

# INDIGENOTES

# The Natural Heritage Trust - a dopey idea?

The Howard Government wants to go to the next election with a green image, an image they hope to establish within this three year government term. Fundamental to the creation of this image are a set of programs funded through the Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHT). The Trust itself is being funded from the partial sale of Telstra, a sale which FOE strongly opposed.

So why the NHT? Over the next five years the Howard Team will spend a massive (sic) \$1.5 billion on what are basically agriculture and environmental repair jobs (not bad when they spend around \$10 billion every year on the military).

The programs reflect the conservative/pro industry emphasis of Howard's world view. Environmental/Biological/ecological programs which were established under a very reluctant Labour government are being allowed to run down and the majority of the NHT money will be used to fund agriculture programs and programs aimed at repairing the damage brought about by past agricultural practices. These programs include Landcare, farm forestry, the Murray-Darling programs, the National Vegetation Initiative, etc. The Vegetation Initiative (NVI) gets the greatest share of the funding; \$318 million. We are told that the NVI will be used to fund regional projects aimed at revegetation and the protection of remnant vegetation. The noble Mr Howard has stated that there will be no net vegetation loss by the year 2000; tell that to Premier Bobridge; Queensland clears around 400,000 hectares every year (you'd think he'd have learnt from the the 'no child in poverty' line bandied by one RJ Hawke). So what does it all mean? Frankly it appears to mean siphoning money to the rural sector (thanks to your vote), alienating the urban environmentalists from any decision making processes (who are, after all, only a bunch of lefty rat bags anyway) and of little or no improvement in environmental management.

## Why so cynical, you may ask?

The NVI will be administered through regional bodies, called Regional Assessment Panels (RAP's). RAP's are for the most part made up of industry representatives and local stakeholders. That means which projects get funding and how the projects proceed (including accountability and monitoring) will largely be determined by industry people and the farmer's peers from their district.

At the government scale of money management,

the NVI is administered jointly by Environment Australia (Senator Hill's mob) and the department of Primary Industry and Energy (Anderson's Portfolio). By the way, the acronym for Anderson's department is DPIE, or as it is commonly called in the colloquial, dopie (pronounced DOPEY), a name not appreciated in the department apparently. DoPIE, sorry, I mean DPIE, have a great deal of control over the program. As we understand the situation, they have (amongst other things) refused 'cross compliance' (simply, cross-compliance requires those receiving money to prove that they are not allowing environmentally degrading practices to continue on the land they manage- eg., they get money to plant trees in the front paddock while continuing to clear remnant vegetation out the back). They have also refused to insist that recipients of federal money provide property management plans, and have steadfastly refused to support urban environmentalists from being part of the consultation processes such as having membership on the RAP's.

FOE needs to do a lot of work in regard to how we want to campaign on this issue. What actions do we take? Do we need to lobby for better representation on the RAP's? Should we insist that any agreements between the Commonwealth and State governments include commitments to key environmental legislation (eg, Threatened Species legislation). Can we get greater conservation NGO representation in any of the processes (for instance the Arid Land Coalition is supporting a move by some environmental groups to get national vegetation officers in each state).

This has been a very brief discussion on the NHT and the NVI and it is really a very complex situation. A group of us are working on these issues, so if you want more information or want to be involved, please contact Saro or Cam at FoE Fitzroy or Steve at FoE Nouveau (Ph. (08) 2235155).

**Source: Friends of the Earth Fitzroy Newsletter March 1997**

# Has the baby gone out with the bath water?

By Robert Berry

Victorian surveyors of the 1850s and 1860s have left us with a record of a wonderful swamp. The Carrum-Carrum Swamp stretched from what is now Braeside Park to Frankston. It provided a home for the Bunurong aboriginal people and in Melbourne's early days Snipe, Cape Barren and Magpie Geese for the city's tables. The central area of the swamp was rich in River Red Gums that were largely cleared to provide Melbourne's street paving. If you stand on the bank of Braeside's wetland you can get some idea of what it might have been like. Then imagine it stretching to the horizon.

Values were somewhat different back then so a useless swamp had little chance of surviving for long and it didn't. The swamp was formed because a sand spit from Mordialloc held the waters of Dandenong, Boggy and Eumemering Creeks. Only at flood times did much water escape via Mordialloc and Kananook Creeks. The answer seemed fairly obvious. First, the Mordialloc Drain was formed and later the Patterson Cut. The plug was pulled and the bath was emptied. The swamp went down the gurgler.

If you look at the Mordialloc Main Drain today you can see that the solution was both inelegant and imperfect. Two levee banks run in a straight line aiming for the sea. The surrounding land is still flood prone. On it there are a few residual Paperbarks and River Red Gums amongst the Gorse and Blackberries. The water that is confined to the drain hurries to the sea loaded with litter, bacteria, fertiliser and silt.

Because the solution to the drainage problem was such a poor one the land along the Mordialloc Main Drain flood plain has never been suitable for development. It is privately owned and is zoned agricultural. This and other low lying areas in the erstwhile swamp are extremely degraded remnants. As open space they are not particularly attractive, as habitat they are just a shadow of their former selves. But one thing they are is a fabulous opportunity.

On Saturday February 8th, well over 200 people attended a seminar at Chelsea Town Hall that was organised by the ic Kingston Conservation and Environment Coalition. They set aside their day to learn about wetlands and to consider the fate of the flood plain. At the end of the day they unanimously passed a resolution calling for the flood

plain to be restored as a chain of wetlands.

A draft report of the Dandenong Valley Waterways Advisory Committee of 1992 outlines the chain of wetlands concept. This scheme is practicable and would have enormous benefit for the community. It would turn an eyesore into beautiful wetlands, provide fabulous habitat for flora and fauna as well as providing floodwater storage. Passing the water through a living filter would considerably enhance the quality of the run-off into Port Phillip Bay - it might even become safe to swim at Mordialloc Beach!

Development in the lowlands is not impossible. There are numerous examples now of sites that have been developed by excavating deep holes and using the spoil to raise adjacent land. The lakes thus created are deep, steep sided and biologically barren.

Of the enormous and wonderful Carrum-Carrum swamp all that remains as good wetland habitat is Edithvale and Seaford Wetlands. Braeside has been created on its banks and there is some further habitat in the Eastern Treatment Plant and along Mordialloc, Patterson and Kananook Creeks. For the moment the bath tub is still there, we can't refill it to its former level but we could put the plug back and regain some invaluable wetland.

Congratulations to the KCEC on staging such a great seminar and to Kingston Council for their financial support. The next step is to get behind this initiative and help turn this opportunity into a wonderful reality.

**Source: Friends of Braeside Park Newsletter, March 1997.**

# Feedback on Permaculture, Weeds and Biodiversity Conservation

## Dear Editor

With much interest I read the article 'Weeds or Wild Nature?' in Indigenotes, Vol. 10, No. 2.

Firstly I felt that the us against them undertones of the article were unfortunate because I/we are at the same end of the philosophical spectrum, with a healthy respect for biodiversity and ecology and critical of 'mainstream' urban and rural land management practices.

It is healthy for there to some debate about the pro's and con's of both permaculture and indigenous revegetation systems. As I see it permaculture has very good intentions but I would still argue against the recommended incorporation of invasive plants. A non-invasive plant can always be found to do the same job as an invasive plant within a permaculture system, so why choose to further threaten our dwindling indigenous biodiversity?

I have a professional interest in indigenous revegetation and have maintained a personal interest in permaculture for several years. Now that we have purchased our own acre of rich Dandenongs soil I am planning to draw these two interests together. I have recently gained great inspiration from Sandra Woodrow's "Permaculture in the Home Garden". Several ideas for integrating indigenous revegetation with permaculture came to mind while I was reading.

For example:

The integration of bush foods: fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Uses of indigenous plants around the vegetable gardens and orchards to attract birds and other predators.

Use of indigenous legumes for nitrogen fixation.

Fruit trees don't like exotic grasses, do they like indigenous grasses?

The role of a wetland in a permacultural system?

Attraction of wildlife to food production zones to fill the role of 'the chook tractor' and other domestic animals.

Use of native grass mulch.

Time does not permit me to respond to most of the issues within this article. Briefly I agree that there is a great potential for ecosynthesis of native and migrant systems to address land and water degradation in both urban and rural landscapes. I would not advocate the same approach be considered in our remnant bushland. But by working

together we will find some very intelligent solutions.

Yours Sincerely

Gaye Gadsden, THE PATCH, Victoria.

## Dear Lincoln and Lisa

It is with a sense of relief that I have read your recent article in the Permaculture International Journal about weeds. I moved to Crystal Waters (a permaculture village in SE Queensland) a few months ago totally ignorant of the fact that as far as environmental weeds are concerned permaculturists are not interested - here it simply isn't an issue. This very different from my own thinking - previously I had followed permacultural principles on my land and it involved: great care in selection of species anywhere beyond Zone 1 (and there too),

the nurturing of patches of native bush in any Zone and

the preservation of a quite large area of fairly untouched bushland.

I also helped with community bushcare and knew quite a lot about the local weeds.

Here I have had to start again and because it is a community I have been reluctant to appear too critical as soon as I arrived. However, the need is urgent. Everybody seems to plant anything - the main reason because it's pretty or it fills a gap.

I sent for the full transcript of the Greening Australia Seminar [in Melbourne in September 1996; refer to Indigenotes 10:2 for order info], some of which was published in the previous journal, and found myself critical of David Holmgren's argument and relieved that the way I felt about it was supported by yours.

I suppose what I hope to achieve by writing to you is continuing communication which might support me as I attempt to promote the "indigiephile" views (I'd never heard that word before) and in receiving notice of seminars etc., where I might be able to improve my knowledge.

Thanks for your articles... Kathryn Blackburn

# Coming Events:

**For IFFA events see back cover**

## Talks/Conferences/Workshops

April, Tue 29 "Your health and air pollution - The dirt on Melbourne's air". How does Melbourne's air impact on your health? What can we do to fix up Melbourne's air? Get the facts at the Public Meeting presented by Environment Victoria. Speaker Dr Michael Abramson will present facts on how Melbourne's air pollution can seriously effect our health. Environment Victoria will present results from their air monitoring station in the North eastern suburbs. Time: 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm. Venue: Chandelier Room, Hawthorn Town Hall, near cnr Glenferrie Rd and Burwood Rd (Mel 45 D10), walk from Glenferrie Station. (Child care available by arrangement) Contact Bronwen Machin (03) 9348 9044

April, Wed 30 "Dry Stone Walling" - workshop. Learn about Victoria's historic dry stone walls and have a go at building one with an old master wall builder. Part of a series of workshops held at Alcoa's Warrambeen Landcare Education Centre on the western plains of Victoria. Cost \$45.00. Bookings: Trish Taylor on (03) 5281 3250. Other workshops this year at Warrambeen include "Bushfood & Bush medicines" on Sun 1/6, Rural Women's Day on Wed 18/6, "Alternative uses for farm trees" on Wed 13/8, "Water Quality & blue green algae" on Wed 15/10, "Importance of birds on farms" on Wed 15/10, and two Indigenous Grass Identification workshops to be held on the Sun 30/11 & Sun 7/12.

May 3 to 5 "Qld State Environment Groups Conference 1997". Combine a holiday in the Whitsundays with an environmental conference. The Mackay Conservation Group is hosting this weekend Conference at the Mackay Community Health Centre. An annual opportunity for members of conservation groups throughout the state to discuss important issues. Attracts up to 100 people from all over Queensland. The theme is Green Economics. Attendance fees range from \$30 - \$70 and motel, backpacker or billeting accommodation can be arranged. Book ASAP with Ian Carlisle of the Mackay Conservation Group (079) 531 112 BH or (079) 524 789 AH.

May, Thu 8. "When the birds don't know you are there" - RAOU - VicGroup meeting. Laszlo Erdos, well known for his naturalist documentaries, will be showing his latest films on birds in the bush. Time: 8pm. Venue: Head Office, 415 Riversdale Rd, East Hawthorne. Contact RAOU on 9882 2622.

June, Tue 17 (6.30 - 8.30pm), Sat 21 (2 - 6pm) & Sun 29 (9am - 5pm) "Birds of the Melbourne Region". Presented by the RAOU and Council of Adult Education. Includes one lecture and two field trips to give practical knowledge and skills to understand and appreciate our avian wildlife. Fees: \$139, Child \$119, Seniors \$128. Contact (03) 9652 0733 or (03) 9652 0784.

October 4 to 7, 1997. RAOU's Annual Congress and Campout. This year its the VicGroup who are responsible for organising these important and

exciting events. The Congress will be held from the 4th - 5th at the Charles Sturt University campus in Albury, NSW. The major theme is woodland birds, but papers and posters on any topic of ornithological interest are welcome. The Campout runs from the 6th - 10th and will be at Cornishtown, just outside the Chiltern box-ironbark forest park. Contact the Congress Convenor, Margaret Cameron (03) 5229 9792.

December 6 to 9, 1997. "The 3rd International Megapode Symposium" - for science and Conservation. You are invited to share the excitement and adventure of Megapode research - in the heart of Victoria's Little Desert National Park. In this third conference, we are keen to emphasise the personal experiences and adventures of those involved in studying this unique family of birds. Experts from the USA, Europe, Indonesia, Oceania and Australia have been invited. Speakers include academics and professional ornithologists as well as field ecologists, wildlife managers and naturalists. This 4 day event includes presentations, field trips, entertainment and free time to enjoy the mallee environment. Accommodation is in Whimpey's Little Desert Lodge, Nhill. To register contact Dr. Darryl Jones, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Griffith University, Nathan Qld 4111, Australia, Phone 61 7 3875 7451, Fax 61 7 3875 7459, E-mail: D. Jones@ens.gu.edu.au

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. Contact the Australian Museum, Invertebrate Biodiversity Conference, 6 College St, Sydney NSW 2000, Fax (02) 9320 600, E-mail: invert@ams.g.Austmus.oz.au

## Excursions and Field Trips

May, Thu 8. Explore Westerfolds Park at Night - beginning at dusk. Learn about the native inhabitants of the park as experienced guides take you on an exciting adventure of discovery and introduce you to the wildlife. We cater for all ages and interest groups. Nightwalks held every second Thursday evening. Cost \$5 per person, \$16 per family of four. Bookings essential. Contact Envirotechniques on (03) 9439 9599.

June, Fri 6 - Mon 9, 1997. "A Royal Commission into Rotamah Affairs" - Rotamah Island Bird Observatory. If you are ready for a weekend of action and adventure in the deep dark jungles of Rotamah Island, this is for YOU! From spotlight walks in the dead of the night, to quizzes to tax the best of mind, to slide shows, this long weekend will certainly uncover some of the dark secrets of Rotamah Island. Cost \$205, Child \$115 - includes room and meals from dinner on Friday to lunch on Monday. Contact Rotamah Island Bird Observatory (03) 5156 6398.

July, Fri 4 - Sun 6, 1997. "A History Tour of the Gippsland Lakes" - with Coral Dow, Rotamah Island Bird Observatory. Humans left traces of their presence around Gippsland Lakes long before the

lakes were formed, and we continue to leave traces for future historians to see. Coral Dow is completing a thesis on Gippsland history. Includes boat tour of Lakes. Fee \$150, Child \$60 - includes room and meals from dinner on Friday to lunch on Sunday. Contact Rotamah Island Bird Observatory (03) 5156 6398.

July, Fri 18 - Sun 20, 1997 "Capturing birds with pencil and paint" - Rotamah Island Bird Observatory. A chance for budding artists to capture the essence of birds under the guidance of Nicholas Day, best known for his paintings of birds in "The Field Guide to Birds of Australia". Fee \$145, Child \$60 - includes room and meals. Contact Rotamah Island Bird Observatory (03) 5156 6398.

## Restoration Activities

April, Sun 27. FO Warrandyte State Park Koala Count, 1 to 4pm. Lots of sharp eyes needed for our annual Koala count. Bring the kids and a pair of binoculars. Followed by afternoon tea, bring a plate to share. Meet at depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways Map 23 C10). Leader Brenda Hunter. Contact Mike Coupar (03)9903 9567 or Ron Taylor (03)9844 4285.

May, Thu 1. FO Warrandyte State Park Morning Activity - 10am. Stocking removal and seed collection. Meet at the end of Tunnel St, Warrandyte (Melways 35 F1). Leader: Cathy Willis. Contact Mike Coupar (03)9903 9567.

May, Sat 3, 9.00am - 12 noon. Planting at West Head Lookout, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, New South Wales. On the south side of Broken Bay, 24 km north of Sydney's City centre, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park holds 15,000 ha of sandstone bushland, rich in Aboriginal sites and native flora and fauna. Spend a morning planting Kangaroo grass at the lookout where "On a clear day - you can see forever". Followed by a sausage sizzle. Contact Rob or Mark (02) 9451 3479 by 30th April.

May Sun 11, 10am - 1pm. Greenlink Oakleigh Nursery activities - pricking out. Also on 18th of May. Working bees every Sunday (except on long weekends) at the nursery, located at the southern end of the grounds of the Senior Campus of South Oakleigh Secondary College, Bakers Rd, South Oakleigh (enter via the carpark nearest Centre Road). Contact Doug Evans (03) 9568 4090 AH or (03) 9556 4433 BH.

May, 12 - 16. Airey's Inlet Coastal Project. Join the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers in revegetating areas where foot traffic has caused erosion. Planting is to act as a barrier to people leaving the path as well as preventing further erosion. Contact ATCV on (03) 9681 9155.

May, Thu 15. Warrandyte State Park Morning Activity - 10am. Park Planting Day. Our hardening off areas are bursting at the seams with plants. Hopefully, we will have had enough rain to plant some of them. Meet at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways 23 C10). Contact Mike Coupar (03)9903 9567.

May, 17. FO Werribee Gorge & Long Forest Mallee Project Day - at Werribee Gorge. Meet at 9.30 am at the bottom picnic ground (entry from Pentland Hills

Road via Western Fwy). Another day of odd jobs. BYO lunch, hammer, secateurs, wire cutters, pliers, gloves, hat, pencil, and bags for seed collecting. Contact Janet Leversha (053) 674 229 or Daryl Akers (03) 9743 2495.

May, 19 - 23. San Remo - Coastal Project at Phillip Island. The project involves work on the George Bass Trail, an isolated walking track between San Remo and Kilcunda. The track is a community project where volunteers have been establishing a permanent walking trail and revegetation works. Contact ATCV on (03) 9681 9155.

May, 19 - 23. Jan Juc - Coastal Project. Work on this project will involve the removal of weeds from the coastal headland cliffs, brush matting, tree planting and mulching. Contact ATCV on (03) 9681 9155.

May, Sun 25. "Common Boundaries" - FO Warrandyte State Park, 12.30 to 4pm. Help the rangers construct two fences on The Common to protect some special orchids from rabbits and kangaroos and to prevent access and damage by vehicles and horses. Afternoon tea: bring a plate to share, Tea etc. and hot water supplied. Leader: David Van Bockel. Contact Mike Coupar (03)9903 9567.

Every Saturday morning, Carrum Residents Action Group Indigenous Community Nursery Activities. Plant propagation, planting and general maintenance between 10 am - 12 pm. Plant sales between 1pm to 3 pm. The nursery is situated on Breeze Street, Bonbeach (behind TAFE College, next to oval) enter second driveway, Melways 97 D5. Contact Adele Richardson (03) 9772 9708.

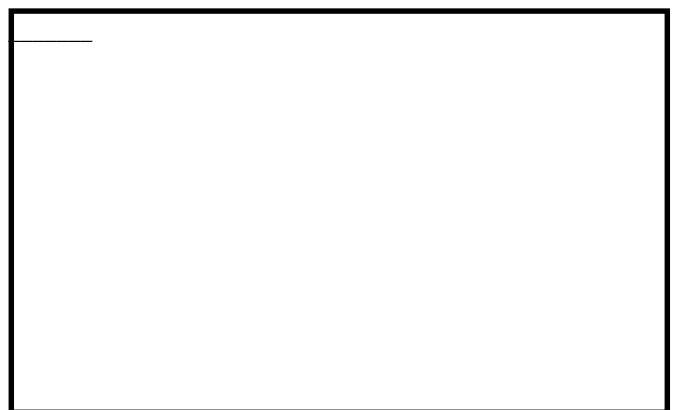
Every Friday & the fourth Sunday of the month, Nunawading Indigenous Plant Project. We are involved in propagating local plants for bushland parks, schools and community groups. All welcome. Contact Liz (03) 9890 4542, Tina (03) 9878 0948 or Margaret (03) 9878 5998.

For a range of fun family activities in Melbourne's parklands contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.

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. Enjoy your new "Restoration Activities" Insert. Here's to some good rainfall for Autumn planting activities...

**Elissa Kerassitis (03) 9486 6768.**



# Other Events:

## **Anti Ring Road Organisation (ARRO) Public Meeting "No Ring Road through the Green Wedge"**

**Wednesday April 30th, 8:00 pm  
The Great Hall Montsalvat, Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham**

Speakers include:

Jason Torrance Anti-Freeway campaigner from Britain and Nick Low, Senior Lecturer in Planning at Melbourne University.

Also live music and visual displays.

**Further Info:**

**Fia Clendinnen (03) 9844 3454 and**

**Mark Gardner (03) 9844 3799**

**ARRO, P. O. Box 126, Warrandyte 3113**

## **RAOU Presents: Bird Conservation in Action - RAOU Member's Day**

**Saturday 24 May 1997**

**Charles Sturt University, Albury, NSW**

**"An informed bird conservationist is an effective bird conservationist."**

The RAOU (Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union) is the senior bird conservation and research organisation in Australasia. The RAOU Members Day is an opportunity for you to be briefed on progress on the key bird conservation projects. Ornithologists, other RAOU staff and volunteer project officers will present the latest findings on their areas of responsibility. The principal projects will be presented in detail and there will be ample time for questions. Projects to be presented include:

Birds on Farms;

Birds of Prey Watch;

ABC Project;

Nest Record Scheme;

Threatened Bird Network,

Grey-crowned Babbler;

Orange-bellied Parrot Surveys;

Regent Honeyeater;

Christmas Island Hawk-Owl;

Murray-Darling Waterbird Count;

Monitoring Wader Populations;

WA Hooded Plover.

Registration fee: \$30 RAOU members, \$25 Students, \$35 non-members - includes morning & afternoon teas and light lunch.

Dinner not included - \$20 per person at Cafe Cultura, Seats

limited so book early. Please send payment by last mail Friday 16th May. For registration forms or further information contact: Convenor - Members Day, Ms Judith Hoyle, 541 North Street, Albury, NSW 2640 or RAOU Melbourne Office on 9882 2622.

Participants are also invited to join local RAOU members for an informal morning of birding in the Albury district at 9.00 am on Sunday 25th May (at no extra charge).

## **Environment and Natural Resources Committee Inquiry into Pest Plants in Victoria: Public Hearings**

Public Hearings for the Inquiry into Pest Plants in Victoria have now been held in Geelong, Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Bendigo, Benalla and Mildura. Hearings to be held in and Horsham (see below) will complete the Public Hearing program for country Victoria.

### **Horsham**

Tuesday, 6 May 1997

Horsham Education Building, Civic Centre Theatre

Cnr Urquhart & McLachlan Streets, Commences: 10.30 am

A further three Public Hearings will be held in Melbourne during May.

### **Melbourne**

Thursday, 8 May 1997

Legislative Council Committee Room, Parliament House, Spring St.

Monday, 19 May 1997

Meeting Room 2, Level 8, 35 Spring St.

Monday, 26 May 1997

Legislative Assembly K Room, Parliament House, Spring St.

If you or your organisation wish to present verbal evidence to the Committee at a Public Hearing, please contact the Committee's Executive Officer, Ms Sarah Walters on (903) 9651 3530. Members of the public with an interest in this Inquiry are welcome to attend the Hearings.

# **Regular Bush Restoration Activities in Melbourne:**

## **1st Saturday of the month:**

Carrum Residents Action Group - Every Sat, all year, 1-3pm: propagation, general maintenance & sales.  
Oct - April, 10am-12pm: plant propagation. April - Oct, 10am - 12pm: planting. Indigenous Community Nursery, Breeze St, Bonbeach (behind TAFE, next to oval, enter 2nd driveway) Melways 97 D5. Adele Richardson (03) 9772 9708.

FO Bay Road Sanctuary, Sandringham. Every third month on Saturdays - 1/2, 3/5, 2/8, 1/11. 2pm-4pm. Adele Richardson (03) 9585 4755

FO Braeside Park Inc. 10am-12pm. Plant Propagation Group - seeds, cuttings, division, potting on etc. Braeside Park Friends Nursery, Mel 88 D10. Ron Pearson (03) 9584 7443

FO Hampton Foreshore. 9am-12pm. South of Ferdinando Gardens. Joe Farrugia (03) 9598 9521

FO Loughies Bushland. 9.30 am. Meet cnr Kubis & Werac Drv, Nth Ringwood. Carole Clarke (03) 9870 8126.

Greenlink Box Hill. 10am. 41 Wimmera St, Box Hill North. Contact Minette Russell-Young (03) 9898 1364.

Yarra Valley Tree Group. Sat 9am-12pm, or Sun 10am-1pm. Mornings once or twice a month during planting season (April - November). Various sites along Yarra River btw Healesville & Yarra Glen. Stephen Fletcher (03) 9730 1517

## **1st Sunday of the month:**

Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Ass. (BRASCA). 9.30am-11.30am Every Sunday. Foreshore btw Royal Ave and Sims St. Janet Ablitt (03) 95896646

Breamlea Association. Coastal Working Bee. David Hooker (03) 5264 1085.

Candlebark Community Nursery. 10am-4pm Every Sunday. Seed cleaning, data entry, landscaping, nursery activities, limited plant sales. Debbie McGrath 0419 362 254

FO Brushy Creek Wetlands. 9am-lunchtime. Village School, 9-13 Holloway Rd, Croydon Nth, Mel 37 B6. Kay Vine (03) 9727 2771

FO Cheltenham Park. 10am-12 pm. Park Rd, Cheltenham. Andrew Mason (03) 9584 5301

FO Donald MacDonald Reserve. 10am-12pm. Haydens Rd, Beaumaris. Alison Johnston (03) 9589 5459

FO Evans Street Grasslands. 10am-1pm. Working bee usually 1st Sun. Exceptions are Sep 14th, Oct 12th (12-2pm), Nov 16th (12-2pm). No working bee in July. Veronica Burgess (03) 9744 4669

FO Gramattan Ave Reserve, Beaumaris. 2-4pm Every third month on Sundays - 2/2, 4/5, 3/8, 2/11. Fran Goninan (03) 9585 4755

Greenlink Oakleigh Inc. 11am-2pm every Sun (except long weekends) at the nursery, southern end of South Oakleigh Secondary College, Bakers Rd, Mel 78 F2. Activities: seed collecting, weeding, planting, wetlands/heathland projects, guest speakers, tours, education. Doug Evans (03)9568 4090 AH, (03) 9556 4433 BH

Heathmont Bushlinks. 10am-1pm. We work on five different bushland sites in rotation. Roger Lord (03) 9870 5262.

Riverlands Conservation Society. 10am. Activities between May & November. Yarra Flats, The Boulevard, Heidelberg, Mel 32 C6. Contact Yarra Valley Parklands (03) 9846 4499.

## **2nd Saturday of the month:**

FO Brighton Dune. 10am-12pm. Also every Tuesday morning 8am-10am. Foreshore, North of Greens Point Gardens. Elizabeth McQuire (03) 9589 6474

FO Bungalook Conservation Reserve. Meet Tereddin Drv entrance to Res., Kilsyth Sth. Graeme Lorimer (03)9728 5841

FO French Island. Activities on French Island: weeding, bird count, monitoring wetlands and other sites. Francis Garner (03)9783 4213, Geoff Lacey (03)9578 2873

Hughes Creek Group. 1.30-5pm. Varied activities: track maintenance, weeding, planting, mulching, transplanting. Hughes Creek Reserve, Melways 66 D10. Jenny Francis (03)9755 1398

## **2nd Sunday of the month:**

Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Ass. (BRASCA). 9am-12pm. Foreshore btw Red Bluff St and Potter St. Chris Kettle (03)9589 6584

FO George Street, Sandringham. 10am-12pm. 2nd Sun of every 2nd month - starting 9/3. Pauline Reynolds (03) 9598 8062

FO Plenty River. 10am-12pm. Various sites. Alice & Kevin Ley (03) 9435 3840

FO the Point (Nepean). 2pm. Information Centre carpark. Stuart Sherren (059)841 953

FO the Yarra. 10am-3pm. Also Wednesdays. Galatea Point, Mel. 2D D7. Judy Rutherford (03) 9347 2252

FO Yandell Reserve. 10am. Meet in Community Drv, off St Helena Rd, Mel 21 B1. Graeme Paterson (03) 9432 0163

Greenlink Camberwell. 3pm. Propagation activities at nursery, Mel 60 E7. Diana Burgess (03) 9809 2092

Jan Juc Coast Action. Coastline from Rocky Point to "The Wave" near Bells Beach. Ian Edwards (052)614 861

URAGE. 1-3 pm. Upwey Regional Action Group for the Environment. Caring for Ferny Creek, Upwey to Upper Fern Tree Gully. Meet cnr Morris Rd & Deans Rd, Mel 74 K12. Brad Curtis (03) 9754 5640.

### **3rd Saturday of the month:**

FO Bradshaw Park. 10am (9am in Nov & Dec). Mel 87 E10. Dave Bainbridge (03) 9580 5992

FO Custer Grove Reserve. 2-5pm. Custer Grove, Bayswater Nth. David & Alison (03) 9729 2475

### **3rd Sunday of the month:**

Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Working Bee. 1-3pm. MacKay St, Springvale South, Mel 88 K3 - during Spring, Summer & Autumn. Jeff Smith (03) 9547 9549

FO Pigeon Bank Creek. 2pm. Pigeon Bank Creek Reserve, Mel 23 J6. Linda Bromilow (03) 9844 4707

FO Tindals Wildflower Reserve. 11am. Mel 34 K3. Also activities in Long Leaf Box Hill Reserve. Kim Docwra (03) 9844 3368

FO Wilson Reserve. 10am. Meet Irvine carpark, Mel 31 G10. Robert Bender (03) 9499 2413

Meander. 10am. Menzies Creek & Emerald Tourist track, Mel 125 F12. Kate Forster (03) 5968 5828

Men of the Trees. 10am. Planting at Yarra Bend Park, Mel 2D D6. Minette Russell-Young (03) 9898 1364

Surfers Appreciating the Natural Environment. Surf Coast Shire, Bells Beach Surfing Reserve, Torquay. Kevin O'Shanassy (03) 5261 3907

Warringal Conservation Society. 10am. Various sites around Banyule Flats, Heidelberg. Karen (03) 9458 4152

### **4th Saturday of the month:**

FO Sherbrooke Forest. 2pm (1pm in Winter). Vivien Freshwater (03) 9754 3093

### **4th Sunday of the month:**

FO Collins Settlement Historic Site, Sorrento. 2pm. Meet in carpark. Stuart Sherren (03) 5984 1953

FO Mud Island. Mud Islands State Wildlife Reserve, Port Phillip Bay, Mel 511 J8. Steve Smithyman (03) 5226 4667, (03) 5223 1854

FO St Helena Bushland Reserve. 10.30am. Meet Eskdale Crt, Mel 11 G11. Lawrie Rigg (03) 9434 6685

Nunawading Indigenous Plant Project (NIPP). 10am-

1pm. Propagation of local plants. (See also under Weekday activities - Fri). Liz (03) 9890 4542, Tina (03) 9878 0948, Margaret (03) 9878 5998

Torquay Coast Action. Spring Creek to Thompsons Creek. Glenda Shomaly (03) 5261 6266

### **Last Saturday of the month:**

FO Hampton Foreshore. 9am-12pm. North of Ferdinando Gardens. Ian Houston (03) 9598 7221

FO Koolunga Bushland Reserve. 10am-12pm. Gordon Carter (03) 9762 2117

FO Organ Pipes National Park. 10am. Mel 3 D4. Carl Rayner (03) 9331 2810

### **Last Sunday of the month:**

FO Balcombe Park. 10am-12pm. Balcombe Rd, Beaumaris. Joan Couzoff (03) 9589 1060

FO Beaumaris Heathland. 2-4pm. Beaumaris Secondary College, Reserve Rd. Ken Rendall (03) 9589 4452

FO the Helmeted Honeyeater. 11am. Nursery activities - Healesville Sanctuary. Jeff Dickinson (03) 9568 2768.

FO Pecks Dam, Montmorency. 10am. Meet at end of Pedersen Way, Mel 21 G7. Trina (03) 9439 9642

Friends of Royal Park West, Melbourne. 10am. Mel 29 C12. Mick Arundell (03) 9380 8075

FO Warrandyte State Park family activities in and out of the State park. Mike Coupar (03) 9844 1650, (03)99039567

FO Watkins Bay, Beaumaris. 10am-12pm. Moira Longden (03) 9589 2725

## **Weekday activities:**

### **Monday**

FO Braeside Park Inc. 10am-12pm. 1st Monday of the month. Plant Propagation Group - seeds, cuttings, division, potting on etc. Braeside Park Friends Nursery, Mel 88 D10. Ron Pearson (03) 9584 7443

Greenlink Box Hill. 10am. 41 Wimmera St, Box Hill North. Every Monday and Tuesday morning. Contact Minette Russell-Young (03) 9898 1364.

Sorrento-Blaigowrie-Portsea Conservation Group. 9.30am. Diamond Bay, Sorrento. David Feason (03) 59841906

### **Tuesday**

FO the Bluff. Barwon Heads "Bluff", at the mouth of the River Estuary, Barwon Heads Park. Mel 233 G12. Beverley Wood (03) 5254 3218

FO the Koalas Inc. Every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Koala counts are held at the Koala Conservation Centre, Phillip Island. Contact (03) 5952 2407.

Hawthorn Historical Society Inc. 10am-12pm. 1st Tues of the month. Wurundjeri Garden, Glan Avon Rd, Hawthorn, Mel 45 A11. Weeding & planting. Dorothy Sutherland (03) 9818 4706

### **Wednesday**

Candlebark Community Nursery. 10am-3pm Every Wednesday. Debbie McGrath 0419 362 254

FO Braeside Park Inc. 10am-12pm. 3rd Wed and/or 3rd Sun of the month. Plant Propagation Group - seeds, cuttings, division, potting on etc. Braeside Park Friends Nursery, Mel 88 D10. Ron Pearson (03) 9584 7443

FO Fred Rogers Reserve. 12-2 pm. Heathmont Rd, Heathmont. Gwen Elliot (03) 9879 1427

FO the Koorngong. 10am. 1st Wed of the month. Koorngong Cres, Mel 23 J7. Cathy Willis (03) 9844 1841

FO Sherbrooke Forest. 9.30 am, Second Wednesday of the Month. Vivien Freshwater (03)9754 3093.

### **Thursday**

FO Warrandyte State Park nursery activities. 10am every Thursday. Park Depot, Pound Bend Rd, Mel 23 C10. Afternoon activities: planting, weeding, walks, excursions, flora fauna observations, park skills and more. Mike Coupar (03)9844 1650, (03) 9903 9567

### **Friday**

CRISP Community Nursery. 9.30am-12.30pm. Every Friday. Greenwood Ave, Ringwood, near Jubilee Park. Dale Morgan (03)9870 1067, Eva Buchanan (03) 9870 5201

Nunawading Indigenous Plant Project (NIPP). 9.30am-12.30 pm every Friday. Propagation activities. (See 4th Sunday of the Month). Liz (03)9890 4542, Tina (03) 9878 0948, Margaret (03)9878 5998

# **Birds of Prey Watch**

The diurnal birds of prey are top predators which, together with their relatively high visibility and their known sensitivity to environmental conditions, make them ideal 'indicator species' for environmental damage.

Although introduced to Australia the rabbit is now an important component in the diets of 11 of Australia's 24 species of diurnal raptor. Thus the release of the rabbit calicivirus within Australia last year, and the subsequent massive decrease in rabbit numbers over large areas, has serious implications for a number of our raptor species. It is likely that the spread of this rabbit disease will result in declines in some raptor populations, with decreased breeding success and some degree of 'prey-switching'.

Fortunately, the Royal Australasian Ornithologists

Union (RAOU) and the Australian Raptor Association (ARA) conducted a nation-wide survey of the abundance and distribution of Australia's birds of prey - the "BOP Watch" project - between 1986 and 1990; before the release of rabbit calicivirus. BOP Watch involved bird enthusiasts acting as volunteer observers by identifying and counting raptors while driving along rural roads at normal speeds. This information, together with the route travelled, time taken and other variables was recorded on a simple, standard data sheet. The project collected 26,516 datasheets from 271 volunteer observers, and now provides a valuable source of information on the status of our birds of prey shortly before the release of rabbit calicivirus.

The Federal Government has made funds available through Environment Australia to enable the RAOU and ARA to conduct a second, four-year BOP Watch in order to collect comparable data following the release of rabbit calicivirus. This project will use the same techniques as the first BOP Watch, and will run from July 1996 to June 2000. The information collected during this second BOP Watch Project will be of great importance as it will allow the accurate assessment of the impact of the virus on our native birds of prey.

BOP watch needs the assistance of competent birders from throughout Australia to carry out the necessary roadside counts of our birds of prey. The methods used are not difficult or time consuming and people of all ages and abilities can become involved, providing they are able to correctly identify in their area. BOP Watch provides an opportunity to become involved in a worthwhile, community-based research project while usefully occupying your time during long drives.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer observer, or wish to learn more about the BOP Watch Project, please contact the project coordinator:

William Steele, RAOU, 415 Riversdale Rd., East Hawthorn, VIC 3123

Ph. (03) 9882 2622 or Fax (03) 9882 2677

Email: [research.projects@raou.com.au](mailto:research.projects@raou.com.au)

**Source: Conservation Gazette March 1997 and Wingspan, Newsletter of the RAOU, March 1997**

# Snippets:

## Catchment Management for a Marine Reserve

**By Russell Irving, Coast Action - Geelong**

An innovative project focussing on Swan Bay, a marine reserve near Queensland at the southern end of Port Phillip Bay has recently been funded through the Coastcare - Coast Action Community Grants Program. The project, involving representatives from the local Landcare group, Victorian Farmers Federation, numerous local conservation groups, municipal governments, schools and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, is aiming for integrated catchment management (ICM) of the streams draining into the Bay.

ICM is perhaps best summed up as all levels of government, industry and the community working cooperatively toward the conservation and sustainable use of our natural environment on a catchment basis. A part-time facilitator will be employed through the project. The primary focus of the facilitator will be to raise public awareness of catchment issues and assist community groups to prepare and implement action plans to address these.

The Swan Bay catchment was chosen as a pilot for ICM as it is relatively small (170 sq km), it has a range of urban and rural issues, there is broad community interest in the future health of the marine reserve, and because of the opportunity to establish links between the Landcare, Coastcare and Fishcare programs.

Over 90% of the catchment has been cleared of native vegetation for a range of intensive agricultural uses and increasing urban settlement. Major issues that need to be addressed include erosion and salinity control, protection of remnant vegetation, pest plants and animals, stormwater quality, urban planning and subdivision controls. This will hopefully improve the condition of the Bay by reducing siltation, nutrient runoff, excessive algal growth and loss of seagrass.

The Swan Bay Marine Reserve is one of the most significant marine ecosystems in Port Phillip Bay and is listed on the National Estate for its significant ecological, recreational and aesthetic values. It is an important area for juvenile fish and migratory waders.

The project shows the advantage of networking across a broad range of groups and how marine reserves can also stimulate better catchment management.

**Source: Southern Regional Ripples, Vol 3, No 4, January**

1997 - newsletter of the Marine and Coastal Community Network

## Carpastrophy

Birdlife and the world we share with them has been a lasting interest for me. To read about the efforts of various organisations to help the cockies, babblers, finches, miners and honeyeaters in their struggle to survive is great, but what about the waterbirds?

I live on a property overlooking Lake Kangaroo in northern Victoria, where I have an enormous amount of pleasure with the abundant wildlife the lake supports. The clear water, a range of aquatic vegetation, a diverse invertebrate population. What more could the birdlife want?

That was the period 'B.C.': 'Before Carp'. With the explosion of carp through the rivers and freshwater wetlands in the early 1770s, a massive change occurred. The eruption of carp in their search for food uprooted the vegetation and muddied the water, the birds left and the food chain was wrecked. No longer do we have the pleasure of swans, grebes, ducks, crakes and bitterns breeding, or the pleasure of the variety of noises, or the thousands of wintering birds. The only waterbirds we are now likely to see now are the pelicans, cormorants and the odd swamphen.

Experiences of others across the Murray-Darling Basin are similar to mine. I expect that other areas such as the Gippsland Lakes where carp are established would be to some degree degraded as well.

With wetlands no longer suitable for breeding of many species, what does that mean for populations? Are they in serious decline? For example, is the Blue-billed Duck population declining to the point where species would be considered rare? 'B.C.' this species wintered in hundreds, and a few remained to breed. Since the mid 1970s when the carp arrived, Blue-bills ceased to come to this lake, or other nearby fresh water lakes. I think carp are responsible for population declines. I believe that carp have probably caused at least, local extinctions of some forms of life.

It staggers me that carp have ravaged the wetlands for over 20 years, and the problem has generally been ignored until recently. Things are now changing as an item in the Carp Task Force newsletter indicates.

Can we contribute in the fight against carp and restore the wetlands to their former glory?

**Tom Lowe**

The Carp Task Force can be contacted through: The Convenor, National Carp Task Force, PO Box 89, Rundle Mall, Adelaide, SA 5000. Phone (08)

8226 5995.

Source: "Babbler" Number 42, March 1997 (Newsletter of the RAOU VicGroup)

## Healthy waterways healthy platypus

In the last edition of Mainstream, we told readers the results of a Melbourne Water and Australian Platypus Conservancy study which found urban platypus living in the Yarra, Maribynong and Plenty Rivers and six creeks. Not wanting to be left out, well-read but normally elusive platypus from other secret locations have come out of hiding to bask in the limelight. Researchers are excited by recent discoveries of platypus families in new locations. Being at the top of the food chain, their presence indicates there is sufficient food and a healthy aquatic environment in many of Melbourne's waterways.

The soon to be launched \$7 million Healthy Waterways Program is designed to improve Melbourne's rivers and creeks for the benefit of platypus and plant life.

### Diamond Creek

Three platypus were netted, fitted with a tracking device and released in Diamond Creek during February. An adult male, adult female and very young female were caught between Antoinette Boulevard and Wattletree Road bridge.

### Knox

A new population of platypus has just been discovered in Monbulk Creek, Knox. Found during the Urban Platypus project, the population will be monitored to help assess future sites for rehabilitation works in the waterways aimed at meeting their specific needs.

### Mullum Mullum

**Melbourne Water has begun work on a \$255,000 rehabilitation project to improve valuable habitat for a known platypus population in the area. The stability of creek beds will be improved through works which will control bank and bed erosion. Weirs and ponds will be implemented by rock beaching.**

Source: Mainstream, Newsletter of Melbourne Water Corporation, Vol. 7 Autumn 1997

## Recovery of Prince William Sound.

Scientific American revisits the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Local villagers were and are interested in clean-up, not biological recovery, of the shore line; and few oiled areas escaped treatment. While it is proving hard to define 'recovery', outsiders now

claim that the untreated areas have fared the best.

In addition to US\$2.5B already spent by Exxon on clean-up, claims and reimbursements, it is appealing a \$5B punitive settlement. Exxon has also committed \$900M to Trustees (a panel of state and federal agencies) for 'restoration' - plus another \$100M if other impacts come to light by 2006.

Has the shoreline recovered? Exxon, villagers and Trustee all seem satisfied. However, an independent study by NOAA suggests that hot-water cleaning sterilized the beaches; and whatever survived the oiling did not survive the cure.

The untreated areas had residual populations of a variety of organisms, and those of a variety of ages; not all were killed in the spill. However, the cleaned areas were often intensively colonised by a single-age cohort of a single species. When these colonists aged and died as one, a repeated mass colonisation followed. Therefore, populations fluctuate widely in terms of both individuals and dominate species in the cleaned areas. Is this recovery? "Scientists waste a lot of time saying 'Do nothing'", it was noted at the time. But NOAA thinks that further study could give us hard-to-get guidance on techniques for use in future clean-ups.

However, the Trustees have decided that \$10M would be too much to spend on another 3 years monitoring. Science has lost. Green political pressure in the NW is now on buying up old-growth forests to save them from future logging. Already \$200M has gone, and another \$180M is in the pipeline, for this quite unrelated cause.

Source: RoySocVic Notes on the News, 1997/2

## Amcor to clear Strezlecki forests

State planning minister Rob MacLellan ignored the advice of an independent panel in order to give the thumbs up to the clearing of nearly 2000 ha of native bush in South Gippsland's Strezlecki Ranges.

The independent panel, set up to examine Amcor's proposed clearing of native forests in order to establish plantations, expressly rejected the plan. However in a move that did not surprise dedicated Amcor-watchers, the State Government even ignored expert advice that 2,000 koalas were likely to be killed.

Amcor were given the go-ahead to start clearing the largest area of native forest since legislation designed to protect this kind of bush was introduced in the late '80's. No environmental effects statement will be required.

Community groups in South gippsland have been campaigning against the proposal for more than a year. This campaign will now focus on gathering community support to fight against the clearance plans. Many locals are outraged that Amcor have been given the go-ahead to clear these areas, despite the fact that Amcor already own 85,000 hectares of land in the area. If plantations have to go ahead, they need to be planted on already cleared farmland.

**Source: Friends of the Earth Fitzroy Newsletter March 1997**

## Thoughts on Tuans

**By Ant Owen**

Recently two dead Brush-tailed Phascogales, also known as Tuans, were brought home to a Wattleblossum Rd. [the edge of the Warrandyte State Park in Warrandyte] address by a cat. The habitat of these infrequently seen marsupials is generally dry open forest ridges, and there are a couple of known populations in the Warrandyte area.

A cat might go a couple of kilometres per foray and may even pick up carrion. A territorial Tuan might move through uncharacteristic corridors like the vegetated banks of the Yarra in search of new territory, but there is also suitable habitat close to the cat's house, which to me suggests two things: the high conservation value of the bush blocks right in the middle of town

it's time again to work on reducing the harm cats cause.

**Source: Friends of Warrandyte State Park Newsletter, April 1997**

## Self-censorship for science

Prof. Ian Lowe's article in Nature Australia tells of a recent forum in Sydney on raising public awareness of scientific issues. Ecologist Paul Ehrlich claimed that research on environmental problems was systematically suppressed by government agencies. The forum organisers, after discussion with a junior officer of the Commonwealth Environment Department, decided not to release Ehrlich's paper to the media!

The real worry is that the present research climate has caused collective self-censorship by scientists in government agencies. They must bite their tongue or produce results that fit the departmental ideology.

**Source: RoySocVic Notes on the News, 1997/1**

## Green Corp Project Proposals Requested

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The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), which is administering the first 18 months of the Green Corps Program, has developed a Project Proposal Form to be filled in by participating organisations who have a project they would like to see picked up under the Green Corp Program.

To assist applicants with filling in the Project Proposal Form, ATCV have developed a general guide on Green Corps, Guidelines for Project Development and Criteria for Project Development. To obtain these documents and propose a project contact the ATCV on (03) 5333 2242 or (03) 5333 1483.

Applications for Project Proposals should be posted to Green Corps, GPO Box 9892 in your capital city or by Fax (03) 5333 2166.



# Books and Resources:

## Flora of Victoria, Vol. 3

### Dicotyledons, Winteraceae to Myrtaceae

The first volume (of two) of Jim Willis's 'A Handbook to Plants in Victoria' was published 35 years ago. Since then an enormous amount of taxonomic and botanical research has taken place, reflected in the four large volumes of the contemporary 'Flora'. Of course the whole set (when the fourth arrives) ought to be in every regional, university and TAFE library; but if you, an ordinary non-professional would-be botanist, cannot afford more than one volume, this is probably the one to get because it includes the wattles, heaths, eucalypts and all the members of the myrtle family which are common in gardens and bush.

The book is a pleasure to handle (though heavy), beautifully illustrated and provided with invaluable distribution maps. Anita Barley's coloured plates are a delight, but I could find no index to them (a complaint with an earlier volume) and they are sometimes a good way from the plant painted.

Cronquist's classification is followed, and happily Pedley's suggestion to divide the acacias into three genera (which would have meant that our 104 Victorian wattlees would have become *Racosperma*) has not yet been generally accepted. Similarly the eucalypts (93) have been left alone.

There are always surprises; ours has been to find that what we (with Willis) have confidently called itals: *Hakea sericea* itals ought to be *H. decurrens physocarpa* (in the Wombat Forest it occurs at a higher level than 300m.)

This is an enormous undertaking of which its compilers ought to be proud.

### T. R. Garnett

**Source: Saturday Extra, The Age, April 12th, 1997**

Please Note: Volume 3 of the new flora is available at the Greens Bookshop on Flinders Lane in Melbourne for \$230 minus a 10% discount for IFFA members; close to the cheapest price in town.

## Flora of Warrandyte

In the last month another 50 species have been added to the 'Flora of Warrandyte', the photographic album of Warrandyte's indigenous flora. This brings the total number of species completed to 327 - only another 145 to go!

Of particular interest among the latest batch are the Annual Fern (*Anogramma leptophylla*) rediscovered in Warrandyte only last year; Moss Sunray (*Hyalosperma demissum*) and Grass Cushion (*Isoetopsis graminifolia*), both exquisite tiny annuals discovered in the Park last Spring, plus several

more orchids.

If you would like to have a look at the albums which are available for short term loan (eg. over a weekend) either contact Pat Coupar at (03) 9844 1650 or Ranger David Van Bockel at the Park at (03) 0844 2659.

**Source: Friends of Warrandyte State Park Newsletter, March 1997**

## The Snowy River Explorer

Australia's Snowy River is an important part of our natural heritage. This fascinating area can now be explored through a new CD-ROM. The CD takes the user on a journey along the Snowy River from its source to its mouth with detours to places of interest along the way. It is packed with detailed information, colour slides, aerial photographs, 3 hours of expert narration as well as the complete searchable text of the book "Searching for the Snowy" by George Seddon.

Experience the Snowy at home for \$49.95.

Windows95 and 3.1 IBM compatible.

Order now: Ph./Fax (09) 386 5195

**Source: The Conservation Gazette, March 1997**

## The Complete Guide to Finding the Birds of Australia

### By Richard and Sarah Thomas

In three years Richard and Sarah saw all but three of the endemic Australian birds. Back in England they self-published this book to help the rest of us to do the same; it is practical, easy to use with lots of little 'mud maps', and is environment-aware. It details Australia by region, then deals with all the birds by species. They asked me, as a friend, to help with the Australian distribution.

Cost is \$35 plus \$3 postage - invoice sent with book.

Orders to Ian Fraser;

GPO Box 3268, Canberra 2601

Ph. (06) 2491560; Fax (06) 2473227

Email ianf@pcug.org.au

**Source: Wingspan, Newsletter of RAOU, Vol. 7:1 March 1997**

# IFFA activities:

## IFFA (Vic) Meeting

**Tuesday, 29 April 1997,  
7:30 PM**

**Astronomer's Residence, Birdwood  
Avenue, South Yarra**

### 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 (03) 5985 5561.

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**Contributions to Indigenotes should be sent to the editors — the deadline for the next issue will be May 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.*

## 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.*