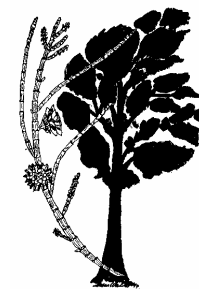


Australian Plants Society
Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc (A0026204P)
ABN: 68 053 689 781 Website: <http://www.bulokebulletin.com>
APS Victoria website: <http://www.apsvic.org.au/>



BULOKE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER No. 116
May-June 2011

edited by David & Barb Pye. Send contributions for next issue via dabpye@gmail.com by Sunday 24th July, 2011

Saturday May 21st - **APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh PLANT SALE**

Our annual fundraiser will be held at **Bacchus Marsh Uniting Church** in Gisborne Road.

Volunteers are required to assist in manning the Group's stall. If you are available, please advise Cathy on 5369 4302, or by email at aps@hotmail.net.au. Even an hour's help will give the 'all dayers' a break for coffee.

Hakea orders by members need to be made now, See details of species, etc inside

Wednesday May 25th - **A WALK IN THE VICTORIAN ALPS**

panoramic presentation by Michael Marmach

Michael's presentation is on the plants and their habitat in the alpine landscape observed during backpacking in the Bogong High Plains region between Mt Bogong to the north and Mt Hotham in the south. Michael is noted for the quality of his photography and presentations.

Joint meeting with Melton Garden Club

at the DJ Cunningham Centre, Exford Road, Melton South, (Melway 342, K3)

Doors open at 7.00pm, Program commences at 7.30pm

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE AND TIME. EARLIER THAN USUAL

Wednesday June 22nd - **BEEES, HONEY AND NATIVE FLORA**

talk by Jim Sansom

Jim will talk about bees and honey production and the native flora used by apiarists.

At Dunvegan, Willows Historic Park, in Melton (Melway 337 C9)

Doors open at 7.30pm, Program commences at 8pm

JULY

NO MEETING

WINTER RECESS

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL ON 1ST JULY.

A FORM IS ENCLOSED.

COMING EVENTS

Sat-Sun 4-5 June	June Delights in North-Eastern Victoria: APS Vic Quarterly Meeting at Wangaratta. hosted by APS Wangaratta – details in Growing Australian, or APS Vic website http://www.apsvic.org.au/
Sat 30 th July	District Group Conference, La Trobe University, Bundoora (details page 10) – up to 3 group representatives needed
Wed 24 th August	APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh: AGM & talk on Central Australia by Barb Pye
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- 4.00 pm both days at Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham.
Wed 28 th September	APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Members Night - Spring Flower Table

HAKEAS FOR SALE

The following Hakeas have been propagated by the group this year, and are available to members prior to the Plant Sale. However, orders will need to be sent in the next few days, ie before the Plant Sale on Saturday.

Please send order to Cathy Powers, 5367 0857, or aps@hotmail.net.au

adnata
bucculenta
Burrendong Beauty seedlings
cinerea
constablei
dactyloides
francisiana
francisiana x bucculenta
invaginata??
laurina
laurina narrow
macreana
minima
multilineata
neurophylla
obtusa
petiolaris
prostrata shrub form
rugosa
scoparia
sericea
strumosa burgundy
verrucosa

AGM and COMMITTEE

The AGM is coming up in August, and as usual, all positions become vacant. Several key members will not be standing, due to club rules or conflicts of time. These include the secretary and treasurer positions. Members are asked to consider joining the committee. Try it out for a year. It is not an onerous job.

EUCALYPTUS ARBORETUM REPORT

The arboretum project is moving along at a good pace now, with site preparation well advanced. The area has been sprayed for weed control and cultivated. Path construction is underway, and we should be able to commence planting within a week or so. Several hundred dryland Eucalypts are to be planted and the excess will be available for sale by the FMBG at our plant sale.

It is expected that a W4TD team will commence shortly at the Melton Botanic Garden, and some of their time will be available for work on the arboretum. However, we will still need volunteers for specific activities, especially planting. **We are putting together an email list of volunteers to contact whenever we need workers for such activities. If you wish to go on such a list, please contact David Pye (dabpye@gmail.com).**

Eucalypt species available at the Plant Sale will include *Eucalyptus petiolaris*, *leucoxydon ssp megalocarpa*, *occidentalis*, *spathulata*, *hehriana*, *scoparia*, *gardneri*, *albopurpurea*, *presissiana*, *patens*, *grossa*, *extrica*, *erythrocorys*, *lehmanniana*, *tetraptera*, *leptophylla*.

FEBRUARY PLANT OF THE MONTH. by
Martin Grannas

Corymbia ficifolia (*Eucalyptus ficifolia* until 1995)
- Western Australian Red Flowering Gum

Generic name from Latin, *corymbium*, a "corymb" referring to floral clusters where all flowers branch from the stem at different levels but ultimately terminate at about the same level.

Specific name means "with leaves resembling those of the genus *Ficus* (includes figs, banyans, rubber trees)"

We have an orange-pink flowering form of this tree at our place. It easily predates us, judging by its size and the scarring on the trunk where limbs once were: at a guess these were damaged by the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983. It flowers fully every other summer, usually from mid January to late February. The flower display in intervening summers is not that impressive, only a handful of cauliflower-sized flower clusters. When in full bloom the tree produces lots of nectar, and is a favourite of both our neighbour's bees and the local birdlife including wattlebirds, lorikeets, spinebills and honeyeaters. Excess nectar and old flower stamens drop onto our car parked below it and the windscreen requires daily cleaning. Fallen old dried fruits (gumnuts) are treacherous to walk on as they are effectively large ball bearings, but these make an excellent mulch layer for the garden bed beside the driveway. During the last few dry years small branches frequently died back and these were removed with a pole saw/pruner. The tree looks to have appreciated the high rainfall of this last year (>1100 mm in 2010) with no dying off observed.



APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting Report

report by Ron Powers, delegate

This event was hosted by our group at the Anakie Hall. Our personnel, involved in providing food and drinks, were led by Ann Goetz and included Graeme Woods, John Flanagan, Martin Grannas, Barb & David Pye Norris & Lucille McCarthy. A really great effort appreciated by all who attended.

Several items of business occurred in the hour long committee meeting. Minutes of November meeting were approved. It was determined that Volunteer accident insurance would not be pursued but continued to be investigated for future consideration.

Ratification of actions noted in the two Executive meeting minutes were approved which included the appointment of Rob Lucas as treasurer and various other listed appointees. The remaining clothing merchandise was discounted by 50%, the Awards Subcommittee is to be chaired by B Stahl with D Gaskell and T Cavanagh as members, the budget was approved which included no increase in membership fees and expenses incurred by M Williams would not be included in the start-up grant for new groups. It was noted that the deadline for nominations regarding the Honorary Life Membership and Certificate of Commendations recipients is 15/4/11.

Two workshops filled out the rest of the day. First – APS relevance was presided over by P Hempel with lots of discussion and points

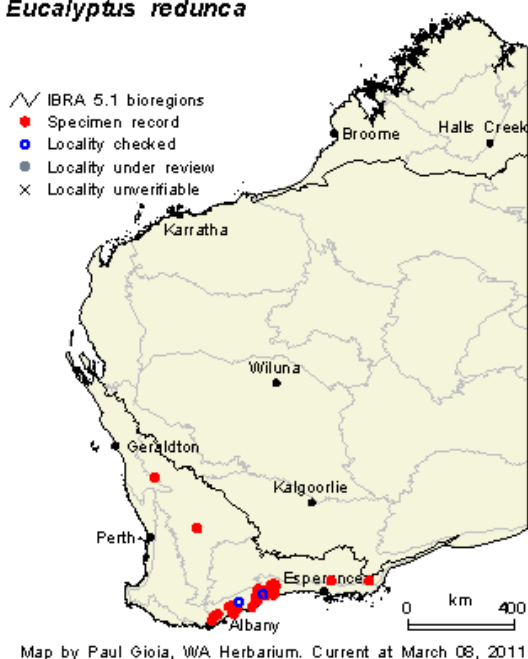
presented. Most members took copious notes. Second – Committee of Management presided over by C Powers. Many points were covered and group participation was high. Again note taking was frantic.

The walk in the Brisbane Ranges was led by R Powers with 20 participants. We walked the fire-break from Butchers Road northward and found 27 different plants.

MARCH Plant of the Month by Cathy Powers

***Eucalyptus redunca* (Black Marlock)** is a small slender-stemmed mallee and reputed to be one of the most floriferous eucalypts known. It is found in south-west Western Australia, mainly in the wheatbelt with an average rainfall of 300-500mm.

Eucalyptus redunca



It can grow from 1.5 – 4 metres high and has a bushy, well-shaped canopy of dark green foliage. The flowers are pale yellow in colour and these appear in late summer.



Our plant seems to be a little behind the times since some of the flowers have been present for a couple of months but many are yet still in bud form. Speaking of buds, the umbel can sometimes have up to 15 buds which are long, narrow and pointed.



Interesting that this eucalypt is listed in the category of 'honey plants' because the nectar and pollen are both used by honeybees and therefore of value to honey makers.

Eucalyptus redunca can be used in suburban gardens but it comes with a word of warning: in some literature it is suggested that it not be planted closer than 3.5 metres to any sewer pipe.

APRIL Plant of the month report by Barb Pye

Goodenia macmillanii is a suckering groundcover which grows well in sun or dappled shade. A sunny site seems to produce denser growth and more prolific flowering. The main horticultural features of this plant are the relatively large flowers and the strong sweet perfume. The flowers have an unusual colour for this genus, being dusky pink with darker streaks. The perfume is particularly reminiscent



of port wine. This plant comes from the Snowy and Macalister river areas in eastern Victoria. It is probably pollinated by moths as indicated by its night perfume. It can be propagated by cuttings or division.

MOTHS of the Geelong Region

Report by Cathy Powers on March talk

Marilyn Hewish once again dazzled us with her passion, information and images but on a different subject than birds. In the following, the images are mine and the information is hers except the part of threats which came from CSIRO website.

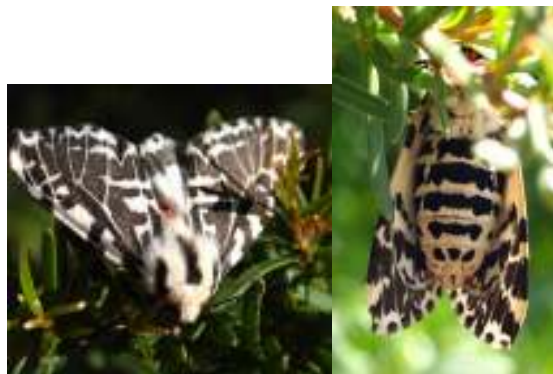
Moths are a natural part of our environment. They have a bad rep – mostly due to the predation of our ‘precious’ plants and of course the unfair opinion that moths are dull in colour.



Crambidae Uresiphita ornithopteralis (no common name)

The ‘Cabbage White’, which is often thought to be a moth because it is found eating vegetation, is actually a butterfly. Just because it is doing naughty things does not mean it is a moth.

Marilyn did her best to convince us that moths are interesting, beautiful and valuable. I think she succeeded. Over the past 3 years she has been doing research on moths of our area from Melton, Long Forest, Bacchus Marsh, You Yangs, Lerderderg, Brisbane Ranges and then of course down south where all the holiday makers visit (Geelong, Anglesea and Otways).



Top and underside of a ***Spilosoma glatignyi*** (Black and White Tiger Moth)

Moths & butterflies are insects which means that they don’t have a backbone (they are invertebrates), they have an exoskeleton and they have six legs. They make up the order of *Lepidoptera* and they have scales on their wings which is what gives them the colour.



On the left is a ***Zygaenidae Pollaninus viridipulverulenta*** (Satin Green Forester) and on the right is a ***Oenosandra boisduvalii*** (Boisduval’s Autumn Moth) with its wings not fully open yet.

Moths are much more numerous in terms of species and individuals than butterflies. There are six families of butterflies in Australia and 140 families of moths. There are 400 species of butterflies and 20,000+ species of moths (increasing all the time because of the ongoing research).

To tell the difference between a moth and butterfly is not always easy and certainly not totally dependant on the antennae formation. There are exceptions to each of the following rules:

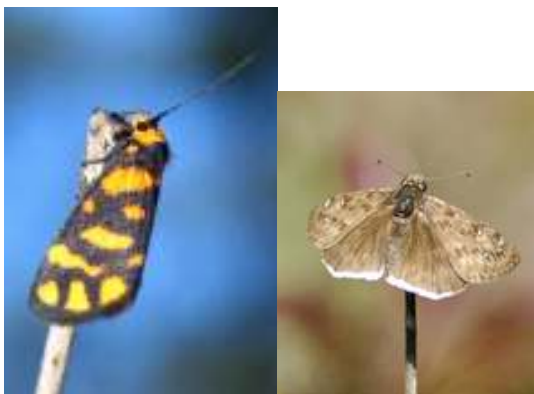
1. Butterflies fly during the day (there is one night flying butterfly in Australia) and moths fly at night (there are many day-flying moths).



Chrysolarentia polycarpa (A day-flying Geometrid moth)

2. Moths are dull in colour and butterflies are bright in colour.

Asura Lydia (Lydia Lichen Moth) on the left and a dull butterfly on the right.



3. Butterfly antennae have knobs and moth antennae have fringes.



4. Moths hold their wings flat when sitting still and butterflies hold their wings up.

Butterfly on the left and a ***Epicoma melanospila*** (Black-spotted Epicoma) on the right.



The true rule is: Moths have four wings, two at the front called forewings and two at the back called hindwings. On the hind wing there is a 'bristle' which is quite stiff and on the forewing there is a flap. The bristle fits under the flap and this technique holds the wings together when they fly. Butterflies do not have this and really don't need it because in general their wings are larger and overlap which allows them to stay together naturally when they fly.



Persiscepta polysticta

Butterflies are more highly developed than moths and generally most people will be right in guessing which is which. The whole idea is to get out and enjoy whichever you find.

In just over two years, Marilyn has seen over 580 species of moths in the Geelong region. It is interesting that some of the moths found in the Long Forest area have a similar distribution as the Mallee birds (only in the north western corner of Victoria and Long Forest).



Oenochroma vinaria (Pink-bellied Moth)

There are some species that are known from Tasmania and have been found on the southern tips of Victoria (Otways & Wilsons Prom) which indicates that they are remnants from when the two areas were connected by a land mass now covered with deep water.

Major threats to butterflies and moth species include:

- **Weeds:**
Weeds in remnant bush land replace the native food plants on which many butterflies and day-flying moths breed. While a small group of species have adapted to breed on introduced plants, most rely on native vegetation.
- **Loss of habitat due to land clearing:**
The clearing of bushland for housing, industry and agriculture has reduced the amount of suitable habitat available for native butterfly species.
- **Bushfires:**
Bushfires can destroy or reduce butterfly populations and food plants. Almost all butterfly caterpillars live and feed on the above-ground part of plants, and so are killed by fire. In the past, burnt areas of bush would have been recolonised by surrounding populations of butterflies, but in today's fragmented landscape butterflies are unable to move across urbanised areas to re-establish these sites.
- **Use of chemical insecticides and herbicides:**
Chemical insecticides kill moths, butterflies and their larvae. Herbicides can kill host plants necessary for butterfly survival.
- **Climate change:**
Climate change is influencing weather-patterns and creating an increasing dry climate in southern Australia. This drier climate will affect the abundance, vigour and

health of the plants on which butterflies breed.



Nectar gathering **butterfly** (one of the 'blues')

She is a member of a unique group she refers to as 'Moth Addicts' and there are not many in the group. A recent national gathering had only just over 30 people attending. They are virtually re-writing the record books with their finds and documentation.

An exciting part of the evening for me was when I insisted she open her thank you card. I had put a photo of one of the moths I found on the front. Come to find out, it was a mating pair and she liked the photo. The moth is ***Gendua acedesta*** (Painted Clear-winged Snout Moth) It certainly uses camouflage well!



Thanks Marilyn (and Dean –road crew department manager) for such an informative and interesting presentation.

Oh GOODE NIACE AE (spoken – Oh good, nicie ahy)

report by Cathy Powers

Actually, once again David Lightfoot entertained our members with his humour and masses of information (not to mention great photos) of a group of plants in the *Goodeniaceae* family.

He did, however, have some difficulty remaining on subject since some rogue *Isopogon* or *Petrophile* kept trying to take the limelight.

The *Goodeniaceae* are, in general, fantastic small plants and suitable for even the smallest of gardens. This includes container or basket gardening.

He showed us an interesting concept in his own garden called the 'rainbow garden' and by using many species from the *Goodeniaceae* family, he was able to create the rainbow colours (violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange & red).

Some of the most conspicuous plants in the wild are located in Western Australia such as this *Lechenaultia biloba*.



There are about 400 species of *Goodeniaceae* and in 12 genera. They are named after Rev. Samuel Goodenough, 1743-1827, Bishop of Carlisle and 1st treasurer of the Linnaean Society. Goodenough, himself a botanist, wrote of seaweeds and sedges. The vast majority are found in Australia as this map indicates the distribution (yellow marks the spot).



They are recognised by the cup, or indusium, at the top of the style and this is a feature of the family. The plants use this storage structure for pollen which collects the pollen as it is produced. Most of the flowers are fan-like which provides a convenient landing platform for the pollinators.



Goodenia grandiflora (Mountain Primrose)



Goodenia ovata (Hop Goodenia)

This *Dampiera* species shows the fantastic physical attributes which are used to guide the wanted insect towards the pollen while stopping the unwanted insects. The furrows are a directional indicator for the insect.



These are smoke sensitive when it comes to seed germination. These plants can be fairly difficult to grow from seeds regardless of the introduction of the 'smoke' chemical component. The best way to propagate is from cuttings but the rosette forms can be difficult from cuttings. There has been a lot of work in WA with good success with propagation from leaf cuttings.

David took us through photographic and descriptive information about each of the genera. I don't have images of most but the following are great examples of *Goodenias*.



Goodenia robusta (Woolly Goodenia)



Goodenia hederacea subsp. alpestris (Ivy Goodenia)

Another beauty I did not even realize I had a photo of is *Scaevola hookeri* (Alpine Fan-flower).



When I was doing some research for this article, I was surprised to find *Brunonia australis* in the family of Brunoniaceae rather than *Goodeniaceae*. Come to find out, in the [Cronquist system](#)'s classification scheme it was the sole member of the monogenetic plant family [Brunoniaceae](#) before the [APG II](#) system moved it into [Goodeniaceae](#). This is a system of plant classification mostly molecular-based and now has been updated to APG III system (Angiosperm Phylogeny Group III system).



I would put forth the argument that the multiple flower-head of this plant actually has many fan-shaped flowers.



Brunonia australis (image taken 1 week ago)

Thanks, David, for a great talk and it gave me a reason to once again go through all my images to try and find some that fit into this description of your presentation.

DISTRICT GROUP CONFERENCE

Saturday, 30th July 2011

The aim of the conference is 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.

The meeting will be held at La Trobe University, Bundoora and has the following programme outline.

9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Prologue by APS Victoria President
9:45 a.m.	Presentations
10:45 a.m.	Morning tea
11:00 a.m.	Panel discussion
12:00 p.m.	Networking Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Presentations
2:00 p.m.	Afternoon tea
2:15 p.m.	Panel discussion
3:30 p.m.	Summing-up by APS Victoria President
3:45 p.m.	Closure presentation
4:00 p.m.	Finish

Members who wish for more information and/or would like to participate should contact Cathy.

Attendance is free and limited to APS members. It is hoped that our group can provide 3 participants.

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee

President	Martin Grannas	5426 4748
Vice President	Barb Pye	5428 9369
Secretary	Gerry Monaghan	5367 0857, aps@hotmail.net.au
Treasurer	Cathy Powers	5369 4302, aps@hotmail.net.au
Committee	Joan Carr, David Pye, John Flanagan, Lucille McCarthy	