



# Running Postman



Australian Plants Society - Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc



## In this issue:

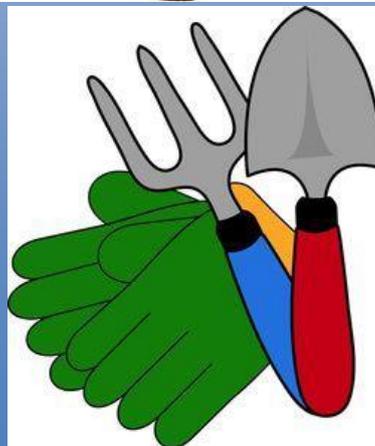
# 171, January 2019

### Contents

Monthly Meeting Recap – End of Year	
Breakup.....	2
Next Meeting – Potting Up Hakeas .....	5
A Step Back in Time.....	6
Newsletters and information.....	8
Contacts:.....	9

## Save the Date...

- Next meeting: Going Potty
- David & Barb Pye’s place
- 1220 Bacchus Marsh Road, Bullengarook
- **Thursday, 24 January, 5.30pm onwards**
- BYO picnic, BBQ available



### Upcoming Meetings:

February -

Australian Essential Oils

March –

Landscape Management for  
Changing Climate



Welcome to a brand new year! I hope that everyone has had a fabulous Christmas and New Year break, enjoyed time and fantastic food with friends and family.

During our break, the outstanding Cathy has been working tirelessly to put together a brilliant calendar of events with exciting speakers on a broad range of topics. As always, our extreme thanks and gratitude to you, Cathy!

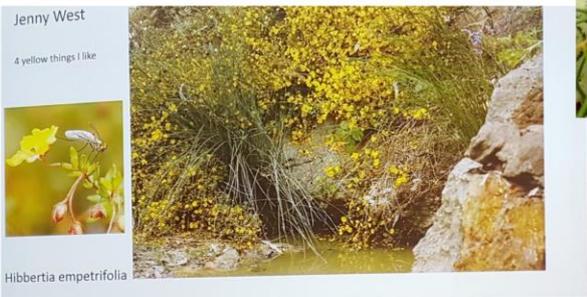
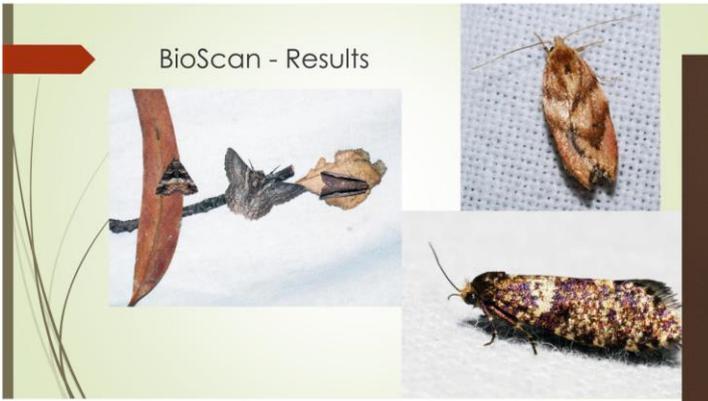
### **Monthly Meeting Recap – End of Year Breakup**

What an entertaining night! Among a feast of treats, we had presentations from everyone. From a trip to Singapore with Jean to seeing Yellow with Jenny, Birds by Ash to a flowery trip into Bullengarook with Ken. Then we went on a trip with Russell to the West, with Barb to the Eucalypt Arboretum and an exploration into Citizen Science with Cathy. Ron came armed and showed why it is dangerous to be serrated tussock anywhere near him. David took us up the garden path and compared Norman Thedwell to some of the members and I took you on a flying visit into my past.



SOME PEOPLE GET PLEASURE FROM WORKING OUT AMBITIOUS SCHEMES





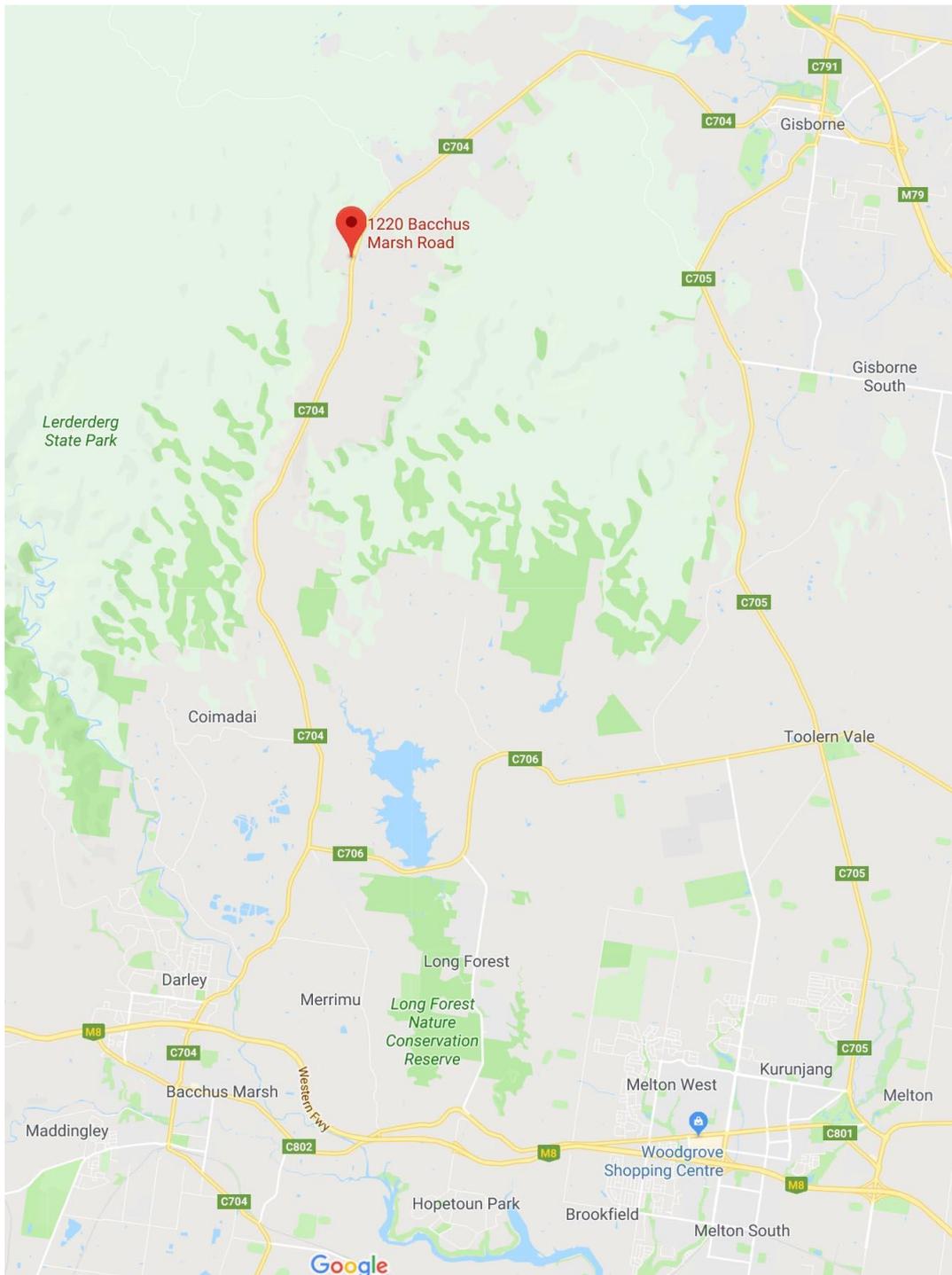
Among the presentations were raffles with excellent prizes and I think everyone went home happy.

Thank you to everyone who attended, it was a truly fantastic way to end our year.

## Next Meeting – Potting Up Hakeas

I am plagiarising this from last year, but the information is still the same. Bring your hat, gloves, picnic or bbq things and a chair and head on up to the hills of Bullengarook for the view, social banter and a bit of potting up of the newest batch of Hakea seedlings that will be for our Plant Sale in May.

Then a relaxing bbq and stroll around the garden, so check your calendar and see you there, 5.30pm onwards. Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, 1220 Bacchus Marsh Rd, Bullengarook.



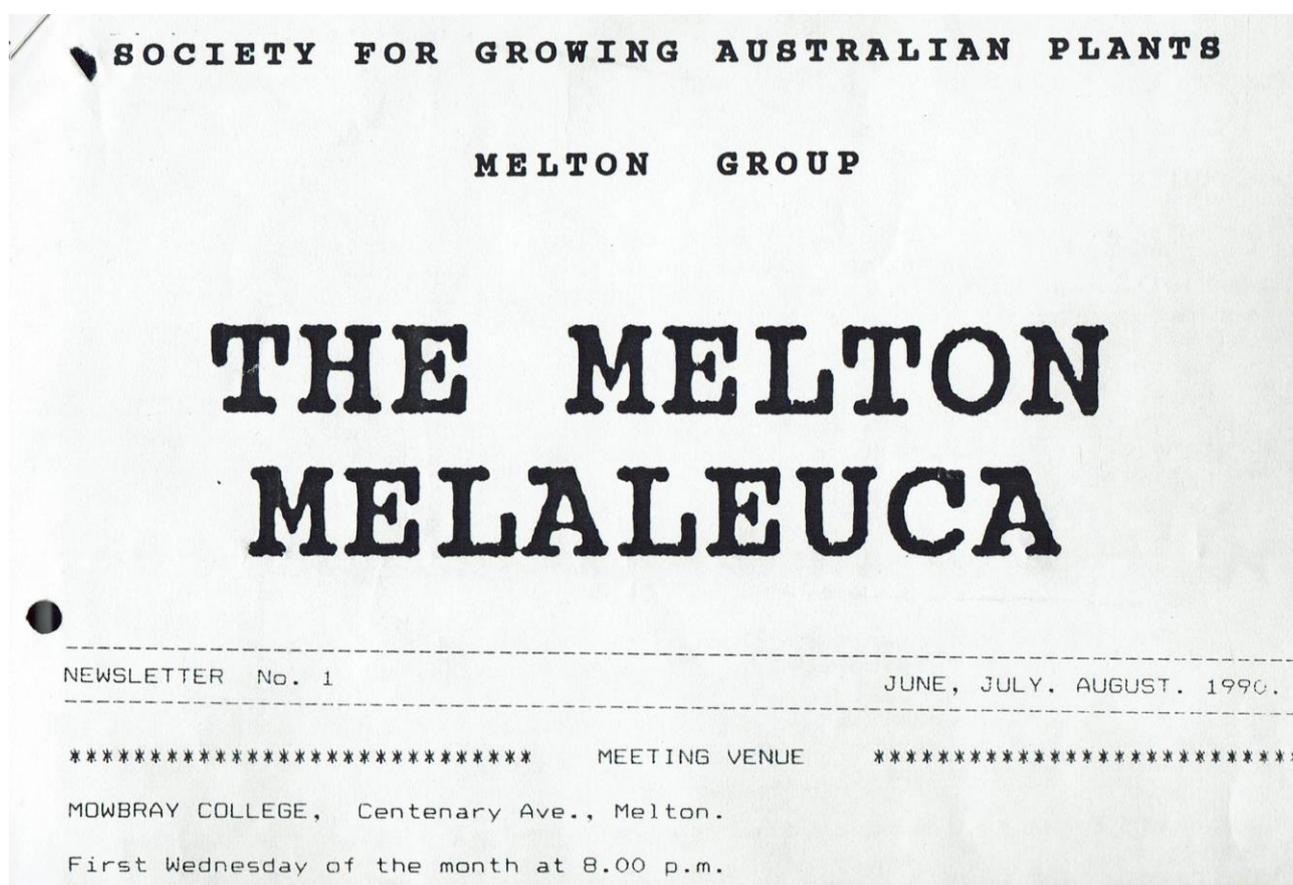
## A Step Back in Time

I was going through some old paperwork and took a look at the history of our club. I found a flyer and I quote this passage:

“Our group was first incorporated in October 1992 under the name of Society for Growing Australian Plants – Melton Inc. When the Victorian body changed its name, we followed suit and our new incorporated name became the Australian Plants Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc in 1998.”

I assume that our group wasn't incorporated before that as I found some pretty amazing stuff in the archives.

Ta da! :



This is a copy of the very first newsletter produced from the group, originally called 'Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) Melton Group. SGAP Victoria was founded in 1957. In 1990, Adrian Mitchell was the President and Ian Dempsey was the Secretary. While they were waiting for their newsletter editor to return from holidays, Ian came up with the name "Melton Melaleuca" as he couldn't come up with anything else.

As a tribute to our founding members, I am going to re-publish some of the original articles (sans spelling errors) as we should never stop learning from the past. I am just glad that I no longer have to use a typewriter!

## Using and Understanding Plant Names

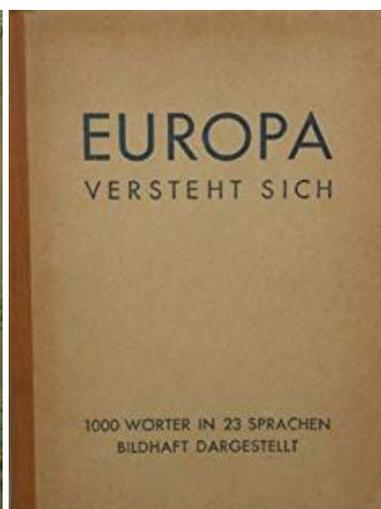
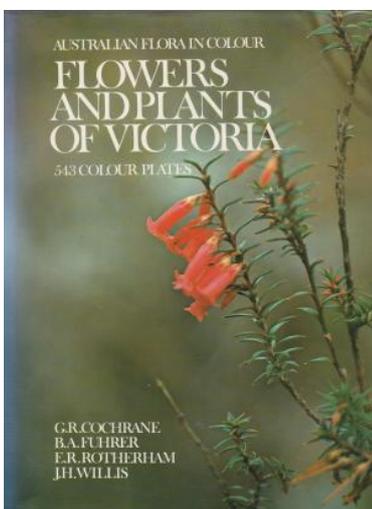
By Syd Wheller

Emulating the custom of calling every flower a “rose” – a practice preferred by Persian poets, according to Professor MJ Canny in his preface to “Flowers and Plants of Victoria” (Cochrane, Fuhrer, Rotherham and Wills 1968) – it has been the fashion in some countries – notably England – to name many unrelated plants after more popular plants to which they have some superficial or imagined affinity. Thus a Hibiscus and a Hypericum have both become known as “Rose of Sharon”, a Cienfugosia as “Sturt’s Desert Rose”, a Paeonia as a “Peony Rose”, and a Persia as an “Avocado Pear” or “Alligator Pear”. It is interesting to note that in a European publicanion called “Europa Fersteht Sich”, the Latin name “Ananas” or a derivation thereof is the accepted common name for a certain tropical fruit in 22 languages, whereas in English it had to become a kind of “apple” – pineapple!

Where the exact identification of a plant or anything else is of little or no importance or can be adequately conveyed by the use of a widely accepted common name, the use of correct scientific names would serve no useful purpose. To suggest a farmer that he tell his son or employee to “take the *Canis familiaris* down to the *Eucaluptus camaldulensis* and get a couple of rabbits” or to ask the greengrocer for some *Solanum tuerosum* or *Brassica oleracea* variety *capita* instead of potatoes or cabbage is definitely not recommended!

However, while becoming familiar with botanical names is regarded by many people as beyond their capacity, it will often be revealed in conversation that these people are already familiar with many such names, eg. *Chrysanthemum*, *Pelargonium*, *Geranium*, *Boronia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Dianthus*, *Viola*, *Hydrangea*, and many others. The problem therefore is simply one of expanding a vocabulary as the need arises, something which becomes automatic as the knowledge increases.

Readers who consider some names or articles “too technical” should (not) become frightened by scientific names. Most of today’s “experts” have been through that phase at some time, accepted that there were gaps in their knowledge and were open-minded enough to learn. The use of generic names will come in time.



Translation from German:

Europe Understands Itself

1000 words in 23 languages  
pictorially represented

## Newsletters and information

Remember to check out the dropbox account for new newsletters from other APS groups, study groups and more. They are added regularly and will be left there for a couple of months before being removed.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o4khqv1wrijfmeq3/AABZ9PD-6KLgoLnz75N3MOM0a?dl=0>

## Member Changes

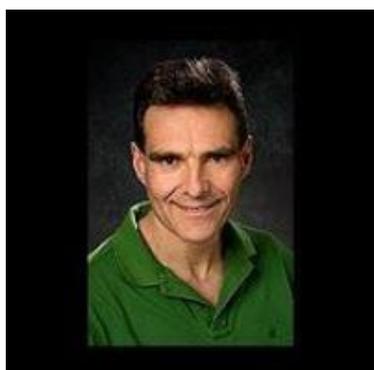
We have had to changes to members in the past few months.

We farewell Frances Overmars who has been a member for MANY years! She and Rudi are moving from Mt Cottrell to Anglesea. It is with sadness that we say goodbye but we wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

On the flip side, we welcome a new member, Gary Clark from Gisborne who has a PhD and is an Associate Lecturer in Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences at the School of Life Science at the La Trobe University in Bundoora and is also the Vice-President Victorian Branch Soil Science Australia.

Gary is about to find out that he can't hide from me doing research!

After graduating with a BSc (Hons) in chemistry from La Trobe University in 1981 Gary worked as an industrial chemist in the surface coating industry developing coatings and inks for the packing and printing industry. A downturn in that industry enabled Gary to further pursue studies in horticulture at Burnley College (University of Melbourne). After graduating with a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Horticulture) in 2002, Gary received a scholarship to study a Master in Agriculture in the faculty of Land and Food at the University of Melbourne. During this period Gary developed an interest in the challenges of crop production on the heavy soils of south-western Victoria. This culminated in a PhD study "Managing subsoil constraints for increased productivity and water use efficiency" co-supervised by Dr Peter Sale and Professor C Tang. This was completed in 2010.



Please make him welcome!

## Contacts:

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

*Incorporated in Victoria: A0026204P*

*ABN: 68 053 689 781*

### **APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee 2017/18**

<i>President</i>	<i>Christine Huf</i>	<i>0412 081 074</i>	
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Russell Wait</i>	<i>0428 388 211</i>	
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>(vacant)</i>	<i>email: <a href="mailto:apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com">apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com</a></i>	
<i>Public Officer</i>	<i>David Pye</i>		
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Cathy Powers</i>		
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Lucille McCarthy, Barb Pye, Norris McCarthy</i>		
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Christine Huf</i>	<i>0412 081 074</i>	<i>email: <a href="mailto:c.phot.804@gmail.com">c.phot.804@gmail.com</a></i>

### **Find us on Facebook!**

All contributions to the newsletter are gratefully received. Please send a word document and photos to the group's email address. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email or phone. I am also happy to research a subject for an article if you give me a topic you would like to see explored.

#### **Postal address:**

**PO Box 946**

**Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340**

#### **Bank details: Bendigo Bank, Bacchus Marsh**

**Acc: Australian Plant Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc**

**BSB: 633 000    Acc No: 158993733**

**MEETINGS: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, Feb – Jun, Aug – Nov (doors open at 7.30pm)**

**VENUE: Botanica Springs Community Centre, 249 Clarkes Rd, Brookfield**

URL for relevant internet websites:

Website: [www.runningpostman.org.au](http://www.runningpostman.org.au)

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

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

Disclaimer: Any errors in this publication are by the editor.