

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – July 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 10th July 2024 – *2.00 pm*

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

Guest Speaker – Phil Rabl

From Ballarat Bonsai Society

Australian Native Plants as Bonsai

Wednesday August 14th 2024 – *2.00 pm*

Monthly Meeting

**PLEASE NOTE: the Annual General Meeting
will be held in conjunction with this meeting.**

Membership Renewals for 2024/25 due now.

Members who have not paid their subscription please see notice in the June 2024 newsletter, or refer to the email (sent in June) by the secretary.

**June Guest Speaker Report - Peter Debicki –
‘The Polish Beekeeper’**

Peter has over 150 hives, which are currently near the Little Desert National Park. As well as producing honey, he contracts hives out to assist pollination, for example, to almond growers in northern Victoria. With 30% of food pollinated by bees, populations of healthy bees are vital.

Update on the Varroa Destructor mite: It's here to stay and now thought to have possibly been in

Australia for at least 18 months before it was first detected. The mite is a parasite of honeybees, it doesn't feed on native bees. It needs a breeding bee colony to feed on the larvae, then reproduce in the larvae. Infestation can spread viruses which cause the death of the whole colony. In September 2023 the official strategy for dealing with Varroa changed from eradication to management.

Various organic and non-organic chemical treatments are being trialled.

Some of Peter's favourite bee-attracting native plants:

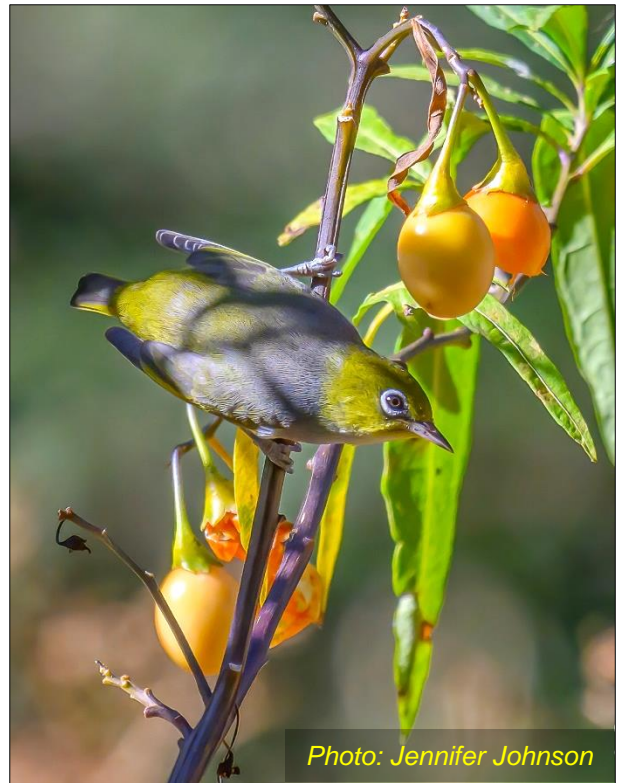
- Hakea - early pollen
- Correa - almost all, but especially bell-shaped flowers - pollen and nectar
- Grevilleas - pollen and nectar
- Desert banksia (and other banksias) - high-protein pollen as well as nectar
- Desert Tea-tree

Peter's honey is available at the Smythes Creek Farm Shop or from his property. ▣

Neutrog Orders

The Spring Neutrog orders have to be in to the Neutrog online store by 2nd August at 8am. They will be delivered to my house a few weeks later. Most of the products have gone up by either a few cents to anything up to about \$2. If anyone has any queries, wants a pricelist, or would like me to order for them if they have not got online access, they are welcome to ring me 53346134 or see me at the meeting.

Ruth Marton.



Silvereye feeding on Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum laciniatum*) fruit. North Gardens Wetlands (near Lake Wendouree)



Photo: Bruce Cadoret

Banksia praemorsa flowering in the garden of Bruce Cadoret on 30th June

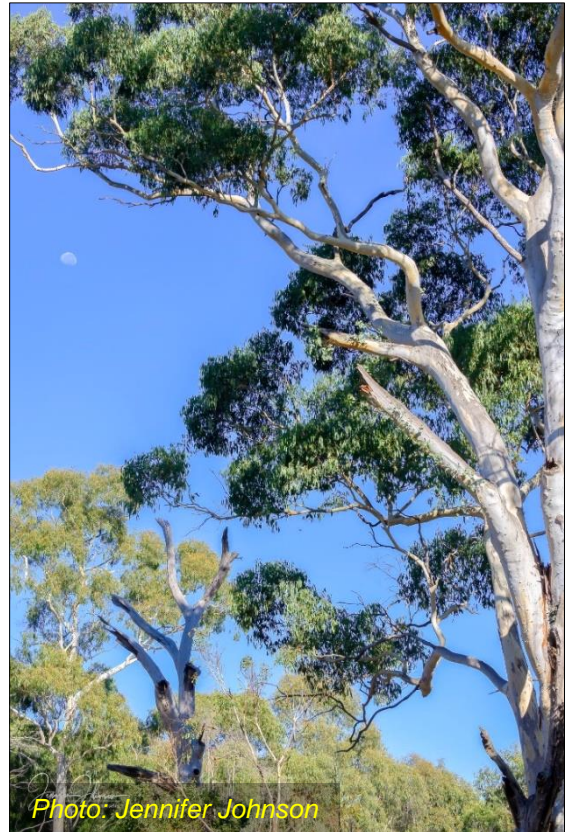


Photo: Jennifer Johnson

Candlebark (*Eucalyptus rubida*) at the Beaufort Reservoir



Photo: Jennifer Johnson

A native milfoil on the bed of the Beaufort Reservoir



Photo: Jennifer Johnson

Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*) North Gardens Wetlands (near Lake Wendouree)

Grevillea 'Coastal Impressive' growing in the garden of Jennifer Johnson. It is a fast growing, medium to tall shrub with fine pendulous foliage. This Queensland-bred grevillea blooms for most of the year, bearing masses of dusty pink coloured flowers which attract a wide range of honey-eating birds. Flowers and foliage last well in floral arrangements. It is ideal for suburban gardens. Mass plant to create a screen or hedge. It will tolerate most soil conditions, and benefits from a fertilizer high in nitrogen in Spring and Mid-Summer. Do not overwater. Prune regularly to promote fresh new growth and maintain desired shape.



Jennifer Johnson
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Thanks to those who contributed reports or items for this issue

**Deadline for August Newsletter
31st July 2024**

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BALLARAT DISTRICT INC. Incorporation No. A0013127M

President: Phyllis Wright M: 0418 303 405
 Secretary: Gloria Salt PO Box 123W Ballarat West 3350
 Treasurer: Ainslie Whyte PO Box 123W Ballarat West 3350
 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 : ballarat@apsvic.org.au PO Box 123W, Ballarat West, Vic 3350

N'LETTER CONTRIBUTIONS: wazizhill@gmail.com

WEBPAGE: <https://apsvic.org.au/aps-ballarat-district/>



FACEBOOK:

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



INSTAGRAM:

<http://www.instagram.com/apsbllaratdistrict>