



Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – May 2020

**MONTHLY MEETINGS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY
at ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE
GILLIES STREET ENTRANCE – GATE 3 or 4
FURTHER DETAILS SEE INFORMATION BOX**

Meetings,
activities and
events
suspended
due to
COVID-19
until further
notice

Rhonda Humphries has sent in some great photos and observations from the garden.

She writes:

These are the flowers of the *Eucalyptus tetraptera*, Square-fruited Mallee, which open to reveal clusters of pink stamens over the summer time.

The Spinebills and other nectar-loving birds perform acrobatics feeding from them.

You can see that the large juicy leaves are attractive to caterpillars also.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT: John Hastie

As we continue in the lock-down state, I have no doubt many gardens are now showing the benefit of the extra time available to tend them.

If you get your exercise by going for a walk it is a good time to check out other peoples' gardens for plants you may not be growing. The majority of nurseries are still selling: some on-line only, but others are open as usual.

If you grow Eremophilas and other dryland genera you may be interested in the Australian Arid Land Botanic Garden at Port Augusta. The garden has an on-line shop. Full details of what they have on offer are on the website: www.aalbg.sa.gov.au

The APS Committee of Management is, of course, not able to meet, so the functioning of the Committee has been taken over by the Executive.

Two decisions have been made recently:

The East Gippsland Group, based in Bairnsdale, has been granted \$1,000 for propagating materials to grow plants for distribution to fire victims in the area.

In the draft budget it is proposed that fees for 2020/2021 will be the same as for 2019/2020.

Nicky Zanen has let us know the F J C Rogers lectures will be streamed on-line if the seminar cannot go ahead in the normal manner.

**Annual membership renewal time is approaching.
Please watch out for the arrival of your renewal form.**

The Garden at Elaine: From the Hasties

At the moment the eremophilas are providing food for the honeyeaters, although this will not be for much longer as the plants are setting seed. The only 'resident' nectar feeders here are the New Holland Honeyeaters. Yellow-faced honeyeaters and spinebills are occasional visitors.

Many of the correas are in full bloom: usually we have quite a few for the Winter Flower Show in June.

Croweas, Thryptomene, Hibbertias and *Kunzia baxterii* (pink and red) provide colour, as do the wattles, still holding flowers after a month of flowering. *Acacia aphylla*, the leafless wattle, is also in bloom (it is an unusual but attractive plant from Western Australia).

The Sea Urchin Hakea (*Hakea petiolaris*) has produced a few flowers; it usually has flowers for the spring show. *Hakea bucculenta*, *Hakea drupaceae* and 'Burrendong Beauty' are well into their flowering.

In the new garden, in the laneway, the quite-young Red Mint Bushes (*Prostanthera calycina*) have been flowering for weeks.

I wonder what will still be flowering at the end of June when the flowers would have been needed for the Show. ■

BUILDING A GARDEN

Water in the Garden is an added bonus, and our members, the Greens, have a project underway.



Denis and Val sent in these two photos and had this to say: 'Still under construction in the new garden'. (We look forward to a picture of the finished project for a future newsletter.)

BUILDING A GARDEN – Water in the Garden is an added bonus, and our members, Bruce Cadoret and Alison, also have a project underway.



Bruce Cadoret and Alison are creating a dry creek bed with frog pond and had the initial landscaping done recently as we saw in the April newsletter.

These photos show further stages in the installation.

They write: “As this is a work in progress, we will be reshaping the pond to provide more shallow areas. We can also pump water from the pond back up to the start of the creek. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions of plants to put in, we would welcome the feedback.”

(We look forward to a picture or two of the finished project for a future newsletter.)

Rhonda Humphries

writes: I have taken note of what plants have done well over the summer. Admittedly, we have had some good rain to keep them fairly happy. These are a few photos I took recently.



This plant (above) is one of the Olearia daisy family (I think it is *Olearia algida*). It is flowering profusely at the moment and is very easy to propagate from tip cuttings. The foliage is quite textural.

Last year was a great year for our *Xanthorrhoea minor* Grass Trees (right). They provide sculptural forms in the bush garden and the parrots absolutely love the seeds.



Wahlenbergia ‘Blue Mist’ (above) and *Calytrix leschenaultii* (right), plants that have done well for Jennifer Johnson in her Ballarat garden.



Members Bruce Cadoret and Alison are creating a dry creek bed with a frog pond. This is one section of their development (frog pond is at the far end). See more of the story on page 3.

Thanks to all those who contributed reports or items for this issue

Deadline for June Newsletter: 27th May 2020



AFTERNOON TEA or SUPPER

Members please have a cuppa at home for arvo tea or supper

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BALLARAT DISTRICT INC. Incorporation No. A0013127M

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

The **SECOND WEDNESDAY** in October, November, December, February, March, at 7-30pm
 The **SECOND WEDNESDAY** in April, May, June, July, August, September at 2-00pm

MEETING VENUE

ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE, Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Access: GILLIES St. ENTRANCE – GATE 3 or 4 (or from Wendouree Parade, **Afternoon Meetings only**)

CORRESPONDENCE

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

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 activities and
 events
 suspended
 due to
 COVID-19
 until further
 notice