

The Journey Begins

My botanical journey began on 11 October 2003 when I took my first photo with my new **Olympus C740UZ** digital camera.

This is the first photo I took → I had little idea what the plant was, but was captivated by the beauty and clarity of the image.

The camera could take photos from as close as 3cm.

Two days later I took these two photos.

Magic images - the rain drops on the isopogon and its red leaves. And the poignant rebirth of a banksia.

The camera's major feature was an "ultra zoom" and I took some photos of a Crimson Rosella, a Laughing Kookaburra and a Pied Currawong, but the gravitational attraction of the wildflowers was too strong.

Now to find out what these plants were and figure out what to do with the photos - as it would be a real shame to simply leave them in the bottom drawer.



Sowerbaea juncea
(Rush Lily)



Isopogon anemonifolius
(Broad-leaf Drumsticks)



Banksia ericifolia
(Heath Banksia - burnt cone and seedlings)

My daughter Rebecca was doing an IT course at Sydney Tech and suggested creating a website. I thought that that sounded too hard.

Let's give it a try - she said.

The first thing is to acquire a domain name. And as my company was Waratah Software we registered **waratahsoftware.com.au**.

Having spent the past forty years in computers then came in handy.

The first two webpages were of flannel flowers and St. Andrews Cross Spiders.

It was a year since a bushfire in the Blue Mountains, and the following summer saw the first flowering of Pink Flannel Flowers in quite a few years.

I must admit I was much taken by seeing a white and a cream Pink Flannel Flower as seeing the thousands of pink ones.

Although I had access to the four volume set of *Flora of New South Wales*, the best wildflower resource I have is Les Robinson's *Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney*. It regularly put me on the path to identifying, if not the species, then the genus of a plant. And this is what this book also aims to do. And why it presents plants in family/genus/species order. A by product with each search is that you get to know the flora families and its members.

Over the last twenty years I have added hundreds of wildflowers to the website. But what I have found in preparing this book is that I am now unsure of the identity of a few. While some other species have been reclassified. Addressing this will be my next mission ...



St. Andrews Cross spiderlings
(we share a birthday)



Actinotus forsythii
(a white Pink Flannel Flower)