



Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – August 2023

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

FURTHER DETAILS SEE INFORMATION BOX

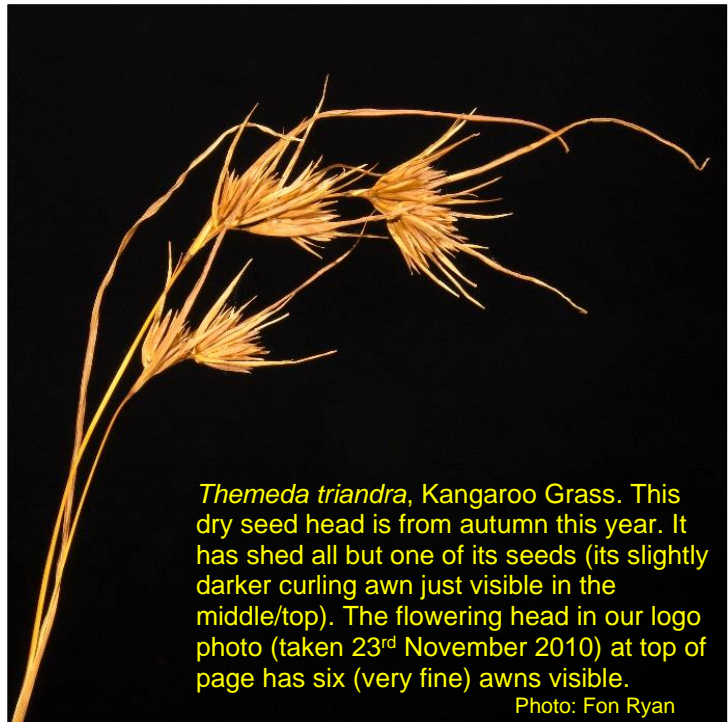
COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday 9th August 2023
Annual General Meeting – 2pm
(Note: Afternoon Meeting)**

At the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre
Ballarat Botanical Gardens

All elected positions are declared vacant.
Only members who are financial by the
August meeting date may vote, propose
motions or stand for election.

**Wednesday 13th September 2023
Monthly Meeting at 2pm**



Themeda triandra, Kangaroo Grass. This dry seed head is from autumn this year. It has shed all but one of its seeds (its slightly darker curling awn just visible in the middle/top). The flowering head in our logo photo (taken 23rd November 2010) at top of page has six (very fine) awns visible.

Photo: Fon Ryan

***Important Notice* To all Members Australian Plants Society Ballarat District**

Our current office bearers are unable to continue in the positions of President,
Secretary, Treasurer.

**If these positions are not filled (at the AGM) the Group will be forced to go
into recess or be dissolved!**

Please attend this meeting or send expressions of interest to the group contacts.

Neutrog Orders from Ruth Marton

I have made the Neutrog orders to be a regular order twice yearly in Spring and Autumn. You are able to go on line and place your order any time once you have registered with Neutrog for access to their members' area. The Spring orders closing date is the 17th August for dispatch to my address approximately 8th September. Their APS member prices are very competitive, e.g., Whoflungdung \$14 'Bunnings \$19'. Bush Tucker 20kg \$30 'B 4kg \$30', Sudden Impact for Roses 20kg \$30 'B 10kg \$55, GOGO juice 1 litre \$10 'B1 litre \$17.36'. If you need any help with signing up to their members' area shop or do not have internet access and would like to order something please do not hesitate to contact me by email: martonruth@yahoo.com.au or phone: 53346134.

July Meeting Guest Speaker Report

Miriam Ford gave a very comprehensive presentation on *Prostanthera*, a genus she is particularly enthusiastic and knowledgeable about, growing many varieties, also promoting and retailing them. Miriam and Mints are featured on ABC Gardening Australia broadcast on Aug 26, 2022, google 'Fresh Mint'. A video of 'Spring Mints at Hurstbridge' is on the APS Vic YouTube channel.

We appreciate and thank Miriam.

*Also:



Go to our ... 'Australian Plants Society Ballarat District-Home-Facebook' ... page for a report and photos, thanks to Elspeth Swan.

July Meeting Specimens Exhibited

Paddy Marshall: *Hakea orthorrhyncha*, Bird-beak Hakea

Sue Ring: *Thomasia quercifolia*, *Thomasia purpurea*, *Thomsasia petaloclayx*

The Hasties: *Acacia baileyana*, Cootamundra Wattle, *Acacia covenyi*, Blue Bush Acacia, *Callitris glaucophylla*, White Cyprus Pine, *Callitris oblongata*, Tasmanian or Dwarf Cyprus Pine, *Dislema archeri*, *Philotheca* 'Flower Girl', *Podocarpus elata*, Plum Pine, *Podocarpus lawrencei*, Mountain Plum Pine, *Prumnopitys ladei*, *Westringia* 'Morning Light'

Miriam Ford: Showed many *Prostanthera* sp. and offered cutting material

Ten year Flashback

A couple of photos from August 2013



Close-up of a *Eucalyptus caesia* flower. This beautiful pink flower lasted several days in water after the July meeting. It stayed at this degree of opening, which was quite an artistic curved shape.
Photography: Fon Ryan



Diplolaena grandiflora. Although Neville Collier lamented that he had to get down on his hands and knees and then twist his head around to view the flowers on this plant, the camera has found a good angle, and additionally the use of a bit of suitably angled light has brought out a nice glow inside the flower as well. Picture: Fon Ryan

The Garden at Elaine in July

The larger wattles, Cootamundra Wattle and NSW Blue Bush, are still making quite a show. *Acacia triquetra*, the Mallee Wreath Wattle, is flowering for the first time, even though it is only fifty centimetres tall. One of the few 'pea' flowers in the garden, *Dillwynia cinareacens*, has been flowering for a couple of weeks. *Philotheca* 'Flower Girl' is well on the way to full bloom – a month early. The pink *Kunzia baxterii* are producing many blooms but still no sign of buds on the red-flowered plants. The small daisy, *Olearea homolepes*, is unusual in that it produces its bright blue flowers on the tip of branches. The prostrate Cockies Tongues, *Templetonia retusa*, has flowers that are more orange than the red of the upright form. The genus *Westringea* is a reliable flower source in the late winter season. At present *Westringea rigida* (white flowers), *W. crassifolia* (purple/blue flowers) and *W. glabra* (purple flowers), are all carrying significant numbers of blooms.

*This is the last report from the Garden at Elaine as we have sold the house and are moving to a warmer climate. Perhaps someone with an established garden, or a developing one, might like to start a new series of:
The Garden at???*
John & Gladys Hastie

John and Gladys in their garden at Elaine in June. Photo: Nicki Zanen



*From APS Ballarat District
All the best in your move and new adventures*

President's Report 2022/2023

The 2022/2023 year was one of mixed fortunes. Some meetings and excursions had to be cancelled because of the weather and other reasons.

The range of guest speakers was as wide as usual. We were treated to accounts of travels in Africa and North Queensland by Ade Foster and Nicki Zanen. The Taste of the Garden, native foods and spices was presented by Gladys Hastie. Our knowledge of Eremophilas and Prostantheras was certainly increased by Russell Wait and Miriam Ford. Jeff Rootes enlightened us to the values and problems of the 'Little Creeks' of Ballarat and Fon Ryan again demonstrated his skill with a digital camera. We thank all the speakers for the time they give us.

The return of the Christmas Breakup to the Robert Clark Centre resulted in a very enjoyable evening. Both Flower Shows were socially and educationally successful. The Spring show was attended by family groups, many of whom had new gardens, but the Winter show attracted an older group. The Winter Show was enhanced by the Gardens for Wildlife display. They were kept very busy on both days. Mike and Lyndall's display of native ferns and orchids was appreciated. We thank all members who provide the specimens for shows, especially, Helen and Neville, John and Gladys and Ruth who all make a sizeable contribution. I thank the 'Management Team' of Ainslie Whyte, Treasurer; Janine O'Malley, Secretary; Gladys Hastie, Events Co-ordinator; and Warren Hill and Fon Ryan, the Newsletter organisers, for their efforts over the year.

John Hastie, President



Ten year flashback The back page photo from August 2013

At Park Point at Lake Burrumbeet are a few remnant *Allocasuarina verticillata*. Many years ago, additional ones were planted. These two mature and very healthy specimens each has quite a different textural appearance from the other. This species is dioecious, meaning that an individual tree carries only male or only female flowers. Photographed on 30th June, the tree on the left is female, the one on the right is male and at the time was covered in attractive tiny rusty-orange pollen-bearing flowers.

Picture: Fon Ryan

Thanks to those who contributed reports or items for this issue

Deadline for September Newsletter
30th August 2023

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BALLARAT DISTRICT INC. Incorporation No. A0013127M

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 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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