



Running Postman



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY – MELTON & BACCHUS MARSH INC

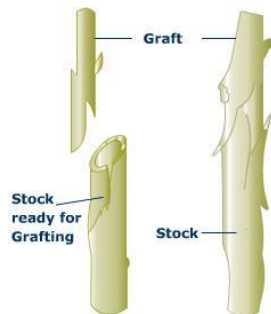
MAY MEETING

Overview by Cathy Powers

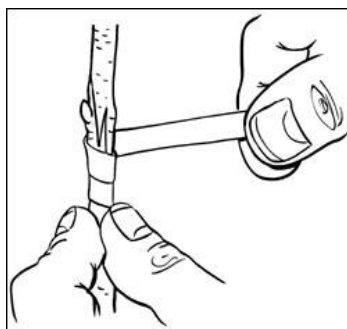
Grafting is the process of joining together parts of two different plants in such a manner that they act as one plant. The stock is the rooted plant and the added part is known as the scion. When everything works, the stock supplies the water and minerals to the scion whereas eventually the scion forms the upper portion

and supplies the organic food to the root. The most important part for a good union is the cambium of both plants. It is imperative that these line up as closely as possible. There are a number of reasons that grafting should be used as a form of propagation: a dwarf plant

can be created, the root system of the stock is better suited to your soil type and even being able to propagate plants that do not come true from seed. Maja gave us some insight into creating plants for retail and the complexity of getting everything right. Some reasons for failure might be: stock and scion were not compatible, the cambiums did



The most stable type of graft



Wrapping the graft

not meet properly, grafting was done in the wrong season, the understock or scion was not healthy, the graft was not protected by secure taping. Materials required are a SHARP blade, grafting tape, patience and a lot of skill. *Maja: Thank you – for sharing your knowledge and experience, not to mention your passion.*

Points to remember: Always use conditions that prevent disease transfer. Between cuts, clean every piece of equipment with Methylated Spirits. Wash your hands frequently. Try grafting.

CALENDAR EVENTS

2014

25th June

Big or little, it is just a matter of perspective but there is no doubt that the plants found in Western Australia are sometimes very similar or often extremely different. Neil Macumber is certainly the one to tell us about flora found during excursions in the West.



2014

July

NO MEETING

EXTRA EVENTS

**YOU WON'T KNOW
UNTIL YOU GO**

There are some very interesting up and coming events that may be of interest to you:

- **22 June** Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne (FRBGC) lecture day on 'Rare Victorian Plants, What & Why!'. Presenters include Prof David Cantrill; Neville Walsh; Colleen Miller (Werribee); Chris Jenek and Neil Anderton; Warren Worboys; John Arnott & Rodger Elliot. For further information call 8774 2483 or visit RBG website – Cranbourne Activities.
- **6 September** APS Wilson Park Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Park, Princes Highway, Berwick. 9 am to 4.00 pm
- **13&14 September** APS Yarra Yarra Native Plants Expo at Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10 am to 4.00 pm both days. Mel 21J6.
- **20&21 September** Bendigo Native Plants Group Flower Show.

BOOK EARLY!!

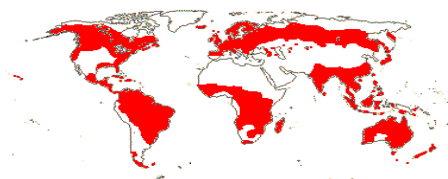
18/19 October 2014

FJC Rogers Seminar on Brachychiton and Associated Genera hosted by Bendigo Native Plants Group. Speakers include Trevor Blake who is fanatical about thomasiads; Dr Kerry Rathie, leader of ANPSA Brachychiton & Allied General Study Group; Rodger Elliot, Phil Hempel, Neil Marriott, Dr Gordon Guymer, Director of Queensland Herbarium and Dr Carolyn Wilkins from WA Herbarium. **Early Bird registration (cheaper) closes 1/8/14 and the form can be found on the APS Vic website.**

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?

Droseraceae


World distribution: fairly extensive

This plant family was classified by Linnaeus in 1753 and consists of about 125 species. *Drosera* comes from a Greek word *drosos* meaning dew and many species are referred to by the common name Sundew. *Drosera* is exceptionally diverse in S.W. Australia where there is about one third of the species in the whole genus.

In the Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens 27 (2014), there is an abstract about a new *Drosera* species from Tasmania. *Drosera murfetii* is now separated from the species *Drosera arcturi* which occurs in the alpine regions of Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.



Flower of *Drosera murfetii*

STARS IN OUR MIDST

Recently, on ABC Gardening Australia, two of our members were included in the segments about Melton Botanic Garden. The only person who was not sporting a beard was Jane Edmanson. Costa, John Bentley and David Pye all had facial hair but there was no doubt that John and David needed a lot more growth to compete with Costa. If you missed the segment or would like to view it again, go to the following URL:

<http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s4010598.htm>

A few other members were noted in the picture gallery and a big congratulation goes to everyone involved for such a wonderful contribution to the Melton Community.



At our recent meeting one of the eucalypt species on display for our flower table is also planted in the MBG. *Eucalyptus pluricaulis* ssp. *porphyria* (common name Purple-leaved Mallee) is a great small eucalypt for suburban gardens. It flowers prolifically and has a quite dense growth habit. The purple is noted on the leaf edges.

DID YOU KNOW?

Native Bees – April meeting

I sat through Ken Walker's presentation thoroughly caught up in the subject of Australian native bees. So much so, I am embarrassed to say, that I neglected to take much in the way of notes. Now I have had to do some searching for information and found a very useful website for interesting facts:

www.aussiebee.com.au

I could write an entire article using my own images of flies and wasps but not so of bees. We seem to part company about the time my camera lens is focused on the bee.

Things that I have learned:

Bees have four wings but flies have only two wings. So the little creature on the Blue Pincushion is a fly.



Hover Fly

Bees feed their young pollen while wasps feed their young insects. That is not to say you won't find wasps with pollen attached to their body but that is more to the advantage of the plant for the pollination process than it is to the wasp. Of course, bees are also important for pollination and the many hundreds of native bees that visit our gardens have evolved along with this country's wildflower species.



One of my visiting wasps
Nearly all the native bee species are solitary and do not have queens, workers or drones. Instead in most species, just one female bee mates and then builds an individual nest for her eggs, just like a bird does.

Solitary bees do not store any honey in their tiny nests and blue banded bees, leafcutter bees and teddy bear bees are examples of these.

I encourage you to visit the Aussie Bee site on the internet which is the homepage of the Australian Native Bee Research Centre. It offers information with wonderful imagery of many of our native bee species, there is a free newsletter by subscription and a location table listing the ten major group locations by state.

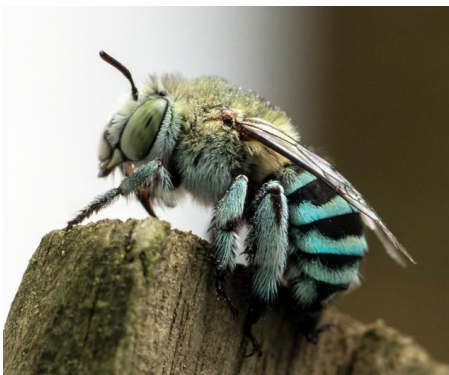


Photo by David Francis from www.natureshare.org.au

Australia's own native honey bees are tiny (3 - 5 mm), black and stingless! Stingless bees are mainly found in the northern and eastern areas of Australia.



Australia has no native species of bumble bees. Sadly, *Bombus terrestris* was accidentally introduced to Tasmania over 10 years ago and it has now become widespread throughout that state. So far they have not reached the Australian mainland.



Good plants for attracting native bees include: *Abelia grandiflora*, *Angophora*, *Baeckea*, *Buddleja davidii*, *Callistemon*, *Eucalyptus*, *Grevillea* hybrids, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Melaleuca Lavandula*, *Leptospermum*, and *Westringia*. A bundle of bamboo canes or a block of hardwood drilled with holes (4 to 9 mm wide and 150 mm deep) may also provide valuable new nest sites for your local resin bees and leafcutters.

Information has been derived from the website noted in this article.

C. Powers

PHOTO GALLERY



FOMBG at our plant sale

Maja with grafted Standard Grevillea



October 22nd, 2014

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to the absence of many of our members in the month of August, the Annual General Meeting of our group will be held on the 22nd of October. Prior to that, nominations should be submitted for the positions which include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We also need at least 3 additional members to form our committee. Please consider volunteering or nominating for a position this year.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2014

June – Trippin' around Western Australia with Neil Macumber
 August – Warren Worboys (from Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne) on pruning native plants.
 September – Spring Plant Table

We are considering an excursion late October or early November to the Inverleigh Flora and Fauna Reserve. If you have date preferences, now is the time to make them known to the Secretary.



Membership Renewal

APS Victoria membership fees have increased by \$1.00 per category. Our membership fees remain the same. Membership fees are due 1 July, 2014 and if you have not received a renewal form with this newsletter issue, you are already financial for the next twelve months. If you are unsure, please make contact with our treasurer.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped during our annual plant sale last month. There will be a full financial report at our AGM but at present the income for the hakea plants we propagated has reached the \$1,000 mark. We gained two new members on the day – **Welcome Susan Ehrenberg and Steven Tiberi**. Thanks also to the Uniting Church for the use of their car park and all the sellers who attended on the day.



OUR WEBSITE:
www.runningpostman.org.au

PRUNING NATIVE PLANTS the topic of our August meeting:



Something to get you started thinking about:

When pruning large heavy branches, make the first cut about 150 mm further out than where you need to make the final cut. When the heavy branch has been removed, make a second cut to clean up, this minimises tearing of the bark. Note that untidy cuts or torn bark can create entry points of fungal diseases etc.

Regular tip pruning of soft new growth is preferable to infrequent hard pruning.

Always carry secateurs when you are out and about in the garden which allows you to easily practice tip pruning.

Use sharp tools and disinfect them by cleaning with methylated spirits. Blunt tools leave ragged edges and this invites disease.

QUOTE OF THE NEWSLETTER

Each day comes bearing its own gifts. Untie the ribbons

--Ruth Ann Schabacker

Surprises in the Garden

The middle finger?

By Cathy Powers

Correas are some of the plants flowering at the moment and this beauty was in the neighbour's garden (BRNP). It is a *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* (according to the experts) and when in flower, it is a stand-out plant. During our last meeting a *Correa* hybrid was on display. There is no doubt that some of the *C. pulchellas* hybrids are magnificent and I grow some myself. I have yet to grow the Brisbane Ranges *Correa* species.



Another surprise was this banksia bud giving me three for the price of one. It might be the lack of

moisture over such an extended period that has caused this unusual growth pattern. The rest of the plant is showing few buds.



Australian Plants Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc.

Incorporated in Victoria: A0026204P

ABN: 68 053 689 781

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee 2013/14

President	Russell Wait	0428 388 211	
Vice President	Graeme Woods		
Secretary	Cathy Powers	5369 4302	email: apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com
Treasurer	Norris McCarthy	5428 9320	
Committee:	Julianne Diwell, David Pye, Lucille McCarthy		
	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