

Australian Plants Society

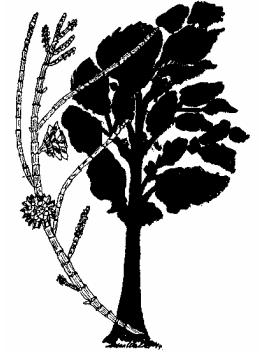
Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc (A0026204P)

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BULOKE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER No. 119
January 2012

edited by David & Barb Pye

Wednesday 25th January POTTING UP evening & BBQ

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

Don't get lost. Look for the bright yellow letterbox

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

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, bring a picnic dinner, including drinks. For those who wish to cook, BBQ facilities will be available.

Please note: in the event of a Total Fire Ban, the potting up will be postponed to Friday 27th January.

Wednesday 22nd February - talk on GRAFTING, by Phil Hempel

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

Doors open at 7.30pm, Program commences at 8pm

Phil will give a practical demonstration of grafting techniques detailing material and rootstock selection for a variety of native plants. These will include members of the Myoporaceae, Rutaceae, Myrtaceae and Sterculiaceae families.

He will explain the purposes and advantages of grafting, and describe pre and post treatment methods to give maximum success rates of the various species.

Samples of grafted plants will be available for inspection and sale.

MARCH - COMMITTEE MEETING - Date to be advised

COMING EVENTS

Sat 17 March	APS Vic COM meeting and workshop at Melton Community Centre, followed by guided walk in Melton Botanic Garden (especially Eucalypt Arboretum)
Wed 28 th March	talk on Minibeasts by Margaret Holmes
28 March to 1 April	MIFGS, including hanging basket display
Sat/Sun 21/22 April	APS Geelong Plant Sale, 'Wirawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks

SURVEY OF MEMBERS - *compiled by Barb Pye*

The results of our survey of members indicated broad support for most of the suggestions.

15 members responded

Of these, 10 indicated that they would attend daytime meetings, and only one would not.

12 members would definitely participate in excursions and would prefer to go by car.

11 members thought that we should change the logo and of the 9 who expressed a preference, 7 thought that it should be a local plant.

12 members expressed a preference for a name change for the newsletter and of these the most popular were:

- Running Postman (5 votes)
- Hakea Herald (3 votes)
- 4 others had one vote each

10 members would support meetings in Bacchus Marsh and 2 would not.

So now it is up to your committee to try to implement these suggestions. Expect some changes in the coming months.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Our annual plant sale will be held on Saturday 12th May at the Bacchus Marsh Uniting Church. The format will be similar to previously.

The recent discovery of Myrtle Rust at a nursery on the Mornington Peninsula is causing concern in relation to Native Plant Sales scheduled for

this year. Guidelines are being developed by APS, but I do not know what they are likely to be. However, it is possible that the issue will impact on the sale of Myrtaceous plants, including Eucalypts.

RICINOCARPUS "BRIDAL STAR" *from Joan Carr*

Ricinocarpus tuberculatus x cyanescens

My "Bridal Star" plant is 14.5 years old, growing against a boundary fence facing north. The parents are two WA species both growing to approx. 3m tall. My plant was quick growing, with upright habit to that height but with little lower foliage. It showed its hardiness by withstanding the drought years, but with the wet year or two has produced good lower growth and its best flowering this spring. The flowers are up 2.5cm diameter, white and sweetly perfumed.

A seedling plant has appeared right in the middle of Hakea Burrendong Beauty and is already taller than the wider growing Hakea. It has produced some flowers this year. I intend pruning to keep it little taller than its present height.

I have a special memory from the 1940's of cycling / walking along a road / track of loose white sand to an unspoiled* beach at Hat Head (on mid North Coast NSW) with 3m tall "Wedding Bush" (*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*), a locally named "Wild Peach" (*Eriostemon australasius*) growing thickly on either side. The perfume and the hum of busy bees, was something to remember with pleasure. The bitumen road now goes through Hat Head National park strip of coastal heathland but there are no wedding bushes or lovely *E. australasius* on the roadside.

* *There were only two permanent residents at that time. Crown land was later released for blocks at £10 with permission for some sort of building / shack to be put on the blocks. My father took up one at that time.*

Ricinocarpus "Bridal Star"



Ricinocarpus pinifolius

MBG EUCALYPTUS ARBORETUM - UPDATE

Since on site work on the 4 hectare arboretum site commenced last January, the following has been achieved:

- Preparation (weed control) and cultivation of the site
- Construction of primary paths to the level of a crushed rock base.
- Construction of secondary paths, including surface topping with woodchips (90% completed)
- Fencing of the area to stop vehicle travel through the site
- Planting of 400 Eucalypts of 60 species. A range of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds planted the Eucalypts over three planting days.
- Planting of several hundred understorey shrubs and groundcovers
- Siting of three truckloads of donated rocks
- Ongoing weed control and general maintenance
- Commencement of production of further Eucalypts for planting in 2012 (200 plants of 30-40 species)
- Commencement of production of 16,000 understorey shrubs and groundcovers for autumn planting
- Commencement of plans to construct an information shelter

- A draft brochure on the arboretum
- A Eucalyptus arboretum webpage on the FMBG website
http://fmbg.org.au/eucalyptus_arboretum.html
- Botanic labels attached to 100 established eucalypts in the area.

Many groups and individuals have contributed to these achievements, especially FMBG members, the CVGT Work Experience Team, and APS members.

Work during the next 6 months involves:

- Ongoing maintenance. A small group (?Gumnuts) is being formed to work in the garden on Tuesdays twice a month for this purpose.
- Planting of 200 or more trees, and 16,000 shrubs and groundcovers.
- Development of signage
- Establishment of plans to construct a service facility based on a storage shed and meeting room.
- Completion of path and other site construction works

Volunteers who would like to join the maintenance group or help with planting are asked to contact Jill Bentley (9743 3819) or David Pye (5428 9369).

EUCALYPTS FOR THE GARDEN

report by David Pye

Unfortunately, I have mislaid my extensive notes on the excellent talk given by Jason Caruso to our October meeting. Jason spoke on small Eucalypts for the garden, with many of the species described being suitable for the Melton area and included in the arboretum.

The following descriptions have been drawn from Euclid (3rd edition).

Tree - erect single trunk plant, with a crown. Can be any height from dwarf to very tall

Mallee or shrub - multistemmed from ground level and seldom taller than 10m. Can regrow from a lignotuber. Shrub is a low growing mallee.

Mallet or Marlock (only applies to WA species) - Mallet is a tree with a slender trunk and lacks a lignotuber. Marlock is a single stemmed shrub or small tree with spreading branches to almost ground level, and lacks a lignotuber.

Species that he described included those shown in the following pictures. If I can find my notes, a fuller article will appear in the next newsletter.

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee

President	Barb Pye	5428 9369
Vice President	Jean Partridge	
Secretary	Ron Powers	5369 4302, apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lucille McCarthy	5428 9320
Committee	David Pye, Norris McCarthy, Ann Goetz	



Eucalyptus albopurpurea



Eucalyptus eremophila





Eucalyptus pyrifloris



Eucalyptus woodwardii