

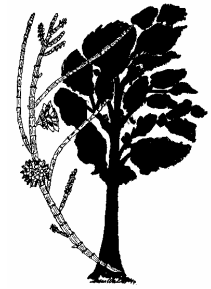
**Australian Plants Society**

**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. 112**

Aug-Sept 2010

edited by David & Barb Pye. Send contributions for next issue via [dabpye@gmail.com](mailto:dabpye@gmail.com) by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010

## **Wed August 25<sup>th</sup> - BATS - TALK BY LINDY LUMSDEN**

Australia has 90 species of bats and they make up a quarter of all the mammals in the country. But apart from the flying foxes most people know almost nothing about them. Lindy Lumsden, a wildlife ecologist from the Arthur Rylah Institute in Melbourne has been studying the insectivorous bats in the Northern Plains of Victoria, and will talk to the group about local bats.

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 8<sup>th</sup> September - 10 Best Gardens of the World - talk by John Patrick**

FMBG invites APS members to this talk by John Patrick, of Gardening Australia.

The cost is \$5 each and places are limited.

Booking is required, through Alan Partridge (9743 5761).

At 7.30pm at the DJ Cunningham Centre, Exford Road, Melton South

## **Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> September – Garden visit and Gorge walk**

At Cathy & Ron Powers garden, 576 Brisbane Road, Balliang

from 10am. Picnic lunch at Anakie Gorge, followed by walk (commencing around 1pm)

***For directions, see the map on the back page of this newsletter***

**\*\* 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 7.30PM, PROGRAM COMMENCES AT 8PM**

## COMING EVENTS

Sat 4th September	APS Wilson Park Plant Sale, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Wilson Botanic Park, Princes Highway, Berwick.
Sat-Sun 11-12 September	Australian Plants Expo, from 10.00- 4.00 pm both days at Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. organised by APS Yarra Yarra.
Sat-Sun 16-17 October	APS Ballarat Group Flower Show. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens.
Sat-Sun 2-3 October	Grampians APS Show – “You can do it Too” – showing gardeners can create their own wonderful low water use garden using our fabulous native plants. Raleigh Garden also open, at Wartook, North Grampians
Sat-Sun 16 & 17 October	Growing Friends Plant Sale, Cranbourne RBG 10 am to 4 pm
Sat-Sun 13-14 November	SGAP Hamilton host Quarterly Gathering. Sat evening speaker will be Bryan Haywood on butterflies and their food plants. A trip to the Eucalyptus Arboretum is included in the program. More details in Growing Australian

***More information on Open Gardens on pages 8-9***

## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Andrew Traczynski of Kurunjang  
Darren & Helen Bellingham of Gordon  
Julianne Diwell of Bacchus Marsh  
Paul & Marion Phillips of Sunbury

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that all committee positions are vacant and open for election. Positions to be elected include President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Secretary, and several committee members. Our bylaws state that no one can hold a specific Executive position for more than 3 years, commencing with the 2007 AGM. Other responsibilities, eg newsletter, library, supper, will be appointed by the committee.

Not all committee members will be standing for re-election, and we need new committee members.

**Committee membership is not a tough task and you get to have some input towards how the group conducts its activities. Why not give it a go - even if only for a year?**

## May Meeting Report – EUCALYPTS

*- report by Cathy Powers*

It is always easy to talk about things we are most familiar with – such as a grevillea growing in your garden. It becomes a bit more challenging when the discussion topic is so diverse such as Australia’s iconic eucalypts. Frank Udovicic (Manager, Plant Sciences at the National Herbarium of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne) provided us a wonderful, if not a bit scientific for some, overview of an important tree species.

The first topic discussed was why scientific names are important. Frank offered three examples of plants known by the common name ‘Mountain Ash’.

- *E. regnans* in Victoria
- *Sorbus aucuparia* in England
- *Sorbus americana* in America

I am pretty sure that if I was arguing the merits of a Mountain Ash with someone in the U.S., we would not be talking about a eucalypt. Never the less, when discussing tree species in a formal environment, knowing the scientific name would be important.

There are several distinct types of bark which can be used to, if not identify, at least put the particular eucalypt in a category.



stringybark mottled bark boxes



bloodwoods smooth bark ironbark

But for me the interest lies in the buds and flowers. The following is just a small selection of examples:



And when all is finished, it is no wonder stories are told about gumnut babies.



For those of us in the amateur ranks, it is not so much 'it is in the detail – as with DNA' but more in the visual impact.

I really enjoyed Frank's presentation but I realize that when it comes to selection for which eucalypt you want for your garden – size is all important. For Ron and me, any size will fit but

for the suburban garden it is much more restrictive.

And this last one is just for Joan



E. Torwood

**GARDEN DESCRIPTION** from Martin Grannas and Andrea Barnes (Macedon)

Our 1850 sq m garden is at 500 m elevation and our annual rainfall over the last few years has been about 700 mm. Temperatures are generally 5°C cooler than Melbourne, except on hot north-wind days when there is insignificant difference. The site of a dairy long ago, later house building, incineration and rebuilding after the Ash Wednesday (1983) bushfires, and a recent sewer connection (May 2006) mean we have a varying thickness of loam over reddish-yellow clay, which is intermixed in several places.



We moved here in Sept 2003 and have spent our weekends and other free time converting it from an overgrown cottage garden teeming with environmental weeds (viz. ivy, bamboo, holly, agapanthus, cherry laurel, sycamore maple, arbutus, desert ash, liquidambar, cotoneaster, willows, exotic lilies etc.) and thirsty trees (birches) to one featuring Australian plants. Our aim is to only have plants that are either Australian or edible (fruit trees, vegetables, berries). Being in a bushfire risk area, we are trying to minimise the number of eucalypts and myrtaceae that are close to the house - despite this we still have around 19 different *Euc.* species. Cherished mature plants we are keeping include two *Euc. leptophylla* in the

backyard (one coppiced), a large *Euc. viminalis*, a *Euc. leucoxyton rosea*(?) in the front yard, and the orange-flowering *Corymbia ficifolia* beside the front gate. We still have many exotics that we plan on replacing, including the remaining half of the front pittosporum hedge. A big old pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) in the front yard can stay.

We installed two 4.5 kL rainwater tanks fed from the house roof, and a 9 kL storage tank to try to be water independent in the garden - this has been easily achieved so far. Our "tough love" philosophy with plants - basically letting them survive on rainwater after getting them established - has resulted in a few losses, and some plants were not looking their best during the drought. We replaced these with tougher ones if/when they perished.

Some of our garden beds are new, and being self-professed plant collectors, we find we increasingly need more room for our acquisitions - we annex sections of lawn here and there.

The backyard ponds pre-date us and once contained goldfish, but these have been restocked with Australian Smelt (*Retropinna semoni*), an indigenous fish that is too small to decimate tadpole populations, yet is a voracious mosquito predator. We love the chorus of frog calls during the evenings. The steel mesh in the ponds was to keep our kids out - a bonus is that the frogs get some protection from herons and kookaburras. The front yard pond was built to re-house some goldfish that outgrew their inside aquarium.

Over-application of fertilisers by previous owners had made many of the older garden beds too rich in phosphorus and these were an annoyance for us - we lost several *Telopea*, *Hakea* and *Banksia* most likely due to P toxicity. Some *Grevillea* suffer a bit as well, but iron sulfate addition has helped somewhat. We have success with these genera elsewhere. Other problems for us are bird-introduced and residual weed seedlings, grevillea leaf miner, carelessly stomping possums, feral rabbit grazing, and some hard frosts. "Our" garden is steadily growing into a colourful place for us, and becoming a refuge for small birds and animals.

## PLANT OF THE MEETING - MAY

- by Cathy Powers

*Eucalyptus caesia* is commonly known as Caesia, Gungurru or Silver Princess. The name *caesia* means 'bluish-grey' which is a reference

to the powdery appearance of the young branches, buds and fruit.



The name Silver Princess also refers to this feature. The name Gungurru comes from the name used by the indigenous Noongar people of Western Australia.

This small tree is a mallee which refers to the growth habit of certain eucalypts. Mallee usually means multiple stems springing from an underground lignotuber, usually to a height of no more than ten metres. It can also refer to the plants which grow as single stemmed trees but recover in mallee form if burnt to the ground during a bushfire event.

There are two subspecies – *caesia* (about 6-9 metres tall) and *magna* (up to 15 metres tall). The bark is red-brown and minni ritchi.



Minni ritchi is a type of reddish brown bark that continuously peels in small curly flakes, leaving the tree looking like it has a coat of red curly hair. The branches tend to flail or weep to the ground and the red-pink flowers are usually large (June – September).

This eucalypt is widely grown as an ornamental tree for suburban gardens but has become rare in the wild.



*E. caesia* is endemic to the central wheat-belt region of Western Australia around granite outcrops. It was named in 1867 from specimens collected as early as 1847. Interesting to note that in 1891-2, a botanist gathered specimens of a *Eucalyptus* from an area called 'Gungurru' and was almost certainly *Eucalyptus woodwardii* but misidentified as *E. caesia*.



*Eucalyptus woodwardii*

This led to the incorrect application of a common name 'Gungurru' and to the confusion about the species' distribution.

The *E. caesia* is a tree which can grow in some clayey soils, is not affected by frosts, tolerates a minimum rainfall of 400mm and is usually pest free. Because the trunk is rather thin and the

weeping branches are long, it is recommended that a young tree is provided some support such as staking.

## ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Our annual sale held at Bacchus Marsh Uniting Church carpark on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May was a success, with a final profit of \$876.50.

Attendance was good although down on the previous year, probably due to the fact that it was raining everywhere except Bacchus Marsh.

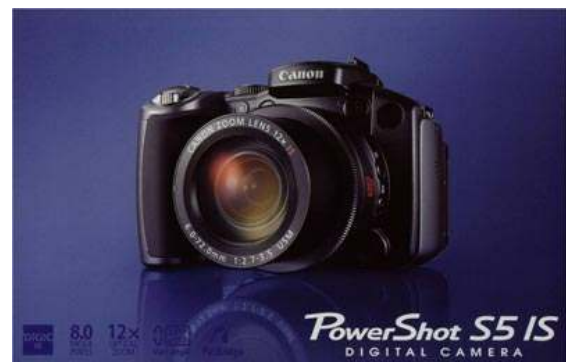


*I'm not surprised that you have a long face. You missed a great plant sale*

## JUNE MEETING REPORT

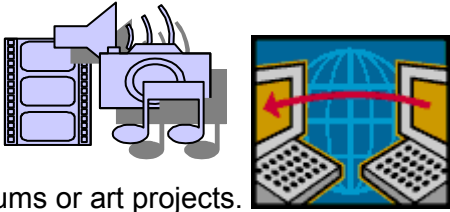
- by Cathy Powers

For the few members who attended our June meeting, the opportunity to hear Chris Clarke's presentation about photography was a great learning experience. Chris and Arthur Coates both travelled from the suburbs of Melbourne to offer a visual tour of photography (especially macro) and then one-on-one help with individual cameras.



The introduction was my PowerPoint presentation covering some of the basics. Because I was travelling at the time Chris presented his photography workshop during the last Brisbane Ranges wildflower show, I did not know what his PowerPoint content was. I thought it interesting that we both started off with the suggestion that, when taking photos, you should have an idea of why or the intended purpose for the end result.

The why might be a hobby or for supporting research material. Both are great reasons to take photos but each has a different approach. Knowing the why can assist you when deciding the type of camera to use as well as the settings and content. The intended purpose might be for emailing, photo

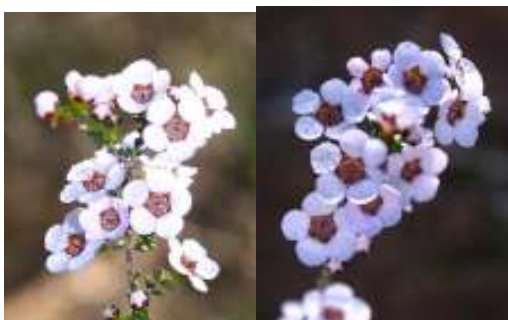


albums or art projects.

Regardless of the intended purpose, the best idea is to take the highest quality, largest size image your camera will allow. You can always crop or frame your images with computer software such as 'Photoshop'. There are many good image software programs that are free downloads from the internet.

Chris offered a lot of hints – those techniques which created the fantastic images he showed us during his presentation. A few of them are:

- The best time to photograph flowers is morning or late afternoon because the midday sun is too harsh.
- No matter how you try for a calm day, living in Victoria can prove a challenge to have a day available when the wind is not blowing. Regardless, having some wind protection helps such as an umbrella. Shooting moving subjects (and there are time I wish I could shoot it to make it sit still) is an experience to be shared. Other than holding it still with your hand – never a good option because you would be surprised how much you hand shakes – or other methods to keep the subject still, the best option is to use faster shutter speeds.
- Taking advantage of cloudy days or shade can assist but remember that you can also use under-exposure if that is not possible.



Midday sun on left, under-exposed on right

The trick is to get true colours of the subject and a darkish background. Brightly lit background

can detract from the subject or create difficulty with the camera's auto settings.

Your camera came with a 'how to book' better known as a manual. If you have not read it, that should be your first priority before embarking on a macro photography session. Almost all digital cameras now have a macro setting and this is designated with the symbol of a tulip.



Using the macro setting has its own pitfalls but remembering that you need to get fairly close to the subject is the first hint. Also, the depth of field is shallow and the auto settings of the camera can be deceived. This may be a time when manual focus is necessary. The option is to take the image from further away and then crop the flower. This gives you a larger depth of field and focus on more parts of the flower.

The last little hint – some other equipment that might come in handy:

- Tripod
- Extra batteries and extra storage (SD card)
- Camera protection and lens cleaner
- Umbrella and insect repellent

Thanks to Chris & Arthur for the presentation and all the personal assistance given to the camera owners. Also thanks to Martin for running the meeting in Barb's absence.

**NEW ADDRESS FOR ANPSA WEBSITE - information from Brian Walters.**

The new address for the ANPSA website is:

<http://anpsa.org.au>

(note: no 'www' in the address). The previous address (<http://asgap.org.au>) will continue for the time being but it is best that the new address is used from now on.

The Dryandra pages on the website have now been amended. They show the Dryandra names as the main names with the new Banksia names in brackets.

## **OPEN GARDENS FEATURING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS** - information from Helen Kennedy

### **4-5 September 2010**

*Davis Garden* 4 Rickards Ave, Knoxfield. Richly planted with Australian plants, mounding and channelling used. Exotics in rear garden as well as natives. (20x40m)

*Lubra Bend Homestead* 135 Simpson Lane, Yarra Glen. Exciting new extensive garden using massive rocks and water, designed by Phil Johnstone, surrounded by old cypress hedge. Guildford-Bell house, veg. garden, croquet lawn, etc. (2.5 ac.)

*Jerramungup Park* 85 Johnsons Lane, Strathmerton. (Paul Kennedy's garden) Significant collections of hakeas, banksias, eucalypts (500 different species) in parkland setting. Ancient red gums. (35 acres) (NEW)

### **11-12 September 2010**

*Hanson Garden* 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte. Rich collection of Australian plants, rocks and pools reflect Bev's work done with Ellis Stones. Adjacent to national park (1 ac.)

### **18-19 September 2010**

*Ford & Adams Gardens* 141 Pitt Street, Eltham. Designed by Gordon Ford, integrated waterfalls and rocks, each garden using different approaches. (1.75 ac. And 0.25 ac.)

Note: \$10 joint fee

*Alcheringa* 46 Victoria Ave, Rosanna. Classic Gordon Ford design; house by Alistair Knox. Waterfall, indigenous plants, huge grass trees, Gynea lilies, etc. (0.25 ac.)

### **25-26 September 2010**

*Subushia* 16 Dover Street, Oakleigh East. 'Bush block' in the city, 40 eucalypts, thickly planted, nature-strip too. Dry creek bed, chooks, productive area, permaculture-based.

### **2-3 October 2010**

*Iron House Garden* 189 Brunswick Rd, Brunswick. 1850s iron house, front garden of exotics designed by John Patrick; rear courtyard planted with eucalypts and other plants native to nearby Merri Creek. (43x18) (NEW)

*Waldershare* 140 Grossmans Rd, Torquay. Graceful curving beds filled with great range of Australian plants; elegant outdoor areas, gravel

garden, veg. garden, etc, indigenous boundary planting. (3.5 ac.) (NEW)

*Hall Garden* 108 Cahills Rd, Yarrowonga. Sculptured to collect water, ephemeral wetland, huge variety of Australian plants for dry conditions. Veg. garden. (2.5 ac.) (NEW)

### **9-10 October 2010**

*Girraween* 349 Diamond Creek Rd, Diamond Creek. Hundreds of grafted eremophilas and many other rare Australian plants in large, sweeping plantings. Exotics round house. Sculptures and unusual Eastern-style dwellings add calming influence. (7.5 ac.) (NEW)

*Sam Cox's Garden* 12 Lorimer Rd, Wattle Glen. Mudbrick house surrounded by designer Sam Cox's varied and interesting garden. Waterfall with big rocks, chooks, revegetated bushland. (1 ac.)

*Yankalilla* 121 Knafl Rd, Taggerty. Low maintenance, waterwise, plants in informal groups blend with bushland below Cathedral Peak. Veg. garden, orchard. (2.5 ac.) (NEW)

### **16-17 October 2010**

*Vinen Garden* 84 Stoney Creek Rd, Beaconsfield Upper. Natives and exotics blend well, plants suited for dry shade under gums and maples. (0.3 ac.) (NEW)

*Moravale Lodge* (2 ac.) 203 Belgrave-Hallam Rd, Narre Warren North. large dam fringed with willows, boundaries thickly planted with natives. Exotics near house, fernery, fruit trees etc.

### **31 October 2010**

*Firetail* 17 Enfield Drive, Torquay. Young Aust. plant garden merges with surrounding bush. Boardwalk along wetland, fire pit, sculptures, big aviaries. (2.5 ac.) (NEW)

*Obliqua* 15 Enfield Drive, Torquay. Plants either edible or native. Massed plantings, fruit trees, veg. garden, fire pit, bushland beyond. Interesting sculptures. (1ac.) (NEW)

Note: Both gardens Sunday only, joint entry \$10

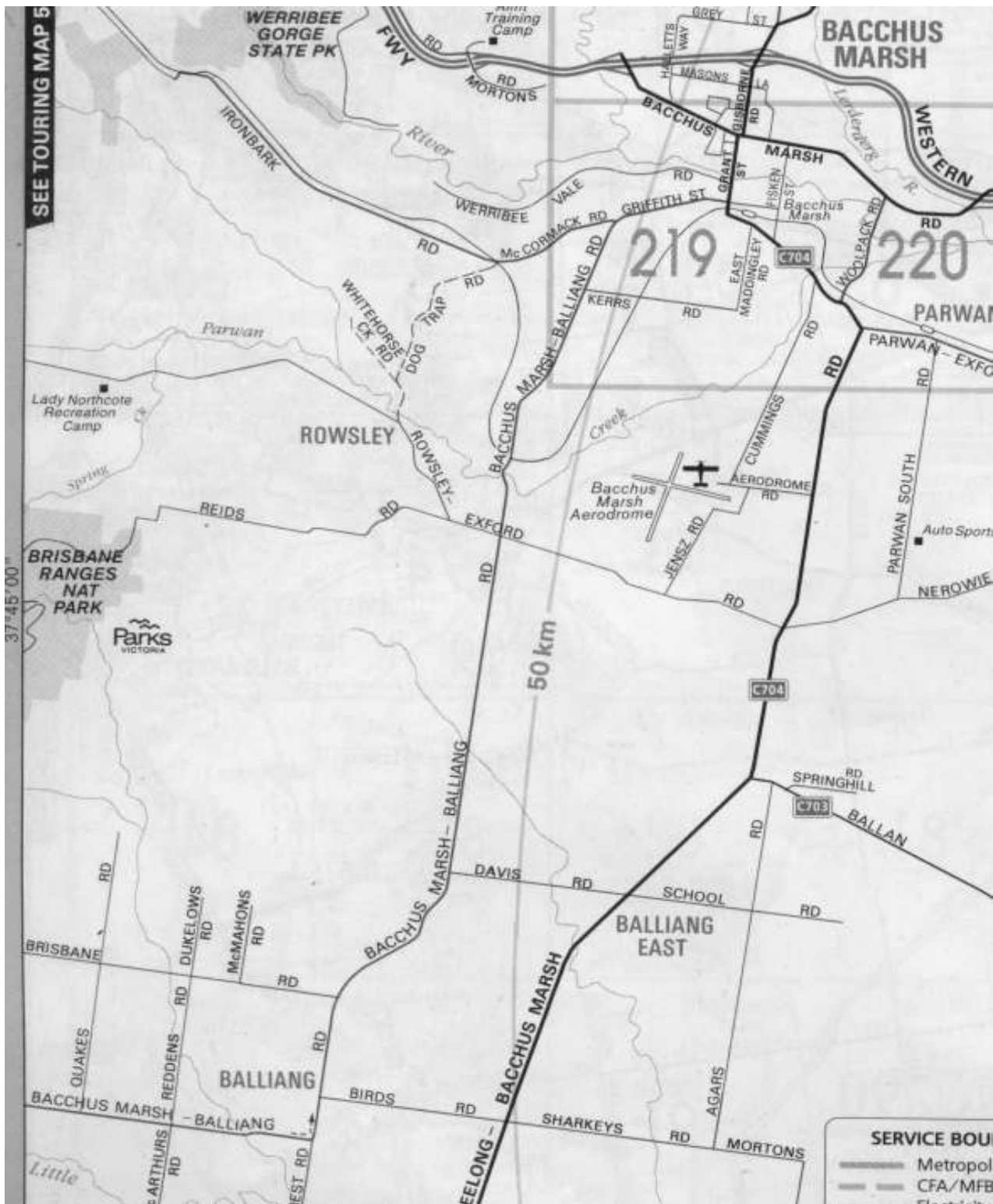
### **APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee**

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

## GARDEN VISIT TO THE POWERS GARDEN

Take the Anakie/Bacchus Marsh Road from Bacchus Marsh (shown as *Bacchus Marsh – Balliang Road* on the map below). This road starts at the round-about at the corner of Maddingley Park, near the high school and railway crossing. Travel past the cemetery, golf course, and racecourse. Continue south for 17 kilometers.

Turn right on to Brisbane Road. Travel 5 kilometers (the last half being dirt road) to the end of the road. Turn left into their property and enter the second gate.



from Melway, page 7