Southern Tablelands Regional Botanic Garden
at Forest 20, National Arboretum Canberra.

STEP PHOTO GALLERY
June-September 2026

Winter was not very colourful especially when it was cold and wet, but there are always interesting things to see at STEP

Scribbly gum bark peeling off in June

Badge huntsnman spider hiding in the reeds (JC)

Red pods on the Swainsona galegifolia

Enormous spider webs appeared to decorate the trees in June (FN)

Fungi were abundant

2 forms of the Spectacular Rustgill fungus - Gymnopilus junonius ***RCY***

Tiny frilled fungus found in groups under the eucalypts **Large bright orange fungus** **JC**

These species not yet identified on Canberra Nature Map

In August, there was purple everywhere

JS

False Sarsaparilla - Hardenbergia violacea
Also called Purple coral pea and Warraburra

JS

It even grew up the trees.

MB

JS

Then the wattles burst forth

Acacia lanigera – Woolly wattle In flower in early June

Acacia genistifolia - Early wattle In flower in July **JS**

Acacia paradoxa – Kangaroo thorn - n*ote the thorns* **JS**
Both in flower in late August

Acacia pycnantha – Golden wattle - *Australian emblem*

Many other species are in flower now

Crowea exalata 'Ginninderra Falls' in bud at end of August **JS**
Height up to 1m. Growing in section A
This is a local species only found at Ginninderra Falls

Stypandra glauca – Nodding blue lily. Flowering late August
White flowers are growing on the same plant as the blue ones
Grows in Section AA

Bossiaea greyi – Murrumbidgee Bossiaea grows to 1.5m
Small shrub 1-3m high. Endangered
Grows in ACT in woodland along Murrumbidgee, Cotter and Paddy's river corridors

Pultenea scabra – Rough bush pea in flower in early September

Some visiting birds

Grey butcherbird **JC**

Yellow tailed black cockatoo **CI**

Young tawny frogmouth RCY

Australian wood ducks making use of the temporary pond in the middle of the road

STEP in Spring

JS

Thank you to Judy Smith (JS), Jane Cottee (JC) , Fiona Ngai (FN) Cathy Ikin (CI) Max Bourke (MB) and Ruth Cooke-Yarborough for their photos. Edited by Jennie Widdowson

The postal address for STEP is PO Box 440, Jamison Centre, ACT 2614.Email secretary@step.asn.au
Web https://www.step.asn.au