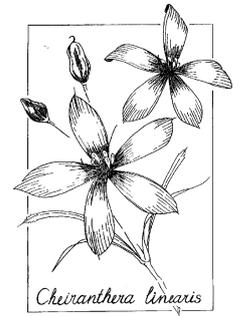




ACN 002 680 408

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS GROUP

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

CALENDAR

As members will be aware, there have been recent changes to the calendar. The walk for November 7 has been cancelled. A planting day for our Wetlands garden has been set down for this coming Wednesday, November 4 for those who are able to attend. Bring the usual for an outdoor activity; a small hand tool (spade/shovel) may be helpful. The plants for this are purchased plants - obtained at the Canberra ANPS Region sales a few weeks back. Our thanks to Stephanie and Pauline for attending that sale. Raina has looked after these plants in the meantime.

Later in November, Sunday 17th, we are taking part in the Goulburn Connects Sustainability Festival which is being held at the Showground. We will have plant sales and a variety of promotional material - some of it brand-new. Some of the promotional material will highlight our cooperation with the Wetlands working parties which include the FROGS landcare group including Ray Shiel, Bill Wilkes and others.

Bob, in consultation with Pauline, organised a banner a few metres wide which has the general APS logo and name plus our own group name. Add to that copies of a new publicity brochure and a piece of display hardware and we will be conspicuous as never before. There will also be a setup where children and others will be able to avail of a small pot, potting mix and some round-leaved tea tree seed to 'plant' the seed and take the pot home with them for germination and growing on.

Wed Nov 4	Wetlands Garden Planting from 8.30am
Sat Nov 7	Wollondilly River walk cancelled
Sun Nov 15	Sustainability Festival
Nov 15 - 20	ANPSA Conference Canberra
Dec 5	AGM & Christmas party

Naturally, members are needed for both days - probably more so the Sustainability event - as there is more setting up and the festival goes until 4 pm. We would be looking at having an average of 2/3 members throughout the day. Anybody who is interested in setting up (from 7 am) would be most welcome. Jen is the organiser for this event in Bob's absence.

Keep an eye on your emails for any further news or messages re these two events.

OCTOBER WALK

This took place in the Joadja Nature Reserve off the Wombeyan Caves Road. This destination replaced the inaccessible Bangadilly NR East. We followed the same route as last year and in fact it was 12 months since that walk. Without checking dates, I had been hoping that we would be a month earlier so we might note some differences in what was flowering. So what we saw was essentially the same but we had some walkers who had not been there before.

With us on the day were visitors Helen Ward (formerly with the Catchment Management Committee) and Frank Antram - both of whom have been to other walks. Frank who has a very strong interest in the birdlife has joined our group and we offer him a very warm welcome.

On the walk, the orange, yellow and red of peas were quite dominant and I added *Dillwynia* sp. '*trichopoda*' and a low-growing form of *D. phyllicoides* to what we had seen before. In addition, we noted two *Angophora* species and we either didn't notice last year or they were omitted from the newsletter. One was *A. costata* with its striking bark; the other may have been *Angophora floribunda* - unfortunately no samples were collected so the identity of the second is uncertain. The walk was enjoyable but at around 28°C, it was much warmer than our walks usually are.

PROPAGATION

A session was held on October 15 at Jen's. Furthermore, the facilities for plant care have been improved with additional shade provided and an upgrade of the water system; thanks again to Bob. This will help to make life a bit easier for Jen who estimates that she currently holds around 4 thousand plants!

SPRING FLOWERS

With good rainfall in winter and some follow-up rain since then, some good displays of Spring flowering are to be seen. This may have been accelerated by the cold winter followed by quite a warm Spring to this point.

We can look at Spring as being heralded by the advent of the wattles. Our earliest local wattle is the sunshine wattle, *A. terminalis* which can begin to flower in some sheltered spots as early as late July. *A. genistifolia* starts flowering in Autumn and so is not one of the Spring starters. So we

then have the burst of other wattles which we can take as the start of Spring.

As Spring continues and reaches its climax, plants with flowers with yellow and/or some closely related colours can become very visible. Included here are some of the peas (Family Faboideae) and daisies (Family Asteraceae).

A number of local species which contribute to the blaze of colour in the local vegetation seen about mid-October are included below.



In picture 1, Hoary sunray or *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *tricolor* is featured. Pauline contributed a photo of one of these to the newsletter about 2 years ago. This variety is nationally endangered but there is a fair bit of it around here. It is easy to grow and it is best in full sun.

In 2, *Leucochrysum albicans*, ssp. *albicans*, var. *albicans* is shown. Without going into the finer differences between this variety and the previous one, the distinguishing feature is the colour (yellow v. white) of the bracts (the things that are some time called petals - they are really modified leaves - not real petals). To go back briefly to the first variety, i.e. var. *tricolor* - the third colour in that is a pinkish shade on the underside of some bracts - but not visible above - and best seen in the buds.

I have many hundreds of var. *tricolor* on my place but I have seen only one of the second variety, var. *albicans*. However, it is not endangered.

Picture 3 is the low-growing compact form of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*. It seems to grow better in some shade.

Pic 4 shows *Leptorhynchos squamatus* (Scaly buttons). It prefers lower locations and tolerates less than perfect drainage.

Pic 5 shows part of a pea - *Pultenaea microphylla* - prostrate form; hardy plant - can reach a metre in diameter.