Obituary: Allen Lowrie 1948 – 2021

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It was with great sadness we learnt Allen Lowrie passed away in August of this year. Allen was a world authority on Carnivorous Plants and Triggerplants, and an active contributor to our community to the end.

Allen authored 6 books on Australian Carnivorous Plants and co-authored 3 further works on the Drosera of the world and has written many scientific papers naming the many new species of plants he discovered. During his botanical career Allen named 135 new plant species and his name is honoured in two carnivorous plant species, Drosera lowriei and Utricularia lowriei and the triggerplant Stylidium lowrieanum. An accomplished artist, Allen also produced all of the botanical drawings and illustrations for his books and papers. Beyond his botanical pursuits, Allen was a keen musician, playing guitar, rhythm, lead and bass, the mandolin, and keyboards and recorded no fewer than 30 songs. Aside from his many botanical achievements, Allen spent countless hours corresponding with CP enthusiasts and scientists across the globe and was always happy to share his vast knowledge, especially to eager young beginners. Many a plant collection the world over has material of Pygmy, Tuberous and Tropical Drosera brought into cultivation through Allen’s work with these plants. Allen was a unique character and will be greatly missed. We pass on our sincere condolences to his wife, Pauline, daughters, Trinity and Filicity, and grandchildren, Evan, Yana, and Lochlan.

The March 2022 CPN will be dedicated to Allen and will also feature a comprehensive update on the Carnivorous Plants of Australia, to be read alongside Allen’s benchmark 2014 work, Carnivorous Plants of Australia Magnum Opus.