



Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
SOCIETY
BALLARAT DISTRICT

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – May 2022

MONTHLY MEETINGS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY
at ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE
GILLIES STREET ENTRANCE – GATE 3 or 4

FURTHER DETAILS SEE INFORMATION BOX

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2022 – 2 PM

MONTHLY MEETING

➔ NOTE: Afternoon Meeting at 2.00pm ←

Everyone to check in with QR code or APS tablet – carry mask – vaccination certificate
(At the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre
Ballarat Botanical Gardens)

Guest Speaker: Ade Foster will talk to us about
'Frogs in your Garden'

EXCURSION

Seed Collection Presentation:

Sunday 8th May, 2022

Covid rules: sign in, vaccinated, mask carried

Dan Frost from Seeding Victoria will give a
Seed Collection presentation:

1-30pm at Janine O'Malley's Home and
Garden, 12 Koala Court, Smythes Creek

A BYO BBQ lunch available from 11.30 am

Directions: From Hertford Street, Sebastopol, go
south in Tait Street to Crown Street (Bonshaw),
veer right to Sebastopol/Ross Creek Road. From
Sebastopol/Ross Creek Road turn right into

Shamus Drive. At the end of Shamus Drive turn right into Jolly's Hill Road then immediately turn
left into Koala Court. No.12 is on the right, the driveway is along the bank of the dam. If required
ring Janine 0417 134 320. Bring a chair and mug. Please drive through the hedge opening and park
behind it so as not to block others.



Jennifer Johnson photographed this perfect
specimen of *Grevillea* 'Midas Touch' in her
garden in January last year.

APS Ballarat District Winter Flower Show 2022

at

Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens

on

Sat 25th & Sun 26th June 2022, 10am to 4pm

(Set up Friday 24th, 11am to 3pm)

APS Ballarat District Group - Activities

Suggestions for group activities are requested and welcomed; Talks, Walks, Guest Speakers,
Excursions, etc., indeed, anything of interest for the Group. Please let us know!

April Guest Speaker Report

John Hastie spoke on *Prostanthera* species, Mint Bushes, and Mints.

John mentioned he had been a teacher for 45 years and felt capable of talking to our group on a subject he enjoys. He then gave us a most comprehensive and informative discussion on the topic.

The Hasties grow and propagate many *Prostantheras* in the Garden at Elaine.

“There are quite a few mint bushes now in cultivation. Some are species, some selections from species and others appear to be possible hybrids. Most are readily available from Native Nurseries, and many other nurseries as well. Some are only available from specialists like ‘Mims Mints’. A small number are used in cooking, replacing traditional spices and as herbal teas. These can be found in retail outlets such as Saltbush Kitchen”

John showed about 15 specimens, circulated a list of varieties and their characteristics, and discussed all aspects of *Prostanthera* and other mints. He certainly gave us a very educative and enthusiastic presentation.

We thank John very much.

The Garden at Elaine in April

Most plants are entering a dormant phase as far as flowering goes, but a few are producing a good number of blooms. These include the blue-flowered ground covers/low shrubs *Halgania pressii* and *Hemiandra pungens*. *Grevillea lanigera* is in full flower with the red flowered ‘Kangaritha’ form and the pink ‘Mt. Tamboritha’ form both doing well. *Hakea dupaceae* is covered with flower heads like mini bottle brushes. Mulla mulla, *Ptilotus sp.*, has flower heads that persist for a long time. The *Crocea exalata* variants all have a few flowers (‘White Star’, ‘rubra’ and the usual pink). A *C. saligna* hybrid, ‘Summer Stars’ is just coming into bloom.

The ground cover *Eremophila* ‘Winter Apple’, *E. debilis*, has produced masses of its small, pink, round, edible fruit. (Sweet with an unusual after-taste.)

In the gardens outside the fence *Eremophila* ‘Amber Carpet’, *E. ‘Eyre Princess’*, *Acacia beckleri*, *A. iteaphylla*, *Westringea fruticosa* and *Banksia marginata* are creating a reasonable show.

April Meeting Specimens exhibited

The Hasties: *Acacia beckleri*, *Acacia jibberdingensis* (Jibberding Wattle), *Acacia iteafolia* (Flinders Ranges Wattle), *Eremophila colorhabdos* ‘Red Rod’, *Crocea exalata* ‘White Star’

Sue Ring: exhibited a *Hakea sp.* that she suggested was suited as a Native Christmas Tree.

Sue Ring forwarded this photo of her *Isopogon anemonifolius* shrub taken on 12th April 2022. She called it a ‘stunner’.



Correction:
This *Craspedia* was accidentally named
Verticordia in last month's newsletter.

APS Melton
& Bacchus
Marsh Inc.



NATIVE PLANT SALE

at St Andrew's Uniting Church,
18 Gisborne Road, Bacchus
Marsh, (MEL333 J6)

Saturday 14th May 2022

9am-1pm

**FEATURING HAKEAS
and dwarf EUCALYPTS**

Info: Message us or email to
apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com



Ten-year Flashback

From the April 2012 newsletter

An excursion to the Melton Botanic Gardens

Melton Botanic Gardens cover many acres of a mix of essentially un-altered areas together with areas that have been planted to both native and exotic trees and shrubs. Much indigenous flora persists, especially in and adjacent to the wetland areas. The management committee have big plans for various areas, to themed gardens, within the gardens and the local council is facilitating this. As is often the case in these projects, large amounts of voluntary labour are being put in.

Picture: **Fon Ryan**

Library – APS Ballarat District.

We are gradually sorting out books in our library. A basic borrowing system will be in place. There are some books that have not been returned and this may be due to covid lockdowns etc. Of note is “Taller Eucalypts for Planting in Australian Gardens” by Dean Nicolle. Any Member who has books out and are finding it difficult to return them, please phone Gladys on 53415567 and we can arrange to pick them up.

Buds of *Corymbia ficifolia* ‘Fairy Floss’. Cultivated trees of this species have now become widely divergent in flower colour from the original, in the wild, generally red to orange-red. This has lead, naturally enough, to the selection of a number of different flower colour (and along with that, tree form/size) cultivars for grafting.



Photo:
Jennifer
Johnson



Photographs: Fon Ryan

Gall-wasp infestation on *Eucalyptus petiolaris*.

The majority of the leaves on this tree were not affected. But this close-up photograph shows one leaf that has the whole of the leaf-blade area crowded with galls. So much so that the only recognisable part is the mid-vein weaving its way down the middle.

The two leaves in the inset photo are from the same tree, showing what mild infestation is like.

Thanks to those who contributed reports or items for this issue

Deadline for June Newsletter
25th May 2022

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BALLARAT DISTRICT INC. Incorporation No. A0013127M

President: John Hastie P: 5341 5567
 Secretary: Janine O'Malley 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 _____ : aps_ballarat@yahoo.com.au PO Box 123W, Ballarat West, Vic 3350

N'LETTER CONTRIBUTIONS: wazizhill@gmail.com

WEB: (APS Vic): www.apsvic.org.au Then go to APS Ballarat District page



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