

INDIGENOTES

NEWSLETTER No. 4 September 1986

Welcome to the September issue of INDIGENOTES. Things are beginning to warm up a bit for many members at the moment: spring is bringing in a host of flowers which will involve many in the survey of sites and later collection of seed. Take the time to check out the sites in your area that you're familiar with, enjoy them and point them out to others. In that way we can extend the knowledge we have of the local flora. Many sites have nothing to defend them and are in great need of watchers, weeders and workers.

It is also getting to the end of planting for 1986. There are a number of groups intending to plant large numbers of indigenous stock in the next month, so grab what time you can spare and a shovel...

It has been suggested that the growers of indigenous plants get together and try to co-ordinate the collection of seed and propagation of material for as much of the greater Melbourne Region as possible. There is a need to try and cover the projects that will be going ahead next year, so that indigenous stock can be supplied, especially for areas of high significance. Suggestions have also been made that nurseries could combine to set up a series of guidelines for the growing and supply of "local native" plants. These topics can be discussed at the next meeting which is at the National Herbarium of Victoria, in Birdwood Drive, South Yarra, Monday September 22nd at 7.30 pm.

Botanist, Jeff Yugovic will be speaking on the "PLANT COMMUNITIES of REEDY LAKE and the BARWON ESTAURY".

The next collective meeting is at Darcy Duggan's abode, 16 Belgravia Ave, Box Hill North on October 8 at 8. All welcome.

The following two general meetings shall be at the Herbarium on Monday, October 20 and Monday, November 17.

Please send in articles, references, items of interest, information and new members to I.F.F.A., P.O. Box 100, Moreland 3058.

URBAN FORESTRY IN THE CITY OF NUNAWADING

A community tree planting day is to be held along Gardiner's Creek in Blackburn. 3,000 indigenous plants have been grown from local seed consisting of 20 species of trees, shrubs and ground covers. This program will contribute to the development of a vegetation corridor linking Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Gardiners Creek and the Yarra River. This is an opportunity to develop part of the dwindling remnant vegetation of Melbourne's suburbia.

We need your help to ensure these plants get in the ground.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12, 1986, 1-4 PM

Afternoon tea and refreshments will be provided.

Organised by the Blackburn Creeklands Committee of Management.

Enquiries: Geoff Lodge a.h. 877 3346
Brian Crouch a.h. 878 5053

Be there or be slack.

LET'S RIGHT THE YARRA

It's called "LET'S RIGHT THE YARRA". For years people have been talking about the river that flows upside down. We all know this isn't really true, but it is true that our river is a little backward. Locally, and even nationally, there is a push to restore our waterways to their former majesty and to help return them to their natural potential, thus providing all of us with a unique educational and leisure facility.

THE SPIRIT OF VICTORIA

The Spirit of Victoria will depart Port Melbourne on Friday the 31st of October. The evening will include two brief talks on revegetation presented by guest speakers, a display of current programs and an auction of products donated by major sponsors. All proceeds from tickets and the cruise will go toward revegetation programs. The evening will bring together people from diverse areas, raise much needed funds and provide the opportunity for exchange of ideas and problems. Should you be interested in taking part in the cruise, please don't hesitate to contact us by writing to "LET'S RIGHT THE YARRA"

C/- The SRC, Burnley Campus
V.C.A.H.
Swan St.
RICHMOND 3121

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION IN THE SUBURBS

JOHN REID

Native butterflies drift lazily through your backyard on sunny spring and summer days. Ever wondered where they come from? Did some all-powerful super-being create them spontaneously from thin air and drop them in your garden? Why have they come to 27 Smith Street, Elwood? What are they doing?

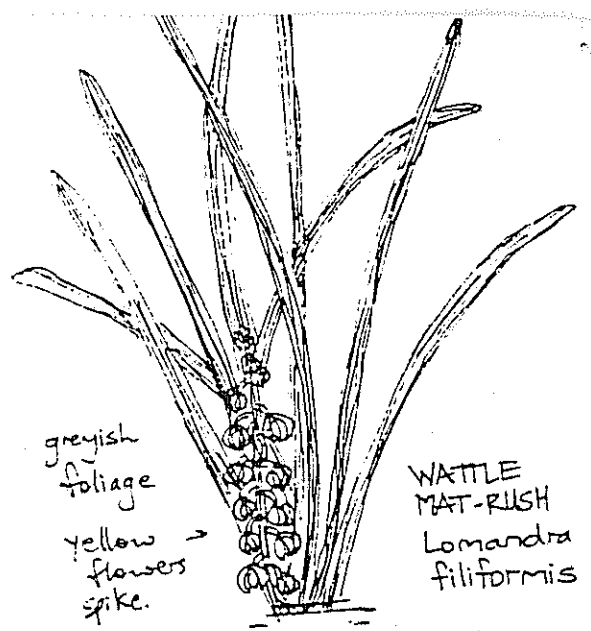
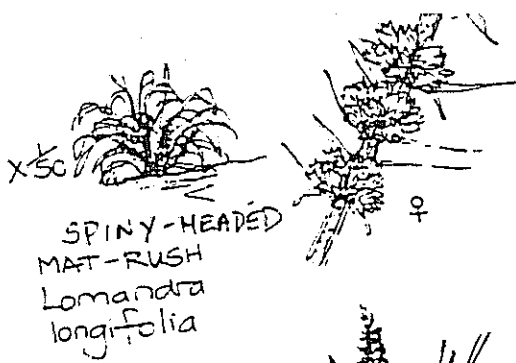
Butterflies like nectar. Nectar from all kinds of flowers, indigenous and exotic. The carbohydrates contained in this nectar help them to live longer, and give them the strength to find a mate and breed successfully, enabling the females to produce lots of viable eggs.

So it seems our adult butterflies are happy with many of the plants we serve them up in those crazy, chaotic, jumbled collections of flora we surround our houses with. But adult butterflies are essentially breeders, and as we have seen, they appear to be fairly unspecific in their choice of plants to provide strength-giving nectar. It is when the eggs hatch out to produce caterpillars (larvae), that the crucial feeding stage begins. And it is this stage that we must be most aware of if we are to conserve indigenous butterflies.

Like all indigenous fauna, butterflies require the correct habitat in which to live. In particular, this habitat must provide them with particular larval food plants. When the female butterfly is ready to lay eggs, her sense of smell is probably stimulated by the essential oils of the plants species on which the larvae can feed. Regardless of the nature of this stimulation, she usually lays her eggs on or near certain preferred plants. This ensures that when the eggs hatch, the young caterpillars will be on or close to the plant they want to start munching straight away.

That's enough of the preliminary waffle: now for the guts of the article. We are all land managers in our own way, professional or otherwise. We can all have input into the way our indigenous flora and fauna are managed. For example, in suburban Melbourne we can get involved in our own gardens, in council reserves, bits of bush along roadsides, railway lines, creeks and gullies, etc. As lovers of indigenous flora and fauna, let's have some input on behalf of the caterpillars of our native butterflies.

Spiny-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), a common local tussock of the lily family, is the food plant for at least three species that occur around Melbourne: the *Symmomus*, *Phigalioides* and *Dispar* Skippers. Wattle Mat-rush (*L. filiformis*) is also eaten by the *Phigalioides* Skipper.



WATTLE MAT-RUSH
Lomandra filiformis

Native grasses are particularly valuable as butterfly habitat. There are at least seven other Melbourne butterflies that feed exclusively on grasses such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), Blue Tussock Grass (*Poa poiformis*) and Slender Tussock grass (*P. tenera*). These include the Common Brown, Shouldered Brown, Ringed Xenica and Klugs Xenica.

The general public doesn't seem to be particularly enamoured by our parasitic (shock! horror!) native mistletoes. But we must tell all those who don't love these plants that as well as a host of other ecological values, they provide larval food for at least four Melbourne butterflies: the Imperial White, Wood White, Olane Azure and Dark Purple Azure.

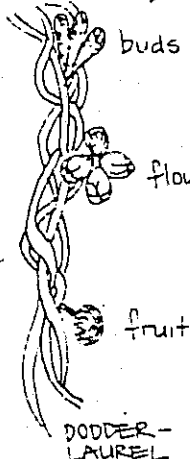
The Imperial White is a particularly beautiful insect, black and white on the insides of its wings with splashes of red and yellow against a dark background on the outside. Around Melbourne it has two generations each year. The adult butterflies fly around looking spectacular between September and November, then a second generation hatches in February and flies till April. Their caterpillars feed on the leaves of various mistletoes. In the eastern suburbs of Melbourne these include Creeping Mistletoe (*Muellerina eucalyptoides*), Drooping Mistletoe (*Amyema pendulum*) and Box Mistletoe (*A. miquelii*).

Two of our local Saw-sedges (*Ghania sieberiana* and *G. radula*) are excellent butterfly plants, providing food and shelter for the larvae of the Sword-grass Brown, Donny Skipper and Spotted Skipper. If we can both preserve and re-establish these two sedges within the appropriate vegetation associations along verges and in bushland remnants, these three butterflies may continue to fly in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Another handsome butterfly of the Melbourne area is the Australian Admiral, black and reddish-brown with a large yellow patch on each forewing. Its caterpillars feed at night on the leaves of the native Stinging Nettle (*Urtica incisa*). During the day they hide in a shelter made by joining a couple of the nettle leaves with a few strands of silk.

Along Dandenong Creek in Heathmont, there still occurs at least one colony of the Common Imperial Blue. They have survived in this area because two of their food plants, Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) and Silver Wattle (*A. dealbata*) have been retained near the creek. Here the larvae and pupae are attended by swarms of small black *Iridomyrmex* ants. The ants harvest sweet secretions from the larvae and pupae, and presumably return some degree of protection from predators. I have found colonies of the Common Imperial Blue in Mount Waverly, Vermont South, Donvale and Warrandyte.

The Common Grass-blue is regarded as the most abundant butterfly in Australia. The caterpillars feed on the young leaves, flower buds and seed-pods of various pea flowered plants. Around Melbourne, they probably now feed largely on introduced legumes such as White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), but many indigenous species have been recorded as food, including species of *Desmodium*, *Glycine*, *Swainsonia* and *Indigofera*.



Another group of much maligned indigenous Melbourne plants are the Doddoer Laurels (*Cassytha* spp.). They are often thought of as straggly and untidy, and of course like the mistletoes they are p-p-parasitic! As well as growing in dense tangles that provide safe places for native birds to nest, they are also the food plant of the larvae of the Common Dusky Blue. I have found these caterpillars on one of the Dodder Laurels, probably *Cassytha melantha*, in open forest dominated by Red Box, Long-leaf Box and Red Stringybark in Warrandyte and Park Orchards.

There are other indigenous butterflies and indigenous butterfly food-plants in the Melbourne area, but this lot will do for a start. It is hoped that this article will stimulate further discussion by the I.F.F.A., on how we can promote public awareness of all indigenous invertebrate animals and their habitat requirements.

ANOTHER SHORT NOTICE NOTICE
OPEN DAY

Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-op. is having an open day on Saturday September 20 beginning at about 12.30. There will be a B-B-Q (BYO) and demonstrations, displays and plants to be seen. Most of our plants are from Melbourne's northwest region but what we are doing is applicable to any region. If you can't come Saturday, drop in later- we need the business.

Also we are looking for *Bursaria spinosa* seed picked this year from anywhere in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Please contacts us at the nursery, ph 386 4692.

VINC is at 32 The Avenue, Coburg, opposite Moreland High.

THE NATIONAL SEED COLLECTING PROJECT

The Division of Forest Research within the CSIRO, through the Tree Seed Centre, has recently initiated a National Seed Collecting Project. Funded by the Community Employment Program, this project is based in 5 regions throughout Australia: Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. Three C.E.P. eligible workers will be employed in each region, and an experimental scientist co-ordinating the project will be based in Canberra.

The Melbourne team will be based at The Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-op. in Coburg. Co-operative members will provide training, equipment, knowledge of sites and seed collecting techniques to the team who will be working mainly in the Greater Metropolitan Area for 48 weeks. All being well with the bureaucrats, the Melbourne part of the project will be starting on Monday September 22nd.

Woody species are to be targeted: mainly selected Acacias and Eucalypts; Casuarina, Banksia, Bursaria, Melaleuca and other larger species are also to be collected. The Tree Seed Centre in Canberra will be taking half of the seed collected, and the other half will remain in Melbourne for use by community and other groups in revegetation and local species conservation. This seed will probably remain in the clutches of V.I.N.C. The seed sent to the Tree Seed Centre will be available to groups who contact the CSIRO, including those from overseas.

I have written to the CSIRO to express our concern about the effects of exposing ecosystems to more exotic species, especially considering the growing opposition to Eucalypts overseas. Lex Thomson, the scientist co-ordinating the project from within the CSIRO noted these concerns, but said the CSIRO was only answering requests from other countries, and that species were being sent to areas where the indigenous vegetation was inadequate for re-forestation. We noted his answers and have discussed them, but agree that it would be better for all concerned if scientists were exported instead of seed to aid indigenous people to reclaim their own environments. These problems accent the importance of views of groups such as I.F.F.A. and the need to expand these concerns beyond political boundaries. (Regular listeners to the Science Show on the ABC will realise many of the talking heads-scientists and ecologists- on that program are stressing the need for sound ecological initiatives which are similar to those expressed by many of our own members.)

It is our hope that this project should be extremely beneficial to Melbourne's remnant flora. Good success in collecting woody species will also allow some time for key collections of herbaceous species, and will also allow collections from a larger number of areas. Information can also be exchanged between the National Herbarium, the von Mueller Institute and the collecting group. This spring looks like being a particularly good seed season, especially as the Acacias were so poor last year.

During the first four weeks of the project, the team will be compiling a schedule of sites and species to be collected. What they are looking for are groups of healthy plants that are assuredly indigenous stock, and not single specimens that may have poor yields of fertile seed. To aid them in their task we would like members to send information regarding good stands that they know of, seed availability, and probable seeding times of species. Send the information to the:

Melbourne Seed Collecting Project
 32 The Avenue
 COBURG 3058

Provisional list of indigenous species for collection in the Melbourne region

1. Top Priority

Acacia dealbata
 " implexa
 " mearnsii
 " melanoxylon
 " retinodes
 Eucalyptus globulus ssp globulus
 " " " bicostata
 Eucalyptus viminalis
 " yarraensis

2. Second Priority

Acacia acinacea	Eucalyptus leucoxyton
" mucronata	" melliadora
" nanodealbata	" microcarpa
" obliquinervia	" muellerana
" pycnantha	" polyanthemos
" sophorae	" rubida
Allocasuarina verticillata	
Eucalyptus bauerana	" stellulata
" camaldulensis	Banksia marginata
" cypellocarpa	Bursaria spinosa
" dalrympleana	Melaleuca ericifolia

3. Opportunistic collections

Other woody plants especially eucalypts and acacias, but also banksias, callistemons, casuarinas, daviesias, dilwynias, grevilleas, hakeas, leptospermums, myoporums etc.

BOYCOTT BOWATER-SCOTT

NO MORE CLEARING OF NATIVE FORESTS FOR SOFTWOOD

Bowater-Scott, the Victorian Government and the ACTU had secret negotiations in April this year. The result was Bowater-Scott being allocated 8,900 acres (4,000 ha) of public land for pine planting, and with this a 40 year agreement for supply of sawlogs.

Bowater-Scott is using public land rather than purchasing or leasing their own land from private sources.

Although it is direct violation of ALP policy to plant pines in native forests, there is no protection written into this agreement. As consumers with free choice, all those opposed to this use of public land should not buy products which demand that an already embattled flora and fauna suffer even further.

Write to: Mr. L. A. Wilson
Bowater-Scott Corporation
11 Ailsa St
BOX HILL 3128

or send a phonogram to the same address: "NATIVE FORESTS-NOT PINES".

Products to boycott: Sorbent, Scotties, Bowscott, Scott Family Napkins, Lady Scott, Dri Tot, Baby Diapers, A.F.I. sawn timber and plywood products.

M. Heynemann

N.B. Joan Kirner, Minister of C.F.&L., has said clearing of native forests shall stop after this year. When the agreement was made with Bowater-Scott, she was advised that more forest clearing was needed to honor the agreement, but went ahead nevertheless. Whether they will manage to knock over enough bush before the twelve months is up remains to be seen, but I have been told that 10-15 year old Eucalypt regrowth on the Koowetong Plateau (North central Vic.) is being knocked over holus-bolus for pines. Farmers in the Tallangatta Shire are also protesting about the planting of pines on fertile farmland as they believe it has a deleterious effect on surrounding farms. It is obvious the impact of pine planting on the environment needs to be looked at a lot more closely. Ms Kirner is well versed in the politics of compromise, but not in ecological management. Watch this space.

At the last collective meeting, Darcy brought to our attention the fact that there is now a three-ply toilet tissue for sale. How many plies does it take before people can ignore the fact they've got bums? How can people who studiously ignore their own bodily functions have a meaningful relationship with the soil?

IFFA BOOKWATCH

New Books of Interest

Several recently and not so recently published books and reports have come to our attention and are listed below. Unfortunately there is no time to write full reviews of them but a few notes are given to indicate their scope, relevance and quality. We should make a list of new books and publications a regular feature of INDIGENOTES. If anyone spots new publications of biological or environmental interest, please communicate the information to IFFA for inclusion in our newsletter.

Baker, M., Corringham, R. and Dark, J. (1984). Native Plants of the Upper Blue Mountains. Three Sisters Productions, Winmalee, N.S.W. 64 pp. (Softback) RRP: \$9.95.

_____ (1985). Native Plants of the Lower Blue Mountains. Three Sisters Productions, Winmalee, N.S.W. 79 pp. (Softback) RRP: \$12.95.

Both this and the above are popular treatments or "wildflower" books. Like many similar books, their value is limited because they only treat a tiny fraction of a very rich regional flora. The photographs are of reasonable quality.

Brown, G.W., Carr G.W., Cherry, K.A., Craig, S.A., Horrocks G.F.B., Merkhurst, K.A., Opie, A.M. and Triggs, B.E. (1986). Flora and Fauna of the Quadra Forest Block, East Gippsland, Victoria. Dep. Conserv. For. and Lands. Ecol. Survey Rep. No. 6. 83 pp.

Latest in the series of pre-logging reports from the C.F. & L. which contains valuable information on the regional biota. These surveys, though individually limited in scope, are contributing to a data base of Victorian flora and fauna which will eventually be comprehensive and enormously important for the conservation, planning and management of natural resources.

Clifford, H.J. and Specht, R.L. eds. (1986). Tropical Plant Communities. Their Resilience, Functioning and Management in Northern Australia. Department of Botany, University of Queensland. pp. viii + 217.

A notable and very welcome contribution to the sparse ecological literature of Australia so far published in book form. Designed as a university text.

Dowling, R.M. (1986). The Mangrove Vegetation of Moreton Bay. Queensland Botany Bulletin No. 6. pp 45. Qld Dep. Primary Industries. RRP: ?

A valuable contribution in companion with other Queensland Botany Bulletins.

Duncan, B.D. and Isaac, G. (1986). Ferns and Allied Plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Melbourne University Press, Carlton. pp xii + 258. (Hardback) RRP:

At last the definitive book on ferns has arrived! This is a notable contribution to botanical literature and will remain a classic for many years. It gives masses of detail on fern taxonomy, identification, biology and ecology that has hitherto been unavailable or scattered through the literature. The book is superbly illustrated with color and black and white photographs, lucid line drawing and distribution maps (the latter for species in Victoria only). All people with more than a passing interest in the flora should acquire this book.

Dunlop, C.R. and Bowman, D.M.J.S. (1986). Atlas of the Vascular Plant Genera of the Northern Territory. Australian Flora and Fauna Series No. 6. Bureau of Flora and Fauna, Canberra Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory. Aust. Gov. Publishing Service, Canberra. pp v + 116. (Spiral bound)

A family by family account of the distribution of all known genera in the N.T. (using dot maps) according to their presence in grids of taxonomic and biogeographic interest.

Felfoldi, E.M. (1985). Identifying the Weeds Around You. Victorian Government Printing Office, Melbourne. pp 303. (Softback) RRP: \$34.95

Yet another weed book, is about all you can say. It is orientated towards weeds of crops and gives a description, notes and control for a wide range of species. A rather crude, mostly one-page line drawing is given for most species.

Gullan, P., Walsh, N. and Podwyszynski, A. (1986). Ferns and Fern Allies of the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. National Herbarium of Victoria. pp 102. (Softcover with spiral binding.) RRP:

This is a comprehensive identification guide for the 58 species occurring in the geographical area. Each species is treated with

a (mostly) full-page of description, notes and distribution etc., and the majority are beautifully illustrated by line drawings. A welcome, and unfortunately novel, feature of the book is the information on habitat of the species according to the floristic vegetation classification used by the National Herbarium. This is the first regional flora published in Victoria.

Jessop, J.P. and Toelken, H.R. eds. (1986). Flora of South Australia. Parts 1-4, Governments Printer, Adelaide. (Hardback) RRP: \$140.00 for the 4 parts bound together, or \$31.00-\$41.00 for each part.

An exciting new flora has hit the street and it is glowingly recommended. This new flora is only loosely based on Black's classic Flora of South Australia, being extensively refurbished with a new format, enlarged amended descriptions and wholly new line drawings of mostly good to excellent quality. It also has 16 color plates per volume by Colin Woolcock. The most notable feature is the large number of new taxa described by the authors of the various families or genera treated. A substantial proportion of these also occur in Victoria, and many have been known by us for some time e.g. *Goodenia* sp. A (in the sense of Beauglehole) is now *G. blackiana* Carolin and can now be formally added to the Victorian and Melbourne lists.

The four parts of the flora deal respectively with plant families Lycopodiaceae - Rosaceae (Part 1); Leguminosae - Rubiaceae (Part 2); Polemoniaceae - Compositae (Part 3) and Monocotyledons (Part 4). Various specialists throughout Australia have authored different families or genera so we may expect definitive up-to-date taxonomy (But don't blink for too long).

This new flora of unexcelled quality for a state or region is warmly welcomed. It throws into stark context the plight of the Victorian botanical community in its lack of a flora. Willis' handbooks have served us well, but they are no more than keys to the flora and are now out of date. Hundreds of species have been added to the flora, and taxonomic concepts in many groups have altered radically, necessitating the routine use of taxonomic accounts dispersed in a wide array of journals. This new Flora of South Australia will find a sizeable group of adherents (particularly those working with the western Victorian flora) frustrated by the lack of comparable literature in this state. There is no doubt that the lack of a Victorian flora, or even a key, encompassing a mass of new material and data, is a singular obstacle for conservation land management and horticulture in the state.

The National Herbarium of Victoria recently made moves to initiate a "Flora of Victoria" project but the Dept. of Cons. For. & Lands power brokers decreed that the money was not available! In these times of economic stringency a flora is something we can ill afford, it seems. It may yet occur to these

faceless bureaucrats that a comprehensive flora could:

- (i) pay for itself over time,
- (ii) save the Department money by expediting routine identifications at the Herbarium and making the job of regional management easier,
- (iii) alert the C.F. & L. officer to weed problems which may tax resources in the future and
- (iv) be a valuable exercise in public relations.

Power to the South Australians!

Jones, D.L. (1986). Ornamental Rainforest Plants in Australia. Reed Books Pty. Ltd., Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. pp. 364 (Hardback) RRP \$29.95

This is essentially a book for horticulturalists which treats 1,000 cool to tropical rainforest species, the bulk of which are woody. A short description is given for each species as well as notes on cultivation, distribution etc. Introductory passages provide information on propagation, cultivation, terminology and so on. The book provides a useful survey of woody rainforest taxa in Australia but its unabashed horticultural-promotional thrust gives cause for great concern. It takes no quantum leap in imagination to picture rainforest plants all over the country outside their natural range, especially with the preponderance of bird seed disposal mechanisms operating in the rainforest flora as a whole. Already we have 85 species of native Australian garden escapes naturalised in Victoria outside their natural geographic range.* One of the most devastating, Pittosporum undulatum (Sweet Pittosporum), is a rainforest species included in Jones' book along with nine others. Two New Zealand Pittosporum species we may note, are naturalised in Victoria and two exotic species hybridise with each other or with the indigenous P. bicolor.

It is precisely this kind of unqualified horticultural entrepreneurial activity that is diametrically opposed to the aims of IFFA, albeit unconsciously. Jones nowhere mentions conservation in any shape or form, the problems of weed invasions or genetic pollution.# Indeed, he says of Pittosporum undulatum "valued for its dense, shady crown and fragrant flowers". It is difficult to agree with Jessup and Guymer of the Queensland Herbarium in their forward to the book, that in reference to rainforests, the volume "can only be of beneficial to their long-term". I believe the opposite is likely to be the case.

* Robinson, R.W., Carr, G.W. and Robin, J.M. (1986). Plants naturalised outside their natural geographic range in Victoria: Australia: dire foreboding for the flora. Abstract in R.H. Groves and J.J. Burdon eds. Ecology of Biological Invasions in Australia: An Australian Perspective. Aust. Acad. Science, Canberra.

Robin, J.M. and Carr, G.W. (1986). Hybridisation between introduced and native plants in Victoria, Australia. Abstract in R.H Groves and J.J. Burdon, ibid.

Roberts, B.R., Silcock, R.G. and Scott, G (1982). Western Grasses. A Grazing Guide to the Grasses of South West Queensland. Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba. pp 118. (Hardback) RRP: \$18.00.

Well illustrated with line drawings but text mediocre.

Smith, G.G. (1985). A Guide to the Coastal Flora of South-Western Australia. 2nd ed. Handbook No. 10, Western Australian Naturalists Club, Perth. pp. 68 (Softback).

One of a series of highly commendable natural history treatments mostly dealing with the flora and fauna of south-west Western Australia. Others in the series of 12 so far published, deal with snakes, frogs, lizards, dragonflies, gastropods, sand dune plants, mangroves, Wongan Hills etc. This one is almost as relevant to eastern Australia as it is to Western Australia.

Stanley, J.D. and Ross, E.M. (1986) Flora of South-Eastern Queensland. Vol 2. Queensland Herbarium, Department of Primary Industries, Queensland. pp. iii + 622. (Hardback) RRP: ?

This is the second volume of a well produced and professional regional flora. Three volumes are proposed; Volume 1 was published in 1983. The geographic area encompassed is about 750 km long and 500 km wide at maximum. A total of 1347 spp. in some 474 genera and 77 families are treated in Volume 2. Each species is given a rather brief but adequate description while minimal notes on distribution etc. accompany each. One irritating feature is that the distribution outside the area is not given. Each genus is illustrated with a high quality line drawing showing one or more species.

Woolcock, L. (1985). Wildflowers of the Mt. Lofty Ranges. Fleurieu Peninsula to Barossa Valley. Wakefield Press, Netley, South Australia. pp. vi + 186. (Hardback) RRP: \$22.50.

A popular treatment of selected wilflowers of the region and one of the worst examples of the genre seen for a long time. The photographs in particular are of abysmal quality.

Geoff Carr