


INDIGENOTES



**IFFA**
Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association

What is IFFA?

The Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association (IFFA) is an organisation dedicated to the conservation of the indigenous Australasian 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 independent 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 through *Indigenotes* and our new journal *Advances in Nature Conservation*. We also aim to participate on 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.

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 Secretary,
Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association,
Ms Michele Arundell,
Flat 2/81 Alexandra Ave
South Yarra Vic. 3141.

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

Will any tree do?

By Tony Faithfull*

Melbournians will be turning out in their droves during Arbour week this year to plant trees in railway reserves, creek valleys, old tip sites, and foreshore reserves. Are we making the most efficient use of this huge labour force?

Planting for humans and nature

Planting trees and shrubs in the barren parts of our cities will certainly make them more pleasant places to live. But we can also make the city a more friendly place for our native animals and plants to live, by planting back the plants that they depended on before Melbourne was built. Plants that occur naturally in an area, or would occur in an area if the vegetation hadn't been destroyed, are called indigenous plants. The Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association recommends the planting of indigenous plants in all revegetation programmes.

Using indigenous species has the following advantages:

1. Conservation:

Indigenous plantings create habitat for local fauna. Introduced (or "exotic") plants tend to provide habitat for exotic animals - blackbirds, foxes, rabbits etc. Not only do animals like these take up space that might be available for native animals like rosellas, quolls and bandicoots, they may actually destroy remaining populations of native animals.

Exotic plants are rarely introduced with the full range of insects, fungi etc which live on them in their natural environment. This means that they provide less habitat, and also may mean that they may grow out of control if there are no native animals which can eat them. Blackberry, Ivy, willows, Boneseed and Wandering Jew are examples of exotic species which can grow out of control because they just don't have the natural controls which they would have had in their own native environment.

2. Weeds:

Exotic plants which grow out of control, and take over from natural or semi-natural indigenous vegetation are called **environmental weeds**.

*10 Alsace Street, East Brunswick 3057.

There are over 400 serious environmental weed species in Victoria. Most of them were imported deliberately for planting in gardens, but escaped and became problem weeds. Environmental weeds are the greatest threat to the long term survival of all natural vegetation in Victoria. If we plant indigenous species, we avoid the danger of introducing known or new environmental weeds to an area.

3. Genetic resources:

Many indigenous plant species around Melbourne have disappeared or are disappearing as Melbourne grows. Often local plants have slightly different genes to plants of the same species growing in other areas. Once these local varieties of plants are gone, they and their genes are gone forever, along with any chances for us to investigate their medicinal or scientific values. By planting indigenous plants grown from local seed or cutting material, we can help maintain or enlarge the gene pools of our native species.

4. It's cheaper:

Indigenous plants are well suited to local soils and climatic conditions. This means that they are more likely to be successful, need less water, and fertilizer, and don't require the importing of special soil.

5. They provide an educational resource:

Most Melbournians rarely get out of Melbourne into the bush. The only way these people will be able to learn about the Australian bush is if we bring the bush to Melbourne. Even if everyone could get to visit our national parks, so many people would do so much damage, that they would be no better than our urban reserves. Many schools, community groups and individuals can use indigenous plantings for most of their environmental study needs.

6. Local identity:

Each area is unique because of its indigenous plant community. A locality's distinctive character is linked with its type of vegetation. Many areas are losing their local identity due to the destruction of indigenous plants and the introduction of plants from elsewhere in Australia and overseas.

Will any tree do?

Continued from page 3

To get back the full range of fauna species, we need to plant the full range of indigenous plant species

Not just trees! For example, many native birds are ground feeders and require grasses and herbs; many native butterfly species need native grasses or sedges.

The fauna will tend to come back by itself once the flora is there.

Fauna populations will not return to a site if it is too dangerous. Too much predation (by animals, humans or cars) will destroy any individuals which return to a site before they can form a stable breeding population. Toxic chemicals or other physical factors may interfere with recolonization.

Animals will only recolonize an area if they can get there:

The less mobile animals can be catered for by the provision of wildlife corridors – continuous strips of vegetation linking larger areas of vegetation. The best sites for vegetation corridors in Melbourne are generally along waterways – e.g. Merri Creek, Yarra River, coastal foreshore reserves, etc. Some species prefer ridgetops and will not be catered for by a program of creation of wildlife corridors along the waterways.

The more mobile species of animals can utilize the scattering of native plants that we get if people plant them in their back yards. These are generally birds and flying insects.

Direct animal re-introductions are a matter for experts.

It is cruel to reintroduce animals unless there is enough habitat and low enough levels of predation to allow the long term survival of a population of the animals. They should also be established in a way which will mimic their behaviour in the wild.

E.g. Attempts to re-introduce Squirrel Gliders to the Corranderk Reserve near Healesville have used family groups of animals.

What we can do:

1. Plant indigenous:

On any site that is available (in your back yard, or on public land with the permission of the managing authority) plant back a range of species that would have occurred there before the origi-

nal vegetation was destroyed. To imitate nature most closely make sure the plants are grown from locally collected seed or cutting material, and are planted in a microenvironment which suits them. Such plants are called **indigenous**. This approach helps in the preservation of local varieties of these plant species too.

Reference: Buchhorn, R. Jones, D., & Robertson, D., 1989, *Urban forestry handbook A guide to the management of urban bushlands*, Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, Melbourne.

There are many groups which you could join in with to help plant on public land. These include:

The Tree Project Phone 370 1683.

The Australian Trust for Conservation volunteers (03) 583 3388.

Friends of park groups near you (contact Victorian National Parks Association on (03) 650 8296

During Arbor Week, May 14th to 20th, many sites are nominated for massive tree plantings. You would be welcome to turn up to any of those. (see pages 6&7).

Indigenous plants are available from indigenous plant nurseries which are scattered across Melbourne. Some of them are:

Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Coop., Lee Street, East Brunswick 3057 Phone 387 4403 carries indigenous plants from the Merri Creek, Studley Park and basalt plains (i.e. western suburbs). Open weekdays 10 – 5pm

Operation Revegetation, c/o Ferntree Gully High School, Dorset Rd, Ferntree Gully. Phone 763 6317. Open Sundays 10 am – 4 p.m. Covers the City of Knox and surrounding areas.

Bushland Flora Phone 758 5416. covers mainly outer eastern suburbs. Retailers through Kuranga Native Plant Nursery 393 Maroondah Highway Ringwood, and Country Squire Garden Centre, 33 Research - Warrandyte Road, Research.

Local Native Plants, Phone 781 4845. Open by appointment only. Covers Frankston area.

La Trobe University Wildlife Reserves, Phone 479 2871. Open Sundays 10 am -4 pm. Covers Heidelberg area and riparian plants from the Yarra valley.

Bush Life Native Nursery cnr Wantirna and Canterbury Roads, Ringwood.

City of Sandringham Community Nursery Phone 598 8111. Covers coastal and tertiary sands areas around Sandringham.

2. Maintain existing plantings.

Even more important than getting more plants in the ground, is maintaining existing plantings. In the year or two after planting, plants are susceptible to competition from weeds, and it is critical that plantings be weeded during this time. Unfortunately, planting will often be a waste of time unless adequate weeding is carried out. Lower levels of maintenance are needed in the long term, and there is more opportunity to sit in the shade and have a cool drink.

3. Preserve indigenous vegetation remnants.

Where remnants of the original vegetation remain, manage these to conserve them. This may mean:

Reducing disturbance from humans, including clearing, stock grazing, trampling, changes to drainage patterns and nutrient levels, digging for worms, removal of firewood and other materials,

Removal of environmental weeds (naturalized non-indigenous plant species outside the agricultural or garden context which adversely affect the survival or regeneration of indigenous species in natural or partly natural plant communities).

Careful prescribed burning.

Control of exotic animals- e.g. dogs, cats, rabbits, horses..

Being careful not to destroy a remnant by planting inappropriate species (e.g. trees in a grassland).

4. Avoid planting environmental weeds anywhere

For any plant we put in the ground we should be prepared to deal with the consequences. If the plant spreads into adjacent areas, and is doing some damage, or threatening to spread further to where it might do damage, we should be prepared to remove it.

Environmental weeds have demonstrated the capacity to do just this. Many of them are very difficult to eradicate.

5. If you want local fauna to return, keep your dog and cat under control.

Dogs and cats are inimical to native wildlife, and are probably the main factor in the urban area preventing local wildlife returning to areas of native vegetation. Keep dogs and cats locked up, especially at night.

6. Make sure local fauna has somewhere to return from.

If we want to help the local flora and fauna to return to the city, we must make sure that they continue to have somewhere to return from. In the city fringes and outside the city help preserve as much native vegetation and habitat as you can. Certainly, there should be adequate representation of every vegetation type in reserves.

E.g. Kangaroo Grass grasslands once covered a large area on the Basalt plains west of Melbourne. Currently about 0.01% of these remain. One area of 72 ha at Cooper St Craigieburn is in private hands. It is a choice remnant and is under threat of destruction by factory development. You can join the fight to get this land bought and managed by the government - contact Friends of the Merri by ringing David Taylor on 489 0507.

7. Join a Friends Group

All over Melbourne various groups have been set up to help reserve managers with tasks like plantings and weeding. They are usually called Friends of ... groups, and can mostly be contacted by ringing the Victorian National Parks Association on 650 8296

8. Join the Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association

See page 2 for details, page 11 for membership form.

Further reading:

Buchanan, R. A., 1989, *Bush regeneration: recovering Australian landscapes*, Student Learning Publications, Department of Technical and Further Education, NSW.

Hamilton, L. (c.1989), *How to organize tree growing projects in rural communities* Department of conservation, Forests and Lands, Melbourne.

Barnett, J. & Baker, R. 1987 *Standing up for your local environment* Town and Country Planning Association/ Conservation Council of Victoria, Melbourne.

Carr, G.W. 1985, *Perspectives on Environmental weeds in Victoria. Proceedings of a symposium - Weeds on Public Land - An action plan for today.* Weed Science Society of Victoria Inc and the School of Environmental Science, Monash University, Melbourne, pp 52-60. (Reprinted in *Indigenotes* vol 2 no 4.)

Coming Events

MAY

14-18 Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. LaTrobe University Wildlife Reserves Support Group "**Indigenous Megaplant**". Strathallan Golf Course et al with the main theme of habitat link improvement. Willing and able hands should go to the Rangers' Office any time for instructions.

14-18 Mon-Fri 10 am. Friends of Warrandyte State Park, **tree planting**. Meet at the depot. Ian or Margaret Burke (03) 844 1060.

19 Sat 2-4pm. **Greenlink Camberwell**. Outer Circle railway walk, Ashburton to Hughesdale, Gardiners Creek area, with Balwyn Historical Society. D. Burgess (03) 809 2092.

19 Sat. Friends of Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Lake Park. **Planting at Lysterfield**. Neal Smith (03) 873 2635.

19 Sat. Friends of Werribee Gorge and the Long Forest Mallee project day. **Long Forest tree planting**, Djerriwarrh block and maintenance. Judy Douglas (053) 67 2672.

19 Sat. Urban City Council Arbour Week Plantings.

Essendon, Arbour Reserve.

Coburg. Egan Reserve. Melways map 30 ref B3.

Northcote Fairfield Park Melways map 30 ref A12

Box Hill.

20 Sun. Urban City Council Arbour Week Plantings.

Altona. Graham Reserve. Melways map 208 ref K1.

Bayswater. Arrabri Community Centre, Allambanan Dve. Melways map 65 ref B1. Contact: Steve Chappel (03) 729 2863.

Braeside, metropolitan park Mel. map 88. Contact Andrew Graystone (03)551 1640.

Box Hill. Gardiners Creek. Mel. map 61 ref A5, off Fletcher Pde. Contact Mark Juler (03) 895 9627.

Broadmeadows. Cnr Barry and Pascoe Vale Rd. Melways map 6 ref H3, City Bowman Archery Club Melways map 16 ref D2. Contact Kilvin Thompson (03) 306 9023.

Brunswick. David Phillips Reserve. Melways map 30 ref B8.

Camberwell. Koonung Creek. Melways map 32 ref F11. Enter from Carron Street.

Caulfield. Melways map 69 ref C5. Kitmont St. Contact Lyn Hannan (03) 524 3348.

Chelsea. Balloon Launching Area, Melways map 93 ref C8, Edithvale Rd.

Coburg. Egan Reserve, Mel. map 30 ref B3.

Collingwood. Quarries Project. Melways map 44 ref F2, Tambla St.

Cranbourne, various sites.

Croydon. Arrabri Community House, Melways map 65 ref B1, Allambanan Dr.

Eltham Town Park, West. With Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Mel. map 21, ref H6, Ferguson Paddock. ATCV (03) 583 3388 or Glen Terry (03) 430 1145.

Footscray. Newells Paddock. Mel. map 42 ref F3, Board of Works, Ballarat Rd & Jameson Ave.

Frankston foreshore. Mel. map 102 ref B3.

Heidelberg. Darebin Ck. Mel. map 31 ref D3. & cnr Wimpole Cres & Liberty Pde.

Keilor. Keilor Park Res, Mel. map 15 ref D5. Contact John Scott (03) 334 0222.

Kew. Outer Circle Railway, Mel. map 45 ref J5. Guide Dog Centre, Mel. map 45 ref B1.

Knox. Blind Creek Mel. map 72 ref E2, Cathies Lane. Contact Seamus Doherty (03) 879 2266.

Malvern. Peverill Park Mel. map 69 ref F2 Peverill St.

Mordialloc. Keefer Res, Mel. map 87 ref G9, Warratah Ave.

Mt. Waverley. Pipe Track, Mel. map 70 ref G4, Pinewood Dve & Tooroodun St. Contact Malcolm Hill (03) 552 3326.

Northcote. Deep Rock, Yarra Bend Park. Mel. map 2D ref D5. Contact Darcy Duggan (03) 481 0866.

Port Melb. Lagoon Res, Mel. map 57 ref C3. Off Liardet St.

Reservoir. Pipe Track, Mel. map 19 ref B1, Burbank Dve.

Sandringham. Sandringham Secondary College, Mel. map 77 ref B 11.

Sherbrooke. Lysterfield landfill site. Wellington Rd. Mel. map 83 ref H7.

St Albans. Pipe Track, Mel. map 14 ref F9, Hedgeley Rd. Contact Doug Valence (03)

313 8331.

Strathmore, nursery cnr, Mel. map 16 ref F7, Off Mascoma St. John Eyries (03) 377 8830.

Werribee, Railway Ave, Mel. map 206 ref A7. Greg Mather (03) 742 0784.

Where a contact number has not been provided regarding these community plantings, contact the relevant council or the Tree Project, phone:370 1863.

21-25 Mon-Fri 10 am. **Friends of Warrandyte SP**, tree planting. Meet at the depot. Ian or Margaret Burke (03) 844 1060.

22-25 Tues-Fri. **Conference: Sowing the Seeds**. Greening Australia Ltd, Direct seeding and natural regeneration conference. A conference including a field day on one of the most important emerging technologies in the battle against land degradation in Australia and around the world. Adelaide Convention Centre, Sth. Australia. For further information contact Rob Youl (03) 650 9424 (BH).

23 Wed 7.30. Friends of Gould League (FOGL) Natural History Program - **Fungi**. Includes field trip on 26/5/1990. Gould League (03)51 1493.*

24 Thurs 10am. **Friends of Warrandyte S.P., nursery activities**. (This takes place every Thursday). Meet at the depot, bring lunch. Ian or Margaret Burke (03) 844 1060.

25-27 Fri-Sun. **Connections** - a conference for the environment, the outdoors and camping. Organised by: Camping Association of Victoria, Victorian Association of Environmental Education and Victorian Outdoor Education Association. Bendigo College of Advanced Education. Enquiries: Kevin Tanner, Connections Conference, PO Box 199, Bendigo, Vic, 3550.

26 Sat 10am. Men of the Trees. **Planting at Deep Rock**, Melways map 2D D6. Minette Russell Young (03) 898 1364.

27 Sun 10am. Friends of Warrandyte SP, **Fungi walk** with Pat and Mike Coupar. Stane Brae venue. Ian or Margaret Burke (03) 844 1060.

27 Sun 10am. **Nunawading Indigenous Plants Project** activity day. Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society Inc. Nunawading Council's Horticultural Centre, 82 Jolimont Rd, Forest Hill. Brian Crouch (03) 878 5053.

28 Mon 7.30pm. **The Very Fast Train** and Multi Function Polis. It's impact on Victoria's

natural heritage and other issues. Chadstone High School, Ivanhoe Grove, Chadstone. Further details: Jim Walker 654 4521.

29 Tues 8pm. **IFFA meeting**. For details see back cover.

JUNE

2 Sat. **Friends of Gellibrand Hill Park** activity day. Kerry Pratchett (03) 306 8180.

2 Sat. **Friends of French Island SP**, activity day. Contact Des Quinn (03) 791 2315.

3 Sun. Outdoors at Westerfolds Park - Activity Program. **Nature Walks with Cecily Falkingham**. Learn to observe the signs of life in the park and see how different lives interact to make the Park the wonderful natural environment it is. There will be four sessions during the day:

1. 9.30am-11am
2. 11.30am-1pm
3. 1.30pm-3pm
4. 3.30pm-5pm

Outdoor Recreation Centre, 332 Banyule Rd, Viewbank. For enquiries or application form, ring (03) 457 5432.

3 Sun 1pm. **Friends of Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve** activity day. Meet at the McLelland Drive car park, Melways map 103, ref C10. Contact Leon Costermans (03) 783 5015.

3 Sun. **World Environment Day**.

3 Sun. **Tree planting to commemorate the late Mr Edwards**. An open invitation from Trish - his daughter to "getsometrees-intheground". Corio Shire have facilitated this by giving access to a site along Hovell's Creek. anyone wishing to join in, please contact Trish or Mark on (052) 29 8087.

10 Sun 9-11.30am. **Stony Creek weeding** group activity day-subgroup of FOWSP. Meet at the Park depot. Mark Gardner 844 3799.

10 Sun 2pm. **Friends of the Point** (Pt. Nepean) project afternoon. Weed eradication planting and fortifications study. Meet at the Orientation Centre. Stuart Sherrin (059) 84 1953.

11-17 Wed-Tues. **ANGAIR** (Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna. **Weed week**. Meet at Anglesea Hall. Mary D. White (052) 631 975.

10 Sun 2pm. **Friends of the Point** (Pt. Nepean) project afternoon. Weed eradication planting and fortifications study. Meet at the Orienta-

Coming Events

tion Centre. Stuart Sherrin (059) 84 1953.

- 14 Thurs 8pm. **Botany Group meeting of the FNCV**. National Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave. Contact Margaret Potter (03) 29 2779.
- 16 Sat. **Friends of Werribee Gorge & Long Forest Mallee**, tree planting. Bob Reid (053) 67 2462.
- 17 Sun 2-4pm. Greenlink Camberwell. Guided tour - **Malvern Wetlands and Gardiners Creek** revegetation. Meet at the corner of Karnak Rd and Solway St, Glen Iris, Melways map 69, ref B1. D. Burgess (03) 809 2092.
- 19 Tues 7.30pm. FOGL Natural History Program. **Reptiles**. Followed with field trip on 23 June. Sheryl Richards at the Gould League, (03) 51 1493.*
- 20 Wed 7.30pm. FOGL Natural History Program. **Weeds**. Followed with field trip on 21 July. Sheryl Richards, (03) 51 1493.*
- 20 Wed 8pm. **Alpine Resorts**: Jamie Pittock will outline VNPA's position on Alpine Resort management and show slides of areas threatened by resort expansion. Room K, Main Building, Ormond College, College Crescent, Parkville. For further details contact VNPA (03) 650 8296.
- 23 Sat 1.30 pm. **Moorooduc Quarry Reserve** project day, picnic reserve. Mount Eliza Association for Environmental Care. Melways map 106, ref A7, meet at Two Bays Road.
- 24 Sun 10 am **Mount Eliza Association for Environmental Care** project day. See 23 June.
- 24 Sun 2 pm. **Friends of Victoria's 1st Settlement site** - Sorrento. Stuart Sherrin (059) 84 1953.
- 24 Sun 10am-4pm. **LaTrobe University Wildlife Reserves Support Group** activity day. George Paras (03) 479 2871.

26 Tues 8pm. **IFFA meeting**. For details see back cover.

JULY

- 4-5 Wed-Thurs. Conference: **The Otways - Fauna and Flora - their conservation and management**. Deakin University, Geelong. Enquiries: Barbara Wilson (052) 47 1265, Martin Westbrooke (053) 33 9213.
- 11-15 Wed-Sun. **Fifth International Earth Education Conference**. Birrigai Outdoor Centre, Tharwa, ACT. Includes speech by Steve Van Matre, author and Chairman of Institute for Earth Education. For further details about

the conference or the IEE contact the IEE, GPO Box 124A, Melbourne, 3001, ph: (03) 499 6659.

AUGUST

6-10 Mon-Fri. **9th Australian Weeds Conference**. Adelaide Convention Centre. For further information contact: D. W. Stephenson, S.A. Dept. Agriculture, GPO Box 124A, Adelaide, 5001.

SEPTEMBER

27-28 Thurs-Fri. Queensland Museum. For further details or registration form contact Dr. Robert Paterson, Convenor, Queensland Museum **Humpback Whale Conference**. PO Box 300, Sth Brisbane, Qld, 4101.

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.

* Each lecture has a \$7.50 charge, including excursion where offered.

Reinforcements at Yarra Bend.

Congratulations to Peter Tucker, Lyn Browne and Ross McPherson. They are badly needed reinforcements for the bushland management crew there, and will be starting soon.

Living with the Bush CAE course

George Paras is holding this 4 session course with one field trip, which aims to provide practical advice on owning and managing natural or semi-natural bushland. Contact CAE for more information on 6520611.

Now paid at Wildlife Reserves

After Laurie Whelan's departure to Bendigo, the Wildlife Reserves have a new Assistant Ranger, Patrick Driver, to fill the hat, shoes and gloves. Patrick has been a volunteer at the reserves, and has been snapped up. Unfortunately, the Reserves microscopic non-salary budget ...

Snippets:

Action on Grasslands & grassy woodlands.

IFFA believes that in early May the Minister for Conservation and Environment received the final report "Biological Action Statement for Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands in the Melbourne Area".

The report has an inventory section which presumably includes the most up-to-date research and data on grassland / grassy woodlands in the Melbourne area, including conservation status, threats and management issues. It is potentially a very useful document for land managers and conservationists.

The draft report identified 22 sites of National or State significance, however it explicitly proposes the acquisition for conservation of only two of the ten sites at risk from changing land use, the others being conserved only if it's a "realistic option".

The State Conservation Strategy (1987 p 33) indicates that: "As a general rule those sites significant at the State level or above will be preserved for nature conservation purposes". The underlying dangers inherent in this are that where sites have been assessed purely on biological grounds, social and cultural values including archaeological values are not considered, nor is the merit of protecting sites of high biological value which are under immediate threat (such as the 72 ha Kangaroo Grass grassland at Cooper Street, Craigieburn).

By concentrating purely on biological value, the report could be used by the State Government as an excuse to avoid its previous commitments. It may again try to forget its election promise to purchase the Cooper Street site, and instead buy cheap sites with rural zoning that are not under immediate threat or where other appropriate action such as rezoning, conservation covenants etc could be taken. Cooper Street grassland may be bulldozed this month. Surely its purchase should be a high priority!

All members are urged to write to the Minister for Conservation and Environment (Steve Crabb, 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne Victoria 3000).

1. Ask that the Cooper Street grassland site be saved from the bulldozers, and that you would support its purchase.
2. Request that the Action Statement be released for wide public discussion as public consultation has not really taken place so far.

Tree Project moves to Ross House:

The Tree Project's new address is 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne 3000. Phone 370 1863.

Wilderness — what do you think?

Victoria's Land Conservation Council has released a descriptive report on the first stage of their investigation into Wilderness conservation in Victoria. It invites submissions on the report by June 8. The Wilderness Society has produced a guide to writing submissions which is available by phoning Georgia Stewart on (03) 670 5229. Nature conservation must take precedence over human use of some areas. Have your say — the 4WD lobby certainly is having theirs!

Danthonia can hybridize:

Barry Kemp writes:

"Regarding the excellent article in you April issue and hybridization: In December '86 or January '87 I collected material from an undoubted Danthonia hybrid swarm at Dalrymple Road, Sunbury, Victoria. One parent was, I am sure, D. carphoides, and I think the other may have been D. eriantha, but several species were present. The material, from several plants, was sent to National Herbarium of Vic as B.Kemp 113."

World Environment Day:

A newly formed group, the Environment Day Action Network (EDAN) are organizing a rally and day of activities on Sunday June 3rd in celebration of World Environment Day. EDAN currently comprises the RMIT Ecology Action Group, Green Alliance and Resistance clubs, and can be contacted by phoning Kevin or Loretta on 660 2058.

Dogs and cats in the Dandenongs:

Wildlife Watch Dandenongs, set up because of a concern about the killing of native wildlife by cats and dogs, has produced four pamphlets of note to IFFA members. The first "The dog problem" examines the role of dogs in damage to stock, wildlife and humans, and the responsibilities of humans in controlling their dogs. The second pamphlet is really a recording form for sightings of attacks by straying dogs, cats and foxes and gives some information about the Dandenong Ranges Wildlife Line. Information gathered in this way is recorded on an introduced predator

Snippets continued:

database. The third pamphlet is a glossy information pamphlet on the Lyrebird — a species for which the Dandenong Ranges is famous, but which is currently dwindling in numbers rapidly because of heavy predation. The final pamphlet proposes that cats be confined to private catteries on residential land in the Dandenong Ranges. It points out that the vast majority of cats seen or destroyed in the National Park are domestic cats, and that the current situation does not provide adequately for control of cats.

Wildlife Watch Dandenongs can be contacted on (03) 754 2423. or at P.O. Box 544 Belgrave 3160.

Kallista Community House Environmental Network

This new group was set up in April, and is concerned about conservation and planning issues in the Sherbrooke area. Further information (03) 755 2622.

An end to exotica

From Sydney Morning Herald 13/2/90

SIR: A dam on the Shoalhaven will destroy yet another part of the wild Australia we still have left so that incongruous suburban lawns and water-sucking plants from another climate may survive. An all too familiar story.

But it's not just green that counts— it's what kind of green.

I've stopped watering my garden as of today and I'll plant natives on the graves of my foreign flowers.

Perhaps we can do without that dam if we think globally, act locally.

— Maureen Bell, Camperdown.

Take this a step further, and plant **local** natives!

Quick action to save Elms, but...

Local and State Government have acted quickly to the threat posed to the elm trees of Melbourne by the Elm Leaf Beetle. Following the identification of the beetle on the Mornington Peninsula in February 1989, an Elm Leaf Beetle Liaison Committee has been formed, and a project proposed to develop management strategies to suppress population numbers and to prevent extensive damage to elm trees and to delay the spread of this pest. It would involve life history studies, chemical control studies, biological control studies and the development of control programs.

(*Victorian Entomologist* Vol 20, no 2, April 1990.)

On the other hand, we have hundreds of weed species and pest animals which are doing untold damage to our own native plants and animals, and a very few of them are having any attention with respect to finding control strategies. While the elms have some values for Melbourne, I for one would not be sorry to see the elms go (at least partly because I have had to deal with elms as persistent environmental weeds) if the money were instead spent on finding ways of controlling Montpellier Broom, or Madeira Vine, or Foxes, or Blackbirds. — Ed.

ANGAIR buzz

Mary White (from Anglesea Vic.) reports success in a coastal of *Melaleuca lanceolata* (Moonah), which two years ago was infested with very tall Milkwort. Members of ANGAIR began removing the tall plants two years ago, and by continuing to remove the masses of seedlings, these are almost under control. As a result, over 50 species of small indigenous plants are coming up. These include 4 orchid species, the Tiny Yellow Star, Guinea Flowers, Love Creeper, Twining Fringe Lilies, Austral Storks-bill, and Cranes-bill. The weeders are very excited and rewarded by the results of the work they have put in.

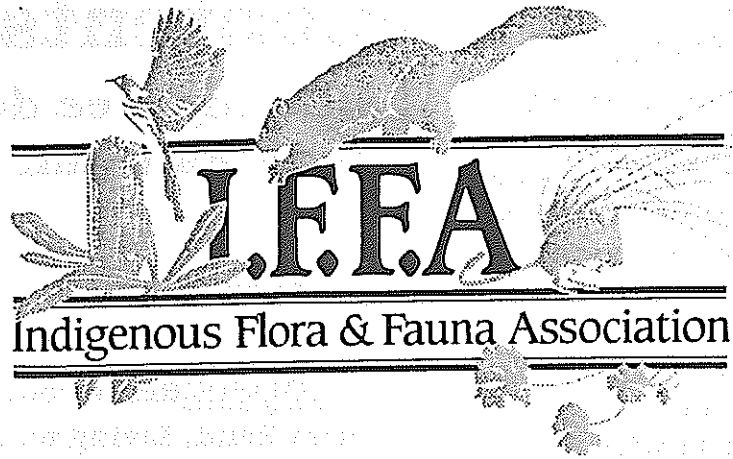
"Wildflowers of S.E. Aust." cheap

Angus and Robertson bookshops currently have available copies of *Wildflowers of South East Australia*, text by J. Ros Garnet, illustrations by Elizabeth Conabere for \$6.95. Very good value.

From Trish

An open invitation from Trish to get some trees in the ground: *Since my dad died in 1986, I have wanted to do something to commemorate him and to sustain the energy he put into revegetation projects. It seemed appropriate to plant trees - lots of them! Corio Shire have facilitated this by giving access to a site along Hovell's Creek. The first planting will be on Sunday June 3rd. Anyone wishing to join in, please contact me (or Mark) on (052) 298087 for details.*

- Trish Edwards (Conspicuous by my absence from IFFA meetings while undergoing the metamorphosis to teacher!)



MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL / CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

**I wish to become a member of IFFA.
(Costs \$40 for a group, \$20 for an individual or family)
Membership includes subscription to Indigenotes**

\$ _____

I wish to renew my membership

Please change my address details to those below

I wish to make a donation of

\$ _____

I enclose a cheque for the total of :

\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb or city: _____ **Postcode:** _____

Phone: (home) _____ **(work)** _____

Return to:
Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association,
C/o Michele Arundell,
2/81 Alexandra Ave,
South Yarra 3141.

Office use only:		
Date received:	/ /	
New	Renewal	Change of address
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Receipt No:	_____	

IFFA Activities:

May IFFA meeting:

Tuesday May 29, 8 p.m. at the Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra (Melways map 2G, 12A). **Annual General Meeting** - election of office-bearers and reports. New blood is needed on the Committee to supplement the energy of existing members. Think about it, but please come along. Talk on **The ecology of Lichens** by visiting lichenologist **Pat McCarthy**. light supper provided.

June IFFA committee meeting:

Tuesday June 5, at 6.30 p.m., at Michele & Peter's, Flat 2/81 Alexandra Ave South Yarra Victoria 3141.

June IFFA meeting:

Tuesday 26 June.

Meeting with new Minister:

IFFA is expecting to have four representatives meet with the new Minister for Conservation and Environment, Steve Crabb, in the next few weeks to discuss issues which concern us. If you want a particular matter to be raised, contact Graeme Lorimer on (03) 728 5841 or Peter Tucker (03) 267 4173.

Front cover:

Tree planting along the Merri Creek in Clifton Hill, by children from the Clifton Hill Primary School. These plantings are slowly bringing back the natural character of the valley. Photo: Merri Creek Coordinating Committee.



FLAX-LILY IN FRUIT
Dianella sp.

from Andrew Paget

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Will any tree do? by Tony Faithfull 2

Coming Events: 6

Snippets: Reinforcements at 9
Yarra Bend, Living with the bush CAE course, Now paid at Wildlife Reserves, Action on grasslands and grassy woodlands, Tree Project moves to Ross House, Wilderness - what do you think?, Danthonia can hybridize, World Environment Day, Dogs and cats in the Dandenongs, Kallista Community House Environmental Network, An end to exotica, Quick action to save elms..., ANGAIR buzz, Wildflowers of South-east Australia cheap, From Trish.

Office Bearers:

President: Geoff Carr, 69 Spenseley Street, Clifton Hill Victoria 3068. Phone (03) 489 4191 (work), (03) 205784 (home).

Vice-President: Graeme Lorimer, 42 Gratten Road, Montrose, 3765. Phone (03) 728 5841 (home).

Secretary: Michele Arundell, 2/81 Alexandra Ave South Yarra Victoria 3141. (03) 267 4173 (home), (03) 6509424 (work).

Treasurer: Susan Lee, (03) 427 0061 (home).

Articles: Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editor, Tony Faithfull, 10 Alsace Street, Brunswick East, Victoria 3057, Phone (03) 386 0264 (home). The deadline for the June issue will be Friday June 14th.

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

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