

INDIGENOTES

Platypus surviving in urban waterways. Please refer to page 10.

Vol. 10, No. 1

January 1997

Privatisation and parks

The issue of private sector involvement in protected areas is not new. Kosciusko National Park has grappled with this problem since its declaration as a state park in 1944. In the current political climate, the indications are that this issue could burgeon out of control. The federal government has clearly declared their pro-development agenda. They have also indicated their preference for self funded environmental management stating that management of world heritage protected areas has in the past, relied too heavily on recurrent funding from governments. This combined with a concerted push from the ecotourism industry could well see the concept of privately managed national parks emerge as a common feature in Australian park management.

This push is particularly apparent in Queensland where the owner and manager of the Kingfisher Island Resort on Fraser Island, Tony Charters, is also the President of the Ecotourism Association of Australia. In their founding years the Ecotourism Association was largely about environmental 'positives', such as encouraging alternative industries to mining and logging in natural areas. Over time this position seems to have evolved into advocacy for greater private sector involvement in parks. This presents the possibility of a conflict of interest. As Bill Carter (in Charters *et al*, 1996) states regarding industry involvement in protected areas "the public sector and the community need to appreciate that private sector investment requires economic return".

The recent publication of *National Parks; Private Sector's Role* (Charters *et al*, 1996) provides a framework for this push by the ecotourism industry. Edited by Tony Charters, Michael Gabriel and Scott Prasser the emphasis is strongly pro-industry involvement and contains only one chapter by a conservationist, ACF Vice President Penny Figgis.

Eco-tourism and National Parks

So what is wrong with the ecotourism sector becoming involved in park management. To begin with, the term 'ecotourism' is an anomaly. Although the Ecotourism Association of Australia have applied a definition to this term, it is not accompanied by any accreditation or regulation of the 'ecotourism' industry. Therefore the term can be used to describe anything from a tourism operator who demonstrates an awareness of environmental issues and manages their operation accordingly, to a tourism operator who simply bases their operation within the natural environment

with no particular care or concern for it.

For example, the Victorian Country Tourism Council in their Regional Strategy proposed the development sited at Lorne or Apollo Bay, of a cable car from the Great Ocean Road up on to the nearby ranges with the establishment of a restaurant and a viewing facility on the plateau. There is nothing natural about this proposal apart from its location.

Recently Victorian Premier, Jeff Kennett, announced the erection of a viewing tower (something along the lines of an air traffic control tower) 35 metres from Seal Rocks, the main Australian pupping site for fur seals. He called this development 'ecotourism'. The Seal Rocks Tower will shortly be undergoing an EIS.

Furthermore the argument put forward by ecotourism operators, that privately managed accommodation located within natural areas, is more ecologically responsible than poorly maintained campsites, or dispersed environmental impact is a red herring. Indeed, problems with park management and the adverse environmental impact of heavy usage are serious for many of our protected areas. However this does not immediately translate into a good reason to allow the privatisation of protected areas or part thereof.

The belief that, with effective management strategies and regimes, it need not matter whether services are delivered by the public or private sector, is simply not borne out by past experience. Industry is built on the concept of continual expansion and growth. The Kosciusko National Park has constantly experienced adverse impact because of the encroachment of resorts into the national park and the never-ending expansion of resort areas, as evidenced by the granting of 125 new private development leases in the Perisher Blue resort areas.

Selling parts of the park

As is the case with Kosciusko National Park, the issue of the excision of resorts and other tourism developments from the park area is of serious concern.

In Western Australia the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) has advertised for applications for tenders from tourism operators who are interested in establishing 'Wilderness Lodges' in Karijini park in the Pilbara region. Apart from issues of government agencies being entrepreneurial and whether this is appropriate, the process for the selection and delimitation of protected areas is at issue. National Park boundaries should be determined because of the ecosystem, species, geographical features, etc. that area being sought to be protected and not because of private sector development. The excision of parts

of protected areas for mining, such as at Ranger Uranium Mine surrounded by the Kakadu National Park, is also a case in point.

Paying for park use

Economists argue that revenue for park management can and should be raised via user-pays systems and, indeed, most national parks charge site fees etc. However serious issues of social equity could arise if fee determination and collection became the responsibility of a commercial service provider. The cultural belief that the natural environment is, among other things, a recreational resource to be enjoyed by everyone should be lauded and upheld.

National Parks should be selected and delimited because of the values they are being established to protect. As society moves away from orthodox views regarding humanity's supremacy the belief that the natural environment and the mega-diverse range of plant and animal species that exist should be protected because of their intrinsic value and not because of convenience or political expediency is becoming more widespread.

The future of Australia's National Parks system may contain a role for private sector involvement. However, any involvement in protected areas should only take place within the parameters of a Commonwealth policy position and subsequent to this, under the supervision of the appropriate state or territory government conservation agency - all private sector projects should be regulated, monitored and evaluated by the public sector.

The bottom line however is that where the possibility exists for an organisation (i.e. tourism operators) to hold management responsibilities for a resource that they use to generate profit, it would be unpragmatic for conservationists to be anything other than extremely cautious, and indeed equally unpragmatic for good government.

Reference

Charters T, Gabriel M & Prasser S (1996) *National Parks: Private Sector's Role*. USQ Press

Nicky Esau is the Executive Officer of the Australian National Parks Council. Article reprinted from Chain Reaction No. 76, Dec 1996 pp17-18.

Repairing a damaged world

What can we do?

The problems of environmental degradation we are facing are huge, but there is no need to feel overwhelmed by the immensity of the task. Everyone has a role to play in repairing our damaged world. We know enough to be able to make a big impact if

we want to. Whether we act individually or in groups, anything we do will be useful providing we follow some basic ecological rules.

1. The first basic rule is to find out what the environmental problems are in your area and what is left to work with (in terms of existing vegetation remnants, corridors, windbreaks etc.) both on individual properties and over the entire region (eg, catchment, sub-catchment, county or shire). Aerial photographs, farm maps and plans help with this, and Geographic Information Systems (used by government departments, surveying companies and others) are now able to produce regional information on soils, drainage, native vegetation and other features for many areas.
2. Then gather information on the region from as many sources as possible, including long term residents of the area - they often provide the most useful perspective. Involve extension staff, advisers, local government staff, and scientists. Restoration efforts will be more likely to succeed if they are based on a good understanding of what the landscape was like before it was degraded, how vegetation was related to soil type and topography, and how hydrology, soil characteristics and numbers and distributions of animals have changed.
3. Establish the overall restoration goals for the region and specific objectives to be addressed within each catchment, property or other subunit. For instance, goals may include the restoration of the water balance, or the conservation and restoration of particular plants or vegetation types. Which problems can be dealt with by individuals, and which need community cooperation?
4. Set up a restoration plan. Aim to address multiple objectives within one plan, rather than tackling problems individually. Taking care of one problem in isolation may solve that problem or may create, exacerbate or ignore others. Problems that can be tackled simultaneously include restoring the water balance, reducing erosion and conserving nature.

Source: Saunders, D.A., Hobbs, R.J. & Ehrlich, P.R. (1996). *Repairing a Damaged World: An Outline for Ecological Restoration*. Available from the publishers Surrey Beatty & Sons Pty Ltd, Chipping Norton, NSW, at a cost of \$2 a copy plus postage. Phone 02 9602 3888. Reprinted from Bushlines Newsletter No.9, November 1996.

Maintaining Native Plant Diversity

You might be forgiven for thinking that trying to maintain native grass and herb diversity in a landscape subjected to grazing by stock for over 150 years would be a lost cause. Not so says Sue McIntyre and her colleagues from the Department of Ecosystem Management at the University of New England. For some years now, funded by Save the

Bush and the Australian Research Council, they have been researching the ecology of the grasslands and grassy woodlands of the New England Tablelands.

They have found that natural pasture still predominate which, in the absence of extensive reserves or other protected areas, indicates a need for off-reserve conservation strategies. The native pastures are important as a biological resource and play a pivotal role in the conservation of grassy ecosystems.

Their objective is to develop a plant classification based on form and life history that group plants by ecological function. These groups will reflect species' major habitat and management requirements. Not to put a too fine a point on it, plants will be grouped according to their tolerance of present-day human 'disturbances' such as fertilisation and grazing. This should make it possible to identify a range of habitat types necessary to maintain viable populations of most native species.

The same plant data set was subjected to three different analyses (species richness, composition and plant form). Some common features emerged. Disturbance caused native species loss and the few opportunists were mainly exotics. Species intolerant to disturbance tended to absent themselves altogether and, while those species more able to tolerate disturbance increased their presence, they did not necessarily increase in number. Amongst the natives, the rare species tended to be the most intolerant and disappeared even at moderate levels of disturbance.

The researchers regard their present functional classification as no more than a first approximation, but even at this stage they feel that some general principles for management can be derived from it. "Because of the positive relationship between native species richness and rare species richness we suggest that managing for species richness at a local scale is a useful approach". They acknowledge that at the local level managing for individual rare species may be possible but "the most efficient way of handling rare species conservation at a regional scale, especially in these poorly known (plant) communities, would be to develop strategies to maximise local species richness."

McIntyre and her colleagues conclude that pasture improvement (involving cultivation, exotic species and heavy fertilisation) and intensive grazing are the activities most likely to be hostile to communities of native plants. The management strategies most likely to reduce their impact are to vary the intensity of grazing, cultivation and fertilisation within the production system and to buffer species rich vegetation from adjacent intensive land uses. "Farm planning and community landcare activities seem the most likely way to achieve management that is compatible with production", they say, but "financial incentives may be necessary to achieve change on a large scale".

Due to its erect habit the Murnong or Yam Daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*) (above) is more susceptible to grazing than plants such as Bears Ear (*Cymbonotus lawsonianus*) whose leaves form a flat rosette.

(McIntyre S., *Ecological Functional Groups in Grassland Vegetation: A Strategy for Study and Management of Native Plant Diversity in an Agricultural Landscape*, University of New England, Armidale, 1993 for the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. Copies of the full report of this project can be obtained through interlibrary loan from the ANCA library).

Reprinted from Bushlines Newsletter No. 9, Nov 1996.

Books and Resources: Geelong's Birdlife. In Retrospect

**A Selection of Geelong Advertiser
Articles By P.J. W. 1945-1958
By Trevor Pescott**

Publisher: Yaugher Print, Belmont VIC 1996; 176 pages, 16 pages of illustrations (B&W and colour); RRP \$20.00 For this book Trevor Pescott has edited a selection of articles about birds written for Geelong's daily newspaper, The Geelong Advertiser, between 1945 and 1958 by Percival John Wood. Pescott is Wood's successor, and has written a natural history column in Geelong Advertiser since 1960. To provide some modern context, and to clarify some of the Wood's idiosyncratic writing, Pescott has provided some commentary on the current status of some of the birds, and modern nomenclature.

Wood was born in Geelong in 1878 and pursued amateur ornithology as his employment allowed, but after retirement he spent a great deal of his time watching, writing about, painting and sketch-

ing birds. His particular interest in Corio Bay and its birds was fostered by his activities as a ship-ping provedore, when he travelled on the bay to meet incoming ships.

Wood's somewhat formal style is reminiscent of natural history writing of the late nineteenth century. He had a keen eye, and his observations are both careful and well written. His illustrations were of a style perhaps most generously described as naive - at times bordering on the bizarre! His written work is, however, an important document of the status of birds in the Geelong area in the post-war era, and Pescott has done us all a service by making some of Wood's writings more readily available. His columns are particularly interesting because they allow us to see the changes that have taken place in local bird populations since the war. Whilst birds such as Little Egrets, Galahs, Pied Oystercatchers and Black-shouldered Kites are more abundant now than then, others have fared less well, and for example the Bush Stone-curlew, Grey-crowned Babbler and Australian Bustard are now locally extinct.

This book would no doubt be of greatest interest to readers from the Geelong District, but is probably of general interest to any fans of historical natural history writing. Readers from outside Geelong can order it directly from the publisher Yaughner Print, 4 Victorian Tce, Belmont VIC 3216, Ph. (03) 5243 4368 or Fax (03) 5241 3227.

Reviewed by Lawrie Conole (2/45 Newtown St., Newtown VIC 3220)

Source: The Victorian Naturalist Vol. 113, No. 6, December 1996

Bush Lawyer

The Environmental Defenders Office has released another of its plain English Guides to environmental laws. *Bush Lawyer: A Guide to Public Participation in Commonwealth Environmental Laws* identifies opportunities for public participation. As well as clarifying:

where the Commonwealth gets its powers;
how Commonwealth environmental impact assessment works and

how to influence Commonwealth Government decisions.

What's more it is only \$10.00.

Available from: EDO Office, Tel. (02) 9262 6989.

Source: Chain Reaction, FOE Australia, No. 76, Dec. 1996

Environmental Law Line

The Environmental Law Line operated by the EDO is a free call advice and information line focussing on environmental law matters. With funding assistance from the Law Foundation the line is open from 2pm to 5pm weekdays [EST?] and is

staffed by specialist environmental law solicitors.

Contact: 1800 626 239

Source: Chain Reaction, FOE Australia, No. 76, Dec. 1996

Environmental Impact Assessment in Australia: Theory and Practice

By Ian Thomas

[The Federation Press, 1996, 241 pp. \$35.00]

Reviewed by Di Dibley

Environmental Impact Assessment in Australia: Theory and Practice by Ian Thomas is as much a commentary on the history of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as it is a guide to EIA methodology. By taking the reader through the history of humanity's relationship with nature - from ancient Mesopotamian to contemporary times, we are able to appreciate the historic significance of EIA as the most comprehensive approach to date for measuring the impact of human activity on the environment.

While the author recognises EIA as a valuable tool, he is quick to point out the political nature of EIA. Political because governments legislate for EIA; political because of the way in which value judgements and political decisions permeate every element of the formal EIA process.

EIA in Australia recognises the relevance of EIA to civil society. The author asserts that EIA's and other assessment processes are generally simple to apply. It follows that assessment skills could be applied by individuals in the community and to a wide range of decisions about projects and proposals which impact on the environment. Ian Thomas describes the community attainment of EIA skills as a form of empowerment and to this end he has written a book pitched at the level of the interested reader.

The mainspring of EIA in Australia is a genuine desire to inform and empower. It represents an integrated and relevant commentary on EIA which makes an important contribution to the subject in Australia.

Di Dibley is the Director of the Sustainable Industries Office of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Source: Chain Reaction, FOE Australia, No. 76, Dec. 1996

Wild Lime (cooking from the bush food garden)

By Juleigh Robins

Published by Allen and Unwin, \$24.95 soft cover

Many people say to us they would love to move to the bush, but how could they earn a living away from the larger towns and cities? Gone are the

days of fashionably penniless drop-outs who skulk back to their jobs in advertising agencies a couple of years later. However small your budget is, these days most people are much more aware of creating lasting lifestyles for their families and themselves. This requires planning as well as commitments. With that in mind, I think that *Wild Lime* is a very exciting book for Earth Gardeners. It is much more than a collection of recipes. It is about a fledging industry based on moving away from mainstream agriculture and developing innovative marketing: a challenge for anyone interested in organic farming.

Juleigh Robins has experience in preparing bush foods commercially and finds cooking with indigenous foods very exciting and creative. When running her catering business in Toorak she found many customers returning and requesting the same again. Juleigh believes we have an opportunity to develop an exciting agriculture around bush foods, with an emphasis on clean, organic growing methods using non-hybrid, non-genetically engineered species. Various Aboriginal communities from all over the country are keen to be involved in developing the bush food industry, either by harvesting in the wild or by growing produce using traditional land management skills. It is important to note that many of the food stuffs Juleigh uses are grown in South Gippsland, Victoria.

This is a remarkable reference book for the gardener cook. The book is divided into four main sections. The fruit, nut, leaf-stem-tuber and the seed. Within these categories Juleigh introduces the reader to the whole story of the foods. That is, what the product is, where it likes to grow, how to grow it, cook it and what it goes with. The book could not be more concise even if it tried.

So to the food, well this is where Juleigh excels. Try yabby ravioli with lemon aspen butter sauce or perhaps prawns in wild rosella and ginger sauce. The recipes are both unusual and very creative. We are most fortunate that Aboriginal people are so generous with their well kept information. The time is right for us all to expand our herb gardens. Forget your callistemons and grevilleas, now it's snowberry in Tassie and wild thyme up north.
Source: Earth Garden Reviews in Earth Garden Magazine No. 98, Dec. 1996 - Jan. 1997

River in Danger

Habitat, the magazine of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), has produced a beautiful and informative full colour, 8-page feature on the state of Australia's Darling River system. The issues addressed are very relevant to many river systems around the world - algal blooms, pollution, salinity, disappearing fish populations, dying wetlands and more.

For a copy or more information contact: ACF, 340 Gore St., Fitzroy VIC 3065. Tel. (03) 9416 1166 or Fax (03) 9416 0767.

Listening to the Land - Directory of Community Environmental Groups in Australia.

By Jason Alexandra, Sandra Haffenden and Terry White.

Australian Conservation Foundation, 1996 (ISBN 0 85802 122 6, soft cover, 169 pages, \$28.00)

Community environmental monitoring (CEM) is listening to the land, a process that, as the authors acknowledge, has been carried out in Australia for many thousands of years. Now more than ever, it is an essential part of any environmental management, and this directory provides easy and immediate access to great majority of groups involved in CEM.

The directory is intended as a networking tool, it will help those starting afresh to learn from those already involved, say the authors.

The groups listed are categorised according to what is monitored and the regions within which they operate. Individual entries include a group's name, address and phone number; the date monitoring commenced; the aims and methods; a brief description of those involved; the major achievements of the group and its most pressing needs.

The book acknowledges the need to formalise and standardise community monitoring and outlines a framework for groups to follow. It provides an important overview of monitoring groups and suggests practical ways in which greater integration of CEM groups and government agencies can occur.

Available from: ACF, 340 Gore St., Fitzroy VIC 3065. Tel. (03) 9416 1166 or Fax (03) 9416 0767.

Reviewed by Jamie Ashforth

Source: Permaculture International Journal, No. 61, Dec. - Feb. 1997

New Educational Resource Kit: Protect Our Seas

This kit contains an array of published material on marine environment protection including brochures, an extensive document on legislation and policies and the popular "How Would it Feel?" posters as well as a video on the "National Plan to combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil" and a CD-ROM

game.

Of further interest will be the challenging CD-ROM game "Fix-a-Slick". It consists of a series of scenarios combining photographs, text, video and is based on actual oil spills. Users are invited to plan a response to a number of oil spills. While not designed to be used as a training tool by oil spill responders, "Fix-a-Slick" will do much to enhance the user's understanding of the implications and reality of oil spills.

"Protect Our Seas" was on display at Spillcom '96, the biennial oil spill conference. Indications from delegates are that the kit will be of special interest to high school geography teachers and could also be used as an aid to ships' crews and in understanding preventative measures and the implications of marine pollution.

The resource kit will be distributed to high schools and public libraries around Australia as well as a number of libraries linked to TAFE, marine and marine education and the oil industry. Copies will also be available from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

For more information about the kit, contact the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, PO Box 1108, Belconnen AT 2616, Australia. Phone (06) 279 5935, Fax (06) 279 5076.

Source: *Waves, Newsheet of The Marine & Coastal Community Network, Vol 3, No. 3, Spring 1996.*

Act locally: a guide to protecting your local environment in NSW

NSW Nature Conservation Council (1996). Available from the NCC for \$12 including postage and handling. Phone (02) 9247 4206

Socio-economic aspects of maintaining native vegetation on agricultural land

Price, P. (Ed.) (1995). Proceedings of a national workshop, Melbourne 19 June 1995. Canberra, Land and Water Research and Development Corporation. Available from the DPIE shopfront for \$20. Phone 1800 020 157.

Western Grasses: a graziers guide to the grasses of south west Queensland

Roberts, B. & Silcock, R. (1996). New Management Edition. Land Use Study Centre, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba. Available for \$14 including postage and handling from the Land Use Study Centre. Phone 076 312 688.

Tracks, scats and other traces: a field guide to Australian mammals.

Triggs, B. (1996). Oxford University Press, Melbourne. Available from Oxford University Press for \$29.95. Phone 03 9646 4200.

Web Watch:

Landcare Web

<http://www.agfor.unimelb.edu.au/LCweb/LCweb.html>

This easy to use service is provided jointly by the University of Melbourne's Department of Agriculture and Resource Management and Pegasus Networks. It is ideal for new web surfers because it has clear information and minimal graphics so your computer can download the information quickly. Regular surfers will find the What's New page most useful. You can link to up-to-date weather reports, on-line libraries, upcoming conferences, landcare contacts and home pages.

South Australian Community Landcare homepage

<http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/Landcare/index.htm#start1>

Based in South Australia this site provides links to Landcare groups in SA, Primary Industries South Australia (PISA) and information about the National Landcare Conference

Ginninderra Catchment Landcare Links Pages
<http://freenet.actein.unimelb.edu.au/GiraPS/landcare/links/home.html>

This group is based in North Canberra. Their web site has interesting information such as the history of Landcare and links to schools involved in Landcare projects.

Australian Farm Radio

http://www.aaa.com.au/Farm_Radio.html

This site has a huge number of useful links both within Australia and overseas. Links include the National Farmers Federation, the Minister for Agriculture, Landcare Web, AUS-MEAT, Australian Agriculture On-line, many personal home pages

and much more. Access to climate and weather information can be found in the Long Paddock home page.

Australian sites with landcare, agriculture and related information

<http://www.agfor.unimelb.edu.au/lcweb/lclibrary/auslcareag.html>

Alphabetical listing of anything you ever wanted to know about Australian landcare and agriculture.

Australian Nature Conservation Agency

<http://www.anca.gov.au>

Come and visit our site and find out about some of our programs and responsibilities.

Australian Environment On-line

<http://www.erin.gov.au/erin.html>

Access to many aspects of the Commonwealth Environment Portfolio, including programs, publications and legislation.

Australian Native Horticulture

<http://198.142.57.2/ianje/horticl.htm>

Australian plant name index, access to Australian National Botanic Gardens with hints about growing some native species, Society for Growing Australian Plants, Australian native display gardens.

Society for Growing Australian Plants

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~sgap/index.html>

For anyone interested in the cultivation, propagation and appreciation of Australian native flora. The site also provides access to many links to information about Australian plants and animals.

Amazing Environmental Organisation Web Directory

<http://www.webdirectory.com/>

According to their own blurb this directory is the Earth's biggest search engine. It includes sites from over 100 countries, ranging from sustainable development to alternative medicines. If you start with this site you may never emerge from the web.

Reprinted from Bushlines Newsletter No.9, Nov 1996.

ment. Speakers included experts from a number of different disciplines carrying out research into mistletoes and the role of the mistletoe bird in the plant's ecology.

Malcolm Calder opened the forum by talking about the general ecology of mistletoes. Cecily Falkingham discussed the conservation status of mistletoes and Ken Simpson (of Simpson and Day Bird Book fame) gave an overview of the Mistletoe Bird.

There were a number of interstate guest speakers such as Nick Reid from the University of New England in Armadale, NSW. Nick gave an info-packed lecture on the origin of the Mistletoe Bird, then later topped it with some vibrant new research findings about mistletoe control experiments. Gillian Scott, who has depicted many mistletoes in her paintings, gave a coverage of the multitude of mistletoes of Southern Queensland. In her state there are many species; compared to a paltry twelve in Victoria.

Peter Fagg, of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, gave a foresters view of mistletoes as a concern to timber producers. Neville Walsh of the State Herbarium elegantly covered the taxonomy and origin of Australian mistletoes.

John Seebeck of the Arthur Rylah Research Insti-

Snippets:

Summary Report on the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Mistletoe Forum (31 August 1996)

The forum aimed to discuss current knowledge about mistletoes and to air inquiries about the plant in an attempt to better understand this much maligned plant and its role in the environ-

tute in Heidelberg gave a very original survey report. John has been spending his lunch time surveying trees around his workplace to compile a map of introduced trees around Melbourne with mistletoes attached. The project is even more unusual when you consider John is a mammalian zoologist by trade.

The forum discussions raised a number of interesting questions for naturalists and scientists to contemplate:

Is mistletoe increasing in abundance?

The response to this seemed to be "we don't know", but there is some anecdotal evidence to suggest it might be.

What may be responsible for an increase in its abundance?

Hypotheses are all we have so far and these include:

Fire suppression: mistletoes have no adaptations to fire and may be benefiting from the lack of fires since European settlement in Victoria.

A decline in possum numbers, suggested to be a natural control: Possums are believed to have a taste for mistletoe foliage and falling possum numbers due to feral predators and habitat destruction may be shifting the balance in favour of mistletoes.

Of concern to people at the forum was the public misconception of all mistletoes as bad because they are parasites (actually they are hemiparasites that still photosynthesize) that kill trees. The forum proposed to encourage the production of more information about mistletoes to foster a balanced view of their place as a natural part of the environment.

Source: Field Nats News October 1996

The Field Naturalists Club is publishing the proceedings of the forum and other information about Mistletoe. Ring or fax them on (03) 9877 9860 to find out what's available.

Survey of Invertebrate Fauna at Glynn's Reserve, Warrandyte

The Field Naturalist's Club of Victoria proposes to conduct an invertebrate survey at Glynn's Reserve early in 1997. This will be the first survey of invertebrates (insects, spiders, aquatic invertebrates) in a Melbourne Metropolitan Park.

The project has been designed by Museum of Victoria staff and they will assist with the training sessions. Other specialists including Peter Kelly (beetles) and Adrian Daniell (molluscs) have offered help with the field work.

The reserve managers - Parks Victoria - fully

support the project and will provide on-site laboratory work-places and storage facilities.

Participants will receive training in survey techniques, specimen sorting and ID.

We are now seeking willing participants, who will be available mid-week or weekends, to take part in this survey. If you are interested please phone Ed Grey (03) 9435 9019 or Ian Endersby (03) 9435 4781.

Platypus at home in urban waterways

In surveys conducted in 1995-96, platypus were found in the Yarra, Maribyrnong and Plenty Rivers and six creeks. Healthy communities of platypus - including several juveniles - were found in residential areas in Melbourne's north and east. Being at the top of the food chain, their presence indicates that there is sufficient food and a healthy aquatic environment.

"In light of the encouraging results, Melbourne Water is funding further research to gain insight into the potential threats to platypus habitats and the ways in which these habitats can be improved," said Ross Young, General Manager, Waterways and Drainage. "In the last decade it was feared that platypus had disappeared from the Melbourne metropolitan area," Ross said. "While the survey results show this is not the case, Melbourne Water is spending more than \$7 million during 1996/97 to improve water quality in Melbourne's rivers and creeks. This includes its commitment as principal sponsor of the Australian Platypus Conservancy."

Further survey work will involve radio tracking and will allow the researchers to gather detailed information on platypus breeding and eating habits. By tracking the platypus over several hours, the team will be able to see where it feeds, for how long and how often, how far it travels and the formation and location of its burrows.

Source: Mainstream, Newsletter of Melbourne Water Corp., Vol. 6, Summer 1996

Healthy river to run free of willows

Bank stabilisation and revegetation works along the Plenty River near Whittlesea this summer will improve the health of a watercourse choked by willows and silt. Melbourne Water has committed over \$130,000 to the project, according to Ross Young, General Manager, Waterways and Drainage. "The works will stabilise the river banks and improve water quality in the Plenty River between the Whittlesea township and Cades Rd.," Ross said.

"Extremely dense willow growth along this stretch of river has not only choked the indigenous species but has also reduced the river's capacity, causing flooding problems on adjoining farmland," he said. The project is part of Melbourne Water's 1996/97 Healthy Waterways Program.

The works will include the use of an innovative timber bank reinforcing technique which will be used to imitate the original conditions of the Plenty River and provide habitat for fish. The works are frog-friendly, expanding a wetland habitat of State significance which is already regarded as the best frog habitat in Greater Melbourne with 12 recorded species, including the Victorian Smooth Froglet and the regionally rare Peron's tree frog. The Japanese Snipe, which migrates every year to Australia to feed, is also found at the swamp. The proposed works will expand the areas available for this vulnerable species.

Source: Mainstream, Newsletter of Melbourne Water Corp., Vol. 6, Summer 1996

Better Farm Management:

Editor's Note: The first two Snippets are from the Small Property Networker, a publication that is part of a new effort to educate urban fringe farmers in the Port Phillip region. The third tidbit is from the Victorian Landcare magazine, an amalgamation of past statewide publications (to be reviewed next month). The information in both aims to promote productive farming integrated with conservation objectives.

Land for Wildlife

Many of you will be familiar with the "Land for Wildlife" sign which can be seen on farm gates, schools, municipal reserves and golf courses across the State. In Port Phillip Region, the majority of properties registered under the Land for Wildlife scheme are those of small property owners. There are now more than 1200 properties managing 22,500 hectares for wildlife habitat in Port Phillip in conjunction with the other uses of their land. To qualify for full registration (and a sign), the landholder must be making an effort to maintain or enhance or restore wildlife habitat.

The scheme is administered jointly by the department of Natural Resources and Environment and the Bird Observers Club of Australia. When an application is made, the property is visited by a trained assessor who will spend time walking the property with the landowner or manager. This is an opportunity to seek advice about any aspect of management or wildlife - both site specific and general. If the assessor cannot answer

your queries on the spot, he/she will endeavour to find out for you.

All applicants then receive a regular newsletter and the Land for Wildlife technical notes which are available to anyone on request from N.R.E. offices. There are also field days, neighbourhood days and the opportunity to join a network of people with similar interests and goals. Landowners are encouraged to apply, even when they know they may not qualify: the opportunity for onsite advice before beginning planting, dam construction or other restoration works can assist in making these aspects of the property both functional and friendly to wildlife. Multiple benefits can result.

Properties which do not qualify immediately are classed as "working towards registration" and the landowner's plans and goals are noted and discussed and a possible time-line for qualifying is worked out.

Brochures including application forms are available from N.R.E. offices. Land for Wildlife Extension Officers are located at Kallista (Tues & Thurs) (03) 9755 2726, Organ Pipes N.P. (Mon & Thurs) (03) 9390 3623 and Serendip (052) 821 584.

Source: Small Rural Property Networker. No. 4, Dec. 1996.

Pasture Management Workshops

This series of ten workshops is designed for the absentee land holder on the urban fringe. By attending these workshops you should gain an understanding of how to maximise your pasture potential. Remember grass is the cheapest feed you can buy and if well managed it should suit all your stocks requirements.

The workshop should demonstrate whether your pastures need a complete renovation or can be manipulated toward a highly productive pasture. Hay and silage are options for conserving fodder, but to be of value, they should be of high quality. Quality of forage will be related to animal production throughout the series of workshops.

The workshops begin on Monday evening the 24th of February 1997. The venue is Melbourne Institute of Textiles, Pascoe Vale Campus, 23 - 35 Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale. For more information about workshops contact Norm Tozer on BH (03) 9389 9229 or AH (057) 921 139.

Session One - Plant Growth (includes Prograze V).
How do plants grow?, Nutrient requirements, Maximising production, Growth stages

Session Two - Prograze 1 & 2
Measuring pasture, Quantity, Estimating pasture, Digestibility, Pasture growth curves

Session Three - Pasture Mixes
Cattle/Sheep/Erosion/Salinity, Winter feed crops, Feed

budgeting

Session Four - Prograze 3

Farm walk, Pasture estimation and measurement,
Relating sheep, Requirements to pasture growth

Session Five - Productive Farming

Examining high input systems, Comparisons on water
usage, Animal health, Management logistics,
Financial benefits and pitfalls

Session Six - Pasture Identification

Using vegetative features, Identifying clover types,
Identifying sub-clover cultivars, Examining weeds

Session Seven - Pasture Renovation/Manipulation

Sowing methods, Planning, Early post sowing, Manage-
ment

Session Eight - Prograze 4

Beef production from pasture, Farm walk/pasture,
Estimation/measuring, Cattle performance, Growth
rates/production, Targets, Condition scoring

Session Nine - Native Grasses

Identification, Benefits, Maximizing Production, Water
use

Session Ten - Fodder Conservation/Summer

Fodder
Crops, Hay, Silage, Feed test, Chicory, Brassicas, New
Plant Types

The 1997 Good Neighbor Calendar

The Good Neighbor Program aims to protect private
land by controlling pest plants and animals on
public land boundaries. The Good Neighbor Cal-
endar works as an effective seasonal planner for
pest plant and animal control. It features:

Detailed information on a different weed each month

Advice on the optimum time to control pest plants and
animals

A listing of important field days and landcare dates

Information on relevant grants and funding programs

Hints on protecting native flora and fauna

Contact phone numbers for DNRE Offices are easy to
find on a special side panel

On sale now from regional and head offices of
DNRE. Order from the Outdoors Information
Centre, DNRE, Ground Level, 240 Victoria Parade,
East Melbourne 3002. Phone: (03) 9412 4158 Fax
(03) 9412 4835. \$5.00 plus \$4.00 postage and
handling.

Coming Events:

For IFFA events see back cover

Conferences/Workshops

Sat 8 February "Wetlands - revealing the mystery" a seminar held by the Kingston Conservation and Environment Coalition. Venue: Chelsea Town Hall, Station Street (near the corner of Chelsea Rd) Chelsea. This seminar is open to all interested parties, lunch is provided, and it is all free! Registration is set for 9 am. with the seminar formally opening at 9.30 am. It will continue until 4.30 pm. Speakers include: Rod Skinner - CEO City of Kingston, Scott Seymour - Melbourne Water, Alan Reid - Gould League, Damien Cook - Local Naturalist. Programmes will be available from the KCEC. For further information contact Bill Hampel (03) 9772 6984 or Jack Cuthbertson (03) 9580 2018.

Thu 13 Feb & Sun 16 Feb, 9.30 am - 4.00 pm. Introduction to Farm and Bush Fencing. This course will introduce participants to the basic skills of constructing and maintaining farm fences. Ideal for those with rural blocks or wishing to protect native vegetation from grazing. Morning snack provided, please bring a picnic lunch. Venue: La Trobe University Wildlife Reserve, Bundoora (Melways 19 H5). Cost \$75, Con \$60. For bookings or further information contact (03) 9479 2871.

Sat 15 February "Sustainable Land Use for Town and Country". An Earthwise Training Workshop. Led by Justin Larsen, this one day workshop explores permaculture, horticulture and agricultural options, no dig gardens, planning a lifestyle garden and the use of indigenous plants. Learn to manage your space in environmentally friendly ways. Venue: Box Hill Community Arts Centre, Station Street, Box Hill (Melways 47 D11). Cost: \$49 includes lunch. For further information and bookings contact (059) 629 122 or (059) 639 447, mobile 014 920 614.

Mon 17 February "Western Arthurs Range, S.W. Tasmania" 8pm. An illustrated talk presented by Tony Cavanagh to the Society for Growing Australian Plants. Venue: Conference Room, Astronomer's Residence, Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra. All are welcome. Contact Enid Bowman (03) 9882 5297.

Thu 20 Feb - Introduction to Wildlife Habitat Enhancement 9.30 am - 4.00 pm. How do you attract wildlife to your urban or rural land? What species are found in your area? These and other questions are answered in this course. For anyone interested in Australian animals and their management. Participants will learn how to construct nest boxes for all types of animals, plants to attract birds, how to control some pest species. Morning snack provided. BYO picnic lunch. Cost \$60, Con \$50. Venue: La Trobe University Wildlife Reserve, Bundoora (Melways 19 H5). For bookings and enquiries contact La Trobe University Wildlife Reserve on (03) 9479 2871.

24 February - Series of ten Pasture Management Workshops. For further information see [Snippets](#) this issue, or contact Norman Tozer on BH (03) 9389

9229 or AH (057) 921 139.

16 - 18 April "Tread Lightly! on the World" Conference - Coffs Harbour, New South Wales. This Conference is designed to address the self management by people of their impacts on the environment. For further information contact: Tread lightly! Australia, On Public and Private Land Ltd, PO Box 123, Coorparoo Queensland 4151. Phone (07) 3397 3073, Free-call Ph. 1800 650 881, Fax (07) 3847 3449.

24 - 27 March "California and the World Ocean" - San Diego, California USA. California has recently published a landmark report, *California's Ocean Resources: an Agenda for the Future*. A focus of the conference is policy developments or implications particularly in areas of ocean and coastal resource economics, governance, habitats and ecosystem management, fisheries, water quality, shoreline erosion and processes, and science research and education. For more information contact Orville Magoon, Conference Chair, CWO97, PO Box 279, 2100 Butts Canyon Rd, Middletown, California 95461, USA. Ph +(707) 987 9351, Fax +(1 707) 987 0114. E-mail: otmagoon@aol.com

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. Probable symposia topics include: Assessing the Other 99%; Describing the Other 99%; and Invertebrate Conservation through Legislation and Policy. For further information contact the Australian Museum, Invertebrate Biodiversity Conference, 6 College St, Sydney NSW 2000, Fax (02) 9320 600, E-mail: invert@amsg.Austmus.oz.au

Excursions & Field Trips

Platypus "Behind the Scenes" Tours - presented by the Australian Platypus Conservancy. The tour commences with an illustrated talk on the platypus by Conservancy researchers. Learn about platypus research techniques. Then try your skills at spotting platypus in the wild. February tour dates are Sat 1st, Sun 9th, Sun 16th, Sun 23rd, and Wed 26th. Tours commence at 4pm. Each tour, including a platypus spotting opportunity lasts about 2 hours. Cost: Adults \$6.50, Child/student \$4.00, Family (2 adults + 3 children) \$17.00. For tour bookings contact (03) 9716 1626.

Mon 3 Feb - The wilds of La Trobe by night. 8.30 - 11.00 pm. A guided spotlight tour presented by La Trobe University Wildlife Reserve. Enjoy a summer night stroll through woodlands and wetlands for a fascinating insight rarely experienced by day visitors. Learn about the success of the restored habitat and wildlife populations through work undertaken on the reserve by University staff and volunteers. BYO sturdy footwear, insect repellent, torch, portable snack and drink. Meet at Greenwood Dve, Bundoora. Cost \$8.00 Adults, \$6.00 concession. Bookings essential (03) 9479 2871.

Sat 22 Feb - Count the Koalas at Somers, Mornington Peninsula. 9 am - 12 noon. Count the Koalas on this walk through HMAS Cerberus to Sandy Point at Somers. Organised as part of the Coast action summer activities program. Meet at the Somers

Foreshore carpark, opposite the General Store, (Melways ref. 194 B10). BYO hat, sunscreen, water, and walking shoes. Bookings are required. Contact Michelle Lauder (03) 9651 3276.

Mon 17 Feb - Gresswell Forest Nature Reserve by Night, 8.30 - 11.00 pm. Presented by La Trobe University Wildlife Reserve. Take a guided spotlight tour through one of Melbourne's hidden treasures. Visit the sleepy River Red Gums woodland by night and discover the nocturnal wildlife they support. Learn about the work La Trobe University is undertaking to protect and enhance these native habitats of special significance. BYO sturdy footwear, insect repellent, torch, portable snack and drink. Meet at Greenwood Dve, Bundoorra. Cost \$8.00 Adults, \$6.00 concession. Bookings essential (03) 9479 2871.

Restoration Activities

Sat 1 Feb FO Loughie's Bushland - Working Bee. Meet for a 9.30am start at Kubis Drive, Ringwood North, opposite Werac Drive (Melways 49 E12/F3). Contact Carol Clarke (03) 9870 8126 or Eva Buchanan (03) 9870 5201.

Sun 2 Feb FO Brushy Creek Wetlands - Working Bee. Meet at Village School, 9 - 13 Holloway Road, Croydon North for a 9a start (Melways 37 B6). Bring gloves, gumboots and a smile. Tools and refreshments provided. Contact Kay Vine (03) 9727 2771.

Sun 9 Feb Greenlink Oakleigh - Pricking out, seed sowing, and weeding around nursery. 10 am to 1 pm. The nursery is located at the southern end of the grounds of the Senior Campus of South Oakleigh Secondary College, Bakers Road, South Oakleigh (enter via the carpark nearest Centre Road). Other February activities include seed collecting on 16/2, and a big pot washing effort on the 23/2. Contact Doug Evans AH (03) 9568 4090, BH (03) 9556 4433.

Wed 12 Feb FO Sherbrooke Forest Project Morning. 9.30 am. Welch Plateau No 1 site. Meet at Nation Road entrance (Melways 75 K10). Mostly ivy on ground. Lovely cool fern glade for working on a hot Summer day. BYO gloves, secateurs, cup, sunscreen. Contact Vivien Freshwater (03) 9754 3093.

Sat 16 Feb FO Warriën Reserve - Working Bee. Meet at the reserve in Warriën Road, Croydon North for a 9am start (Melways 36 K10). Contact Gavin Anderson (03) 9725 9460 or e-mail: gavin@warriën.apana.org.au

Summer to Autumn 1997, Coastal Conservation Projects - Vic., S.A., and Tasmania. Australia's largest practical conservation organisation, The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), will undertake a conservation program in remote coastal areas. Supplementary Coastcare funding has been approved by the Commonwealth to enable coastal projects of high conservation value to be undertaken in areas where there is no local community group capable of completing the work required. The program will provide an opportunity for volunteers to assist in a range of projects likely to include dune stabilisation, access improvement, revegetation, weed eradication, board walk construction, surveying and heritage protection.

Projects will normally be of one or two weeks duration, and ATCV is inviting contact from volunteers interested in participating. For further details contact ATCV on (03) 9602 4066 or 1800 032 501 for country callers.

Candlebark Community Nursery - Activities every Sunday (10am - 4pm) and Wednesday. (10am - 3pm). Activities include seed cleaning and data entry, landscaping, nursery maintenance and propagation. Limited plant sales. All welcome. Enquiries: 0419 362254 or Debbie on (03) 9720 6141. Call in for a cuppa and a browse. The nursery is located in the Village School, 9 - 13 Holloway Road, Croydon North (Melways ref. 37 B6).

CRISP Community Nursery - Activities every Friday, 9.30am to 12.30 pm. Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood, just near Jubilee Park. Enquiries Dale Morgan on (03) 9870 1067 or Eva Buchanan on (03) 9870 5201.

Clean Up Australia Day is happening again this year on Sunday 2nd of March. Help make difference! Come along and bring a friend. Clean Up bags will be supplied. BYO gloves, hat, sunscreen. Clean Up sites will be advertised in Saturday 1/3 Herald Sun or contact Clean Up Australia Victorian Branch (based in Greening Australia Victoria Offices). If anyone is interested in volunteering their time to help out in the Melbourne based Tally Room on the day we'd be very grateful! For more information or if you would like to register a Clean Up site contact Sarah, Linda or Elissa on (03) 9457 3024.

Regular Restoration Activities

(This section will no longer feature in "Indigenotes" - see notice this issue)

For Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers activities, contact (03) 5333 1483

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

Thank you to all the people who have contacted us regarding on-coming events their groups are organising. Unfortunately *Coming Events* is a bit thin this issue - so I'm sending out a plea to everyone to please send us your Group's newsletters. I know you all must be organising great things to come!! Elissa Kerassitis (03) 9486 6768.

Attention all Community Conservation Groups!!!

A new way *Indigenotes* will be promoting your Regular Restoration Activities

As you may or may not have noticed the Regular Restoration Activities section was empty this issue. Rather than listing the regular activities every month, which tends to get a bit repetitive, the editorial team (that is Lincoln and Elissa), have decided on a different approach for the new year. To do all your wonderful restoration work justice we have decided to produce a new look:

"1997 Regular Restoration Activities"

A3-size Insert/mini-poster. It will be designed to be pinned up as a ready reference, we aim to release it in the April edition of *Indigenotes*.

If your group would like to be included on this mini poster insert please post us the following details:

- Group name
- Contact person and phone number
- Activity site and Melways reference
- When activities are held
- What time do they commence and finish
- What type of activities and do they vary throughout the year?

The deadline for all submissions will be the end of February 1997.

IFFA's mailing address is PO Box 228, Preston, Vic 3072.

Indigephile BBQ

Over twelve months ago, bush crew and other indigephiles met at YBP for a BBQ, to chat and compare notes. There was no agenda, but everyone got a charge from talking with new and old mates. The evening was judged a success, and worth repeating.

We are going to hold another evening soiree at the rotunda in Fairfield Park, Northcote near the Fairfield Boathouse on Tuesday January 28th at 7:00 pm.

All are welcome: bush crew, nursery people, week-end workers and field ecology types. This night has an agenda of sorts - if groups of people can generate energy, as at the last BBQ, where should that energy be focused?

IFFA is sponsoring the BBQ, but through the wishes of the committee, prefer to take a back seat while people decide their involvement in matters indigenous for the next year. This needs to happen in a relaxed atmosphere, and needs to be approached with optimism.

If collective decisions are made, IFFA is prepared to offer resources, such as money, and an established communication network, to help move any decisions along. If you've been sitting round in ones or twos, stewing about the state of the environment, remember, the only really good idea is one that's been had by at least 50 people.

Come along, bring food, drink and be ready to have a good time. Some vege food and salad provided. The rotunda is suitable for most weather.

Entry off Heidelberg Road, east of Yarra Bend Road. Go into Fairfield Park Drive (Melways 30 J12) and look for the signs to BBQ at the park rotunda.

Please Don't Feed Me

Wildlife experts within the Department of Natural Resources and Environment say feeding wildlife can be hazardous. They warn that artificial feeding could disrupt the diet and social behavior of native fauna, attract predators, spread disease and, in some instances, cause property damage to the householders providing food. Here are some cautionary tales and advice on how to enjoy close encounters with wildlife.

It seems that landholders and White-winged Choughs are getting on a little too well in Melbourne's northern suburbs. Large populations of Choughs congregating to feed on bread are systematically destroying colonies of orchids as they search for similar starch rich foods. Choughs usually forage for orchid tubers in a less concentrated way causing minimal disturbance.

Mrs 'B' used to feed the Kookaburras and the Cockatoos. It gave her pleasure to show visitors "her" birds. The antics of the cockatoos were a constant delight, and the occasional tap at the window as an eager Kookaburra demanded its breakfast made her feel needed.

But things began to go horribly wrong. Cockies beaks grow continuously, and Mrs B's regulars soon discovered that the Western Red Cedar around the windows of her home was perfect for maintaining beak condition and mandible muscle tone. They chewed so comprehensively that a window fell out.

Kookaburras are territorial. The much loved bush chorus is an acoustic territory marker. During the breeding season of about three months duration, Kookaburras near houses may see their reflection in a window and attack it. Some birds become obsessed with attacking the mystery bird. Eventually they bloody their beak and break windows. Along the way they cause considerable stress to their former friends inside the house.

Visitors to national parks are often hoping for a close encounter with wildlife. Sometimes these encounters turn nasty.

Kangaroos are social animals and are readily attracted to humans offering food. However, during the breeding season male kangaroos become aggressive and have been known to attack humans they saw as competitors for females' attention. Hand fed kangaroos can also develop abnormalities such as extended toe nail growth from insufficient movement over hard surfaces and a

disease called lumpyjaw caused by infection around the mouth.

Wild parrots and cockatoos in Gippsland have died after contracting a viral disease thought to be spread via feeding trays contaminated with bird droppings. The problem is exacerbated in cooler months when wild birds have relatively low body weight.

The Red Wattlebird is common in Victoria's drier forests and some suburbs. From time to time a bird has been discovered convulsing on the ground in Winter. The birds almost always die. The likely cause of death is thiamine deficiency or beriberi. The trend towards planting nectar producing native trees, not indigenous to Melbourne, and sugar solutions in bird feeders have been blamed for the outbreaks. Red Wattlebirds would normally migrate to northern Victoria in the Winter in search of protein-rich insects, but the abundance of available nectar is encouraging them to stay in areas where the insect populations are low over the cooler months.

There are many ways to enjoy wildlife without causing harm to animals or yourself: Maintain a healthy understorey and leaf and twig litter layer, and eliminate weeds

Plant indigenous species that provide nectar, fruits and bark for foraging.

Provide a shallow source of water away from shrubs where predators could hide.

Place old feathers, wool and short stems of dried grass in tree or shrub forks during the breeding season.

Add nest boxes to increase the chance of seeing hollow-nesting and roosting species near your home.

Look for tracks and traces left by animals in your area and learn about their habits and preferred habitat.

Be careful when using seeding bells. They may contain pesticides, weed seeds that birds can spread or wood glues.

DNRE have recently released guidelines and procedures on feeding wildlife in parks and reserves. These are aimed at preventing human interference in indigenous wildlife population levels and preventing wildlife scavenging for visitors food scraps. DNRE's Land for Wildlife Note No 35 has more information about safe interacting with wildlife.

Reprinted from the SPIFFA Newsletter Vol 6 No 6, Dec 1996.

IFFA activities:

IFFA (Vic)

Indigephile BBQ

**Tuesday, January 28,
1997, 7:00 PM**

**At the rotunda in Fairfield Park,
Northcote near the Fairfield Boathouse
on Tuesday January 28th at 7:00 pm.
Entry off Heidelberg Road, east of Yarra
Bend Road. Go into Fairfield Park Drive
(Melways 30 J12) and look for the signs
to BBQ at the park rotunda.**

**A few munchies will be provided but
you will need to bring your own food
and drink.**

All welcome!

Committee meeting:

**The Committee meeting is now the second Monday
of every month.**

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 (059) 855561.

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.**

*Memberships should be sent to the
Membership Secretary.*

*Include your name,
address and phone numbers,
and a bit about yourself.*

Table of Contents

Privatisation and Parks	2
Repairing a Damaged World	3
Maintaining Native Plant Diversity	4
<u>Books and Resources:</u>	5
<u>Web Watch:</u>	8
<u>Snippets:</u>	9
<u>Better Farm Management:</u>	10
<u>Coming Events:</u>	12
Attention All Community Conservation Groups!!	14
Indigephile BBQ	14
Please Don't Feed Me	15

Office Bearers:

President: Roger Jones, 20 Patterson St., Bon
Beach 3197 Ph. (03) 9772 1707 (ah) or (03) 9239
4555 (bh). Fax (03) 9239 4688. Email:
roger.jones@dar.csiro.au

Vice-President: Peter Tucker, (03) 9818 1537
(ah).

Secretary: Lill Roberts, P.O. Box 192, Blackburn
South 3130, Ph. (03) 9878 0858.

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

Committee members: Libby Anthony (03) 9807
2834, Geoff Carr (03) 9481 7679(bh) and (03) 9380
8582.

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 editor
— the deadline for the next issue will be 7 February.**

**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.*