

Australian Plants Society
Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc (A0026204P)
ABN: 68 053 689 781 Website: <http://www.bulokebulletin.com>
APS Victoria website: <http://www.apsvic.org.au/>



BULOKE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER No. 117
August 2011

edited by Martin Grannas & by David & Barb Pye

Wed August 24th - FAVOURITE PLACES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA- talk by Barb Pye

Barb will show us a variety of scenery and plants from Central Australia and the Outback.

and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Election of Committee: All positions are vacant and some members are not standing for re-election. Please consider joining the committee, even if only for a trial year

- at 7.30 for 8.00 pm at the Willows**

Wed 28th September - MEMBERS NIGHT - SPRING FLOWER TABLE

Members get the chance to talk about some of their favourite plants, and perhaps to get some identified. Bring whatever flowering material you have, to a maximum of 6 specimens per person.

at 7.30 for 8.00 pm at the Willows**

Sunday 25th September - GARDEN VISITS - Geelong area

Visits to three gardens on the Bellarine Peninsula, near Geelong. Bring a picnic lunch. Two gardens in the morning, Vaughan's nursery & garden after lunch

**** Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month - at Dunvegan at the Willows Historical park in Melton (Melway 115/C10 or 337/C9)**

DOORS OPEN AT 7.30 PM, PROGRAM COMMENCES AT 8 PM

COMING EVENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Sat 3 rd September | APS Wilson Park Plant Sale, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Wilson Botanic Park, Princes Highway, Berwick. |
| Sat-Sun 10-11 September | Australian Plants Expo, from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days at Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. |
| Sat-Sun 17-18 September | Strolling the Strzelecki's Quarterly meeting hosted by APS Latrobe Valley. Venue Morwell. Details in Growing Australian |
| Sat-Sun 1-2 October | Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall, 9.30 am to 5.00 pm |
| Wed 26 th October | Eucalypts for home gardens - talk by Jason Caruso |
| Sat-Sun 22-23 October | APS Ballarat Flower Show |
| Wed 23 rd November | End of year breakup – to be advised |

HAKEAS FOR SALE

We still have some Hakeas left and these can be obtained from the Pyes

adnata
Burrendong Beauty seedlings
cinerea
constablei
dactyloides
laurina
laurina narrow
macreana
multilineata
neurophylla
petiolaris
prostrata shrub form
rugosa
scoparia
strumosa burgundy

PROPOSED EMBLEM AND NEWSLETTER NAME CHANGE

At our last committee meeting it was proposed that we change our group's floral emblem to *Hakea laurina* (Pincushion hakea) to reflect our ongoing interest in and propagation of Hakeas for our annual plant sale. Together with this, it was proposed that the newsletter you are now reading be re-named to *Hakea Herald*. Your opinions on this will be eagerly sought at the AGM.

HIGHER & HIGHER

Report on May meeting by *Cathy Powers*

Michael Marmach was our guest speaker for the meeting which was held as a combined meeting with the Melton Garden Club.

I watched with interest as we went for a hike in the Victorian High Country without expending near the effort that the actual hikers had to endure. Regardless, the virtual trip was exciting

and a stark reminder of what it means to be in this area of our state during summer.

No doubt, the Alpine Ash (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) are the large sub-alpine plant to enjoy. They provide shade and beauty that can only be appreciated when you stand amongst a group of them. [Ed: Snowgums (*Euc. pauciflora*) as shown in the background below featured significantly in Michael's talk...their iconic beauty arguably eclipses that of the Alpine ash.] The ruggedness of the terrain was certainly displayed well in the panoramic views Michael gave us on the double screen.



The other high country flora are a bit more discrete. Small, close to the ground and tolerant are some of their attributes. They are bombarded by high winds and cool to cold temperatures even during summer. You most certainly want to be prepared when walking there because the seasons can change instantly and freezing temperatures are never far away.

Regardless, some beautiful plants can be enjoyed as you walk along.



Ivy-leaf Violet (*Viola hederacea*)



Mountain Clubmoss (*Lycopodium fastigiatum*)



Sky Lily (*Herpolirion novaezelandiae*)

Trying to see everything is sometimes difficult when you are presented with such amazing views -



but with a little effort, you can enjoy all that the Victorian High Country has to offer including, challenges to fitness and abundant flora (not to mention lots of insects).



Thanks to Michael for an interesting presentation and the Melton Garden Club members for sharing the evening.

Oops, almost forgot. There are orchids there too.



Stegostyla (Caladenia) gracilis

BEES AND NATIVE FLORA - Report on June meeting by Martin Grannas

Jim Sansom is a retired schoolteacher and now co-owner of Black Hill Apiaries, based at Langley just north of Kyneton. His “old-school” talk eschewed modern electronic media and instead had lots of visual props viz. an empty hive, beekeeper’s clothing, smoke generator, a hand-cranked centrifugal honey extractor, and lots of posters. Jim began by explaining why apiarists wear smooth white suits – they’re to make them look as different as possible to the raider of European honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) hives, the brown bear...bees have become hard-wired over many millennia to harass them.

Jim then told us about the life cycle of bees, the roles of the queen, drones and workers, hive swarming behaviour, and the wiggle dance that worker bees perform to tell others where to find flowers.

The main types of flora that Jim’s apiary utilizes are mostly eucalypts from the north of the Great Divide (box and ironbark) and sometimes those from the higher slopes, manna gum (*Euc. viminalis*), messmate (*Euc. obliqua*), narrow leaf peppermint (*Euc. radiata*) and even including snow gums (*Euc. pauciflora*) from Mount Macedon. A challenge faced by apiarists in our area is the fickleness of flowering of our eucalypts when good rain falls come at unusual times, some postpone flowering altogether for many months whilst they put on a growth spurt.

Jim strongly emphasized that we should support the beekeeping industry’s pushes to maintain Governmental funding of efforts to eradicate the Asian honeybee (*Apis cerana*), which could be considered as bad for Australia as a flying cane toad, after an incursion was discovered in Cairns in 2007 in the mast of a yacht that had sailed from New Guinea. About 350 hives have been destroyed so far. The asian bee is a host for the Varroa mite, a honeybee parasite that infests and can destroy hives. European bees have not co-evolved with this mite and are highly susceptible to its attack - Germany lost about 1/3 of its bee population (around 200 000 hives) in 2010 due to varroa infestation. The economic impact of this mite in Australia would be significant – around \$4 billion worth of agricultural production a year relies of pollination by Australia’s honeybees.

Jim followed up with sales of a few different types of his unfiltered, cold-extracted honey – these were very popular.



European honeybee (L), Asian honeybee (R).

GREVILLEA VICTORIAE by Barb Pye

Plant of the month for June

G. victoriae is a variable species from higher altitude areas in Victoria and NSW. It usually occurs above 1000m in altitude in areas which are often snow covered in winter. It is however quite adaptable in cultivation. Murray Queen is a cultivar that is commonly sold in nurseries. We have several plants which are coming into flower now (late June). Their buds hold on the plant for a long time, hanging in pendulous bunches. The buds are a distinctive rusty orange colour and are quite showy even before the flowers open. The flowers are a pinkish red. Flowering this year has been particularly prolific, probably due to the extra summer rain. Another form of *G. victoriae* with narrower greyish foliage and darker red flowers succumbed over the summer. The species attracts honeyeaters. It is easily propagated by cuttings.



MY GARDEN by John Flanagan

My garden is situated opposite Maddingley Park and the Bacchus Marsh lawn tennis club, and a short walk to the Bacchus Marsh train station from the front fence and at the back is the Werribee River, it is an acre with a weatherboard house that was built in 1909 and originally purchased by my parents in 1953.

Being close to the Werribee River the soil is mainly river silt (also called sandy loam) that has a pH of 6.0 - 7.7 depending where you dig on the acre.

While my father was alive the acre was mainly an apple orchard with 100 apple trees where vegetables were grown under the trees. Also the boundary fences were chook sheds, and the front and rear fences grew grapes.

All of this was grown for income including the chooks that were sold, both eggs and chickens to eat.

My father's view on gardening was if you cannot eat it you don't grow it so at this time my mother's flower garden consisted of a row of standard roses across the front fence, a narrow strip across the front of the house and magnolia at the back door.

I inherited the garden after my father passed away in 1993 when after much discussion with mother and my sisters, I moved back home and we decided to re-design the garden. One of the obvious features of my garden is my aviary which is 6 m x 8 m where I keep and raise exhibition budgerigars. I keep about 120-150 budgerigars and raise about 200 -300 babies a year, and over the years have had many trophies and awards on the show bench.

When my mother and I decided to re-design our garden we had two main ideas one of which was to be self-sufficient growing enough fruit, vegetables and herbs to feed ourselves. We replanted fruit trees but varieties of different types that provide a range of fruit during the year, unfortunately due to the recent drought I no longer have a vegetable garden. The other changes to our garden were to grow plants that attract and provide habitat for native birds within the garden and to plant mostly Australian natives but also non natives. My mother placed the limitation of no large growing trees.

Some of the recent plantings that encourage birds have been callistemon, billiardieras, clematis, correas, conostylis, irises anigozanthos, croweas, melaleucas, eremophilas, kunzeas, hakeas, leptospermums and my favourite non natives camellias which are also a favourite of the new Holland honeyeater - the flowers provide nectar throughout autumn, winter and spring and their dense evergreen bushes provide safe nesting sites. My garden might not be the neatest, well weeded or closely mowed but the native birds like it and since no longer having a cat or a dog

more and more seem to be coming to my garden. With the changes in the garden over the years some things remain: mum's standard roses remain but now are underplanted with correas and her beloved magnolia is now 7 m tall and underplanted with native ferns, camellias, correas and *Alstroemeria pulchella*.

GEEBUNG TRACK – BRISBANE RANGES by Ann Goetz

Today (August 8) I walked in the Brisbane Ranges. Now I was supposed to write about my garden, but hey that can wait, today was so wonderful you must visit while so many of the wildflowers are in full bloom.

I walk with a group of local ladies every Monday and there were just 9 of us today. One lady lives out Staughton Vale way and has excellent flora knowledge, so how lucky I was.

We saw Happy Wanderer, Golden Grevillea, Spyridium Dusty Miller, Sundew Orchid, White Everlasting Daisy, Guinea Flower, Correa, Golden Wattle, Myrtle Wattle, Mitchell Wattle, Hedge Wattle, Ploughshare Wattle and Narrow Leaf Wattle, Running Postman, Hovea, Love Creeper, Heath, Bearded Heath, Hakea, Banksia, Flat Leaf Pea, Nodding Greenhood and maybe Gnat or Mayfly Orchid. (Thanks to Imelda for all the names) I just took photos of them all.



This part of the Brisbane Ranges was badly burned about 3 summers ago. I saw the area a year later when the Grass Trees were madly flowering. Today was amazing - the Golden Wattle was probably the most prolific – it was a sea of yellow for metres under the newly growing Eucalypts. Most of the blackened gums have beautiful new branches, and some of the new trees are now metres tall. The understory is evolving once again. The Spyridium Dusty Miller was amazing – it too was growing for as far as one could see beneath the gums. At some spots the wattles and the Spyridium were mixed, but often it was just one solid colour – white or yellow.



The Geebung Track takes off from the Geelong/Ballan Road, near the Anakie Vineyards. It's an easy, dry, graded track and I recommend it to you all. Take a stroll in the next week or two and you will be amazed at what we have so close to home. You don't need to venture far to see this amazing sight, in fact I think you could almost enjoy it from the Geebung Track car park!



MBG EUCALYPTUS ARBORETUM – *update by David Pye*

Much is happening on the arboretum project and at the 4 hectare site in the Melton Botanic Garden

Many of the established trees have been labelled.

The Dahl Trust grant of \$15,000 early this year enabled us to get path construction and other works started. Recently, we received a grant of \$130,000 from the Vision for Werribee Plains, which will enable us to complete path construction, build fences, produce signage, etc.

Path construction has commenced, and 700 m of major paths have been cut and a layer of crushed rock put down. These paths are already in use by locals for walking and even wheelchair use. After all the fencing is completed, and the 1.5 km of minor paths built,

the major paths will be completed with a top layer of Tuscan toppings.



Around 400 eucalypts from more than 50 species were planted recently by volunteers, and a list of further species for production and planting next year is being developed.

A Work Experience team commenced recently and will be with the project for 6 months in the first instance. They are involved in weed removal, planting, mulching and fencing.



This report was prepared in June. By the time that you read this, much more work will have been done by the Work Experience Team. A visit to the garden is recommended.

APS District Group Conference 30th July 2011 - *report by Martin Grannas*

Ron Powers, John Flanagan and I were our Group's delegates to this all day event at La Trobe University in Bundoora, organised by the Victorian APS Committee of Management. Representatives attended from each Victorian district group (DG) as well as one person each from APS NSW and APS SA. The meeting's mission statement: "*To create an opportunity for representatives from all district groups to share ideas, discuss issues relevant to district groups, establish networks, develop strategies for improved communication and create opportunities for growth*" concisely sums up what happened. Presentations and subsequent

discussions were heard on: the importance of establishing a group's internet presence e.g. having a functioning and up to date website; how to network and communicate via newer media such as Facebook and Twitter; group financial management; what groups do well and not so well; how to better use *Growing Australian* e.g. DG promotion by a "Spotlight on..." article, running events,; organising field trips; and increasing a group's profile by giving talks about Australian plants at local Bunnings Stores. Fortunately we can give ourselves a tick for many of these items. More details of these items will be shared at the AGM.

Australia's Open Garden Scheme 2011-2012

The following is a list of gardens featuring Australian Plants open during the months of Sept & Oct. Entry \$6 per person unless otherwise indicated. Taken from the 2011-2012 issue – please check details on www.opengarden.org.au

Our own Esther Brueggemeier's garden will be open on 10-11 Sep, together with those of three of our past guest speakers - Bev Hanson, David Lightfoot (both 24-25 Sep) and Melanie Kinsey (29-30 Oct).

September 2011

3-4: Lister Garden, 23 Price Ave, Montmorency. Predominantly Australian plant garden set amid beautiful rock work. 0.2 ha. (NEW)

3-4: Research garden, 131 Thompson Cres, Research. An exciting indigenous garden designed by Sam Cox is cleverly integrated around an innovative house 0.13 ha.

10-11: Wild About Wattle, 28 Staton Cres, West Melton. A specialist wattle garden with more than 165 acacias of 64 different species, all on a small suburban block. 0.1 ha. (NEW)

10-11: Lubra Bend Homestead, 135 Simpson Lane, Yarra Glen. Through an old cypress hedge is an exciting area of Australian plants, massive rocks and waterways, designed by Phil Johnson. \$7 entry.

17-18: Bimbimbi, 35 Terrara Rd, Vermont. An eclectic garden of Australian natives interspersed with exotics. 0.6 ha. \$7 entry. (NEW)

17-18: Mossgiel, 28 Bath St, Mornington. Eremophilas in a variety of colours are a highlight in a 20 year old garden showcasing a good selection of Australian natives. 0.27 ha.

This is Moira and Philip Robinsons' garden, our previous editor of *Growing Australia*. (NEW)

17-18: Harris garden, 61 Stirling Rd, Metung. Interesting and quirky Australian plant garden on two levels designed to provide protection from the wind as well as improve drainage. 0.15 ha. (NEW)

17-18: Hope Haven, 37 Archibald Dr, Metung. Stone walls and established trees provide structure to formal and informal areas in a stunning coastal Australian plant garden displaying 150 grevillea varieties in deep beds. 0.4 ha. (NEW)

17-18: Neilson garden, 5 The Anchorage, Metung. Mature garden surrounded by bushland with views of Chinaman's Creek. Wide variety of shade loving plants including correas and prostanthera. 0.1 ha. (NEW)

17-18: Oodnaduna, 40 Mathiesons Rd, Eagle Point (near Paynesville). Naturalistic streams cascade and form pools throughout this spacious and breath-taking Australian plant garden. 0.8 ha.

24-25: Ngamudji, 36 Arundel Cres, Surrey Hills. Excellent example of Australian native plants cleverly incorporated into a formal setting. Large collection of isopogons and petrophiles. Rainbow Garden with seven curving rows of coloured plantings including anigozanthos, dampiera and leschenaultia. 50 x 20 m. (NEW)

24-25: Hanson garden, 104 Webb St, Warrandyte. Bev Hanson's work with Ellis Stones is reflected in her treatment of changes in levels and the sensitive placement of rocks around beautiful ponds. 0.4 ha.

October 2011

1-2: Yankalilla, 121 Knafel Rd, Taggerty. Foliage, colour and form are prime considerations in informal groupings of Australian natives intersected by gravel paths. 1 ha.

8-9: Ironstone Park, Lot 6 Whalan Crt, Pyalong. Interesting expansive garden with harmonious mix of unusual Australian and exotic species. Sculpture. 1.2 ha. (NEW)

29-30: Sibbel garden, 120 Healesville-Yarra Glen Rd, Healesville. An established Australian plant garden features hakeas, banksias, dryandras and grevilleas in one area; dampieras

etc in cottage garden area. Generous beds, sweeping lawns, expansive views. 0.4 ha. (NEW)

29-30: Melanie Kinsey's garden, 19 Gap Rd, Riddells Creek. The garden of an accomplished plantswoman features area of colour co-ordinated roses, perennials and unusual shrubs. Woven around the dam and children's play area is an extensive collection of Australia native plants. 0.3 ha. (NEW)

29-30: Northview Park, 133 Casey Creek Rd, Toorloo Arm (near Lakes Entrance). Expansive and beautifully planted Australian plant garden;

huge variety, many standard grevilleas etc. Garden surrounded by state forest and enjoying lovely views to Lake Tyers. 1.4 ha. (NEW)

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------------------|
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