



# February Newsletter

## Australian Plants Society

### Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc.

Inc. A0028350T

February, 2015

ABN 69 324 096 622

Website for Australian Plants Society Victoria is [www.apsvic.org.au](http://www.apsvic.org.au)

Website for APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc. is [www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au](http://www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au)

## Blue banded bees

**B**lue banded bees are one of our most beautiful Australian native bees. They are about 11 mm long and have bands of metallic blue fur across their black abdomens.

Blue banded bees are solitary bees. This means that each female bee mates and then builds a solitary nest by herself. She builds her nest in a shallow burrow in clay soil or sometimes in mudbricks. Many blue banded bees may build their nest burrows in the same spot, close to one another, like neighbouring houses in a village.

Blue banded bees can perform a special type of pollination called 'buzz pollination'. Some flowers hide their pollen inside tiny capsules. A

blue banded bee can grasp a flower like this and shiver her flight muscles, causing the pollen to shoot out of the capsule. She can then collect the pollen for her nest and carry it from flower to flower, pollinating the flowers. Quite a few of our native Australian flowers require buzz pollination eg Hibbertia, Senna.

Tomato flowers are also pollinated better when visited by a buzz pollinating bee. Researchers at the University of Adelaide are developing native blue banded bees for greenhouse tomato pollination. It would be much better for our environment to use our native blue banded bees for this purpose rather than introducing European bumblebees to Australia!

Here is a full list of the other information on blue banded bees found on the Aussie Bee website:

Where are blue banded bees found in Australia?

Blue banded bee nests and life cycle

Blue banded bee nests

Use as greenhouse tomato pollinators - part 1; Use as greenhouse tomato pollinators - part 2

Aussie Bee Online – Article 2; Aussie Bee Online – Article 7; Aussie Bee Online – Article 8 Aussie

Bee Online – Article 9; Aussie Bee Online – Article 10.



# Eucalypts

All Eucalypts evolved after the Australian continent separated from Gondwana around 33 million years ago. Some of the best Eucalyptus fossils have been collected from a site in the former Wilson Quarry at Berwick, Victoria now Wilson Botanic Park. The collection site is now covered by a Lake. This specimen, from the Museum of Victoria, shows a Eucalyptus and some Nothofagus (Antarctic Beech) leaves. The fossil is about 25 million years old.

– Alex Smart



# Hakea ‘Burrendong Beauty’

**B**urrendong Beauty is a little special because it appears to have come into existence by accident and is a hybrid variety of Hakea.

Genus: Hakea

Species: Hybrid of *H.myrtooides* and *H.petiolaris*

Common Name: ‘Burrendong Beauty’

Flower Colour: Pink/red

Foliage Colour: Dark Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1.5m

Flowering: Winter

Burrendong Beauty is an extremely beautiful variety of Hakea. It is very similar to *Grevillea*’s flowers, the Burrendong Beauty has lots of little red ball like flowers with pink stamens. They flower very prolifically, so from about mid winter you can expect to see your Hakea



Burrendong Beauty absolutely covered with these beautiful flowers.

Burrendong Beauty has been known to grow best in Temperate climates, though it can tolerate cooler climates as long as there is only minor front conditions. Sub tropical and tropical regions tend to be too humid for this variety to thrive in.

The best way to see this variety thrive is to plant it in a good, sunny position and make sure the soil it is planted in will drain well. In saying ‘sunny position’, really hot strong periods of weather will knock this variety around, so try and find a spot that has the morning sun and afternoon shade, given that afternoon sun is generally hotter than spots that get the morning sun.

# Shows, Conferences, Plant Sales, Open Gardens for 2015

*Open Gardens Australia:* Gardens open February to June 2015 are featuring mainly Australian Plants. Open between 10.00am-4.00pm. Charge \$8 unless otherwise indicated. Your last chance to see gardens open with this organisation, which will close down in July, 2015.

*February 14 & 15:* The Old Bakehouse, 467 Macclesfield Road, Macclesfield. A young garden combining ornamental plantings and highly productive areas. Extensive plantings of grasses, shrubs and summer flowering perennials and a Native garden. Five acres of indigenous bushland.

*February 21 & 22:* Gonyah, 22 Lochinvar Street, Pascoe Vale South. An inspiring urban food garden with more than 200 edible and useful plants displayed including Australian bush foods. Aquaponics, rooftop garden, bees, chickens. Talks on native herbs, bush foods and perennial vegetables at 11.00am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm each day.

*March 14 & 15:* The Patch Primary School. A multi award winning garden designed and implemented by the students engaging them in nature-based education and emphasising sustainability issues. Several small gardens including bush food and Australian plants and biodiversity to attract butterflies.

*March 21:* APS Victoria Committee of Management (COM) meeting hosted by APS Victoria at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne (RBGC), 10.00 am.

*March 21 & 22:* Dillon Garden, 9 Narraport Road, Wycheproof. The garden is a mix of native and exotic trees shading relaxed and peaceful areas.

*March 25-29:* MIFGS participation with RHSV, Carlton Gardens.

*March 28 & 29:* Wallbrink Garden, 22 Lang Street, Beaumaris. Unusual foliage and plant combinations are a feature of the eye-catching native species used in the nature strip and front garden. Back garden has raised vegetable beds and chicken coop.

*April 11 & 12:* – APS Geelong at 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. Mel 431D6.

*April 26:* APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale, Seawinds, Arthurs Seat State Park. 9.30am to 4.00pm.

## Design the 2015 Native Plant Sale Flyer

A sub-committee has been formed to co-ordinate the preparation of our 2015 Native Plant Sale, which will be held on Saturday, September 5. We would like to canvas the creative flair of our group and for those of you who are interested "have a go" at designing this year's flyer.

There are two paper sizes you might consider working with, namely:

\* A4 size (210mm x 297mm) which would be good to put in shop windows and/or

\* DL size (100mm x 210mm) that are a convenient to mail or hand out to interested parties

Content of the flyers will not be confirmed for several months so feel free to adlib the information within the flyer.

You may present your submission in person at our February or March meeting to Judy Millington and/or email a PDF version to [judy.millington@hotmail.com](mailto:judy.millington@hotmail.com) for consideration of the sub-committee. You may be asked for the original file in case it is selected so that it may be updated with the confirmed content at a later date.

Unless otherwise advised please submit your design by our March meeting, scheduled for March 10, 2015. Happy creating!

*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 FEBRUARY 10:	7.00pm	Walk around Car Park Garden and then a Membership night, questions/tips etc.
TUESDAY, MARCH 10:	8.00pm	Speaker Philip Vaughan on propagation/grafting evening.
TUESDAY, APRIL 14:	8.00pm	Mick Van de Vreede from Parks Vic. (Lysterfield).
TUESDAY, MAY 12:	8.00pm	Speaker to be confirmed. Subject Birds?
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 Visits

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15:	2.00pm	Alex and Wendy Smart's garden in Beaconsfield.
SATURDAY, MARCH 14:	2.00PM	Visit to the Friends of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens Nursery.

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](mailto: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 Cardinya View Nursery  
for bringing along a selection of tubestock for  
members to purchase.*