releases cannot always be relied on as they are produced by marketing people whose focus is to sell as many plants as possible and write the label accordingly.

There are a large number of cultivars being released and many companies and nurserymen are putting a lot of effort and money into developing new plants. I suppose the Plant Breeders Rights system has been one of the reasons why this has really kicked on. .. The potential for cultivars is vast considering the relatively short time Australian plants have been developed compared to exotics. So where to go from here? Is the APS to become rigid in its charter and only accept natural occurring crosses, or do we widen our charter to deliberately embrace all the current and future cultivars to be released? Phil Hempel, “*The future of cultivars*” pp. 16-17, ***Growing Australian, Australian Plants Society – Victoria***, v. 52.2, No. 205, September 2008.



Photo Ben Walcott

Cultivar Hardenbergia violacea 'Candy Wrapper'

## What's On – October 2008

### Australian National Botanic Gardens

#### The Floral Display

Paul Carmen

Thursday 2 October, 12.30pm

#### Giant Lobelias and Senecios of Mt. Kenya

Roger Farrow

Thursday 9 October, 12.30pm

#### The ACT Plant Census

Brendan Lepschi

Thursday 23 October, 12.30pm

#### Parallel Journeys: Australia and South America

Ian Fraser

Thursday 30 October, 12.30pm

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

**Contact:** Visitor Information Centre

☎ 6250 9540

#### Next Council Meeting:

12:30-2pm, Monday 13 October. Sponsorship Board Room, CSIRO Discovery, Black Mountain.

**Next Collation:** 7pm, Tuesday 3 November.

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 November Bulletin reaches me by Monday 27 October, (\*note earlier date\*).

## 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

- |            |                                |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 9 Oct.     | Members Meeting                |
| 11 Oct.    | Spring Plant Sale              |
| 13 Oct.    | ANPS Council                   |
| 14 Oct.    | Daytime Meeting                |
| 20 Oct.    | ANBG Anniversary               |
| 24-27 Oct. | Field Trip – Araluen           |
| 27 Oct.    | Nov. <i>Bulletin</i> Items Due |
| 3 Nov.     | ANPS Collation                 |

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