



Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – February 2023

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 8th FEBRUARY 2023

MONTHLY MEETING

→ NOTE: Evening 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.

Sunday 12th February 2023 at 1-00pm

Visit Gladys’ & John’s Garden at Elaine

WEDNESDAY 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Monthly Meeting. Speaker to be confirmed

Saturday 11th March 2023

A walk in the Woookarung Regional Park
(www.focc.asn.au) More details later



Corymbia ficifolia, Western Australian Flowering Gum, flower here in February. There is a smattering of these often-spectacular trees in Ballarat and district. Keep an eye out for them, remembering though, that they usually only flower every second year. Flower colour varies between red and orange. The similar trees that flower from late February with pink or cream/white flowers are *Corymbia calophylla*.



Local form of *Correa reflexa* photographed by Jennifer Johnson growing on private property in Hepburn in late June 2022.

Information on website of

‘Wombat Native Plants’ nursery:

“An open-to-dense shrub, typically under 1m, but sometimes more. Local form has leaves with conspicuous glands and hairs on upper surface. Flowers pendulous green bells (red flowering forms not naturally occurring in Hepburn Shire). Scattered occurrences from Eganstown, Basalt, Hepburn Springs, through to Porcupine Ridge. Also occurs in Clunes. Largely absent in most of the Wombat Forest, although becomes more widespread in the Blackwood area and within the Lerderberg Forest.”

APS Ballarat District

Program 2023

This is an outline of activities for the year, including Shows of other reasonably-close Groups. Gladys has put together this programme. Thank you, Gladys!

Please read this, and if you can suggest guest speakers, activities or places to visit please let us know at a meeting, by e-mail or telephone.

8 February 7.30pm. General Meeting

Guest Speaker, Fon Ryan, A Celebration of Digital Photography

12 February 1.00pm. Visit to Gladys' and John's Garden at Elaine

8 March 7.30pm General Meeting. Guest Speaker, to be confirmed

11 March (Saturday) A walk in the Woookarung Regional Park, www.focc.asn.au, More details later

1 April (Saturday) APS Geelong Native Plant Sale 8.30am – 4.00pm. 'Wirra Willa' Lovely Banks

12 April 2.00pm. General Meeting. Guest Speaker, Jeff Rootes, Little Creeks

15 April (Saturday) APS Heathcote Plant and Flower Show

Mechanics Institute, 121 High Street, Heathcote

10 May 2.00pm. General Meeting. Guest Speaker, to be confirmed

13 May (Saturday) APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale 9.00am-1.00pm

St. Andrew's Uniting Church. To be confirmed

14 June 2.00pm General Meeting. Guest Speaker, Nicky Zanen, topic to be advised

23 June (Friday) 11.00am APS Ballarat District. Winter Flower Show Set-up

24 (Saturday) and 25 (Sunday) June APS Ballarat District Winter Flower Show 10.00am - 4.00pm

12 Jul 2.00pm General Meeting. Guest Speaker, Miriam Ford, Prostantheras (Mim's Mints)

9 Aug 2.00pm Annual General Meeting

13 Sept General Meeting 2.00pm. Guest Speaker to be advised

16 and 17 Sept Angair Wild Flower Show (admin@angair.org.au)

23 and 24 Sep. Bendigo Flower Show. Victory College, Kairn Road, Strathdale (Bendigo)

23 and 24 Sep. APS Grampians host APS Vic September COM. To be confirmed

30 Sep and 1 Oct APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show

11 Oct General Meeting 7.30pm. Flower Show discussion and details

20 (Friday) Oct. APS Ballarat. Spring Flower Show Set-up 11.00am

21 (Saturday) and 22 (Sunday) Oct. APS Ballarat. Spring Flower Show 10.00am – 4.00pm

8 Nov. General Meeting 7.30pm. Guest Speaker to be advised

13 Dec. APS Ballarat, Christmas Break-up 6.00pm

The Garden at Elaine – December and January

Two genera dominate the garden at the present time, (Melaleuca and Prostanthera). The larger-flowered melaleucas are supplying the honey-eaters with plenty of food. Among these plants are *M. laterita* (Robin Red Breast Bush), *M. ellipticata* (Granite Honey Myrtle), *M. thymifolia* and *M. pulchella* (Claw Flower). The smaller-flowered plants do not show any evidence of feeding by the birds. These plants include *M. linearifolia* (Claret Tops), *M. decussata* (Totem Poles) and *M. stypheloides* (Prickly Paperbark).

Among the prostantheras the white flowered Victorian Christmas Bush, *Prostanthera lassianthos*, was in bloom right on Christmas, but the pink flowered form only flowered in the new year. Other mint bushes in flower include the red-flowered *Prostanthera calycina*, *P. rhombea* with pink blooms, *P. saxicola* 'Pigeon Blue', and two white-flowered plants, *P. cuneata*, the Alpine Mint Bush and a cultivar 'Poorina Ballerina'.

Other species in bloom are *Lambertia orbifolia*, *Halgania pressii*, *Hibberia scandens*, *Viminaria juncea* (Golden Spray or Native Broom) *Goodenia varia*, *Goodenia ovata* and *Pandorea jasminoides* (Bower of Beauty). *Pandorea pandorina* flowered early in December.

Many of the smaller, more-recently-planted eremophillas have one or two blooms. The well-established *Eremophilla nivea* hybrid is covered with pale blue flowers.

We have lost a few mature shrubs. Some of these when the soil was very wet (Rainfall was 50% higher than average last year). Others have died as the soil has dried in the less than usual rain in January. The garden is only watered by rain; there is no piped water supply here. New plants are watered in their first year only.

The Common Apple Berry *Billardiera scandens* flowered early December; now it has green fruit, Snotty-Gobbles, which will be ripe in a few weeks.

The pink *Alyogyne huegelii* is a mass of flowers but the white one has only two or three. The low growing sub-species *wrayae* has purple flowers that last longer than the usual ones.

Two of the *Banksia marginata* have well advanced buds. One, grown from local seed about ten years ago, has started to set seed. ■

This photo sent in by Sue Ring with the questions:

Can anyone identify this plant in flower?

And what is the seed head next to it?





Photography: Jennifer Johnson

Xerochrysum bracteatum 'Dargan Hill Monarch'

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

Deadline for March Newsletter
22nd February 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**)

CORRESPONDENCE _____: aps_ballarat@yahoo.com.au PO Box 123W, Ballarat West, Vic 3350

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



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