

# INDIGENOTES

Newsletter No. 2 July 1986

Welcome to "INDIGENOTES", newsletter of the  
Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association.

The IFFA arose from Garden Week 1986, and was formally initiated at a very successful public meeting in May this year.

At that meeting, the aims, objectives, constitution and rules of the Association were formalised and an administrative Collective appointed. The constitution and rules of the Association, and a list of Collective members are printed elsewhere in this issue of INDIGENOTES.

THE AIM OF THE INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA ASSOCIATION IS TO "PROMOTE AWARENESS AND CONSERVATION OF INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA", PARTICULARLY IN THE MELBOURNE AREA.

Well, you ask, what's an "indigenous" plant?

An indigenous plant is one which grows naturally in the area in question.

The River Red Gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) is indigenous to the Merri Creek, where it has grown for 1000's of years. The Lemon Scented Gum (Eucalyptus citriodora), which is widely planted in Melbourne, is indigenous to certain parts of Queensland. Even though it is an Australian "native", it is not indigenous to the Melbourne area.

Many species of plants grow naturally in a variety of different habitats and areas. Widespread species often vary greatly when growing in different places. For example,

Manna Gum (Eucalyptus viminalis) grows as a tall forest tree in many mountain gullies, but is short, rough-barked and stunted in coastal areas. These differences are due to the genetic make-up of the tree itself. Anglesea Manna Gums don't grow to 40 m tall if planted in the Dandenongs.

For this reason - the unique genetic variation of plants, even within a species - the IFFA is vitally concerned about preserving local bushland and local forms, even of widespread or "common" species.

The introduction of plants which were grown from seed or cuttings from other areas (even if those plants are of the same "species" as grow locally) does not preserve the genetic composition, or the innate, unique characteristics of the local flora.

INDIGENOUS FLORA ARE LOCAL PLANTS. THE PRESERVATION AND RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIGENOUS PLANTS ENSURES REGIONAL VARIETY AND DIVERSITY, AND PROVIDES FOOD, SHELTER AND HABITAT FOR LOCAL (INDIGENOUS) ANIMALS: FROGS, FROGMOUTHS, BUTTERFLIES AND HOVERFLIES, LIZARDS AND LACEWINGS.

Such an approach has been termed "ecological horticulture": growing with an ecological basis. To quote from Grant Pearson's article (later in INDIGENOTES), there is an urgent need to "think habitat, not garden".

## HELP PRESERVE MELBOURNE'S REMNANT VEGETATION

The Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands and the Ministry of Planning and Environment recently began a study of the vegetation of the Melbourne area.

The study is to identify and survey all areas of remnant vegetation and to determine the significance of these areas. From this information, a description of the vegetation - both past and present - can be compiled; the first, detailed and systematic vegetation survey of the entire Melbourne area.

Finally, a large map will be prepared (similar to the recently produced vegetation map of East Gippsland), which will display

the original vegetation of the Melbourne area.

The Melbourne study began four months ago and a preliminary report has just been produced. It contains brief descriptions of the major vegetation types, an annotated species list, and maps of all known sites of remnant vegetation.

It is hoped that the survey will continue for a further 18 months. However, cuts in government funding could mean that the study will cease this December.

The IFFA fully supports the continuation of a detailed floristic study of the vegetation of the Melbourne region. WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP TO ENSURE THAT THIS VALUABLE SURVEY CONTINUES.

Please write, in your own words, to either of the Ministers listed below.

- \* Congratulate the Minister for undertaking the Melbourne survey.
- \* Request a copy of the Preliminary Report - it's free.
- \* Impress upon the Minister the need to continue the study for the full, two-year time-span.

PLEASE WRITE SOON.

Without your support this valuable study may be shelved and forgotten.

Write to:

The Honourable Joan Kirner  
Minister for Conservation, Forests & Lands  
240 Victoria Parade  
East Melbourne, 3002

The Honourable Jim Kennan  
Minister for Planning and Environment  
477 Collins Street  
Melbourne, 3000.

## ASSOCIATION RULES

1. The Association shall delegate the power to make day-to-day decisions for the management of the affairs of the Association to the co-ordinating Collective.
  2. The Collective shall meet not less than once in each calendar month and shall report to the following General Meeting, which shall not be held any less than once every three calendar months.
  3. The Collective shall consist of ten members
  4. Membership of the Collective shall be for not less than two months, nor for less than twelve months. Re-election, appointment and retirement shall be by mutual agreement between the member, the Collective and the General Meeting.
  5. The functions of agenda preparation, chairing and minute taking for Collective and General Meetings shall be rotated.
  6. Decisions shall be by majority vote.
  7. The Association shall maintain a log book in which shall be recorded all activities, visits and telephone calls of substance and which log book shall be open to all members of the Association. A copy of this log book shall be lodged annually with the State Library.
  8. Membership Contributions shall be:

(i)	Individual	\$10	per year
(ii)	Family	\$20	per year
(iii)	Group	\$20	per year
  9. Changes to the Constitution shall be made by a two-thirds majority at any General Meeting with two weeks notice being given to all members of the proposed change.
  10. The finances shall be overseen by the Collective and a statement presented to each General Meeting.
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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING - 22nd July, 1986.**

At Burnley, 7.30 p.m.      ALL WELCOME.

Speaker: Randal Robinson "Flora Survey: Melbourne"

Next Collective Meeting - 6th August, 1986.

At 13 Lawson Street, East Hawthorn, 8 p.m.

## INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA ASSOCIATION

### CONSTITUTION

1. NAME: The name of the Association shall be The Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association, otherwise known as the I.F.F.A., and hereafter called "the Association".
2. AIM: The aim of the Association shall be to "promote awareness and conservation of indigenous flora and fauna (particularly of the Melbourne region)."
3. OBJECTIVES: the objectives of the Association shall be to:
  - (a) promote the study of the natural environment and our biological heritage;
  - (b) provide a network of communication to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas amongst those involved with indigenous flora and fauna and within the general community;
  - (c) actively encourage the use of indigenous flora by the State Government, municipal authorities and the community generally; and
  - (d) to do all such things as may be incidental to the attainment of such objectives.
4. MEMBERSHIP:
  - (a) Individual members shall have agreed to accept the above objectives, paid the prescribed membership fee, and:
    - (i) have applied in writing for membership and have been accepted as members by a majority vote of the Collective or by a General Meeting; or
    - (ii) be employees of the Association.
  - (b) Member organisations shall have applied in writing for membership, expressed support for the above objectives, paid the prescribed member organisation fee, and have been accepted as member organisations by a majority vote of the Collective or of a General Meeting. A member organisation may appoint from its members a representative who may speak and vote on its behalf.
  - (c) Membership may be suspended by not less than two-thirds majority vote at a Collective or General Meeting. Any suspended member or member organisation may, on not less than two weeks written notice, require the suspension to be reconsidered at one subsequent General Meeting. The Association shall not be required to accept the renewal of membership of a suspended member or member organisation when renewal next falls due.
  - (d) Membership shall cease on resignation (in writing) delivered to the premises of the Association; on termination of employment by the Association; or after failure to renew membership within two months of expiry.

## GARDENERS VS. CONSERVATIONISTS

by Grant Pearson

Australian gardeners are often constrained by European concepts of horticulture.

Our lawns often occupy more than 40% of a suburban block. The aesthetic value of this contrivance is not enough to justify such a large area devoted solely to one or two plant types. The Hills Hoist and BBQ have ensured the survival of the lawn, much to the relief of the family dog.

European horticulture also dictates that a great variety of plants be grown, often from diverse environments and preferably exotics. To cultivate such plants and to do them justice is often an expensive, time consuming occupation.

For example, roses require constant spraying for aphids, powdery mildew, blackspot, etc., etc. Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Camellias require huge quantities of water to flourish, to mention nothing of the spraying required to keep them free of red spider mite, scale, etc. Their aesthetic appeal is undeniable, but to grow them on such a large scale to the detriment of the indigenous flora and fauna is questionable.

The last 20 years have seen a rapid increase in the number of people interested in native plants. Often this interest was fired by the real concern, that the indigenous flora and

fauna are disappearing at a frightening rate, and the only way of reversing this trend is to re-introduce the bush to suburban blocks.

Sadly, these honourable intentions were led astray by the nursery trade, who, en masse, went north and west in search of cheap products and returned with Grevillea robusta, Pandorea jasminoides, Hakea laurina, nicely packaged and ready to go. Their motives were, and still are, monetary rather than ecological.

As a nurseryman and horticulturalist, a garden means much more than a selection of plants grown for botanical interest and research. It is a place of refuge and privacy, recreational space and habitat - and not solely for the family dog.

If our intentions are honourable, and we sincerely wish to preserve and extend areas of habitat for our indigenous flora and fauna, we must grow the plants which originated in our specific areas.

The concept of horticultural ecology need not be encumbered by traditional concepts of horticulture, practises which are often detrimental. Neither should the imagination of the gardener be constrained within the parameters of the paling fence. Rather, we should look beyond, and think habitat rather than garden.

INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA ASSOCIATION

*Individual Membership and Stickybeak Form*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone contacts: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests, skills and areas of influence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Memberships held in similar groups: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Aims you would like this group to pursue: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thanks, and don't forget to include \$10 and mail to P.O. Box 100,  
Noreland, 3058.

INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA ASSOCIATION

*Group Membership and Stickybeak Form*

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact people for Group: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of members: \_\_\_\_\_

Aim of Group: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Interests and skills held by members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*This form can also be used by families. Please include \$20 in legal tender and mail to P.O. Box 100, Noreland, 3058.*