



Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
SOCIETY
BALLARAT DISTRICT

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – December 2022

**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 14th DECEMBER 2022 –
6.00PM – CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

➔ **NOTE: Evening Gathering at 6.00pm** ←
**Our December Meeting will be our End of
Year/Christmas Gathering.**

We invite all members to join in, celebrate our
Group, and have dinner together.
The Group will provide meat. Members are
requested to bring a salad or sweet, and b.y.o
drink.

➔ **APS BALLARAT CHRISTMAS DINNER
NUMBERS FOR CATERING.**

Please let Gladys Hastie know **by Friday 9th
December** if you will be attending this event.
**Reply to Gladys via email address:
johnhastie37@bigpond.com – or phone on:
5341 5567.**

**PLEASE NOTE –
NO MEETING in JANUARY**

**WEDNESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2023
MONTHLY MEETING at 7-30pm**

**Guest Speaker: Fon Ryan:
'A Celebration of Digital Photography'**

Fon will show us some of the specimen
photographs from the last three years, and a range
of other shots as well, to celebrate Digital
Photography.



Roger Thomas is quietly retiring from conducting
our Annual, February, Bird and Plant Walks.
He will not be leading an excursion in February
2023. We thank Roger very much for these 25
excursions, conducted every year, without a miss,
since 1998.



Photo: Fon Ryan

Another Lemon-scented Gum with unusual shaping

The October newsletter (Photo at Cobram, Fon
Ryan) and November (Photo in Howard Street
Ballarat, Warren Hill) featured photographs of
Corymbia citriodora, Lemon-scented Gum, with
unusual spiralling bark patterns, reflecting the shape
of the underlying wood.

Corymbia citriodora is renowned for exaggerated
growth. This specimen, photographed in Moama,
NSW, in 2008, has a narrow-angle fork in its trunk.

Instead of having a small 'branch-bark-ridge'
projecting from each side of the twin-branch union, a
large projecting flap has grown out from each side.
When viewed with the twin trunks one behind the
other, these projecting flaps looked like ears.

May all members have a pleasant Christmas & Holiday Period



&
A Happy New Year



November Guest Speaker Report – Ainslie Whyte

Russell Wait – Eremophila

Russell's talk was illustrated with a comprehensive set of photos of eremophilas in their native habitat, taken during the most recent of his regular interstate exploring trips. We were treated to a fascinating variety of flower (and foliage) colours, shapes and growth habits, mostly amongst arid, stony and rocky landscapes. This was accompanied by a commentary on the various characteristics of each plant. Russell has obviously amassed an encyclopaedic amount of eremophila knowledge, and immediately his presentation finished he was surrounded by keen eremophila growers in the group with extra questions.

Russell has a license to collect plant material, some of which is passed on to the Herbarium and various Study Groups, and some used for his own work with propagation and cultivation. He has discovered a number of new species on his trips over the years, one of which has been named *Eremophila waitii*.

Russell's knowledge can be accessed in his latest book 'Growing Eremophila', which is in our Group Library, and also available for sale through the group.

ABC's Gardening Australia showed an interview with Russell on his property on November 18 (it can be seen online by Googling 'Russell Wait Gardening Australia') □

Specimens Exhibited at the November Meeting

Claire Dalman: *Leptospermum sp.*

Bruce Cadoret: *Banksia ericifolia* (heath-leaved banksia), *Pelargonium australe* (native storksbill flower), *Alyogyne huegelii* 'West Coast Gem', *Boronia heterophylla* 'Just Margaret', *Stellaria pungens* (prickly starwort) □

The Garden at Elaine in November

Some of the wattles, such as *Acacia glaucoptera* and *A. verticillata* still have flowers but most are now producing seed pods. The exception is *A. provincialis* which has just started to flower.

The mint bushes are fairly prominent in the garden with flower colours ranging from white to deep red and purple (*Prostanthera cuneata*, Alpine Mint Bush and *P. gilesii* have white flowers, *P. calycina*, deep red, *P. phecifolia*, purple).

There are many 'bottle brushes', including the purple flowered *Melaleuca wilsonii*, the cream *M. squarosa*, and *Kunzia*s. *Kunzia baxteri*, both red and pink, and the white *Kunzia ambigua*. Among the Callistemons are the red-flowered 'Slim' (which is far from slim) and 'Endeavour', and the cream flowered *C. citrinus*.

The tea trees are just about in full bloom. *Leptospermum rotundifolium* has fairly large pink and white flowers, *L. spectabile*, bright pink ones.

The chamelaucium/verticordia cross 'Paddy's Pink' is well covered with blooms. The Walpole Wax cultivar 'Sweet Rosie' is also doing well.

The flax lilies, *Dianella revoluta*, have almost finished flowering and are now forming berries which will eventually turn blue.

The ground cover Austral Bugle, *Ajuga australis*, is flowering better than usual, perhaps because of the extra water.

Many of the early flowerers have now been pruned so some parts of the garden are a little dull. □



TEN YEAR FLASHBACK

From the December 2012 newsletter
Three of many specimens that were shown at
the November meeting

Above:

Grevillea longistyla shown by Mike Healy.

Picture: Fon Ryan

Top Right:

Grevillea Georgiana (red form) shown by
Neville Collier. This was a striking upright
flower at the ready-to-open stage that drew
some admiring comments.

Picture: Fon Ryan

Bottom Right:

Pimelia nivea shown by John Hastie.
Clear-white flowers with very glossy, very dark-
green leaves.

Picture: Fon Ryan

At the time these specimen photographs were
seen in black & white only.
For this flashback, the colour has been 'turned
back on'.

The newsletter, in 2012, was printed in black &
white, had an address box on the back page,
and was mailed to all members.





Photo: Jennifer Johnson

Grevillea 'Bigfoot' photographed in the garden of Jennifer Johnson
in Ballarat in August 2022

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

Deadline for February Newsletter
25th January 2023

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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WEB: (APS Vic): www.apsvic.org.au Then go to APS Ballarat District page



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