



Australian Plants Society
Loddon-Murray Group
 Native Plant Newsletter
JANUARY— MARCH 2018
 Edition



CALOTHAMNUS by Barry Teague

Calothamnus is a genus of approximately 50 species and sub species that are wide spread in the south-west of WA.

They are called one sided bottlebrush although some of them have flowers all around the branch. The most common of them is *Calothamnus quadrifidus* ssp *quadrifidus* which is very wide spread throughout the South West province of WA.

It grows from 1/2 -3 metres high and wide. The flower colour varies from white, red and yellow.

The growing conditions for growing this plant is many and varied with soils and habitats. It is easy to grow and lives a long time.

The foliage of *quadrifidus* is 10mm—30mm long and 1-1.5mm wide. Foliage of the other species is quite variable from 100mm long terete to 60mm long by 8 mm wide with the other species in between.

This genus of plants is an excellent addition to any garden, so go ahead and try some of the *Calothamnus* species which are well worth growing .

They are great for birds and butterflies.



Six members of Loddon Murray group joined the Grampian group on a trip to Goolwa SA.

After arriving on the Friday it gave us time to set up camp at the caravan park.

Saturday morning we made the 80 klm trip back to Wellington where we had to wait what seemed a long time to get on the Ferry. “Pangarinda “ is only a short distance from this Murray river crossing and on a short dirt track off the road.

What a magnificent array of Australian Native plants, many from WA. Many *Banksias* from *B ashbyi*, *coccinea*, *nutans*, *speciosa* & *blechnifolia* with just a few to name. A beautiful collection of Kangaroo Paws on drippers to ensure their survival. *Eucalyptus brandiana* looked spectacular along with huge *E macrocarpa* & *E rhodantha*, *E pleuracarpa* and *E crusis* etc.



Happenings in our Garden by Lorraine Mathews.

We had a few trees knocked down in the December storm, predominately those with a lot of heavy growth from spring rains, *Euc virdis* and *Acacia pendula*, and random *Euc pleurocarpa* (*tetragona*) snapped.

The *Banksias* were fine, and at the moment we have *Banksia baxteri*, *B burdettii*, *B speciosa* and *B nutans* flowering while *B attenuata* is finishing.

The Kangaroo paws have come to an end after providing a food source for both singing honeyeaters and wattle birds.

Thryptomene's and *Chamelaucium*s suffered badly in the -4.5 degree frost in July and lost all their flowers but the plants have revived now.

To go from -4.5 in winter to 43 degrees in summer is a huge range for plants to survive let alone the gardener.



Banksia attenuata grows to quite a large tree of 10 metres, while the dwarf form being about 2.5 metres, growing well in sandy soil with access to some moisture.

Flower spikes are black when young developing into a beautiful green.



Banksia burdettii was first collected by W Burdett in 1930. A fast growing shrub of up to 4 metres. It grows well in sandy soils and has cream flowers opening to orange from the base.

Banksia nutans.

A small low growing shrub up to 1 metre with pendant flowers in summer "nutans" being Latin for nodding

Eucalyptus pleurocarpa (*tetragona*) *Euc* (tallarak common name) comes into bud in late spring then the cream flowers develop into large white glaucous nuts.



Banksia baxteri

Named after William Baxter in 1829. *B baxteri* grows to about 3 metres in sandy soil with green to yellow globular flowers in summer.



These books are our Library and they need to be read, we each can all learn something

[Australian plants for gardens in the sun](#) by [Rodger Elliot](#) (Jan 19)

[Australian plants for year-round colour](#) by [Angus Stewart](#) (Jan 19)

[Successfully growing Australian native plants / \[Geoff Rigby\] ; Colour your garden with Australian natives](#) by [Geoff Rigby](#) (Jan 19)

[From the ground up : a complete garden guide for Victorian gardeners](#) by [Jane Edmanson](#) (Jan 19)

[Australia's Eremophilas: Changing Gardens for a Changing Climate](#) by [Norma Boschen](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Name That Flower: The Identification of Flowering Plants](#) by [Ian Clarke](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Plant Propagation Made Easy](#) by [Alan Too-good](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[WILDFLOWERS OF THE WESTERN STATE](#) by [ROLSH](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Growing Australian native plants](#) by [F. J. C Rogers](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation : Introductory Volume](#) by [W. Rodger Elliot and David L. Jones](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SUITABLE FOR CULTIVATION. VOLUME 5 \[U1\]](#) by [W. & D. Jones Elliot](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation: v.3 \(Vol 3\)](#) by [W.Rodger Elliot](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Suitable For Cultivation Volume 4](#) by [W. Rodger Elliot](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants: Suitable for Cultivation: Volume 7](#) by [W.Rodger Elliot](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SUITABLE FOR CULTIVATION Volume Two \(2\)](#) by [W. Rodger and Jones Elliot, David L.](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[The Concise Australian Flora](#) by [Leonard Cronin](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Australian Native Plants: Cultivation, Use in Landscaping and Propagation](#) by [Murray Fage](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Practical Gardening & Landscaping with Australian Native Plants](#) by [Alec Blombery](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

FOLLOWING FROM PREVIOUS PAGE on **Gardening Happenings**

Banksia speciosa

A large shrub growing up to 5 metres without a lignotuber. The large cream flowers held above the foliage grows well in acid and neutrol soil and will tolerate some clay.



Working Bee held 18th November by Linda Coote

In ideal weather a group of members gathered for the working bee at the Lions Den and tended to the tasks of weeding and generally tidying up the native garden bed. Although there were a few fatalities most of the plants were thriving and some needed pruning back.



After work



comes play so following morning tea the group then ventured to the Maplestones' residence in Nolan Street to look at their planting on their nature strip. The Fitzroy Street planter boxes were our next port of call, with a spot of pruning and plant replacement called for.

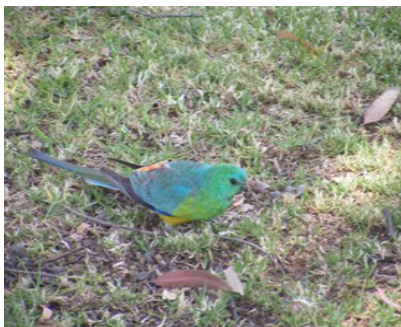


And
lunch
and



after all that work we then had a picnic
in Atkinson Park amongst the native flora
birds.

A great day was had by all.



LITTLE DESERT TRIP WITH ECHUCA APS GROUP

in September 2017 by Anne Bienvenu.

Keith and I met the Echuca group of 7 members in Warracknabeal for lunch on Friday then continued on for a quick stop at Pink Lake.

A new viewing area has recently been completed.

We walked down to the water, which was very pink- due to the growth of a type of algae in the salty water.



The Pink Lake



The Lodges



Park Track

We continued on to the Dimboola native nursery where lots of purchases of plants were made.

We arrived at the Little Desert accommodation lodges and had a short walk followed by a BBQ tea.

On Saturday we walked through the park. It was a hot and windy day. We saw lots of orchids and other plants in flower but the area was very dry due to lack of spring rains. In the afternoon we went for a drive outside the park area which had a lot of different species including some large grass trees and some of the area had been burnt and there were hundreds of Banksia and Hakea seedlings along the road.

One member from Echuca carried a dry Emu scat (poo) round to take home and plant – It was full of seeds and would be interesting to see what germinated.

Another BBQ tea on Saturday and we headed home on Sunday having made some new friends and seen lots of interesting plants.



Revegetation of Banksia and Hakea seedlings



Large Grass Trees



Kunzea pomifera (Muntries) and Astroloma



Kennedy prostrata

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Newsletter

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Thank you to the contributors to the newsletter for this edition. Without these contributions the newsletter would not be possible. Please think about what YOU can contribute to the next newsletter.

APS Diary Dates

March 17th APS Wyndham host APS Vic Committee of Management meeting.

March 21-25 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show.
further info in Growing Australian Dec 2017

2018 PROGRAM OF EVENTS of Loddon Murray APS

JANUARY Saturday 20th

To begin the year there will be a get together at the Royal Hotel, Barham.
(pub directly at the bridge). Meet at 6pm for a meal.
Evening garden visit afterwards for those who wish to partake.

Wednesday February 28th General Meeting 7.30pm Lions Club rooms
Guest speaker TBA

Supper Duty Bienvenu's and Maplestones.

MARCH event—Propagation Day, date to be confirmed.

Find us at www.facebook.com/APS LoddonMurray/

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