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Kangaroo Grass
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
SOCIETY
BALLARAT DISTRICT

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – August 2019

**MONTHLY MEETINGS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY
at ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE
GILLIES STREET ENTRANCE – GATE 3 or 4
FURTHER DETAILS SEE INFORMATION BOX**



September 1st is Wattle Day in Australia

Acacia pycnantha, the Golden Wattle, is the Floral Emblem of Australia. How official is Wattle Day? Probably not official enough to be declared a Public Holiday! How much publicity does it receive on TV, radio, and in the print media of newspapers and magazines? How much promotion has it received by APS, particularly at a national level? Just a few questions. Fon Ryan

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 14th August - MONTHLY MEETING *at 2.00pm (Afternoon Meeting) *

Then immediately following the monthly meeting:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Election of President, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistants. These positions will be vacated by the present incumbents and need to be filled. Please nominate! All assistance will be given as necessary. You will be doing your bit to assist the Group to continue. → (Note: Afternoon Meeting) ←

**WEDNESDAY 11th September - MONTHLY MEETING *at 2.00pm (Afternoon Meeting) *
GUEST SPEAKER to be advised.**

NOTE: BUSINESS MEETING PRIOR *at 12.30pm*

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR 15 NEW MEMBERS from the Winter Flower Show,
ENJOY!**

JULY GUEST SPEAKER REPORT: by Warren Hill

Peter Marquand, Curator of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Peter led us on a walk and talk along the Gardens Paths to points of interest in a relatively small part of the Gardens area of 45 hectares and gave many insights into the Gardens' activities and complexity. The Gardens have an outstanding history, (from a Native Swamp to a major Botanical Recreation area), and have Heritage Overlay, many trees on The National Register of Significant Trees, and many plants of significance, including the Begonia Collection. Indeed, the British company many begonias were originally sourced from still trades with the Gardens and the trade is now reciprocal with Ballarat returning varieties which had been lost in Britain. The Gardens establishment period benefited from the area's golden wealth to import, experiment, trial and even test the commercial potentials of plants and trees. A Sequoiadendron Avenue was planted only 20 years after identification in its native North America. A Blue Gum is a reminder of another Tree Avenue. The modern Conservatory was fragrant with a Cyclamen and Cineraria display and Peter said the staff themselves enjoyed management of the displays from growth to exhibition. He noted that Western Victoria is well served with Botanic Gardens however The Ballarat Botanical Gardens benefit from good support from Council.

Of Australian Native Plant interest was the evolution of the Native Plant Garden section to local Australian Plants from about a 50 km radius, including some rare and endangered species. There are several significant Bunya pines, *Araucaria bidwillii*, the trees here do not have the large problematic seed cones, therefore reducing the public liability of nuts falling. The care of these trees has extended to fitting a 'girdle' around a trunk to assist in preserving the tree. Many nature events including lightning strikes on trees have to be managed. Another example of Arboriculture and Tree Surgery practice is a magnificent Blue Gum, *Eucalyptus globulus ssp. globulus*, which is cabled and braced to assist its structure and hopefully maintain it for another 150 plus years. The Ballarat Botanic Gardens are definitely appreciated, well patronised and used for many purposes indeed. We appreciated Peter guiding the group through a part of them.

Pomonal Native Flower Show is presented by the Australian Plants Society Grampians Group. The theme of the show is '**Native Gardens for Wildlife**'. There will be native plants as well as books for sale and refreshments available. **Special features will be talks on both days by: AB Bishop** author of 'Habitat: A practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden'. This was 2018's No.1 selling gardening book in Australia.

Denis Crawford author of 'Garden Pests, Diseases and Good Bugs' which is the ultimate illustrated guide for Australian gardeners. **Displays will include** an art display by the local art group as well as photos of fauna attracted to native flowers.

Saturday 5th October 9am to 5pm, Sunday 6th October, 9am to 4pm, Entry Adults: \$5

APS BALLARAT DISTRICT SPRING FLOWER SHOW OCTOBER 2019

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th October

NEUTROG OFFER. A message from Ruth Marton

Emailed along with this newsletter is another attachment, an order form for the discounted Neutrog products following up Helen's talk to the group in June.

You can bring the form to the meeting next week with the money or, if you wish to send the money electronically, you may do that and post me the form. The bank account details for the payment is the normal APS Ballarat account, the same as on the membership form. BSB 313-140 Account 12090620 Reference your surname preceded by "Neut".

eg, Neut A Gardener..... (Thanks to Ruth)

(Please print the order form at home if able to.)

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

At the July Meeting the Group celebrated the 90th Birthday of our esteemed Life Member, Paddy Marshall. The Group wished to honour Paddy for the occasion and to recognise her activity in and for the Group. So, to this end, we surprised Paddy with afternoon tea becoming her party, and our gardeners are excellent bakers as well. Since joining in 1985 Paddy has served many terms as Secretary, Assistant Secretary and assisted and promoted the group



wherever she could. She has particularly enjoyed welcoming and encouraging ladies attending on their own. Some of her words of wisdom were “never to be discouraged” and “continue to enjoy the attributes of native plants and an Australian Plants Society”. The Group greatly appreciate Paddy and wish her Many Happy Returns.

From Paddy of Paddy’s Patch.

To my fellow members of our APS Ballarat District.

A BIG THANK YOU for your warm, kind celebration of my 90th birthday at our July Meeting. It was a complete surprise to me, I had no idea that the table, groaning with yummy goodies was a party for me. I was (and still am) overwhelmed as I think of you all - smiling faces - sitting around that table - writing on that lovely card - Gladys, Fon, Phyllis, each saying a few words about my 34 years as a member.

As I think over that 34 years, I remember the first meeting I attended, no one wanted to speak to me, let alone welcome me as a potential member, until Judith South did rescue me. By so doing, Judith prevented my first meeting from being my last. How thankful I will always be to her!

However, it was not until I became Secretary that I started to feel that I belonged. It was a rewarding experience learning who was who and what was what.

I thought I knew something about Australian Native Plants then, but found that I knew very little! But thanks to knowledgeable fellow members, guest speakers and excursions to peoples’ gardens, I learnt to recognise plants, and what does grow here in Ballarat - But then they had a name change, and I had to start all over again! (I am still going with that).

I have made valued friends along the way, and am grateful for that fellowship with like-minded people. Also, I am grateful for a succession of office bearers who have kept our group going through the years - organising for us - we enthusiastic Australian Native Plants people.

Thank you again.

Paddy Marshall



Seed heads of *Isopogon formosus* photographed during the garden visit to the home of Phyllis Wright in April this year. Photo: Fon Ryan

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

Deadline for September Newsletter: 28th August 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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