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# NEWSLETTER

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

In this issue. . .

Maria writes:	p. 2
From the members	p. 3/4/8
Tranter method trials	p. 5
T. 'Corroborree'	p. 5/6
Waratah Festival	p. 6/7
Asparagoid waratah	p. 9
Checklist of <i>Telopea</i> species and varieties	p. 8/9
Checklist of <i>Actinotus</i> species and varieties	p. 10



*Waratah painting at Mt Tomah BG - artist not named*

**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:**

Doesn't time fly when you're having fun. I must say having developed a passion for Waratahs and Flannel Flowers - there's never a dull moment. What a challenge both present and isn't it interesting to experiment with new techniques and explore all the possibilities. We are still learning so much and I daresay will continue to do so for many years to come.

The best thing is that more and more people are willing to 'have a go'. Native plant growers are used to lots of failures - we just try again. Please continue to do your own thing and share with us your successes and failures. This is the only way we will learn.

I have had a very busy year with all my Local Government involvement and apologise for the lateness of this newsletter but I was determined to get it out to you before Christmas. Thank you to my contributors and the occasional emails. I'm always ready to receive Flannel Flower seed and am happy to share with other members. Thank you to Harry Kibbler and Gwynne Clarke for sending seed. I sent out a number of packets to members. Please let me know how you fared with these.

I hope you have a very enjoyable festive season and look forward to hearing from you in 2017.

Maria



One of the arrangements at the Waratah festival at Mt Tomah

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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**

**Dave Hardin** writes:

I found this little gem out between Gilgai and Cotes creek on the Bundarra Rd yesterday. I assume it's *A. helianthi*. It was in amongst large granite boulders on poor sandy soils. I collected some to try to grow from cuttings. Is that possible? No seed present but now I know where it is I'll keep an eye on it for seed.

*Maria: Yes there are scattered populations of A. helianthi around the Western Slopes and across the Northern Tablelands. Flowers are smaller than the coastal ones although they could behave differently in cultivation. I've yet to trial them myself. Growing from cuttings is difficult as the stems and leaves are hairy and the cuttings damp off quickly. Would love some tips from other members about this..*



*Actinotus helianthi* habitat Image: D. Hardin

*Actinotus helianthi* grows on the side of granite outcrops on the north west slopes and Tablelands. It has a shorter growing season and smaller flowers than the coastal forms but may be more drought hardy.



*Actinotus helianthi* Gilgai form foliage  
Image: D. Hardin



*Actinotus helianthi* Gilgai form foliage showing the long spindly flower stalks held clear of the foliage.



**Noel Rosten** writes:

I have grown these Actinotus by using the pictured butane gas blower. I scraped away the leaves from a metre of ground, put out the seeds as evenly as I could, replaced the leaves, started the flame and burned away the litter to bare soil. Two months or so later up came a few tiny plants. They are easy to pot up at the three leaf stage. You can see by the pictures I have them in pots and have also left some in the ground. All the plants in the pots are much larger.



Seedlings all potted on in tubes.  
*All Images: N. Rosten*



Blowtorch used in the experiment

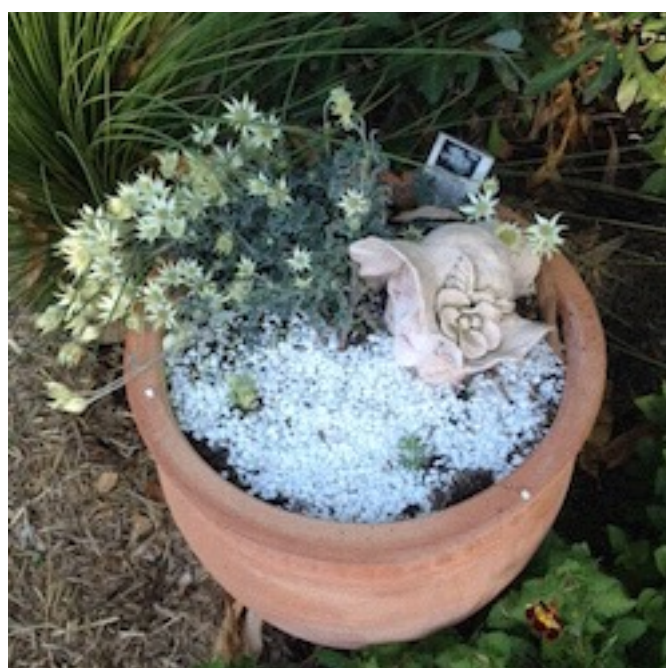
### Flannel Flowers in pots

Maria Hitchcock

This is the way I grow Flannel Flowers in pots. I use a ceramic tub which is elevated on bricks or a stand to allow free drainage. Add some gravel to the bottom of the pot before filling with native potting mix. Plant three small plants in the top spaced evenly. Then cover the surface with small white gravel which will reflect sunlight to the flowers. Add a sculpture if you want. The variety below is one of the dwarf forms from Margaret Guenzel.



Seedling emerges after firing with a blowtorch.



**The Tranter Method of Germinating seeds** (Sphagnum Moss method)

Maria's Trials

Date	Species	First seed germinated	Days to germination	Potted on	Notes
	Banksia serrata Superman	24/7/16	14 days	31/7/16	Garden origin
	Telopea aspera	24/7/16	14 days	1/7/16	Seed sent by APS member
12/7/16	Telopea truncata (old seed)				Nindethana - I have tried germinating this batch of seed using seed raising mix with no success.
	Telopea mungaensis (fresh seed)	20/7/16	8 days	26/7/16 31/7/16	R. Gourlay garden origin

**Telopea speciosissima ‘Corroboree’**

Proteafloa Information with seeds

The ‘Corroboree’ is a dense medium to large shrub with broad green leaves and large deep red blooms attracting a variety of birds. Buds form over winter before opening in august through September and provide excellent cut flowers.

Preferring cooler climates, full sun and well-drained soil, it is an outstanding garden plant or is suitable in a large container.

**Planting: How do I plant my Telopea?**

The hole should be twice the width of the pot. Remove the plant from the pot and gently tease out roots. Plant in raised mound 10 cm high and firm soil around the root ball. Water well immediately after planting.

**Can I grow my Telopea in a pot?**

Yes you can, however self-watering pots and saucers are not recommended. Use a native potting mix and plant into a pot no more than twice the size of the current pot. Water well immediately after planting.

**Should I feed my Telopea?**

Generally telopeas are resilient plants that don't require feeding. If the soil happens to be poor quality or sandy, apply a slow release frtiliser for natives annually in spring at half the recommended rate.

**What if I'm growing my Telopea in a pot?**

Apply a slow-release fertiliser for natives annually in spring.

**Watering: How often should I water my Telopea?**

Once established Telopeas are drought tolerant. For the first year after planting the soil should be kept moist thereafter water in severe conditions. Keep soil moist for Telopeas in a pot.

**Pruning: Should I prune my Telopea?**

Yes. Telopeas can be shaped to suit your garden style. Pruning is best done yearly after flowering.

Prune old flower stems back to 10-15cm. Remove untidy branches. leave strong stems.

**Soil Type: What soil type does my Telopea prefer?**

Telopeas prefer a well drained acidic soil with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. Some varieties will tolerate a higher pH.

**What if I have clay soil?**

If planting in a clay soil prepare the soil by digging in gypsum and organic compost (not mushroom compost). Plant in a raised mound to improve drainage.



I attended the Official Opening of the Wild about Waratahs Festival at Mt Tomah this year. As usual the blooms were wonderful although there wasn't the big range of flower colours which I saw on my previous visit. The champion bloom was an outstanding seedling.

I took the opportunity to speak to David Matthews of Proteaflora which sponsors the Festival. He promised to promote the Study Group which was very encouraging. He tells me that they will be producing a Shady Lady pink form within the next couple of years.

I am inserting some photos which I took of the exhibition. The floral arrangements were stunning as usual.



**Photos**

1. Champion Bloom - Red Seedling  
Gavin Bottomley



2. Cultivar Winner - Sunburst - Col Terry



3. Hybrid Winner - Shady Lady White  
Gordon Meiklejohn



4. Hybrid Highly Commended - Georgy Girl  
Frank Allatt



The Festival always has some stunning arrangements featuring Waratahs, Flannel Flowers, Paper Daisies, etc. If you haven't been make sure you don't miss next year's festival at Mt Tomah towards the end of September.

**John Vucic** Warilla writes:

I used sugar cane compost (Sweet Garden Soil Fix) to mix into the soil, with a handful of rock dust. After planting I watering fairly regularly with seaweed extract and occasionally fertilised with liquid Native Fertiliser.



One of my nursery customers who lives at Portland in the Blue Mountains sent this photo of his *Telopea Shady Lady* in full flower this year. What a beauty!





## Asparagoid Waratah

Maria Hitchcock

My friend Patrick Laher who lives in Uralla planted a 'Corroboree' waratah which flowered for the first time this spring. Amazingly it has developed the asparagoid feature of multiple small flowerheads which must be a genetic feature of *T. speciosissima* and appears from time to time in some specimens. I had arranged to visit Pat's Garden with Judy Clarke, an English visitor who was staying with me at the time. Pat was very surprised when the plant flowered in this unusual form. The garden is built in deep granitic sandy loam and experiences hard frosts.



**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. 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 pinnatum</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</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>