



# BULOKE BULLETIN

**NEWSLETTER No. 104**  
January - February 2009

edited by David & Barb Pye. Send contributions for next issue via [pye@ssc.net.au](mailto:pye@ssc.net.au) by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

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.**

## POTTING UP FOR PLANT SALE & BBQ

Plants will be potted up for sale by the group, with members who can do so taking them home to look after them.

Barb will also talk about raising plants from seed.

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 that if there is a Total Fire Ban, BBQ facilities will not be available, and members are asked to bring cold meat to go with their salad.**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

from 6.00pm at the  
Wattle Display garden of

Esther Brueggemeier

28 Staton Crescent,

Westlake (West Melton)

(Melway 336 B8)

phone: 9747 9684

## GARDEN VISIT & BBQ

Esther will give a guided tour of her wattles and garden, and will also tell us about the Wattle Study Group. She may have some of the new wattles for sale.

Members (and visitors) are asked to bring:

- either a salad or a dessert for sharing
- drinks
- whatever you wish to have with salad
- plates, cutlery & glasses.

**Please note that the BBQ cooking facilities will still be available in the event of a Total Fire Ban**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

7.30 for 8.00 pm at the  
Willows Historic Park

**Melway 115/C10 or 337/C9**

## PROPAGATION BY CUTTINGS

This hands-on program will cover preparation and care of cuttings, and propagation mixes. Members are asked to bring pots, secateurs or Stanley knife, and cutting material.

## NEW ADDRESS

The postal address for our group has changed to: **PO Box 946, Bacchus Marsh, Vic 3340.** Although mail to the old (Melton) address is being diverted, this will not last for long.

## COMING EVENTS

Wed, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cradle Mountain – Geoff Lay
Wed, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Design of the proposed Melton Botanic Gardens - John Bentley
Wed, May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Isopogons & Petrophiles - David Lightfoot
Wed, June 24 <sup>th</sup>	To be finalized
July	NO MEETING - WINTER RECESS
Wed, August 26 <sup>th</sup>	AGM plus Birds of the Long Forest - Marilyn Hewish
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Excursion to the Long Forest

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH - OCTOBER

**Anopterus glandulosus (Tasmanian laurel)**  
*report by Martin Grannas*

Anopterus - ano (upward) and pteron (wing) refers to the upward facing wings on the seed.  
glandulosus - refers to the gland-tipped teeth on the leaves

I bought this glossy-leaved, spring-flowering plant from Gisborne Nursery about a year and an half ago.

Anopterus glandulosus is a wet rainforest shrub/tree native to the west and south of Tasmania; I have kept this specimen in a large pot of native plant potting mix on the south side of the house, just at the edge of our eaves. The pot sits in a shallow tray so it rarely if ever gets dry. When mature it can get up to 10 m high but is usually in the 2 - 4 m range. It is slow growing so I expect to be able to keep it in the pot for a few years yet before I plant it out into the garden. This most probably is not a plant for hot dry sunny places, although my hunch is that if you can keep it adequately watered it should survive the heat.

The white flowers are clustered together and are supposed to be attractive to nectar and insect eating birds (e.g. honeyeaters) but I haven't seen any visiting just yet. The flowers have no noticeable scent (at least to my nose).



Plants of Tasmania in Hobart (Ridgeway) have both the white form I have, and a pink-budded, pink and white flowered form (available by mail order, if they are still trading). One motivation for choosing this plant was to have something that Ron and Cathy probably wouldn't have - almost all of their stunning eucalypts, banksias, hakeas etc. are in full bloom at Balliang at least a month before I even have buds showing up here at Macedon - that is if I can get them to grow in the first place.

*"For myself I hold no preferences among flowers, so long as they are wild, free, spontaneous. Bricks to all greenhouses! Black thumb and cutworm to the potted plant!"*  
Edward Abbey

## OCTOBER EXCURSION – report by Cathy Powers

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, some of us traveled to Daisy Hill to enjoy the hospitality of Bob & Beth Stewart.



There were also members from the Keilor Plains, Ballarat and Bendigo District Groups who took us up on our invitation to share the day.

We were dazzled by the diversity of plants, not to mention the types of fish in Bob's aquariums, but it was their willingness to share their garden and knowledge that made the day such a success.

Because of the close proximity to Brian & Carolyn Hendrickson's home and garden (they were away), we were able to walk over and enjoy this as well. The chance to admire Brian's finches was an added bonus.



We weren't the only ones to enjoy the Grevillea insignis!

After lunch, some of us made our way to Maryborough to see what could be described as a rock garden. Geoff Cook described how he has developed this area to include tiered garden beds and water features with local plants, this being a 'one man' attempt to save some of the local flora.



You have to acknowledge the hard work because it certainly was DRY.



The weather was perfect, the gardens admirable and the chance to share with other District Group members made for a great day.



Thanks to Bob & Beth for sharing their home and garden with all of us.

**PLANT OF THE MEETING – NOVEMBER -  
report by Cathy Powers**

**Eucalyptus newbeyi (Beaufort Inlet Mallet)**

There are a number of small to medium trees from Western Australia that can be grown in a suburban garden. They are in a group known for their smooth brown (sometimes silvery or coloured) bark. Within this group are most of the yate or Cornutae with two notable exceptions being *E. cornuta* (Yate Gum) and *E. gomphocephala* (Tuart).

This *E. newbeyi* comes from near Beaufort Inlet (hence the common name) and the Fitzgerald River National Park. It is closely related to *E. megacornuta* (Warty Yate). Because it has been used as a street tree, Ron acquired seeds from a tree along one street in the suburbs of Melbourne. Where exactly, he cannot recall, but the seeds germinated easily and we ended up with a good number of small plants.

The resident wallaby decided that they would make a tasty treat and chewed off a number of them while still in their little pots. We moved the survivors to a safe haven and this resulted in about 12 seedlings. We eventually planted them in the ground and now enjoy their beauty.

A couple of drawbacks: 1) the koala finds the new leaf growth palatable so we end up with many broken small branches due to its weight and 2) the large seed capsules can be very heavy and may cause the larger branches to lean outwards making for a very open tree rather than the neat and compact appearance described in the reading material. It readily shoots new growth after pruning so – if you don't have a koala and prune regularly, this may be the tree for your suburban garden.

Features: The flowers are large, yellow to greenish-yellow, in groups of 3-9 on each peduncle and occur between September and February. We actually have flowers most of the year. The buds can be an interesting feature as well because they are long, smooth and have horn-like bud caps. This tree also attracts many of our local birds, especially the honeyeater type and is essentially disease free. It handles a low to moderate rainfall environment and most soil types.



**APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee**

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