



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

**INDIGENOTES**

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 9, SEPTEMBER 1989.

**September Meeting:**

Tuesday 26 September. Speakers on how to use the media. 8 p.m. on the third floor, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne (between Swanston and Elizabeth Streets). To get in, be on time, or yell loudly, as the doorbell doesn't ring on the 3rd floor.

**October Committee Meeting:**

Tuesday 3 October. 6.30 p.m. at 13 Lawson St, Kew 3101.

**October Meeting:**

Tuesday 31st October.

**Articles:** Contributions to Indigenotes should be sent to the editor, Tony Faithfull, 10 Alsace Street, Brunswick East, 3057 Tel (03) 3860264. The deadline for the October issue is Friday 6 October. See inside for instructions to authors.

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

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## Weed of the month:

# Common Dolichos or Dolichos Pea (*Dipogon lignosus*)

By Doug Flood.

Dolichos is a climbing perennial of the pea family, with stem to three metres or more in length. The racemose flowers are coloured rosy pink, or sometimes white, and are approximately 15 mm long. Flowering commences in early spring. The seed-pods are approximately 25 x 5 mm in size, and contain three to six black seeds. Seed is ejected by the sudden opening of the dry pods in late spring to early summer.

The leaf consists of three ovate leaflets, each two to five cm broad. The leaflets are soft-textured, hairless and paler beneath. The underground parts apparently lack a taproot, but form new lateral stems from the root-crown. These can travel extensively below the surface level before emerging. The stem butts of old plants can reach at least ten cm in diameter.

Dolichos is apparently of South African origin, and the sole member of its genus. It has been widely grown as an ornamental plant. Substantial escape from cultivation in Victoria appears to be currently limited to near-coastal areas, and it is particularly invasive on coastal dunes. It has built up large populations at a number of localities along the Victorian coast (e.g. in South Gippsland, around Port Phillip Bay, Bellarine Peninsula,...). It is capable of smothering indigenous vegetation with rank growth, potentially resulting in the death of shrubs and small trees, and the broad-scale suppression of regeneration.

Its ecology is poorly known. Observations of its very recent colonization of Mud Island (G. Carr, pers. comm.) indicate that it is capable of long-distance dispersal (either by birds or by sea), it is self-fertile, and that seedling recruitment is prolific. The plant may be killed by fire, but abundant regeneration from soil-stored seed follows. The time for which soil-seed remains viable is unknown.

Control efforts using herbicides and or manual removal have been initiated at some locations

along the Victorian coast: - At Cape Schanck, control has been attempted using 'Round-up' (100:1), as a foliage spray in spring (October(?) last year). While these trials are still in the early stages, this treatment appears to have worked in most cases, with little damage to associated shrubs (reflecting relatively low sensitivity to Round-up).

- At Seaford, manual control has been used. In this area, the strategy has been to remove (dig out) plants in areas of light infestation, to save trees and shrubs in dense infestations (by release from smothering), and to generally slash stems prior to seed setting (to limit recruitment and seed dispersal). A curved pruning saw was found to be an effective tool for managing this plant. Regeneration from detached stem fragments was not a problem, though regrowth occurs from the base unless the root crown is removed.

- At Blairgowrie, the plant has been treated by cutting and painting the stumps of older plants with 2,4-D Amine (10:1), and by pulling out smaller plants. Long-handled secateurs were found to be useful.

- 'Garlon' has apparently been ineffective (in limited trials) for Dolichos control.

- 'Starane' (containing 'fluroxpyr') is a selective herbicide developed by Dow Chemical (Australia) Limited for control of vines and broad-leaf weeds in Sugar Cane and other grass crops. It has shown phytotoxicity to shade trees and a range of herbaceous species. Its potential for use in the control of environmental weeds is untested: Trials on Dolichos in grassy coastal vegetation maybe warranted.

Selection of control measures should always be based on an assessment of the remnant vegetation (including ground-layer species) in which an

Continued on page 11.

**Dolichos is a major weed of the Victorian coast, and is 'on the move'. Dense infestations occur in a large number of localities, including biological reserves. Development and implementation of control measures is sorely needed, and any contributions (e.g. successes, failures or combinations thereof, assessments of suitability/ efficiency of various tools, etc..) will be greatly welcomed.**

## Rainforests: the Australian connection

Australia once had 8 million hectares of rainforest.

Australia has already cleared 6 million hectares of rainforest.

Only 2 million hectares of rainforest remain, and some of these continue to be logged.

- Having devastated our own forests we are contributing to the destruction of forests elsewhere.**

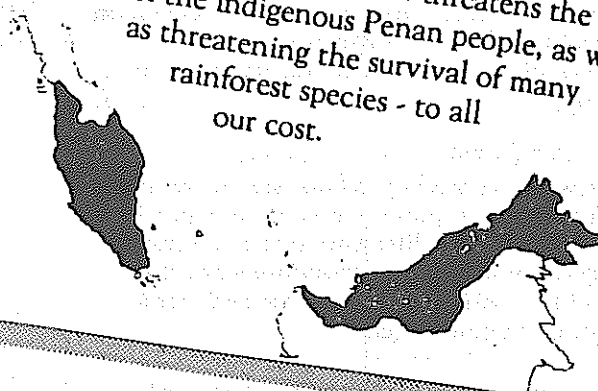
Almost all the rainforest timber now used in Australia is imported. Eighty per cent comes from the Malaysian rainforests.

Malaysia receives over 20 per cent of its foreign exchange income from rainforest timber sales.

By 1990 Peninsular Malaysia will have run out of timber for export. Pressure is on for increased logging on the islands of Sarawak and Sabah.

In Sarawak logging further threatens the way of life of the indigenous Penan people, as well as threatening the survival of many rainforest species - to all our cost.

**Only one-quarter of Australia's rainforests are still standing, and some of these continue to be logged.**



# Eastern Barred Bandicoots, planting, and the Hamilton to Coleraine Rail Reserve.

By Peter Tucker and Tony Faithfull.

The Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands has recently produced a leaflet on the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, with a description, information on where it lives, the hazards of the foe, what is being done, and what local people can do. It indicates that the Bandicoot lives in undesirable "unkempt" areas. Previous CFL publicity has focussed on the Bandicoot population at the Hamilton Tip. According to IFFA member Liz Fenton,

*"The tip promotion has done unbelievable harm. Most of the remaining recorded animals live in attractive gardens that could hardly be described as unkempt. Many locals simply state 'If I've got to have a rubbish heap in my back yard I don't want bandicoots'."*

The Bandicoot is now confined to the City of Hamilton and is critically endangered on the mainland. The leaflet bemoans the lack of adequate crown land for the creation of additional habitat for refuge and living space for the animals, and yet it would seem that the publicly owned Hamilton to Coleraine Rail Reserve is likely to be sold off for grazing (see box 1). Such a linear reserve could form an ideal corridor

for the dispersal of bandicoots from their last remaining population.

The Bandicoot leaflet isn't too bad, but it does leave out such important information about the animal as its size, weight, time of year for bringing up young, litter size, gestation period, and so on.

Habitat creation holds the main hope for the long term viability of the Bandicoot population, and CFL has recognised this, by making available a leaflet on "Planting

for Eastern Barred Bandicoot habitat". Dyed-in-the-wool lovers of indigenous plants and animals would assume that the aim would be to reestablish species from the Bandicoot's habitat as it was before it was destroyed. Instead the list contains a whole suite of species mostly exotic to the Hamilton area, and many of which are recognised environmental weeds (see box 2). Most of these species were listed under the heading "Ground cover plants suitable in garden situations but undesirable for use in windbreaks due to

their potential to invade native vegetation". Perhaps CFL research has shown

## Box 1.

### The Hamilton to Coleraine Rail Reserve

This is a disused reserve which the State Government is considering disposing of (see Indigenotes Vol 2 No 8).

The value of these reserves stems from their linearity - they can be used as corridors for flora and fauna movement, and for recreation - walking tracks. Indigenous vegetation on the reserve of course also has its intrinsic value

Parts of the Hamilton to Coleraine reserve carry indigenous vegetation already, requiring little input; parts require more input to regenerate; and other parts have no remnant vegetation left, due to continuous grazing, but in the longer term could be replanted with indigenous vegetation.

Unfortunately, the grazing lobby seems to dominate the advisory committee that has been set up, and our local contact tips they will win, and the corridor will be broken up into little bits by the sale of large sections for grazing purposes.

that the plants on the list are more suitable as habitat for the Bandicoot than its original habitat is, but we remain sceptical.

Regrettably, the leaflet failed to tell its readers about the local indigenous nursery which is probably the only nursery to stock many of the indigenous species that were on the list, and certainly the only nursery to grow local species from local stock.

A final embarrassing (but common) boo-boo is the confusion of 'endemic' (meaning having a natural distribution confined to a particular geographic region) with 'indigenous' (meaning occurring or living naturally in an area; not introduced) - the leaflet mistakenly claims about 20 species are endemic to the Hamilton area, including such common and widespread species as River Red Gum and Kangaroo Grass.

**Box 2.**

A selection of species listed for planting for Bandicoot habitat which are recognised environmental weeds\*:

- Grevillea* spp
- Hakea salicifolia*
- Callistemon* (contains one species - *rigidus* - which is an environmental weed)
- Acacia iteaphylla*
- Agapanthus orientalis*
- Hakea suaveolens*
- Lonicera* sp
- Melaleuca armillaris*,
- Melaleuca hypericifolia*
- Melaleuca nesophylla*
- Sollya heterophylla*

\* listed in Carr, G.W., and Yugovic, J.Z. (1988) Environmental weeds of Victoria. Land Protection Division, Dept of Conservation Forests and Lands, Interim List, May 1988.

The VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

is seeking a  
**PROJECT OFFICER**

To undertake research involved in a National Estates Program;

**EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DEGRADING PROCESSES IN NATIONAL ESTATE AREAS**

**Aims of Project**

1. To identify processes that could degrade National Estate values.
2. To survey registered and nominated National Estate Areas in Victoria for such processes.
3. To undertake closer examination of processes having significant effect in each LCC region.
4. To propose management to ameliorate or prevent the effects of identified degrading processes including assisting public education to this end and identifying any needed additional research.

**Summary of Program**

1. Initial desk study to identify and map/list the likely major activities that might cause degradation in Victorian National Estate Areas.
2. Detailed examination of regions (Mallee and Melbourne) including full documentation of activities, field studies, and literature review on major degrading processes identified for region.
3. Follow up including recommendations for future research and management, nomination of identified threatening processes through the Flora and Fauna Guarantee and production of educational material illustrating environmental impacts.

Applicant should desirably have an appropriate tertiary qualification in biological sciences or natural resources management. A driving licence and access to a car would be an advantage. Facilities including desk space and word processors will be provided at the VNPA office. Reasonable travelling expenses will be provided.

Annual salary \$27,321 - \$28,988

Funding is initially available for 6 months full time or equivalent if part time with a possibility of further funding for extension of project into other regions.

**Contact Teresa Sfara at the VNPA Office (Phone (03) 654 6843 for a copy of the project brief.**

Applications to Joan Lindros, President, Victorian National Parks Association,  
247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000.

Closing Date 16 October 1989

# Coming Events :

## SEPTEMBER

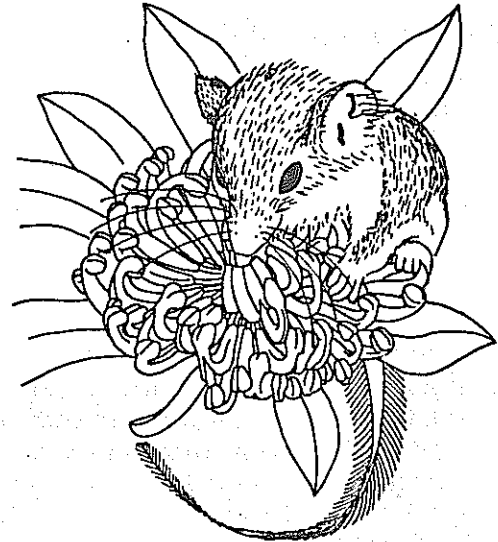
- 23 Saturday, 10 am - 5.30 pm. **ANGAIR Wild-flower Show.** Annual event held by ANGAIR (Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna). Many special features included, such as excursions. Anglesea Hall, McMillan St. Contact Ms M. White, (052) 631 975.
- 23 Saturday, 1.30 pm. **Moorooduc Quarry Reserve** project day, picnic reserve. Mount Eliza Association for Environmental Care. Melways 106 A7, meet at Two Bays Road. Anne Read (03) 787 2034.
- 23 Saturday. **Brisbane Ranges.** Botany Group excursion of the FNCV, Leader Norman Plever. Contact Margaret Potter (03) 29 2779.
- 24 Sunday, 10 am. Working bee at the **Campus Wildlife Reserve.** La Trobe University Wildlife Reserves Support Group. Laurie Whelan (03) 479 2871.
- 24 Sunday, 10 am. **MEAFEC** See 23 September.
- 24-27 Sun- Wed. Ecological Society of Australia Open Forum. University of Wollongong, NSW. Dr Ros Muston, Department of Zoology.
- 24 Sunday. **ANGAIR Show.** See 23 September.
- 26 Tuesday, 8 pm. **IFFA meeting.** For details see front cover.
- 28 Thursday, 10 am. **Friends of Warrandyte State Park propagation day.** Meet at the Depot. Bring lunch. Learn how to grow, plant or regenerate bush. All age groups. Contact Ian or Margaret Burke (03) 844 1060.
- 28-29 Thurs-Fri. **"State of our Rivers"**, Issues in Water Management 2, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT. Shirley Kral, State of our Rivers Conference, Centre of Continuing Education, ANU, GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601.
- 28-1 Thurs-Sun **Nooramunga Marine Coastal Park survey**, eastern islands. Campout, Fauna Survey Group - FNCV. Lawrie Conole (03) 481 4926.
- 30 Saturday, 9.30. **Tree Project planting at Banyule Flats**, Heidelberg. Enter Somerset Drive, Melways 32 F3. Bring planting gear. The Tree Project (03) 663 3281.
- 1 Sunday 1 pm. **Friends of Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve** activity day. Track improvement & wildflower walk. McLelland Drive car park, Melways 103 C10. L. Costermans (03) 783 5015.
- 2-6 Mon-Fri. **Little Desert.** FNCV excursion. Shiela Houghton 551 2708.
- 3 Tuesday, 8 pm. Dr. Phillip Moors speaking on (i) the **Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union** and (ii) **Rockhopper Penguins in subantarctic New Zealand.** Meeting of the Fauna Survey Group (FNCV). The Astronomer's Residence, Birdwood Avenue, Sth Yarra. Contact Julian Grusovin (03) 543 8627.
- 8 Sunday 10 am-1 pm. Weeding and maintenance at **Deep Rock**, Melways 2D D6. The Tree Project & Men of the Trees. 898 1364.
- 8 Sunday 10 am-3 pm. Friends of the Yarra, working bee at **Galatea Point.** Judy Rutherford (03) 347 2252.
- 8 Sunday 10 am-2 pm. Maintenance at **Stradbroke Park Urban Forest**, Melways 45 K4. Contact Nick of Greenlink Kew, 862 1926.
- 8 Sunday. **Wonthaggi Heathlands**, excursion by the South Gippsland Conservation Society. Contact John Williams (059) 741 504.
- 9 Monday 8 pm. **Slide show on Antarctica.** Oz Ertock from the ACF. FNCV. Royal Society Hall, 9 Victoria St., Melb. Julian Grusovin (03) 543 8627.
- 9-11 Mon-Wed. **"Environmental Practice - Sustainable Development"**. Second national conference of the Environment Institute of Australia. Contact: Secretariat, Mandy Bromilow, Bloomsbury Conference services Pty. Ltd., 232 Bridge Road, Richmond, Vic, 3121, ph (03) 429 4322.
- 12 Thursday, 8 pm. **Public meeting on Forestry Issues.** Speakers; Dewy Buttonshaw, Margaret Blakers. ACF Diamond Valley Branch, Eltham Community Centre. Contact Paula Stillman (03) 479 2948.
- 14-15 Sat-Sun. Campout for **Water-rat study**, MMBW Farm, Werribee. Fauna Survey Group of FNCV. Contact Julian Grusovin (03) 543 8627.
- 15 Sunday, all day. **Cleaning up the Yarra** (& Merri, Gardiners & Darebin Creeks) Contact MMBW 615 4163.
- 21 Saturday, 10 am-1 pm. **Pricking and potting.** Organized by MOTT, at VINC, Lee St. Brunswick. Melways 30 B7. (03) 387 4403.

## OCTOBER

- 1 Sunday, 10 am-1 pm. Weeding and planting at **Nina's Corner.** Organized by Greenlink Box Hill. 10 Jocelyn St. rear, Melways 46 K2.

Graeme Lorimer's  
**EAST GIPPSLAND  
 WARATAH NATURE TOUR**

- 21 Saturday, 9.30 am. **Friends of Werribee Gorge and the Long Forest Mallee, wild-flower walk**, social day and track maintenance project day. Ingliston Gorge. Contact Judy Douglas (053) 67 2672.
- 28 Saturday, 8 am-5 pm. **"Environmental Weed Control"**. Seminar and field afternoon hosted by the Weed Science Society and the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands. The program will include speakers discussing weed control in native vegetation, with emphasis to be placed on practical aspects. The afternoon session will examine weed control in Studley Park with the anticipated release of biological control agents for Boneseed. Cost: \$28, includes light lunch and proceedings. Registration, 8-9 am. Studley Park Receptions, 3 Walmer St., Kew. For further info contact R. Adair or B. Richardson at the Keith Turnbull Research Institute, (03) 785 0111 or PO Box 48, Frankston.
- 28 Saturday. **Tynong North to Gembrook. Variety of Vegetation Associations.** Botany Group excursion of the FNCV. Leader Hilary Weatherhead. Margaret Potter (03) 29 2779.
- 29 Sunday. **Annual Koala Survey**, Friends of Warrandyte S. P. Ranger Ian R. will help survey the Pound Bend Koala population. Contact Ian or Margaret Burke (03) 844 1060.
- 31 Tuesday, 8 pm. IFFA meeting.



**See** Errinundra plateau (peak waratah flowering)  
 The Cobberas and Mt. Tingaringy (alps)  
 Snowy River and rainshadow woodland  
 Jungle and cool-temperate rainforest  
 Rich and diverse birds and animals  
 The Rodger-Bowen Wilderness  
 The most beautiful trees in the world!

**Nothing too strenuous** – staying in a beautiful stone house at the edge of the Bowen Range.

All transport (4WD), accommodation & meals provided.  
 7 days (ex Melbourne): 5-11th Nov. '89 (incl. Cup Day)

**\$590** – Limit 10 people

For a brochure, ring Graeme Lorimer (728-5841)  
 or write to 42 Gratten Road, Montrose 3765.

**JANUARY 1990**

**The Ecology of Tasmanian Mountain Vegetation.** Three separate courses run by the Tasmanian Environment Centre. The courses will acquaint participants with families, the structure of plant communities and the interactions and impacts on them of ecological factors including fire, soil and climate. Leaders: Professor W.D. Jackson & J. Davies B. Sc. Hons. Courses:

6-12 January, Mount Field N. P. (closing date for enrolments 24 Nov)

21- 25 January, Tasmania's Central Highlands.

17-22 February, Ben Lomond N.P.

For further information contact the Tasmanian Environment Centre Inc, 102 Bathurst St., Hobart 7000. Ph 002 345 566.

**A large range of activities such as bushwalks and "Friends" activities are published by the Victorian National Parks Association in their newsletter. For details contact V.N.P.A. (03)654 6843.**

**WILD GRASSES OF VICTORIA**

Enrolling now: short courses by Dr. Graeme Lorimer

- identification
- ecology
- biology

for

- naturalists
- biologists
- ecologists

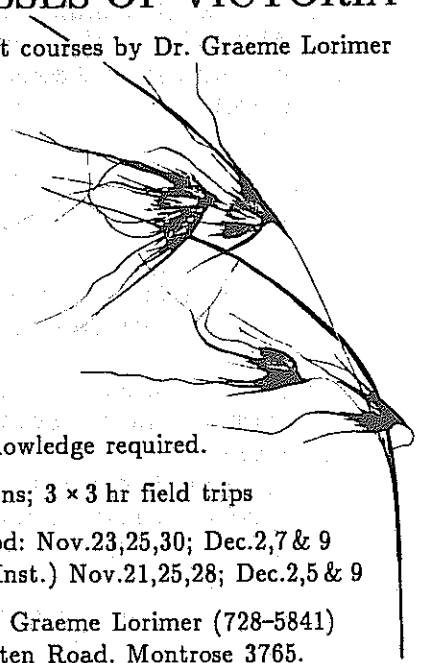
**\$80 (\$60 concession).**

No prior botanical knowledge required.

3 x 3 hr evening sessions; 3 x 3 hr field trips

**2 locations:** Ringwood: Nov.23,25,30; Dec.2,7 & 9  
 Caulfield (Chisholm Inst.) Nov.21,25,28; Dec.2,5 & 9

For information, ring Graeme Lorimer (728-5841)  
 or write to 42 Gratten Road, Montrose 3765.



## Snippets:

### **Ring Road Study**

The Biological study of the proposed route for the Metropolitan ring road (Tullamarine to Laverton North) - Final Report, May 1989, prepared by Biosis and Ecological Horticulture, is available from Alan Kemp at the Road Construction Authority (03) 8615321.

### **Reviewers required:**

A lot of material passes the notice of IFFA members, or if they hear of a work, they may not make time to get hold of a copy unless they know it to be worthwhile. Reviews in *Indigenotes* can help in this regard. The following books or booklets need someone to review them:

"Urban Bushland" A policy paper by the National Trust of New South Wales, "Weeds of Forests, Roadsides and Gardens" 2nd Edition, CFL and Friends of Sherbrooke Forest, 1989.

"Standing Up for your local environment" by Jenny Barnett and Rosemary Ward, 2nd Edition, Illustrated by Veronica Holland.

"Green Guide" from Margaret Mee.

### **Albert Park Lake**

Philip Pegler, Horticultural Officer with the Albert Park Committee of Management has produced a landscape design concept focusing on the waterbody of the Albert Park Lake, situated in inner Melbourne.

The plan involves establishing mud flats and reed beds where MMBW drains enter the lake, to act as bio-filtration systems as well as providing for waterfowl habitat, and establishment of indigenous aquatic vegetation around the edges of the lake. Planting ideas for the island sanctuary include aquatic vegetation to act as a buffer to the island's circumference. Nesting and perching areas for waterbirds will be established. The plan's use of indigenous vegetation around the lake will create an altogether far more pleasing aesthetic and recreation experience.

The report, "A framework for management - Albert Park Reserve" was released in May 1989, and 50 submissions were received before the deadline. A Working Group is reviewing the framework report and public submissions, and will prepare the final management plan for approval by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands. The Albert Park Planning Team can be contacted on (03) 651 3589, or write to P.O. Box 3000, East Melbourne.

### **Urban Forestry Handbook**

Launched by Kay Setches and Tom Roper at Kalinda urban forest on the 25th August. By Robert Buckam, David Jones and David Robertson. Anyone interested in reviewing this should contact the Editor.

### **Ecology of Birds: An Australian Perspective**

By H A Ford, Surrey Beatty, 1989, 264pp, hardcover, \$36.90. The Environment of tropical regions and the southern continents differ markedly from the north, so ecologists are questioning how well generalizations derived from the northern temperate zones compare to scrutiny elsewhere. Available from ACF books, 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn 3122 (03) 8192888.

### **Parks close to give Peregrines a chance:**

Parts of the Brisbane Ranges National Park and the Werribee Gorge State Park have been closed to help with the success of the breeding season for Peregrine Falcons.

The birds nest in certain parts of the parks and CFL has decided to restrict public access to their breeding areas in an effort to encourage the falcons.

Areas of the parks were closed off last year and a pair of falcons successfully raised three chicks at the Brisbane Ranges site.

At the Werribee Gorge nesting was unsuccessful although a pair of birds successfully raised fledglings there in the previous two years. The parks' closures will apply to the following areas:  
- Brisbane Ranges: Waterfall Gully area including the track east of the Maclean Hwy which leads to the cliff face.  
- Werribee Gorge State Park: the railway side of Werribee Gorge and also Falcons Lookout Track which links the Ballan-Ingleston Rd to the water-race track.

The closures will be in effect until 30 November, but the areas may re-open earlier depending on the success of breeding.

## Go Green

The Victorian arm of Greening Australia has been set up as "Go Green Melbourne". The Project Officer is David Lloyd, Go Green Melbourne, 2nd Floor, Little Collins Street, Melbourne 3000, phone (03) 6154202.

### "Common" names:

IFFA member Mary D. White writes:

*"I am dismayed to find a list of native plants in which the recognized common names have been altered - for example instead of Creamy Candles for *Stackhousia monogyna* we find *Stackhousia*; for Green-comb Spiders we find *Green-comb Caladenias*. When taking children for walks I find they are delighted with the name Propeller Plant for *Spyridium vexilliferum* when a tiny piece is twisted between the fingers and they are asked to give the plant a name. They will say "propellers" or "helicopter".*

*Some other interesting names that delight children include Fairy's Aprons for *Utricularia violacea*, Red-riding-hood Pea for *Gompholobium ecostatem*, Hundreds and Thousands for *Stylidium inundatum*, Running Postman for *Kennedia prostrata*. Botanical names are very off-putting to many people, please leave the common names for children and imaginative naturalists."*

## Mines Act Review proposals released

A White Paper containing explanatory material and draft legislation for a "Mineral Resources Development Act" was released in mid August, by the Victorian Department of Industry, Technology and Resources. The proposed replacement for the current Mines Act is a mixed bag. Good proposals include discontinuation of eductor dredging, protection for historic buildings, retention of rehabilitation bonds up to 6 years and simplification of the present complex titles system with all titles to be discretionary, i.e. applications can be refused when they are unsatisfactory.

Other important aspects, outlined in the explanatory section are not part of the draft legislation. These include requiring the consent of CFL for mining on Crown Land, requiring bonds to be set at realistic levels, and requiring miners to observe Codes of Practice.

The most controversial proposal is to make the Department of Industry, Technology and Re-

sources (DITR) a planning authority responsible for any planning amendments for mining or exploration proposals thus removing this role from local councils. It is also proposed to make planning amendments to allow exploration including drilling over most areas without requiring Council permission.

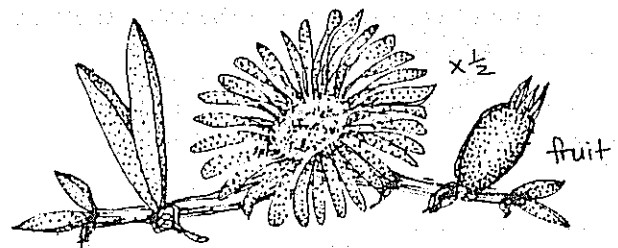
It is hard to see how DITR, whose role is to promote mining and who lack local knowledge, can make balanced land use decisions and it is obvious that miners will opt for amendments rather than planning permits in order to have DITR in charge.

The Environment Protection Act and Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines are proposed to be altered to speed up the processing of applications, but unfortunately not to improve the standard of environmental assessment.

Members should write to "Mines Act Review", Department of Industry, Technology and Resources, P.O. Box 173, East Melbourne 3002, asking that: - consent of CFL for mining on Crown Land should be included in the Act, - Automatic protection be given to flora and fauna reserves and to species and communities listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, - Environmental assessment be improved, including mandatory pre-mining surveys, - local councils be left in charge of local planning, - bonds be mandatory and set at levels that reflect real costs of restoring a site - compliance with codes of practice be mandatory with provision for on-the - spot fines.

Further information is available from the VNPA office, phone (03) 6546843.

From an article in "VNPA Newsletter" Vol 8 no 8 by Jenny Barnett.



*Carpobrotus roseii*

# Snippets:

## **Very Fast Train**

The Very Fast Train Working Group (VFTWG) welcomes support from IFFA members in lobbying the State and Federal Governments to give serious consideration to an alternative route for the Very Fast Train and the future of an improved public rail system for Australia. The proposed East Gippsland route is not acceptable for the following environmental reasons:

- major earthworks, broad clearing of the site, steep cuttings, tunnel work and many bridge crossings would be required along the Brodribb River valley;
- siltation from these earthworks and herbicide run-off from track maintenance into the Brodribb;
- a barrier to animal migration and emergency services will be created by continuous cyclone fencing with only occasional designated underpasses;
- unknown effects of noise levels on wildlife;
- the train route will come as close as 1 km from the boundary of the Errinundra National Park.

Regardless of the environmental considerations, the social impact of the train deserves public scrutiny:

- The VFT consortium requires Government legislation to enable acquisition of private and crown land for the rail route;
- There will be no concession fares unless subsidized by the government;
- disruption to urban municipalities from land acquisition, earthworks, additional rail alignments and unspecified noise levels;
- discontinuation of the existing rail routes which offer cheap fares to the public;
- induced patronage required to justify 35 trips each way daily;
- insufficient consideration given to the failure of the project or the rail service and its subsequent cost to the public;
- the social and environmental impact of the proposed "multi-functional polis".

The VFTWG urges you to share our concern for the need for a full public inquiry into the VFT, and recommends that you write to the following Ministers expressing your views:

The Hon J. Cain, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne 3002.

The Hon T.W. Roper, Minister for Planning and Environment, 477 Collins St, Melbourne 3000.

The Hon J.L. Simmonds, Minister for Local Government, 7th Floor, 500 Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000.

The Hon K.P. Setches, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne 3002.

The Hon J.H. Kennan Q.C., Minister for Transport, Parliament House, Spring St, Melbourne 3000.

**Adapted from an article by Jenny Darling (VFTWG) in VNPA Newsletter 8:8**

## **Killing of 5,000,000,000 gum trees proposed**

The Queensland Government is likely to give the go-ahead for a plan to kill off between one third to one half of the trees across 100 million hectares of central Queensland, according to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald of 3/7/89.

The woodland trees would be killed by aerial application of the herbicide Grasslan, creating permanent grasslands for grazing of up to two million cattle. Grasslan is designed to kill all broadleaved plants, so not only eucalypts, but all trees, all shrubs and all broadleaved herbs are likely to be killed.

Some scientists are concerned about the risk of widespread soil degradation, and massive loss of wildlife. The woodlands are ecologically fragile, drought prone, and if cleared would be vulnerable to salinization and overgrazing.

Have we not yet learnt from our past mistakes of indiscriminate land clearing? Tree removal has led to the almost insurmountable land degradation problems of today - salting and soil erosion.

This tree poisoning program comes at a time when the Federal government is planning to spend many millions of dollars to aid reforestation and soil conservation projects.

If you are concerned, please write to :  
Bob Hawke, and Sen Graham Richardson, both  
c/o Parliament House, Canberra 2600.

**-from an article by John E. Neff, in Men of the Trees Newsletter, September 1989.**

## **Instructions to Authors:**

Indigenotes articles are not refereed, but the editor reserves the right to amend articles submitted. Please supply a contact address and phone number with the article.

The format for material to be submitted is flexible. Ideally it would be supplied in IBM ascii format on 360K 5 1/4 inch or 720K 3 1/2 inch floppy disks, accompanied by a hard copy printout, as this minimizes my work and the chances of typographical errors. Typed material is acceptable, and so is handwritten material, as long as it is clearly written and not in red ink.

The deadline for material is printed on the front page. Please respect this deadline as this makes a difficult task easier.

# Dolichos

(continued from page 2)

infestation occurs, and the scale and dynamics of invasion. As always, the intent should be to minimize the impact of control measures on other species, and follow-up maintenance is important. Rather than a single control method, a number of approaches are potentially suitable, depending on the context in which the individual plants of Dolichos are occurring.

The above notes are based on information provided by Geoff Carr, John Browning, Ron Musker, Warren Partington and Kim Robertson, which is gratefully acknowledged.

THE AGE, 2 SEPTEMBER 1989



Picture: STUART HANNAGAN

The chairman of the Board of Works Mr Ray Marginson, with a plastic toilet seat and other rubbish on the bank of Merri Creek.

## Board wants to give Yarra and Merri another go

By LEITH YOUNG

Last week, an employee of the Board of Works went to the bank of the Yarra at Prahran to collect a sample of typical Melbourne rubbish.

In a minute or so she gathered a plastic Coke bottle, a foam potato chip carton, a beer can, a cigarette packet, a fish wrapper. Other objects best described as "floatables" were passed up as too gruesome and remained on the bank.

The garbage, encrusted with "Yarra gunge", was prettily wrapped and delivered, with an explanatory note, to a radio broadcaster, an eloquent re-

minder from the board to the community that what they drop on the streets ends up in their streams.

The fact that the Yarra has a special place in Melbourne's culture has never stopped it being treated as a drain. Last financial year, the board spent \$350,000 scooping the equivalent of 500 truckloads of rubbish from the surface of river and its tributaries.

Most was plastic — the wrappers, fast-food containers, drinking straws, shopping bags that are dumped in the street and are swept into the gutters and drains.

The head of the board, Mr Ray Marginson, said he has been obsessed with the state of the Yarra since taking over as chairman in 1982. "We've cleaned up water purity... now we have to tackle people waste."

Mr Marginson points to a year-long litter survey of Merri Creek at Coburg, which traced the origins of litter to try to stop it at the source. Using drain traps, the board found that residential zones generated junk mail, while fast-food containers came the business district. The industrial zone produced the highest proportion of plastics.

The board has set aside 15 Oc-

tober as a community river clean-up day, similar to the blitz on Sydney Harbor earlier this year. Volunteers will gather at points along the Yarra and Merri Creek and be assigned the job of pulling plastic off trees or retrieving submerged cans.

"Reducing the amount of packaging will take time," Mr Marginson said. "We can have up to four layers between us and the product we buy. It's wrapped, inside a box, then a heat-sealed wrapper then a carry bag. It's too much. There will be a rethink, in the meantime, we say don't dump it in the supermarket carpark, because if it gets on the street it will get in the streams."

# What is IFFA?

The Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association (IFFA) is an organisation dedicated to the conservation of the indigenous Australian biota.

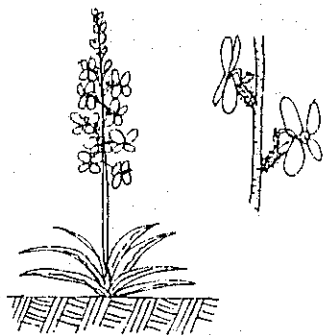
Its members, comprising both amateur and professional workers come from diverse backgrounds including botany, zoology, ecology, horticulture, environmental management, education and other fields.

The organization believes that conservation of plants, animals and the communities they form, must be based on sound knowledge of their biology, ecology, distribution, status and management requirements. To achieve these ends, we aim to foster a broad multidisciplinary approach, bringing together expertise from a wide range of professions which are too often independant and narrowly focussed. We believe this approach is necessary to maximise the conservation, social and economic benefits of responsible resource management.

In particular we wish to encourage participation and involvement in the important emerging disciplines of conservation and restoration biology, habitat reconstruction, revegetation and the active management of vegetation and fauna - on public and private lands.

It is a primary objective of the Association to research, collect and disseminate information concerning conservation matters to relevant agencies, groups and individuals. We also aim to participate in debate in environmental issues and help in the formation of conservation policies at the local, state or national levels.

The resources of IFFA are available to both the public and private sectors of the community to help establish appropriate conservation and management strategies.



GRASS TRIGGER-PLANT

*Stylidium graminifolium*

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The Secretary,  
IFFA,  
Ms Michele Arundell,  
2/81 Alexandra Ave,  
South Yarra 3141.

## Memberships

IFFA membership costs  
\$40 for groups,  
or  
\$20 for individuals  
and families.

Membership includes  
11 issues of  
Indigenotes per year.

Memberships should be sent to  
The Treasurer,  
Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association,  
Ms Susan Lee,  
Flat 5/24 Lisson Grove,  
Hawthorn 3122.