



Running Postman



Australian Plants Society - Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc



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Upcoming Meetings:

May 23 – Christine Huf –
Forensics/Gardens, supper:
Jen Eldridge

June 27 – Neil Humphreys –
Oils

July – No meeting

Save the Date...

- Next meeting: Mothing Night
- Wednesday, April 25, 5.00 pm onwards. Sunset will be around 5.40pm, so if you would like to have a garden tour before dinner, please arrive early.
- BYO picnic dinner (bbq will be firing up as well) and a chair
- **Supper Roster: Christine Huf**

Coming Up...

Our Plant Sale!
Saturday the 12th of May

We need



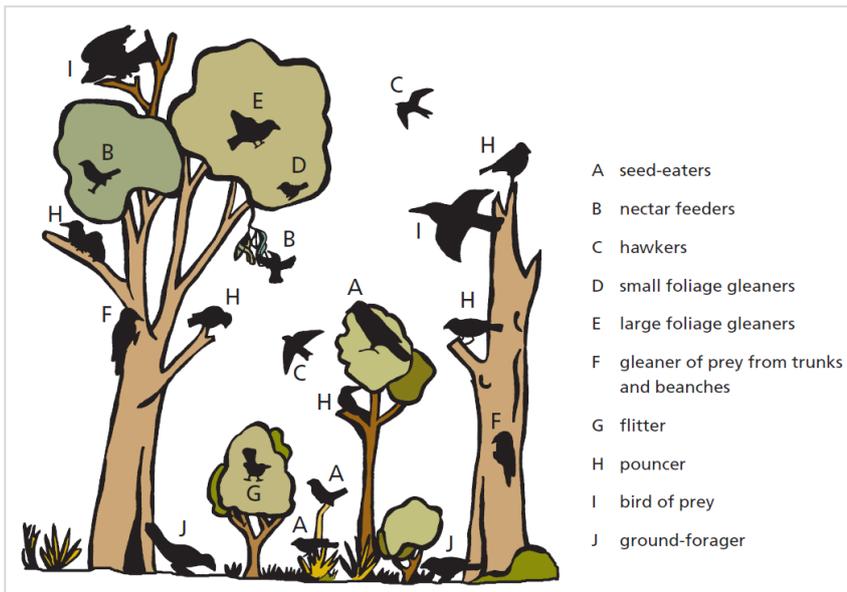
Please let Cathy or David know when you are available. The sale is on between 9am –1pm. Assistance is required for setup from 8am, then pack up after 1pm.

Monthly Meeting Recap – Birds, and how to attract their attention

Chris Lindorff expanded his last talk with us to encourage more of these cute critters into our gardens: *(Photos by Chris on Natureshare)*



It is important to create a space for all types of birds to enjoy and for me, I love sitting on my back verandah watching the different types of honey-eaters flitting around my plants and being entertained by their antics. So, how do we do this? By understanding what different types of habitats are required by the different types of birds, we can create a fabulous environment for as many of them as we can, including the New Holland Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Brown Thornbill, Musk Lorikeet, Willie Wagtail, Superb Fairy-wren, Eastern Spinebill, Silvereye, Grey Fantail.



What could your garden look like?

- Native plants (wide variety of species)
- Dense shrubs (for shelter and nesting)

- Nectar-producing plants
- Flowering eucalypts (for honeyeaters/lorikeets)
- Connectivity of vegetation
- Shallow water near dense cover
- Cat-free areas
- Environment favourable to insects/spiders



By setting up a pond and including a camera you can provide a happy place to spy on all sorts of visitors. Add some plants into your pond to keep the water clean, oxygenated, and provide habitat. The plants are best grown in pots within pond and they can be grazed by wildlife. They keep the water cooler on hot days and remove nutrients that encourage algal growth.

Plants that Chris use include: Water-milfoil – *Myriophyllum crispatum*, Small River Buttercup – *Ranunculus amphitrichus*, Centella – *Centella cordifolia*, Running Marsh-flower – *Ornduffia reniformis*, Rush – *Juncus species*, Pondweed – *Potamogeton cheesemanii*.



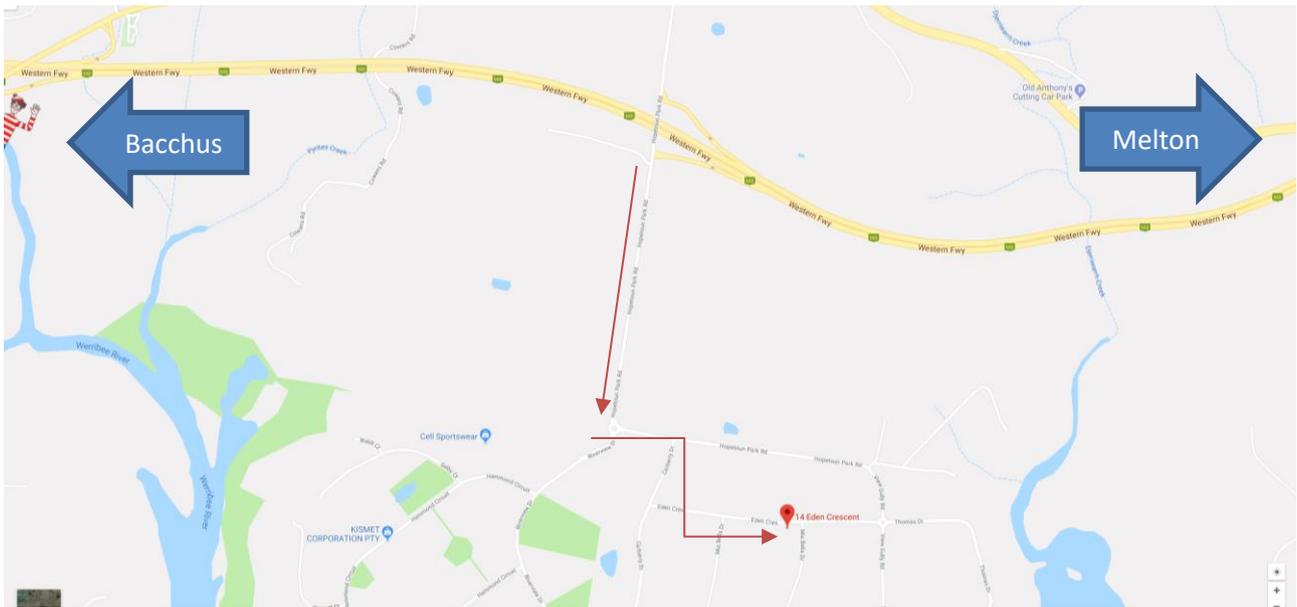
HAPPY BIRDING!

Next Meeting – Mothing Night, Hopetoun Park

This month will be a practical and we will delve into the dark side of Cathy Powers and Marilyn Hewish as they show us how to start ‘mothing’.

This will be held at Ash and Christine’s place at 14 Eden Cres, Hopetoun Park. As mentioned on the front page, you are welcome to arrive at any time after 5pm and have a wander through the garden – it has advanced quite a bit! Then gather around for a bbq/picnic dinner (BYO chair and meal) and wait for our first specimens to grace us with their presence. *Homemade pumpkin soup from home grown pumpkins will be available if you would like.*

Bring your cameras with a good zoom or macro ability to capture the moths.



Thallarcha chrysochares / [Tiger Footman](#)

id. by: [Cathy Powers](#)

(Photo from NatureShare)

Sharing Gardens

Courtesy dictates that if you are attending and have non-members with you, contact with the host is necessary to ascertain if that is acceptable.

Remember – we (APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh) are sharing the garden with one of our members and it is not open to everyone.

Please do not pick flowers or take cuttings without the permission of the garden’s owner.

Plant Sale – Hakea list

The following species of Hakeas have been grown for sale at our May plant sale.

Preorders can be sent immediately to Barb and David (apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com) or brought to the April meeting.

APSA Melton & Bacchus Marsh members have priority until Wednesday 26th April. After that date it is first come first served. While there are reasonable numbers of many species, numbers are limited for some species, so that we may not be able to supply everything asked for.

\$5 each or 5 for \$20

ambigua
arborescens
bucculenta
cycloptera
erecta
eriantha fine leaf (Lake Tyers)
florida
francisiana
francisiana Sandstone
gilbertii
invaginata
kippistiana
laurina
leucoptera subsp seripes
lorea
marginata
meisneriana
mitchellii
neurophylla
newbeyana

\$5 each or 5 for \$20

nitida
polyanthema
psilorrhyncha
purpurea
pycnoneura
recurva subsp arida Mt Gibson
recurva subsp recurva Wubin
rhombales
rigida
rugosa
ruscifolia
scoparia
scoparia Mt O'Brien
stenophylla subsp notialis
strumosa
subsulcata purple
teretifolia Cann River
tuberculata
undulata
varia

RHSV – Cate was a hit and a winner

– Cathy Powers

The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show was a memorable event for our group this year. As a member of the Royal Horticultural Society Victoria, we are afforded the opportunity to create and enter a basket in the Great Victorian Hanging Basket Competition.

We notified the secretary of RHSV we would be interested in submitting an entry and the basket (with a \$10.00 gift certificate to be spent at the sponsor nursery – in this case Poynton’s Nursery in Essendon) and potting mix (not native plant mix) were supplied.

I retrieved our supplies and, while at the nursery, selected a cute *Correa* to include in the creation. I also acquired two forms of *Myoporum* (green & bronze leaf forms) to be the spiller. The theory for our basket was to have a thriller (the *Correa*), a filler and a spiller (both coming from the *Myoporum*). Of course, the other fillers were the three *Antechinus* that Lucille created from remnant, small banksia flowers.

A little about Cate:

‘Little Cate’ is a cultivar of *Correa pulchella*. It is a small shrub (0.5m high X 1.5m wide) that has dainty, pink, bell-shaped flowers from late summer to winter. This plant prefers a well-drained, sunny spot but will also tolerate moderate shade. The label says it can look quite charming when covered in flowers and grown as a pot plant. How nice that the plant flowered for the show!

We won first place in the Australian Native section.



Baskets:

Of course, competition was of high standard. There were entries from other APS groups as well as APS Victoria. I found at least 6 other baskets (created by individual members of RHSV) that had only Australian native plants included so perhaps we are making inroads.



Grampians Group



Mornington Peninsula



SE Melbourne



APS-Vic

An overview:

There were many exhibition gardens available for viewing and most had some Australian native plants while some were based exclusively around Australian native species. Even within the Achievable Gardens competition, a small courtyard could easily include a beautiful display of Australian native plants.



Achievable Garden

The artistic displays inside the Exhibition Building were as diverse as one would expect. The creation that caught my eye used single bedsprings and Australian natives. Obviously, the plants and leaf material could not live in the bedspring, but it made me think that it could be an interesting garden ornament if live plants could be incorporated.



This leads me to acknowledge the display created by Bernard and Dallas Boulton for APS Victoria. The story goes that Dallas wanted a living wall and that would not work inside but Bernard created a mesh frame in which he placed small forestry tubes (containing plants of various species) to spell AUSTRALIAN PLANTS. Very creative and big congratulations to them both.

Last, there were so many colourful creations on display, but one certainly caught my eye – it had a message that brought a smile to my face!!



Plant Profile - *Rhododendron lochiaie*

- Barb Pye

Many people still do not realise that there is a species of native rhododendron. Nearly 50 years ago we started growing the beautiful native rhododendron *R. lochiaie*. It was flourishing in Murrumbena in a south facing bed but we had to remove it when we extended our house. Many years later we bought one at a Geelong plant sale. It seemed to be a slightly different form with less glossy leaves and flowers with a straighter corolla.



If you like a complicated story of name changes in plants *Rhododendron lochiaie* has it all. I will start at the beginning. It was surmised by Baron von Mueller that there could be a rhododendron native to Australia and if so it would be found on the high mountains inland from Cairns. Sure enough it was found and named *Rhododendron lochae* after the wife of an early Victorian Governor.

The name was later changed to *R. lochiaie* which is its name today. However, in between a species which appeared to be slightly different was discovered and named *R. notiale*. There was a mix up with the type specimens and for a while the names were reversed. Then it was decided that the name *notiale* was not to be used and a new species *R. viriosum* was described. So we had *R. lochiaie* and *R. viriosum*. Only in the last few years most botanists have decided that the differences are not great enough to warrant a separate species so they are all now called *Rhododendron lochiaie* again. Hooray!

R. lochiaie has red flowers which can appear at any time from late spring through to autumn. It is generally quite slow growing, eventually reaching about 1 metre. It should thrive in a south facing protected situation with good drainage or in a pot. It grows naturally amongst boulders on quite high mountains so good drainage and plenty of water are essential. So far in Bullengarook we have only grown them in pots under 50% shade cloth where they have thrived. Recently I put a struck cutting in a south facing bed and it has survived the summer.



Propagation from cuttings is not too difficult but care needs to be taken when first potting up as the roots are very fine and easily damaged.

Unfortunately, it is seldom seen in general or native nurseries. The best place to find them would be from specialist rhododendron growers in the Dandenongs or Kuranga Native Nursery in Mount Evelyn. It is reported that *R. lochiaie* has been a popular species to develop hybrids from due to its

relatively small size and brilliant red flowers but I have never seen any of these.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Plant Sales:

- **Saturday 21st of April, 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks from 8.30 am to 5 pm (Geelong APS)**
- **Saturday 28th of April, Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham from 10 am to 4 pm (Yarra Yarra APS)**

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden

UPCOMING CALENDAR:

- **MAY 9TH, 7.30PM – MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER KATHRYN FITZGIBBON ON EVOLVING FROM A CHILDHOOD GARDENER TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**
- **MAY 27TH, 10AM – 3PM – BOTANIC GARDENS DAY**

<http://www.fmbg.org.au/> FOR MORE DETAILS



APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh group Photo Competition to be held during the September meeting, photos to be submitted to Christine by 31 August

Contacts:

Australian Plants Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc.

Incorporated in Victoria: A0026204P

ABN: 68 053 689 781

APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee 2017/18

President	Christine Huf	0412 081 074	
Vice President	Russell Wait	0428 388 211	
Secretary/Public Officer	David Pye		email: apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com
Treasurer	Cathy Powers		
Committee	Lucille McCarthy, Barb Pye, Norris McCarthy		
Newsletter Editor	Christine Huf	0412 081 074	email: c.phot.804@gmail.com

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: 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

URL for relevant internet websites:

Website: www.runningpostman.org.au

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

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

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