

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District

Newsletter – May 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



Eremophila cuneifolia shown by Jenny West at the April meeting. The large pale-coloured sepals make for an impressive specimen. Photo: Fon Ryan

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 8th MAY 2019 – MONTHLY MEETING *at 2.00pm (Afternoon Meeting) *

Guest Speaker: Peter Broughton

Peter has a plant nursery at Heathcote. He will bring along his long experience with plants, his garden and his own nursery.

We look forward to him sharing his love of native plants and knowledge of the nursery industry.

➔ **(Note: Afternoon Meeting)**

➔ **Also Please Note: BUSINESS MEETING PRIOR *at 12.30pm***

WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE – MONTHLY MEETING *at 2.00pm (Afternoon Meeting) *
Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BALLARAT DISTRICT
WINTER 2019 NATIVE PLANT SHOW

Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd June 2019: 10.30am to 3.30pm

Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

Members please note: Set Up from 11am Friday 21st. Please Volunteer where you can on any of the 3 days. Thank you.

Also please promote the Show wherever possible. Flyers are available. All and any publicity will benefit. Thanks again.

*** 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, executive. Thank you.

**Annual membership renewal time is approaching.
Watch out for the arrival of your renewal form.**

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc. NATIVE PLANT SALE.

At St. Andrew's Uniting Church Bacchus Marsh

SAT 11th MAY 2019. 9am to 1pm

Featuring Hakeas, dwarf Eucalyptus, Eremophilas

Info: apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER REPORT: by Claire Dalman

Guest Speakers: Jenny & Peter Sedgwick

We were treated to a most interesting and well-prepared presentation titled Home and Habitat by team Sedgwick – Jenny and Peter. Both have excellent knowledge about a broad spectrum of natural history and the photographic skills to share this skilfully.

They live at Grenville on almost 40 acres with Enfield forest nearby and the Yarrowee River not far from their property. Jenny has known this land all her life as it was family farmland. We were shown location maps and aerial pictures taken decades apart to show progress and change to dams, tree lines, fences, plantings and regeneration – some naturally occurring. They are well aware of the wisdom of aiding the emergence of rich biodiversity and home provision for many species to strengthen the interdependence of living things.

Jenny and Peter are committed to sourcing local plants and seeds. They know the provenance of seeds and plants. Some tube stock, some direct seeding, some natural regeneration, but all local, appropriate plants. Old trees with necessary hollows are retained, a large sugar gum woodlot has been planted, wide borders have been planted with crown, shrubs and ground level plants all planned to provide varied habitats for insets, birds and animals such as echidnas.

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SPECIMENS Exhibited at April Meeting:

Jenny West – *Eremophila cuneifolia* (small leaf form), *Eremophila muelleriana*, *Hibiscus geranioides*

John Hastie – *Correa alba*, *Correa glabra*, *Grevillea lanigera*, *Hibiscus geranioides*, *Melaluca elliptica*, *Ixodia achillaeoides* (Mountain Daisy), *Eremophila bignoniiflora* x *polyclada*



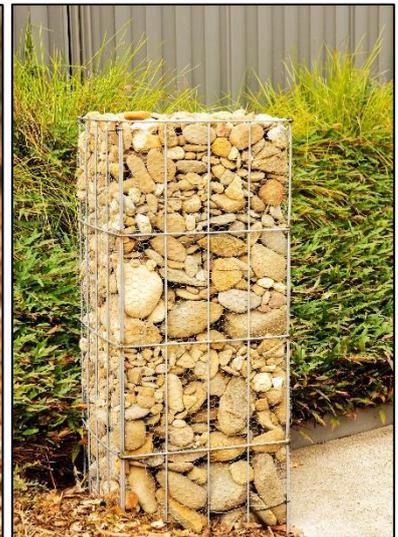
Ixodia achillaeoides (Mountain Daisy) shown by John Hastie. These tiny daisy flowers are only 4-5mm across. Photo: Fon Ryan



Grevillea lanigera shown by John Hastie. Photo: Fon Ryan



Pimelea nivea growing in a wood-chip-topped bed out the front of Phyllis Wright's home. Photo: Fon Ryan



The (obligatory?) modern, non-plant, garden component in the garden of Phyllis Wright. A pair of these form the entrance to her native garden. Photo: Fon Ryan

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER REPORT

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Preferred plants include snow gums (some local remnant trees in and around Grenville) banksias, messmate, narrow-leaved peppermint, blackwoods, black wattles, hedge wattle, golden wattle, silver wattle, ironbarks, allocasuarina, river bottlebrush, woolly tea tree, silky tea tree, tree violets, hakea and hop bushes. They have included water plantings in and around dams, ensuring their 'new' dam, has clear edges to allow water birds safe flight access. There are rushes which are round, sedges which have edges, juncus, icecream for ducks (water ribbons) and other water plants.

Closer to the house is an area of grassland (a very restricted vegetation class) which has never been 'good' land, so was not fertilised or used. This now rewards Jenny and Peter with a lovely range of wildflowers. We were shown beautiful photos of kangaroo and wallaby grasses, speargrass, rice flowers, goodenias, early Nancy, trigger plants, everlasting daisies, sundews, platylobium, chocolate lilies, bulbine lilies, milkmaids and blue pincushions which flower later in the season signalling the end of the spring wildflowers. Orchids include greenhoods, sun orchids, golden moths, tiger and leek orchids.

They were pleased to find an occurrence of *Dianella amoena* which Roger Thomas has recently found in the Victoria Park grassland. This has pale anthers, not the black ones of the usual *revoluta* or black-anther flax lily. They also have a tree which is likely to be a hybrid of snow gum and narrow leaved peppermint. Their flowering seasons overlap and both are local. A photo of a leaf revealed the usual parallel veins of the snowgum to be somewhat disguised by the fan veins of the peppermint.

Back to the title of homes and habitats. Jenny and Peter take excellent photos and we were delighted to see images of natural interaction. Tawny frogmouths on a rough scentbark eucalyptus, owl nightjar in an old hollow, mistletoe bird in mistletoe, Jackie winter (declining) in its preferred messy, sticky trees, ducks on a dam, wasps and ants on silky tea tree which then attack crop-damaging cockchafers, peregrine falcon using an old dead stag to rest, ibis, dusky woodswallows, Eastern spinebills, flame robin, spotted pardalote, thornbills, grey fantails, white-browed scrubwrens and more.

Of course, these birds need a range of foods and we were shown insect images, attracted by flowers, seeds and other insects. We saw butterflies, damsel flies, dragon flies, blue banded bees and a beautiful picture of a really odd, unidentified insect which Jenny and Peter have named the scared weird little guy. A bee was pictured frozen, waiting for the sun to thaw it out.

Birds give great joy to our presenters and they have numerous bird baths at a variety of locations, so we saw one bath with about eight New Holland honeyeaters and a single yellow-faced one. Another bath had one bird loudly complaining to a more-timid drinker.

There is a garden around the house, mostly native and still planted with a blend to provide yet more habitat and homes.

Jenny and Peter are a great team who share a passion for the natural environment and spend a great deal of energy, time, effort and commitment to recording, improving, restoring, repairing and photographing the treasures around us. This time the focus was local and we thank them for being prepared to share their discoveries and knowledge so enjoyably. ■

Nineteen members and visitors enjoyed a pleasant garden visit and afternoon tea at the home of member Phyllis Wright at Creswick. Photos: Fon Ryan



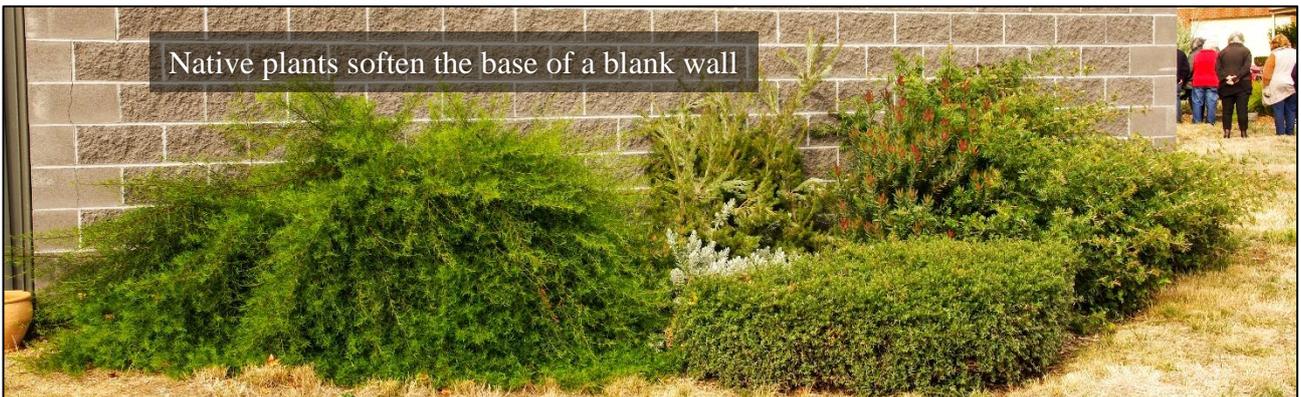
A line of *Lomandra* overhangs a long dense bed of (prostrate) *Grevillea* 'Royal Mantle'. They nicely fill the space between the drive and the boundary fence.



Grevillea 'Goldfever'



Banksia ericifolia



Native plants soften the base of a blank wall



An Autumn view over part of Phyllis Wright's native garden at Creswick. Our president built it from scratch, commencing five years ago. Photo: Fon Ryan

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

Deadline for June Newsletter: 29th May 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

aps_ballarat@yahoo.com.au
 PO Box 123W, Ballarat West, Vic 3350
WEB: Australian Plants Society Victoria (APS Vic): www.apsvic.org.au

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

wazizhill@gmail.com