

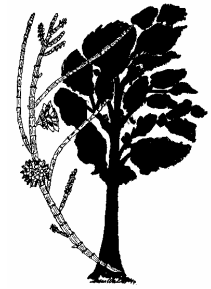
**Australian Plants Society**

**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. 114  
January – February 2011

edited by David & Barb Pye. Send contributions for next issue via [dabpye@gmail.com](mailto:dabpye@gmail.com) by Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January POTTING UP evening & BBQ**

from 5.30 pm at the Pyes, 1220 Bacchus Marsh Road, Bullengarook, phone: 5428 9369

**Note: If 5.30pm is too early, turn up whenever you can, even if just for the BBQ.**

Plants will be potted up for sale by the group. Members who can do so will be invited to take them home from our February meeting to look after them. These plants will be sold at our Plant sale in May

Since the work will raise an appetite, BBQ facilities will be available. It is suggested that members bring their own meat & drinks, and a salad or dessert for sharing.

**Please note: in the event of a Total Fire Ban, the potting up will be postponed to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, Committee Meeting**, at Joan Carr's, 7.30pm

## **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - talk on Frogs of the Brisbane Ranges, by Ade Foster**

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

Doors open at 7.30pm, Program commences at 8pm

To quote Ade "I've been interested in natural history of all kinds for as long as I can remember. I've always had a fascination for frogs, and have kept tadpoles and pet frogs for over 50 years. I hold an 'Advanced Wildlife Licence' which enables me to keep native frogs, and over the past few years, have had as many as 50 individuals, of 9 species, living in tanks in my house ... some might say I'm a little crazy! I currently have just Green treefrogs and Peron's treefrogs, with three other species living in my garden. I'm a keen photographer (especially native orchids) and have a totally native garden with over 80 different Grevilleas featured. I will be talking to you about the frogs found in the Brisbane Ranges ... introducing you to the surprisingly rich amphibian fauna of the park."

## **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March Quarterly Meeting hosted by APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh**

At Staughton Vale Hall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

We are hosting this meeting and **require volunteers** to help on the day. We will also need people to set up the Hall, and to assist with refreshments. After the meeting we will need to clean up the Hall. We also **need someone to volunteer as Organiser** for the day.

We will ask for volunteers at our January meeting. If you are able to help but will not be at this meeting, please contact Barb or David Pye (5428 9369).

## COMING EVENTS

Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Moths of the Geelong Region - talk by Marilyn Hewish
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Central Australia travels & Dryland Plants - talk by Barb & David Pye
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Annual Plant Sale, Uniting Church, Bacchus Marsh
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> May	A Walk in the Victorian Alps - panoramic presentation by Michael Marmach - joint meeting with Melton Garden Club

## 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	

## WHAT'S MISSING

If you wish to read reports on the October meeting, October plant of the month, an article on a member's garden, or a report on the Eucalyptus Arboretum, don't look here.

Hopefully, we will include the above items in the March newsletter. However, we can say that Eucalypt seedlings have been potted up for May planting and that FMBG was successful in its grant application to the Dahl Trust for funding for Eucalyptus Arboretum. This means that we can proceed to prepare the site for planting in late Autumn, this year.

## OUR PLANT SALE FOR 2011

Our annual plant sale will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2011: 9am to 1pm at the Uniting Church car park, Bacchus Marsh

We are trying to establish a reputation for selling hakeas and will have 20 or so species – some common species and some not so common species. At our January meeting we will pot up all the hakea seedlings into larger pots.

We will need volunteers to care for these 300 or so young plants which will be distributed at our February meeting.

## WINS AND LOSSES IN A WET YEAR – by Barb Pye

Well, what an interesting season it has been – 950mm of rain for the year in Bullengarook. Before you say WOW - how fantastic, let me tell you about the consequences. The dams are full - hooray, at least 2 years water supply. A lot of rain fell in November in a warm humid spell, ideal for fungal growth. The garden stayed warm and wet for more than a month, with water

oozing from our hillside for longer than we can remember in our 30 years here. Our slopes and



porous soil ensured that there was no surface water staying around and drainage was good, overall...Our waterfall even flowed again, the first time for some years.



Many of our plants had adapted beautifully to the drier conditions of the past 10 years, but did

not appreciate the extra water. Losses include many of our most prized plants – virtually all of our Isopogons including *I. latifolius* (1.5m high and 3m wide) which is still there but slowly dying. *Correas* especially *C. pulchella*, *alba* and *reflexa* varieties have succumbed in large numbers. Our lovely Scarlet Wattle was one of the first to go. Some *eremophilas* died but that was only to be expected, and our beautiful *Senna* also died. *Pimeleas* too have taken a battering and wedding bushes (*Ricinocarpus*) don't like these conditions either.

On a positive note, the kangaroo paws have loved the season, the Eastern Banksias which were struggling in the dry seasons are flourishing. No trees died, *Hymenosporum flavum*, the Native frangipani is still flowering, and just about everything in the family *Myrtaceae* has appreciated the conditions. We now have lots of planting spaces, but do not know what we should plant. Surprisingly, we lost very few WA Banksias, despite losing many *Dryandras*. *Grevilleas* did well.

Losses were heavy in some parts of the garden and very light in others. Thus, we do not know if the problem was caused by fungal disease of roots sitting wet subsoil, or if it was triggered by some other problems such as excess salinity or acidity, due to the large amount of water flushing out the soil.

### MY HOPE PLANTS by Cathy Powers

We all have these whether we recognise them or not. I thought I would take the opportunity to share three of my Hope Plants with you.

#### Hope It Flowers

*Regelia velutina* is described as pyramidal shrub. In the year 2000, the plants (2) were put in the ground along the fence line of our garden. The soil was most un-inviting but very well drained!

Year after year I have been admiring the shape of the plants, the beautiful foliage and hoping one day they would flower. According to the literature, it may take 7 – 8 years from seed to the first flower and worse still the information states that the plant may be shy to flower in the eastern states.

Information found on [www.anpsa.org.au](http://www.anpsa.org.au) is as follows:

**Regelia**...After Eduard August von Regal, a German botanist, **velutina**...From Latin *velutinus*, velvety, referring to the softly hairy leaves.

*Regelia* is a small genus of 6 species, 5 of which occur naturally only in south Western Australia and one species in Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory.



*Regelia velutina* is reasonably well known in cultivation. It is a large shrub to about 3 metres with attractive, greyish green, velvety leaves to about 13mm long. The large clusters of brilliant red/orange flowers (occasionally yellow) open in spring and are well displayed towards the ends of the branches. Following flowering, seeds develop in woody capsules similar to those formed with *Melaleuca* species. The seeds are retained within the capsules indefinitely.

Hooray – this year both plants have flowered!

#### Hope It Continues To Live

We have a number of wonderful eucalypts planted in our garden spaces. Three *Eucalyptus synandra* (common name: Jingymia Mallee) are growing, one of which has flowered for the past three years and one which is just flowering for

the first time. They were planted near each other and at the same time. The growth rate is intriguing but what is more interesting is the unusual flowers.

Information found on [www.anpsa.org.au](http://www.anpsa.org.au) is as follows:

***Eucalyptus***...from Greek, *eu*, well and *calyptos*, covered referring to the cap which covers the developing flowers, ***synandra***... Stamens united for part of their length



*Eucalyptus synandra* is uncommon in the wild and in cultivation. It is a tall shrub or small tree of mallee (multi-stemmed) habit) growing up to 5-6 metres tall. The leaves are linear to narrowly elliptic in shape about 200 mm long. The smooth bark is greyish and is shed annually. Flowers are very conspicuous and are initially white but age to deep pink or red with the stamens being united into a tube for the lower portion of the flowers. Flowering occurs in late spring and summer.

Yeah –all three continue to live and flower.

### Hope It Produces Seed

The plant list for our garden includes *Eucalyptus crucis* (Southern Cross Mallee or Silver Mallee). After some investigation, I find that there are three sub-species of this species and assume that since we have had ours in the ground since the early 2000s, it is most likely *Eucalyptus crucis* subsp. *crucis*. The other two are listed as:

*Eucalyptus crucis* subsp. *praecipua*  
*Eucalyptus crucis* subsp. *Lanceolata*

Now that I am trying propagation of plants other than hakeas, I am anxiously waiting to see if the



flowers will produce seed pods. If so, I plan on propagation attempts from the seed.



Information found in the *Gardener's Companion to Eucalypts* (Ivan Holliday & Geoffrey Watton) is as follows:

*Eucalyptus crucis* is characteristically a straggly or crooked small tree to 7m high. It has dense silver-blue foliage and powdery white bark on the smaller branches but the trunk has bark rough, 'minni-ritchi'. Flowers are creamy yellow occurring in summer. It is easily grown in dry to moderate temperate areas, adapting to most soils.

Still hoping.