



Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
SOCIETY
BALLARAT DISTRICT

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – December 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 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 or NEWSLETTER
in
JANUARY**

Wednesday February 14th 2024 at 7.30 pm
Monthly Meeting

Guest speaker to be advised

**November Meeting Guest Speaker Report
Guest Speaker – Garry Morris
‘Guerilla Gardener’**

Soil Management and Practices

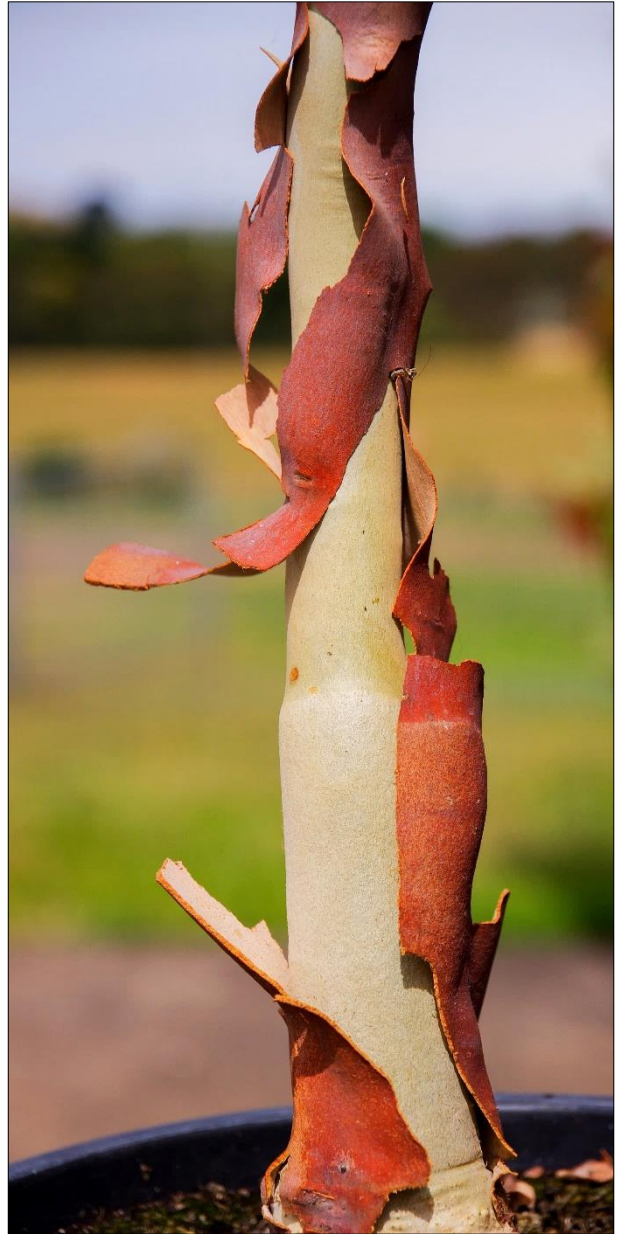
Gary got into gardening for ways to reuse café food waste, and the nutrients it contains.

He found the best solution was worm farms, where the waste becomes castings and worm juice, which can be diluted and added to soil, potting mix or plants. Each layer of his worm farms contains (from the bottom up) used potting mix, used soil, food scraps and coffee grounds.

Gary grows herbs and leafy plants from local seedlings, and eats what he grows. He uses pots on tiered racks to make the best use of his space.

Some of Gary’s tips included ways to use dried and powdered fruit peel and skins on plants, coffee grounds and eggshells as snail and slug deterrents, and stinging nettle tea for hay fever.

This was an enthusiastic, entertaining and informative presentation. **Thanks Gary!** □



***Corymbia maculata* (grafted)**

‘Time to shed’. After a year in its old bark, this grafted Spotted Gum in a pot sheds its darkened and reddened bark to expose a beautiful greenish-white new bark. Note the slight difference in colour of the scion compared to that of the rootstock.

(Part of a grafting trial.)

Photo: Fon Ryan

May all members have a pleasant Christmas & Holiday Period



&
A Happy New Year



November 4th Visit to the Colliers Garden – Report

Travel to Avoca through an environment of mixed, cleared and ‘bush’ area, and then come to a delightful home and garden established in those surrounds. The area has been subjected to bushfire and flood.

The Colliers chose a gravel area as the ‘the place for a home’. The garden started ~ 2007. Enter a large wonderful garden; of subtle entrances, paths and areas; with a multitude of hand-selected and placed: rock, stone and timber, merging with sculptural structures all around, enticing and entertaining. View agricultural, farming, plumbing features, aged attractive items – all blending in beautifully. And the windmill, connecting ‘Lake Helen’, providing a feature, watering and drainage. A marvelous landscape.

All of these delights are surrounded and encompassed by a fantastic garden with an incredible array of Australian Native Plants. Far too many to document here. So good, they are all standout specimens. All selectively propagated from seed, cutting and grafting.

Everything about the garden the Colliers have established and continue creating, exhibits a tasteful ability and application, with great eye and touch. APS Ballarat District Group thank Helen and Neville so much, and wish them all the very best! □

PS: Photos from the excursion will appear in the February newsletter.

In My Garden – November in Ballarat – Bruce Cadoret

The recent rain has been welcome in the garden. Some of the newly flowering plants include: *Ornduffia reniformis* (Running Marsh flower) with yellow flowers at the end of long stalks, along with *Leptospermum lanigerum/continentale* with its white tea tree flowers. *Viminaria juncea* (Golden spray) with its yellow pea-shaped flowers. Both the red and yellow Kangaroo paws are now flowering. *Carpobrotus rossii* (Pigface) with its pink flowers, *Olearia tenuifolia* with daisy-like flowers and *Leptorhynchus tenuifolia* (Wiry Buttons). There is always something in flower with many flowering over several months. □

From the Far North (Mildura) – The Hasties – (Not our garden, but the landscape beyond.)

I cannot write about our garden as it is mainly lawn, although John has started planting some natives. I can write about the ever-changing view we have from our home.

When we arrived, the street was ablaze with red callistemon – cultivar ‘Harkness’ – they have faded now and the street and gutters are red with the stamens that have fallen. This show is not over yet, because as the callistemon fades the beautiful *Eucalyptus torquate*, Coral gum, comes into flower and is still flowering. We have six of these lovely trees along the nature strip outside of our place and the birds love them. These trees seem to flower from the bottom up so while there are some of the flowers still in bud we have another changing colour – the purple haze of the Jacaranda, although not a native it is a beautiful tree and adds a lot of colour to the landscape.

We hope everyone is well and looking forward to Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Something we have not done for a very long time – Christmas Decorations – we have been advised that everyone in the Court decorates their garden. Happy Days.

Best Wishes: Gladys & John Hastie

Editor’s note: Alvin Petersen’s account of his garden experiences in the November newsletter was a good read and we wish to correct the error in misprinting Alvin Petersen’s name in the heading.

November Meeting Specimens exhibited

Jenny West : *Leptospermum* 'Mesmer Eyes', *Grevillea quercifolia*, *Pimelea sylvestris*, *Grevillea endlicheriaina*, *Boronia* 'Pink Shadow', *Asterolasia hexapetala*, *Telopea* 'Corrobaree', *Clematis aristata*, *Pimelea nivea*, *Ricinocarpus* 'Bridal Star', *Howittia trilocularis*, *Nothophagus cunninghamii* (foliage), *Olearia speciosa*, *Banksia undata* var. *undata*, *Vertcordia staminosa*, *Stylidium adnata*, *Darwinia* 'Coolamon Pink', *Kunzea montana*, *Senna odorata*

Ruth Marton : *Eucalyptus* 'cream', *E.* 'pink', *Grevillea longistyla*, *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Olearia argophylla*, *Callistemon* –various

Claire Dalman : Mike's teatree - *Leptospermum*?, *Eremophila mackinlayi*, *Grevillea bedgoodiana*, *Calytrix tetragona*, *Pimelea ferruginea*, *Chamelaucium* 'Paddy Pink', *Chrysocephalum apiculatatum* **Bruce Cadoret :** *Banksia* 'Giant Candles', *B. praemorsa*, *Acacia glaucoptera* (Clay Wattle), *Leptospermum lanigerum* (Woolly Teatree), *Kunzea ambigua*, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting)

Gloria Salt : *Leptospermum* 'Mesmer Eyes', *L.* 'Merinda', *Pandora panorama* 'Wonga Gold' (climber), *Melaleuca thymifolia*



Above: Epicormic shoot (but tree not burnt) on (believed to be) *Eucalyptus globulus* ssp. *bicostata*, Victorian Blue Gum

Photo: Fon Ryan

Top-right: *Viminaria juncea* (Golden Spray)

Photo: Bruce Cadoret

Bottom-right: *Olearia tenuifolia*

Photo: Bruce Cadoret



Carpobrotus rossii
Pigface (groundcover)
Photo: Bruce Cadoret

Thanks to those who contributed reports or items for this issue

Deadline for February Newsletter
31st January 2024

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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