



# Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – April 2020

**MONTHLY MEETINGS ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> 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

## Note from the President:

At this time, it is difficult to add much to the letter sent to members earlier in March.

If the current ‘shut-down’ succeeds in limiting the spread of the virus we may be able to resume meetings later in the year. If the six-month shutdown does not limit the spread of the virus, we will be unlikely to be able to meet or to hold the Spring Flower Show.

One small positive from the situation is we can have undisturbed time in the garden: working on the autumn clean and tidy, or just enjoying it.

Please share your pleasure in your garden by writing a note, or even an extended article for the Newsletter. (If you do not have a computer, hand written will be welcome. Send it to me, someone will type it. 5288 Midland Highway Elaine).

John Hastie



Warren & Fon intend to continue producing the monthly newsletter.  
It will be forwarded to all email addresses that we currently have.  
Due to the COVID-19 restrictions we will be unable to mail a printed version.

**March Guest Speaker Report:**

**Ade Foster - Travels in North Western Australia in August 2019 – Report: Warren Hill**

**Ade** gave a very informative, entertaining talk with many excellent photographs. Even though a little early in the season, in August, he still took over 2000 photographs and travelled over 4,500 km in Western Australia's wildflower paradise.

**Amongst** the many areas visited included Geraldton, Coalseam Conservation Park, Irwin River Valley, Lesueur National Park, Kalbarri National Park, The Pinnacles of Nambung National Park and Jurien Bay. (Hutt River Province had closed at 5pm).

**He** showed everything from intricate individual close ups, to landscapes, and featuring many plants that he thought might grow well in suburban gardens.

**He** has a passion for orchids and is a great foliage enthusiast. In particular he likes the very prickly ones, as his photos displayed.

**Ade** said he has had 128 Grevilleas in his home garden, he likes fishing and photography, however after 47 years house painting, he now thoroughly enjoys driving and guiding at Werribee Zoo.

**We** greatly enjoyed his presentation, and Thank him very much. ■



Bruce Cadoret and Alison are creating a dry creek bed with frog pond and had the initial landscaping done recently.

These photos show three stages in the installation.

They will provide more photos as it is completed.



**Some photographs from members have been held over to next month.**

**Front Page:**

The quiet peacefulness of a white flower. Specimen of *Nicotiana suaveolens*, Native Tobacco, shown at the March meeting by Jenny West.

Photograph: Fon Ryan

**SPECIMENS Exhibited at March Meeting:**

**Jenny West** - *Persoonia pinifolia*, *Pelargonium rodneyanum*, *Brachyscome tadgellii*, *Lambertia orbifolia*, *Anigozanthus* 'Bush Sunset', *Scaevola crassifolia*, *Corymbia ficifolia* (orange), *Nicotiana suaveolens* (Native Tobacco), *Grevillea plurijuga* ssp. *superba*

**Ian Lynch** - *Backhousia citriodora* 'Lemon Ironwood', *Correa glabra* 'Ice Chimes', *Correa reflexa* (large-flowered form), *Correa reflexa x pulchella*, *Correa reflexa* 'Skye Bells', *Pandorea jasminoides* 'Bower of Beauty', *Meleleuca linariifolia* 'Little Red', *Wahlenbergia* 'Sky Mist' (Native Bluebell)



*Eremophila grandiflora* shown by Neville Collier. Photo: Fon Ryan

**Neville Collier** - *Eremophila glandulifera*, *Eremophila pterocarpa*, *Eremophila phyllopoda x spathulata*, *Eremophila youngii* (yellow), *Eremophila grandiflora*, *Eremophila lachnocalyx x phyllopoda*, *Eremophila abietina* ssp. *abietina*, *Eremophila laanii* (pink), *Eremophila mackinlayi*, *Eremophila* 'Piccaninny Dawn'

*Persoonia pinifolia* shown at the March meeting by Jenny West. Photo: Fon Ryan



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**A Garden Note from John Hastie**  
**Wattles in Flower**

Three of our wattle trees are in flower.

*Acacia beckleri* usually flowers late autumn or early winter, but is in full bloom now.

The Flinders Ranges wattle, *Acacia iteaphylla*, also usually blooms in early winter.

Gibberdin Wattle, *Acacia jibberdingensis*, is flowering for the first time, but according to references should flower in spring or early summer.

Are you finding 'out of normal' flowering in your gardens?

Please share your findings by writing a note for the next newsletter.

## ACCIDENTALLY A FOREST:

### An observation from member Susan Ring.

**Having** been used to the growth rates for my block in Corindhap – low rainfall and fortnightly hand watering – 6 years ago I started a new garden in Cheltenham. On the pots the labels said things like 1 to 1½ m tall and wide – but this soil isn't so old and worn down, and rain is regular, so my little 1000 litres does for most of the year.

**The Kunzea baxteri pink** seems to flower for at least six months.

**My Acacia glaucoptera** was supposed to be half the size it is.

**Behind them** are a few straggly correas, that I grew from cuttings, and small Melaleuca and Leptospermums, Thryptomene and a Banksia.

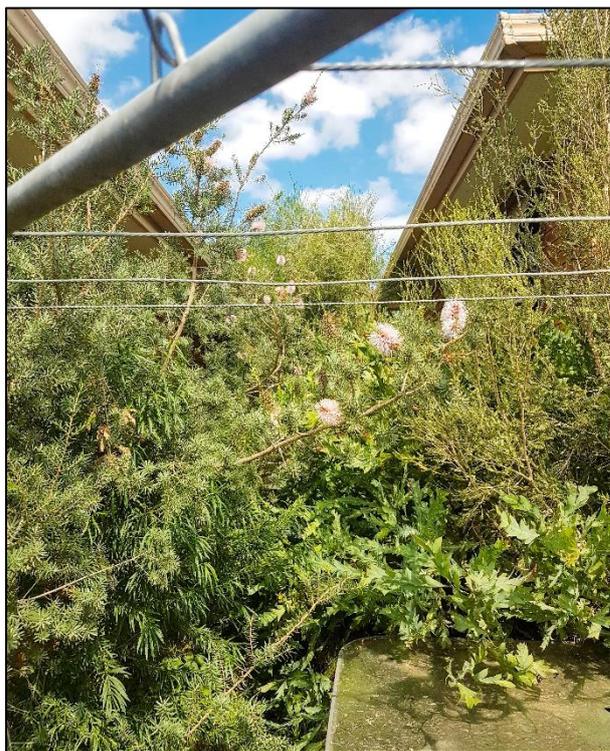
**To anyone** afraid of planting a large tree – bear in mind the average stay on a property is 16 years or so – so it's not your problem if it gets big!

### Also from Susan Ring:

Mum and I travelled to Gippsland in search of a new home for a dozen chairs with adjustable legs – the sort favoured by nursing homes – and revisited Tarra Bulga National Park, Wilson's Prom and a quick trip to Swifts Creek.

I was thrilled to see a Bassian Thrush. However, they are nervous types so only a blurry photo to remind me.

Tarra Falls in Tarra Bulga National Park



Jennifer Johnson sent in a few shots of plants that have done well in her garden.

To the left is *Callistemon injune*.

See two more on page 5 and also one on the back page.

**The Wollemi Pine, *Wollemia nobilis* from John Hastie**

Many members have seen the Wollemi Pine in our garden at Elaine. This tree is one of the trees made available through Australian Geographic prior to the sales to the general public on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 (Tree number AGO 1306).

The Wollemi Pine was discovered on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1994 by a bushwalker, David Noble, in the Wollemi National Park.

The park is a wilderness area, largely un-explored, a couple of hours drive from Sydney. Noble collected a small sample of leaves to show to colleagues in the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

A small team of conifer experts declared it a new species in the same group as the Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and the Monkey Puzzle Tree (*Araucaria araucana*). Further study showed many differences from these trees so it was put in a new genus. The scientific name given honours the finder and the park. Its closest relatives are known from the fossil record in the Jurassic Period some 200 million years ago.

Our tree has been producing male and female cones for a couple of years but has not set seed.

As the tree is in a half wine barrel its growth has been restricted to a height of about 3.5metres and a width of only 0.8 metres. If it were in the ground it would be expected to be 4 to 5 metres tall and 2 to 3 metres wide at its age.



The Hasties' Wollemi Pine (top) and foliage (bottom). →



Jennifer Johnson sent in a few shots of plants that have done well in her garden.

To the far left is *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon'.

To the left is *Grevillea* 'Ivory Whip'.

See one more on the back page.



APS Ballarat District member Jennifer Johnson photographed this *Grevillea* 'Misty Pink' flower, as one of the plants that have done well in her Ballarat garden.

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

Deadline for May Newsletter: 29<sup>th</sup> April 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**

President: John Hastie P: 5341 5567  
 Secretary: Position vacant PO Box 123W Ballarat West 3350  
 Treasurer: Ainslie Whyte PO Box 123W Ballarat West 3350  
 Newsletter Editor: Warren Hill wazizhill@gmail.com M: 0400 644 913

**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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**WEB:** Australian Plants Society Victoria (APS Vic): [www.apsvic.org.au](http://www.apsvic.org.au)

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

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