



Running Postman



Australian Plants Society - Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc



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165, May 2018

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Upcoming Meetings:

June 27 – Neil Humphreys –
Oils, supper: Max Thompson
& Sue Ryan

July – No meeting

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

Save the Date...

- Next meeting: Forensics/Gardens
- Wednesday, 23 May, 7.30pm
- How do the two worlds of Forensics and Gardens collide? Is it possible for me to merge them?
- Dinner at Tabcorp Park, 6pm
- **Supper Roster: Jen Eldridge**

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.

APS Melton
& Bacchus
Marsh Inc.



NATIVE PLANT SALE

at St Andrew's Uniting
Church, Bacchus Marsh
(MEL333 J6)

Saturday 12th May 2018

9am-1pm

**FEATURING HAKEAS,
dwarf EUCALYPTS
EREMOPHILAS**

Info: Barb / David 5428 9369
or
apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com

Please disseminate this as widely as possible

Monthly Meeting Recap – Mothing

This month we traipsed to Hopetoun Park to find out what goes bump in the night. Marilyn and Dean Hewlish and Cathy excitedly set up white sheets, turned on the lights and soon enough there were cries of delight as a variety of critters decided they were curious enough to find out what all the fuss was about.



The sheets are pulled taught around a frame and a mercury vapour light set up to attract the nocturnal visitors.



These included a Bull Ant,



Micromus tasmaniae





So, what is 'Mothing' and why is it done?

From www.mothscount.org :

Why?

Moths far outnumber butterflies and are much more varied, and learning about the many species in your own area is a fascinating and enjoyable hobby. Moths have also received far less attention than butterflies and, as a result, less is known about them and where they occur. This means that the information **you** collect about your local moths can make a real contribution to knowledge and can directly help conservation. Since moths are so diverse and numerous, information about them is also valuable because, like the canary in the coalmine, they tell us how healthy our environment is. That's one of the reasons why Moths Count wants people of all ages, all over the country, to take an interest in the many types of moths around them, so that we can all be "citizen scientists" helping to build a better understanding of wildlife and the environment.

Where?

You can find moths almost anywhere, not just in the countryside but in gardens, urban parks and patches of waste-ground, even in the busiest cities. Some species are only found in certain habitats or near certain types of plant, but many are widespread. More than a hundred species could be living in your own back garden or local park, so those are the best places to start looking.

When?

Moths are around all through the year, though different species are found in different seasons, with the greatest variety in summer. If you want to see every type of moth that lives in your garden, you will need to look throughout the year. Moths are more active, and so more likely to be seen, on mild, cloudy, still nights. They don't like cold nights, heavy rain or strong winds. If you use light to attract moths, it will work best on moonless nights.

Marilyn was kind enough to provide some further information about one species.

The remarkable flights of the Bogong Moth - Marilyn Hewish

I've been interested in Victorian moths for about ten years and a question I'm often asked is, "Do moths move around much?" For many species we don't know but several moths in the family Noctuidae certainly undertake long-distance movements. The best known and most visible example is the Bogong Moth.



Every year Bogong Moths make a remarkable migration through south-eastern Australia. In most years they attract little attention, but occasionally vast numbers are attracted to lights in settled areas and we hear reports of moths invading buildings and clogging up light fittings, ducting and vacuum cleaners.

What's the story behind this mass movement? Bogong Moths (family Noctuidae, *Agrotis infusa*) occur throughout southern and eastern Australia. In August and September each year, many adults leave their lowland breeding grounds and migrate to the highest elevations of the Snowy Mountains and Victorian Alps. Some travel thousands of kilometres. In late February, the return migration to the lowlands begins. This migratory strategy is thought to provide an escape from the hot, dry

conditions in the lowlands in summer.

When the moths reach the Alps, they rest throughout the summer in rocky caves and crevices, which provide a cool, moist, sheltered environment. This strategy is called 'aestivation', from the Latin word 'aestas', meaning 'summer'. It's the summer equivalent of 'hibernation' over winter. During a Bioscan



survey in the Victorian Alps in November 2013 (Museum Victoria, Parks Victoria), large, tightly packed clusters of Bogong Moths were photographed by Jeremy Tscharke in a cave on Ramshorn. Across the cave walls the moths crowded tightly together, heads down, in a neat, overlapping, 'tiled' surface. In narrow

crevices they jammed in any old way. Reserves of fat in their bodies allow them to survive over the aestivation period and make them attractive and important as prey for other animals. Aboriginal people formerly used to harvest them.

There are many exquisitely beautiful Victorian moths, but Bogong Moths aren't among them. With fat, furry bodies and brown or grey wings, they're like the general public's idea of a 'typical' moth. They're roughly triangular in outline when settled and have a wingspan of 45-50 mm (wings spread). On the forewing, two pale spots, one oval and one kidney-shaped, are joined by a black bar.

The most common moths mistaken for Bogong Moths are in a different family altogether - species of the large, grey or brown Hepialidae or Ghost Moths. They gather and flutter at lighted windows after rain in autumn. The rain brings about a sudden, mass emergence of moths from their pupae so numbers can be very high for a short time. Ghost Moths are generally larger and heavier than Bogong Moths and hold their wings in a tent shape (Bogong Moths usually hold their wings flat).

Next Meeting – Forensics and the Garden

- Christine

As you know, I am a Forensic Examiner. I spend my days, well, actually, doing paperwork. But, when the phone rings and I head out the door to a scene, I never really know what I am going to be doing. On my days off, I work on the newsletter or watch Ash expand the amazing garden we (he) has been creating. I dabble in the garden, mostly on the veggie side of things.

Is it possible for these two worlds to collide and intersect? Have I learned something from one side and used it in the other? Come along and find out!

Dinner is at Tabcorp Park prior to the meeting, 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.



Plant Sale – Hakea list

Have I mentioned that our annual Plant Sale is on Saturday the 12th of May?

Spread the word and come to Bacchus Marsh between 9am and 1pm and grab a bargain or 7!

Growers include: Russell Wait, Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Philip Vaughan, Neil Duncan, Ironstone Park, Otway Greening and The Plant Hut as well as our lovely range of Hakeas (unless sold out):

\$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

Plant Profile – Stockdale Sensation

- Cathy Powers

For those of us with a very keen interest in the genus *Hakea*, Max Ewer's garden in Lucindale, SA was the place to visit. Unfortunately, I was not one to have the privilege but I recall Graeme Woods expounding the virtues of Max's *Hakea* collection. Max supported our goal to raise and sell *Hakea* species at our annual plant sale by supplying seeds of various types. Stockdale Sensation is a spectacular cultivar which appeared in Max's garden one year and he soon recognised the need to have it available to gardeners. Initially it was cutting grown from the original plant and because it is fast growing, availability on the open market followed. It is in the *Hakea laurina* group and if you know anything about *Hakea laurina* plants, they will hybridise easily with others and even *Hakea petiolaris*.

Features:

According to the fact sheet, it has profuse red and cream pin-cushion flowers which provide an attractive winter colour. It is fast growing and has a dense, weeping habit with narrow foliage. My plants have the described flowers and has been fast growing but I would not list it as weeping. The narrow leaves, with three distinct veins, are stunning in the sunlight.

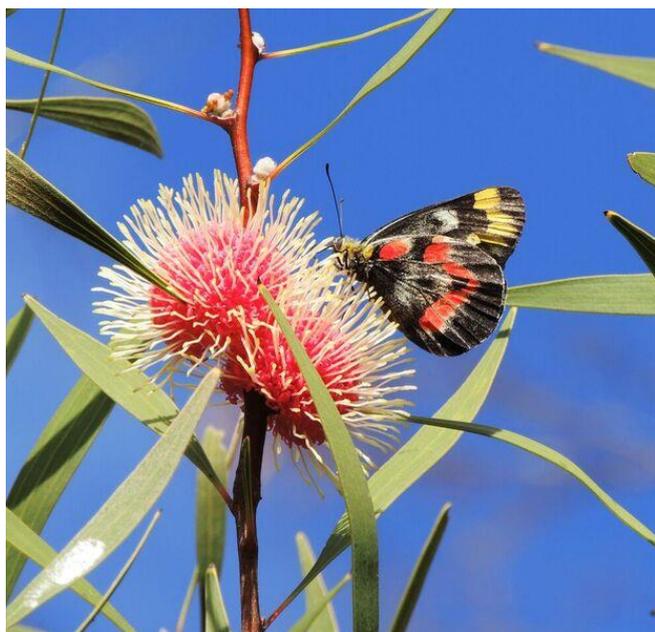


Uses:

It is a medium sized feature plant that can have colour and interest throughout the winter. It has low water requirements, will grow in most soil types and prefers a sunny spot for optimal flowering.

For me:

The flowers come out in groups and, within the group, the flowers have different stages of maturity. This provides some with a cream, unopened flower, open flowers with pinkish centres and the more mature flowers which have turned a very deep pink to almost red colour with a tinge of cream from the long projecting styles. This cultivar shows the flower much better than the other *Hakea laurina* group plants I have and with three plants growing near each other, the display is awesome. This is an important plant in my garden because it flowers early autumn when most other things for winter flowers are just in bud. The insects love it for the nectar and these include butterflies and moths as well as bees, ants and native wasps.



Imperial butterfly



Mistletoe Moth (and bee friends)

<https://gardendrum.com/2012/08/27/hakea-and-grevillea-cultivars/> For the last twenty years, native plant enthusiast, Max Ewer, of Mt Gambier in South Australia, has been passionate about growing the *Hakea* genus on his property. Back in 2002 Max freeholded 10 acres of land and planted out 600 hakeas. Max now has an extensive collection which boasts hakeas native to Cape York right through to Tasmania. Max is considered an expert in his field of breeding and growing Hakeas. Some websites for growing native plants make the claim that hakeas are only available in their original form and no-one is hybridising. That simply means that according to some, you get only get plants that originally grow in the wild, or bush, but no-one is crossing the pollen between varieties to get a better flowering plant. They couldn't be further from the truth.

Hakea 'Stockdale Sensation' was named in honour of Max's late wife. *Hakea* "Stockdale Sensation" has the same amazing flowers as the species, but more of them and is a more bushy plant from all accounts. *Hakea* 'Stockdale Sensation' grows to 2-3m x 2m, is drought tolerant when established, and tolerant of most soil types as long as it's well draining. Like the species, *Hakea* "Stockdale Sensation", starts flowering in winter. For more information about where you can buy this plant in Australia, go to www.pma.com.au for a list of nurseries and garden centres that might have this plant.

Upcoming Events

16 June 2018 APS Mornington Peninsula host a one day event with an excursion in the afternoon, and an optional informal pub evening meal. **APS Victorian Committee of Management** meeting commences at 10.00 am. Benton Square Community Centre, Bentons Rd, Mornington.

16 to 27 June ANPSA 2018 Kimberley Tour – Kununurra to Broome. Details from Nicky Zanen, email nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0401975191.

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.

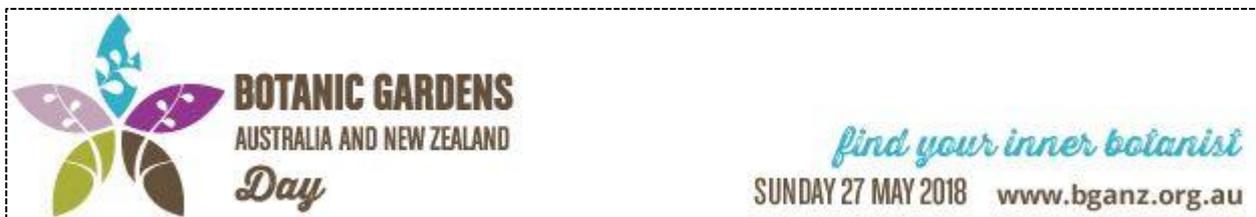
21 & 22 July Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Winter Plant Sale – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Mel 133 K10)

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden

UPCOMING CALENDAR:

- 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
- JUNE 13TH, 7.30PM – MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKERS DAVID & BARB PYE ON THE EUCALYPTS OF THE MBG

<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:

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APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee 2017/18

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Treasurer	Cathy Powers		
Committee	Lucille McCarthy, Barb Pye, Norris McCarthy		
Newsletter Editor	Christine Huf	0412 081 074	email: c.phot.804@gmail.com

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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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