



Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – Oct 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



Snow on a Ballarat Native Garden!

Snow was still falling on the native garden of Bruce Cadoret & Alison Everingham when they captured this record of Ballarat's significant fall of snow on 25th September 2020.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was hoped that by now a date could have been set for the postponed Annual General Meeting; but it now seems that cannot be done until later in October.

An outdoor meeting, combined with garden visits on a Saturday, may be the best way to conduct a brief AGM. Annual reports etc. will be circulated to members prior to the meeting. At the AGM all positions are declared vacant. Some of the present office bearers are willing to be re-elected, **but we do need a Secretary.**

SPRING FLOWER SHOW

The Spring Flower Show will not be held due to Covid-19 restrictions.

ACTIVITIES

Some other APS groups are arranging 'Outdoor activities': Garden visits, excursions, etc. Have you any ideas for activities the Ballarat group could undertake? Please let us know! Gladys Hastie...

Email: johnhastie37@bigpond.com ... Phone: 5341 5567

MEMBERSHIP NOTE

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership for 2020-21, and a reminder that if you haven't, memberships are due.

APS Victoria have let us know that for any members who are experiencing financial hardship due to Covid19, APS Vic will waive their component of the 2020-21 subscription (\$35 for individuals and \$40 for families). If you are in this situation and wish to ask for the waiver, please contact me so that I can forward your details to APS Vic. Any request will be strictly confidential.

Ainslie Whyte, Treasurer, APS Ballarat Branch

Email: ainsliewhyte@gmail.com ... Ph: 0419 830765

THE HASTIE GARDEN AT ELAINE IN SEPTEMBER

The last of our wattles are now in bloom. *Acacia sessilispica* from Western Australia is a mass of bright yellow rods. The low-growing *A. lassiocarpa*, also from W.A., with its dark green leaves and bright yellow balls, is an excellent ground cover. A third West Australian, *A. glaucoptera*, the Clay Wattle, is just coming into flower. A Victorian species, *A. rostiformis* is a mass of large balls. Prickly Moses, *A. verticiliata*, a local species, is starting to produce its pale yellow rods.

The prostantheras are masses of colour. *Prostanthera linearis* is dark purple, *P. seiberii* a light purple, *P. incisa* (Native Thyme) is deep pink/purple and both *P. ovalifolia* and *P. rotundifolia* are mid. to dark purple.

The daisy, *Olearea phlogopappa*, blue and pink forms, are in flower, but the white form in a drier part of the garden has not started yet.

Grevilleas in flower include 'White Wings', *Grevillea alpina* 'Warby Ranges Form', and the yellow form of *G. rosemarinifolia*, *G. rosemarinifolia* 'Lutea'.

Hardenbergia comptoniana, both blue and white forms, is in full bloom but *H. violacea* has nearly all finished.

A recent acquisition (from Formosa Gardens who have increased their native plant range) is the Blue Waxflower, *Philotheca nodiflorus* var. *lasiocalyx*. ▣

In last month's newsletter Sue Ring asked what species of hakea this one is. She said: "It is a lovely insect attractor."

Ian Lynch has sent in that it is possibly *Hakea adnata*



From Rhonda Humphries:

Now that (Covid-19) restrictions are easing a little and spring is here things seem more positive at last. It's been a long year. Here's some photos of some of the wildflowers that are flowering out here (Nintingbool, near Haddon) now. More will flower later on, but after the rain the bush has come alive with colour. It's a great time of year. Our bush is classified as Heathy Dry Forest or Sclerophyll Forest. You sometimes wonder how these delicate flowers can survive in these poor soils. Take care. □



No 1: Purple Coral-pea, *Hardenbergia violacea*

No 2: Nodding Greenhood, *pterostylis nutans*

No 3: Golden Bush-pea, *pultenaea gunnii*

No 4: Wax-lip Orchid, *glossodia major*

No 5: Common Hovea, *hovea heterophylla*

No 6: Scented Sundew, *Drosera whittakeri*

No 7: Snake Wattle, *Acacia aculeatissima* (Ground cover)

No 8: Early Nancy, *Wurmbea dioica*



From Paddy Marshall:
 These are pics of my *Hardenbergia violacea* (as a shrub rather than a climber), and my *Acacia pravissima* tree.
 Cheers, Paddy



From Bruce Cadoret & Alison Everingham:
Acacia 'Little Nugget' and *Boronia serrulata*, Rose Boronia, flowering in our garden.

FUN IN THE SNOW



This little snow-covered dog was found in the bottom corner of a larger photograph from Bruce Cadoret and Alison Everingham.

MASK-WEARING SPEED SIGN

Snow covered this sign at Learmonth on 25th September, but as it started to melt, it slid down the face of the sign, and pieces fell away at the bottom edge, creating this mask for Covid-19 times.
 Photograph: Fon Ryan



TEN TEAR FLASHBACK

From the October 2010 Newsletter



Its native, no it's not a plant, but it and its ancestors have been eating native plants for millions of years. This is a caterpillar of one of the Hawk Moths. It was approx. 3cm long when photographed. It is a light green colour with a narrow yellow line along the full length of its back and has tiny yellow dots along its sides. The tall vertical structure on the top of its head is its most unusual feature.

Picture: **Fon Ryan**

By a coincidence in timing with this Ten-year Flashback, Roger Thomas recently received a photograph of one of these caterpillars for his 'NATURE QUERIES ANSWERED' section in his 'Nature Notes' column in the Ballarat Courier. Between his answer there, and further material that he has supplied, we now have the following information:

While it was originally thought to be a Hawk Moth caterpillar, it's the caterpillar of the Lemon Gum Moth, probably so-named because it is fond of leaves of the Lemon-scented Gum.

It is distinctive among green Australian caterpillars because it has an unusual horn on its head. Other green caterpillars, such as those of the hawk moths, have a horn at the rear. The horn is rather soft, moving somewhat as the caterpillar moves along. The head is red, and the caterpillar reaches a maximum size of around 35mm before it pupates. There is a pale line along its back and its tail is pointed, rather than rounded or blunt. This caterpillar turns into a rather-plain fawn moth, sometimes tinged yellow. The moths appear in autumn. The adult moths are not uncommon, but the caterpillar seems to be uncommon around Ballarat – which is perhaps not surprising as Lemon-scented Gum trees are not plentiful here.

(The photograph above was taken in colour, but it appeared in the newsletter, which was then a print copy only, in black & white. Now, with APS Ballarat District issuing an electronic version, and with a couple of mouse-clicks, it can be shown in its original colour.)

New life:
Only days out of the nest, these magpie chicks await their next meal from mum or dad.
Photo:
Fon Ryan



Photo from Jennifer Johnson of Grevillea 'Ruby Jewel' growing in her Ballarat garden in June.





Bulbine Lily, *Bulbine bulbosa*, out in flower in early September in the garden of Bruce Cadoret and Alison Everingham.

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

Deadline for November Newsletter: 28th October 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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 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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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

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