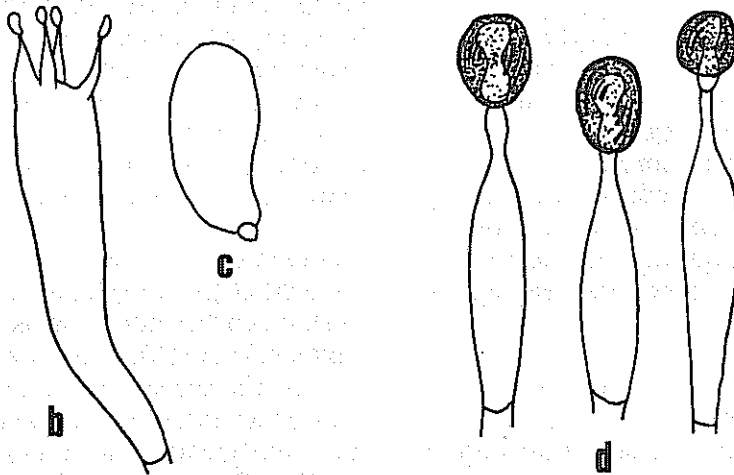
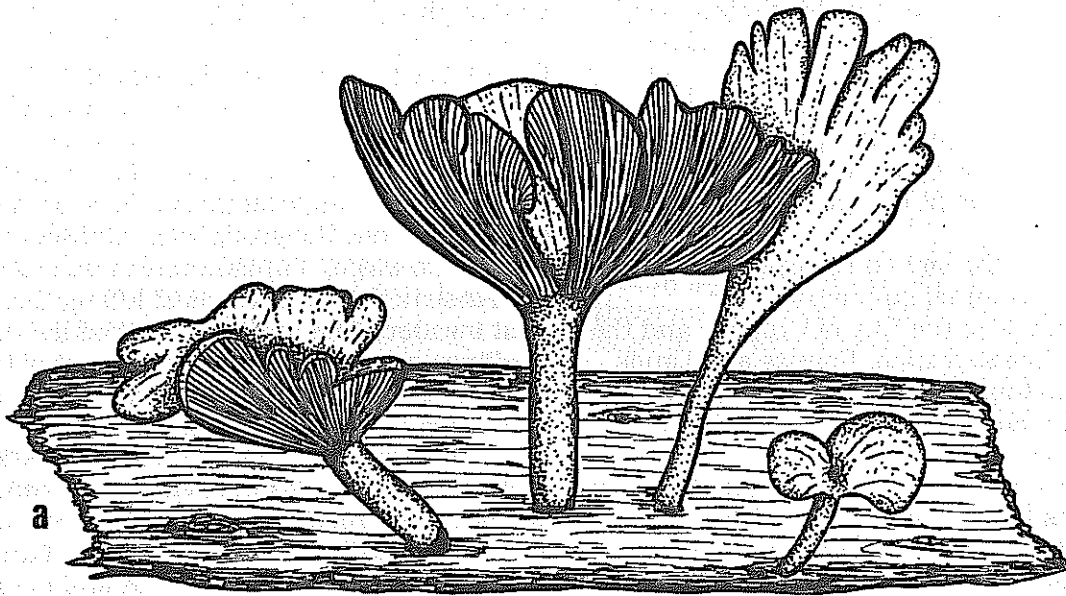


INDIGENOTES



a. fruiting bodies (x c 1.5), b. basidium with spore initials (x 1500), c. spores (x3000), d. cheilocystidia with apical droplet (x1500).



Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve

By Helen Moss*

In 1984 Mr Clem Hochins, a Croydon North (an eastern suburb of Melbourne) property owner decided that he and his family no longer required their large bush block located between Exeter and Holloway Roads. Fortunately for the residents of Croydon, and all others who appreciate indigenous flora, Mr Hochkins understood the value of his magnificent 18.6 ha property straddling the Exeter Ridge at its northern most point.

Instead of putting the site on the open market as a prospective residential subdivision, Mr Hochkins offered it to the City of Croydon and the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands for half of its estimated value on condition that it be retained as a flora reserve.

Croydon Conservation Society and many Croydon North residents lobbied strongly for the purchase and preservation of this delightful bush area which contains, among other things, fourteen indigenous species of Acacia and about 38 orchid species in a Long-leaf Box/Red Stringybark woodland carpeted with Red-anther Wallaby Grass. In spring, the ridge is ablaze with colour.

The block was duly purchased and the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands assumed control. Responsibility for the maintenance of the reserve was delegated to a Committee of Management, formed from members of the local community who had fought for the preservation of the site. Committee members were enthusiastic, but because of insufficient numbers, knowledge and assistance, the weed population exploded.

By 1990, damage caused by weed infestation was serious and growing rapidly worse. Members of the Management Committee realised that urgent action was needed but were not sure where to start. They applied for, and received, a grant from the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands to finance a flora survey. The Committee commissioned Ecological Horticulture Pty Ltd to prepare a report on the reserves current status and the management initiatives required to preserve and, as far as possible, restore Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve to its former beauty and diversity. The report, titled 'The Vegetation and Management of Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve, North Croydon, Victoria', was completed in January 1991 and, during the next few months, was widely read. One of the major emphases in the report was on public awareness of existing problems and participation in the

labour intensive tasks of weed removal and revegetation. Thus the Committee organised a working bee for 7 July 1991.

On the bright and sunny Sunday morning, an intrepid group of flora conscious volunteers gathered on Tony Meeuwse's front lawn for one of hopefully many forays onto "The Ridge" in an effort to rescue its beleaguered flora from weed invasion. First, the group was introduced to the day's main target, *Pittosporum undulatum*, and then instructed on methods of killing this rampant invader. The preferred method for small seedlings was simply to pull them out of the ground. Larger seedlings with a well-established root system were to be given the same treatment as larger specimens. Pulling up plants with a well developed root system can cause considerable soil disturbance, providing ideal conditions for the establishment of more weeds. Large *Pittosporum* were to be given the "cut and paint" treatment. This entails cutting the stem clearly to within 15 cm of the ground and painting the stump immediately with undiluted Roundup. Stumps must be painted within 30 seconds of being cut or they start to heal over and the Roundup will not be absorbed into the vascular tissue. Although there are many weed species present in the reserve, it was decided to target only one for fear of creating confusion by trying to introduce too many new species to everyone's plant "hit list" at one time.

The plan of attack was to commence *Pittosporum* removal at the entry gate on Exeter Rd. and to work down the hill towards the Creek, both inside and outside the perimeter fence. Plants outside the reserve must be removed or they will provide an unending seed source for reinfestation. *Pittosporum* seed may be transported hundreds of metres by birds, particularly the introduced Blackbird.

Weapons in hand, we moved in for the kill. Implements included secateurs, chainsaws, trowels, spades, bow saws, pruning saws and hatchets. Gloves were worn by everyone issued with paint brushes and Roundup. Next working bee we should remember that chainsaw operators need ear muffs, safety glasses and steel toe-capped footwear. Safe operators stay healthy and happy (and effective).

A small infestation of *Sarothamnus scoparius* (English Broom) near the Exeter Rd. entrance was pointed out as a potentially serious threat. *Sarothamnus* seed can remain viable in the soil for many decades and can germinate many years

*Horticultural Officer, City of Croydon, 264 Maroondah Hwy, Croydon Vic 3136.

after the original seed source has been destroyed, creating new infestation. By contrast, *Pittosporum* seed is generally only viable for one or two years. *Sarothamnus* may be confused with the indigenous *Davesia leptophylla*, so it was not identified as a weed to other members of the group.

Those who could identify the rampant weed *Acacia longifolia* (Sallow Wattle) pulled out, cut down or ringbarked as many as possible. *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine) and *Acacia elata* (Cedar Wattle) also came under fire.

The working bee was a great success. Casualties included several hundred *Pittosporum undulatum*, a couple of hundred *Acacia longifolia*, a number of *Acacia elata* and a few *Pinus radiata*, ranging in size from small seedlings to one mature tree. Human casualties minimal - perhaps a few sore backs, maybe a blister or two and minor bone damage to one left foot. The volunteers were clear victors on the day, but we must remember that multitudes of seedlings will now germinate and grow in the space we cleaned. Of these the vast majority will be the very weeds we sought to destroy. Follow-up work to remove new plants and any that were missed or recover from the treatment given will be essential. Weeds are weeds because of their tenacity, fecundicity and vigour. We must be more persistent than they are if we want to achieve a lasting reprieve for the flora and fauna of Hochkin's Ridge.

Much progress has been made by a number of individuals since this working bee. Some of those people are Committee members and others, like myself, are not. You do not have to be on a Committee to be committed. Nor do you have to be supremely fit and strong. The writer of this article suffers what is termed a 'permanent locomotory disability' (more commonly termed 'a bad leg'), but has made a significant and worthwhile contribution to the war against weeds in Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve.

All you need is a little knowledge and a firm belief in your ideals. The hardest part of all is getting started, but as Lao-tse said many centuries ago, "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step". Our journey has begun, but the final destination depends completely upon the will and wisdom of the travellers.

Letter:

A new threat to Grasslands?

Seed from grassland remnants on the basalt plains in Victoria is being collected for research, revegetation and profit. Most collectors of seed from these remnants no doubt share a deep concern for the decline of grasslands and indeed some of the seed is being propagated specifically for grassland conservation projects. However, I have been alarmed this year by the large number of collectors harvesting a diminishing resource and by stories of entire populations of rare or threatened species being stripped of their seed. I hope that a report of two commercial seed collectors fighting over the seed of a single plant at a remnant near Melbourne was exaggerated.

The note ('Seed collectors') in the November issue of *Indigenotes* was timely but I wonder how well the seed collecting guidelines work when there are ten or more well-intentioned and careful people all wanting the same seed resource. I am one of these ten or more who collect seed from grasslands and I have directed others to do so for the project I am working on. I am not game to say that my reason for collecting seed is more noble or worthwhile than the reason of any other. However, I welcome debate in this journal, from seed collectors and others, on how the amount of seed collected from grassland plants (especially rare or threatened ones) can be limited to quantities that will satisfy the collector yet ensure the persistence of the grassland plants supplying the seed.

- Keith McDougall
48 Thistle St
Brunswick.

Advertisement

Caring people interested in buying either shares or the entire 100 acre property consisting of 1/2 Myrtle Beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) Rainforest and 1/2 cleared, 10 miles in from the North-east coast of Tassie (St Hellens). The clearing is flat to a gradual northeast facing slope with a permanent creek and coastal views. The land is surrounded by State Forest ranging from mature Myrtle Beech closed forest to Wet sclerophyll forest. Access by a 1.5km walk only. Contact Mark Adams (059) 851122.

IFFA (NSW) December Meeting

Shortlands Wetland Centre

On Monday night, 2 December, IFFA (NSW) held a successful and well attended meeting at the Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. The guest speaker was Dr Max Maddock, founder and chairman of the widely acclaimed Shortland Wetlands Centre, speaking on "Footballing Egrets or how to turn a Rugby Club back into a wetland".

The Shortlands Wetland Centre is situated on a 65 hectare site at the edge of Hexam Swamp, on the northern fringe of the city of Newcastle. The site had previously been a swamp, then a garbage dump filled part of it, and playing fields and a Rugby club brick building were constructed on it, later to be abandoned.

In 1981, Max Maddock began studying the breeding biology of four species of egrets, and a concept evolved for using the building with the egrets as one of its main features. As a result of public meetings held in 1983, the reopening of the garbage dump was halted and plans drawn up promoting the establishment of the former garbage dump site as a wetlands reserve. It was proposed to take over the building and sportsfields to establish a centre for conservation, research, education and passive recreation in a wetland context.

The Hunter Wetlands Trust - established in 1984 - with support from Newcastle City Council and BHP commissioned a design and management study, which convinced BHP, Newcastle City Council and NSW Bicentennial Council to donate a total of \$500,000 with a promise of a further \$100,000 towards purchasing the land and building and development of the site. By November 1985, the site had been purchased and the Wetlands Centre began operations. The NSW Dept of Education provided a full-time teacher in charge of the Field Studies Centre, and a part-time clerical assistant to carry out educational programs from the Centre.

Max spoke of the processes of lobbying and of public education, grants and community involvement, stressing the importance of integrity before gimmicks. He showed slides of the development of the project, including the digging of the ponds and former rugby fields, and the continuing revegetation of the site as a showcase for local flora and as an appropriate habitat for the birds.

Shortland Wetlands Centre has received huge and varied support from membership and community groups, local industry and commerce and

research is based at the centre from a wide range of disciplines. Projects have included the internationally recognised "Project Egret Watch", as well as studies on small passerine birds, bird population monitoring, Snipes, Magpie Geese, Pelicans and frogs.

Another of the Centre's main aims is public education, both formal - from Primary School through to Graduates - and informal e.g. "Breakfast/Brunch/High Tea with the Birds" and through visitors using the excellent facilities of the Centre.

Max proved to be a most entertaining and inspiring speaker, and the story of the Shortland Wetlands Centre, from an idea to a successful education, recreation and research centre and bird habitat, gave us all hope.

For further information, please contact
The Wetlands Centre,
P.O. Box 130,
Wallsend,
NSW 2287.
Phone (049) 51 6466
Fax (049) 50 1875.

IFFA (NSW) future directions

The meeting concluded with a lively general discussion as to IFFA (NSW) future directions and projects and an agenda for the next meeting was set. IFFA (NSW) will now be meeting on the first Monday of every second month. The next meeting will be on Monday 3 February at 7.30pm to 10.00pm in the Maiden Theatre at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Mrs Macquarie's Rd, Sydney. Kerryn Parry-Jones, a visiting fellow at the University of NSW, will speak on "Sydney's Flying-foxes - who are they and what can we do for them?". Kerryn will describe her work on the ecology of the Grey-headed Flying foxes, the areas of Sydney they use, what is known about their role in the forests and how we may be able to help them.

A meeting will follow to elect a steering committee, select group projects, and discuss general business including "Show'n' tell" (to become a regular event).

For further information contact
Sally Fisher (02) 970 6486 (w)
Danie Olbrich (02) 953 7461 (h).
or write to IFFA (NSW), 90 Benelong Rd,
Cremorne NSW 2090.

Indigenous plants reclaim the inner city

Less than 2 kilometres from central Melbourne a relatively large stand of Silky Blue Grass (*Dichanthium sericeum*) is thriving. Around 200 tussocks are well established and freely spreading across a built up railway embankment at the entrance to Dynon Railway Yards, adjacent to North Melbourne Station.

The grasses are found growing over a 30 metre long by 5 m wide section of the embankment. The aspect of the bank is NNE. Soil colour varies across the site though the soil is clayey throughout. Lumps of asphalt, bricks, rocks and railway screenings lie across and amongst the soil. Few weeds are present in any number although Great Mullein, Paspalum and Thistle are pocketed amongst the tussocks. They dominate on either side of the Silky Blue-grass stand. Blushing Bindweed (*Convolvulus erubescens*) is the only other indigenous species found here - a couple of plants are threaded through the tussocks.

These two species did not grow here prior to European settlement. According to Presland (1985) the land here was known around early Melbourne as the West Melbourne Swamp. It covered almost 200 ha and was renowned for its abundant water plants and birdlife. The last vestiges of it disappeared in the 1930's following the expansion of the rail yards. To this day, the sidings yard bordering the embankment is officially termed by V/line 'The Swamp Sidings'.

Seed of the two species may have blown or been carried to the embankment from parent plants

from nearby in the surrounding region. No obvious source has been identified though perhaps these have been lost to housing or industry. Then again, rail traffic through Dynon comes from all over south-east Australia and seed may have come from a passing interstate or country wagon. Or perhaps the fill used to construct the embankment contained seed within it. It's unlikely that we'll ever know the source though that should not take away from the wonder of this regionally uncommon native grass colonising such an industrial landscape.

The Dept of Conservation and Environment have been asked by Dynon gardener Iain MacPherson to look over the site and determine its significance. Iain has convinced V/Line officials to hold off any immediate spraying or development of the embankment.

At least 12 indigenous species are found in Dynon Yards. These include *Cotula australis*, *Senecio quadridentatus* and *Epilobium hirtigerum*. 6 of the 12 species are located on the banks of the Moonee Ponds Creek, running through the middle of Dynon Yards. Melbourne Water is looking at including this section of the Creek in future revegetation works along the Creek.

- Adam Muyt.

Reference:

Presland G. (1985), "The land of the Kulin" McPhee Gribble/



Dichanthium sericeum tussocks at Dynon Railway Yards, North Melbourne.
Photo: Lisa Pittle.

Coming events:

THE VICTORIAN WILDFLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE.

Theme is: **Plant in Autumn, using native plants and let nature do the watering.**

April 4 & 5, Sat-Sun., 9.30am-4.30pm on both days.

At the National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Birdwood Ave, Sth Yarra.

Organised by the Society for Growing Australian Plants - Victoria.

\$2.50 adults, children under 14 free.

Contact Nicky Rose, (SGAP - Vic.) (03) 763 8904, or (03) 698 4301 (BH).

1992 Annual Fern Show

4 & 5 April. Nunawading Horticultural Centre.

Organised by The Fern Society of Victoria. Contact Bob Lee (03) 836 1528.

Conferences

February 17-21. **International Weed Control**

Congress. Organised by the International Weed Science Society and the Weed Science Society of Victoria. The Congress will be relevant to those people involved in weed control through research, implementation or environmental considerations. Its deliberations will be important to government, industry and the public. The IWCC will provide a forum at which: weed scientists can identify deficiencies in weed control activities which are preventing efficient weed control; weed scientists from various countries can develop and maintain communication and co-operation; & much more. For further information, contact the Congress Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Henderson, Protech Consulting, PO Box 851, Eltham, Vic, 3095. Tel: (03) 435 0129. Fax: (03) 432 0516.

March 23-27. **Catchments of Green.** A National Conference on Vegetation & Water Management, Adelaide. Organised by Greening Australia. The conference will address the role of vegetation systems in line with the following major general themes: catchment planning, community action, groundwater, irrigation, streams and wastewater. For more information contact: Mr Ted Allender - Convenor, 'Catchments of Green' Conference, Greening Australia, PO Box 232, Kensington Park, South Australia, 5068. Fax (08) 332 8810.

July 12-18. **International Congress of Arachnology.** This congress will be held in Brisbane. For more details and registration forms contact The Secretary, XII International Congress of Arachnology, Queensland Museum, PO Box 300, Sth Brisbane, Qld 4101.

Lectures/Talks

The flora of the Southern (Mornington) Peninsula and an update on the local roadside and conservation strategy - an illustrated talk by Betty Clift, Shire Conservation Officer, followed by an address by John Reid, the new Parks and Gardens Superintendent. Organised by the Southern Peninsula IFFA (SPIFFA). Monday, 7.30pm, 3 February. At the Waterfall Gully Community Centre, Melways map 170, Ref G4, corner of Nixon St & Bayview Rd, Rosebud South. Mark Adams (059) 85 1122.

Fern Propagation Methods Other Than From Spore. Speaker: Chris Goudey. Main topic at General Meeting of the Fern Society of Victoria. Thursday, 20 Feb., 7.30pm, at the National Herbarium, South Yarra. Bernadette Thomson (03) 399 1587.

21 Feb. 8pm. Victorian Entomological Society. General meeting. **Talk by Dr Don Dahlsten.** Clunies Ross House, 191 Royal Parade, Parkville. Ken Walker (03) 419 5200.

Society for Growing Australian Plants - Victoria.

Jan 20 1992. Mon 8pm. **Restoration Efforts at La Trobe University Wildlife Reserves** - illustrated talk by George Paras. Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave., Sth Yarra. Enid Bowman (03) 882 5297.

Feb 17, Monday 8pm. **Some Rainforest Fungi and Western Australian Wildflowers** - an illustrated talk by Bruce Fuhrer. See above.

Excursions and field trips

7-15 March. **Seven day tour of Lord Howe Island.** Leaders: Ian Hutton, naturalist and author of three books on Lord Howe and several scientific papers on the flora and fauna. Ross Pearson, TAMS Tour Manager, walker, historian and birdie. This tour is part of the Australian Museum Society's "Going Places" program. Cost: \$1,770 per person, all inclusive. For bookings and enquiries, (02) 339 8225.

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 VNPA (03) 650 8296.

Restoration Activities

January

- 25 Sat 4pm. **Mt. Eliza Assoc. for Environmental Care** project day. Anne Read (03) 787 2034. Also on Sun 26, 10am & the 4th weekend of February.
- 25 Sat 9.30am. **Friends Of Sherbrooke Forest.** Weeding. Vivien Freshwater (03) 754 3093.
- 25-26 Sat-Sun **Friends of the Bunurong 'Conservation Contribution Day'**. A range of activities from cleanups to weeding & seed collection. Nick Walton, (056) 721 276 (w)
- 26 Sun 7am. **Toohy Forest Protection Society** (Brisbane). Contact Margaret Collins (07) 848 7829 or Beryl Roberts (07) 277 0609. TFPS holds monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month (except Jan).
- 25 Sun 2 pm. **FO Victoria's 1st Settlement site** - Sorrento. Stuart Sherrin (059) 84 1953.
- 26 Sun 12-3pm. **Earthcare St Kilda & St Kilda Council** - every Sunday. Neil (03) 536 1491.
- 26 Sun 10am. **FO Wildlife Reserves** - La Trobe Uni. Campus Reserve. George Paras (03)479 2871.
- 29 Wed 10am-3pm. **FO the Yarra Galatea Pt.** Mel 2D, D7. Judy (03) 347 2252. Also Sun 9 Feb.
- 30 Thurs. **FO Warrandyte SP** propagation day. This event takes place every Thursday. Other revegetation activities on weekends. Ian or Margaret Burke (03) 844 2659.
- 30-3 Feb. **Tern Watch at Lakes Entrance/Tamboon Inlet.** This is part of the annual protection project for the endangered Little Tern, organised by the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers. For more details and other ATCV activities, see end of this section.

February

- 1 Sat. **FO French Island.** Pittosporum pull and a swim near the Barge landing. Contact Fay or Clive (03) 772 9668 if you are interested.
- 2 Sun 10am-1pm. **FO Braeside Park.** Meet at visitors centre, car park no. 1. Working bees every 1st & 3rd Sunday. Andrew Graystone (03) 551 1640.
- 2 Sun 9.30am. **FO Buckley Falls.** Tony Woolford (052) 43 6340.
- 2 Sun 12am-3pm. **FO Royal Park West.** Mel 29, C12. Bar-b-que & social day. Adam Muyt (03) 386 7491.

- 9 Sun 10am. **FO the Helmeted Honeyeater** work group. Meet at the Yellingbo store. Mark Ashby (059) 66 2681.
- 9 Sun 9.30am. **Stony Ck weeding group.** Mark Gardner (03) 844 3799 (H), 844 2659 (W).
- 15 Sat 9-9.30 start. **FO Organ Pipes** work day. Robert Bender (03) 499 2314
- 16 Sun. 10am-12noon. **Brunswick Tree Group** Moonee Ponds Ck. Eric Ward (03) 388 2123.

The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers coordinate plantings and other restoration activities throughout most of Australia. They take place throughout the week and on week-ends, usually a specified number of volunteers is required and most plantings are indigenous. For further information contact ATCV:

National Headquarters in Ballarat: (053) 33 1483.

State Offices:

Melbourne(03) 532 8512.
Bendigo (054) 41 6666.
Wodonga (060) 241 061
NSW (02) 411 4254
South Aust. (08) 207 8748
ACT (06) 290 1756
Tasmania (003) 41 5413
Queensland (07) 210 0330
NT (089) 812 848

Thank you to all the people out there who contact us regarding on coming events their groups are organising. If you wish to have their events covered, please get in touch with Dimi Bouzalas, (03) 386 0264

Cover illustration

by Tom May

Dictyolus cinnamoneus

The pale orange-brown, deeply split and lobed fruiting bodies of this agaric occur on dead wood in eucalypt forest throughout southern Australia. Until recently the species was known only from a single collection made by J.B. Cleland in South Australia over 50 years ago.

Reproduction is by spores, four of which are borne at the apex of each basidium. The cheilocystidia are sterile cells or the gill edge. The cheilocystidia terminate in an hour-glass shaped cell which is surrounded by a refractive droplet.

Similar hour-glass cells occur in the mycelium (microscopic threads at the base of the stem which draw nutrients from the substrate). In related species the refractive droplets have been found to contain toxins which immobilise nematodes from which supplementary nutrients are derived.

from the chronicles of early Melbourne:

Batmania and the jungly chasm

Here follow extracts from *The Chronicles of early Melbourne*, a compilation published in 1882 in 2 volumes, of articles that appeared in Melbourne's local paper (*The Argus*) by Edmund Finn writing as Gary Owen. Thanks to Rob Scott for making his photocopies from the rare volumes available for Indigenotes. It is fascinating reading and well worth the effort. Passages listed here are a quirky selection of the Editor's, and no attempt is made to ensure that the historical context is well developed.

"On the 29th May, 1835, John Batman, with three white followers and seven Sydney aborigines passed into Port Phillip Bay, in the schooner "Rebecca" of 30 tons, and anchored a dozen miles inside off Indented Head. Accompanied by some of his party and aborigines he landed, and, after several excursions through the country, found that it more than satisfied his expectations as to its appearance and fertility. Renewing his excursions for several days, he met with the Saltwater [now the Maribyrnong River] and Yarra Rivers, passed through the environs of the future city, had several conferences with the natives; and, on the 6th June at the Merri Creek, near Northcote, purchased from eight of the aborigines, who represented themselves as chiefs, the fee-simple of six hundred thousand acres of land (including the sites of Melbourne and Geelong) for some blankets, tomahawks, scissors, looking-glasses, beads, flour, men's shirts, and other articles. The whole assortment might be valued at 200 pounds, and an annual tribute was to be paid - some 150 pounds worth of the same sort of chattels. Batman, though not a lawyer, had a lawyer's eye to business; for before leaving Launceston, he had prepared, in due legal form, two deeds of conveyance with blanks to be afterwards filled; and according to his statement, by the aid of two of his Sydney blackfellows, he succeeded in making the vendors clearly comprehend the purport of the parchments presented to them. So the bargain was struck, the deeds "signed, sealed, and delivered", the consideration paid down, and possession given, by marking certain trees, and each of the chiefs handing to the vendee a lump of the alienated soil. Batman fancied he had made a good thing of it; but, no doubt he thought differently when the Home Government afterwards annulled the whole transaction."

"... Batman seems to have had a weakness for perpetuating himself in nomenclature, for some of the most prominent localities were very soon branded with his cognomen. The beautiful tree-covered hill, the most unique of the olden landmarks, was called "Batman's Hill", the Yarra was the "Batman River", the marsh was "Batman's swamp", the town was to be "Batmania"; and he even blotted out the name of "Merri" from the well-known creek and designated it the "Lucy" Creek, after one of his daughters. But every trace of Batman was afterwards obliterated, and at the present moment he has neither "local habitation nor name" in any town, village, street, hill, river, stream, or creek in Victoria."

"The site and surroundings of the embryonic city, when in a state of nature, formed a picture of wild and wayward beauty. The River Yarra from its embouchure was so half-choked with the trunks and branches of fallen trees and other impedimenta as to render its navigation a matter of delay to even the smallest of coasters. Its low sides were lined with thick te-tree scrub and

trees over twenty feet high, and skirted with marshes covered with a luxuriance of reeds, wild grass and herbage. The Eastern Hill was a gum and wattle tree forest, and the Western Hill was so clothed with sheoaks as to give it the appearance of a primeval park where timber-cutting and tree-thinning were unknown - whilst away northward, as far as the eye could see, was a country umbrageous and undulating, garbed in a vesture of soft green grass, of a height that if a person rode through it would reach above the saddle-girths. Elizabeth Street, the outlet between the two hills, was a jungly chasm - an irregular broken-up ravine, through which the winter flood-waters thundered along over shattered tree-trunks, displaced rocks, roots and ruts - whilst wending away north-westward spread out a large expanse of marsh of deep black soil, and without a solitary tree, its centre a deep lacune where swans, geese, ducks, quail, and other wild-fowl swarmed "thick as leaves in Vallambrosa". The country southward of the river was an immense wilderness, where, in the language of the historian Westgarth, "The Kangaroo skipping about in undisputed happiness would emerge in troops upon the flats from the dense woods. The branches of the old gum-trees were filled with black and white cockatoos, and innumerable parroquets, whose gaudy plumage sparkled in the bright sunshine, while their incessant chattering imparted life to a scene otherwise hushed in the presence of man, and the total absence hitherto of his noisy but enlivening commerce". From Fawkner's description, which is evidently over-tinted, the place assumed quite an Elysian aspect. "His party", he writes, "reached with great joy the 'basin' at Melbourne, and were delighted, in fact, half wild with exultation, at the beauty of the country. The velvet-like grass carpet, decked with flowers of the most lively hues, most liberally spread over the land, the fresh water, the fine lowlands and lovely knolls around the lagoons, on the flat or swamps, the flocks, almost innumerable, of teal, ducks, gees, swans, and minor fowls, filled them with joy".

"...Others followed, and towards the close of the year 'the settlement', as it came to be called, was in this position:- About sixty acres of land were under cultivation, and some good wheat grown. The habitations consisted of two weatherboard huts with brick chimneys, and some dozen sod erections or hovels; the population numbered about fifty souls; the live-stock, one hundred head of cattle, fourteen hundred sheep, six horses, some poultry and dogs, a few rabbits, and last, though not least, Fawkner's cat. It will be seen from this enumeration that master "bunny" may be classified as amongst the very oldest of colonists, and there was no need to acclimatise the destructive pest years after...."

"...Van Diemonian public opinion wished the new-born town to be called after Batman; whilst New South Wales' influences tended the other way. The native appellation of the place 'Narr-m', was such a consonantal barbarism as could not be conveniently mouthed by Europeans, and 'Bearbrass', as it was termed in some temporary absence of mind by Captain Stewart, was as outlandish. There was some notion of styling it Glenelg, after the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but this was abandoned for Melbourne, in compliment to the nobleman then occupying the high office of Premier of Great Britain - so Melbourne it was, and Melbourne it is. The flat where Williamstown stands was so thickly timbered with sheoak that it was known as 'Koort-boork-boork' (clump of sheoak)."

"...All the country at the other side of the Yarra, from the Punt

Road to Fisherman's Bend, went under the general designation of South Melbourne, and was of very little account - for the major part of it was a dense, snaky, scrubby jungle,..."

"Sandridge [now Garden City in Port Melbourne] was very appropriately named by the Provincial Superintendent (Mr Latrobe), for it was a veritable sand-hole when first visited by Europeans, and a barrel daubed with white paint had to be hoisted to a tree-trunk as a finger post to point the way to Melbourne. ...Sandridge, with the surrounding district, is believed to have formed at some remote period a delta of the Yarra, which discharged into the sea through the old lagoon, and from Sandridge to Emerald Hill by this route was not a pleasant, though not a distant stroll, for almost every step of the way one was more than ankle deep in sand."

"...Emerald Hill. This once beautiful eminence which rivalled Batman's Hill, and much exceeded it in size, was the grazing ground of the kangaroo, until a sheep station and the strange looking animals accompanying it scared them away. Captain Lonsdale is said to have purchased 200 lambs at two guineas each, and turned them out on the hill to depasture. It was at all times a favourite trysting-place of the blacks, who held corroborees and native dances there, a pantomimic performance occasionally witnessed by the Melbournians on fine summer nights. It was known simply as "the green hill over the Yarra" until 1849, when for the first time it was styled Emerald Hill...[Emerald Hill is about where the South Melbourne Town Hall is now]... The Hill, though a picturesque and beautiful place in itself, was surrounded by swamps, and deemed a rather unhealthy locality."

"The now fashionable watering place St Kilda, was in the 'dark ages' known as 'Euro-Yroke', after a sort of sandstone found there, with which the blacks used to shape and sharpen their rude stone tomahawks...The land about was either sandy or swamp scrub; and in winter all pedestrianism between it and Brighton was cut

Membership

IFFA membership costs
\$40 for non-profit organizations,
\$50 for corporations,
\$25 for individuals and families,
or \$20 concession.

Membership includes
11 issues of *Indigenotes* per year.

Memberships should be sent to the Secretary.

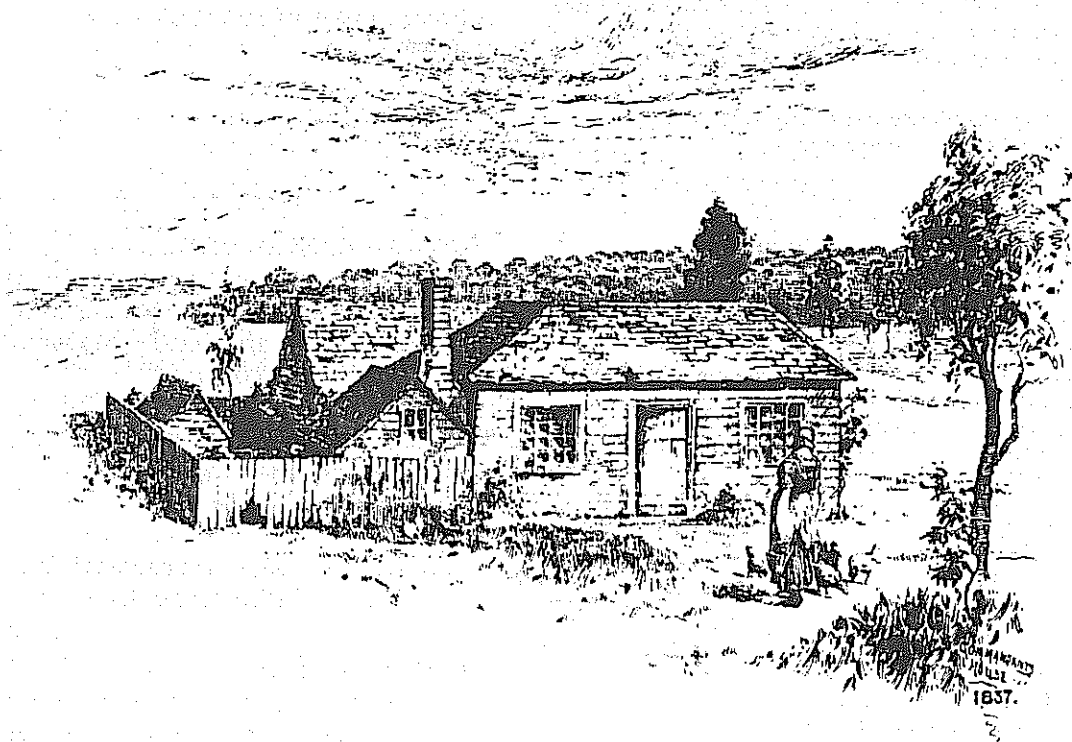
*Include your name, address
and phone numbers,
and a bit about yourself.*

off by quagmires. Save on the Melbourne side, it was often both water and puddle-bound."

"...In one of the dialects of the aborigines, 'prahran' means sandy, and a miserable sand-blinding, slush-making and rarely visited region it was in the good old times..."

"...Walking down the [Punt] hill northward, we reach the Yarra ferry, the second oldest on the river and pass right on to the heart of unclassic Richmond. In early days this suburb was a splendid section of green, undulating, well-timbered bush, and it was a favourite walk and drive with the citizens."

*Further material from the Chronicles will appear
in future issues of Indigenotes.*



Letter

Funding withdrawn from NSW TAFE course

I am writing in case you can lend your voice to those calling for a reconsideration of the recent decision to withdraw funding from the curriculum development process of the proposed NSW TAFE course in Ecosystem conservation and restoration. (This is the new associate diploma course proposal that Robin Buchanan has been working on).

In my view such a course for technicians and operators is essential if we are to meet the training needs of the growing rehabilitation and restoration industry - and to ensure that the restoration dollar is spent in an ecologically-effective manner as is possible.

I fear that if we fail to draw political attention to this issue at this stage the proposal to develop this course will not be reconsidered for some time - and I don't believe the task of raising the standards of restoration is something we can afford to put off.

Points that could be included in letters are:

- *There has been considerable industry support from the industry committee composed of representatives from the Local Government Association, NSW Agriculture and Fisheries, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and other industry representatives.*
- *A need and demand survey was undertaken covering State Government departments, Local Government, environmental engineers, landscape architect, landscape contractors, mining industry and bush regenerators which found a strong support for technician and operator level training in this area.*
- *Elements of competency have been developed.*
- *A draft course outline has been developed.*
- *Several thousand dollars have already been spent on the project.*
- *TAFE courses in other states are not equivalent.*
- *The proposed NSW TAFE course would produce a workforce skilled in land restoration/rehabilitation techniques who would work as specialists within the field of resource managers.*
- *Such training is needed to prevent further land degradation and to rehabilitate degraded areas.*

Attached is a list of Ministers to whom you may wish to write - either Commonwealth or NSW.

- from Tein McDonald, Epping NSW.

NSW State politicians: (Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney 2000)

Mr Fahey (Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Further Education, Training and Employment)
Mr Aquilina (Opposition Spokesman on Education)
Mr West (Minister for Conservation and Land Management)
Mr Webster (Minister for Local Government)
Dr Metherall (Member for Davidson)
Ms Pam Allan (Opposition Spokesperson on the Environment)
Mr Tim Moore (Minister for the Environment)
Mr Nick Greiner (Premier)

Commonwealth politicians (Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600)

Ms Ros Kelly (Minister for the Environment)
Mr Kim Beazley (Minister for Education)

Snippets:

Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan

The Moonee Ponds Creek Association and Melbourne Water have released a draft Concept Plan for the revegetation of the Creek from the Docklands to Gellibrand Hill. Public comment is not invited until March 1992. The management of remnant vegetation along the Creek does not feature in the Concept Plan. A submission from people working with remnants along the Creek is now being drafted. If you are interested in the Concept Plan and or input to the submission, please contact Ann Cremean (03) 370 7605 by mid - February. Copies of the Concept plan are available from Kelvin Thompson, Member for Pascoe Vale (03) 3069023.

New Books:

"Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook"

Ed. by J.B. Kirkpatrick, Tasmanian Environment Centre, 1991.

This 352 page softcover book arrived in the mail in December for review by Indigenotes. This is the first book to collate current knowledge of Tasmanian vegetation management. It also gives the most comprehensive general description of Tasmanian vegetation types in one volume. While it has been written for Tasmanian use, it may be valuable for readers in other states in several ways including similarity with vegetation in other parts of Australia and suitability as a model for other states or biogeographic regions.

A future issue of Indigenotes will include a detailed review.

Available from T.E.C., 102 Bathurst St, Hobart, Tas 7000. Phone (002) 34 5566 for \$30 including postage.

Flora of Melbourne

"Flora of Melbourne A guide to the indigenous plants of the Greater Melbourne area" Society for Growing Australian Plants - Maroondah Inc. 1991. 300 pp softcover.

This useful text was released in December. Only a limited number were printed, so get your order in quickly if you want a copy.

Available from SGAP Maroondah Inc, P.O. Box 33, Ringwood 3134, for \$39.95

Growback '91

This annual, Australia-wide journal and newsletter is targeted at people interested in revegeta-

tion and vegetation management. Its 100 pages is chock full of articles and notes relevant to the greening of Australia. \$10 from Growback Publications P.O. Box 4306, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052.

Symposium on environmental weeds proceedings

Plant Protection Quarterly Vol 6 No 3 contains the Proceedings of the third symposium on the Control of Environmental Weeds held at Monash University, 6-7 November 1991. Available from Plant Protection Quarterly, 188 Koornalla Cres, Mt Eliza Vic 3930.

Land Reclamation

An End to Dereliction?

Papers presented at the third International Conference on Land Reclamation: An End to Dereliction?, held at the University of Wales College of Cardiff, UK, 2-5 July 1991. Ed by MCR Davies, Division of Civil Engineering, University of Wales College of Cardiff. 422 pp, Elsevier, London. Available from DA Books and Journals (03) 872 4555. \$126.50 approx.

Creating Freshwater Wetlands

by Donald A. Hammer, Tennessee Valley Authority, Lewis Publishers and CRC Press, 1991. 256 pp, a practical reference book covering the subject of creating and restoring freshwater wetlands. \$85.75 approx from DA Books.

Making your garden bush friendly

Not a new book, but we haven't given it a mention here before. This 16 page full colour booklet introduces weeds of bushland, pictures Sydney's worst offenders, and describes them and techniques for their control. Published by Lynne McLoughlin and Judith Rawling, the booklet is available in Sydney from Greening Australia.

INDIGENOTES ADVERTISING RATES:

Full page: \$200
Half page: \$120
Quarter page: \$70

20% discount for members

Camera ready copy should be sent to the Editor, Tony Faithfull, 10 Alsace Street, East Brunswick 3057. A surcharge applies for the preparation of artwork. The Editor reserves the right to refuse advertisements he considers inappropriate.

Enquiries (03) 3860264 (home)

What is IFFA?

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

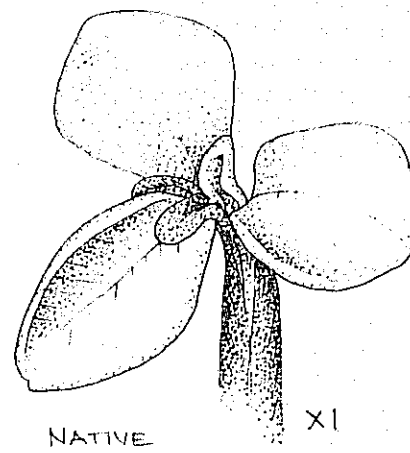
Its members, comprising both amateur and professional workers come from diverse backgrounds including botany, zoology, ecology, horticulture, environmental management, education and other fields.

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*, and a miscellaneous paper series. 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.



NATIVE
IRIS

Diplarrhaena moraea

By Andrew Paget

IFFA activities:

IFFA (Vic)

January Meeting:

Tuesday 28 January, at 8 pm at the Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141. (Melways map 2G 12a). Discussion night - Grassland crises and what can be done about them. Also bring something of interest to show. Supper provided. All welcome.

Raffle ticket sellers:

IFFA has taken on selling 30 books of raffle tickets for the Great Victorian Raffle, to be held by the Conservation Council of Victoria. IFFA makes a profit on the sale of these tickets, and has its name on them.

Training night for ticket sellers: Monday 3 February, 6.30 pm, 1st floor, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Raffle books available on that night or from Michele.

Committee meeting:

Tuesday 4 February, 7 pm, at Michele and Peter's, 2/81 Alexandra Ave South Yarra Victoria 3141.

February Meeting:

Tuesday 25 February.

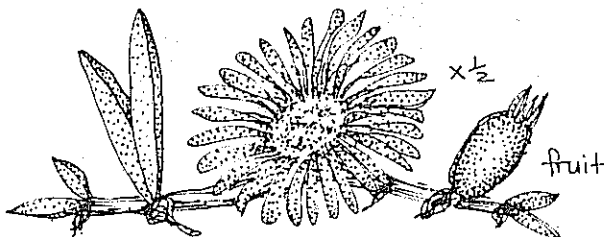
Remember that Office bearers will be standing down at the AGM coming up in May, and may not be standing for re-election. If you are interested in taking on a job to help IFFA, talk to the office-bearer concerned. Maybe you could just take on one part of the job!

IFFA (NSW)

February meeting:

Monday 3 February at 7.30pm to 10.00pm in the Maiden Theatre at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Mrs Macquarie's Rd, Sydney. Kerryn Parry-Jones, a visiting fellow at the University of NSW, will speak on "Sydney's Flying-foxes - who are they and what can we do for them?".

A meeting will follow to elect a steering committee, select group projects, and discuss general business including "Show'n' tell". See page 4. Contact: Sally Fisher (02) 970 6486 (w) or Danie Olbrich (02) 953 7461 (h).



By Andrew Paget

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Vice-President: Roger Jones, 90 Bayswater Rd, Kensington 3031 (03) 372 1582 (home)

Secretary: Michele Arundell, 2/81 Alexandra Ave South Yarra Victoria 3141. (03) 867 4173 (home), (03) 6552300 (work).

Treasurer: Marita Sydes/Patrick Driver, 18 Dresden St Heidelberg Hts 3081 (03) 458 1679

Committee members: Tamzin Rollason, Lincoln Kern, Val Himmelreich, Jason Stuart, Fay Gordes, Clive Gordes, Peter Tucker, Damien Cook, David Bainbridge.

Editorial team: Tony Faithfull, Dimi Bouzalas, and Lincoln Kern, c/o 10 Alsace Street, Brunswick East, Victoria 3057, Phone (03)386 0264 (h).

Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editors — the deadline for the next issue will be 1 February.

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

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