



BUSHLAND NEWS

KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

It is amazing to see the changes that occur in the Australian bush as the seasons change over the year. In late July the bushland in Katandra was dotted with the cream-coloured flower balls of *Acacia ulicifolia* (Prickly Moses Wattle). Not long after it was joined by the rich purple flowers of *Boronia ledifolia* and the creeper *Hardenbergia violacea* (False Sarsaparilla) draped around the landscape. A few weeks later and the yellow pea flowers of *Pultenaea daphnoides* and *Oxylobium ilicifolium* began to dominate and now yellow *Pultenaea flexilis* and pink *Boronia mollis* are just starting to burst into flower. Probably the best display of the season has been put on by *Leioema dentatum* (Toothed Phebalium) with many visitors commenting on the “beautiful white wattle” flowering profusely around the Sanctuary. While it may look like it from a distance, it is definitely not a wattle.

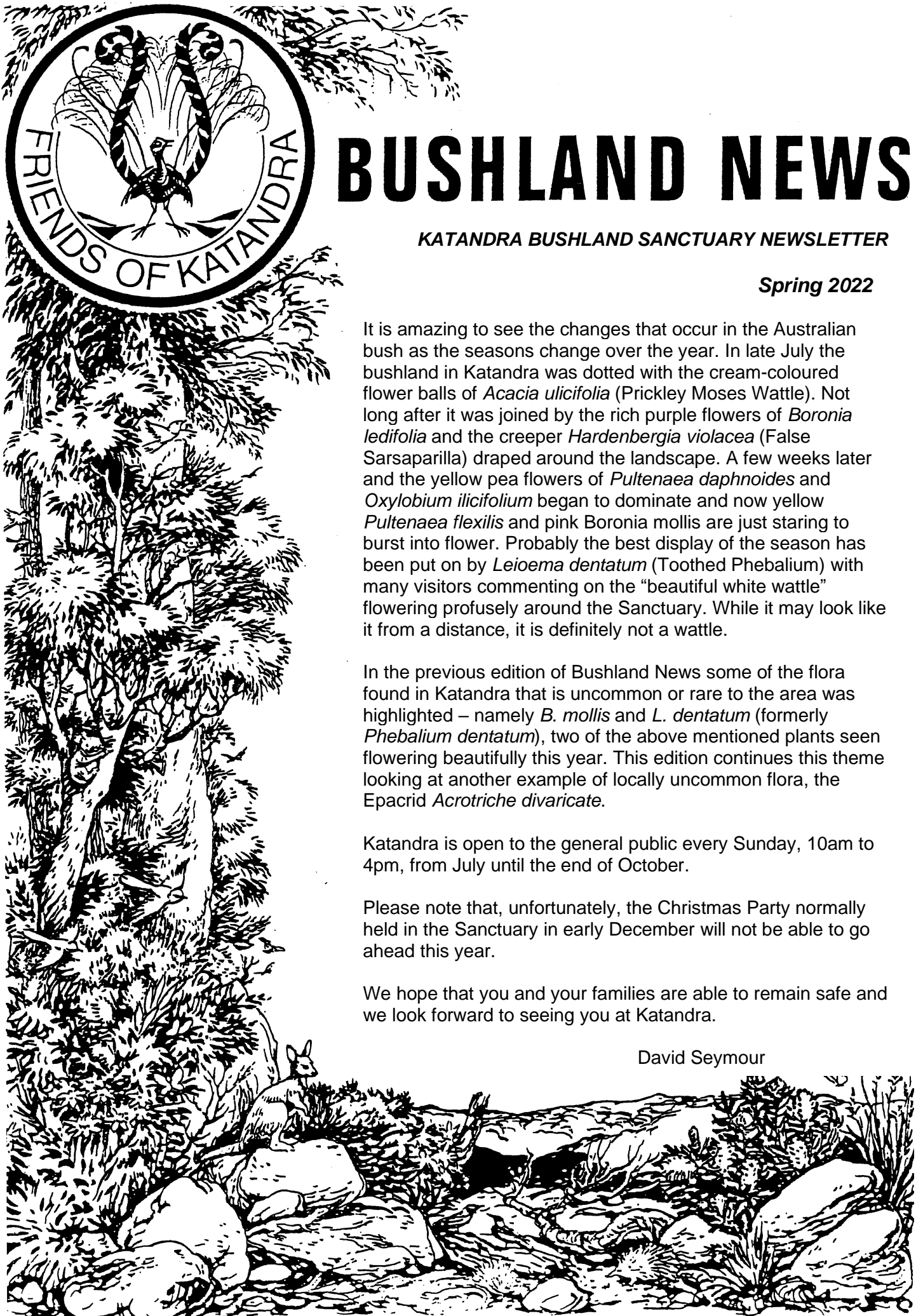
In the previous edition of Bushland News some of the flora found in Katandra that is uncommon or rare to the area was highlighted – namely *B. mollis* and *L. dentatum* (formerly *Phebalium dentatum*), two of the above mentioned plants seen flowering beautifully this year. This edition continues this theme looking at another example of locally uncommon flora, the Epacrid *Acrotriche divaricate*.

Katandra is open to the general public every Sunday, 10am to 4pm, from July until the end of October.

Please note that, unfortunately, the Christmas Party normally held in the Sanctuary in early December will not be able to go ahead this year.

We hope that you and your families are able to remain safe and we look forward to seeing you at Katandra.

David Seymour



Rare and Uncommon Flora in Katandra



Reddish new growth on Acrotriche divaricate

The previous edition of Katandra's Bushland News featured two of the numerous plant species that grow in Katandra but are considered uncommon in the area – namely *Boronia mollis* and *Leionema dentatum* (formerly *Phebalium dentatum*). This edition looks at another example of uncommon flora – *Acrotriche divaricate*.

Acrotriche divaricate

A. divaricate is a prickly, spreading shrub that can be found on the coast and ranges of Victoria, NSW and Queensland, however it is considered uncommon. This could account for



The tiny greenish flowers of A. divaricate which is found growing in Katandra.

the fact that it does not have a widely accepted common name.

Until quite recently *Acrotriche divaricate*, along with other Australian or Southern Heath plants, was classified as a member of the Epacridaceae family of plants (see following story on the Epacrids).

Growing to 2m in height, it can be found in sheltered places in woodland in sandy soil on sandstone. Its leaves are dark green, flat, 2-3 cm long and with a sharp point. New growth is reddish with leaves tightly packed together. It flowers from July to August, however, the flowers are tiny, being only a few mm wide and long, appearing along the stem in the leaf margins. Each flower has a greenish perianth tube protected by rows of scale-like bracts and ending in 5 lobes with tufts of hairs at the end of each lobe and in the throat of the tube.

The fruit is a small, edible, red drupe about 3 mm across (pictured below).



Australian Heath plants - the Epacrids

Heath is a type of vegetation that usually occupies exposed coastal or mountain ridges. This vegetation is characterised by low-growing plants, usually having small leaves to prevent desiccation in drying winds. The plants of heathland are diverse and come from many different families and genera, however many belong to the Ericaceae family, commonly known as the heath or heather family.

Ericaceae is largely composed of plants that can tolerate low-quality, acidic soils. Like other stress-tolerant plants, many Ericaceae have mycorrhizal fungi to assist with extracting nutrients from infertile soils, as well as evergreen foliage to conserve absorbed nutrients. In addition to the various common heaths, other well-known

members of this family include the cranberry, blueberry, azaleas and rhododendrons.

Traditionally Australian or Southern Heath plants belonged to the Epacridaceae family (Epacrids). More recently research using molecular studies has shown that the Epacrids are more closely related to the Ericaceae than previously thought. As a result many botanists (since 2012) now recognise that the Epacrids belong within the Ericaceae family as a sub-family now renamed as the Epacridoideae sub-family.

There are about 426 Epacridoideae species world-wide across south-east Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands and Argentina.

In Australia there are 335 species across 28 genera.

These genera include –
Acrotiche (14 species),
Epacris (35),
Leucopogon (143),
Monotoca (11),
Styphelia (12),
Trochocarpa (6) and
Woolsia (one single species).



Leucopogon microphyllus

Leucopogon species are often referred to as Bearded Heaths. They are easily recognised by the dense “beard” of hairs found on the inside of the tiny white flowers. The petals are fused to form a tube with the 5 petal tips rolled back or spreading. Fruits of *Leucopogons* are sweet, succulent and edible.



Epacris longiflora grows abundantly along the escarpment in Katandra



Leucopogon lanceolatus

Trochocarpa is a genus of shrubs or small trees that are usually found in humid rainforest gullies in coastal and lower mountain areas along the east coast of Australia extending up into New Guinea and Borneo.

Members of the *Styphelia* genus have the common name “Five-corners” from the 5 calyx lobes that remain around the fruit. The fruits are edible and were popular in colonial times. Most species are adapted to dry sandy soils but tend to grow under the shelter of larger shrubs.



Styphelia longiflora

Katandra is home to 14 species of *Epacridoideae*, the best known of which is *Epacris longiflora*, commonly known as Native Fuchsia (seen left). A full list of the Epacridoideae growing in the sanctuary can be found on the Katandra website.

Katandra website -
katandrabushlandsanctuary.com

KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY
Foley's Hill, Lane Cove Rd, Ingleside NSW
Department of Lands Reserve No 86487
Founder: the late Harold Alfred Seymour
Managed by Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust.
Phone: 0431857407

OPEN: Every Sunday: July, August, September,
October
HOURS: 10 am — 4 pm
ADMISSION: \$5 donation

KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY TRUST
PO Box 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660

President: David Seymour
Vice-President: David James
Secretary: (acting) David Seymour
Treasurer: Peter Hammond
Minutes Secretary: Julie Emerson
Bushland News Editors: Marita Macrae
Roberta Conroy

(Cover Design by the late Walter Cunningham)

**Enquiries: phone 0431857407 or by email
information@katandra.org**

Volunteers are needed

If you can assist on maintenance days or with
welcoming visitors to Katandra on open days,
please phone 0431857407

DIARY DATES 2022

CHRISTMAS PARTY
~~Sunday 4th December, 4.30 pm~~
CANCELLED

SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE 2022

(3rd Sunday March–November)

9 am Sunday 20 March
9 am Sunday 17 April
9 am Sunday 15 May
9 am Sunday 19 June
9 am Sunday 17 July
9 am Sunday 18 September
9 am Sunday 16 October
9 am Sunday 20 November

PUBLIC OPEN DAYS 2022

Each Sunday of July–October

10 am – 4 pm

Picnic tables are available for use should you
wish to bring along a picnic lunch to enjoy in the
Sanctuary

Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust
PO Box 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660