

RUNNING POSTMAN

Australian Plant Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc

NEWSLETTER November 2023

MEETING SCHEDULE

3rd Wednesday of the month
start 7:30pm (doors open from 7pm).

Address:

Botanica Springs Community Centre
249 Clarkes Rd
Brookfield VIC 3338

MELTON – BACCHUS MARSH EVENTS

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

5.00 PM

MELTON-BACCHUS MARSH MONTHLY MEETING

Spit roast dinner at McCarthy garden, Bullengarook; featuring 'Giant raffle of plants'.

DECEMBER – no meeting

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY 2024

Group potting day for Hakea seedlings at Pye's - Bullengarook. BBQ lunch subject to fire restrictions.



Hakea constablei
Photo – Susan Ehrenberg

NEXT MEETING

18 NOVEMBER 5:00 PM

Last meeting for 2023

At Lucille & Norris McCarthy's Bullengarook garden.

- Spit roast dinner
- Giant raffle of plants

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APS Victoria IMPRESSA AWARD 2023 – BARB & DAVID PYE

The APS Victoria 2023 Impressa Award for Outstanding Service to Australian Native Plants has been awarded to Barb & David Pye of our APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh group.

The award was primarily for their work in establishing the Eucalyptus Arboretum and West Australia – South Australia gardens at the Melton Botanic Garden.

These gardens attract significant interest throughout Australia and even overseas.



Barb and David have been SGAP/APS members since 1967; Melton Bacchus Marsh Group members since 1997 and friends of the Melton Botanic Garden group since 2010. They helped plan the Melton gardens, procure plants, set up the nursery and shade houses and find the right potting mix and sand.

Each year since 2012 they plant a variety of Hakea seeds in October for the APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh group to pot on for the Annual Plant Sale in May.

Barbara and David are always enormously helpful with information and encouragement.

Congratulations Barb and David.

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SEPTEMBER MEETING presentation – notes by Susan Ehrenberg

GRAFTING WORKSHOP

Tony Hughes, from the Gordon Institute, gave an excellent hands-on demonstration on grafting native plants.

Materials required: fruit snips, parafilm (a laboratory tape), scalpel knife, dip stick (e.g. a chop stick), hormone gel or powder, and potting mix (4 parts Perlite to 1 part peat moss).

The aim is to create a normal sized cutting using a hardier, compatible material which will be the **rootstock**; and to attach a **scion** of a plant that may be difficult to grow with its own roots.

Procedure

- Using fruit snips, create a **rootstock** cutting approximately 7cm long with 2-3 cm of stem above the top leaves.



- Cut a slit, 1.5 – 2 cm long in the middle of the rootstock at the top. This is where the scion will be attached.



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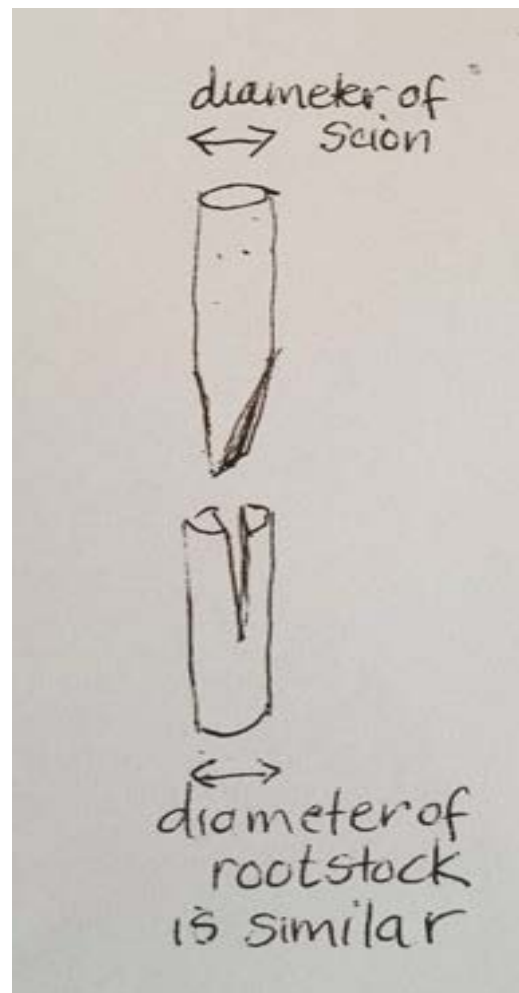
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- Prepare a **scion** about 3cm long with a maximum of 3 or 4 nodes, stripping lower leaves and cut upper leaves in half to reduce water loss. Pinch off the tip as it loses too much moisture.



- Cut the bottom of the scion to a wedge (not a point). The wedge should be approximately 3mm shorter than the slit in the rootstock. The scion diameter should be similar to the rootstock stem diameter.

- Gently slide the scion into the wedge.



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- Cut a 1cm wide strip of Parafilm tape; peel the backing off the strip and hold it between your fingers to warm it up a little. Then stretch out the strip to about 3cm.



- Starting just below the slit in the rootstock, wrap the Parafilm around the rootstock once and let it stick to itself. Then continue wrapping around the graft working upwards to approximately 5mm above the top of the graft and then back to half way down the graft. Cut or break off the Parafilm.



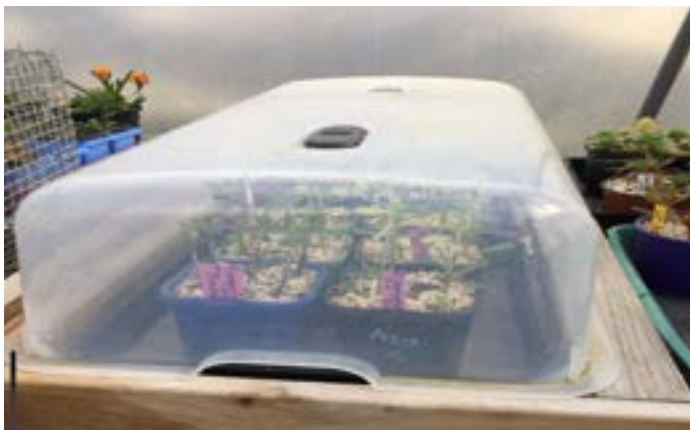
- A scion on rootstock

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- Dip the cutting in hormone and plant in pots.
- Water-in the cutting; make sure not to water the scion.
- Place the grafted cuttings in a humid environment but keep the foliage dry.

Examples of domes for the capillary pots which could sit on wet geo textile fabric.



'Dome' pictures by Tony Hughes



The grafted cuttings should strike in 4 – 6 weeks and can then be potted up similar to a normal cutting. Do not remove the Parafilm – it will fall off later.

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Garden visits – 14th October

The Group journeyed to the east of Melbourne to visit the delightful native garden of Chris Larkin at Lysterfield; and the Karwarra Australian Plant garden at Kalorama.



Looks a bit steep – after you Barb



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November – in flower at Bullengarook – (elevation 530 m)



Hakea pritzelii



Waratah 'Shady Lady' white



Dillwynia glaberrima?

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Leptospermum 'Outrageous'

CONTACT INFORMATION

Australian Plants Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc.

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee
2023/24

President: Barb Pye

Vice President: Dave Johnstone

Secretary: Tez Birgin

Treasurer: Jen Eldridge

Committee

- Lucille McCarthy
- Norris McCarthy
- Susan Ehrenberg
- Margaret Peters
- Dave Peters
- Max Thompson
- Ivan Pollock
- David Pye

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Find us on Facebook!

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