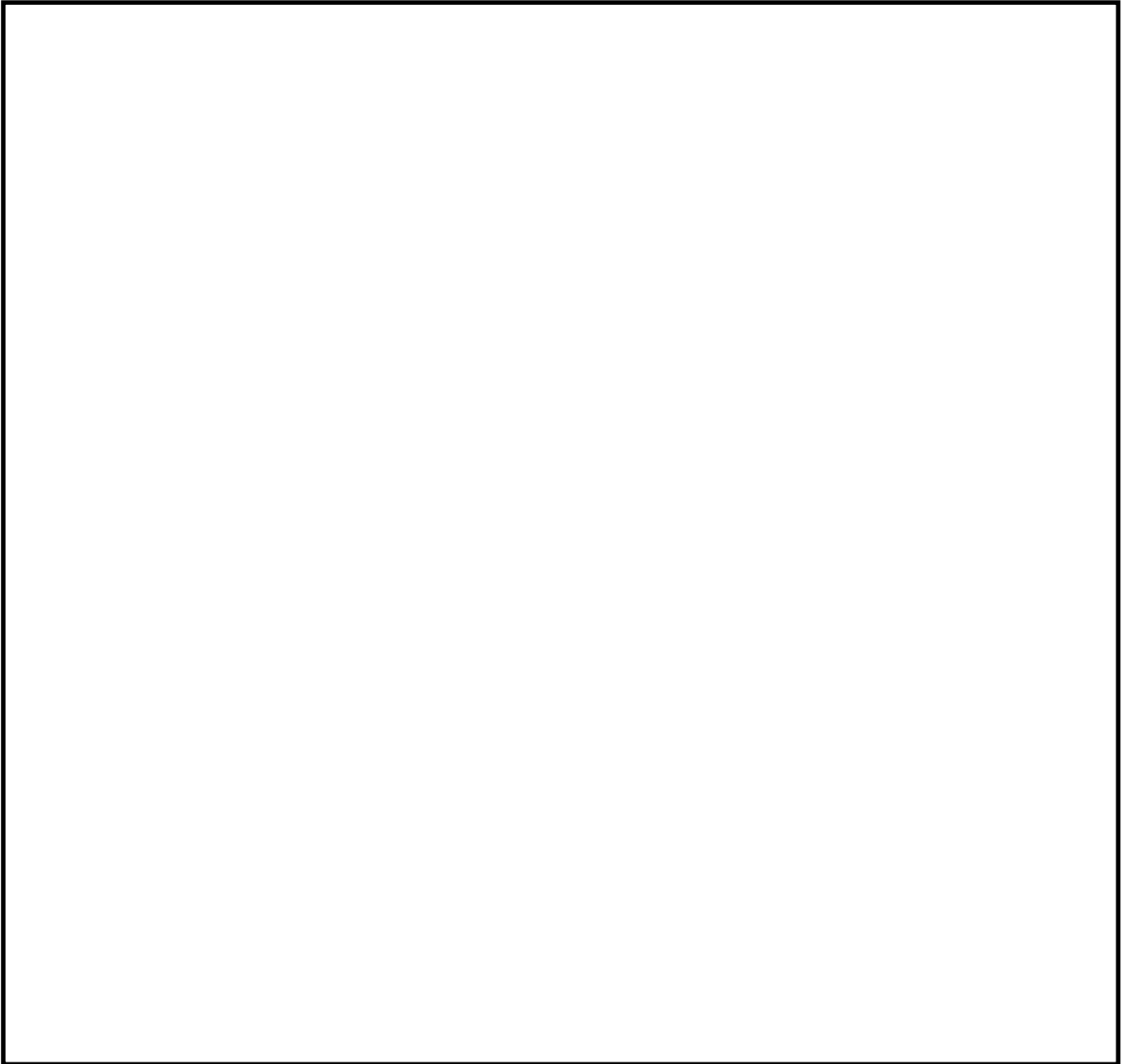


INDIGENOTES



An old drawing from Patrick Driver; it's a few years old but somehow it still fits the times...

Natural Systems Agriculture

Wetlands and Heathland at Risk - Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne has voiced its strong opposition to the construction of a major road within the Ballarto Road corridor because of the impact it would have on several remaining fragments of wetland and heathland habitats in the region. Three of the proposed routes, 2A, 2b, and 2C, cross through wetlands of State conservation significance and abut the site of the development of the Australian Garden, destined to become Australia's premier native garden. Three flora and fauna species of State significance are found within the Northern Wetlands: the Naked Sun Orchid, the Swamp Skink and Lewin's Rail.

The Gardens has provided advice and assistance to the consultants engaged in the preparation of the Environmental Effects Statement (EES). The EES was directed by the then Minister for Planning in December 1993 to examine the need for an East-West link road to the south of Cranbourne, between Dandenong-Hastings Road and South Gippsland Highway and to examine a whole range of siting options for the road taking into account the effect on the ecological, biological, social and economic environment and to seek community views.

The Gardens' statement says: "None of the Ballarto Road options can avoid the destruction and serious degradation of critically important areas of the Gardens, and both will seriously diminish the State and regional conservation value of the site." The two page statement stresses that the Gardens contain one of the last large stands of indigenous vegetation in the region, and that if these fragments are encroached upon, they will be lost forever. "Degradation of vegetation within the Gardens will put at risk the conservation and protection of species and habitats which are rare and of high conservation value at a State and regional level," says the statement.

The Gardens is concerned that if Ballarto is chosen for the proposed four lane highway, the development would destroy or seriously degrade:

- areas within the Gardens containing wetlands which are of State significance for flora and fauna on conservation. These wetlands meet State criteria for High Ecological Value Wetlands and their degradation will compromise the conservation and diversity of wetland habitats within the Gardens, and therefore the State of Victoria;
- areas of wetland within the Gardens which are known to contain three species of plant or animal of State conservation significance (listed above);
- areas within the Gardens containing vegetation communities which are of State/regional conservation significance, including Sedge Swampland, Dry Heathland and Wet Heathland;
- areas within the Gardens which provide habitat for a large number of plants (about 50 species) and animals (8 vertebrate species) which are of regional conservation significance.

Coming events:

For IFFA events see back cover

Conferences/Workshops/ Talks

November, Sat 22. Improving your plant ID skills - Grassland communities. A training day presented by Greening Australia Victoria. Includes in-field experience in plant ID of common grassland species, recognition of key characteristics of common Victorian genera and use of references such as books and herbariums. Cost \$30, \$10 GAV members, \$10 Community group members. Contact (03) 9457 3024.

November, Thu 27. Land Management. Part of a series of Bushland Management Seminars. Speaker: Alan Noy of Indigenous design. 7 - 10 pm. Venue: Currawong Bush Park, Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte, Melways 34 H6. Bookings essential, No cost. Contact Donna Stoddart (03) 9840 9307.

November 28 - 29, 1997. Sustainability & Local Environments: Myths, Models & Milestones, University of Sydney, NSW. This is Environs Australia's second National Conference and it will explore the cutting edge of sustainability practice in local communities, and solutions for the 21st Century. For further information contact Peter Lyons, Executive Officer, Environs Australia, 2nd floor, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, Vic 3000, Phone (03) 9654 1322, fax (03) 9654 1625 or email <mcavic@peg.apc.org>.

December, Tues 2. Improving your plant ID skills - Wetland communities. A training day presented by Greening Australia Victoria. Includes in-field experience in plant ID of common wetland species, recognition of key characteristics of common Victorian genera and use of references such as books and herbariums. Cost \$30, \$10 GAV members, \$10 Community group members. Contact (03) 9457 3024.

December, Thu 4. "Foxes" Part of the Green Wedge Environment Series. Speaker: Linton Staples. 7:30pm in the Warrandyte Community Centre, Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Contact Bill Mallison (03) 9840 9338.

December 6 to 9. "The 3rd International Megapode Symposium" - for science and conservation. Held in Victoria's Little Desert National Park, this conference emphasises the personal experiences and adventure of those involved in studying this unique family of birds in some of the most exciting and remote regions of the world. Contact Dr. Darryl Jones, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Griffith University, Nathan Qld 4111, Australia. Phone 617 3875 7451, Fax 617 3875 7459, e-mail: D.Jones@ens.gu.edu.au

December, Thu 11. Heritage with Murrundindi of the Wurundjeri Tribe. Part of a series of Bushland Management Seminars. Venue: Currawong Bush Park, Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte, Melways 34 H6. Bookings essential, No cost. Contact Donna Stoddart (03) 9840 9307.

9 - 12 December "The Other 99% - The Conservation and Biodiversity of Invertebrates: Sydney NSW. The objective of this meeting is to demonstrate the importance of invertebrates in biodiversity research and in

nature conservation. Contact the Australian Museum, Invertebrate Biodiversity Conference, 6 College St, Sydney NSW 2000, Fax (02) 9320 6000, E-mail: invert@amsmsg.austmus.oz.au

4 - 10 January 1998 Alpine Ecology Course on the Bogong High Plains for land managers, rangers, teachers and conservationists. Learn about the plants, animals and soils that make up alpine ecosystems; their significance for land use and conservation issues in the Alps. The course includes: practical demonstration and field experience, evening talks, individual projects, course notes, accommodation in modern chalet, three hearty meals a day. No detailed knowledge required. Course fee \$625. Based at Howman's Gap Alpine Centre. Contact Heather Anderson on (03) 9637 8427 or Warwick Papst on (03) 9479 1230 soon. Applications close on 31 October 1997. Presented by DNRE and supported by La Trobe University.

12 - 16 January 1998. Ecology Fieldwork Training for Women. This residential course will provide training in a variety of wildlife fieldwork techniques, with special emphasis on platypus research. Women who are tertiary or Year 11 - 12 students are invited to apply. For more details, phone (03) 9716 1626. Presented by the Australian Platypus Conservancy with support from the Victorian Women's Trust.

Excursions and field trips

Sundays - 7pm sharp. Morning walk in Queensland's Toohey Forest. Meet at the Toohey Road carpark. Contact Chris Stokan(06) 3343 2943.

November, Sun 23. Picnic at Warrandyte State Park. Hosted by Friends of Warrandyte State Park. Plan a picnic lunch for family and friends in delightful surroundings. All welcome, bookings not required. For more information including a directions map and picnic program contact the Victorian National Parks Association on (03) 9650 8296.

November, Sun 23. Galada Tamboore BBQ - 1pm. To be held at the end of Hatty Court, Campbellfield. Organised by Melbourne Water and Hume City Council to look at the concept plant for Hatty Court and the Galada Tamboore area. Contact Melbourne Water (03) 9235 2124, or Parks Hume (03) 9309 1052.

December, Sat 6. Comparing and understanding the dynamics of grasslands. A bus tour presented by Greening Australia Victoria and Parks Victoria. Visit a variety of grassland sites comparing the different management techniques applied to each site and issues affecting these sites. Cost \$35, \$20 GAV members, \$20 Community group members. Contact (03) 9457 3024.

For Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers activities, contact ATCV: (053) 33 1483

For Melbourne Parks & Waterways Activities Program contact the Hotline on 13 1963

For those interested in a range of volunteer activities run by Birds Australia please contact (03) 9882 2622

A large range of activities such as bushwalks and "Friends" activities are published by the Victorian National Parks Association in their newsletter. Contact VNPA on (03) 650 8296.

Visitors/participants are welcome to all events listed in Indigenotes.

Thank you to all the people who contact us regarding on-coming events their groups are organising. If you wish to have your events covered, or you can see corrections that need attention, please contact Lincoln Kern or IFFA's mailing address.

From the Editor:

This is the last issue of the year and a quick effort on my part because I am going off to the United States for December and a bit of January.

You will have already found a strong international element in the photocopies and articles reproduced this month. Several themes may be apparent.

The material about natural systems agriculture is from the Land Institute in Kansas, USA; a source of several articles for this newsletter over the last few years. Their work is about using nature as a model for sustainable agriculture. I've known of the work of the Land Institute for many years and as time has gone by many other people have become aware as well because they are an inspirational group. They have taken a wholistic philosophy and applied it to the problems of agriculture with practical and innovative research. I've reproduced their plea for money and a magazine article. I hope you enjoy it.

I have also included more information on the imminent freeway through the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne. Yet another situation that demands a letter or two...

From the Editor, repeated: **Coming Events Editor Needed!**

It's now official, Elissa Kerassitis has resigned and relinquished her role as editor of the Coming Events section. Elissa has been doing a fantastic job and we have appreciated her efforts a great deal. Thanks!!!

Now, do we have someone to take up the role again? I believe it is a very useful and appreciated service we provide in Coming Events and it would be great to keep it up and improve it.

How big of a role is it and what does it involve? Coming Events has to be done for each issue. The Editor would receive all newsletters, schedules and other information that has come in a few days or a week before the date Indigenotes goes to the printer. It takes about 5 to 10 hours a month to screen out and type in the different material. Then the material needs to come back to the editor on computer disk and be included. That's the monthly routine...

There is also the annual project at the beginning of the year that we like to call "Regular Events", the lift out we did in Autumn 1997 with regular working bees and consistent events throughout the year. This saved time and space in the section during the rest of the year and provides a useful resource. It would be fantastic to expand this feature by being more aggressive about collecting the information. Any more ideas out there?

So, any takers for the job? You can live anywhere around Melbourne; we'll figure out a way for the material to flow around. It's a great way to get an appreciation for all of the activity out there. Please ring the editor.

Keep all the other information, newsletters, stories, articles, events, flowing as well.....

**And I can always use help
in general with Indigenotes,
so give me a ring if you
want to help!**

IFFA activities:

IFFA (Vic) Meeting will not be happening for the rest of the year because of renovations at the Astronomer's Residence, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra. Store up your energy for next year...

SPIFFA

Public meetings are on the first Monday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Waterfall Gully Community Centre, corner of Bayview Rd. and Nixon St., Rosebud.
Contact: Jon Greening (03) 5985 5561.

Membership

IFFA membership costs
\$40 for non-profit organizations,
\$50 for corporations,
\$25 for individuals and families,
or \$20 concession.

Membership includes
11 issues of Indigenotes per year.

Members should check the mailing label to ascertain the status of their membership. If people require and invoice, please send a purchase order and we will oblige accordingly.

Otherwise we do not issue reminders to members.

Cheques can be remitted to the Membership Secretary's P.O. Box as listed. A receipt will be attached to the front page of the following issue.

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Secretary: Lill Roberts, P.O. Box 192, Blackburn South 3130, Ph. (03) 9878 0858 Email: lill@netspace.com.au

Membership Secretary and Treasurer: Neil Gardiner, P.O. Box 2055, East Ivanhoe 3079, (03) 9499 7048.

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Editorial team:

c/o P.O. Box 228, Preston, Victoria, 3072.

Editor: Lincoln Kern, (03) 9480 4680 (ah).

Coming Events:

Elissa Kerassitis (03) 9486 6768 (ah).

Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editors — the deadline for the next issue will be January 9th. Contributions can be typed or hand written but computer disk copies on IBM-compatible format is preferred.

The views expressed in Indigenotes are not necessarily those of the Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association.