



Running Postman



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY – MELTON & BACCHUS MARSH INC

JUNE MEETING

Overview by Cathy Powers

This was the second time I have listened to Brian Bainbridge (President of the Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association) talk about his garden. His passion for all things unseen, as well as those obvious creatures that inhabit gardens, comes across loud and clear. I found out how planning your specimen placement is not only good for the health of the plant but also good for the health of the garden. If you have a desire to enjoy what nature has on offer, then making habitats for invertebrates, birds and even reptiles is a must. Brian has yet to convince his new wife of the virtues of



Photos by Cathy Powers

long dry grasses, especially during the summer months, but he is confident that she will eventually come around to his way of thinking. He urges all of us to incorporate 'messy landscapes' which will ultimately create microhabitats for a range of inhabitants.

I loved the concept of long grasses being places to set a

trap, be a lookout for prey, be a place to sing or listen, be a spot to blend in, be a dormitory and place of rest or even a nursery. And don't forget to plant indigenous when you can.

Thanks, Brian, it was inspiring.

Points to remember: Many inhabitants of your garden enjoy a quiet, warm spot to get the day started. Inclusion of a large rock or big branch in an open spot can attract all kinds of minibeasts.

CALENDAR EVENTS

2013

28th August

Meeting: **This is the date of our AGM. See Page 3**

Our guest speaker will be Rudie Kuitert. When it comes to terrestrial orchids and the insect pollinators, Rudie is fast becoming the expert and go-to guy for reference. He will talk about what it takes to get photos and proof of the relationship between orchids and bugs. No secrets disclosed here so come along and be amazed.



25th September

Meeting: See details page 4
LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013/14.

HAKEA SEMINAR

By Graeme Woods

On June 23rd, Max Ewer came from South Australia to join me on a trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne for the **Hakea Workshop** run by 'The Friends'. Rodger Elliot was MC for the day and introduced our first speaker Neville Walsh from Melbourne Botanic Gardens. Rodger explained that Neville's subject was Botanical scrutiny of hakeas and Neville had the ability to "dumb down" his talk to suit his audience. Nobody told him how dumb Max and I are so we didn't understand much of his talk.

Thankfully things improved from then on and Royce Raleigh (Horsham), John Thompson (Pres. S.E. Melbourne APS) and Maja Zweck (Kuranga Nursery and APS Victoria Study Group Liaison Officer) all gave very interesting talks on cultivations, history and propagations.

We also walked around RBGC which really is stunning but still very short on hakeas with only 44 plants covering 20 species.

Our final activity for the day took place in their nursery where we were shown how to sow seeds, plant cuttings and graft.

It was an enjoyable day with around 45 participants and well worth the 220 km round trip.



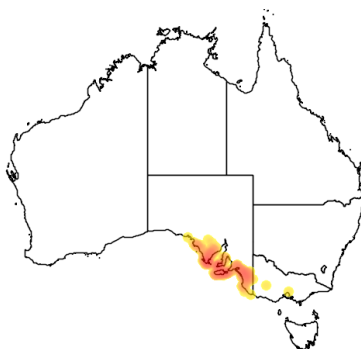
NOMENCLATURE

The dictionary says this means a set or system of names or terms, especially those used in a particular science or art (botany would be one of those).

What's in a name?

Pomaderris obcordata

The common name for this plant is Wedge-leaf Pomaderris with the origin/distribution being Victoria and South Australia.



Pomaderris is a genus of about 70 species (65 are native to Australia and the 5 are native to New Zealand with some overlap). *obcordata* means inverse heart-shaped (referring to the leaf shape) and is pronounced ob-kor-DAY-ta.



My plant is small (no more than 30cm) and has been flowering for weeks. The occasional bee has found the flowers enticing.

SPRING THINGS

As I finish this issue of the newsletter, I am reminded by the activity of our little wrens and thornbills that spring is not far away. Already the large Mountain Ducks are pairing up and frequenting the grain fields. Also searching for nesting sites are the Masked Plovers (*Vanellus miles*). I wonder if the species name comes from their habit of wandering miles in grassy areas sourcing food.



Photo from NatureShare (Giorgio DeNola)

Soon there will be noises of begging (no, this is not an insight into the Powers household) as the days continue to be longer and the temperatures increase.



I would appreciate any contribution for the next issue – or you will just have to put up with what I ramble on about. I will be putting my hand up to be editor for the next 12 months.

Cathy

CANBERRA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Graeme Woods

Ros and I were fortunate to be invited to Canberra and attend the APS ACT meeting held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) auditorium. My presentation to the group was Heavenly Hakeas and the talk went well thanks to Ros and Cathy. During our two day visit, many good contacts were made for future plant exchanges. We toured the gardens and were very impressed with the rare plants that are on show.

In my Georgeous Grevillea presentation, I mention losing *G. corrugata* and the difficulty I have had to replace it – ANBG have 9 extremely healthy plants!!!

Also on show were many other mouth-watering grevilleas and Neil Marriott is doing his best to get them spread far and wide – not an easy task working with the bureaucracy in our capital city.

My task is to let the head gardener know the hakeas that are vulnerable in the wild and need to be propagated and spread.

Two such hakeas are *H. PULVINIFERRA* from near Tamworth and *H. AENIGMA* from Kangaroo Island, neither plant sets seeds so they must be propagated by cuttings or by grafting. It was exciting to see the plants at ANBG In such stunning condition and looking healthy. I can only hope we can break through the resistance in Canberra and get them into more gardens.

28TH AUGUST, 2013

Notice of Motion:

That the Australian Plants Society Melton & Bacchus Marsh adopt the Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012 Model Rules for an Incorporated Association with the inclusion of our name **AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (MELTON & BACCHUS MARSH) INC.**, the last day of our financial year **30 June** and our purposes as follows:

- 1) **To promote and maintain interest in growing and propagating Australian plants in home gardens and public places.**
- 2) **To encourage the recognition and development of distinctive landscape styles and forms using Australian plants.**
- 3) **To improve Australian plants as garden subjects.**
- 4) **To monitor and encourage the strengthening of laws for preservation of Australian flora.**
- 5) **To encourage the nursery industry to propagate and supply Australian plants to the general public.**
- 6) **To support all information received by the District Group on methods of propagation and of the sources of supply of plants and seeds available for distribution and to publish such information from time to time.**
- 7) **To encourage and facilitate the conservation and study of Australian flora in the natural environment.**

- 8) **To further the dissemination of knowledge and act as a source of informed opinion on relevant issues.**
- 9) **To carry on any other activity for the furtherance and extension of the purposes of the District Group.**

By adopting the model rules, there is no cost to our group and we will be complying with the 2012 regulations.

All positions will become vacant and there is a need for members to volunteer for positions on the committee. Without leadership, our group could end up in the same place as previous Affiliated District Groups who have disbanded. Your commitment can be as little as one year or longer if you want to nominate again at the next AGM.

Over the next few months we will need to review and update our bylaws. These can be presented at any general meeting and do not require notification to Consumer Affairs.

Our members are a great group of people and it would be wonderful to meet those who don't attend meetings. Come along once in a while – we don't bite and you might even win a raffle prize adding to the diversity of your garden plants.



MEETINGS

September 25th

Our September meeting is our **Spring Plant Table** event. This year we plan on conducting this meeting in Bacchus Marsh. To kick off the evening, anyone who can should meet at Darley Park, Raglan Street entrance. We will do a tour of the native garden and surrounds of the park. After that, we will have a self-provided cold picnic at the picnic tables on the Grey Street side of the park.

Once we are through with the food (and wine??) we will travel to the Darley Neighborhood House (33 Jonathan Drive, Darley) for a 7 – 9pm plant exposé. This is a great time to share information, examples and samples. We will conclude the evening with a 'better than usual' supper from 9 – 10pm.

We will be pleased to have you participate in any or all of the evening's components.



Darley Park native garden was started in 1993 when funding was made available. Although the original concept was to have this garden on all borders of the park, this has been a very slow process due to funds and workers. The intention was to develop a unique collection of Australian native plants that would be able to survive in an area of low rainfall.

COMING EVENTS



July - Sept – Cranbourne Collection Exhibition. This is a rare opportunity to view the Cranbourne Collection (art) at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

August 24th - Maranoa Festival at Maranoa Gardens (Melway 46G7), Plant sales, free BBQ, displays and tours.



Yeah, I know the football is not quite right but it was all I could find.

September 7 & 8 – Australian Plants Expo 2013 (APS Yarra Yarra), 212 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough (Mel 11 C8) 10am – 4pm each day.

**ADVANCE NOTICE
BRISBANE RANGES
WILDFLOWER SHOW**



This event is happening **October 13th, 2013**. More news in future newsletters but mark your diary.



OUR WEBSITE:
www.runningpostman.org.au

DID YOU KNOW?

TREES

Although you may not plan on being involved with National Tree Day, you can still help nature by planting a tree any other day. Trees help us in the fight against pollution by acting as a carbon storage bank, absorbing polluting gases and filtering air particles.



We are not the only ones that rely on trees. Planting a native tree can provide a living, breathing home for Australian native animals, invertebrates, reptiles and more. Already 70% of Victoria's bushland has been cleared so let's all help out and **PLANT A TREE!**



QUOTE OF THE NEWSLETTER

A cynic is a man who,
when he smells flowers,
looks around for a coffin.
--H.L. Mencken

Surprises in the Garden

Diggers and scratchers

By Cathy Powers

At the moment, we have two very active visitors to our garden. The first and by far the most obvious is our resident echidna. I thought that this animal was supposed to go into a mild torpor during the colder months but this has not been the case for 'Rex'.

I know this little animal is only creating holes for the moisture to enter the ground but seriously – why right next to my plants????



The other visitors that are scratching around are our resident quail family. You know you have been accepted into the

neighborhood when they live and feed beneath the decking.



Painted button quail (*Turnix varia*)

Australian Plants Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc.

Incorporated in Victoria: A0026204P

ABN: 68 053 689 781

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee 2012/13

President	Barb Pye	5428 9369	
Vice President	Jean Partridge		
Secretary	Ron Powers	5369 4302	email: apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com
Treasurer	Norris McCarthy	5428 9320	
Committee:	Ann Goetz, Graeme Woods, Jenny Morris, Julianne Diwell Cathy Powers – Newsletter editor		

URL for relevant internet websites:

Website: www.runningpostman.org.au

APS Victoria website : <http://www.apsvic.org.au/>

ANPSA website: <http://anpsa.org.au>

All contributions to the newsletter are gratefully received. Please send a word document and photos to the group's Gmail address. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by email, snail mail or phone.

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 946

Bacchus Marsh, Victoria 3340

MEETINGS: 4th Wednesday of the month except July and December (doors open at 7.30pm)

VENUE: Dunvegan Cottage, Willows Historic Park
Cnr Reserve Rd & Nixon St, **Melton Melways: 337 C9**