



BULOKE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER No. 101
May-July 2008

edited by David & Barb Pye (pye@ssc.net.au)
Next newsletter to be edited by Martin Grannas, Send
contributions via aps@hotmail.net.au by 8th August

OUR ANNUAL PLANT SALE Saturday 17th May, 9am – 1pm

Our annual fundraiser at Darley Market did not take place. Without warning, the venue organizers refused entry due to the wettish conditions and the event had to be cancelled, with the sellers sent home. We apologise to all involved. Our next Plant Sale will need to be at a different venue, probably in late April next year. Suggestions and ideas are most welcome. There are mutual advantages in holding it in conjunction with another event.

The group now has many **fantastic Hakeas for sale** at \$3 each to members. A terrific job was done by all those who grew them. They are available through Barb or David (5428 9369) or at the May meeting. See list on page 7.

GRASSES AND CEMETERY FLORA

talk by Ern Perkins at the May Meeting

Wednesday 28th May, 7.30 for 8.00 pm at the Willows**

Ern and Leslie Perkins have been active APS members for many years and are currently Research Officers for APS-Victoria. Ern's talk will be mostly on native grasses but will also include some of the survey work that he and Leslie are doing in regard to plants surviving in cemeteries.

DOWN ON KANGAROO ISLAND: SOME OF THE BEST RECOLLECTIONS

talk by Russell Best & Doug Downs at the June Meeting

Wednesday 25th June, 7.30 for 8.00 pm at the Willows**

Russell, Doug and their families led a group of Keilor Plains Group members on a camping trip to Kangaroo Island last Spring. As can be expected of this marvellous island they saw much wildlife, scenery and plenty of wildflowers. They will describe their trip.

NO JULY MEETING – in winter recess

Saturday August 9th - Garden Visits – organised by Keilor Plains Group

**** 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

- Wed 27th August ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
talk by Ben Somerville on Garden Design in Suburbia
- Saturday 9th August Garden Crawl – Keilor Plains APS group
- Wed 24th September Members Night – Spring Flowering Table
- Sunday 28th September Garden Visit – McCarthy Garden, Bullengarook. during the Waratah season.
details in next newsletter.
- Sat-Sun 4-5 October FJC Rogers Seminar Eremophilas to be held in Horsham Brochure and
registration form available with APS-Vic quarterly newsletter
- Sun 26th October Garden Visits to the Stewart and Hendrickson gardens at Daisy Hill, near
Maryborough. Details in next newsletter
- Wed 22nd October Speaker:
- Wed 26th November End of Year Breakup – Report on WA trip by Cathy Powers

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Gerry Monaghan of Bacchus Marsh

Ravi Nayak of Brookfield

LAUNCH OF NEW BOOK:

“Macedon Range Flora: A photographic guide to the flora of Barrm Birm, Riddells Creek”

At Riddells Creek Winery, 288 Gap Road (2.88km from the bottom of Gap Road), on Saturday May 31st at 3pm

Light refreshments are provided.

RSVP and Contact for more information:

David Francis, email (preferred) – dfrancis3441@gmail.com

Mobile: 0409 005 440, Telephone: 5426 1910.

Neville Walsh’s foreword to the book states.

“To visit Barrm Birm in Spring is to catch a glimpse of the richness of the foothill country that once largely encircled Melbourne ...

This land is remarkable, partly for its floral richness and the beauty of its wildflowers, but also by the total absence of weeds across most of the area and the intactness of the ground layer of the vegetation ... The importance of this land to the traditional owners can be imagined when one walks through forests where the ground layer is dominated by Chocolate Lilies, Milkmaids and Barrm (in the local Wurundjeri

language, also known as Myrnong or Yam). I know of very few places in the state, if any, where these plants dominate to the extent they do at Barrm Birm.”

Proposed New Membership Fees

Membership fees have not changed in the past 10 years. After examining increased costs, the committee has proposed an increase and restructure of group fees to \$10 for members receiving newsletter by email and \$15 for members receiving their newsletter by post.

Opening of new Walking Track

On the 25th of May, a new walking track between the Lal Lal and Moorabool Falls will be opened. The official starting time is 11am at the Lal Lal Falls picnic ground. There will be a BYO picnic and guided tour to view the Moorabool Falls, the track is 2.4km each way (graded easy to medium). Contact for details are Geoff Hewitt (5341 7671) or Erica Nathan (5341 7619).

FMBG CALENDAR

Sunday June 8th 10am Clean Up Day at Botanic Garden Site

Sunday June 8th 2pm Field Trip to Ecolink Bacchus Marsh

Wednesday June 11th 7.30pm Guest Speaker: Marilyn Hewish “Birds of the Long

Forest” at Victoria University Melton Campus Auditorium

Contact: John & Jill Bentley, 9743 3819

Garden Crawl - APS Keilor Plains Group

A similar excursion to our Garden Crawl event of Spring 2006 has been planned by the Keilor Plains group. They have designated Saturday 9th August 2008 from 9 to 4 (approx), and have invited us. This excursion will be to some of their members' gardens or similar venues. We could car pool if necessary or ultimately hire the shire bus if we get the numbers and book early enough.

Further details will be available at the June meeting. Cathy is keeping a list of those able to go and will advise the details when available.

March meeting - FUNGI - report by Cathy Powers

At our March meeting, Geoff Lay dazzled us with information and awe inspiring photographs. It was obvious from the beginning that ‘fungi’ is a subject of familiarity to him.

Some interesting facts about ‘fungi’:

- Is a very large group of organisms that reproduce from spores
- It does not photosynthesise and therefore does not depend on light for energy
- The major part of fungi consists of microscopic threads in the soil
- The part we see above ground is the temporary reproductive organ called the fruit-body
- Obtain energy in various ways so can occur in a wide range of conditions
- Each species has its own preferable growing environment but moisture is a key factor
- Soil temperature can play a part in the ‘appearance’ of fungi (warm = more, cool = less)
- Many types of invertebrates use fungi as a food source or habitat
- Are one component of soil micro-organisms at work in a compost heap
- Some flora has a specific relationship with fungi – such as terrestrial orchids

The term ‘toadstool’ is no longer in use largely because of the misconception that mushrooms

are edible and toadstools are poisonous. This is a fallacy. Take the *Amanita phalloides* (Death Cap to us non-botanists) for instance. It looks like a mushroom, especially the Common Rosegill, but is DEADLY POISONOUS and always found in association with exotic trees, especially oaks – all the more reason to plant Australian natives, I say.

The fruit-body of fungi comes in a huge variety of shapes, sizes, colour and texture. Some have an odour to attract blow flies, some are slimy, some look like a glob of jelly, some grow high up on the trunk of trees. Regardless, there is a challenge when it comes to identification. Without going into too much detail, knowing the terminology can be very helpful. Understanding the concept of gills, stem, spines, rings and even mouth when applying it to fungi allows for the basic category grouping and then the use of reference material such as *‘Fungi Down Under – The Fungimap Guide to Australian Fungi’* is the next step to identifying that subject just discovered.

Speaking of discovery, it appears that there are many unidentified fungi out in the wild so you may even find one that has never been seen before – such as the Powers Bonnet (I am always hopeful since I haven’t found that unknown orchid yet).

After presenting some facts about fungi, Geoff then showed us an array of stunning slides to inspire us to go out looking for the little darlings. His photography was excellent and, knowing the conditions (dark, damp and often hidden) in which they grow, admirable. He also suggested that a few equipment additions should be:

- A block of wood on which to rest your camera for stability in a dark environment
- A small piece of camp mattress or rubber on which to kneel in the wet environment
- A wine cask liner for light reflection (nothing like a need to drink 4 litres of wine)

What he did not list were:

- Umbrella in case it ever rains again
- Mosquito protection (they like it damp too)
- Willingness to photograph subjects that smell bad

Thanks to Geoff for introducing us to a subject we all found interesting and for sharing your slides, knowledge and experience.



April Meeting –CORREAS – report by Barb Pye

David gave us a digital presentation on Correas, explaining the difference between the 11 species and showing examples of many different varieties and cultivars. He also discussed why Correas are so popular.

- Flowers are bell shaped, usually hang down, attractive
- Can have flowers all year, with different species & hybrids
- Nectar producing: attract honey eaters (& crimson rosellas)
- Usually easily grown – not fussy about soil
- Species for sun and shade
- Usually easy to grow from cuttings
- Many areas of Victoria have one or more Correas growing locally. Fun to find
- Lots of colour variation
- New varieties becoming available
- Well suited to Southern Victorian climate
- Seedlings (often hybrids) come up in the garden
- Many are drought tolerant

It is planned that the Correa Study Group will add further photos and ideas to the presentation. It will then be made available to all district groups and Correa Study Group members. Thanks go to our members who were the guinea pigs for the first showing and to David for creating it.



Plant of the month (March) by Barb Pye

Beaufortia orbifolia – Ravensthorpe Bottlebrush



There are reported to be 2 forms of this bush. The one that we grow is a bushy shrub about 1-1.5m high and wide. It seems to tolerate drought quite well and is reportedly frost tolerant. Our plant flowers from late spring until about April, making it one of our longest flowering shrubs. Its bright orange-red flowers attract honeyeaters. It also has attractive foliage that would make it an ideal subject for hedging. It can be propagated from seed or cuttings. There were two specimens at Darley park for a long time – I think that one is still there. It was chosen by our speaker Geoff Lay as plant of the month because he has always admired it but had been unsuccessful in growing it. I think that the extra rainfall in the eastern Suburbs of Melbourne where Geoff lives may not be beneficial to it, particularly if it was growing in a shaded area. Plant it in a sunny spot with reasonable drainage and you should have success.

Plant of the month (April) by Barb Pye

Goodenia macmillanii

Goodenias are usually known as shrubs or groundcovers with yellow flowers, but this one is unusual in that it has pink flowers with a pronounced fragrance. The flowers are larger than the other more commonly grown Goodenias, and attract butterflies. This

species comes from a restricted area in Eastern Victoria around the Snowy River.



It prefers a sunny site with some soil moisture where it can be expected to form a suckering clump up to 30cm high. It flowers for a long time from late spring, through summer and late autumn. The fragrance which Don Weybury used to say reminded him of Port Wine is very pronounced in the warmer weather. It can be propagated from cuttings or division of clumps

NEWS from FMBG (provided by John Bentley)

FMBG weatherproof banner The banner was kindly created and donated by David from Grafx'n'signs (<http://www.gns.net.au/>)



Stained Glass Ornament: We also have a Fuchsia Gum stained glass hanging window ornament. This was created and donated to us by David Shrubshall - We will use this for the Djerriwarrh Festival Raffle (value \$45) - If you purchase stained glass or other suncatcher products from David and mention FMBG there will be a donation made to the Friends. See - Shrubcat Leadlighting www.myspace.com/shrubcatleadlighting

The Fuchsia Gum was chosen as the design because there are some growing at the botanic garden site. Sadly one was blown over in the recent strong winds, so we will need to plant another one in the Eucalyptus Arboretum.

Propagation and Re-potting Day: Thursday
22nd May 10am - Margaret Peters Place,
Hopeton Park.

We need to re-pot a whole lot of plants to the next size pots for re-sale. We have indigenous grassland plants that are desperate for a re-pot so please come and help and have a chat with other Friends. This will be an on going activity on the 4th Thursday of each month. Propagating and selling plants is a great fun and fundraising activity that many Friends groups undertake. A great way to catch up and learn about plants. Contact Margaret: 5367 3328

Restoration of Ryans Creek. We are going to start planting along Ryans Creek this year. A walk over the area in the botanic garden was conducted by Rod Thomas, Tony Herwerth and 5 Friends on Friday 2nd May. The Melton Environment Group (MEG) is going to join us in this exciting project. If you want to be on the group that plans the area and determines the plants etc please let me know. Daryl Akers (FMBG and MEG) has kindly offered his expertise in this project. Initially FMBG said we would purchase \$1,000 of plants and the Shire of Melton then volunteered to give us a matching amount for purchase of indigenous plants. We also need to apply for an Adopt-a-Park Grants to help us with the development of this showcase section of indigenous vegetation in the botanic garden.

The COMPOST HEAP - notes from members

Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit -
Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Get rid of slugs

A simple way to eliminate slugs is to use ordinary household ammonia. Add 2 ½ cups of ammonia to a gallon jug, then fill the jug with water. Spray this solution at dusk when the slugs are active. Be especially careful to spray under the leaves and on the ground beneath the plants where slugs hang out. If you're using boards or wet newspapers to catch slugs you can also spray this solution on the slugs that have gathered overnight. The spray will kill slugs on contact, and since ammonia is a source of nitrogen, the spray will also give your plants a little boost. When spraying the ammonia solution, be careful to not get it in your eyes.

The pastor's sermon focused on how God knows which of us grows best in the sunlight and which of us needs shade. "For example," he said, "eremophilas must be planted in the sun, but correas thrive in the shade." After the service, a woman, her face beaming, approached him. "Your sermon did me so much good," she said. Before he had time to gloat too much, however, she added, "I always wondered what was wrong with my correas."

Treatment of Seed with Boiling Water (provided by Ron & Cathy)

The technique of soaking wattle seed has been carried out in Australia for many years and the better results have been had from the use of boiling water. The ratio of seed to mass of water is important. A few seeds, about a deserts spoonful, are placed in a breakfast cup and are then covered with boiling water till the cup is almost full. The cup is covered with a piece of paper and the seed allowed to remain until it is obviously inflated. In some species this might take ten days although four and five days is perhaps the average period. The seed may then be treated in the usual way by planting in containers of a propagating medium, such as sand, covered with a piece of glass and placed in a sunny position protected from winds. Germination is rapid and even.

Many seeds of other genera respond to the boiling water treatment such as Gompholobium, Chorizema, Pultenaea, Bossiaea, Hovea, Clianthus, Swainsona, Kennedia, Cassia, Bauhinia, Albizia, etc. These are all plants of the family Leguminosae which has characteristically hard testa seed. The **Fabaceae** or **Leguminosae** are a large and economically important family of flowering plants which is commonly known as the **legume family, pea family, bean family or pulse family.** 'Leguminosae' is an older name still considered valid according to ICBN Art. 18.5 (Vienna Code) and it refers to the typical fruit of these plants: the legume. However, very good results have been had with seed of plants from many other genera such as species of Pomaderris and Anigozanthos and the writer was of the opinion that most seed should be soaked until it is well inflated. The time varies greatly but if a few seeds are left untreated beside the cup and compared with the soaking seed, it then becomes obvious as to when the treated seed is ready for planting. **One of the**

elastic tests in doubtful cases is that if seed does not inflate in cold water, it might inflate in hot or boiling water.

HAKEAS FOR SALE

The following Hakeas were produced by the group for sale at the Plant Sale. The plants are well grown in Super tubes, and are extremely healthy. Members may obtain plants at \$3 each from Barb or David (5428 9369), or at the May meeting.

Hakea archeoides

Small tree, 4-5m, with long, narrow-elliptic leaves, Showy & profuse red & green flowers
Good drainage, Prefers partial shade
Warm conditions, Frost tolerant

Hakea bucculenta

Medium shrub 3m, with conspicuous bright orange flowers in spring
Full sun, good drainage, Drought tolerant
Tolerates moderately heavy frosts

Hakea dactyloides *Finger Hakea*

Medium shrub to 4m, with reddish new growth & white flowers along stems in spring
Good drainage, partial sun
Tolerates moderate frosts

Hakea laurina *Pincushion Hakea*

Tall shrub 4-5m, Pink flowers in autumn
Full sun, Good drainage
Tolerate moderate frosts & drought

Hakea macreana *Willow Needlewood*

Tall bushy shrub with weeping habit, 3-4m
Showy white flowers, Useful screening plant
Prefers good drainage, but tolerates wet periods, and moderately heavy frosts

Hakea multilineata *Grass-leaved Hakea*

Medium to tall shrub, 3-5m
Good drainage, Sun or semi-shade

Hakea nodosa

Medium shrub 2-3m, needle like foliage
Masses of cream to yellow flowers in spring
Very adaptable, Grows almost anywhere
Tolerates moderate frosts

Hakea orthorrhynca *Bird Beak Hakea*

Outstanding medium shrub 2-3m, producing very showy masses of bright red flowers
Good drainage, Full sun
Hardy to drought & most frosts

Hakea petiolaris

Large shrub, 4mx4m
Bird-attracting, purplish flowers in winter
Good drainage, Prefers full sun
May be damaged by heavy frost

Hakea rostrata *Beaked Hakea*

Medium shrub, 2-3m, with narrow prickly leaves, scented white flowers, & striking fruits
Good drainage, Full or partial sun
Hardy to moderately heavy frost

Hakea salicifolia *Willow-leaved Hakea*

Medium to tall shrub, 3-5m
Suitable for most soils & positions
Full sun to full shade, Frost tolerant

Hakea sericea *Pink flowered form*

Medium shrub to 2m with narrow prickly leaves, & masses of pink flowers in Spring
Good bird refuge
Many soils, Sun or shade, Frost hardy

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee

President	Barb Pye	5428 9369
Vice President	Martin Grannas	5426 4748
Secretary / Treasurer	Cathy Powers	5369 4302 aps@hotmail.net.au
Committee	Graeme Woods, Ron Powers Annette Blance, Joan Carr, David Pye	
Webmaster	Tim Grosvenor	