

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District

Newsletter – December 2018

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 12th DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS SOCIAL GATHERING – 6.30PM

There will be no General Meeting on the 12th December as it is a social night for our members to mingle, talk and eat. Gardens, plants and fertilizer may be discussed.

Please bring your preferred food for the BBQ and also please supply a salad or a sweet to share. **Please note the earlier time of 6-30pm.**

It would be nice to see as many members as possible to join in the celebrations.



Banksia coccinea (an orange form), and below, *Calytrix leschenaultii*, seen by Ruth and Frank Marton on their WA trip, see report on page 4.
Photos: Ruth Marton

➔ **PLEASE NOTE – NO MEETING in
JANUARY**

WEDNESDAY 13th FEBRUARY – MONTHLY MEETING at 7-30pm

**Guest Speaker: Fon Ryan: ‘A
Celebration of Digital Photography’**

Fon will show us the specimen photographs that appeared in the newsletter in 2018, and a range of other shots as well, to celebrate Digital Photography.

SUNDAY 17th FEBRUARY – EXCURSION

**Annual Bird and Plant Walk with
Roger Thomas**

Excursion somewhere in the Ballarat area. 9:00am to 11:45am. Full details and directions in the February newsletter.



GUEST SPEAKER REPORT: by Ainslie Whyte

Guest Speaker: Jenny West

APS Ballarat District member Jenny West was the entertaining and informative speaker at the November meeting. Jenny's topic was "Pollination", the transfer of pollen from the (male) anthers of a plant to the (female) stigma of a plant. Her talk covered some of the roles played in the pollination process by the plants themselves, and by a variety of external pollinators. Pollination can be carried out by wind, water, insects, birds, and mammals such as bats and honey possums.

Some examples of different types of pollination:

- Self-pollination – uses pollen from the same flower, or from a different flower on the same plant. These plants have a good success rate as pollinators, rely less on external pollinators, and have no diversity of genes.
- Cross-pollination – pollen is taken to a flower on a different plant of the same species. Increases genetic diversity but requires greater pollen production.
- Hybrids – occur when pollen is transferred between plants of 2 different species.
- Lures – plants have various ways of attracting external pollinators. Some of these include:
 - Nectar – contained in the nectaries near the ovaries.
 - Protein in the pollen – food source for the pollinator
 - Fragrance – strong smells attract beetles and flies, sweet smells lure bees and butterflies.
 - Colour – certain insects and birds are attracted to particular colours.
 - Shapes of flowers may attract a certain pollinator – bird-attracting flowers are often bell-shaped, for example eremophilas.
- Night-smelling flowers can attract moths, night-emerging insects and bats.

Since this talk, I've found myself peering closely at any small creature on my flowering plants and googling questions such as "Are ladybirds pollinators?" (they are) and "Are dragonflies pollinators?" (they are). **Thanks, Jenny, for increasing our awareness of this process in our own gardens.**

SECRETARY RESIGNATION

At the November meeting a letter of resignation was received from Gloria Salt, resigning from the society due to a number of things which she did not detail. As all members are aware, no group can function without a secretary. There were no nominations or volunteers at the meeting for this position, so the executive is asking each of you to consider putting yourselves forward. It is not difficult, and Gloria kept the bookwork immaculate and up to date. There is nothing left to be done. I am happy to continue my position as Assistant Secretary and will offer any help I can.

Ruth Marton – Assistant Secretary.

HASTIE LUNCHEON & GARDEN VISIT See story page 3

Pictures below: The excellent spread, the daisies, and the Wollemi Pine.

Photographs: Claire Dalman



SPECIMENS EXHIBITED AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Jenny West – *Leptospermum* 'Mesmer Eyes', *Hypocalymma angustifolium*, *Banksia polycephala*, *Grevillea* 'Bonfire', *Micromyrtus ciliata*, *Isopogon formosus*

Ian Lynch – *Wahlenbergia stricta* 'Blue Mist', *Goodenia ovata* 'Gold Cover', *Lambertia inermis*

Mike Healy – *Leptospermum* sp. (hot pink flowers), *Grevillea* sp. (grafted), *Chamelaucium uncinatum*, *Callistemon* sp. (white)

Ruth Marton – *Alyogyne huegelii*, *Grevillea johnsonii*, *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Callistemon* 'Western Glory', *Callistemon salignus*, *Callistemon* sp. (x3), *Isopogon latifolius*, *Callistemon pallidus*

Claire Dalman – unknown species of purple daisy

Banksia polycephala shown by Jenny West. These flowers are only 3cm across. (Formerly a *Dryandra*.)

Grevillea 'Bonfire' shown by Jenny West

Chamelaucium uncinatum shown by Mike Healy

Photos: Fon Ryan



ELAINE LUNCHEON by Rosemary Barr

On Saturday 17th November 16 members of APS Ballarat District enjoyed a wonderful lunch, great company and a leisurely meander around Gladys and John Hastie's garden at Elaine. The weather was kind to us and we all enjoyed seeing the variety and great condition of the native plants throughout the garden and Gladys and John shared some of their vast knowledge with us.

The luncheon was greatly appreciated by us all and included local lamb and produce from local sources as well as very interesting bush tucker ingredients. A variety of about five different desserts including a delicious rhubarb inspired dish. Thank you to Gladys and John for their hospitality and hard work which made our day such a delight.

On the way home, I visited the pop-up shop Saltbush Kitchen at Buninyong and had a great chat with Brigid Corcoran who gave a very interesting talk on Bush Tucker Ingredients to our group last year at the M.A.D.E. She sends her regards to everyone at our group. Her pop-up shop is well worth a visit, especially with Christmas shopping on everyone's agenda.



One of the hundreds of specimens exhibited at the 2018 Spring Show
Grevillea georgiana



WILDFLOWER TRIP TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA by Ruth Marton

Frank and I recently did a week-long tour to SW WA looking at the wildflowers. There was not a lot on the internet when I was researching the pros and cons of various tours, so we decided to take the advice of John Mildren, who is known to many members as a keen naturalist. He had been on more than one trip with Luxury Outback Tours, a small tour company based in Perth. So, we booked with them and were not disappointed. The standard of transport, accommodation and food was very good as well as the knowledge of the guide, Sylvia. The biggest advantage was that she knew where to take us to little public reserves and small country road verges which we would never have found or known about by ourselves.

The first day we drove from Perth to Hyden, stopping at a few places along the way, including Narrogin reserve, an area near Harrismith airport and Corrigin. A highlight for me was the *Calytrix leschenaultii*, a little plant with very bright blue and purple flowers.

The next day, after a look at the Hyden Wave Rock, we were off to Esperance looking at road verges full of wildflowers, Lake King, Frank Hann National Park and Cascade along the way. Highlights were the variety of grevilleas with very large flowers in shades of orange, pink, white, and blackish. We also saw our first smokebushes, which I think are just magic, and also pink, white, yellow and pink and white variegated verticordias.

We spent two nights in Esperance with the intervening day going into Cape Arid and Cape Le Grand National Parks. These are coastal parks with beautiful white fine sandy beaches and magnificent seaside scenery. We followed the coast west the next day, staying in Hopetoun and the following night Bremer Bay, after travelling through the Fitzgerald River National Park where the beautiful *Pimelea physodes* was in full flower. Then it was on to Albany where we toured a few of the tourist attractions, stayed the night, and back to Perth for the end of the trip.

Conospermum brownii
photographed by
Ruth Marton
on their recent
wildflowers tour
to south western WA.



May all members have a pleasant Christmas Holiday Period and a Happy New Year
No meeting in January, we resume in February

APS Ballarat District Spring 2018 Show

A few of the many hundreds of specimens from members' gardens that were exhibited.

Photos: Fon Ryan



Anigozanthos 'Bush Pearl'

Bush Pearl Kangaroo Paw



Kunzea ericifolia

Spearwood



Isopogon latifolius

This specimen was 11cm across,
tip to tip



Species or cultivar name
of this pretty
Leptospermum was unknown



This unusual *Eucalyptus botryoides* leaf was found fallen and dried up under the tree. Obviously two developing leaves have become joined at some early stage of development, but what caused that to happen? Photo: Fon Ryan

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

Deadline for February Newsletter: 2nd February 2019



AFTERNOON TEA or SUPPER

Members please bring a plate of something to share

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 STREET ENTRANCE – GATE 3 (or from Wendouree Parade, **Afternoon Meetings only**)

CORRESPONDENCE

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

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