



Running Postman



Australian Plants Society - Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc



In this bumper issue:

- October Monthly Meeting recap
 - Pages 2 – 4
- Plant Table/Flower of the month
 - Pages 5 – 6
- AGM
 - Page 7
- Plant Profile
 - *E. sturtii*
 - Page 8
- Committee Meeting
 - Page 9
- Breakup Meeting
 - Page 10
- APS Melton Bacchus Contact details
 - Page 11

Save the Date...

- Next meeting:
 - Wednesday November 23,
6.30pm
 - End of Year Breakup,
Hopetoun Park – refer to page
10 for details and directions

Coming Up...

- January 26 meeting:
 - Potting up Hakeas
 - David and Barb's place

Monthly Meeting Recap

This month we started the meeting off with something quite special, awarding Life Memberships for two wonderful members, Ron and Cathy Powers. Barb gave this heart-warming tribute to them:

“David and I have known Ron and Cathy since they first joined this group. I think we first met them when we were selling plants at the Darley Market and Ron, in particular, used to chat about the Eucalypts they were planting at their place in Balliang.

“They have been stalwarts of our group ever since they joined. Cathy, as you know, took on the role first as Vice President then President of the Vic region. Before that she was Treasurer of our group and then Secretary for 3 years. Cathy also took on the role of Editor of the newsletter for a time.

“For years, they have always been first to arrive and open the hall, set out seating and then the last to leave. And of course, Ron has sat over there in his exclusive corner and sold raffle tickets for even more years. In addition, they have provided raffle prizes on a regular basis and have played a key role in our plant sale – setting up and dismantling our display and providing photos of the hakeas.

“Above all, they have represented our group as delegates to the Vic region, regularly attending committee management meetings, keeping us informed of all APS activities. Their enthusiasm and commitment to our group has seen it grow and prosper in recent years. I can’t think of two more worthy recipients of Life Membership of our group.”



Ron and Cathy achieve their Life Membership, along with President Russell and Secretary Julianne.

Presentation:

Cathy Powers – The new citizen science craze – Virtual Taxonomy

For those who have children/grandchildren around the teenage years, you may have noticed in the past few months that they've been glued to their mobile phones more than usual. There is a new craze called Pokemon Go that involves moving around outside while looking at your mobile and 'catching' these characters, using geolocation to track players on a map as they walk around. I have even seen people run into shrubs etc as they are staring so intently on their phones and not on their surroundings.

Scientists are encouraging Pokemon hunters to share digital images of real-life capturing. How does this work?

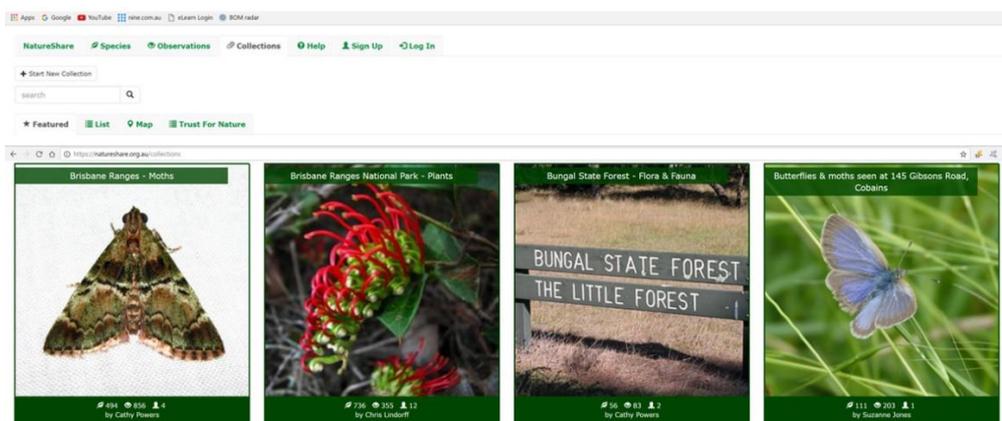
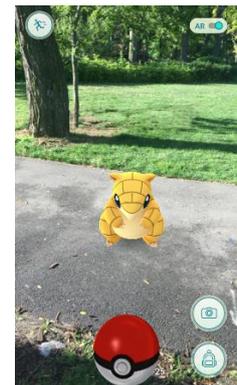
1 – Opportunistic. Go for a wander through the bushland and take photos of interesting plants, animals and insects. Record the details of where this has taken place and share the information (recommended websites listed below). By doing this, an orb spider was located in QLD that created a retreat made of small grains of sand. Similarly, an orchid *Caladenia pumilia* was rediscovered in Sep 2009 after it was thought to be extinct since 1926.

http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/323806/Caladenia-pumila-Dwarf-Spider-orchid-Fact-Sheet-Final-version.pdf

2 – Targeted. There are a number of projects running, including the Brisbane Ranges. This works by selecting species of plants/animals/insects and documenting their locations at different times. This information can assist in documenting climate change and the effects on the environment.

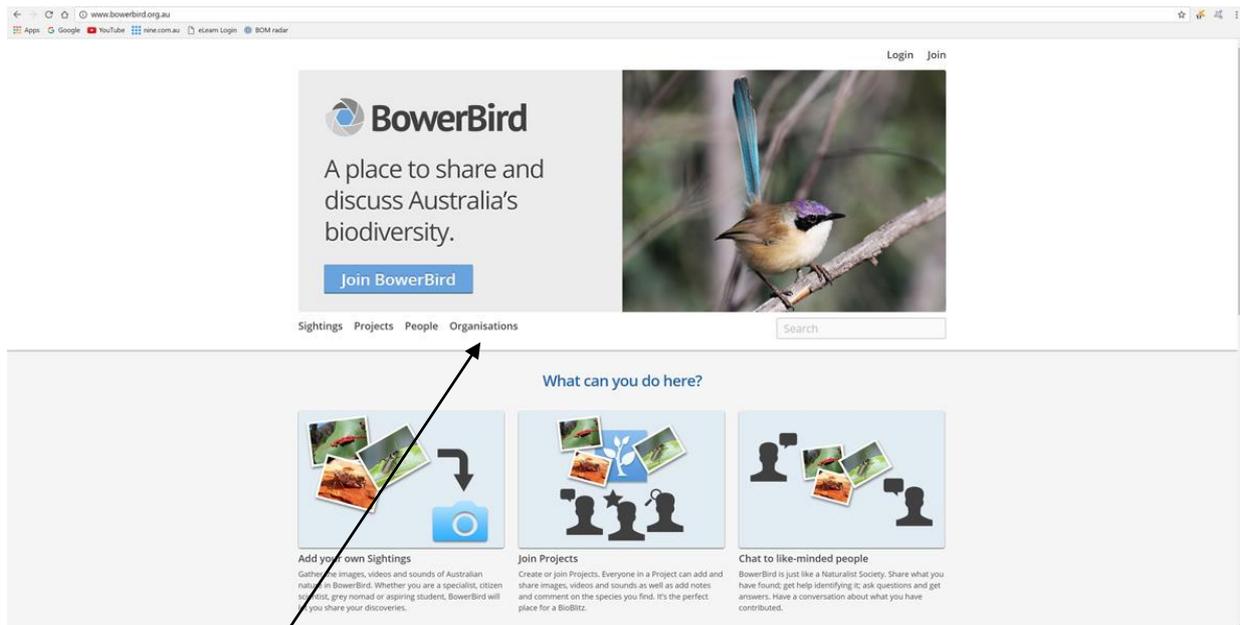
Fact sheets can be provided for easy identification for the species you're hunting.

One of these websites is <http://natureshare.org.au/>. 'NatureShare has a comprehensive species list for the state of Victoria that has been imported from official sources and carefully curated by experts. Anyone can contribute to NatureShare by recording observations in **Victoria, Australia**. You can contribute to an existing collection or start your own.'

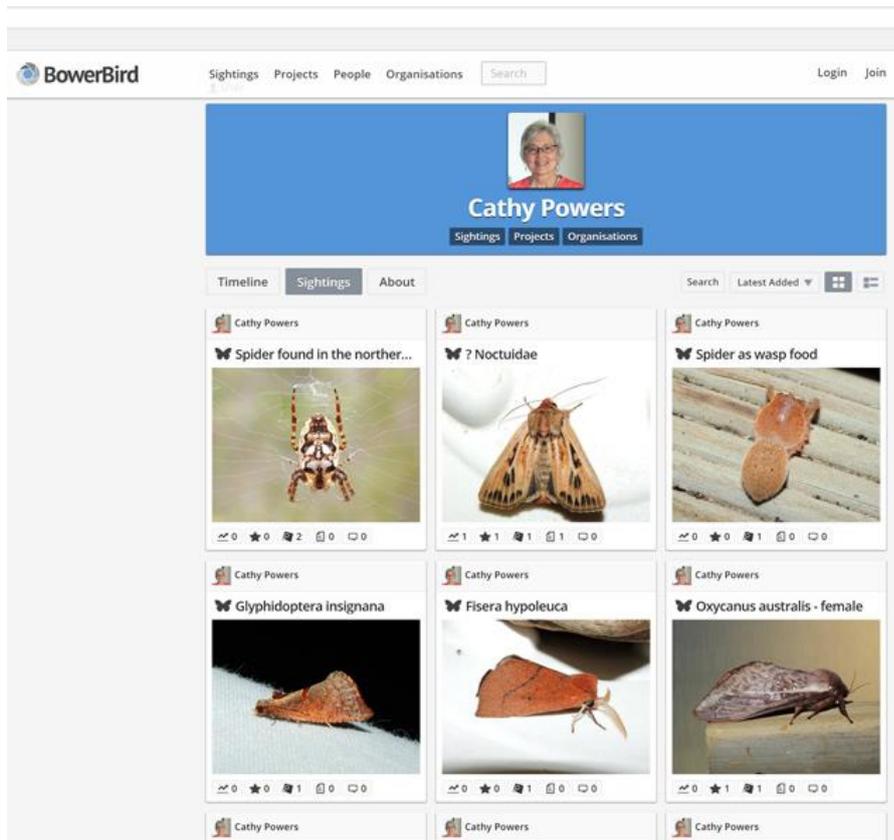


On this website, I clicked on the *Collections* link and found two collections by Cathy

<http://www.bowerbird.org.au/> is a website to 'share and discuss Australia's biodiversity.'



Clicking on Organisations will bring up a list of different watchers and groups from around Australia. You can also follow a particular person and the fabulous photos taken by them, like this one:



All you need is a willingness to spend some time out and about, develop a new interest and learn some new skills. In turn, you will be participating in valuable research that could have a huge impact.

Don't worry if you can't identify the species you're photographing, there are others out there who can help you with that.

Plant Table/Flower of the Month

The plant table this month was shortened as we still had the AGM to get to. Ironically, there was a fabulous array of flowers brought in.



One of these was the *Melaleuca violacea*.

Biological Name: *Melaleuca violacea*
Common Name: Violet Paperbark
Family: Myrtaceae
Origin: Western Australia, southwest coast
Exposure: Full Sun to Partial Shade
Irrigation: Drought tolerant once established
Frost: Frost Tolerant 25F-18F (-8C)
Soil: Well-drained, sandy, clay
Flower Color: Purple
Flower Time: Spring - early summer
Height: 1-5'
Width: 3-6'



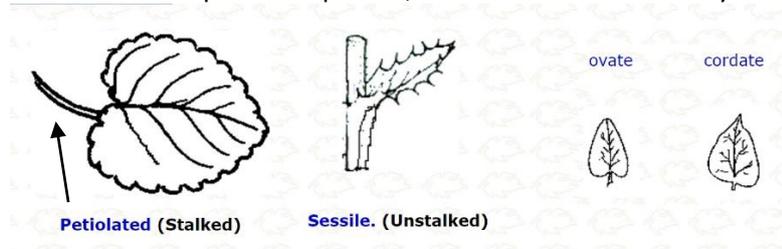
A small spreading shrub that reaches a height of less than one metre. Plants have an unusual flat top. The bark is papery and sometimes corky. Branches are usually horizontal and layered. This gives plants their flat-topped appearance. The branches have small green ovate-cordate sessile leaves and violet flowers.

(Quick lesson on leaves:

Ovate leaves – egg shaped, wider at the base than the apex

Cordate leaves – heart-shaped, more extended at the base than the ovate type with a notch

Sessile – do not possess a petiole, the blade extends directly from the stem)





Profuse violet or purple flowers appear from September to December. They are carried in clusters at the base of the leaves.

Melaleuca violacea prefers sunny sites but is tolerant of some shade.

This Western Australian native is an unusual shrub with its flat-topped growth habit. The plants light up the garden and attract lots of attention during the flowering period.

Melaleuca violacea propagates readily from cuttings and is suitable for rockeries and native cottage gardens. The species would also be at home in a Japanese style garden because of its growth habit.

It will tolerate sandy or clayey, often gravelly soils over limestone or laterite. Low ridges, undulating terrain, swamps.

AGM:

After supper with a cuppa, the AGM was kicked off by Russell giving his President's report:

We started the year with a Christmas party at Beryl and Russell Wait's place in November.

January, we potted up our Hakeas ready for our plant sale in May. Many thanks to the Pyes for the use of their place to do it.

February, we had Graeme Woods talk on one of his favourite subjects of Hakeas.

March, we had Neil Humphries talking on the extraction of perfumes from plants.

April, we had Barbara Pye talking on Correas.

May was when we held our annual plant sale in Bacchus Marsh and later in the month was a talk by Chris Lindorff on attracting birds to the garden.

June Warren Worboys gave us a talk about the nomenclature of plants.

August Bill Aitchison gave a talk on Acacias.

September was where people brought along flowering plants from their gardens and talked about them.

October was a talk by Cathy Powers, followed by our AGM.

I would like to thank the executive and members for their support over the last 3 years particularly as I have completed my term as president. I would also like to thank Christine for providing wonderful supers and lastly I would like to thank Julianne for her role as secretary under trying family circumstances.

The Treasurer's report was presented, copies can be provided on request.

Cathy then declared all positions vacant and after a very short time with no contests, the following people were congratulated into their new positions:

President: Christine Huf

Vice President: Russell Wait

Secretary/Public Officer: David Pye

Treasurer: Julianne Diwell

Committee: Lucille McCarthy, Andrea Kellet, (3rd position still vacant, call for interest)

Plant Profile: *(words and photos by Russell Wait)*

Eremophila sturtii was named after the explorer Sir Charles Sturt and has the common name of turpentine bush. It grows mainly in NSW, QLD, SA and NT with odd occurrences in VIC and one place in WA just over the border.

It grows to about 3 meters high and generally in a loamy soil. The flowers are often pink but can be purple or white and often produced on mass, and when the flowers fall, the sepals which are a light cream cover the bush for a few weeks giving another display before the bush returns to green for the rest of the year. It has resinous foliage.



It is hard to propagate by grafting and I have only heard of one person propagating it from cutting when he got only one. I have grown it from seed alright. It also suckers.

In NSW and QLD, it is classified as a weed species as it is a very dominate shrub and it is one of the last things goats will try. When I was up there this year there were great areas of it lining the roads and out in the paddocks and often with *Dodonaea* or *Eremophila mitchellii* which is a larger shrub or small tree with white flowers.

It is used as thatch on meat houses as it is a very good fly repellent.



Committee Meeting – *from David Pye*

The new committee met on Cup Day and examined many aspects of group management, communication, and programs. The main issues of interest to members are:

- Regarding the newsletter, the flower of the month will be reintroduced, where an item from the display table is selected and the person who brought it in will be asked to write a brief note. In addition, members are asked to contribute items of interest to the newsletter
- A colour printer is to be bought and used to prepare colour versions of the newsletter for mailing to those who receive their newsletter by post.
- Newsletters and other information from aps and other groups will continue to be distributed by email.
- Members are encouraged to bring supper, although the group will continue to provide tea and coffee
- The AGM will continue to be held in October in conjunction with the Grand Display Table which be moved from the September meeting.
- A daytime meeting will be trialled in June next year, to be held on the morning of the date of our regular meeting, ie 4th Wednesday, and instead of the night meeting. If this is successful, we could increase the number of day meetings which are best held in the cooler months.
- Two excursions are in planning, one in June and one in Spring next year. We aim to travel as a group by bus, and details will follow when they are finalised
- The plant sale will be on Saturday 6th May, in conjunction with a Car boot sale at the Uniting Church. It was decided to increase the price of Hakeas to \$5 each.
- We are exploring the idea of having a photo competition similar to those held some years ago. This might be part of our end of year breakup next year. Details will be provided in plenty of time for members to plan their photography.
- A number of speakers are to be approached for next year. When we have confirmation details will be advised in the newsletter.

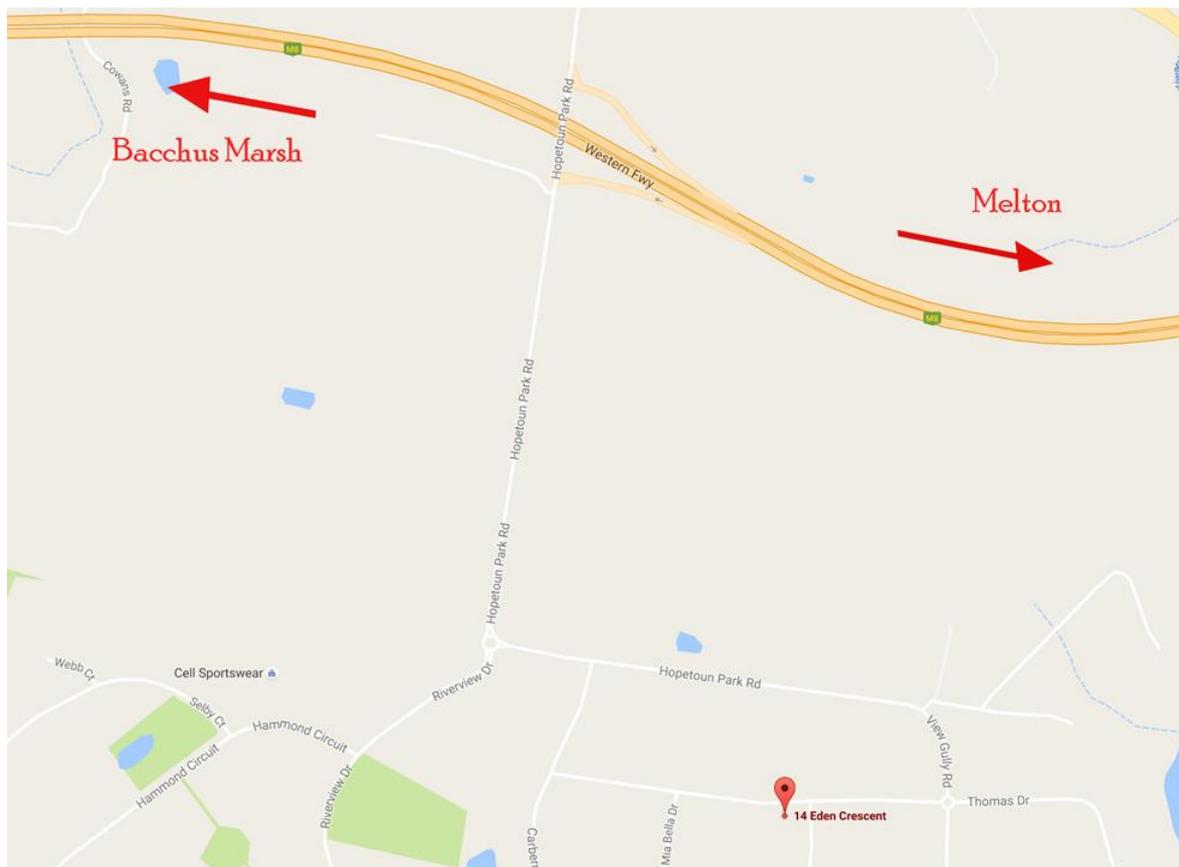
Breakup Meeting – Wednesday 23 November, * 6.30pm start for a tour *****

14 Eden Crescent, Hopetoun Park

This year, please feel free to come and visit a new garden. This garden is extremely close to my heart – as it is at Ash’s and my place. We bought a vacant block and built our house. Before we moved in, Ash had already begun to plan how he wanted the garden to look. We got the keys to the house in June 2014 and we got things going. We surveyed the land and looked at what was growing. It was pretty grim – we had an abundance of weeds and rocks!

We installed a greenhouse and moved in some cuttings that Ash had taken from plants from our previous place. This was the start of something special. Callistemons were the first to be planted on December 6 2014, along the boundary and behind the shed. What this means is that you’ll be looking at a garden with plants no older than 2 years old, but hopefully you will appreciate what we (meaning Ash) has accomplished in just 2 short years. We have a work in progress as we still have quite a bit of the block to develop, but I hope you will be impressed.

Please bring dinner with you, as well as a chair. Tables, cutlery, plates and a bbq will be provided.



Head into Hopetoun Park, 1st left at the roundabout, 1st right into Carberry Dr, 1st left into Eden Cres

Australian Plants Society – Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc.

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APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Committee 2016/17

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Secretary/Public Officer David Pye email: apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com

Treasurer Julianne Diwell

Committee Andrea Kellett, Lucille McCarthy, (vacant)

Newsletter Editor Christine Huf 0412 081 074 email: ashandchristine@gmail.com

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

Our postal address

Some issues during the year resulted in mail being sent to our post office box being returned to sender, without being received by our group. These issues have been resolved and the post office box is fully operational again. It is now safe to send mail to our official address which is PO Box 946 Bacchus Marsh 3340

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