



**I.F.F.A.**  
Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association

## INDIGENOTES

Issue No. 18, October 1988

WESTERN REGION SPECIAL EDITION

- done on the quick & cheap!!

### November Meeting:

Tuesday, November 29 at 8pm at  
the Environment Centre, Ross House  
247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne (be-  
tween Swanston and Elizabeth Sts)

Dont forget something for show  
and tell.

### Articles

Contributions to Indigenotes are most wel-  
come. Send them to the newsletter coordi-  
nator, Tony Faithfull, 10 Alsace Street,  
Brunswick East 3057.

### Memberships

IFFA membership costs \$20 for families and  
groups, or \$10 for individuals. Member-  
ships should be sent to the Treasurer, Dale  
Tonkinson, C/o Botany Department, La  
Trobe University, Bundoora 3083.

### CONTENTS:

The Sunshine Diuris

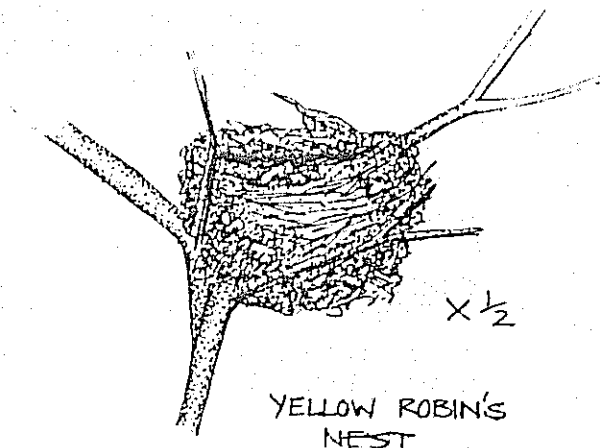
A Regional Conservation Strategy  
for the West

Farewell to Barry Kemp

Derrimut Grasslands need your  
support

Coming Events

Mt Evelyn's Original Garden



**President:** Geoff Carr (03) 4894191 (w)  
**Secretary:** Michele Arundell (03) 6494434

Registered by Australia Post - Publication  
Number VBH8638.

## THE SUNSHINE DIURIS

Name undergoes plastic surgery!

The well known symbol of the plight of the basalt plains grassland and conservation efforts, the Sunshine Diuris, has a new scientific name. The plant has also been given specific status, distinct from the very widespread but much depleted (at least in southern Australia) Purple Doubletail Orchid (Diuris punctata).

The name Diuris fragrantissima has recently been published in two works on Australian Orchids, preceding the formal description by Clements (in press). This name now supersedes the previously accepted Diuris punctata albo - violacea.

The only remaining population of this orchid, (on a railway reserve) containing less than 50 plants, suffers from weed invasion, damage from slugs, snails and mice, trampling by orchid enthusiasts, and the occasional insurgency by V/Line workers.

This orchid was one of the first germinated by the symbiotic in-vitro technique developed by workers at the Waite Institute, Adelaide and the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. These sources provided the stock for Australia's first seedling based orchid re-establishment program in 1982, a continuing project carried out by LaTrobe University's Botany Department with funding from the Native Plants Preservation Society of Victoria. Plants in the field have flowered regularly since 1983, and a small number of natural pollinations have occurred, indicating a pollinator survives in the grassland habitat. For the project to be successful now only requires seed germination in the field.

In the meantime, seed is collected annually and plants have been germinated by the in-vitro technique at LaTrobe since 1983 to produce plants for further re-establishment.

It is expected that several plants of Diuris Fragrantissima will be on display at the October IFFA meeting.

Dale Tonkinson  
LaTrobe University

References: M.A. Clements (in press). Checklist of Australian Orchidaceae  
D.C. Jones (1988) Native Orchids of Australia  
H. Richards (1988) Cultivation of Aust. Native Orchids  
ANOS (vic).

### CLASSIFIEDS:

### COMPUTER - SYSTEMS / PROGRAMMES:

IFFA member Colin Mc Donald, computer -wizad extraordinaire, would like it known that he can develop programmes for any purpose on any system.  
So for any Indigephiles wishing to get with the computer age  
Contact: Colin 754 2330.

## A REGIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR THE WEST

"Oh, no" The collective groaned, " - not another strategy!" Yes it is, but this one's different. This one has support and commitment from the State Government and the local councils of the region. It was developed by people who have lived in or have had substantial experience in the region and its natural environment, and who have witnessed first-hand the problems which have contributed to the environments demise. And it has someone to follow-through and get the strategy implemented.

Much work has gone in to researching the status of the Region's natural environment, with some of the information published (eg: "Sites of Botanical Significance in the Western Region" by Keith McDougall, 1987 and "Sites of Geological/Geomorphological Significance in the Western Region" by Neville Rosengren, 1987).

Four major areas were identified as being the major causes of the continual decline of the natural environment. (Urban growth is, of course, the basic cause of it all, and while halting it would alleviate many problems, this is as politically/socially palatable as the margin of of an Artichoke Thistle).

Management, whether of poor practise, or more commonly, it's complete absence, is one area to be redressed, and recommended objectives are to get more personnel and money, train the personnel, and use the money for vegetation management, habitat restoration and the acquisition of threatened habitat. Where private land-owners are willing to manage areas for their conservation significance, rather than economic reasons (which is often simply to pay the rates), incentives and assistance should be provided to protect such 'community assets'. A variety of actions, including establishing natural area management squads, field demonstrations, developing short-courses for field staff, and promoting the role of Environmental Officers and Rangers (as compared to by - laws officers) in local government are to be followed up.

Statutory planning is another major area: the problem of land-use and development decisions being made by people who by and large have no idea what the implications of their decision are. Planning personnel in the West are concerned, but need to be fed the correct information. Environmental officers can help, but the most immediate solution is to mark all areas of significance on the planning scheme maps. There needs to be much stronger interaction between the planning and environmental professions.

Since settlement, the West has had the agricultural / industrial economies of Victoria and it's labour concentrated within the region, whilst the owners and other beneficiaries resided on the other side of town, in a 'nicer' environment! Whilst the industrial economy is necessary: those in charge must be made more accountable. Discharges to Kororiot Creek etc are just not on anymore. The waterways must not be the domain of factory owners, but of wildlife (and people, if they're prepared to share it). To this end we are developing a regional open space system that will incorporate all waterways and links between them; recycling programs will be promoted; and landscape design and implementation is vetted for it's use of sensitive design criteria and of local plants.

Finally, the key to it all is education and awareness, and although little action is yet to be taken on this front, it's hoped to get a program similar to Sherbrooks, happening next year, and publications along the lines of a 'Western Region Environment Series'. If conservation and restoration are to happen, the swinging voter has got to say they want it.

Meanwhile, there's weeding to be done, fences erected and engineers harangued.

#### BARRY KEMP GOES NORTH

Flora and fauna of the Basalt Plains, in particular the Organ Pipes will miss the fantastic efforts Barry Kemp has put into conservation in this area, restoration at the Organ Pipes N.P., and raising peoples awareness of the plight and beauty of Basalt Plains vegetation.

Barry is heading off to the warmer climes of Coffs Harbor, having retired from his position as a senior air traffic controller at Tullamarine.

During his spare time Barry could often be found lying prostrate in a railway reserve investigating the intricacies of grassland vegetation. Many a public servant was known to flee in terror when they got word that Barry, or his Deputy, Don Marsh, were headed their way.

If anyone is interested in helping fill the vast niche that Barry leaves, eg. by becoming a Friend of the Organ Pipes, phone Robert Bender on 49 2413.

#### DERRIMUT GRASSLANDS SEEK YOUR SUPPORT

DCFL is seeking comments and suggestions re management issues concerning the Derrimut Grasslands.

This 154 ha of grassland and wetland habitat is under threat from just about anybody who can pose one - including residential developers, industrial developers, Road Construction Authority, model air-craft clubs, V/Line, pyzomanias, car thieves, councils, rabbits, hares and numerous weeds.

The site constitutes approximately a third of Victoria's reserved remnant Themeda vegetation. Over a third of its species are considered significant at the State level, three of these being rare/vulnerable. The Reserve contains the semi-permanent Lake Stanley juxtaposed with the grasslands provides a unique character, ideally suited to interpretation activities.

Your support is imperative; beaurocrats and politicians tend to think that the only peoploe who are interested in grassland conservation are the off-beat biologists with rather austere tastes in aesthetics.

Contact Richard Buckhorn on 651 3657 for a run-down on Derrimut Grasslands.

Sample.

**Blackwood**

Shady tree that grows tall, up to 30 m, on deep soils in moist places but much smaller on drier sites. Dull-green phyllodes are the adult foliage but a few true leaves are usually present on plants under 2 m, or larger specimens undergoing stress. Pale creamy-yellow flowers from August to October are followed by conical pods that split open to disperse seeds.

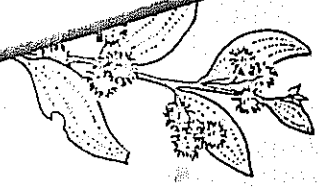
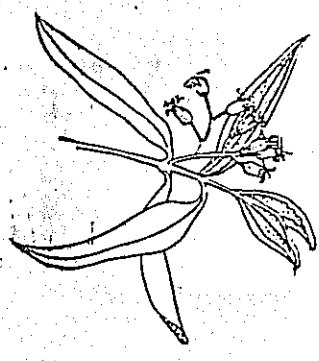
*Acacia melanoxylon*

This comprehensive and convenient handbook is written with as few technical terms as possible, who wishes to extend their knowledge and understanding of the natural world. This book is written with the choice of reserves. The book is written with the choice of reserves. The book is written with the choice of reserves.

It will appeal to a wider audience as well. The book is written with the choice of reserves. The book is written with the choice of reserves. The book is written with the choice of reserves.

Blanket I  
A small tree  
long narrow  
the branches  
above and wood  
newer leaves  
dark skirt below.  
of yellow rayless  
grows in moist  
ation with Musk  
Pomaderris.

*Bedfordia arborescens*

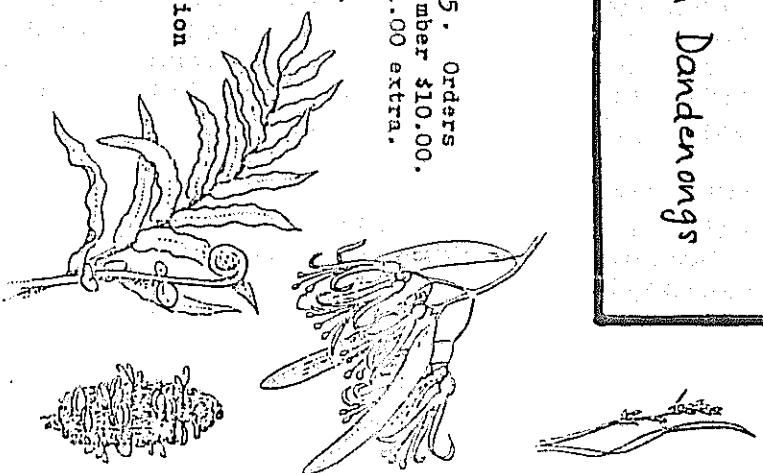


**MT. EVELYN'S ORIGINAL GARDEN**  
-Plants of the Northern Dandenongs

Recommended retail price \$14.95. Orders placed with MEEPFA by 8th November \$10.00. Delivery outside Mt. Evelyn \$2.00 extra.

- Lasley 736 1573
- Gwenda 736 1484
- Beryl 736 1786

For further information ring -  
Mt. Evelyn Environment Protection and Progress Association,  
c/- Morrison House,  
P.O. Box 101,  
MT. EVELYN, 3796.



**BOOK ORDER FORM (Pre-selling only)**

Please reserve for me ..... copies of 'Mt. Evelyn's Original Garden' at \$10.00.

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone No. ....

Signature .....

Order recorded by ..... Date .....

Amount received .....

*For office use*

**COMING EVENTS:**

**Saturday November 5th 1988:**

**Grasslands field day at Manor Railway Reserve.**

Bulban Rd (not Ballan Rd ) - Werribee.

Come and see one of, if not the best, remnants around on the basalt plains.

**Free: food and drinks plus music!!!**

**N.B.** You may be asked to pull out the odd weed, so bring knife weeding fork etc.

**YOU NO WEED- YOU NO FEED.**

For details contact: Tym Barlow 317 9066.

**Thursday 10th November 1988 - 8pm:**

**"The Potter Foundation Tree Project"**

**Royal Society of Victoria**

Mr John Jacks

For details contact: 663 259

**Thursday & Friday November 10-11th 1988:**

**"Weed control activities in Victoria - Are resources appropriate?"**

Organized by the Weed Science Society of Victoria

A 2 day seminar at Monash University

Costs \$150 or \$100 concession.

Details and registration phone: Bob Richardson 785 0137.

**Saturday November 12th:**

**Awareness day at Napier Park.**

Melways map 16 H 12

Come to a BBQ and chat with the neighbours to convince them that they have one of the original urban forests.

No hard work required.

For details contact: Tym Barlow 317 9066.

**Sunday November 13th 1988:**

**Working-bee and guided tours at Merrett Rifle Range-Williamstown:**

Anyone interested in bird-watching, plant propagation, rubbish collecting or discovering this newly opened up area

**- should be there!!!**

For details contact: Helen Tregear 399 9035.

**Sunday November 20th 1988:**

**"Mooramong" Nature Reserve guided tours.**

Visit a National Trust property containing a 250 hectare grassland /wetland reserve.

**Definitely worth checking out!!!**

Bookings essential - contact: Laurie Lees (053) 406 558

**NEXT YEAR - 1989:**

**Tuesday - Thursday 18-21st April 1989:**

**"The Future of Mallee Lands; The Conservation Perspective**

**National Mallee Conference - Adelaide :**