



May Newsletter

Australian Plants Society

Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc.

Inc. A0028350T

May, 2015

ABN 69 324 096 622

Website for Australian Plants Society Victoria is www.apsvic.org.au

Website for APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc. is www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au

Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PSWilsonParkBerwick>).

Stenocarpus sinuatus

Family: Proteaceae

Distribution: Rainforests of north-eastern New South Wales and eastern Queensland. Also occurs in Papua New Guinea.

Common Name: Firewheel tree

Derivation of Name: Stenocarpus...From Greek stenos, narrow and carpos, a fruit, a reference to the characteristics of the seed capsules sinuatus.

From Latin sinuatus, wavy, a reference to the margins of the leaves

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

General Description: There are approximately 30 species in the genus Stenocarpus. Most are found in New Caledonia and there are about 7 species native to Australia. S.sinuatus is the best known species as it is widely cultivated both in Australia and overseas.

Jan and Ian Chisholm have grown two Stenocarpus sinuatus on their Buchanan Rd property. One which is 20 years old and 3 or 4 metres high has begun to produce flowers. Members may be interested to see how the flowers develop. The initial buds show the cart-wheel shape that provides the common name Firewheel Tree. To quote Rodger Elliot "each spoke on the wheel is a flower which has a tube-like perianth and it will open to reveal 4 narrow petal-like tepals and a central slender style with a pollen presenter at the apex. The anthers will be attached to the tepals. This floral arrangement separates all of the protea family members from all other plant families." Trivia buffs note that tepal is an anagram of petal.

While Rodger was helpful he was also demanding in his reply to our enquiry and I quote him again "For your homework tomorrow gather some flowers from grevillea, banksia, dryandra (now a Banksia), isopogon, petrophile and hakea plants and compare the floral parts. If you have a protea, leucospermum or leucadendron you could check their flowers too. — Alex Smart



Leadbeater's possum

Shh! Have you seen a forest fairy?

Not many people have – the Leadbeater's Possum *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri* is small, speedy and endangered.

Less than a hand-span in length, Leadbeater's Possums live in the forests not far from Melbourne. They sleep with their families in hollow trees during the day and run through the understorey at night, hunting for insects and sweet nectar.

Despite their appearance, Leadbeater's Possums are quite cranky fairies: each family fiercely defends its territory from other possums. They call to each other with a hissing 'ts-ts-ts' and use their club-shaped tails to carry bark to build their nests.

Unfortunately these unique animals are threatened due to:

Loss of hollow-bearing trees – Leadbeater's Possums need hollow trees in which to build their bark nests. These hollows take more than 150 years to develop in living trees. The number of old trees with suitable hollows has decreased due to logging and wildfire

Wildfire – fires can burn through large areas of the montane ash forests which are home to Leadbeater's Possums. The recent Black Saturday bushfire burnt 45% of high-quality Leadbeater's habitat in the permanent reserve system

Loss of suitable habitat – land clearing and changes in fire patterns mean that there is less habitat available for Leadbeater's Possums. This can lead to smaller and fragmented populations of possums

Saving Leadbeater's Possum

Once thought to be extinct, Leadbeater's Possum was rediscovered in 1961 and became Victoria's faunal emblem.

Zoos Victoria is working to change the fate of threatened species and is committed to Fighting Extinction – we will ensure that no more Victorian terrestrial vertebrate species become extinct. The continuing story of the Leadbeater's Possum is symbolic of Zoos Victoria's commitment to saving our local fauna.

Article and photo reproduced from Google.



Upcoming activities

Saturday, 18 May: 2.00pm Garden visit: THE GIUFRE GARDEN, 150 Wattle Tree Road, Hurstbridge. Entry Fee: \$8.

We invite participants to meet at Wilson Park at 12.30pm so that car-pooling can be organised.

The Victorian Open Garden Scheme publicity states that this garden makes effective use of native and indigenous plants to overcome difficult terrain and soil conditions. This could be our only opportunity to inspect the garden now that the Open Garden Scheme is to finish at the end of May,

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19: Sam Cox Landscape Open Garden 12 Lorimer Road, Wattle Glen. We are opening our garden with the Australian Open Garden scheme. All proceeds are going to our local CFA at Wattle Glen. Sausage sizzle and native plants for sale, as well as twice daily talks on designs for a drier climate and chemical free water filtration for ponds and pools.

Sunday, 19 May: 11.00 am onwards Kurth Kiln Heritage Festival, featuring displays, stalls, music and bushwalks. Free entry. The Kurth Kiln Picnic Grounds are 7 kms. north of Gembrook.

GREVILLEA LOOPER

(oenochroma vinaria)

The Pink-bellied Moth (*Oenochroma vinaria*) is a moth of the Geometridae family. It is found in most parts of Australia.

The wingspan is 50-70 mm.

The larvae feed on Grevillea, Banksia and Hakea species.

Larvae Habits — Herbivorous. Moves in a looping action. The front legs are moved forward and then body forms a loop to bring the rear legs up to just behind the front legs. Usually more active at night. Some remain motionless all day, laying close to the stem or jutting out like a twig.

Pupa — Flimsy cocoon on the underside of leaf.

Native to Australia. Caterpillar is a pest of a wide variety of plants. They strip the leaf to the mid rib or leave scalloped margins. Green looper (*Chrysodeixis eriosoma*) is a minor pest of many plants and ferns. Brown looper (*Lophodes sinistraria*) is a minor pest of macadamias. Grevillea looper (*Oenochroma vinaria*) can cause significant damage to Grevilleas and Hakeas. *Chlenias* spp. may attack *Pinus radiata*. Brown Pasture Looper (*Ciampa arietaria*) is a minor pest of pastures, *Erodium* and capeweed.



All articles for the newsletter are very welcome and should be sent to Joy Buck at 13 Anchorage Drive, Blind Bight, 3980 or email joysbuck@bigpond.com **by the first of the month**. If sending photos via email please make sure they are in their natural format jpeg.

*Thank you to Facey's Wholesale Nursery
for their ongoing support in
donating plants towards our raffle*

Diary Dates for 2015

DATE:	TIME:	SPEAKER
TUESDAY, MAY 12:	8.00pm	Dr Ken Walker, Senior Curator of Entomology and Arachnology at the Melbourne Museum.
TUESDAY, JUNE 9:	8.00pm	Trevor Blake, Plants for dry shady places.
TUESDAY, JULY 14:	NO MEETING MID-WINTER	
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11:	8.00pm	AGM, followed by a Buy, Swap, Sell, bring plants/divisions rooted cuttings.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8:	8.00pm	Our members, Spring gardens and preparing for Summer.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13:	8.00pm	Speaker will be Rodger Elliot, speaking on bush foods. Talk and taste evening.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10:	8.00pm	Vince Davey from our sponsor Neutrog.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8:	CHRISTMAS BREAKUP.	

Garden visit

Our May garden visit will be on May 24, when we have the opportunity to visit the Austplant Nursery and Gardens at Arthur's Seat. That tour will commence at 2.00pm. Prior to that some of our members might like to have a picnic lunch at nearby Seawinds where there is a large indigenous garden open for inspection.

Austplant gardens survive solely on rainfall which makes native plants an attractive feature to any garden in today's climate. In addition to the drought tolerant features of native plants, Austplant prides itself on the quality of the plants by using a soil media in their potting mix. This allows the plant to hold moisture for longer periods of time around their newly developing root systems. This also allows the plants to acclimatise to the areas natural soil whether being free draining sand or heavy sticky clay.

The nursery provides hundreds of species of native plants displayed in terraces overlooking a valley. The terraces are clearly categorised by shrubs, small to medium bushes and trees to advanced plants. Customers will generally find the plants they are considering purchasing fully matured in one of Austplants many display gardens. For ease of the customer, Austplant also has a labelling system for all plants. The labels display the plants characteristics and conditional requirements i.e. lime / salt tolerant, shade / sun etc to allow customers to browse the terraces at their own pace with as much information as possible and making the right selection easy.

*Thank you to Cardinya View Nursery
for bringing along a selection of tubestock for
members to purchase.*