

ISSN 1838-9082



# NEWSLETTER

Leader: Maria Hitchcock  
 16 Hitchcock Lane  
 Armidale NSW 2350  
 Ph. 02 6775 1139  
 maria.hitchcock@gmail.com

**Welcome to any  
 new readers!**  
**Why not join us?**  
**It's free!**  
**Just send an  
 email.**

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*Alloxylon flammeum*

Image: lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au

**New Website**  
**Bookmark it today!**  
[waratahflannelflowersg.weebly.com](http://waratahflannelflowersg.weebly.com)

**Past Newsletters  
 are available  
 here**  
<http://waratahflannelflowersg.weebly.com/newsletters.html>

**The Waratah and Flannel Flower Study Group is affiliated with the  
 Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) - ANPSA**  
 This is an **electronic only** group.  
 Newsletters are sent out twice a year (electronic only).  
**Membership is free to individuals and APS (SGAP) groups.**  
 There is no deadline for newsletter contributions - send them anytime, sooner rather than later.

**Maria writes:**

It was lovely to meet up with some members at the ANPSA Conference and to sign up new people. Welcome! I was given the opportunity along with other Study Group leaders to give a short presentation on the group and I tried to slant it towards encouraging people to have a go. We've learnt a lot over the past few years and it's been great to see the successes. The postcards and Flannel Flower seed I put on display all disappeared pretty quickly so I hope that means that more people will experiment with growing these wonderful plants.

I have finally overcome my scale problem and the new growth on my plants is looking healthy and fresh. We are now in our third year of drought which stresses the plants and makes them susceptible to all kinds of attack. Obviously I am trying to grow Waratahs in a borderline area but then that's what we are about - expanding the boundaries.

As I have very stony soil I decided to put in a potted collection to see the differences in the growth rate between species and varieties. I have the five species plus some of the hybrids planted in large plastic tubs filled with my own potting mix which I have used before on waratahs with good success. They are placed in a sheltered position where they get morning sun and no westerly wind and are on stands which allow free drainage. They get watered automatically once a day with a fine mist. So far so good.

I noticed that the ANBG have planted a number of hybrid waratahs in one of their gardens. I was particularly impressed with a very large specimen of *Telopea* 'Canberry Gem'. This hybrid has reverse pollination to T. 'Braidwood Brilliant' - another wonderful hardy *Telopea*. Originally called 'Doug's Hybrid', T. 'Canberry Gem' was the result of *Telopea* breeding done by the ANBG in the sixties. Interestingly T. 'Braidwood Brilliant' has become a very popular plant but no one seems to be growing T. 'Canberry Gem'. I wonder if anyone reading this might be growing it.

*Telopea* seed matures in Autumn and I would welcome donations of seed from straight species or hybrids to share with members.



*Telopea* 'Canberry Gem'

Image: [www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)

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## Seedbank

If you would like me to post you seed please send me an SAE (2 stamps required). Growing instructions are enclosed with the seed. I always welcome fresh FF seed for our seedbank so any contributions are welcome. Please make sure you add the date of collection to your packet. I am also looking for fresh Waratah seed, in particular *T. mongaensis* and *T. oreades* - must be collected off private property or in the garden. Unfortunately commercial seed is often very old and not viable.

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**From the members****Frank Allatt** (WIN) writes:

Some shots of the Waratah Festival. 10 growers submitted blooms. The winning bloom was Starfire, shown middle row below. Starfire is available to WIN members at a discounted price, but attracts a \$0.10 stem royalty paid to WIN annually with the annual subscription. Brimstone Princess is the other bloom and is in development. The judges are Bettina Gollnow and David Matthews of Protea Flora. Shown in the top row left is a young Shady Lady Red (Protea Flora) and in bottom Row, second from the left is a Protea Flora sponsored Garden. The waratah bloom entries are shown along with a selection of the floral arrangements which are on display until Monday 28th September. Other prize winners - Craig Scott - best seedling waratah bloom, and Col Terry - Best hybrid bloom with a red truncata x entry called Nina.



## New Waratah

### *Telopea 'Essie's Gift'*

Named in honour of the late Essie Huxley, famous for her luminous yellow Waratah. Essie collaborated with plant breeder Brian Fitzpatrick of NSW who developed the Wild Brumby range of Waratahs.

1m x 1.5m Fl. Spring

A unique low growing, compact hybrid waratah with deep pink flowers on arching stems. Grow in full sun to part shade but protect from westerly sun and wind. Can be grown as a hedge or as a specimen plant. Excellent for medium to large tubs or grown in courtyards. Good cut flower will last for up to two weeks. Water regularly till established then deep water periodically during the summer and dry periods.

Requires fertile well-drained soil. Mulch well and give the plant space. Do not underplant as Waratahs do not like competition in the root zone. Prune back stems by a third after flowering to promote bushiness and more flowers in the next season. Fertilise with Blood and Bone + Trace Elements in spring and autumn.

Telopea Essie's Gift Image: [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)



Telopea Essie's Gift

Image: [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)



Telopea Essie's Gift hedge

Image: [www.pma.com.au](http://www.pma.com.au)

The story of Essie Huxley

<http://hillviewrareplants.com.au/ramblings/essies-waratah-and-others>

Ref: <https://www.facebook.com/Jigsaw.garden.centre/posts/867986609965085>  
[http://www.pma.com.au/fact\\_files/t\\_%20oessies-gift\\_fs.pdf](http://www.pma.com.au/fact_files/t_%20oessies-gift_fs.pdf)

### Germination Breakthrough

Margaret Guenzel has been very generous in sending me seed regularly. I had an envelope of seed of her taller growing variety which was collected in February last year making it almost 2 years old. Rather than throwing it away I decided to sow all of it in an experiment in early October.

I poured 2 cups of smoke water (which we make up ourselves) into a large jar and added 1/2 teasp. Wettasoil. After shaking it up I added the seed and shook it up thoroughly. Then I left it for an hour periodically shaking the jar to ensure that all the seed was thoroughly coated. The hairs stop water from penetrating to the seed but the wettasoil seems to break through.

I then sowed the wet seed (use a teaspoon to spread it out) across a large square tray filled with seed raising mix and covered it lightly with more mix. The tray went into my igloo which gets a fine spray for five minutes once a day. A month later the seedlings emerged and I was stunned. I have almost 300 seedlings. This probably amounts to close to 90% success rate with old seed.

I would love other people to trial this method.

### Further Flannel Flower Trials

Now that I can raise seed successfully the next step is to improve survival rate after seedlings are potted on. I have to say that my results are pretty poor. I've now started a trial with 5 tubes each of

1. Hortico potting mix only
2. Hortico + diatomite
3. Hortico + diatomite + Nutricote
4. Hortico + diatomite + Nutricote + Trace Elements
5. Hortico potting mix + sandy loam
6. Hortico + diatomite + sandy loam
7. Hortico + diatomite + Nutricote + sandy loam
8. Hortico + diatomite + Nutricote + Trace Elements + sandy loam
9. Hortico potting mix + seed raising mix
10. Hortico + diatomite + seed raising mix
11. Hortico + diatomite + Nutricote + seed raising mix
12. Hortico + diatomite + Nutricote + Trace Elements + seed raising mix

All the pots are housed in an igloo which gets a fine spray of water for 10 minutes at midday. There seems to be no logic to which seedlings survive. I would welcome your comments and suggestions. The air here is quite dry.

I shall also try direct sowing into the tubes to see if that makes a difference. I know carrots (same family) are directly sown.

### *Actinotus helianthi* 'Little Edelweiss'



These photos were sent by Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate. The plants were grown from seed I sent last year and are now doing brilliantly on their South Coast property. This low growing form was developed by Margaret Guenzel of Geelong and appears to come true from seed.



*Alloxylon pinnatum*  
Dorrigo Waratah

**Helen and David Tranter** kindly sent a batch of seed (collected in August 2015) which I parcelled up and offered to members. They have proven to be quite popular.

I suggested the following sowing method.

Seed is viable for 12 months  
Soak seed in smoke water (optional)  
Sow 1cm deep in seed raising mix.  
Treat seedlings and young plants like other waratahs.

**Harry Kibbler** sent this note:

*I have a few Dorrigo waratah plants that I have been growing for a number of years. Most have died as a result of a root disease. This year I collected seed and sowed them after treating with hot water overnight (approx.. 80oC). I had 65% germination the first time but very little success when it was repeated. The latter batches of seed were younger than the first and this may have resulted in the poor germination. However, it has only been two months since they were sown.*

*The Dorrigo waratah are flowering at present but I will collect seed and try again with smoke water.*

My own seed went in on 8th December. It will be interesting to see how long it takes for them to germinate. I soaked seed in smoke water for 5 minutes before sowing. Telopea seed usually takes a few weeks to germinate depending on the time of year.

Does anyone have fresh seed of *Alloxylon flammeum* to send to the Study Group? Alternatively do you have a tree in flower now? I would welcome fresh seed when it is ready in Autumn.



*Alloxylon pinnatum*  
Image: [picssr.com](http://picssr.com)  
*Alloxylon pinnatum*



Image: [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

*Alloxylon flammeum*

Queensland Tree Waratah (Red Silky Oak)

Listed as Vulnerable (EPBC list)

(Sometimes referred to as *Oreocallis wickhamii*)

**Origin:** Queensland Tropical rainforests where it is a canopy tree. It occurs on the Atherton Tableland at an elevation of 700m - 820m and it ranges from Danbulla to the Upper Barron River. Protected remnants can be observed in reserves such as Mount Hypipamee National Park, Danbulla National Park, Crater Lakes National Park, Curtain Fig Tree National Park, and Hallorans Hill Conservation Park. It is found on basalt or granite derived soils and grows in association with candlenut (*Aleurites rockinghamensis*), *Argyrodendron* spp., fishtail lawyer cane (*Calamus caryotoides*), rose maple (*Cryptocarya onoprienkoana*), shining-leaved stinging tree (*Dendrocnide photinophylla*), fig trees (*Ficus* spp.), Queensland maple (*Flindersia brayleyana*), cabbage crowfoot (*Franciscodendron laurifolium*), northern brush mahogany (*Geissois biagiana*), Atherton turkey bush (*Hodgkinsonia frutescens*), and red cedar (*Toona ciliata*).

*A. flammeum* flowers Image: anpsa.org.au

**Description:** Tree to 25-30 metres in its native habitat but much smaller in cultivation. Trunk has light grey bark with brown lenticels. New growth is hairy

*A. flammeum* pods Image: en.wikipedia.org

Adult leaves are glossy green, alternately arranged, elliptical and about 150 mm x 50 mm. Juvenile leaves are larger and may also be lobed. Flowers are bright red, in terminal clusters up to 75 mm in diameter and conspicuously displayed in the leaf axils towards the ends of the branches. Flowering: Spring and early summer. Winged seed is contained in pods and ripens in Autumn. Pollinated by birds.

**Cultivation:** *A. flammeum* is tolerant of a range of soils provided they are not waterlogged. It is drought hardy but only moderately frost hardy. Fertilise with a low phosphorus slow release fertiliser. Hardest and most adaptable of the *Alloxylon* species. Grown in a wide range of climates. needs a well-drained soil rich in organic matter in a sheltered position.

Propagate from seed which may be difficult to obtain. Plants also strike readily from cuttings of hardened new growth. Seedlings take up to 8 years to flower. *A. flammeum* has been used as grafting rootstock for *A. pinnatum*.

*References:*

<http://anpsa.org.au/a-fla.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alloxylon\\_flammeum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alloxylon_flammeum)

## Checklist of *Telopea* species, cultivars and hybrids

### Species:

<i>Telopea aspera</i>	Gibraltar Range NSW
<i>Telopea mongaensis</i>	Braidwood Waratah - NSW
<i>Telopea oreades</i>	Gippsland Waratah - Vic.
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	NSW Waratah
<i>Telopea truncata</i>	Tasmanian Waratah

### Pink Cultivars:

<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Pink' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Pink Passion'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Shade of Pale'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Tutu'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Clarence Pink'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'In the Pink' (Yellow Rock Nursery/Nixon)

### Red Cultivars:

<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Ballerina'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Blush' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Brimstone Early' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Cardinal'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Corrakee' (Karwarra Gardens)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Fire and Brimstone' - Fire 'n Brimstone (Nixon)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Fire 'n Ice' (Roy Rother, Emerald Vic/Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Green Bracts'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Mirragon'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Olympic Flame' - Mt Annan (Cathy Offord)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Red Centre'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	<i>'Red Embers' NZ and USA</i>
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Roger's Red' Gordon Meiklejohn (Brimstone Waratahs)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	<i>'Scarlet Ribbons'</i>
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Songlines' - Yellow Rock Nursery , Winmallee NSW
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Starfire' Gordon Meiklejohn (Brimstone Waratahs)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Stringers Late'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Sunflare' - Mt Annan (Cathy Offord)
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Sunburst' University of Sydney (Offord, Nixon, Goodwin)
<i>Telopea truncata</i>	'Tasman Red'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	<i>'Brimstone Princess'</i>

### White Cultivars:

<i>Telopea oreades</i>	'Errindundra White'
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	'Wirrimbirra White' (also marketed briefly as 'Shady Lady White' - naturally occurring <i>T. speciosissima</i> clone found in the NSW Water Board area by Thistle Stead. Link <a href="http://www.wirrimbirra.com.au/Wirrimbirra%20white.htm">http://www.wirrimbirra.com.au/Wirrimbirra%20white.htm</a>

### Yellow/Cream Cultivars:

Red Hybrids:

<i>Telopea speciosissima x mongaensis</i>	'Braidwood Brilliant'
<i>Telopea mongaensis x speciosissima</i>	'Canberry Gem' - (Doug's hybrid/Canberry Coronet)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x mongaensis</i>	'Corroboree'
<i>Telopea speciosissima x</i>	
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Emperor's Torch' - Ausflora Pacific, Gembrook Vic.
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Gembrook' - Ausflora Pacific, Gembrook Vic.
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady Crimson' - Proteaflora
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady Pink' - Proteaflora
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady Red' - Proteaflora
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Sugar Plum' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'T90-1-0-1' - Proteaflora ("Shady Lady" seed)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Nina' Col Terry

Pink Hybrids

<i>Telopea speciosissima x T. truncata lutea</i>	'Champagne' (Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Digger' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x mongaensis</i>	'Mallee Boy' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x 'Wirrimbirra White'</i>	'Dreaming' (Fitzpatrick)

White Hybrids:

<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady White' (original) similar to <i>T. speciosissima</i> 'Wirrimbirra White'
<i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>	'Shady Lady White' (improved) same as 'Bridal Gown' (Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Snow Maiden' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)

Yellow/Cream Hybrids:

<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata lutea</i>	'Shady Lady Yellow' same as 'Golden Globe' (Downe)
<i>Telopea speciosissima x truncata</i>	'Georgie Girl' - Wild Brumby (Fitzpatrick)

**Related Genera**

<i>Alloxylon brachycarpum</i>	Indonesia, Papua New Guinea
<i>Alloxylon flammeum</i>	Queensland Tree Waratah (Red Silky Oak)
<i>Alloxylon pinnata</i>	Dorrigo Waratah
<i>Alloxylon wickhamii</i>	

***Can you add to this list?  
Do you have any information  
on growing any of these  
species or varieties?***

**Checklist of Actinotus species and varieties**

<i>Actinotus bellidioides</i>	Vic (presumed extinct), Tas
<i>Actinotus forsythii</i>	Kings Tableland, Mount Hay, Narrow Neck, Hargraves Look out, Kanangra Walls, above scenic railway (Blue Mts) NSW VIC
<i>Actinotus gibbonsii</i>	NSW, QLD
<i>Actinotus glomeratus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	NSW, Qld (Flannel Flower), VIC (naturalised)
<i>Actinotus humilis</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus laxis</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus leucocephalus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus minor</i>	NSW
<i>Actinotus moorei</i>	TAS
<i>Actinotus omnifertilis</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus paddisonii</i>	Bourke NSW, Qld
<i>Actinotus periculosus</i>	QLD
<i>Actinotus rhomboideus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus schwartzii</i>	MacDonnell Ranges NT
<i>Actinotus suffocatus</i>	TAS
<i>Actinotus superbus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus sp. Comet Vale</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus sp. Walpole</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus whicheranus</i>	WA
<i>Actinotus novaezealandiae</i>	Te Wai Punamu (South Island) New Zealand

Cultivars:

<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	'Starbright'
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	'Federation Stars' <sup>TM</sup>
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	'Parkes Star'

Ref: <http://chah.gov.au/chah/apc/interim/Apiaceae.pdf>