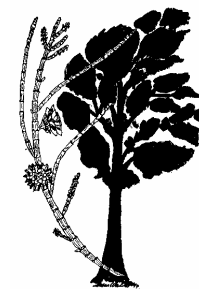


**Australian Plants Society**  
**Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc (A0026204P)**  
ABN: 68 053 689 781      Website: <http://www.bulokebulletin.com>  
APS Victoria website: <http://www.apsvic.org.au/>



# BULOKE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER No. 118  
October 2011

edited by David & Barb Pye

## **Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup> - EUCALYPTS FOR THE GARDEN- talk by Jason Caruso**

Jason's presentation will basically introduce Eucalypts and their many forms/uses. He will then look at certain species that are well suited to small (to medium) gardens, and are highly ornamental.

- at 7.30 for 8.00 pm at Dunvegan, Willows Historic Park, in Melton (Melway 337 C9)

## **Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> - DJERRIWARRH FESTIVAL - MELTON**

Our group will participate in the Djerriwarrh festival (9am to 4pm), by presenting a display

Volunteers are required on the day to help promote native plants and the Society. A roster will be drawn up at the October meeting. If you help on the day but will not be at the meeting, please contact Barb Pye (5428 9369 or [dabpye@gmail.com](mailto:dabpye@gmail.com)).

## **Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> - END OF YEAR BREAKUP & KRIS KRINGLE**

from 6.30 pm at Dunvegan, Willows Historic Park, in Melton (Melway 337 C9)

The meeting will take the form of a BYO picnic. BBQ facilities will be available for those who wish to use them.

To add a little fun and frivolity to our last meeting of the year, the committee has decided to invite all members to join in the Xmas spirit with a "Kris Kringle with a twist". To participate in the Kris Kringle, each person must bring along a well wrapped gift to a value up to \$10.

The gift should be non gender specific and preferably have a garden theme.

To add to the fun all those present will be asked to vote on the most imaginative / attractive wrapped gift - a prize will be presented to the winning entry.

***Please note: one gift per person***

## **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December - GARDEN VISIT - Ros & Graeme Woods**

Ros and Graeme have their garden open on this day for visits by other garden groups and invite our members to also visit. They suggest any time after 11am. Gisborne Market is also on this day (9am to 2pm), and a combined visit is suggested.

## COMING EVENTS

Sat-Sun 22-23 October

APS Ballarat Flower Show, Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens: includes plant and book sale

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Brett Sheppard of Westmeadows

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AUGUST

The following committee was elected:

President: Barb Pye  
Vice President: vacant  
Secretary: Ron Powers  
Treasurer: Lucille McCarthy  
Committee: Ann Goetz, Norris McCarthy, David Pye

After the meeting, Jean Partridge offered to take on the role of vice president, and she was ratified at the committee meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

A number of committee members did not stand for reelection, ie Cathy Powers (treasurer), Gerry Monaghan, Joan Carr, John Flanagan, and Martin Grannas. All were thanked for their contribution by the incoming president Barb Pye.

## PLANT OF THE MEETING August 2011

From Cathy Powers

### *Acacia denticulosa*

*Acacia* (a-KAY-see-a) *denticulosa* (den-tick-U-losa)

This is one of the beautiful acacias from Western Australia's cereal belt.



It prefers well-drained soil in a sunny location. Our plant is in a built up bed and has thrived here.

According to the literature, it responds well to pruning, especially the uprights, which will result

in a denser and more compact appearance the following year.

When grown from seed, the juvenile plant has leaves but as it matures, the leaves are replaced by phyllodes. Phyllodes are leaf-like structures that are actually expanded leaf stalks and they take on the role of the leaf by capturing light and conducting photosynthesis. So when we refer to the rough, sandpaper-like leaves, we are actually not describing the leaves at all.

The bright yellow wattle flowers are from 5-7 cm long and rod-shaped. The numerous fine stamens create the characteristic fluffy appearance of the flowers. It can be grown from seed and my plant produces them in large quantity. I have grown some plants from seed so they are not too difficult to propagate. They live about 5 years in cultivation so it is a good idea to collect the seed and have more plants on the way to replace the aging ones.



COMMON NAME: Sandpaper Wattle

## SURVEY OF MEMBERS

A number of issues were discussed at the 15<sup>th</sup> September committee meeting, including suggestions that some meetings be held in Bacchus Marsh, and some meetings be held in the daytime. Excursions were also discussed. The suggestion that we change our logo was also discussed. It was agreed that a survey be sent to members for their input. The survey was available at the September meeting, and filled in by those present. It will be available at the

October meeting, and is attached to this newsletter.

**GEELONG AREA EXCURSION** - report by Barb Pye

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 11 of our members were treated to some spectacular gardens. The weather was superb – mild & sunny when we arrived at Tony & Liz Cavanagh’s garden in Ocean Grove. This 2 acre garden was packed with interesting plants, many growing in semi-shade. A magnificent *Euc scoparia* was a feature in the front garden. At least 2 beautiful specimens of *Pimelea spectabilis* took my fancy. We have tried this plant a few times but it is very difficult to keep it healthy for long. A stunning form of *Banksia ericifolia* with lots of red flowers was a feature of the back garden. *Dryandra quercifolia* with a very red centre looked special. *Grevillea buxifolia* is a plant that you don’t see very often – its grey spider flowers were fascinating. Lots of *Thomasias* brightened up the shady areas and still there was room for a big veggie garden, chook shed and fruit trees.



Then on to the Bells garden in Torquay. Graeme arrived ahead of the rest of us due to rather circuitous routes taken by the rest of us. What a treat was in store for us – a large and beautifully landscaped garden full of fantastic plants and lots of quirky garden ornaments. This garden featured lots of proteaceous plants – *Banksias*, *Grevilleas*, *Hakeas* (and *Leucodendrons*). A beautiful *Euc preissiana* in full bloom greeted us next to our car. We then went from one treasure to another – *Grevillea leucoptera*, *Banksia praemosa*, *Hakea francisiana* and a myriad of smaller plants. Let the photos do the talking.





Eucalyptus preissiana



Grevillea leucoptera



Kennedia eximia

Finally, we went to Vaughans Nursery and garden where we all stocked up on plants for our gardens, and were shown around the garden by Phillip. As usual, there were spectacular plants in this garden - Eremophilas, Diplolaenas, and lots of new Grevillea hybrids.

A hearty thanks to all the garden owners.

### **My Plant from the Spring Plant Table**

*From Ann Goetz*

***Pimelea nivea*** (Thymelaeaceae)

I just love the leaves and the flowers of this plant.

My plant is only 2 years old and has grown to about 1 metre tall. It is in semi shade and protected from wind. I believe it can grow to 1.5 metres. The leaves are very dark green and rounded. The backs of the leaves are a silvery/white.

White flowers arrive in summer at the ends of the stems. It has attractive foliage and is quite hardy.

I plan on planting another in our new roundabout.

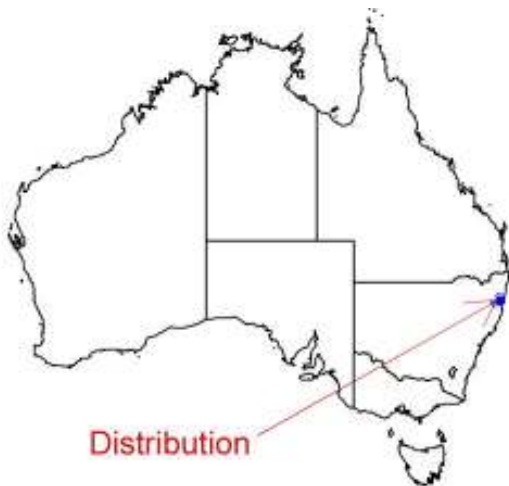


### My Plant from the Spring Plant Table From Cathy Powers

#### *Hakea* (HAK-ee-uh) *ochroptera*

Common name: Dorrigo Hakea

This hakea occurs naturally in the Dorrigo area of NSW. Although it comes from a warm-temperate rainforest climate, my plant has thrived in our soil and location. Perhaps it likes the similarity of our soil and the distribution type described as 'on hillsides in skeletal soil between rock sheets' that makes it feel at home.



The derivation of its name comes from ochro- (Greek for yellow) and ptero (Greek for wing) referring to its seed wing colour. This is an important identification difference from its closely related *Hakea macraeana*.

It flowers in spring (September-October). The flowers are white, abundant and found along the

the branches. The egg-shaped, woody fruits are covered with warty lumps.



Like *Hakea macraeana*, this species could be a 'stand alone' garden specimen or could be used as a screening plant. However, according to the literature, in ideal conditions it will grow larger (up to 12m high). I have no scientific proof, but I feel that the leaves of *H. ochroptera* are longer than the leaves of either related species (*H. macraeana* & *H. macrorrhyncha*).



Regardless, the beautiful growth habit and non-aggressive (although somewhat pointed) leaves makes this my pick of the bunch.



## My Plant from the Spring Plant Table

from Barb Pye

### *Pomaderris aurea*

Our plant of this species is less than 1m high and about 2m wide. It is quite spectacular in flower. Most species in this genus are much larger growing plants, but this dwarf specimen is an ideal understory plant. Ours is growing in a sheltered position facing east, but any semi shaded spot should suit. The species grows naturally in Eastern Victoria, often at altitudes of 150-900 metres. I collected seed from this specimen last year and am presently trying to germinate it. It should also grow from cuttings.



## MBG EUCALYPTUS ARBORETUM

from David Pye

Progress continues with the arboretum, with many people contributing.

The CVGT work experience team has continued to plant along the central concrete path, and has mulched all the Eucalyptus that we planted in autumn. Fencing is completed for the time being, although we will require more when the central area is reseeded with native grasses.

The secondary paths have been leveled for topping with mulch, and this is expected to commence by the time of our October meeting.

Weed growth has been prolific, and this has been brought largely under control by numerous volunteers from FMBG and APS, with some assistance from the CVGT team. Thanks to all volunteers for their efforts, which have been most beneficial, and are very much appreciated.

Plant production for next year has commenced, with 40 or so species of Eucalyptus already germinated. Ron is producing Carpobrotus plants for use as groundcover. Gordon TAFE has commenced propagation of plants from cuttings, and a recent FMBG meeting prepared almost 500 cuttings of various Eremophilas and Myoporums. A list of other plants has been discussed with Ian Taylor who made a number of useful suggestions. The final revised list is about to be sent back to Ian, to enable production by Western Plains Flora.

## APS EMBROIDERED BADGES

from Cathy Powers

APS Victoria has discontinued merchandise items such as clothing. Instead, we have purchased iron on/sew on embroidered badges. This enables you to put our badge on any item of clothing of your choice.

These are available now. Please put this notice in your newsletter and I attach a colour image of the badge. They look great. Nicky Zanen is handling the orders and can be contacted through the APS Vic secretary's email address.

We will also have them available at the next COM meeting & AGM on the week-end hosted by Loddon-Murray (November 12th & 13th).

The cost is \$5.00 per badge, picked up or posted.



## APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee

President	Barb Pye	5428 9369
Vice President	Jean Partridge	
Secretary	Ron Powers	5369 4302 aps@hotmail.net.au
Treasurer	Lucille McCarthy	5428 9320
Committee	David Pye, Norris McCarthy, Ann Goetz	