

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District

Newsletter – April 2019

**MONTHLY MEETINGS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY
at**

**ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE
GILLIES STREET ENTRANCE – GATE 3 or 4**

FURTHER DETAILS SEE INFORMATION BOX

Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
SOCIETY
BALLARAT DISTRICT

COMING EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL –
MONTHLY MEETING at 2.00pm**

Guest Speakers:

Jenny & Peter Sedgwick

For the past 35 years Jenny and Peter Sedgwick have increased biodiversity on their 40-acre rural property which lies between the Yarrowee River and the Enfield State Forest. **Jenny and Peter, in their presentation, will cover several methods used to protect and enhance remnant vegetation, including planting and direct seeding wildlife corridors, and the restoration of a small once-grazed area to native grassland; thus increasing their flora and fauna list.**

(Note: Afternoon Meeting)



**EXCURSION SUNDAY 28th APRIL
at 2pm**

Garden Visit to the home of Phyllis Wright at 24 Gardiner St. Creswick. Directions from Ballarat: North along Midland Highway. Approximately 1km after RACV Resort and Golf Course, take first turn right (east) into White Hills Rd, along to T intersection with Gardiner St. Turn left (north) along Gardiner St. to No. 24 (corner of Orr St). Contact Phyllis on mobile 0418 303 405 if lost. Phyllis will kindly provide Afternoon Tea.



Photo: Fon Ryan

Verticordia 'Wimms Find' (Featherflower) shown by Claire Dalman at the March meeting.

**Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Winter 2019 Native Plant Show
Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd June
Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens**

WEDNESDAY 8th MAY – MONTHLY MEETING at 2.00pm. Guest Speaker – To be advised
NOTE: BUSINESS MEETING PRIOR *at 12.30pm* ➡ (Note: Afternoon Meeting)

MARCH GUEST SPEAKER REPORT: by Ainslie Whyte and Warren Hill

Guest Speaker: Roger Thomas: ‘My Nature Year’

Roger writes the weekly ‘Nature Notes’ column in the Ballarat Courier, and first spoke to our group in 1980. He enjoys all aspects of nature, from birds and plants to moths and frogs. His observations cover nature’s habitat within a radius of about 40 km from Ballarat. This area includes both Wombat and Enfield forests, Mount Beckworth, and a varied range of other habitats.

Roger’s talk cycled through the seasons, giving month-by-month nature highlights. He began in July, the new season for nature. Just a very few of the many highlights included the first golden wattles flowering in the region (July), first spring flowers (August), first native grass (November), Manna gums shedding manna (March) and luminous ghost fungus (June). Peak months for birds are October and November, with 40 or more species of birds in the Wombat Forest. Peak time for wildflowers is mid-October to mid-November, with Enfield Forest having the greatest number of orchid species.

The information for the talk was accompanied by a slideshow of excellent bird and plant photos. During the presentation we were also treated to several very realistic bird and frog calls. Roger explained that he no longer makes Powerful Owl calls in the wild, after a Powerful Owl flew straight at him in response to his call!

Roger enjoys all nature but did admit to some favourites – native grasses, the blue pincushion flower, and the white-browed woodswallows (which fly north against the wind during their seasonal migration). **Many thanks Roger, for sharing your nature year with us through such an informative and entertaining presentation!**

GARDEN CHALLENGES Gladys Hastie

Walking around our garden, the mulch is very dry, dusty and crunchy as the high temperatures and low rainfall prove a challenge. We just received our third delivery of garden water for this year.

We rely completely on rainwater for our house use and our garden tanks are filled from the overflow from our house tanks – no overflow, no water for the garden. All water used in the house goes through our Water Treatment Plant and then ends up on the garden but as there are only two of us there is not a lot of water to spread around.

It is an interesting time, and proves once again how resilient our Australian Native Plants are. We have had a few losses, mainly caused by direct sunlight rather than lack of water. Plants that are shaded, dappled shaded or their roots protected by a ground cover or a larger plant seem to be doing very well and flowering. E.g. Croweas, Brachyscombes, Correas, prostrate Grevilleas and of course the lovely Eremophilas.

The Eremophilas have been a haven for the small birds (New Holland Honeyeaters, White-eared Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills, Silver Eyes and a family of Wrens) and we have been able to watch them feed from our dining room window as they are very regular visitors.

During the New Year we had ten days away and had to prepare our many pot plants and cuttings for the time with no water. Over many years we have collected styrene boxes which we have lined with large black plastic rubbish bags (these boxes and bags have been used over and over again) the pot plants are heavily watered then placed in the boxes and watered again so we end up with about 25mm in the bottom of the box. We do the same with our cuttings and they all survived.

The plants in our garden are given a bottle each when planted so when filled with water it goes directly to the roots and can be filled as needed.

As the very hot days with no rain continues it seems as though it is a fight against nature – do we keep going, or do we say “It is getting all too hard?” ■

SPECIMENS Exhibited at March Meeting – from Liz Bowden

Bruce Cadoret – *Solanum lanciatum* (Kangaroo Apple),
Anigozanthos rufus 'Big Red'

Claire Dalman – *Verticordia* 'Wimms Find' (Feather
Flower), *Grevillea* 'Royal Mantle', *Grevillea* (gold),
Grevillea (Alpine form, yellow), *Grevillea lanigera* 'Mt.
Tamboritha Form', *Eremophila maculata* (yellow),
Eremophila (purple), *Eremophila* (salmon pink),
Adenanthos (rose)

Solanum lanciatum shown by Bruce Cadoret at
the March meeting. This Kangaroo Apple is
quick growing, but can then get a bit straggly. Its
seeds will often germinate readily where they
fall, or sometimes where birds transport them to.



*** OUR GROUP NEEDS A SECRETARY ***

PLEASE VOLUNTEER! All assistance will be given as necessary. You will be doing your bit
to assist the Group. **THANK YOU!**

GUEST SPEAKERS AND EXCURSIONS

All and any suggestions are welcome. Mention ideas via meetings, members, committee. Thank You.

FOR THE DIARY:

OUR FLOWER SHOWS for 2019 are June 22nd and 23rd and October 26th and 27th

Posters (A4) and leaflets (A6) for the Winter Plant Show will be available at the April Meeting

SATURDAY 21ST APRIL
APS GEELONG PLANT SALE
This popular annual Plant Sale
comes at an ideal Autumn planting-
out time.

Open from 8-30am to 4-00pm.
See flyer to the right for full details.

**Bill & Sue will be there with APS
Vic Books.**

APS Ballarat District members have
enjoyed this event in previous years, it
should prove the same again.

**Members may wish to discuss some
car pooling at the coming meeting.**

**AUSTRALIAN
PLANT SALE**

SAT 27TH APRIL 2019, 8:30^{AM} – 4:00^{PM}

A large variety of native plants provided
by specialist native nurseries for sale.

- Open garden
- Book sales
- BBQ & refreshments
- Kids activities

Adults \$2 each,
Children
free!

WIRAWILLA, 40 LOVELY BANKS RD,
LOVELY BANKS

AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
Geelong

✉ APSGEELONG@GMAIL.COM 🌐 WWW.APSGEELONG.ORG



Photo: Fon Ryan

Anigozanthos rufus 'Big Red' shown by Bruce Cadoret at the March meeting.

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

Deadline for May Newsletter: 27th April 2019



AFTERNOON TEA or SUPPER

Members please bring a plate of something to share

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BALLARAT DISTRICT INC. Incorporation No. A0013127M

President: Phyllis Wright P: 5345 2514, M: 0418 303 405
Secretary: Position vacant PO Box 123W Ballarat West 3350
Treasurer: Liz Bowden 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 STREET ENTRANCE – GATE 3 (or from Wendouree Parade, **Afternoon Meetings only**)

CORRESPONDENCE

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

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