

# RUNNING POSTMAN

Australian Plant Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc

## NEWSLETTER April 2023

### MEETING SCHEDULE

Usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month with start 7:30pm (doors open from 7pm).

### Address:

Botanica Springs Community Centre  
249 Clarkes Rd  
Brookfield VIC 3338

## MELTON – BACCHUS MARSH EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL

7.30 PM

### MELTON – BACCHUS MARSH MONTHLY MEETING

*Banksia talk with Kevin & Kathy Collins*

### SATURDAY 13 MAY

### MELTON-BACCHUS MARSH PLANT SALE.

9.00 AM – 1 PM.

St. Andrews Uniting Church,  
Bacchus Marsh.

## OTHER EVENTS

### April 22

APS Yarra Yarra  
Autumn Plant Sale.

### June 24 & 25

APS Ballarat  
Plant Show.

## NEXT MEETING

19 APRIL 7:30 PM

### BANKSIAS

#### Talk by Kevin and Kathy Collins.

Kevin and Kathy are coauthors with Alex George of 'Banksias', the authoritative work on this genus, first published in 2008 and revised in 2020.

They established Banksia Farm at Mt Barker in WA, the only complete living collection of Banksias in the world.



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**FEBRUARY MEETING – short report by SUSAN EHRENBERG**

## ***PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES WITH BARB PYE***

Barb Pye delivered an excellent workshop on Propagation of cuttings and their aftercare, with hands-on learning.



Timing – For best results, cuttings should be taken in any month of the year that contains the letter 'R'.

In hot weather, it is better to take cuttings in the morning.

It is important to take cuttings from a healthy, young plant. Often the best material comes from a plant which has been cut back and has strong new growth.

The cutting should be approximately 10 cm long and should spring back to shape when gently bent.

### Materials

1. A blend of 50% native potting mix and 50% vermiculite (grade 2 or 3) gives a free draining mix.
2. Small individual pots or community pots with very open bases; so that the roots can be easily seen when they develop.
3. Clean, sharp snips (not secateurs), scalpel or box-cutter knife.
4. Root promoting hormone e.g. clonex purple gel or a rooting powder.
5. Dibbling stick – a chopstick is ideal.
6. Polystyrene box to house the cuttings – plus a clear lid.
7. Plant labels.

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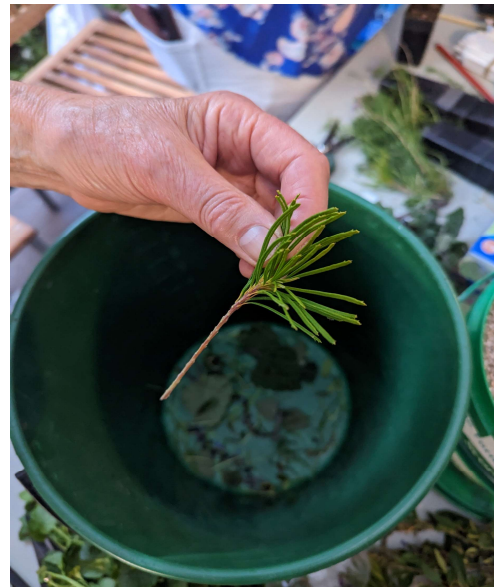
Preparing the cutting.

Cut diagonally just below a node where a leaf attaches to the stem.

Carefully strip the leaves on the bottom half of the cutting, either by a swift downwards stripping movement or by pulling the leaves off with an upwards motion (or cut with scissors if stripping is causing too much damage to the plant stem). Alternatively, a side shoot can be pulled away from the stem, leaving a small amount of bark from the stem attached.

Large foliage should be trimmed back to prevent the cutting from losing too much moisture.

Remove any soft tips or flower buds.



Roots may develop from the areas where leaves have been removed and from the base.

With the dibbling stick, make a hole in the pot's mix, down to approximately 2 cm from the pot base. This provides some room for the roots to develop.



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Insert the cutting in hormone gel, as far as where the leaves have been removed. Place the cutting in pot, firm, water and label.



Aftercare.

Cuttings should be kept moist, but not too wet. They need enough light to photosynthesise, but not direct sun; and they need to be protected from the wind.

For example, at the Botanic Gardens nursery in Melton, cuttings in individual pots are packed into polystyrene boxes and kept under 50% shade cloth; with watering once a day.



At home, use a large plastic drink bottle with the bottom removed. Place the bottle over the pot such that the cutting does not touch the sides. The cap should either be removed or opened every day.

Alternatively, a box can be used with a clear plastic lid and placed in a position of semi-shade. E.g. under a tree.



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**March 2023 garden visit – CRANBOURNE BOTANIC GARDENS**

On March 25, a large contingent from APS Melton-Bacchus Marsh drove to the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, where their 'Friends' group were holding their native plant sale.



Ian Potter Lawn with plant sale

Plant sale, then lunch followed by the mandatory Gardens exploration...



Red Sand garden

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Noticed flowering at Melton in March



**E Synandra**



**E Macrandra**



**E Synandra - cream**



**E Salicola**

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Promise of things to come ?

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Australian Plants Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc.**

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee  
2022/23

**President:** Barb Pye

**Vice President:** Dave Johnstone

**Secretary:** David Pye

**Public Officer:** David Pye

**Treasurer:** Jen Eldridge

**Committee**

- Lucille McCarthy
- Norris McCarthy
- Susan Ehrenberg
- Tez Birgin
- Margaret Peters
- Dave Peters

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Find us on Facebook!

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