



Running Postman



Australian Plants Society - Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc



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163, March 2018

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Upcoming Meetings:

April 25 – Cathy Powers/Marilyn Hewish – Nocturnal Moths practical, supper: Christine Huf

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

June 27 – Neil Humphreys - Oils

Save the Date...

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



- *Chris Lindorff spoke to us previously on Woodland Birds, including setting up an area for attracting them. This month, Chris will return and expand on setting up a sanctuary to attract wildlife*
- **Supper Roster: Mary Conheady**

Coming Up...

- 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 – Grafting Demonstration

This month, Ash Lane took us through a demonstration on how he grafts using the wedge technique. But first, a few basics. What is grafting, and why do we want to do it?

Next time you wander through your garden, take a note of a couple of the plants you have in the garden and check where they originate from. There is a fair chance that they're either native to somewhere in WA, NT or SA. When we consider the soil and climate differences between here and there, it would be like a camel being sent to the Antarctic to live. Those who are lucky enough to have similar soils don't have to worry anywhere near as much as those with clay soils, like we have, therefore we adapt our plants to suit our environment.

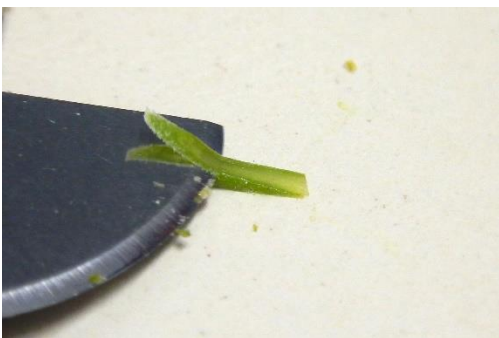
So, how do we graft? This is a basic demonstration:



1. Prepare the scion, strip the lower leaves



2. Slice the lower part of the stem



3. Slice the other side and square off the end. This forms a wedge



4. Prepare your rootstock, strip off the lower leaves to leave two remaining. Trim leaves to reduce stress



5. Slice the rootstock to just longer than the wedge



6. Insert the scion into the wedge



7. If your scion is larger than the rootstock, Align the scion to the cambium



8. Stretch and wrap the tape, beginning with the rootstock



9. Wrap tightly, from the rootstock leaves to the scion leaves, roll remaining tape



Place your graft into a small pot with a mix of washed sand, potting mix and vermiculite. Place the pot on a heat mat if possible, spray and cover. Covers can be a clean softdrink bottle, ziplock bag or propagating tray to create a humid environment.

A video clip is available for a 'live' demonstration. See Ash or Christine.

Scalpels can be provided by Christine if you want to give grafting a go!

Next Meeting – Chris Lindorff



Chris Lindorff will expand on his knowledge of creating wildlife sanctuaries in the garden to attract birdlife and animals, and how to capture your visitors with hidden/motion detection cameras.

Chris and his family are also heavily involved in “Grow West”, a group who are **‘turning back the tide of environmental degradation, initially by working in an area of 50,000 hectares of land between Bacchus Marsh and Ballan’**. <http://growwest.com.au/>

Come and join us for dinner before the meeting, 6pm at Tabcorp Park (booked under ‘Plant Society’) and relax with general chit-chat before the meeting.

Supper time at our meetings has been enjoyed by all who attend and the delights are often brought by volunteers. While we are grateful to all who regularly look to keep our sugar levels up, we would like to ‘spread the love’ around. According to the current list, there are 26 members (incl. households). With this in mind, the responsibility can be shared among everyone. A roster will be created and I would really like to see everyone embrace this. There are some members on the list that I am sure I have never seen so I am hopeful that it will encourage those members to attend, even just for their rostered supper time night.

The minimum requirement will be something like 2 packets of biscuits or a single cake. (Woolworths/Coles/Aldi have things like a mud cake for ~\$4.50 so it won’t break the bank and there are always specials! Or go nuts!)

With this many people, your name will only come up every four years. If you cannot attend on your rostered night, please contact someone on the committee to arrange a swap/replacement/drop off prior to the meeting.

Plant Profile – *Goodenia amplexans* (Clasping Goodenia)

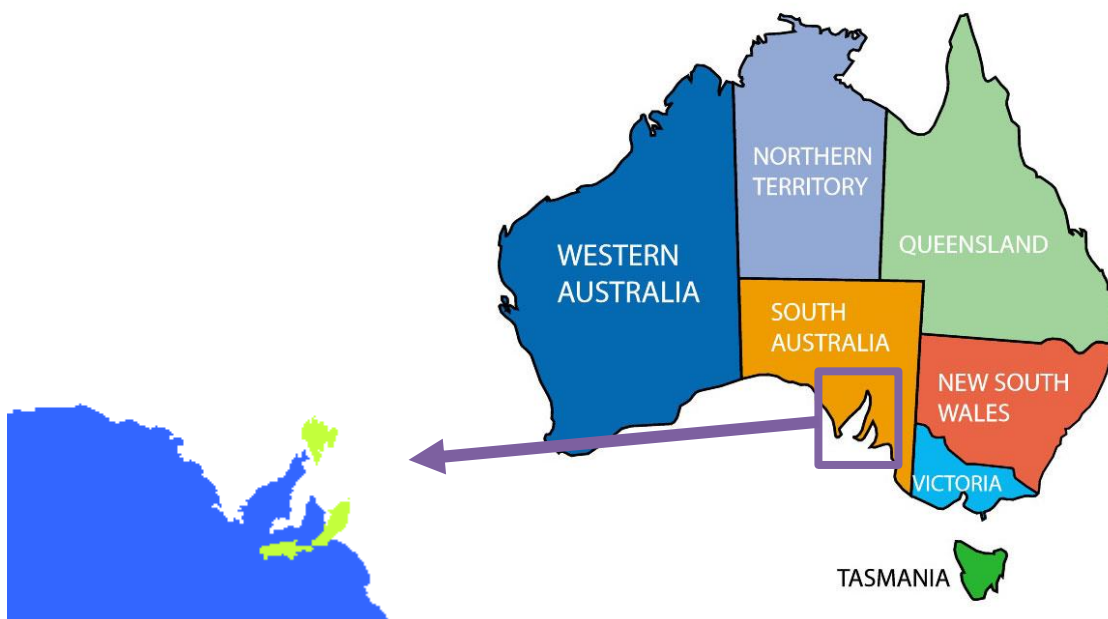
By Cathy Powers

Goodenia is a genus placed in the Goodeniaceae family; *amplexans* is from the Latin derivative *amplexo* – cling to. This refers to the sticky leaves which completely clasp the stem.



James E Smith first published the genus and named it in honour of the Bishop of Carlisle – Samuel Goodenough. Bishop Goodenough was a botanist and a member of the Linnean Society. As a side note: fancy having a surname of Goodenough!

G. amplexans was first described by F.J.H. von Mueller (1857) from ridges and gullies near Adelaide, S.A.



The plant is described as an evergreen shrub about 1m X 1m. It has five-petaled, yellow flowers which occur early spring to late summer.



Features:

Very tolerant of dry clay soils and harsh conditions which include extended periods of dry (and even to constantly moist). It thrives in hot overhead sun to warm low sun and tolerates medium frost. It can be a great cover for rockeries and likes being pruned which keeps the plant growth more confined (and also promotes new growth).

Although the leaf edges look serrated, it is a soft texture. They are bright lime-green, fleshy and sticky (which means that they can sometimes be covered in debris like wind-born seeds from other plants/grasses). When touched, you are left with a distinctive spicy smell on your skin which I have not found it to cause any irritation.

Insects, including native bees and butterflies are readily attracted to the flowers.



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.

As of our August meeting, we will be changing dates and locations.

Our new home will be the Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre at 249 Clarkes Road, Brookfield. Our meetings will change to the 4th Thursday of the month.



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.

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 pickup.

- 17 & 18 March Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
- Geelong Plant Sale is Saturday 21st April, and Yarra Yarra Plant Sale is Saturday 28th April.
- APS Mornington will probably be Saturday May 5th.
- 28 April APS Yarra Yarra Native Plant & Book Sale. At Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham from 10 am to 4 pm

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden

UPCOMING CALENDAR:

- APRIL 11, 7.30PM – MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER **JIM HOLDSWORTH** ON DRYSTONE WALLS
- MAY 9TH, 7.30PM – MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER KATHRYN FITZGIBBON ON EVOLVING FROM A CHILDHOOD GARDENER TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

<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:

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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

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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