



Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – May 2024

**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 8th May 2024 – *2.00 pm*

➔ **Monthly Meeting – Note Time: 2.00 pm**

Guest Speaker – Peter Debicki

‘The Polish Beekeeper’

Peter will tell us about the best Native Plants for Honey Bees and the honey from them.



Wednesday June 12th

2024 *at 2.00 pm* Monthly Meeting

April Guest Speaker Report

**Lesley McKarney and Sam Strong
From Gardens for Wildlife Ballarat**

Gardens for Wildlife is a community-based gardening program that helps people include wildlife-friendly spaces in their gardens. The Ballarat program was set up in 2019, and works with local Traditional Owners with respect to caring for country. All the participants are volunteers. Through sharing ideas, advice, and tips for people’s individual gardens, the aim is to make an impact on biodiversity in the broader community as well.

The four aspects to consider for a wildlife-friendly garden are to provide food, water, shelter and companions for the birds, animals and insects. For example: plants for seeds, fruit, nectar and shelter; ideas for bird baths, ponds and nest boxes.

The Gardens for Wildlife volunteers initially trained a group of garden guides to visit individual gardens with plants and advice. They also attend relevant festivals and events, and have many requests to visit schools, kindergartens and playgroups. They are now beginning to run workshops for the community, to educate groups of people about the requirements of wildlife-friendly gardens. The City of Ballarat’s Indigenous Plants Nursery provides plants to give away at these activities.

For useful links and information:

Website: gardensforwildlifeballarat.com

Facebook: Gardens for Wildlife Ballarat

Email: gardens4wildlifeballarat@gmail.com

Many thanks Lesley and Sam for explaining the program and answering our many questions.



Photo: Bruce Cadoret

What is going on here!?!
Banksia praemorsa – with an interesting and unusual cluster of developing ‘baby’ cones at its base in, Bruce Cadoret’s garden

In my Garden in Ballarat – April – From Bruce Cadoret

It was good to see the rain finally. With lower temperatures and the rain, there was plenty to do in the garden, from replacing dead plants to giving most plants a good trim. There are still a few plants in flower, and the Banksia flowers are forming. Those in flower or forming flowers include: *Banksia ericifolia*, *Banksia* ‘Giant Candles’, *Banksia praemorsa*, *Banksia* ‘Birdsong’, *Banksia spinulosa* (dwarf), *Brachyscome dentata & multida*, *Correa alba & glabra*, *Isotoma axillaris*, *Scaevola sp.*, *Pelargonium australe*, and *Persicaria decipiens* (see photo this page).



CORRECTION

This photo of *Alyogyne huegelii* appeared in the April newsletter, but by mistake, was attributed to Sue Ring. It was grown and photographed by Bruce Cadoret.



← *Persicaria decipiens* (Slender Knotweed) an aquatic plant flowering in Bruce Cadoret's garden.

Slender knotweed (*Persicaria decipiens*) is a sprawling indigenous plant for the margins of your pond. Knotweed is a low growing plant that will spread to 1.5m and form a dense thicket, it is fast growing and a great choice for cleaning up ponds with its effective ability to suck up nutrients from the water. Knotweed can be grown in most pond media such as sand, gravel, pebbles or just anchored in the water.

When used on pond margins knotweed provides an excellent habitat for frogs and

small fish to seek shelter within. Knotweed will grow above and below the water's surface, is generally planted about 10cm underwater, but will only flower above the water. The pretty pink flowers add a great pop of colour, mostly from November to June, however it is common to extend past this. The flowers are frequented by insects such as bees and butterflies.

Guest Speakers and Events.

A program is pending. Suggestions are welcomed.

Follow and contribute to our Facebook page. Lots of interest, information. good pics and posts.

... <https://www.facebook.com/APSBallarat> ...

This newsletter usually has 2, 4, or 6 pages. This has filled all pages of A3 folded in half, or A4 sheets. With the shift to almost all our members receiving the emailed electronic (Word) version, filling 2, 4, or 6 pages is no longer really necessary. If the material available to be used at the time of assembly only fits 3 or 5 pages, the newsletter will be only that number of pages in length. The very few print copies that we print will have the last/back page blank.

Fon Ryan, Newsletter Assembler



Correa glabra growing in the Ballarat garden of Bruce Cadoret

Rock Correa, Native Fuchsia

Correa glabra 'red' is a low mounded, hardy shrub of 1-1.5m in height and width. Its green foliage is adorned with red tubular flowers, making it an ideal choice for low hedging. It is both frost and drought tolerant, as well as tolerant of most soils when well-drained. It can thrive in both full sun and shadier areas.

Thanks to those who contributed reports or items for this issue

Deadline for June Newsletter
29th May 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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