

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District

Newsletter – March 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

The strikingly-pink-
coloured new
leaves of *Syzygium*
luehmanii shown by
John Hastie at the
February meeting.

Photo: Fon Ryan



COMING **EVENTS**

WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2019 - MONTHLY MEETING at 7.30pm

Guest Speaker: Roger Thomas: 'My Nature Year'

Roger will take us on his journey through twelve months of 'Nature' in the Ballarat district, featuring birds, flowers and other aspects of nature that he enjoys seeing month by month as the year progresses. Roger writes the weekly column 'Nature Notes' in the Ballarat Courier.

Please note: The planned Speaker for this March meeting was changed after the minutes of the meeting were written.

➔ **(Note: Evening Meeting)**

WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL – MONTHLY MEETING at 2.00pm

Guest Speakers: Jenny & Peter Sedgwick

For the past 35 years Jenny and Peter Sedgwick have increased biodiversity on their 40-acre rural property which lies between the Yarrowee River and the Enfield State Forest. **Jenny and Peter, in their presentation, will cover several methods used to protect and enhance remnant vegetation, including planting and direct seeding wildlife corridors, and the restoration of a small once-grazed area to native grassland; thus increasing their flora and fauna list.**

➔ **(Note: Afternoon Meeting)**

GUEST SPEAKER REPORT: by Warren Hill

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

We all enjoy Fon's photos of specimens, interesting plants and growths. He likes his birds as well. He is skilled and enthusiastic and explained a lot of the treatments and techniques to enhance and print photos that have been used to present quality photos since cameras were invented; 'Photoshopping' is not new. His brother, who is a Member of the Ballarat Camera Club, Fon, and his family, take a lot of great photos: We saw Canola Fields, The White Night, Sculptures, Learmonth and Burrumbeet Lake levels, Duck in Duckweed, Sunrise and Sunsets, Clouds, Fireworks, a Drilling Rig, Go-carts, Leggo, Nibbles the Rabbit. Oh, and a b&w photo of lightning taken with the Old Box Brownie. A great presentation! Thank You.

*** 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 welcome. Mention ideas via meetings, members, executive. Thank You.

FLOWER SHOWS for 2019 are June 22nd and 23rd and October 26th and 27th

FEBRUARY EXCURSION REPORT: 17th February 2019, by Peter and Claire Dalman Annual Bird and Plant Walk with Roger Thomas to the North Gardens Reserve

Birds were the focus of this walk, but of course we noticed vegetation as we walked. Most of the plants were planted and were no doubt chosen to suit the location. Whilst almost all are Australian natives, they originate from many sources and a list would not be possible. It was good to see birds using the trees, shrubs, reeds, waterlilies, grasses and other plants for shelter, food, nesting, perching and surveying. Doubtless there were fish and other water creatures in the water as well as the long-necked tortoise and insects we saw. All were making use of the planned and planted area, all jointly creating interdependence and habitat. It was interesting to see two dead rakali, one near Wendouree Parade and the other near Gregory Street.

Plants of interest were noted, mostly those with flowers. The first was Sweet bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*), followed by River bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*), Roger advising it was the only local bottlebrush. Next was Hop goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*) in flower. Attention was drawn to what looked like a weed with pink flowers, Roger responding that it was in fact Slender knot weed, a native, creating the memory prompt that it was not a weed. A Silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*) displayed striking flowers and there were Flax leaf paperbarks which Roger noted have attractive dense flowers but don't seem to attract birds. Although not a native, a striking Ash caught our eye. Coming out of the wetland area for morning tea, the walk continued around Wendouree Parade.

Here Fon drew attention to a pair of *Corymbia maculata*. He explained that these are plants he had grafted when the City of Ballarat was experimenting with the propagation of attractive street trees. He was pleased with the eastern one which he noted had a good trunk and branch structure but the other had not been so successful. The graft for these can be clearly seen. On this part of the walk a Gippsland water gum was seen which Ian looked up and said was *Tristaniopsis nerifolia*. This small tree scarcely resembles a gum. It has attractive yellow flowers and is located near a newly arranged group of large stones currently within a wire fence. A red bottlebrush, Hannah Ray (*Callistemon viminalis*) caught the eye. Along the way it had been noted that there were several lomandras, spiny headed mat rush, allocasuarina and a rare Pepper cress (*Lepidium hyssopifolium*). This is an attempt to rescue this rare plant and they are in protective guards. Prior to the walk Warren had provided a list of the plants noted on a previous excursion to assist with identification and it was interesting to observe that there was only two on it that had been noted this year, demonstrating different things stand out on different occasions as well as highlighting the variety of plants that are in the area. **A big thankyou to Roger for sharing his expertise and time.**

See page 3 for the Bird List and a great bird photo from this excursion

SPECIMENS EXHIBITED at FEBRUARY MEETING from Ruth Marton

Ian Lynch – *Corymbia ficifolia* 'Baby Orange' (grafted), *Plectranthus parviflorus*, *Pyenosorus globus*, *Backhousia citriodora*

John Hastie – *Anigozanthus flavidus*, *Senna artemisioides*, *Hemiandra pungens*, *Syzygium luehmannii*, *Melaleuca pulchella*, *Halgania pressii*, *Grevillea* 'Grass Fire', *Backhousia myrtifolia*, *Correa schlechtendali* var. *Turnbulli*, *Crowea* 'Summer Star', *Eremophila bignoflora* x *polyclada*, *Eremophila nivica* x

Ruth Marton – *Grevillea plurajuga*, *Ixodia achillaeoides*, *Grevillea* 'Coconut Ice'



Backhousia citriodora shown by Ian Lynch.
Hemiandra pungens (a ground cover) shown by John Hastie. Photos: Fon Ryan

Upcoming Excursion
Garden Visit to the home of Phyllis Wright in Creswick, Sunday 28th April at 2-00pm. More details later.

- Pacific Black Duck
- Little Pied Cormorant
- Purple Swamphen
- Eurasian Coot
- Long-billed Corella
- Little Corella (heard only)
- Masked Lapwing
- White-faced Heron
- Magpie-lark
- Australian Magpie
- Little Raven
- Royal Spoonbill
- Yellow-billed Spoonbill
- Welcome Swallow
- Laughing Kookaburra
- Common Blackbird
- Striated pardalote
- Superb Fairy-wren
- Red Wattlebird
- Australian Reed Warbler
- Crested Pigeon
- Black Swan
- Dusky Moorhen
- White Ibis
- Wood Duck
- Grey Teal
- Grey Fantail
- Brown Thornbill
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- Crimson Rosella
- Rainbow Lorikeet
- Swamp Harrier
- Musk Duck
- A good tally of 33 species

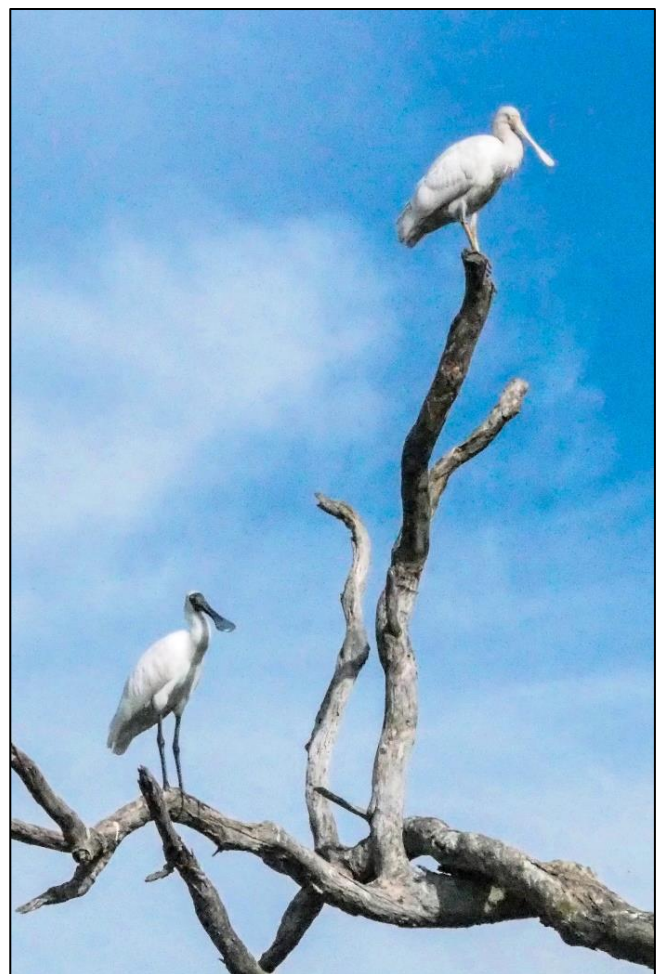
BIRD EXCURSION
(from page 2)

To the left is the bird list from the excursion.

During the excursion a yellow-billed Spoonbill (top) and a Royal Spoonbill flew in together to a tall dead tree in the wetlands.

Roger told us that it is rare to see the two species together.

Peter Dalman secured this excellent photo of them.





Planted *Banksia marginata*, growing in the North Gardens Wetlands near Lake Wendouree, seen on the February excursion. Photo: Peter Dalman

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

Deadline for April Newsletter: 30th March 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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