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# NEWSLETTER

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**Welcome to any  
 new readers!**  
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 email.**

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*Telopea 'Brimstone Blush'*  
 Image: [www.homelife.com.au](http://www.homelife.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:**

I'm writing this from the balcony of an elevated surf shack in the Nambucca Heads Caravan Park. Where else can you feel like a millionaire for the cost of less than \$100 a night? We are so blessed in this country. Unfortunately so many of us take our blessings for granted. One thing many Australians also take for granted is our wonderful flora.

Since the last newsletter I have been Correa hunting on Flinders Island in Bass Strait. The island is still quite primitive in many ways - it could do with an injection of funds to build up infrastructure and transport links. Needless to say my husband Don and I had a bit of an adventure criss-crossing the island several times in our quest and feeding the Bennett's Wallabies (special feed supplied in bins) at the Patriarchs where we also shared our campsite with a rather large copperhead snake.

Back on the mainland we managed to visit Margaret Guenzel in Geelong and view her Flannel Flower collection. Margaret gave me a large packet of seed to take home which was very generous. We called in to see Bob & Dot O'Neill in Narre Warren and loaded the icebox with lots of Correa cuttings. On the South Coast we visited members Phil and Catriona and marvelled at their fantastic collection of waratahs growing far more vigorously than my pathetic bushes. No doubt their deep soil and milder conditions makes a big difference. Then we spent some

time visiting David Tranter whose Alloxylon grove is a sight to behold.

David took us to Robertson Railway station where there is a wonderful collection of waratahs. We must return when they are in flower. David also showed me a new way of propagating *Telopea* seed which I have named the Tranter method and there are details in this bulletin. I am now trialling the method with *Banksia*, *Hakea* and *Callitris* seed. I would love you all to do your own trials and report back.

We had a fair bit of rain while we were away in January and then it dried up into a dry and warmer than usual autumn which extended into the middle of May. I spent a lot of time moving hoses in the garden to keep my plantings alive. Recently I have surrounded all my waratah plants with large rocks. I found my small *Banksias* did much better when the shallow roots were protected by large rocks. We'll see if the rocks make much difference to my waratah plants.

In a fit of madness I decided to open the garden to the public on the last Sunday in May (Botanic Gardens Open Day). This meant a lot of work beforehand but it was not wasted. I invited the Red Cross to man the gate and provide refreshments as a fundraiser for them. They did a roaring trade in pumpkin soup!

In this bulletin I am featuring the Tasmanian Flannel Flowers (curiosity value only) and some of the Brimstone Waratahs. I am also hoping to get to the Waratah Festival at Mt Tomah this year. Never a dull moment.

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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. Collect in Autumn when pods start to colour up - need not be open.

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## From the Members

### December

**Margaret Guenzel** (Vic.) writes:

Some of this year's seedlings are very beautiful with many many flowers. I am collecting all their seeds, which only now with the weather warming up are fertile ones, and I will send you some soon. I am hoping they come up like or similar to the parent plant. In the past I found that the seedlings of small plants are often smaller again and not very desirable. Last year I was about to throw out some long spindly seedlings in tubes, when my friend Sue McDonald insisted on rescuing them. she subsequently deep planted them as she had seen Angus Stuart do on TV with eucalypts and guess what? It worked ! She did not lose one. She used potting mix for native plants and planted them into large pots. They are still flowering now. I have just started to run my own trial with this years "spindlies"- there are quite a few - we had a long, cold but dry winter (in Geelong) - the seedlings in tubes all survived the cold but the lower leaves shriveled and dropped off leaving them very "leggy". I'll let you know if I succeed.

June 16: A quick report on the "deep planted" leggy seedlings of A.h. which I had left over from last year.



These seedlings were not leggy because of lack of light but because of spells of cold and wet weather when their lower leaves grew moldy and dropped off so there were nodes from which new roots could have formed. However this did not happen - no signs of new roots anywhere but 60% of them are still alive and look very good and healthy. They seem to appreciate the support from the white 1/4 cm quartz gravel I filled their pots up with. The ones that failed did not show any rot or damage on their stems so the deep planting did not adversely affect them but below it the roots had rotted away due to bad drainage. I put the failure down to a combination of too few draining holes in some pots, sudden heavy downpours and the all organic (i.e.no sand component) potting mix. I have not been able to purchase potting mix containing sand lately. Our local sand is alkaline and not suitable for A. h. and I have had better results with sand in the potting mix. If you have 'leggy' seedlings, don't throw them out, deep plant them but into a well draining potting mix with gravel. - in hindsight - I should not have expected new roots to form at the stem nodes . If it was that easy, we would all be growing A. h. from cuttings . ....meanwhile the seedlings of my spectacular mini plant, the starry one, are 3cm tall. Only time will tell if they come true to type.

### **Alloxylon pinnatum trials**

A number of members took up the free offer of *Alloxylon pinnatum* seed donated by Helen and David Tranter. Gradually they have reported successful results. I had my own successful germination. Of 24 seeds put in on 11/12/15, 20 germinated. Here they are a month later ready for potting on (I was away for most of January). There is a stray paper daisy in the punnet as well



Noel Rosten's photo



### **Noel Rosten**

As you can see I have 15 out of 17 *Alloxylon pinnata* well and truly up and the other two seeds are still firm so they might come up later. I first potted them in a community pot and at the two leaf stage I potted them into tubes as you can see. This was done yesterday (21/1/16). The roots are just a single tap root but other roots will come I guess.



### **Narelle Barden**

Narelle sent this photo of her emerging seedlings.

### **Maria:**

When I visited David Tranter in January, he showed me his method of germinating *Telopea* seed. He uses an ice-cream container half full of damp sphagnum moss. Then he inserts the seed into the moss and covers it. I decided to try David's method with some *T. mongaensis* seed that was sent to me recently. There weren't many seeds available so it was important to get a good strike rate. I used a big plastic jar with a lid, made sure there was a bit of water at the base to maintain moisture and put the jar in a dark cupboard in the house. The house is kept warm in winter which would have been a help. To my surprise I had 100% germination within two weeks.

## WARATAH &amp; FLANNEL FLOWER STUDY GROUP

NO.11 JULY 2016

The *T. mongaensis* seedlings had developed good firm roots but no shoots. I potted them on straight away and am keeping a close eye on their development.

I think this method would also work with Banksias and Hakeas as well as a range of other seeds. I have started doing some trials and would be interested in other members doing their own trials with different types of seeds.

Sphagnum moss is readily available from Buntings and other outlets. It comes in dry packs and you need to soak it. It appears to have anti-rotting properties so you can use it over and over again.



Plastic jar with lid used to germinate *T. mongaensis* seed. Any glass jar or plastic container with a lid would be suitable.



Moist sphagnum moss in jar with seed inserted in moss.



Root of *T. mongaensis* emerges from seed in moss. Plant seedling in potting mix ensuring that the whole root is covered. The papery wing will fall off and a leafy shoot will emerge.

**Alan Lowing (Thirlmere) writes:**



The photo above was taken in its last year when it produced around fifteen flowers. It appears to be similar to T. 'Fire and Brimstone'.

I planted this Waratah in the late 80's. I wasn't an avid gardener at the time, so I wasn't aware of the difficulties of growing them. I was told, however, that they need very good drainage. Since we have, roughly, 6" of loam soil and under that clay soil I dug quite a large hole (width and depth). I placed a couple of bricks and broken up twigs in the bottom of the hole and filled back with our garden soil. It received morning sun up until midday and then full shade and was protected from winds. This plant lived for about twenty five years but finally succumbed to a borer attack (it had many over the years).

### **Brimstone Waratahs**

<http://www.brimstonewaratahs.com.au/index.htm>

Paul Nixon is the founder of the 'Brimstone Collection' which commenced with the chance finding of an extremely rare large headed waratah he quickly coined - Fire and Brimstone, from the Southern Highlands, 2hrs from Sydney. Paul Nixon developed (with a lot of interbreeding) a collection of waratahs ideal for the cut flower market in Australia.

### **Fire and Brimstone**

T. s. "Fire & Brimstone" PBR

This shrub is large and erect. The flowers are very large and globe shaped, dark red with stigmas white tipped, the flower is surrounded by several whorls of short broad bracts cupped close around the flower. Leaves are midgreen and very large with marked serrations. Flowering time is midseason. Tests have shown this flower to have the longest vase life for Waratahs.

### **Brimstone Blush**

T.s. "Brimstone Blush. " An open upright shrub with medium sized dark red cone shaped flower with similar coloured bracts, the styles are pink with white tipped stigmas giving the flower an overall pink appearance. Flowers open mid to late season.

Leaves are an unusual glossy green with the stems and leaf veins covered with rusty red hairs. A very' vigorous clone. This clone has frequently been awarded Champion of the Waratah Festival.

### **Brimstone Early**

T.s. "Brimstone Early" This clone was discovered at Peats Ridge near Gosford in the late 1980s. It is a medium sized shrub with an open character, inflorescence are medium in size and dome shaped, bracts are medium in size the flower is red with lighter coloured stigma. This is the earliest of the Brimstone collection to flower. Leaves are medium in size with a moderate degree of serration, vase life is average its main feature is early flowering.

### **Brimstone Pink**

T.s. "Brimstone Pink" This pink form is vigorous and open, the flowers are carried on long stems, two or three rows of bracts are medium in size and cup around the crown of the flower. Leaves are light in colour and medium in size. Flowering time is mid to late season. It originated in the Protea Australis collection.

*More varieties in the next Bulletin*

## Tasmanian Flannel Flowers

Tasmania has three species of *Actinotus*  
None are showy as flowers which is why no-one knows about them.

Key:

1. Leaves deeply lobed *A. moorei*
2. Leaves entire or with shallow lobes or teeth
  - 2a Tiny rosette plant with leaves less than 2mm wide *A. suffocatus*
  - 2b Leaves entire or with shallow lobes or teeth *A. bellidioides*



*Actinotus moorei* Image: [www.utas.edu.au](http://www.utas.edu.au)



*Actinotus moorei* Ripening seed [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)



*Actinotus moorei* Image: [www.utas.edu.au](http://www.utas.edu.au)

*Actinotus moorei* (Moore's Alpine Fugitive) is a herb or slightly woody plant that grows in montane areas such as on Mt Field and in the western wilderness areas of Tasmania. It has deeply divided leaves and a bushy habit.

From the photos it appears to grow in the shelter of rocks which collect moisture and soil in pockets.

Ref: [http://www.utas.edu.au/dicotkey/dicotkey/APIACEAE/gActinotus\\_2.htm](http://www.utas.edu.au/dicotkey/dicotkey/APIACEAE/gActinotus_2.htm)

*Actinotus moorei* Image: [www.utas.edu.au](http://www.utas.edu.au)

*Actinotus suffocatus* is a tiny rosette or mat forming herb that grows in boggy places, especially in alpine areas. The individual rosettes are often about 1 cm wide, and the leaves are pale green and spoon-shaped.



*Actinotus suffocatus* Images: [picssr.com](http://picssr.com)



*Actinotus suffocatus* Image: [picssr.com](http://picssr.com)

*Actinotus bellidioides* (Tiny Flannel Flower) is a rosette herb that grows in boggy places, including button grass sedgeland. The individual rosettes are often about 3 cm wide, and the leaves are hairy, dark green and sometimes with shallow teeth.



*Actinotus suffocatus* Image: [picssr.com](http://picssr.com)



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





**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> | 'Red Embers' NZ and USA                                  |
| <i>Telopea speciosissima</i> | 'Roger's Red' Gordon Meiklejohn (Brimstone Waratahs)     |
| <i>Telopea speciosissima</i> | 'Scarlet Ribbons'  |
| <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> | 'Brimstone Princess'                                     |

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.<br>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><br>'Wirrimbirra White' |
| <i>Telopea speciosissima x oreades</i>  | 'Shady Lady White' (improved) same as 'Bridal Gown'<br>(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<br>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</i> sp. Comet Vale  | WA  |
| <i>Actinotus</i> sp. Walpole     | 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>