

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering branch. Photographer Don Wood, South Pacific Heathland Reserve, Uladulla



Leafy stem with open seed cases. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Michael Crisp, Watangan Mountains, NSW



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Newnes State Forest near Lithgow

Common name

Waratah

Family

Proteaceae

Where found

Dry **forest** and heath. Coast and ranges, north from Batemans Bay.

Notes

Shrub to 4 m high. Leaves **alternating** up the stems. **Adult** leaves 8–28 cm long, 20–65 mm wide, leathery but usually not harsh to the touch, both surfaces with prominently raised **veins**, margins toothed, rarely **entire**, tips usually pointed to squared off. Leaves sometimes divided. Flowers red, occasionally white, with a curved tube, the tube split on one side by the **style** after the flowers open, with 4 '**petals**', each 10–34 mm long, joined to each other in a slit tube. Flowers in **heads** of 90–250 flowers, 40–110 mm in diameter (excluding the **bracts**); basal flowers opening first. Bracts **subtending** the flower heads mostly 50–90 mm long, red, occasionally white, conspicuous. Flowers Aug.–Nov. Seeds with one **wing**.

Protected NSW.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Telopea~speciosissima> (accessed 11 April 2021)

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