

# THE NATIONAL MINT

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Newsletter of the Prostanthera & Westringia Study Group

Leader: Robert Miller 13 Park Road, Bulli NSW 2516 Phone/fax 42 846768

Patron



Brian Timmis

## STUDY GROUP MEETING

Sat. 20th July

At the Illawarra  
Grevillea Park,  
Grevillea Park Road,  
Bulli, NSW.

All members  
welcome (refer page  
2 for further details).



### PROSTANTHERA & WESTRINGIA IDENTIFICATION AND THE CUTTING EXCHANGE SERVICE

#### Name That Mintbush Correctly:

For those of you who do want to know "what plant is that?". Its easy! For plant identification send as complete a specimen as possible - preferably fresh; including material suitable for cuttings. These can be wrapped loosely, in lightly

dampened absorbent paper enclosed within a milk carton. Prior notice by phone is advisable before dispatch via overnight post. Alternatively, a dried specimen can be posted between sheets of stiff card. In both cases, origin details, size and features such as flower colour should be included. (Cont. page 2.)

### THE MINTBUSH COLLECTION

The mintbush plantings at the Illawarra Grevillea Park are slowly but steadily increasing. Approximately 100 tubes were planted in April 2002.

As reported in the last newsletter, the remains of the my large potted collection were planted in the park. Many have flourished and should provide a spectacular display this spring. The majority of the plants propagated by Sid Pinner are growing well and should provide a stunning display within the next two years.

Many of the original plantings donated by Wilma and Jim Thompson, Brian Timmis and myself are beginning to wane. These areas are in need of selective replanting after this spring season. Donations of plants (especially hardy spectacular forms) for this project would be greatly appreciated.

Working bees to assist in the maintenance of the Grevillea Park are held most Mondays. Volunteers are always welcome but should contact myself on 42846768 or Ray Brown 42 849216 to confirm before attending.

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### The Cutting Exchange

A cutting exchange service is underway for study group members. Cuttings material of many species is limited and the supply of these will be dependant on availability. This is an exchange service, priority will be given to those members who are willing to supply material of species or forms which are not as yet part of the collection housed at the Illawarra Grevillea Park or who contribute articles to the newsletter.

Please supply a list of species and forms you are currently growing when requesting cutting material. If possible, the origin of each plant should be included, e.g. nursery purchase, study group collection number or garden seedling. All wild

sourced plants should include location details. This will enable me to pass on to other members potential sources of material that they desire if the species or form requested is not contained within the collection at the Grevillea Park.

I would appreciate cutting material from the following plants lost from the main collection: a variegated species originating from Woy Woy, a pink form of *Prostanthera staurophylla* and colour forms, especially yellow, of *P. aspalathoides*.

Wild sourced material is always welcomed - however be responsible and be legal.

## STUDY GROUP MEETING

**WHEN:** Saturday 20 July

**WHERE:** Illawarra Grevillea Park which is located at the rear of the Bulli Showground and Racing complex. Arriving from Sydney turn off the F6 at Bulli Tops onto the Princess Highway and proceed down Bulli Pass to Bulli. Turn right off the Princes Highway into Grevillea Park Road which is located just before the Bulli RSL Sports / Bowling Club.

**WHAT FOR:** Grevillea Park Open Day and Plant Sale:

- Tour of the Grevillea Park;
- plant identification;
- cutting exchange; and

- discussion of cultivation techniques.

### WHAT TO BRING:

- Lunch;
- ideas eg. for bushwalks;
- plants for sale or swap;
- cutting material;
- articles for the newsletter;
- And donation of mints for planting at the Grevillea Park are always welcome.

### Location Map for Illawarra Grevillea Park

See Page 4

**NOTE:**

All

correspondence

to

Robert Miller

13 Park Rd

Bulli

NSW 2516

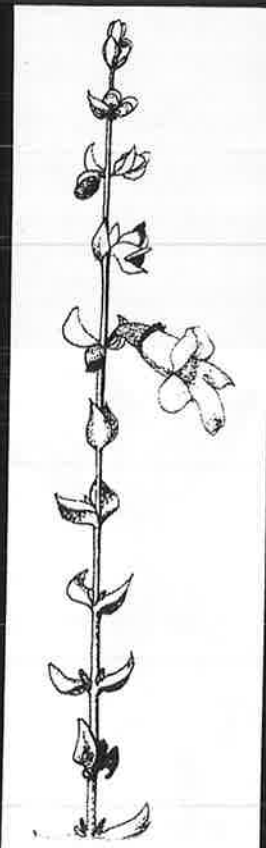
For replies

include a

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envelope .

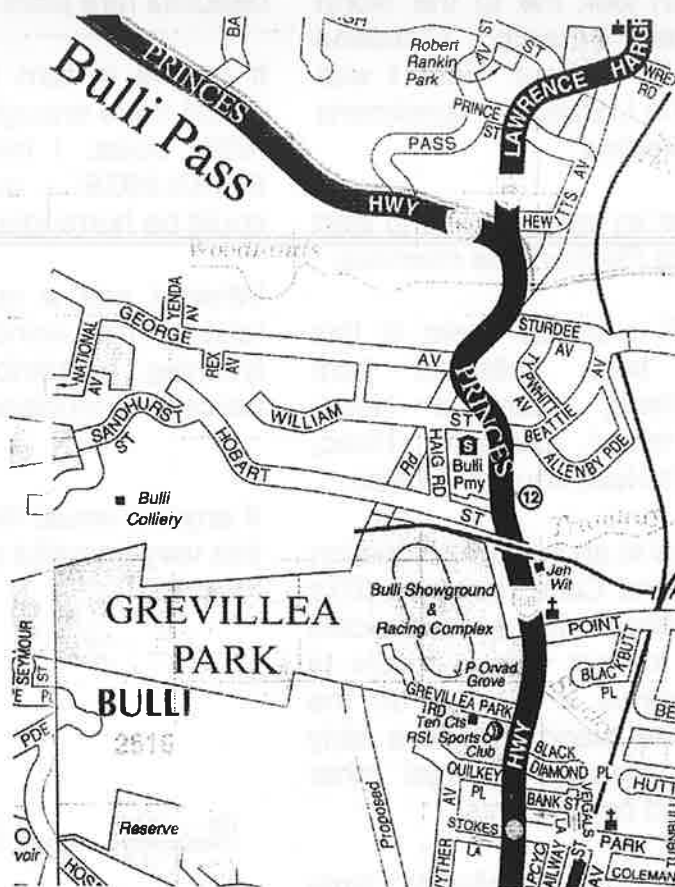


# LASIANTHOS

Contribution to our publication *Lasianthos* is always welcome.

Members can forward articles for publication electronically to my wife's university email address [z7133782@student.unsw.edu.au](mailto:z7133782@student.unsw.edu.au) or on disk. Hard copies should be preferably typed, hand written short articles are also accepted.

**Contribute now! Your observations are important!**



## Brian Timmis - Where is he now and will he be lynched?

Brian lives in retirement at Nambucca River Tourist Park, situated on the mid-north coast of New South Wales. He plans to travel the country side observing mintbushes and recording their habitat details. He has already transformed his new home into a haven for Australian flora. He has

also embarked on transforming the rest of the caravan parks visual amenity by planting rainforest species throughout.

Brian feels he has an uncertain future there as one of his "darlings" has tried to take over the park. As a result he fears he may be lynched by other inmates. See page 4 for details.

What's in the next edition of *Lasianthos*

Further localities for *Plectranthus cremnus* by Steve Clemesha

NPWS Rare Plant Survey - *Prostanthera cryptandroides*  
*Prostanthera discolor*  
*Prostanthera stricta*

The NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act - How you can protect your patch.

### STOP PRESS

Brian Timmis goes by the alias of Murf the Surf a name he acquired after his exploits at a fancy dress party

## My Offspring - will they be the death of me?

By

Brian Timmis

Nambucca River Tourist Park  
Macksville NSW 2447

It all started with my retirement and move to live in paradise on the mid-north coast of NSW. This was to be my base from where I could foray into the wilds looking for Lamiaceae.

My initial research took me to the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens Herbarium at Coffs Harbour. Here I was able to view all the Lamiaceae specimens held within the collection.

Living on the coast an easy species to start my forays with was *Plectranthus cremnus*.

Specimens of *P. cremnus* held at this herbarium had been collected from Arrawarra Headland, Diamond Head, South Solitary Island, Bennetts Head, Foster and Bluey's Head south of Foster.

I found *P. cremnus* at an additional location at Mutton Bird Island Coffs Harbour. This is a Nature Reserve with a constructed path going west to east with a couple of lookouts. *P. cremnus* is located on the eastern end of the island. This is a fairly large population growing amongst other low growing ground cover plants.

Due to the hundreds of Mutton birds nesting in burrows over most of the island and the public being asked to walk only on the pathway, it seems very obvious that *P. cremnus* is in no way threatened at this locality.

Six months ago I acquired some cutting material of *P. cremnus* which originated from Racecourse Headland, near Crescent Head. From these I grew lots of plants of *P. cremnus*. These were then planted with other natives in my front garden. The little darlings have taken over, swamping small

plants, trying to climb my four Bangalow Palms and it is now seeding profusely like an unwanted weed.

This has created a beautiful display through my fencing—grey foliage contrasting with masses of blue flowers.

I had encouraged other inmates of the park to plant this rarity as a ground cover. As a result the park rubbish pickup now takes loads of this plant to the park dump. I don't have the courage to visit the dump as I envisage a massive outbreak of this beautiful rare plant.

If I were to turn my plants into cuttings I would have enough plants to revegetate the NSW coast. I have not mentioned "THE SEEDLINGS" - something for next time - could be horrendous.

When I see a number of my neighbours talking, I now wonder if they are organising a lynching in retribution for my offsprings perceived troublesome nature.

If anyone would like material or seedlings of this very beautiful plant please call in or write for some.

*Plectranthus cremnus* B. J. Conn

