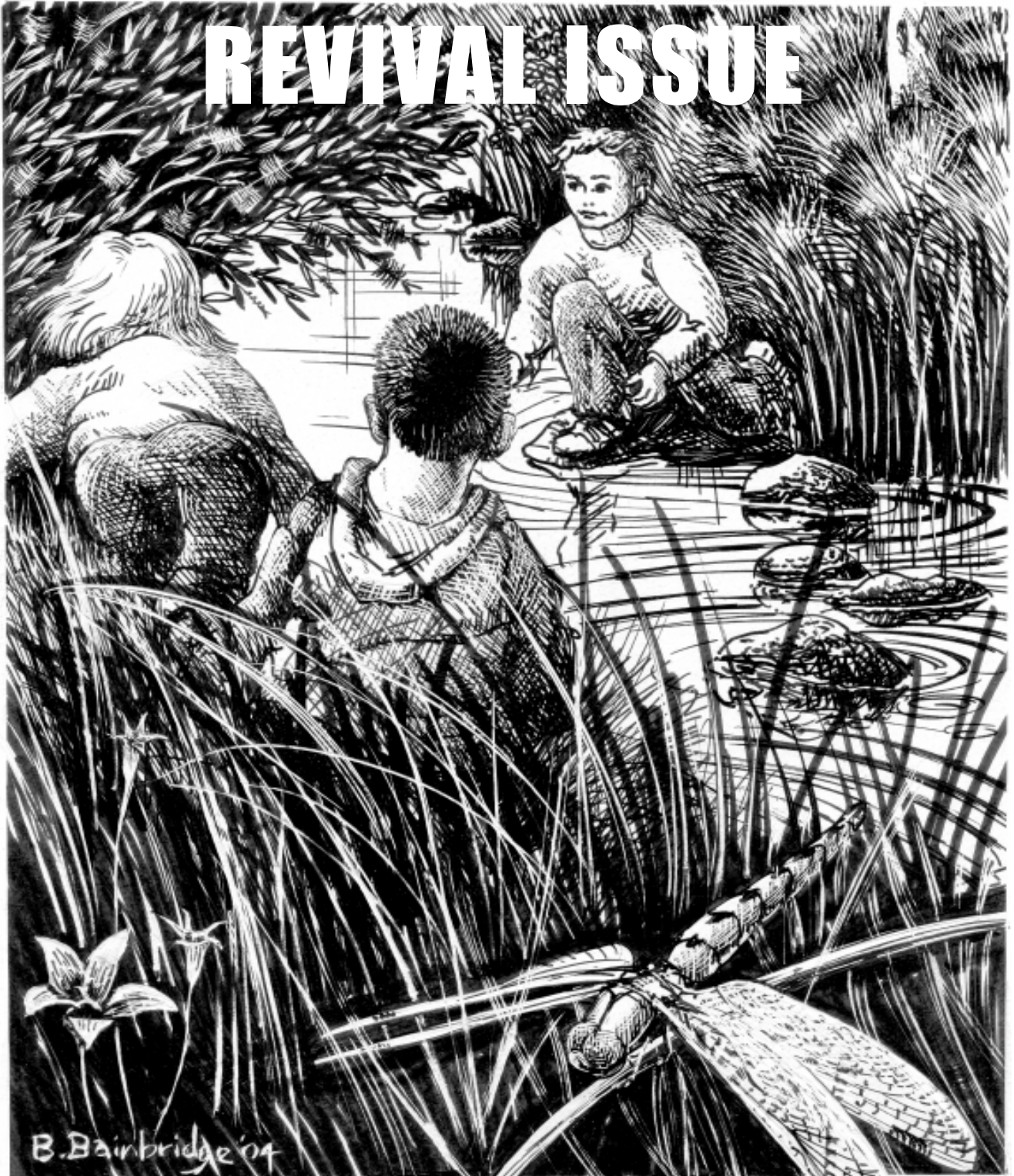


REVIVAL ISSUE



Indigenotes

IFFA's new Committee

At the Annual General Meeting held on 16/2/04, elections were held for office-bearer positions and members of Committee. Contacts for these people are listed on the back page of the newsletter. Indigenotes asked the new office bearers three questions:

1. *What is your passion that leads you to be involved in IFFA?*
2. *What really gets you going?*
3. *Comment about IFFA?*

Randall Robinson (President)

1. I am an absolute plant freak - I spend more time with plants than with people.
2. Seeing successful natural regeneration
3. IFFA is tangible practical active conservation



Ken Duxbury (Vice President)

1. Nature conservation, indigenous planting and awareness of the importance of indigenous flora and fauna
2. Seeing how revegetation and wildlife corridor re-creation are allowing more wildlife to return to Melbourne
3. IFFA needs to be a meeting place between all the different groups with an interest in indigenous vegetation.



Michele Arundell (Secretary)

1. IFFA fulfils my need for a deeper understanding and involvement in our local ecology, not just the distant wilderness. I like being able to contribute to practical effort and see tangible results too.
2. Taking a little time each day to savour the beauties of life, not just to see and touch them, but to feel them with my heart.
3. People similarly enthusiastic and passionate about the environment rather than themselves.

Neil Gardiner (Treasurer)

Neil was away while this newsletter was in preparation.

Dimi Bouzalas (Membership secretary)

1. When mountain walking in Greece one of my group who knows Greek better than I used the term "εδω τι βρισκω" which translates as "here I find it". For me, IFFA is where I find it.
2. The exhilaration of nature doing its thing.
3. It's great being with like-minded people passionate about nature.



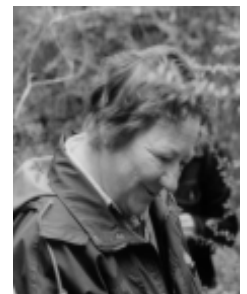
Tony Faithfull (Editor)

1. My soul needs a living natural environment around me, but I also like living in the City. IFFA gives me hope this can happen.
2. Finding bits of land restored and thriving
3. IFFA is the only place I know where there is a real interest in the nuts and bolts of environmental repair



Liz Henry (Committee member)

1. I am also an incurable plant freak
2. Winning with a new species - as Community Plant Coordinator at Bungalook Community Nursery, succeeding to propagate a species that we've not attempted or not succeeded with previously.
3. I love to get Indigenotes and devour the plant articles.



Jon Greening (Committee member)

1. I love nature. I admire weeds but spend a lot of my time ripping them out. IFFA gives me the hope I need that people care.
2. Nothing I like better than to find an isolated individual or indigenous community, weeding out the exotics, then returning in the future to see them thriving.
3. IFFA is a practical resource of like-minded friends helping the local environment.



Presidents Letter

From Randall Robinson

Hello all! If you are reading this you will realise that the INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA ASSOCIATION (IFFA) is not extinct!

For the past nineteen years IFFA has been a focus for bringing together a diverse group of people with a shared love of the unique diversity of plants, animals and other organisms that make up Australia's indigenous biota. Over this period of time many of the original goals of IFFA have been achieved and there are many specific accomplishments for which we can be proud. This is directly attributable to the over 400 people who have considered it worthwhile to become members of this great and inspired group.

IFFA, like any family, has had its good and bad times, exciting times and quiet times. This latest period has been very quiet indeed. For a variety of reasons, consideration was given to the possibility of accepting the view that maybe IFFA had completed all it could achieve and it was time to wind it up and donate any remaining monies to a worthy cause.

There is nothing like the possibility of extinction to prompt quick and decisive action. An annual general meeting was called with the expressed purpose to decide what should happen to this sleepy and apparently not particularly healthy group. Surprisingly, or maybe not so surprisingly, the AGM had a record turnout. Even more encouraging was the considered and considerable discussion by all members present.

After several hours of "let it die" and "over my dead body" it was decided by those assembled that maybe, just maybe this dilemma was just a mid-life crisis and not terminal! A new committee was elected and charged with the responsibility of devising various strategies for moving ahead including potentially winding up the organisation.

Over the past couple of months this new committee with the help from a dedicated group of interested members, has come up

with some proposals to invigorate IFFA. This active and dedicated group has set as their agenda to encourage involvement of members in a new era of consolidation of past gains and renewed discussion and action.

What has become apparent from discussions with members and others with a love for our indigenous biota is that the need for IFFA has never diminished. If anything, the need is greater now than ever before. There are a truly amazing number of people with our shared vision of a strong thriving indigenous environment. The collective knowledge held by the members of this group, if harnessed, focused and directed can have a continuing significant impact on the conservation and management of our natural heritage.

I would encourage all existing, past and future members and their friends to join us at our next meeting, at The University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus, on the 31st May at 7:30. We will be having a brief business meeting followed by our normal informative and lively discussions, show and tells and socializing. We invite anyone to prepare a poster to present their work, bring along a plant to show and tell or ask a question about or even bring along a handful of brochures to hand out. Oh, don't forget your business cards! We will do our best to provide poster space and table space but please contact me if you plan on needing display space.

It is a great pleasure to be able to invite you to show your support for this grand old group we all know as IFFA. Let us all breathe life into IFFA and through our efforts make tangible our love for Australia's Indigenous Flora and Fauna.

Randall Robinson

President

IFFA: Revival or bust?

Special General Meeting 28/6/04

AGENDA

- Welcome from President
- IFFA business
- SPIFFA update
- Future directions: three options
- New Statement of Purposes
- Break
- Gawk and squawk

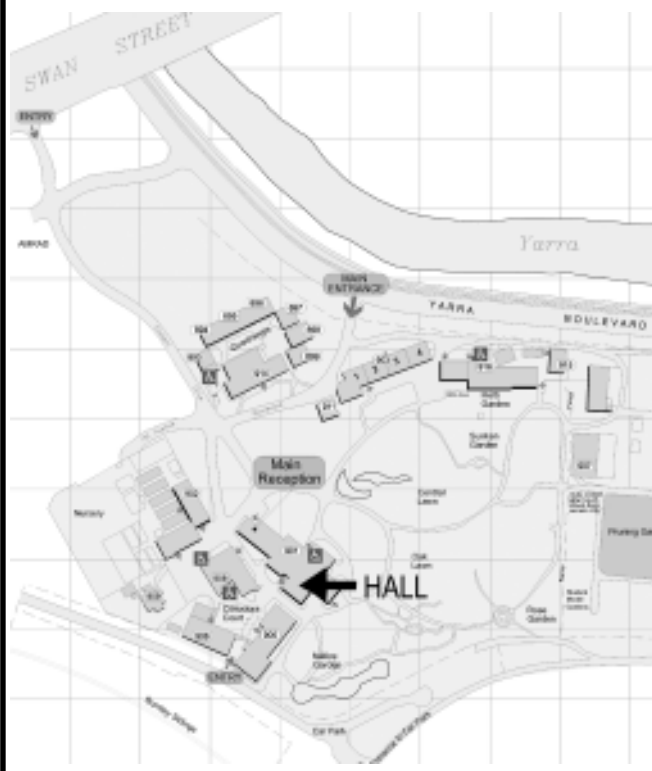
Proposed new Statement of Purposes: IFFA Aims:

To promote the appreciation, study, conservation and management of indigenous flora and fauna through:

1. research and discussion
2. networking and advocacy and
3. information exchange.

Local plants, local animals, local people and local communities

Venue: Burnley Campus Hall



Three options for the future of IFFA.

Option 1 – Extinction

This is the option if there is no interest from the membership to keep IFFA alive. This would involve: holding a meeting to formally dissolve the group; resolution of accounts; cataloguing and storage of archival material; and dispersal of residual monies to a similar group.

Option 2 - Base model – No Frills

This would be a get-back-to-basics IFFA. The aims and objectives of the group would be maintained but only those functions essential to keep IFFA alive and building a strong membership would be carried out. This would include: the newsletter; possibly only 4 better advertised meetings per year; building a presence on the internet and recruitment of new people. Other aspects would be included as the strength of the group increased.

Option 3 – The former glory days

This would involve carrying out all of the former functions of IFFA including advocacy, publishing, field trips as well as meetings, newsletters, the internet and involvement in 'actions'.

We will need to seriously consider these three broad options at the meeting. There is a core of people willing to keep IFFA alive but not enough to return IFFA to its former self. It may be that we are presently safe from imminent extinction but we may take a couple of years to get to the point of full functioning. Option 2, the no frills model, may give us a bit of time to rebuild the foundations of the group for future growth into option 3.

DRAFT MINUTES

IFFA Annual General Meeting 16th Feb. 2004

In Attendance:

Michele Arundell, Dimi Bouzalas, Geoff Carr, Rohan Cumming, Ken Duxbury, Tony Faithfull, Neil Gardiner, Jon Greening, Sue Guilfoyle, Don Hatton, Leonie Hatton, Liz Henry, Roger Jones, John King, Adam Muyt, Frances Overmars, Randall Robinson, Judith Rutherford, Vernon Terrill, Barry Traill, Peter Tucker, Rob Youl and Jeff Yugovic.

Apologies:

Gidja Walker

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted.

Treasurers Report:

Accepted Geoff Carr/Randall Robinson

Election of Office Bearers:

President Randall Robinson

Vice President Ken Duxbury

Secretary Michele Arundell

Treasurer Neil Gardiner

Editor Tony Faithfull

Membership Sec. Dimi Bouzalas

Public Officer Neil Gardiner

IFFA Committee John Greening & Liz Henry

Members available to contribute to IFFA Rejuvenation:

Michele Arundell, Randall Robinson, John Greening, Liz Henry, Tony Faithfull, Frances Overmars.

IFFA Directions:

A range of discussion regarding the previous and future role of IFFA.

Each and every IFFA member present contributed their thoughts and ideas:

- internet options: links to other groups & issues, education
- IFFA name remains
- loss of vegetation
- invasive species
- fulfilled original purposes
- redirection of focus for group
- role of advocacy
- Information exchange

- support for local groups
- bequest issues
- grassland conservation issues
- practical on-ground projects
- Indigenotes value
- employment of part-time officer
- SPIFFA support IFFA continuation
- re-invention
- education role
- IFFA re-invention
- how to achieve
- education
- links to other groups
- philosophy
- network
- who (people)
- new members
- Cynthia Paltridge – recognition
- ISC 300 people, 2 years, \$4k
- IFFA 250 people(1000 in past), 18 years, \$24k

Response to request by ISC for assistance and support

Consensus of IFFA members that IFFA provide support to the ISC.

Tony Faithfull Moved a motion:

"The decision to donate funds to the ISC be deferred.

The ISC provide a letter stating what the funds would be used for.

The committee be delegated power for decision to authorise a donation of funds (including and itemised breakdown of expenditure)."

Liz Henry Seconded the motion:

Vote: 10 IFFA members in favour of motion, 5 IFFA members against the motion

Committee Meeting:

Monday 23rd February, 7pm, (BYO food.)

Website enrichment

IFFA's new Committee has authorised a major overhaul of IFFA's dated website. It is envisaged that the new website will feature:

- A new domain name: (www.iffa.org.au)
- Fully updated content
- A discussion forum about management of indigenous plants, animals and ecological communities
- An IFFA management forum, together with current IFFA minutes etc.
- Environmental Weed links
- An archive of useful documents including all previous issues of Indigenotes, indexed and accessible to paidup members.

What would you like to see on the website? Maybe you would be prepared to contribute some of your time to make it happen? The Committee is seeking a webmaster to be in charge of the website.

What's on the current website

IFFA's existing website includes:

- Information about IFFA including how to join, the newsletter, contacts, coming meetings.
- A guide to indigenous nurseries in Melbourne
- Proceedings of "The Great Plains Crash" conference on native grasslands held in 1992.

The current website was compiled by Paul Voermans and Roger Jones.

IFFA Annual Awards

Committee has proposed that IFFA run annual awards in 3 categories:

- Best Council indigenous flora and fauna management program
- Lifetime contribution to indigenous flora and fauna conservation and management
- Promising student

The working of the awards is far from settled, and feedback is welcome.

If you want to build a ship,
don't drum the men to gather wood,
divide the work and give orders.
Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery, author of The Little Prince

[Nearly] 20 years ago:

November 1986:

"Dear members,
Although IFFA is only a newly formed organisation, collective members are concerned that the association is in danger of losing momentum before it has had the chance to have a proper impact. There is a great need for a group such as ours, and if we are unsuccessful in our endeavours the group will only need to be formed again..."
(letter from the Organising Collective)

Vale Don Foreman

From Michele Arundell

1945 – 2004:

IFFA members and associates may remember Don Foreman, a botanist who worked at the National Herbarium of Victoria from around 1984 to 1997. Don died on Monday March 9th, aged 58, about a month after being diagnosed with inoperable cancer. A service was held for Don in Newcomb, followed by a gathering of family and friends at the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Don is survived by his wife Joy, children Maryanne and John, and grandchildren Lachlan and Sarah. Don had made his home in Lara for 20 years with his family who meant so much to him.

Born in Dubbo, Don's botanical origins were on the northern tablelands of NSW. Don majored in botany and zoology for his B.Sc. He studied further to complete a Masters degree and his Ph.D. – all at the University of New England.

In recent years he had added to his knowledge and qualifications with a Graduate Certificate in Scientific and Technical Communications at the Canberra IT and in 2003 he commenced a Certificate of Horticulture at the NMIT.

Don specialised in primitive angiosperm families, particularly those well represented in the rainforests around Dorrigo and Lae, Papua New Guinea where he worked as a forest botanist. He made extensive botanical collections, throughout PNG and discovered new species, several of which were named after him.

His botanical career ranged from a tutor/lecturer at the University of New England, to private research at the University of Missouri, and to a posting as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the UK. Don was one of Victoria's few botanists who had a professional passion for pollen.

Achievements include co-editing the first volume of Flora of Victoria, editing *Muelleria* and editing several volumes of Flora of Australia. Don also continued his taxonomic research and was instrumental in setting up MELISR (the NHV database).

Don prepared accounts of several rainforest Proteaceae genera for the Flora of Australia and extended his knowledge of this family to include the principally dryland genera *Petrophile* and *Isopogon*.

Recently Don had worked around his home patch at Lara, as a horticulturist and private consultant. Over the past 18 months Don had made a wonderful contribution to the Geelong Botanic Gardens, where he identified and documented the garden's living collection.

His professional qualifications and achievements may seem impressive, but it is **how** Don achieved these things which has had even greater impact on many botanists, authors, staff, students, Friends, Guides and community groups he related to. Don always took the time to share his knowledge and support the people around him.

Don was a true gentleman, a man of professional integrity, with a passion for botany, who will be remembered for his knowledge, enthusiasm and his obliging manner. His spirit will live on in those he supported, encouraged, motivated and inspired.

IFFA activities:

IFFA (Vic)

Special General Meeting

Monday 28th June at 7:30pm.

- Welcome from new President
- Discussion of 3 options for the future of IFFA and a resolution on which the Committee should pursue (see page 4)
- Revision of Statement of Purposes (see page 4)

To be followed by a general meeting including:

- Gawk and squawk (show and tell, and Poster presentations)
- Bring your business card
- Book sales

Venue: University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus Hall (see Melways map 45 A12 and the campus map on page 4)

SPIFFA

Public meetings are on the first Monday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Parks Victoria depot at Hinton Street Rosebud.

Contact: Gidga Walker 0418 416 182.

Membership

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

Membership includes
4 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.

Membership applications and renewals should be sent to the Treasurer's P.O. Box as listed. A receipt will be attached to the front page of the following issue.

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Don Foreman obituary	7

COMING ARTICLES:

How local is local? by Liz Henry

An update on SPIFFA from Jon Greening

Office Bearers:

President: Randall Robinson, 35 Dunmoochin Rd, Cottles Bridge. Email: moo1@hotmail.net.au

Vice-President: Ken Duxbury, email: kendux@bigpond.com, phone 9859 5192.

Secretary: Michele Arundell, 7/7 College Pde Kew 3101, (03) 9818 1537(ah) email: michele.arundell@dpi.vic.gov.au

Membership Secretary: Dimi Bouzalas (03) 93860264. Email: dimi.b@bigpond.com

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

Committee members: Liz Henry, 9890 4542 (h), Jon Greening 9529 2523 email: hone_5@yahoo.com

Editor: Tony Faithfull, (03) 9386 0264 (ah). email: tonydimi@bigpond.com

Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editor — the deadline for the next issue is 12th August. Contributions must be in electronic form, either on PC formatted floppy disk or CD or can be sent to the editor by email.

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