

# INDIGENOTES

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# New Format Planning Schemes - VPP

## By Lyndall Rowley

Some of you may not be aware that your local planning scheme has been going through a few changes lately. In 1996-97 the Victorian State Government decided to introduce a new format for all planning schemes, called the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPPs), to achieve consistency and clarity, and to provide strategic planning and links to State Policy. Each new planning scheme was on public display for two months and was open to public submissions.

In many cases, the zoning of areas has been converted to the new format as a "best fit" (i.e.. relatively similar zones and purposes). There are a number of zones covering the various uses, but it is worth noting that these zones do not prohibit existing use.

Most of the schemes will be reviewed via a panel hearing within the next six months. The VPPs could possibly be further refined after the panel hearings if significant issues emerge.

Apart from the new and standardised zoning system, the VPPs also require a "Municipal Strategic Statement" (MSS). The MSS is the main focus for the local section of the planning scheme - it sets the local scene, highlights the main themes, and describes the vision and objectives for the municipality. The MSS sets the tone and direction for the local section of the planning scheme and provides the link with State Planning Policy.

## Overlays identify issues

Overlays are used to map certain areas in order to highlight particular issues, and they can be applied to land in any zone. There are a group of Environment and Landscape Overlays, Heritage and Built Form Overlays, Land Management Overlays and other Overlays (a mixed bag of purposes). Of particular interest from a flora and fauna point of view, are the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) and the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO). The VPO and ESO applied in Local Government areas relate to locally defined environmental objectives and/or the MSS, and are based on the environmental characteristics of the municipality.

## Environmental Significance Highlighted

The vegetation most commonly highlighted with a VPO is significant remnant vegetation along roadsides or in private land. (This vegetation may include woodland, forest, native grassland or Victorian Rare or Threatened Species [VROTS]). The overlay simply highlights the

area of vegetation for consideration in any proposed uses, development or works. For example, a VPO might be applied to a block of vegetation that is eventually proposed for subdivision. This does not prohibit the subdivision, but simply brings the environmental value into consideration for the purposes of strategic planning and permit considerations. In addition to, or regardless of, the overlay, the Native Vegetation Retention controls still apply statewide.

The ESO can highlight areas of significant fauna and fauna habitat (usually VROTS), or major watercourses. However, this overlay is intended to be interpreted widely and can also include issues such as noise effects or industrial buffer areas.

So, now you know about the new VPPs! Hopefully, if you need to apply for a planning permit from the Shire, or if you are involved in a planning issue, you'll be able to readily understand our new planning schemes.

**Source:** This is an edited version of an article in *The Native Companion*, the bulletin of environmental information and news for land managers and communities of Victoria's Northern Riverine Plain, No. 11, Jan-Feb 1998, (Summer).







# Snippets and Announcements: **Greenfleet**

The Australian Landscape is degrading rapidly. Vast former grasslands are now desert. We constantly hear stories of rising water tables, increased salinity, soil erosion and loss of species and habitat for native flora and fauna. There are large tracts of land available and the willingness to plant the trees, but the difficulty lies in securing the funds necessary to support large scale projects. Now there is a solution.

Motor cars are the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emission in the world. The average car in the Australian fleet emits 4.33 tonnes of carbon dioxide (a significant greenhouse house) per year. People have long identified driving their cars as the most environmentally damaging thing they do but, so far, have not had a mechanism to reduce that impact.

It is generally accepted that one long term solution to the greenhouse problem involves massive revegetation programs. The Foster Foundation ( a not-for-profit environmental education organisation) has hence developed the Greenfleet project. Greenfleet invites motorists to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$25 each year to enable at least seven trees to be planted on their behalf to absorb the carbon dioxide emissions of their vehicle.

Already, thousands of motorists and many corporations have signed up their vehicles to help Greenfleet and Landcare groups tackle greenhouse and landcare problems. Through the motorist's subscriptions, 65,000 trees have already been planted in the Bass Coast Shire. They were planted by Scouts Australia as part of a successful world record tree-planting attempt, with assistance and direction from local landcare groups and industry. Both professional planters and community groups will work together this year to plant 500,000 trees in the Ovens River catchment area in northern Victoria. Local nurseries have already propagated 250,000 trees for the Ovens River planting.

Greenfleet not only conducts environmental plantings but will also be involved with agroforestry and plantations. It is a unique project that will benefit not only the environment but also create employment and assist the farmers on whose land most of the trees will be planted.

For more information contact the Foster Foundation on 1900 140 197 (maximum call cost 75 cents per minute, mobile and pay phones extra).

Source: Victorian Landcare Magazine, No. 8 Winter 1998

# **Rid-a-Rabbit**

## **Woof! No more bunnies!**

A new Australian invention is designed to help farmers beat the rabbit problem in an easy, safe and cost-effective manner. Using only LP gas, the operator releases a charge of gas down the burrow and ignites it with an electronic probe. The ignition of the gas produces a rush of hot air or bleve through the burrow and burns up all the oxygen.

The rabbits in the burrows die within 45 seconds to two minutes. An autopsy performed by the University of Melbourne Veterinary Science Department following trials of the device showed cause of death to be primarily from hypoxia (that is, a sudden loss of oxygen.)

The small portable unit makes access to difficult sites, such as under fences, trees or rocky areas very easy. Using LP gas makes the system one of the quickest, safest and most-cost effective rabbit control mechanisms available.

In summary, Rid-a-Rabbit:  
kills rabbits quickly and humanely;  
has no effect on the operator;  
is environmentally friendly as it does not affect other birds of prey or other animals such as dogs;  
is safer to use than other fumigation methods;  
is portable, and  
cost-effective at about two cents a hole.

Some feedback from the users...

Peter Cook of Yanac saw the portability of the unit a big plus. "Eighty percent of my rabbits have been killed, and I will keep using the Rid-a-Rabbit until they are all gone."

Ian Lang of Barongarook, near Colac, is a rabbiting contractor who has used the unit for over 8 months. "One transect count of 134 rabbits was reduced to seven after two applications of the Rid-a-Rabbit unit."

For more information contact: John Hardiman, Rid-a-Rabbit Marketing, on (03) 9841 4507 or 018 533 432 or drop a line to P.O. Box 423, Bulleen, Victoria 3105.  
Source: Victorian Landcare Magazine, No. 8 Winter 1998

# Open Letter to All indigenous plant enthusiasts:

## **Flora of Melbourne: A guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area Revised Edition 1993 is now out of print.**

After four years the revised edition has run out. The Flora of Melbourne has retained its popularity and has sold consistently to the end. It is now time to prepare the Third Edition. Our publisher's, Hyland House, have asked us to prepare the Third Edition for publication in early 1999. We will provide the finished copy by September 1998.

The third edition will be a reprint of the Revised Edition with two addendums. The first will be a list of name changes since the last edition. This will be as up to date as is possible for a botanical book. The second addendum will be plant descriptions of all the new plants that have been found in the Melbourne area since 1992. Some of these plants will result from revisions such as the Dianellas where 2 new species have been added for Melbourne while other species have been found as groups have searched their patch of bush. Many species have been found in the grasslands such as *Diuris* sp. aff. *lanceolata*. I have discovered *Clematis glysinoides* at Karwarra Garden where I work!

If it is decided down the track to produce a fourth edition it will probably include a revision of the 'Localities' section to include new areas that plants have been located in.

To allow the future editions of Flora of Melbourne to be as up to date as possible we are once again asking for

assistance from those who know their areas best. While we already have a list of plants to research at the Herbarium we would be very grateful for any information on new plants that you or your group have located. To allow a steady update of the 'Localities' listing we would also appreciate amended lists of the different reserves and areas. It is too early at this stage to know if we are able to add new reserves to the listing although ideally I would like to see a few of the missing areas filled in so any information received will be stored away until the appropriate time.

All assistance will be acknowledged so please be certain your name with information supplied.

Deadline for receiving new information for the Third Edition is end June 1998. Like most of you the Book Committee has to fit this work in after works hours. Updated lists for a possible Fourth Edition are welcome over the next 3-4 years.

The Committee would be grateful if you could pass copies of this letter on to other people who you believe could be of assistance with this ongoing project.

Once again thank you for the support of the Flora of Melbourne. I look forward to receiving any new information that you have.

Yours Sincerely,  
Marilyn Gray  
Flora of Melbourne Coordinator  
I can be contacted by phone on (03) 9728 5891 AH.  
My temporary Email address is g-marilyn@hotmail.com.au  
Information and lists can also be sent to:  
Ms. Marilyn Gray, 48 Montrose Rd., Montrose 3765



# Books and Resources:

## **CD-Roms from Natural Learning Pty. Ltd.**

P.O. Box w124  
West Pennant Hills NSW 2125  
Phone (02) 9629 5448  
Fax: (02) 9629 5450  
Email: natlearn@ozemail.com.au  
Web: <http://www.natlearn.com.au>

### **Birds of Australia 4.1**

Based on the newly released 4th edition of "Simpson and Day's Field Guide to the Birds of Australia". The CD-ROM contains 780 bird pictures, over 570 birdsong recordings from the Bird Observers Club of Australia and a complete list of the bird families of the world. The CD is designed for schools, libraries and naturalists and ornithologists with an MPC standard PC.

### **Reptiles of Australia 3**

Reptiles of Australia Version 3 is based on the Cornstalk edition of "Australia's Reptiles" by Stephen K. Wilson and David Knowles. This exciting new CD-ROM contains over 800 photographs of Australia's terrestrial reptiles. Reptile species can be selected by Latin name, Common name, Genus or Family. Each species record includes the full text of Wilson and Knowles' book as well as notes on scientific status and a distribution map.

### **Coastal Fishes of S.E. Australia**

Based on the work of Rudie Kuitert the CD Coastal Fishes of S.E. Australia lists over 850 fish species and contains nearly 1800 photographs of species and their habitats plus over 30 minutes of MPEGI video footage. The most complete CD reference on Australian coastal fishes ever published.

### **Starfishes of Australasia**

Starfishes of Australasia lists over 150 starfish and other echinoderm species and contains nearly 100 photographs of species and their habitats plus over 30 minutes footage of MPEGI video footage. A fascinating CD reference on echinoderms

### **Bush Tucker Man 1.1: From the Rainforest to Cape York**

### **Bush Tucker Man 2: From Arnhem Land to the Kimberley Ranges**

Two CDs with Les Hiddens showing survival techniques and describing much of the bush food of the respective regions. The first one includes a comprehensive bush tucker database for North Queensland.

### **System Requirements**

Intel Pentium 100 or faster, 16 MB Ram or more, 2-speed CD-ROM (4 Speed Recommended), Windows

3.11 or Win 95, 95A, 95B, 256 Colour Display (15+ bit recommended).

## **Eco-Pioneers:**

### **Practical Visionaries Solving Today's Environmental Problems**

By Steve Lerner. 1997; 462 pp. US\$25. MIT Press.

## **Restoring the Earth**

### **Visionary Solutions from the Bioneers**

By Kenny Ausubel. 1997; 274 pp. US\$12.96. HJ Kramer. Distributed by Tattered Covers, 800/833-9327 or 303/322-7737, both in USA.

Lots of good news for a change, or, more accurately, of change - this pair of newcomers presents many of the heavy cutters at the fabled cutting edge of what is loosely dubbed "sustainability". Steve Lerner, author of *The Earth Summit and Beyond the Earth Summit*, is research director at Commonweal. Kenny Ausubel, founder of Seeds of Change, has hosted the annual Bioneers Conference since 1990. They take slightly different approaches. Steve Lerner presents straightforward mini-bios. Kenny Ausubel is more interested in affairs of the spirit. The basic idea is the same: inspire readers with the stories of and from real people doing what needs to be done instead of fretting about finding a job or being downsized. Or quitting in despair. You'll probably be glad to meet them all, even if you don't need role models. - J. Baldwin

*"Because of the Tennessee Valley Authority's involvement in utility power generation and its location in the coal strip-mining country of the Southeast, the power folks asked Hammer whether these wetlands worked for acid drainage from mining. Hammer had seen such projects while camping. They were constructed by Beavers, but he didn't mention that fact..."*

*"Coal companies currently spend over one million dollars a day in conventional [acid mine drainage] pollution abatement. Conventional treatment is typically caustic soda, which raises the pH and precipitates out the iron. But the maintenance is very high because the 'good ole boys' come up every Sunday afternoon and see if they can put a slug through the tank. You come up on Monday morning to find the caustic soda all over the road or the stream."*

*"When we noticed that natural wetlands including a beaver dam had red water coming in and clean water coming out, we thought, 'If a beaver can do that, we can do that'. But when a bureaucracy builds a beaver dam, it is different from when a beaver does. After the 'dozers got through, we went in and planted cattails and bulrush. Throughout the summer and fall, a pretty little marsh-pond complex changed a dead acid stream into almost trout-clean water, with dramatic improvement in the iron, manganese and solids."*

From *Restoring the Earth*

Source of Summary and Quote: *Whole Earth Review*, No. 92, Spring 1998

## Green Development

### Integrating Ecology and Real Estate

By Rocky Mountain Institute, Alex Wilson, et al. 1997; 522 pp. US\$54.95. John Wiley and Sons.

Inevitable. Inexorable. How can development be green? A group of researchers at Rocky Mountain Institute insists that real estate development can be designed to minimize damage to natural systems, and even restore those already damaged - while providing a wonderful sense of place and community. And that it can provide an acceptable profit for the developers their investors.

The proof? Eighty examples that are working well. The attributes (and difficulties) are presented in the business lingo of those who need convincing before they'll go and do likewise. There are chapters on site planning, building design, approvals, financing and marketing. Unlike a lot of unrealistic gnashing from the we-must crowd, the information and advice comes from practical field experience.

And there's more: A very professional Green Developments CD-ROM features 100 successful examples, with the designers, producers, and financiers talking right at you in colour. You can see and hear their satisfaction and excitement.

With wide distribution, this book and CD will surely be among the most ecologically beneficial ever published. Read it. Pass it on. Give it as a gift. As architect William McDonough says "Ignorance ends today, negligence starts tomorrow". - J. Baldwin

Source of Description: Whole Earth Review. No. 92, Spring 1998

## Save the Bush Toolkit

A series of self-guided booklets, developed in NSW, including:

1. Assessing Farm Bushland
  2. Managing Farm Bushland
  3. Assessing Scattered Farm Trees
  4. Managing Scattered Farm Trees
  5. Assessing Farm Watercourses
  6. Managing Farm Watercourses
  7. Surveying Farm Fauna
  8. Farm Planning for Bushland and Wildlife
- \$65 (including postage and handling from the Environmental Studies Unit, Charles Sturt University, Private Bag 60, Bathurst, NSW, 2795. Ph. Bushline 1800 626 386, Fax: (063) 384 078.

Source: Land for Wildlife News, Vol. 3, No. 9

## The Hand of Man: People and Fire

### By Malcolm Calder

The Environmental Papers, Vol. 1, No. 4. Published and available from the Victorian National Parks Association, Publications Officer, 10 Parliament Place, East Melbourne, 3000. Ph. (03) 9650 8296.

Source: Land for Wildlife News, Vol. 3, No. 9

## Planting Wetlands and Dams: A Practical Guide to Wetland Design

### By Nick Romanowski

Softcover, 108 pp, 24 pp colour plates. UNSW Press. Includes advice on planning and establishment as well as cultivation.

Source: Land for Wildlife News, Vol. 3, No. 9

## Motivating People:

### Using management agreements to conserve Remnant Vegetation

#### By Binning, C. and Young, M. (1997)

This document is mostly for policy-makers. It provides an interesting overview of options for conserving vegetation on private land. Enquiries:

CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology,  
P. O. Box 84, Lyneham, ACT 2602;

Tel: (02) 6242 1600,

Email: S.Miller@dwe.csiro.au

Internet: <http://www.dwe.csiro.au/research/futures/> or Environment Australia Tel. (02) 6250 0200

Source: Land for Wildlife News Vol. 3, No. 10

## An Overview of the Conservation of Non-Marine Invertebrates in Australia

### By Yen, A. and Butcher, R. (1997)

Over 300 pages outlining the important role of invertebrates in Australia's natural ecosystems. Information provided ranges from a species approach to larger geographical scales to conservation. \$30 plus p & p from:

The Botanical Bookshop,  
P. O. Box 1777, Canberra, ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6257 3302 or on the net at <http://www.anca.gov.au/plants/threaten/nminvert/flyer.htm>

Source: Land for Wildlife News Vol. 3, No. 10

# Wilson's Promontory: Marine and National Park Victoria

By Geoff Wescott

Published by UNSW Press, 213x137 mm, 208 pp pb, ISBN 0 86840 222 2. Cost: Special Discount Price \$19.95 Post Free in Australia and New Zealand - Order Quickly. Order from UNIREPS, UNSW Press, University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW 2052 Australia, Fax 61 (02) 9664 5033 or Ph. 61 (02) 9664 5420.

This year is the centenary of the declaration of Wilson's Promontory National Park, ushering in a program of celebrations that pay tribute to this magnificent park and all its natural beauty. Geoff Wescott's *Wilson's Promontory* will help you unlock the door to secrets that lie within the glorious land- and sea-scape: imposing granite mountains, cool forests, rocky coastlines and sandy beaches that combine to create this breathtakingly beautiful park.

Filled with superb colour photographs, maps and suggestions for combinations of motoring and walking, *Wilson's Promontory* is all you'll need for an unforgettable visit to this magnificent park. On top of handy hints on the best walks, campsites, views and landscapes, *Wilson's Promontory* will give you insight into the park's history, landforms, plants and animals, also providing a window into the park's human history. Aboriginal culture is also an important feature of this park and has been detailed in this refreshingly individual guide.

## Grassland Plants of South Eastern Australia:

**a field guide to grassland and grassy  
woodland plants of South Eastern Australia**  
By Neil and Jane Marriot

Our natural environment has been severely degraded and depleted, nowhere more so than in the lowland grasslands of South Eastern Australia, where of the original 2 million ha less than 0.5% or 10,000 h remains. Grassy woodland communities are also severely de-

pleted, particularly of their originally rich understorey species.

Remnants of these ecosystems have important biodiversity values and large numbers of rare or endangered plant species. Their horticultural and agricultural potential are only just being realised. The urgency of promoting, protecting and properly managing these precious remnants is reflected in current actions and priorities set by government and non-government agencies, Landcare groups, in revegetation programs and by the research being undertaken into aspects of grassland management.

This field guide featuring plants commonly found across the grassland and grassy woodland communities in NSW, Victoria, SA and Tasmania has been produced to enable land managers, government agencies, students and enthusiasts to identify a wide range of grassland flora; grasses, lilies, daisies, etc. Of the 170 species of plants illustrated and described there are 20 species of grasses and other plants which have previously received little attention. Miniature plants are also featured, many plants attaining a height of less than 10 cm.

A page is devoted to each plant, with a clear colour photo followed by notes describing habit, leaves, flowers and fruits. The plants distribution, conservation status and a helpful 'similar species' section all contribute to the likelihood of a positive identification. There is also a glossary, a key to pronunciation of botanical names and a common name index.

The book is small enough to carry in the field, with excellent photographs that capture the key features of the plant and succinct descriptions to confirm identifications. With over 120 genera represented in the 170 species listed and over 100 additional 'similar species', a wide range of users who are interested in learning more about the diverse grassy understorey plants will find this a valuable and attractive reference.

### Special Offer to IFFA Members:

Send cheque or money order for \$22 (Normal RRP \$26.95) to N. & J. Marriot, Box 107, Stawell, VIC 3380 for an autographed copy post-free.

## IFFA activities:

**IFFA (Vic) Meeting:**

No meeting for June

## **General Meeting**

**Venue:**

## **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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## **Membership**

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

**Membership includes**  
11 issues of *Indigenotes* per year.

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

*Otherwise we do not issue reminders to members.*

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

### **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 Email: lill@netspace.com.au

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

**Committee members:** 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: Marcus Bechley

Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editor — the deadline for the next issue is 12th August. Contributions can be typed or hand written but computer disk copies on PC-compatible format is preferred.

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