



Running Postman



Australian Plants Society - Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc



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166, June 2018

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Upcoming Meetings:

July – No meeting

August – Geoff Lay – 50 years with plants, supper: David & Barb Pye

September – AGM and Photo Competition, supper: Adrian Mitchell

Save the Date...

- Next meeting: Oils, Neil Humphreys
- Wednesday, 23 May, 7.30pm
- Dinner at Tabcorp Park, 6pm
- ***Supper Roster: Max Thompson & Sue Ryan***

Did you see...

Gardening Australia, Friday 18th of May

Gum Nuts

Jane finds a treasure trove of Eucalyptus from all over Australia growing in a relatively new botanic garden run by volunteers in Melbourne's west

<http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/gum-nuts/9775918>

Click on the link above to see Jane Edmanson and her wander through the Melton Botanical Gardens, guided by some of our very own members!

The next newsletter will highlight some of the Eucalypts.

Monthly Meeting Recap – Forensics and Nature

- Cathy Powers

Our speaker (el Presidente Christine) offered insight into how the aspects of crime scene investigation and nature collaborate to provide various forms of proof and often many clues as to the perpetrator's identification. This was contained in her presentation during the May meeting.

Biology:

If the investigation turned out to be 'oceanic' related, the discovery of a *Thylacodes siphon* (Common worm-shell) may assist in determining the exact crime location. This species of marine mollusc lives sub-tidally and offshore amongst rocks and seaweed, sometimes in dense intertwined aggregates. It is endemic to south-eastern and south-western Australia.



IMAGE by L. Ridgway
(www.natureshare.org.au)

An investigator could be surprised by the presence of the *Fistulina hepatica* (Beefsteak Fungus) beside a piece of evidence on the ground. This fairly common bracket fungus can be found growing from wounds on Eucalyptus trees, not on the ground. It has a rough surface with a reddish-brown colour and, as its common name suggests, looks similar to raw meat. It even bleeds a dull red juice when cut.

IMAGE by L. Phelan
(www.natureshare.org.au)



Entomology:

There can be many types of carrion insects on decomposing material. *Necrophagous* Blowfly species are often the first to arrive and begin colonizing decomposing material. These species have their complete life cycle on or near the remains and because of this can be considered one of the most important parts of post-mortem interval estimations.



IMAGE by R. Best
(www.natureshare.org.au)

Predators and parasites of the Blowfly may also be present. These do not feed directly on the carrion but instead feed on the Blowfly larvae as they develop. Included in this group are beetles and parasitic wasps.

Native parasitic wasp species
IMAGE: Cathy Powers



Next the investigator might find the omnivorous species which include ants, wasps and some species of carrion beetles. These feed both on the decomposing material and the other carrion insects. Their presence can result in a slower rate of carcass material removal; this is due to the depletion of the numbers of larvae.



Native ant sp. IMAGE: Cathy Powers

Adventive species lead us to the botanical aspect. These usually originate in the vegetation and soils around the site.



Native Scorpion sp.
IMAGE: Cathy Powers

Botany:

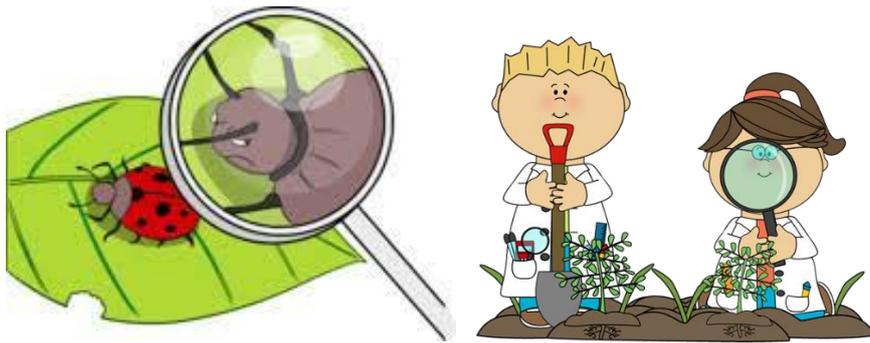
As the criminal/s leave the crime scene, bits of leaf litter, soil, pollen, plant material or even a feather from a bird known only from a single location could be left behind.



Cisticola exilis (Golden-headed Cisticola) IMAGE: P Clark
(www.natureshare.org.au)

It was a fantastic insight into crime investigation. What an amazing amount of information required to ensure that the culprit is not only caught but convicted. I will never look at my shoes the same again. Thank you to Christine for sharing her passion in forensics and helping us to understand how much nature impacts her life (not just from her garden!).

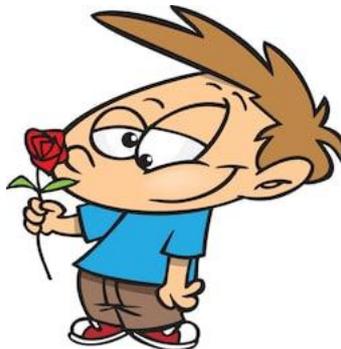
Editor's note: Thank you to Cathy for putting this article together. She 'dug' further into this topic and has provided these images and information.



Next Meeting – Oils

- Neil Humphreys

In March 2016, Neil spoke to us on the sense of smell, then proceeded to unleash little bottles of native essential oils on us and we soaked them all up. Neil will be back with more delightful samples for the senses.



This will be our last meeting on a Wednesday night, and at the Dunvegan Cottage. It will also be our last dinner at Tabcorp Park prior to the meeting as I will be looking for another place that is more convenient to our new location in Brookfield. Throw the saucepans back in the drawer and come along at 6pm for some lively banter and relaxation before the meeting. A table is booked under 'Plants', all are welcome.

Photo Competition

The photo competition will be part of the September meeting.

The categories are:

	Whole Plant
Single Flower/Flower Head	
	Foliage
Seed/Pod	
	Garden Accessories/Visitors
Garden Scene/Landscape	

Participants are encouraged to enter up to two (2) photos per category.

Participants are to provide Christine their photos via email/usb/disk so they can be printed all at once and at the same size (~10" x 8" / A4), so please ensure the photos are of a decent quality.

Photos to be submitted no later than **Friday 31st of August.**

Plant Sale – Hakeas

The annual plant sale was held on Saturday the 12th of May and there was a good turnout of people who dodged the rain showers to buy up a great selection of plants.

A chance taken on a slightly different setup paid dividends as patrons weaved their way past tubes of young trees and pictures of what they hoped to grow up to be. Pretty soon, our Hakeas were flying off the tables.



And just to show that the sun did decide to make an appearance:



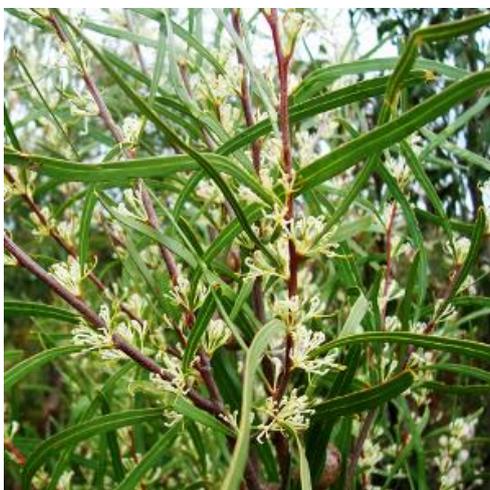
There are still some Hakeas left from the sale:

Remainder as at 17 June 2018

ODDS - Good condition - saleable	
eriantha fine leaf (Lake Tyers)	12
florida (JS)	2
marginata	2
mitchellii	12
newbeyana	3
recurva subsp recurva Wubin	2
stenophylla subsp notialis (JS)	3
subsulcata purple (ML)	1
undulata (JS)	1

SODS –small and/or pretty ordinary condition – free to good home	
ferruginea	1
francisiana	1
francisiana Sandstone	1
leucoptera subsp seripes	3
meisneriana pretend	1
lehmanniana	3

Please let Christine know if you would like any of these plants.



Upcoming Events

30 June & 1 July APS Ballarat District Group Winter Flower Show and Sales. From 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, at the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens.

21 & 22 July Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Winter Plant Sale – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Mel 133 K10)

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden

UPCOMING CALENDAR:

- JULY 11TH , 7.30PM – ANDREW TRACYZNSKI WILL DISCUSS ARBORICULTURE – TREES AND HOW THEY ARE MANAGED
- AUGUST 8TH , 7.30PM – JOHN ARNOTT WILL SHOW HOW HE ‘CARES FOR THE RARE’
- <http://www.fmbg.org.au/> FOR MORE DETAILS

Contacts:

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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:

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Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

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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>

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