



Running Postman



Australian Plants Society - Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc



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162, February 2018

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Upcoming Meetings:

March 28 – Chris Lindorff –
Gardening for Wildlife

April 25 – Cathy
Powers/Marilyn Hewish –
Nocturnal Moths practical

May 23 – Christine Huf –
Forensics/Gardens

Save the Date...

- Next meeting:
- Wednesday, February 28, 7.30pm
- Dinner at Tabcorp Park prior, 6pm

Grafting Demonstration – Ash Lane

Coming Up...

- Jane Edmanson will talk on The Joy of Gardening at the FMBG meeting, Wed 14th of March, details on page 10
- RHSV's Great Victorian Hanging Basket Competition
21 – 25 March at the Carlton Gardens & Exhibition Buildings – with our entry created by Cathy

Monthly Meeting Recap – January Potting Up Hakeas

The annual pilgrimage to Bullengarook saw us chatting over tables of potting mix, labels and itty-bitty Hakea seedlings that were looking for new homes in larger pots. In fabulous sunny weather, we took less time than last year to pot up around 400 seedlings, this year with so many extra varieties and they were lucky to make it into the trays as they were being eyed off by many of the volunteers.



There was a frisk search before everyone went home and I can assure everyone that all the seedlings are still there (or in the back of my car.... 😊 [wishful thinking])

All that work certainly worked up an appetite and we were soon tucking into picnics and a bbq, enjoying the superb blue fairy wrens bounce around the garden.

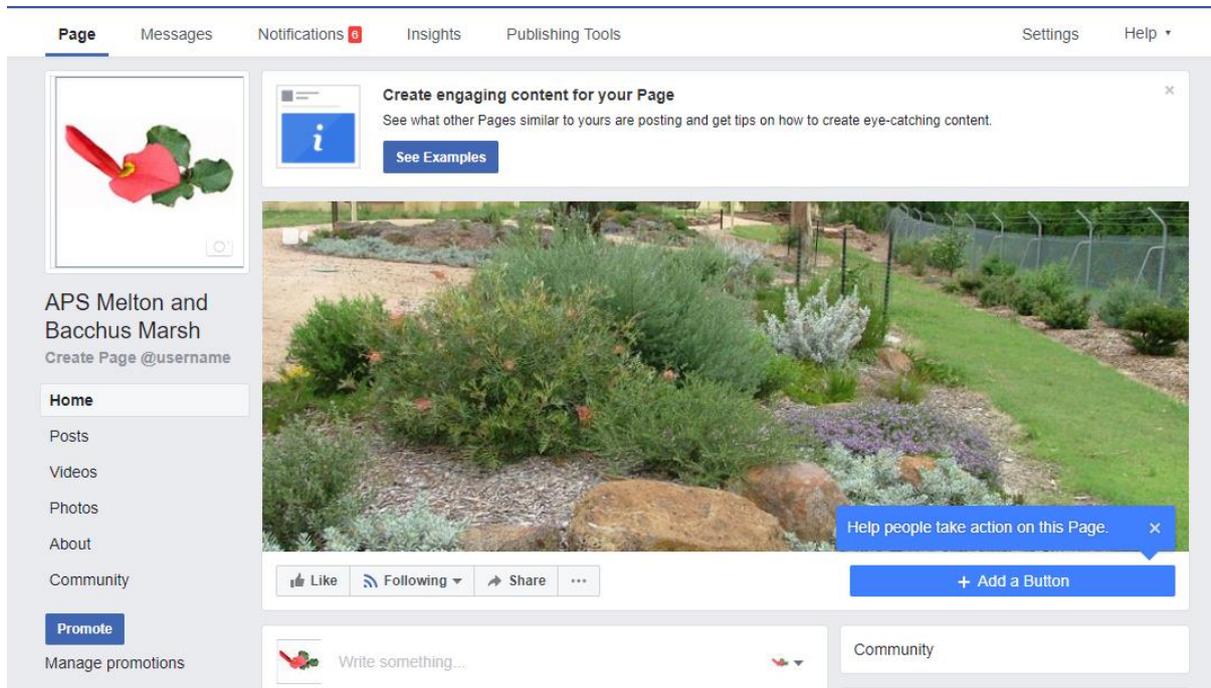


Many thanks again for the group members who were able to attend and make the evening such a success! I have since been up to David and Barb's for a visit and have checked on the progress of seedlings who are thriving.

Bring on the plant sale!

We're on Facebook

- note by David Pye.



We have a Facebook page and need to publicise it

Could all members who are on Facebook like it?

Since I am a novice regarding Facebook, I need advice in publicising it.

Could a member or members who are proficient in Facebook please get in touch (dabpye@gmail.com)?

To find it, just type *APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh* in to the search function on your Facebook page.

Next Meeting – Grafting Demonstration

- Ash Lane

The astute may have noticed that there has been a change to the calendar! February and March are good times for grafting certain species and Ash is going to give a demonstration on the technique he uses, then everyone will get a go, at their own risk as scalpels will be involved.



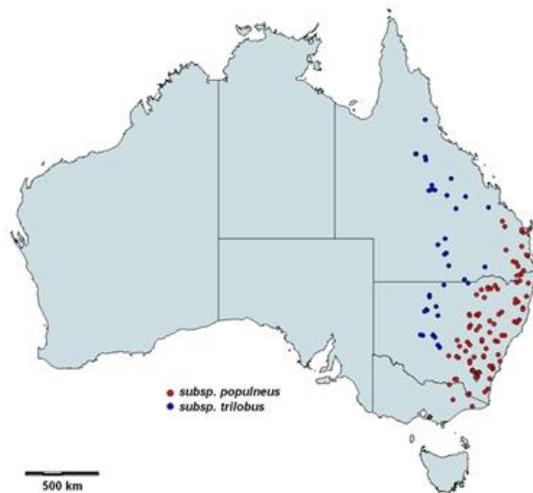
Depending on the setup you use, Ash usually gets over 90% success rate and when you consider that you can buy grafted plants in Bunnings can easily be over \$25 each, it's a hobby worth investigating.

As usual, you are invited to have dinner at Tabcorp Park prior to the meeting.

This may be one of the last times we meet at Tabcorp – there are a few changes to the group planned – see page 8 for details.

Plant Profile – *Brachychiton populneus*

Kurrajong Bottle Tree



If you came to the end of year breakup at Ash and Christine's in 2016, you may remember that we were gifted with 2 lovely specimens of the Kurrajong Bottle Tree. There will be a test on this at the April meeting which will be held there as well, and you can wander down the path and spot these gorgeous trees that are thriving in their new home.

Family: Malvaceae

Distribution: Southern inland Queensland and western slopes of New South Wales, through to eastern Victoria.

Common Name: Kurrajong

Derivation of Name: ***Brachychiton***...from Greek, *brachys*, short and *chiton*, a tunic, a reference to the coating on the seed.
populneus...like a poplar, from the shape of the leaves.

Conservation Status: Not considered to be at risk in the wild.

One of the most commonly cultivated *Brachychitons* is the Illawarra flame tree ([*Brachychiton acerifolius*](#)) which is popular due to its spectacular crimson flowers. The Black Kurrajong or, more commonly, just Kurrajong (*B. populneus*) is widely distributed in nature and is also common in cultivation. It is a small to medium-sized tree which may reach 20 metres in height although it is often much smaller and can be pruned to keep it under control. It has a compact and densely foliated habit which makes for an attractive specimen plant in a large garden or park.

The trunk is stout and grey, while the leaves are shiny green and either entire or 3 lobed, up to 10cm long. Young foliage is pale green tinged with pink, which can give the tree an interesting appearance. The small bell-shaped flowers are cream with a pink, red or purple tinge. The flowers are followed by large, boat-shaped seed capsules which contain many large seeds, similar to corn kernels.



Propagation from seed is relatively easy without any pre-treatment according to ANSPA, however the Flora Bank and others recommend immersion in warm to hot water and allowing them to soak for 12 hours. The seeds are surrounded in their boat shaped pods by irritant hairs, so wear gloves!!!

Ground-up seeds can be brewed into a coffee substitute or added to bread.

Juvenile plants, which display attractive lobed leaves and swollen taproots, make good pot-plants tolerant of dry and pot-bound conditions that respond well to pruning.

Trees are typically stout with glossy-green foliage and are widely used as street trees in Australia and overseas. Native populations on agricultural land are often retained to provide dense shade and drought fodder. The deep rooting trees have minimal impacts on cropping and also support honey production.

Cuttings from plants with desirable characteristics may be grafted onto seedling rootstock. Plants to 2 m respond well to transplantation if the swollen taproot is conserved and the branches trimmed to reduce water loss.

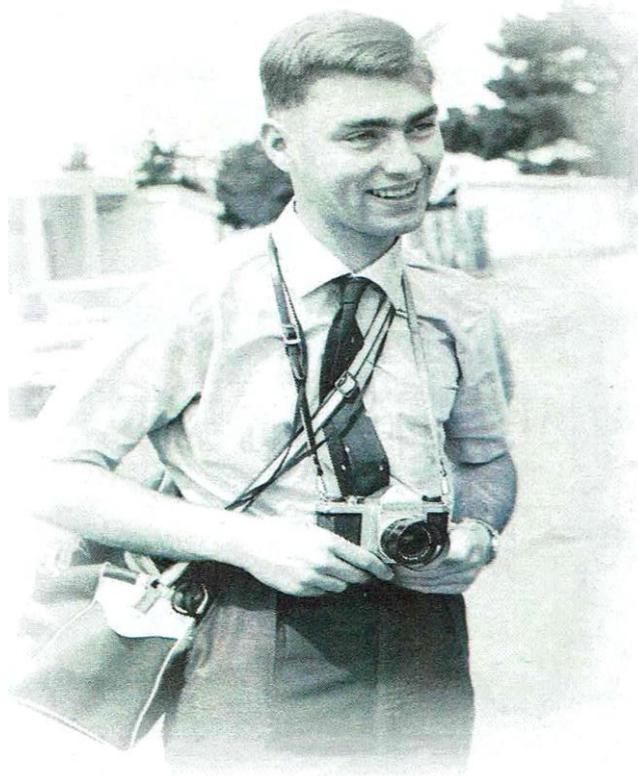


Vale John Bradley

Last month, our group farewelled a long time member, John Bradley.

Cathy, Russell and I attended John's funeral on behalf of our group and were able to chuckle with his siblings, Joan, Elizabeth Anne and Rob as they recounted stories from their youth about John.

I think we all knew that John's passions were made up of orchids, photography, photographing orchids, travelling with his brother in his Ford Cortina to find and photograph orchids, steam trains, orchids, native plants, orchids, the Scandanavian choir as part of his beloved Footscray Central Uniting Church and, did I mention orchids? His sisters commented that they had no idea how many clubs he was involved with until they started going through boxes of things and photos. Other interests included stamp collecting and they reflected on him working at the harbour port.



As Mary Elizabeth Frye penned; *Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep.* I think we can all take comfort in the fact that John will be watching us from on high, walking through an eternal orchid garden with his camera around his neck.



Changes Coming

For many years, our group has been meeting at the Dunvegan Cottage, which has served us well, but has also included dodging potholes down the driveway for those who park outside the gates, not to mention the toilets that are out the back.

As Dunvegan is part of the heritage of buildings at the Willows, there are restrictions on everything in regards to any renovations.

For those receiving emailed newsletters, you would have been contacted by David to gauge your thoughts at moving to a new location, which could also involve moving our meetings to a new night. The responses received so far have all been positive.

There are still a few details to be ironed out, but hopefully, as of our August meeting, we will be changing locations to the Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre at 249 Clarkes Road, Brookfield. The date will either be the 4th or last Thursday of the month (TBC).



What I can confirm at this stage is that the building is only a few years old, has a modern kitchen, wheelchair friendly access and easy parking, inside toilets and better heating/cooling.

If anyone has any objections to this move, please contact one of the committee members.

More details will be confirmed and distributed once we know them. We hope that this new venue will encourage more existing members to attend meetings as well as attracting new members.

Upcoming Events

Advanced Notice – Plant Sale 2018: The date is Saturday 12th May. Volunteers will be required to assist with setup and/or sales and/or packup.

Geelong Plant Sale is Saturday 21st April, and Yarra Yarra Plant Sale is Saturday 28th April. APS Mornington will probably be Saturday May 5th.

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden

UPCOMING CALENDAR:

- FEBRUARY 14, 6.30PM – FREE BBQ AND WALK THROUGH THE MBG
- MARCH 14, 7.30PM – MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER **JANE EDMANSON**
- APRIL 11, 7.30PM – MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER **JIM HOLDSWORTH**

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



The Photo Competition, held in November, seemed to be a great success and there have been positive comments on the calendars produced. To continue with this, we are going to hold the competition again this year, but it will be held in September so there is adequate time for the calendars to be produced and extras ordered, if requested, and distributed before the final meeting. This means you should be collating your photos now and snapping new pics as they will be required by the 31st of 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

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<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Russell Wait</i>	<i>0428 388 211</i>	
<i>Secretary/Public Officer</i>	<i>David Pye</i>		<i>email: apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com</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: c.phot.804@gmail.com</i>

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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