



Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – March 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 MARCH 2023

→ **MONTHLY MEETING**
CANCELLED ←

NOTE: March Meeting cancelled due to the Robert Clarke Centre being unavailable.

SATURDAY 18th MARCH 2023 – Activity
A walk in the Woookarung Regional Park
Members who are interested in the walk at Lake Esmond and Woookarung Regional Park are advised there will be no organised walk. Please go at your leisure and enjoy the peace and quiet of the area with no time restrictions. Enjoy.
(www.focc.asn.au)

APS Geelong Native Plant Sale – Sat April 1st – 8.30am-4.00pm – ‘Wirra Willa’ Lovely Banks

Wednesday 12th April, 2023. Monthly Meeting at 2pm (Note: Afternoon Meeting)
Further details in next newsletter.

The Garden at Elaine in February

Despite the lack of rain for most of January and February there are some plants in bloom.



Eremophila hygrophana, beautifully backlit in this photograph by Jennifer Johnson, taken in late December 2022. It occurs in WA and SA.

Alyogyne hakeoifolia, the yellow form, is covered in blooms as is the pink *A. huegelii*. The related *Hibiscus geranioides* has a few pink flowers.

Many of the eremophilas are flowering. The most prolific are *Eremophila weldii* with small, blue flowers and *E. polyclada* with 2cm white flowers.

Other plants in flower include *Baekkea linifolia* (Swamp Heath Myrtle), *Westringea glabra*, *Myoporum acuminatum*, croweas and pandoreas.

The CSIRO-produced hybrid native lime, ‘Red Centre Line’, is starting to set fruit. The finger lime, *Citrus australasica*, flowered, but has not set fruit.

As most plants have finished flowering many have had their annual prune, others will be cut back in the next few weeks.

February Meeting

Guest Speaker Report

Fon Ryan – ‘A Celebration of Digital Photography’

Fon displayed an excellent ‘picture’ show.

He said he would only go into photographic details as required. However, he gave the group a good insight into many aspects and tips to produce good photos.

Fon displayed photos of plant specimens, members photos, trees, insects, birds, clouds, sunsets, canola crops, district vistas, even fireworks.

We enjoyed and appreciated Fon’s presentation and thank him very much. ▣

February Garden Visit

The Hasties showed us around their great Garden. We are always impressed that in a relatively-small area they manage such a large quantity of plants and a large variety of interesting species.

They were very informative and explained the garden and plants comprehensively. They also gave growing hints and tips, and additionally offered some of their propagated plants.

They were very hospitable, including an enjoyable and tasty afternoon tea. We enjoyed it all.

Thank you, John and Gladys. ▣

February Meeting Specimens exhibited

The Hasties; *Crowea exalata rubra* ‘Southern Stars’, *Eremophila bignonifolia x polyclada*, *E. colorhabdos*, *E. nivea x christophori*, *E. weldii*, *Melaleuca nesophila* ‘Little Nessie’, *M. thymifolia*, *Myoporum acuminatum*, *Prostanthera* ‘Poorinda Ballerina’, *Westringia glabra*, *W.* ‘Jarvis Gem’

The Martons; *Austromyrtus dulcis*, *A. tenuifolia*, *A.* ‘Cooper Tops’, *Eucalyptus lansdowneana*, *Grevillea* ‘Peaches and Cream’, *G. plurijuga*, *Melaleuca nespophila*, *M. trichophylla*, *Scaveola sp.* (purple, white) ▣

Last Month:

This photo was sent in by Sue Ring with the questions:

Can anyone identify this plant in flower?

And what is the seed head next to it?

Three Members Replied:

Liz Charleson, Jennifer Johnson & Betty McGuinness between them, provided the following information (and called both plants introduced invasive weeds):

The grass on the left in the picture is Quaking grass (*Briza maxima*) a bad bushland grass weed.

Pink flower on the right looks like Common Centaury (*Centuarium erythraea*) – a weed. However, it can be sometimes confused with *Schenkia australis* (which is a native). *Schenkia australis* is biennial and has a prominent basal leaf rosette at flowering. Flowers are carried on paired branches. Centaury was brought here as a medicinal herb apparently.



We want photographs for the newsletter!

Would members please consider taking a photo or more for this newsletter. It can be close-ups, medium views, a full plant, or a scene/vista with native plants in it.

Camera photos are best if you have one, but most phones also take good photographs.

When sending them to the editor (email on the back page) send them as JPEGs (that's the file-type they are usually taken as).

In all cases, please send them via email, not text/sms (on a phone). No need to crop or edit photos, and don't compress or re-size them.

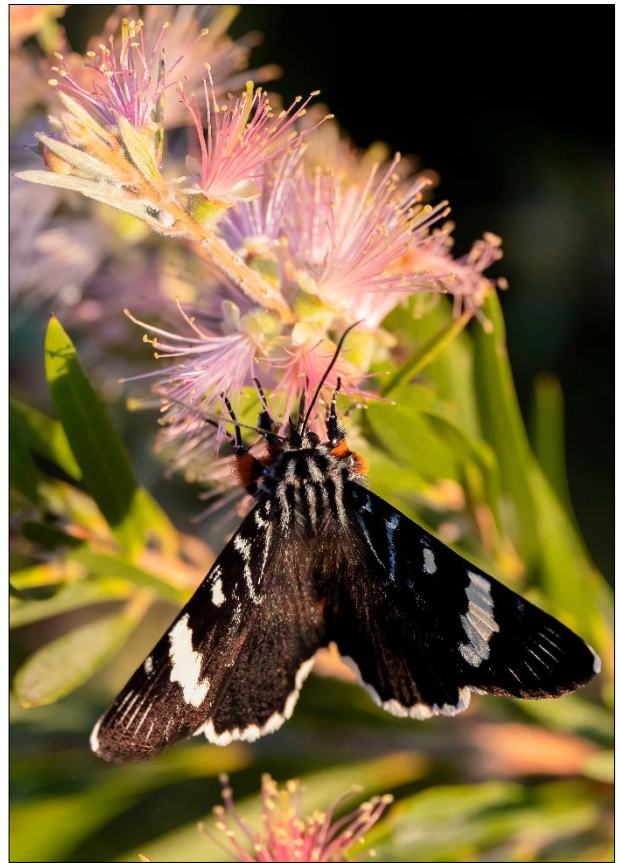
You could take a specimen or two home from a meeting and photograph them with a black, dark colour or out-of-focus background. And details or a line or two if possible. ■



**TEN YEAR FLASHBACK
From the Feb 2013 newsletter**

This beautifully-symmetrical lime-green flower of *Banksia attenuata* was photographed growing in a Ballarat garden in December 2012.

Photo: Fon Ryan



This bottlebrush is commonly called *Callistemon* 'Injune', because it comes from the town, Injune, in Queensland.

But an internet search can find the 'Injune' with and without the inverted commas, the plant called a *Callistemon* hybrid, and one reference stated its scientific name is *Callistemon sp.* Injune.

Yet another said this: *Callistemon quercina* (formerly known as 'Injune'). A gracefully weeping *Callistemon* with small, grey-green leaves and pale pink flowers that fade to white. From a single localised area within inland Queensland around the towns of Injune, Surat, Talwood and Chinchilla.

Take your pick, or is it much the same with a lot of plant naming?

Now it's left to members to let us know what you think/know the butterfly/moth is.

Photograph by Jennifer Johnson, taken in mid-February.



Member Jennifer Johnson has attached a long lens to her camera and applied an additional photography technique or two to produce this almost art picture of a stand of Kangaroo Grass, *Themeda triandra*, in mid-December 2022.

Thanks to those who contributed reports or items for this issue

Deadline for April Newsletter
29th March 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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