



Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
SOCIETY
BALLARAT DISTRICT

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District

Newsletter – November 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

**Saturday November 4th 2023 ~10 am
Invitation to visit Helen and Neville
Collier's wonderful garden at
Bung Bong near Avoca**

Travel is approximately ~70 km ~ 45-
minute drive, from Ballarat.

Directions; take Sunraysia Hwy to
Avoca, at cross roads turn right
towards Maryborough, travel for 5.1
km, turn right into Box Flat Track.
Number 123 on the left. If required
ph.0429653190.

**Wednesday November 8th 2023
Guest Speaker – Garry Morris
Soil Management and Practices**

➔ **NOTE: Evening Meeting – 7-30pm**

**Wednesday December 13th 2023
End of Year/Christmas Gathering**

➔ **NOTE: 6.00pm**

At The Robin Hood Hotel
33 Peel Street Nth Ballarat

Please Note: No Meeting in January

**Wednesday February 14th 2024 at
7.30 pm Monthly Meeting**

Guest speaker to be advised



**A perfect Waratah specimen
growing in a Ballarat garden**

This is the cultivar, *Telopea* 'Essie's Gift'.

Grower, Bruce Cadoret says:

"Well and truly in flower with its red waratah flowers"

October Meeting Guest Speakers Report

David and Barbara Pye from APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Group gave a comprehensive presentation with pictures of the Melton Botanic Garden.

In particular, the Dryland Eucalyptus Arboretum, a nationally-registered collection of more than 100 eucalypt species; and large mature River Red Gums and Yellow Box along the Creek and in the garden and the selective native areas. They described some of the many hours and varieties of tasks and efforts involved in developing and establishing such a wonderful garden, to have it thrive in the climate and soils of the locality. Everything from site management and landscape, to selecting, sourcing and propagating plants. Such efforts are to be highly commended and the results to be greatly appreciated and enjoyed.

We thank David and Barbara very much for such a good talk to our group.

Specimens Exhibited at October Meeting

David and Barbara Pye: *Chamelaucium uncinatum* (Geraldton Wax), *Chamelaucium* x *Verticordia* 'Paddy's Pink', *Banksia ashbyi* (Ashby's Banksia), *Eucalyptus rhodantha* (Rose Mallee)

Phyllis Wright: *Lasiopetalum baueri* (Slender Velvet-Bush), *Isopogon latifolius*, *Isopogon anemonifolius* (Broad-leaved Drumsticks), *Isopogon dubius* (Pincushion Coneflower), *Grevillea endlicheriana* (Spindly Grevillea), *Grevillea* 'Jelly Baby', *Grevillea sericea* (Pink Spider Flower), *Grevillea* 'Gold Fever', *Grevillea* 'Flora Mason', *Grevillea* 'Raspberry Ripple', *Grevillea lanigera* 'Mello Yellow', *Grevillea* 'Wannon Wildfire', *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle', *Kunzea parvifolia* (Dwarf), *Eremophila nivea* (Emu Bush), *Correa* 'Federation Belle', *Hakea grammatophylla*

Verena Doyle: *Grevillea juniperina* 'Molonglo', *Pelargonium* sp., *Striatellum* (Omeo Storks-bill), *Pelargonium australe* (Native Storks-bill)

Colleen Orchard: *Correa reflexa* x *backhousiana* 'Marian's Marvel', *Darwinia oxylepis* (Gillham's Bell)

Gloria Salt: *Leptospermum* 'Pink Cascade', *Prostanthera* 'Poorinda Ballerina', *Prostanthera rotundifolia* (Round-leaf Mint Bush), *Isopogon formosus* (Rose Coneflower)

Claire Dalman: *Pimelea nivea* (Bushman's Bootlace), *Prostanthera rotundifolia* (Round-leaf Mint Bush), *Calothamnus quadrifidus* (One-sided Bottlebrush), *Hypocalymma angustifolium* (Pink-flowered Myrtle), *Olearia phlogopappa* (Pink Daisy), *Eutaxia obovate*, *Eremophila mackinlayi* (Desert Pride), *Boronia denticulata* (Toothed-Leaved Boronia)

In My Garden – October in Ballarat – Bruce Cadoret

The garden is looking very colourful; Some plants flowering include; *Acacia glaucoptera* (Clay Wattle), *Arthropodium strictum* (Chocolate lily), *Bulbine bulbosa* (Bulbine lily), *Chrysocephalum apiculatum/semipapposum*, *Eremophilas* (always long flowering), including, *Eremophila alternifolia/maculata*, *Grevillea bedgoodiana* (beginning to flower), *Grevillea* (Red hooks), *Goodenia ovata*, *Pultenaea pedunculata* (a ground cover with lovely egg and bacon pea flowers, is also a highlight). Also flowering are *Patersonia occidentalis* (Large purple flag); *Prostanthera nivea* (with white flowers, a carpet both on the ground and on the plant), *Podolepis* sp., *Pelargonium austral*, *Xerochrysum viscosum*, *Banksia praemorsa* (still flowering well with some flowers starting to change colour), *Telopea* 'Essie's Gift' (well and truly in flower with its red waratah flowers), *Wahlenbergia* sp. (native bluebells, with their masses of blue flowers, have recently flowered), *Kunzea ambigua* (has only recently flowered, with masses of white flowers), *Grevillea magnifica* x *oligomera* (continues to flower).



Kunzea ambigua (top-left) and *Grevillea magnifica* x *oligomera* (bottom-right).
See story above. Photo: Bruce Cadoret

Banksia Praemorsa
Photo: Bruce Cadoret

Part of the Journey of the Garden at 'Rascal Farm' – Alvin Peters

It does not matter what endeavour we do in life we never stop learning, the best way to learn is to do it. When I retired, I thought I would need something to keep me occupied – solution – buy ten acres of rundown property – with a rundown house. What was I thinking!!!

I had been an earthmoving and landscape contractor in my more sensible younger years so I got into slashing the metre high grass and cleaning up the rubbish left by the previous owner. Lesson: when you slash metre high grass you are left with huge amounts of grass that dries out to become huge amount of dry stuff. Lesson: Windy day, if you do not have a cabin on your mower leave the dry stuff to lay there in peace. Lesson: patience may not be one of my virtues as I could not wait to start making the place look better, result, when I mowed with the wind to my left, or right, I was showered with huge amounts of chopped up angry dry stuff. Was the dry stuff angry that I cut it down, or was it mother nature showering me with huge amounts of confetti, thinking if I was that stupid I must be married to the place?

Moving on, eventually I was left with a paddock of mown grass. Time to start planting. Lesson: Time for frustration and disappointment. I have lost hundreds of mostly native plants, no exaggeration, hundreds. Frost, drought, rabbits, hares, the odd wallaby, wet years, and wind, all took their toll. Near the airport winds of 60, 70, 80 km/h are not uncommon. My place had one eucalypt at the front east boundary and six at the front south boundary in a small clump near the front gate, the rest was a bare open paddock with only farm fencing. The worst loss was 40 *Corymbia ficifolia* that were 1 metre high, flowered the first summer after planting, frosts the following winter killed all of them. With no wind breaks it takes years to duplicate a forest. A forest is a family, the older parents look after the younger children, an ecosystem nurtures and supports each other. The best I can do is use mulch to duplicate a forest floor and use tree guards to hopefully give them a chance to develop a good root system, to give them a good grip on this planet to withstand the years ahead.

The photo shows how I heap mulch around the tree guard, as well as a stake to hold it in place, so it doesn't get blown away by the wind. Over winter I taped a freezer bag over the top of the tree guards of the 15 'Grandis' I planted to protect them from the frost. With natives I use mainly tube stock because of the quantity I plant. This is a *Eucalyptus Grandis* (Flooded Gum) in the photo. I am not sure how it will handle the Ballarat climate, but I hope it survives, as it is a magnificent, beautiful tree.



Eucalyptus grandis, Flooded Gum, has survived its first Winter at 'Rascal Farm'.
Photo: Alvin Peters



Sue Ring:
"Saw this growing at the Devils Kitchen out of Linton".

"Wondering if this is a bushy ranunculus?"



Prostanthera nivea in full flower in the garden of Bruce Cadoret.
“The white flowers, a carpet both on the ground and on the plant”.
(See ‘In My Garden – October in Ballarat’, Page 2.)

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

**Deadline for December Newsletter
29th November 2023**

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**)

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