



# Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – July 2022

**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**



See Report Page 3

Photo: Elspeth Swan

The Plant Sales at the APS Ballarat District Winter 2022 Show

APS Ballarat District bounces back after two years of COVID restrictions with a successful Winter Show

## COMING EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022 – 2 PM  
MONTHLY MEETING**

➔ **NOTE: Afternoon Meeting at 2.00pm** ←

(At the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre Ballarat  
Botanical Gardens)

**GUEST SPEAKER – Peter Debicki  
Bees and the Verroa Mite**

Peter has spoken to our group before. He is sure to have an interesting story.



**Wednesday 10th August 2022, Annual General Meeting. Note time: 2 pm afternoon**

At the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre. Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

All elected positions are declared vacant. Current office bearers can be re-nominated.

Any notice of motion for the AGM must be given in writing by the end of the July meeting.

➔ **Please find nomination form attached to the newsletter email.**

**Annual membership renewals are due  
Membership Renewal Forms were emailed to members on 5<sup>th</sup> June**

### June Meeting Specimens Exhibited

Ainslie Whyte - *Banksia spinulosa* 'Birthday Candles', *Correa alba*

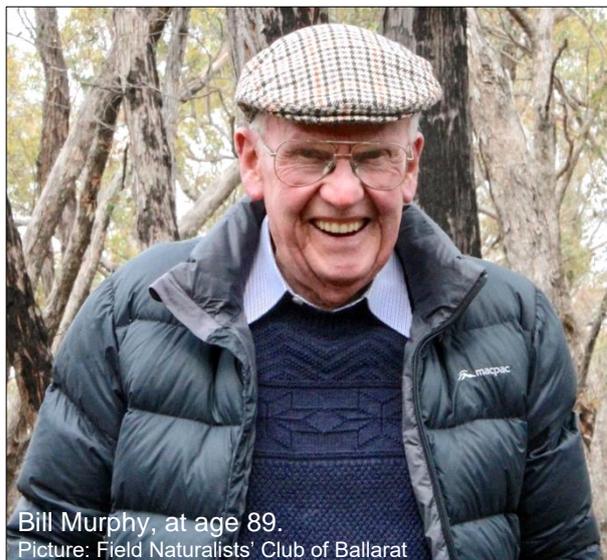
The Hasties - *Acacia podalyriifolia* 'Mt Morgan Wattle', *Acacia genistifolia* 'Spreading Wattle',

*Acacia aphylla* 'WA Leafless Wattle', *Acacia iteaphylla* 'Flinders Range Wattle', *Acacia*

*glaucophera* Clay Wattle, *Westringia* 'Smokey', *Thryptomene calycina* 'Grampians Thryptomene'

## VALE BILL MURPHY Died 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Bill and Pat Murphy were two of the eighteen people present at the inaugural meeting of APS Ballarat District (then known as SGAP) on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1975. Pat died suddenly in 2006. Bill died, aged 95, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Some members attended his funeral. The Murphys shared their knowledge generously with our society (and also with the Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat). Amongst many contributions to APS, Bill led, along with Ern (Pat's brother) and Lesley Perkins, in September 2009, an APS excursion to Enfield Forest to view the native plants in flower, focusing on orchids. As may have been expected, Bill had put in preparatory work beforehand by checking out the orchid sites.



*Our sympathy to Bill's family*

### Paul Norquay reflects on Bill Murphy

Elsbeth and I first met Pat and Bill at the Ballarat Australian Plants Society in the mid 80's when we both shifted to Mt Egerton to live. We enjoyed many club excursions with them. Pat was a very good botanist.

In 2009, not long after Pat died and I was on leave from Ballarat Uni, Bill and I started going for trips out into the bush looking at native plants; native orchids in particular. I came to know the special orchid places he and Pat had discovered in the Ballarat district and as far afield as Anglesea, Stawell, the Grampians and Rushworth.

Over the years Pat and Bill had many excursions into the bushlands around Ballarat and travelled regularly around Victoria and interstate. They both took a great deal of interest in the natural environment; Pat loved to document plants and Bill loved photographing them. Locally their favourite place was Enfield Forest – so close to Ballarat for a quick trip or for a longer all-day outing. Both became very knowledgeable about local plants and places to visit and gave slide presentations to numerous groups.

In 1978 Cliff Beaglehole worked in the Ballarat area on The Victorian Vascular Plant Checklists publication. Pat would go out with Cliff collecting and identifying the plants in our local bushlands. While Bill was sometimes able to go on these trips too, his main task was to cook an evening meal while Pat and Cliff set about pressing their plant specimens and production of plant lists for various sites.

For the last 12 years he and I have usually gone out for a drive on Tuesdays (often with a picnic lunch) to Enfield Forest, Woookarung, Creswick Regional Park and some of those places further afield.

While driving there was always some discussion on politics, what his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were up to; stories of his early life growing up in Melbourne, Bendigo, Five Ways etc. Also, the jobs he'd had since settling in Ballarat – only recently I found out he had been a conductor and driver on the Ballarat trams before becoming an insurance agent for AMP.

As he became less mobile and unable to walk up hills, we adopted the strategy of parking at the top of a hill. We would meander through the bush till we reached the bottom of the hill. He could then have a rest while I walked back to get the car and drove down to pick him up.

Technology – something that often frustrates many of us, but not Bill. He acquired a tablet, in his 80's, which he mastered in no time. He usually read two newspapers on the tablet while having his breakfast. The tablet was also very handy for looking up recipes when adding to his culinary repertoire. Smart TV – I wasn't much help trying to work that out the first week he acquired one, but by the next week I was given a demo of how it all worked.

Continued next page ... ..

Perhaps one of his best bits of technology was his electric scooter – his new wheels after he had to stop driving a car. Trips into the centre of Ballarat from Sebastopol for shopping; Ballarat Botanic Gardens and the North Gardens Wetland; into Ballarat station, up the special ramp onto the train and off to Melbourne; also, to Warrnambool and Adelaide for holidays. He never ceased to amaze me!

I will remember him for his good company, freshly cooked scones or pikelets (for morning teas) and his immaculately polished shoes. And more recently, the way he was always quickly out the door at Kelaston (after seeing me turn into Park St from Howitt St); hopping into the car with his walking pole – where are we off to today?

**It has been a real privilege to have him as a friend.**

One of Bill Murphy's many beloved species of orchids that he showed us at Enfield on the September 2009 excursion was this Maroonhood, *Pterostylis pedunculata*.

Photo: Fon Ryan



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### The Garden at Elaine

On the shortest day we counted just over fifty species and cultivars in flower; not all were native. Unfortunately, most of these had only one or two flowers but we still managed to find about twenty for the Flower Show.

The plant with the most blooms at the moment is the Mt. Morgan Wattle (*Acacia podalyriifolia*), followed by the Spreading Wattle (*A. genistifolia*). The Jibberdin wattle, the Leafless wattle and the Flinders Ranges Wattle all still have a few flowers. The Cockies Tongue (*Templetonia retusa*) is in the early stages of flowering, in a week or two it will be a mass of bright red blooms. Some of the recently planted, and still quite small, Eremophilas are attracting birds. Eastern Spine-bills and New Holland Honey-eaters are the most frequent visitors.

So far, the flowering on Croweas and Correas is quite sparse. The Philothecas and Chamelauciums are covered quite densely with buds, as are the spring flowering wattles.

The Wollemi Pine, (*Wollemi nobilis*) is still producing both female and male cones but I doubt they will mature at the same time.

### Report - The Winter Plant Show – from The Hasties

We think the Winter Show was one of the best we have had.

Thanks to those members who contributed. We had an impressive display, much more than anticipated judging from the lack of material in our garden. Neville and Helen Collier deserve special thanks for their floral contribution. Unfortunately, Judith Lewis, a long-time stalwart of the Shows was unable to attend but still made her contribution with a bucket of flowers, and the table cloths.

The 'Frog Pond' and Gardens for Wildlife display were always busy. The pond intrigued the smaller visitors. Many of the younger adult visitors were very interested in the edible plants. One young man even bought a Lemon Myrtle to grow in a pot at his rental property.

The 'set-up' on Friday ran very smoothly, even though most of the 'workers' were at their first show set-up. Many of the plants were on show here for the first time – people quickly got into the routine of writing a new name card. (The fact that nearly all the specimens were already labelled made life easy; thank you).

The 'pack-up' on Sunday was efficiently done. All the plant material was packed in large plastic bags for removal from the Clark Centre. (It has all been shredded, put into compost bins or spread as mulch).

Our visitors to the show showed great interest and asked many questions. Everybody seemed to be well aware of COVID and flu and behaved accordingly. As well as many locals we had visitors from as far away as Kerang and Colac.

**Note** - The Treasurer reported; Door count 252. New members joined 15. Rejoined 6.

A detailed report will be tabled once all of the expenses are in. Ainslie Whyte



Photo: Elspeth Swan



The 'Frog Pond' at the APS Ballarat District Native Plant Show displayed some plants that can be grown in and around water (features). This display was always busy. The pond especially intrigued the 'smaller' visitors.

Photo: Elspeth Swan

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

Deadline for August Newsletter  
27<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**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** \_\_\_\_\_: aps\_ballarat@yahoo.com.au PO Box 123W, Ballarat West, Vic 3350

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



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