



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS FOR  
CONTAINERS STUDY GROUP**

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## **Leaders' comments**

### **Welcome to Australian Plants for Containers Newsletter 40, October 2022**

We are sorry we could not go to the Kiama conference and meet with Study Group members, but health matters precluded travel at this time. We understand from others that the conference went well and was very informative.

We were pleased that after the conference we had a visit from Liesbeth Uijtewaal, from The Netherlands, together with Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate. As you saw in the previous *Newsletter*, Liesbeth has a remarkable collection of Australian native plants in pots. She certainly has green fingers.

Our garden, like many of yours, is suffering from unusually high rainfall over the last two years. While some plants have thrived, many are unaccustomed to wet feet and look poorly. Even our well drained pot plants are sodden and needing more sun and dryness.

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## **Anne Campbell, Mt. Barker, SA**



*Boronia crenulata*

***Boronia crenulata*** – Aniseed Boronia- has been flowering for quite a number of weeks probably since early July.

It was propagated at the nursery of the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in Port Augusta and I bought it there. It does well in the Gardens there too. The leaves are indeed aromatic with a clear aniseed aroma. It is in a pot in my back courtyard – part shade, part sun and facing north and I water it as need dictates.

The blurb about it from Kings Park: <https://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/about-us/horticulture/plant-of-the-month/1827...>

### Description:

*Boronia crenulata* is a dense, dwarf shrub found predominately in the south-west of Western Australia from the Esperance Plains to the Swan Coastal Plain growing in a wide range of soils.

It grows up to 1 m high and 1 m wide with upright branches and small light green spoon-shaped leaves. These leaves have a high oil content and smell like aniseed, hence the common name of Aniseed Boronia.

The Aniseed Boronia produces masses of small pink and open-petalled flowers from July to December. It is a very ornamental species, which has adapted well to cultivation, varying in foliage colour and form.

### Horticultural tips

- Grows in a range of soils in dappled shade to part-sun.
- Requires well-drained soil with plenty of humus that does not dry out readily.
- Performs well in pots.
- Prune lightly after flowering to encourage new growth.

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## Roger Farrow, Canberra



Here is a picture of my ***Grevillea* 'Winter Delight'** in the Winter Colour series. It is 2 years old and was obtained from Cool Country Natives Nursery in Canberra. It is very tough, withstands heavy frosts to -10 °C. It is probably a lanigera hybrid. I also have one in the ground but it's half the size. I tip prune it after flowering (more cuttings).

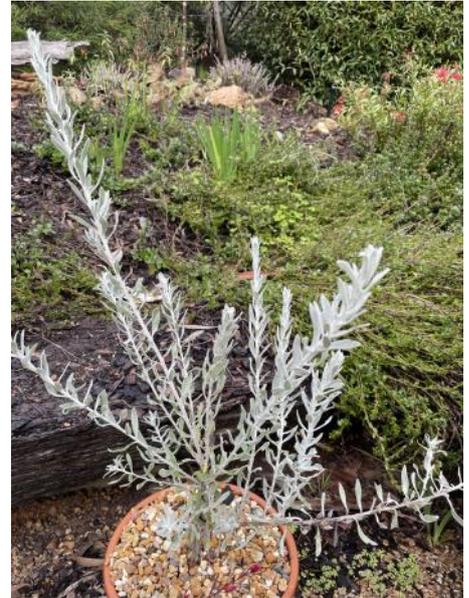
*Eds. note: "Winter Delight" is a hybrid between G. lanigera and G. lavandulacea. We too have one in the garden and it flowers for a long time.*

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**Stewart Lewis, Warrandyte, Vic.**



**Left:** Flannel Flower, flowered superbly over summer. Should I worry about the brown leaves?



**Right:** *Eremophila* 'Pink Pantha' waiting for new flowers



**Left:** *Crowea* 'Excel'  
Brilliant display of flowers



**Right:** Waratah 'Shady Lady' getting ready for spring flowering



**Left:** Billy Buttons - repotted and missed flowering. Behind Billy Buttons is *Acacia* 'Mini Cog' and a *Pimelia*.



**Right:** *Banksia* 'Birthday Candles' - first real flowering this year.



**Left:** *Adenanthos sericea* - saw tube stock and couldn't resist.

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**Brenda Meehan, Qld.**



Yesterday the Garden Design Study Group toured Roma Street Parklands with Lawrie Smith and I was inspired by one of their feature bowls to try something similar with the ferns I have already. See picture

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**Andy and Janet Russell, Canberra**

*Eds Note: Andy and Janet live in an apartment with a large balcony which was described in the previous Newsletter # 39.*



*Zieria littoralis*



**Left:** *Templetonia retusa*



**Right:** *Acacia acinacea*



**Left:** *Pterostylis pedunculata*



**Right:**  
*Anigozanthos*  
'Bush Dance  
Glow'



**Left:** *Telopea speciosissima x oreades*

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## Judith Walker, Sydney NSW

We are in southern Sydney and about ten months ago, we moved from our home and big garden into an apartment which fortunately has a very large verandah with space for lots of pots. We were able to grow *Eremophila nivea* in our garden before and I was pretty pleased that it's doing well in a pot. It is a grafted plant which I put in the pot some nine months ago.



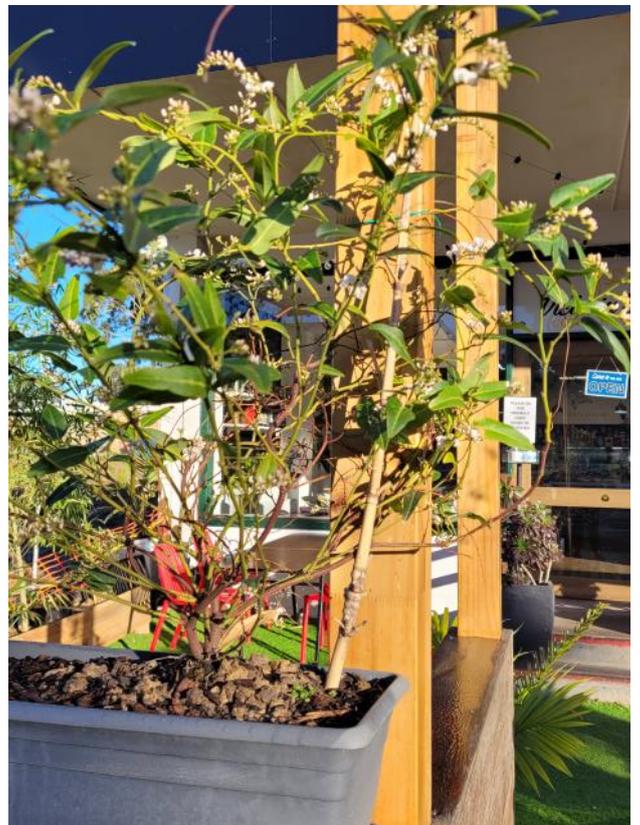


We also have a *Banksia integrifolia* in a pot which has shot up too. My native nursery recommended it as a plant for a pot but I'm a bit worried it will outgrow even the quite large pot it's in. This Banksia was also planted around ten months ago and has grown vigorously in its pot. We really like its shape, it was described as "upright form" on its label.

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## Nicky Zanen, Vic.

On my way home from the shops, I stop at a little coffee shop. At their entrance, exposed to all manners of weather, they have two pots of *Hardenbergia*. It amazes me that these plants have survived at least 6 months, and are now flowering. Some plants are very resilient. The coffee is good too.



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## Words by Ros Walcott, Canberra

### Photos by Ben Walcott

#### Hanging Baskets

Near the back door, we have a pergola with a translucent roof under which we grow many frost sensitive plants in pots. We have had great success in growing *Rhodanthe* and *Billardiera* in hanging pots in this area.



Above: ***Rhodanthe* 'Oxley Cascade'**

We planted three of these compact perennials, which produce many white paper-like flowers, in hanging baskets in April 2021. This long flowering cascading cultivar prefers morning sun and adequate moisture and was developed by the Australian National Botanic Garden. These plants flower abundantly for us in August and September.

Above right: ***Billardiera ringens* – Chapman River Climber**

We planted three of these light climbers with dark green leathery foliage and large clusters of orange-red tubular flowers, in hanging baskets in August 2021. This plant responds to pruning and needs good drainage in a sunny to partly shaded position. This species is native to the the area between Kalbarri and Mingenew, WA. This plant flowers for us all winter.



**Front entrance:**

The front entrance to our house is raised with steps and two platforms. We have two large pots on either side of the first platform, those at the back have a *Grevillea* 'Scarlet Blaze' and those in the front have 3 plants each of *Rhodanthe anthemoides*. The *Rhodanthe* has formed magnificent displays of cascading flowers which bloom for months and provide interest in a rather bare area. The *Grevilleas* in the back pots are small having just been planted. Originally we had a Wollemi pines in each of these pots but they grew too large so we moved them into the garden. We then tried *Persoonia pinifolia* which died after a year or so, probably because they were in a too exposed position. *Rhodanthe* grow very well in our garden so having them in pots is a decorative feature.

### **In the garden:**

Across the driveway opposite the entrance is an *Acacia subulata* and we have planted *Rhodanthe* underneath with *Correa* 'Ring A Ding Ding' in the foreground.

*Rhodanthe anthemoides* – Chamomile Sunray

Cultivars 'Paper Cascade', 'Paper Star', 'Southern Stars', 'Starshower' and 'Sunray Snow'

We have planted more than 60 of these perennial everlasting daisies, 0.3 m high x 1m wide, with aromatic grey leaves and white papery flowers in summer, often pink in bud, from 2004 onward. These sub-alpine plants prefer a well drained, mulched sunny position, but thrive with some overhead protection in our garden. Slugs love them – put down slug deterrent. This species is widespread from coast to alpine areas of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania



### ***Pimelia suaveolens*: Under the hanging baskets**



Please send us your thoughts comments and ideas and when we get enough, we will produce another Newsletter.

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