

**Vol. 6, No. 6**

**June 1993**

**Platypus**  
**Drawing by Paul Welsh**

# **INDIGENOTES**

# Editorial

## Time enough. Notes from the outgoing editor.

I started editing *Indigenotes* with Jane Pammer in March 1987. At that stage copy was printed on a dot matrix printer. The newsletter was occasional, tending to quarterly. I came to *Indigenotes* with experience only from editing *The Junior Naturalist*, the newsletter of the Hawthorn Junior Naturalists Club over a decade earlier. I new from that newsletter how central a regular newsletter could be to the life of an organisation, and I soon decided that *Indigenotes* should be monthly, and should arrive in people's letterboxes shortly before each monthly meeting. This sets a tight production and mailout schedule for each newsletter, and during 1988 there were some very late nights indeed spent in front of the computer and over a hot photocopier. I was on the Council of VNPA at the time, and IFFA was lucky therefore to have access to VNPA's new technology - Macintosh computers with the desktop publishing package called Pagemaker, and a laser printer. IFFA paid for the use of these facilities. Martin Powell kindly introduced me to using Pagemaker, and with practice and his advice, the quality of the presentation jumped enormously.

VNPA's computer facilities had to be used out of hours of course, and production was squeezed into one long night to get it out of the way. Photocopying was done on the Environment Centre's photocopier, which at the time was one of the most reliable around.

After being a bit of a computer freak at university and then giving it away for a few years, I finally bought myself a computer in 1989. This simplified the process of producing *Indigenotes* further. No more late nights at the Environment Centre, I could do all the work at home, and then simply take the laid out newsletter on floppy disk to an agency to get laser printed copy onto which we pasted any illustrations. This is still how we do it.

Shortly after I took over editorship, the mailing list for *Indigenotes* was lost due to an embarrassingly petty dispute with VCAH Burnley who locked a box of crucial IFFA records in a cupboard to try to extract meeting room fees from IFFA. Producing a regular newsletter without a mailing list required a bit of creativity, and I created a new mailing list with all the people on it who I thought should be IFFA members. Many who hadn't been members before soon joined, and others didn't but got free newsletters for a while. People who should have been on the list eventually did get back onto it. During this period I mailed out around 50 newsletters each issue.

As the number of members grew, I soon got sick of

writing out wrappers, and started a database on computer of members so that I could print out addresses onto sticky labels. The larger this became, the harder it was to keep up to date, and so I wrote a little computer program to analyse whether members membership payments were now due. This little program has grown through many versions and many bugs to be a fairly elaborate membership list program. Michele took over secretaryship again in 1988 after injuring her back seriously with a dramatic fall from the roof of her block of flats, and took over maintenance of the mailing list and organising the newsletter mailout. She has done a fantastic job of maintaining the database, and has been very patient with all the bugs which have cropped up.

Soon after starting a relationship with my partner Dimi Bouzalas, I roped her into helping with the newsletter. She took on the Coming Events section, and has turned it into one of the best and most regular listings of nature conservation activities in Victoria.

Anyone who has tried photocopying multiple double-sided A3 pages will know what a nightmare this can be, even on a reliable photocopier. In 1989 when the circulation reached 200 or so we gave up photocopying as a bad joke, and began getting *Indigenotes* printed at A&G Fine Printing. A&G also collated, folded and stapled each issue which made the mailing out a bit simpler.

In early 1991 Lincoln Kern began helping by collating and preparing items for the Snippets section, typing them up on his own computer and supplying them on floppy disk. This is one of the more difficult tasks in preparing *Indigenotes* as usually material needs to be summarized or reworded.

Along with Lincoln's snippets, many articles now come in on floppy disk, doing away with the onerous task of retyping material someone has already typed. Instead half a dozen keystrokes transfers the article into place and it is then just a matter of changing text styles, editing poor expression, looking for typing errors, and putting the text in appropriate blocks on the page so as to fit. In fact now most sizeable articles arrive on floppy disk.

Around the beginning of 1992 suddenly we no longer had to chase articles. *Indigenotes* had gained enough respect and readership to make the hard work of chasing authors unnecessary. Since then the process has been a relatively straightforward one of correcting grammar, typing,

# Treasurer's report:

## INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA ASSOCIATION INC.

### Financial Statement for the period ending 30 April 1993

#### Balance Sheet

Bank balance at 30 April 1993		4388.60
Add unbanked cheques and cash		<u>1487.00</u>
Less unpresented cheques	877929	<u>40.00</u>
		5835.60

#### Income and expenditure statement

Cash book balance at May 1 1992		4786.80
Add income		
Membership subscriptions	13725.00	
Sales-"Indigenotes" Backcopies & Miscellaneous papers	632.15	
CCV Raffle Fund Raising	454.00	
Sundries	360.00	
Donations	40.00	
Advertising in "Indigenotes"	50.00	
		<u>15261.15</u>
Less expenditure		
Printing of "Indigenotes" & IFFA Flyers	7413.96	
Postage and Handling	3810.57	
Grasslands Conference	1803.35	
Environmental Weeds book	625.00	
Wildflower Show	205.90	
Hall Hire	190.00	
Bank Charges	105.57	
Sundries	58.00	
		<u>14212.35</u>
Cash book balance at 30 April 1993		<u>5835.60</u>

layout, proofreading, and organising the printer, although this has still taken the best part of a weekend each issue. Circulation has now reached almost 700.

Weaknesses I see in the newsletter as it is at present are:

- a lack of reports on IFFA (Vic) activities - summaries of the talks given at meetings, issues covered on field trips,
- a lack of reporting on hot political issues,
- a lack of anecdotal reports from IFFA members on the survey, revegetation, restoration or other ecological work they are doing (with some notable exceptions).
- the lack of technical notes on weeds.

Its strengths are:

- an outward focus, encouraging IFFA members to find out what is going on in the field outside the confines of IFFA, and outside Melbourne and Victoria, and even sometimes outside Australia. This also draws other organisations closer to IFFA. The Coming Events section has been a particularly good vehicle in this regard. It forces regular contact between IFFA and a wide range of organisations.
- its regularity, allowing adequate notice to IFFA members of meetings and other activities, and giving the organisation a vital feel.
- its (on the whole) high quality of presentation
- the good quality of almost all material submitted.
- the fact that it is a team effort.

Editing *Indigenotes* has been an extremely highly rewarding task over the last 6 years I have been involved. Readers have been very kind in giving lots of positive feedback, and I have learnt a lot and made contact with a lot of fine people. However after editing 64 issues of *indigenotes* I feel that the time has come for me to move onto other things, and for someone else to gain the experience. Therefore I will not be making myself available for reelection at the AGM, and wish the incoming editor all the best with their new job.

- **Tony Faithfull 7/6/93**

# Grasslands Research

The Wildlife Research Unit, ACT Parks and Conservation Service has received funding from the Endangered Species Program, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service to carry out research related to the conservation of lowland native grasslands in the ACT. In the Recovery Plan priority research requirements were identified that would aid in the development of a conservation plan for this recognised endangered community.

Expressions of interest on any of the following research topics are invited.

## 1. Endangered Species Research

### 1.1 Earless dragon, *Tympanocryptis lineata* var. *pinguicolla*

Undertake genetic and morphological studies, carry out a survey, investigate the habitat requirements of the ACT region population, determine the impacts of management. Undertake an assessment of population viability.

### 1.2 Striped legless lizard, *Delma impar*

Undertake surveys and assess habitat requirements, assess genetic identity of the ACT population, investigate the influence of predation on the population.

### 1.3 Golden Sun Moth *Synemon plana*

Undertake further surveys, monitor sites and investigate the moth's responses to management, life-cycle and habitat requirements, model population dynamics.

### 1.4 Morabine grasshopper *Keyacris scurra*

Surveys, monitoring and research into habitat requirements. Investigation of possible recolonisation techniques.

## 2. Other research

Available funds also may support studies in the following categories.

2.1 Other grassland invertebrate studies

2.2 Other vertebrate studies

2.3 Habitat and management requirements of selected plant species

2.4 Reclamation research

2.5 Weed control

2.6 Taxonomic studies

2.7 Coevolution research

2.8 computer programs for plant identifications

2.9 Field Guide to plants in grasslands

Enquiries may be directed to:

**Sarah Sharp, Grasslands Project Officer, Phone (06) 207 2125, Fax (06) 207 2122**

**Preliminary applications should be submitted to the Wildlife Research Unit by 31 July 1993.**

## Cosy Cabin bush retreat ad

## Kochia Weed cutting

# Direct seeding reference sites

Greening Australia Victoria in cooperation with local government, utilities and community groups are establishing a number of sites in the Melbourne area for trialing direct seeding. The Direct Seeding Reference Sites Program is a response to technical and educational needs which are being required more frequently by people from all land management backgrounds and disciplines. In particular it is an opportunity to establish demonstration and research sites to provide skills training to potential users and for current users of direct seeding to continue to refine and adapt methods to specific situations and provide the opportunity for exchange of knowledge and skills with others. Or the creation of a living library of establishment methods and management requirements. Sites which are already under establishment will also be used as references.

In 1992 a Technical Assistance Group (TAG) was convened by GAV to draft guidelines specifically for direct seeding in urban sites. The TAGs input assisted to both draft a working policy and to provide direction in community needs and expectations of GAV in this area. The group discussed a broad range of issues relating to direct seeding and in particular identified that seed collecting for direct seeding was an additional demand on a resource that by reasonable estimates is precious and continues to be under pressure. Availability of suitable quantities of appropriate local provenance seed remains the single most limiting factor for the implementation of a direct seeding program. Importantly, harvesting for direct seeding needs to be ranked alongside the entitlements of other users of the resource, both the fauna which rely on the food source and the many people whose environmental programs require seed for propagation and the means to a living for themselves. On the recommendation of the TAG a 10% sample of the seed lots area set aside for contribution to the Melbourne Indigenous Seedbank.

A consistent approach for selecting sites for the Reference Sites Program was based on having available stands of remnant vegetation as "donor" sites resulting in a majority of sites being established on the outer urban fringe. The Direct Seeding Reference Site Program does not use seed contributed to the Seedbank for direct sowing. Seed used in the trials will be tested to the International Seed Testers Association standard to act as a guide for sowing rates and to validate the results collected from quadrats. The data from germination trials and field quadrats will be made available as a planning tool for those who require it and will compliment current data.

Trial sites have been selected on the following criteria:

- the resulting vegetation will be of benefit to the area and will be a manageable option for the land manager;
- there is a cross section of plant communities, soil conditions and rainfall zones in the sites selected and that they are of reasonable geographic spread around the Melbourne area. This will assure that a variety of sowing methods can be executed and that eventually all interested groups have a nearby site (possibly their own);
- there is an agreement between all parties and GAV that the sites are for research and training and that work on the site should be recorded and to a structured plan and in an agreed format;
- that the participants, in the program adopt a "networking" attitude and offer reasonable access to the sites and pass on information to others;
- that the controlling authority provides the material cost for the project.

GAV supports the program by offering assistance in these ways:

- technical advice on site selection and planning, species selection, weed control and site preparation;
- community consultations where needed;
- recording and presentation of data;
- providing an Aborline Tree Seeder if required;
- recommendations for specific contractor services;
- coordination of seed collections where needed.

A range of techniques are to be trialed with a particular accent on low tech hand sowing methods, logically being the most useful particularly in urban areas where equipment access is a problem. Other trials using Hydroseeding and the use of fiber matting as an overlay are also being planned.

For further information about this program and the sites please contact: Mark Coffey, Project Officer, Greening Australia Victoria, Phone (03) 654 1800.

## Apologies

The plant list of Ferny Creek Upwey which was published in the last issue was compiled by Mr Michael Butler, treasurer of U.R.A.G.E. - the Upwey Regional Action Group for the Environment. Apologies for omitting this information from the last newsletter

# IFFA ANNUAL REPORT

## 30TH JUNE 1993

### **1. PUBLICATIONS REPORT:**

#### **Indigenotes:**

by Tony Faithfull, Dimi Bouzalas and Lincoln Kern.

#### Highlights:

The Plains Wanderer: An exceptional series of articles. Thanks to Ian Lunt.

Index to Indigenotes: A useful reference.

Thanks to Sue Mills.

#### **Advances in Nature Conservation:**

Graeme Lorimer will report at the meeting.

### **2. IFFA VICTORIA:**

by Michele Arundell & Peter Tucker

#### **2.a./ MEETINGS REPORT:**

Highlights from 1992-93 meetings;

The Flora of Victoria and Viclist are on the shelves; local councils starting up indigenous nurseries; conference reports, discovery of new species and new sites of regeneration, Western Wetlands initiatives, Peninsula wetlands under urban development, weed invasions and spiders.

#### **Speakers:**

- Jane Robinson; "Melbourne Indigenous Seed-bank"

- Gerry Marantelli; "The Ecology and Biology of Frogs"

- Pat and Mike Coupar; "A Focus on Butterflies and Moths"

- Ron Waters; "Indigenous Snakes of Victoria - their Biology and Habitat"

- Hans Brunner; "Fragmentation of habitat on the Mor

nington Peninsula and its implications for native fauna."

- Dennis Black; "An introduction to Australian millipedes"

#### **Show and Tell:**

A tradition within IFFA meetings to end the evenings with a range of items of interest; environmental weeds for identification & tips on eradication; information on more books, reports & workshops.

#### **2.b./ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:**

##### **The Great Plains Crash: Grasslands in Victoria; IFFA / VNPA Grasslands Conference:**

Jointly organised by IFFA and VNPA in October 1992.

Proceedings have now been transcribed for editing and will be published in the near future.

Thanks to Peter Tucker, Roger Jones, Michele

Arundell, the VNPA staff particularly James Ross, all the speakers and volunteers. Thanks to Garry and Sue Cook for the most delicious and environmentally friendly catering provided.

#### **INN/IFFA: Indigenous Plant Display:**

The SGAP Maroondah annual Wildflower Show. Thanks to all the member nurseries who supplied and arranged this unique display. A worthwhile effort to educate the native plant enthusiasts to take an interest in their local flora. Interpretive materials produced for the show have provided IFFA with a good range of photos and posters for use by members to set up displays in local councils, libraries etc. The success, impact and interest in the display has inspired the organisers to ask IFFA/INN to provide a bigger and better display in August this year.

#### **IFFA - CCV Raffle:**

Ticket sales have raised IFFA several hundred dollars for development of educational materials. Thanks to all those who participated and to Peter Tucker for co-ordinating our efforts.

#### **IFFA Field Trips:**

##### **The Northern Victorian Grasslands and Mallee Fringe:**

An IFFA bus trip to Leaghur Forest, Boort, Terrick Terricks, viewing some of the local and rare flora and fauna with local enthusiasts. Many thanks to Mr Gyn Jones and family for the informative commentary and country hospitality. Thanks to Peter Tucker for the long drive.

**Providence Ponds** - Magnificent woodlands, rare plants, fauna and grassland. Thanks to Graeme Lorimer.

**Cobberas** - Sub-alpine scenery, rare plants and wildlife tour, camping trip. Thanks to Graeme Lorimer.

**Lake Mountain** - temperate rainforest mosses and liverworts. Thanks to Dale Tonkinson.

**Western Grampians** - Victoria Range flora and fauna camping trip. Thanks to Dale Tonkinson.

#### **2.c./ MAJOR ISSUES:**

##### **Grasslands:**

Fitzgeralds Road Grasslands - Werribee; Thanks to Frances Overmars and other members for their continued efforts to save this remarkable survivor of threatened grassland communities.

##### **Seed Bank:**

The Melbourne Indigenous Seed Bank now has a part-time officer. IFFA looks forward to continued

involvement with this project. Pamphlets are now available.

**2.d. / IFFA Representation:**

**Liaison:** VNPA, FNCV, RCC.

**2.e. / PROJECT FUNDING:**

**Indigenous Promontory - Royal Botanic Gardens:**

IFFA has funded the collection and propagation of indigenous plants to restore this area, with the aim of providing further funding for interpretations signs and materials for public education we look to our members for further financial support.

**Environmental Weeds - Implications for Conservation and Management:** - IFFA provided funding for co-sponsorship with DCE, National Trust and Ecological Horticulture to publish this book which should provide an invaluable reference for land managers.

**3. SPIFFA:**

The Southern Peninsula Group meeting each month has gained more impetus and involvement with issues on the Peninsula.

**Speakers:**

- Kathy and Peter Strickland; "Peninsula Plants"
- Dr Gretna Wests; "Fungi Diseases"
- Kevin Yorke; "Local Parks - Planning and Management"
- David Stewart; "Fossils and Nature Museum"
- David Matthews; "Fire Issues in the Local Shire"
- Mike Cusack; "A year in the Kimberleys"
- Show and Tell - The local flora and fauna.

Thanks to co-ordinators Mark Adams and all the SPIFFA committee.

**4. NSW IFFA:**

An exciting range of speakers and ever-growing membership support.

**Speakers:**

- Ton Trnski; "What it takes to be an Australian Fish"
- Derek Pseilman; "Conservation Genetics. What does it mean? How can we use it?"
- Judy Fakes; "The health of trees and its significance to our bushland"
- Professor Andrew Beattie; "Exploring the Resources of our Indigenous Flora and Fauna"
- John McCarthy; "Aboriginal plant use and modern horticulture - a future in common"
- Martyn Robinson; "Hopping Mad - Australian frogs under pressure"

Thanks to Sally Fisher, Danie Olbrich and the NSW committee.

**5. I.N.N. - Indigenous Nurseries Network -**

Membership and strategies have extended over the last year with regular bi-monthly meetings. Membership and public interest requesting an updated publication of the indigenous nurseries directory.

**Speakers:**

- Lincoln Kern; "Standards for growers of organic produce and their relevance to indigenous plant producers."

- Discussions on peoples experiences with seed collection and ways to improve communication and co-ordination.

Thanks to Sue Mills & Murray Ralph for their co-ordinating roles.

# AGM AGENDA

**1. PUBLICATIONS REPORT:**

**Indigenotes:**

Tony Faithfull, Dimi Bouzalas and Lincoln Kern.

**Advances in Nature Conservation:**

Graeme Lorimer

**2. IFFA VICTORIA:**

Michele Arundell & Peter Tucker

a. / Meetings Report:

b. / Activities / Events:

c. / Major Issues:

d. / IFFA Representation:

e. / Project Funding:

**3. SPIFFA:** Southern Peninsula IFFA

Mark Adams

**4. NSW IFFA:** New South Wales IFFA

Sally Fisher & Danie Olbrich

**5. INN:** Indigenous Nurseries Network

Sue Mills & Murray Ralph

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Marita Sydes

**7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:**

**8. IFFA PROPOSALS FOR 1993-1994:**

# Coming events: For IFFA events see back cover

September 18 & 19. **ANGAIR WILDFLOWER SHOW.**  
Organised by the Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Society  
for the Protection of Flora and Fauna. Anglesea.  
More details to come.

## Conferences/Workshops/ Talks

- 25 June, Fri 8pm. **Koori plant uses** - an illustrated talk by Dr Bethgott (Botany Department, Monash University). At the St Kilda Town Hall. Organised by City of StKilda. Rob Scott (03) 534 3154.
- 29 June - 2 July. **Conserving biodiversity - the threats and solutions.** Organised by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. Topics include habitat loss, degradation and pollution of water resources, weeds and feral animals, commercial use of native biota, changes to fire and climate and can government solve the problems. At the University of Sydney. Registration fee: \$225, includes all sessions and copies of proceedings, \$135 full-time students. Contact Lynda Wild, Conference Coordinator, NPWS, Ph: (02) 585 6417, Fax: (02) 585 6544.
- 3 July Sat, 9.30am-3.30pm. **Sewerage Speak.** A free seminar organised by the Poo Project of CCV. Find out why sewerage is not just about poo! Speakers and group discussion will explore the relationship between sewage and a variety of matters including resource management and urban planning. Education Resource Centre, Melbourne Zoo. Lunch will be provided. Contact Janine, Tonia or Paul (03) 654 4833.
- 5 July, 6pm. **An indirect road to botany**, by Bill Molyneux, Austaflora. Organised by the Australian Systematic Botany Society. National Herbarium of Victoria, Birdwood Ave, Sth Yarra. Contact Tim Entwisle (03) 655 2313.
- 6 July, Tues 7.30pm. **Greens Victoria** members meeting. Enquiries: Contact Jenny Saulwick (03) 754 2867 or Janet Rice (03) 687 7386.
- 6 July, 8pm. **Native fish** - a talk by George Paras. Organised by the Fauna Survey Group of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave, Sth Yarra. Ray Gibson (03) 874 4408.
- 19 July, Mon 8pm. **Growing rainforest trees.** a talk and demonstration by Rob Hall. Organised by the Society for Growing Australian Plants - Victoria. National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, Sth Yarra. Enid Bowman (03) 882 5297.
- 28 July, Wed 8pm. **Geological History of the Yarra Valley & related streams** - by Dr N. W. Schleiger. Geology Group meeting of FNCV. Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave, Sth Yarra. Karina Bader (03)690 4653.
- 2 August, Mon 7.30-10pm. **Soils ain't soils** - talk by

Simon Leake. Presented by IFFA(NSW). See back cover.

- 23&24 September. **Partnerships for Change - environmental practice in the 1990's. 1993 National Conference.** Environment Institute of Australia. Looking towards environmental management and partnerships which achieve sustainable development. Sydney Convention Centre. Direct enquiries to (02) 357 2600.
- 24&25 September, Fri & Sat. **Management of relict lowland grasslands.** Conference and workshop. The conference includes a field trip, a public seminar on Saturday afternoon and the themes of the workshops are: "Aims of conservation" and "Management case studies". Further details from Sarah Sharp, Wildlife Research Unit, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, PO Box 1119 Tuggeranong ACT 2901. Phone (06) 207 2125.
- 6-9 December. **Australian network for plant conservation 1993 conference.** Papers and workshops covering endangered species, germplasm storage, databasing, funding and education. Contact Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Australian National Botanic Gardens, PO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

## Excursions and field trips

- 26 June, Sat. **Fungi at Tooradin** - Leader: Tom May. Botany Group excursion of FNCV. Meet 10am, picnic area at Tooradin, Melways map 144, reference A3. Win Bennet (03) 435 1921.
- 3 July, Sat. **Anakies** - General excursion of Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. The Anakies are 3 points of eruption on the floor of Port Phillip Sunkland which are at a conjugate to Rowley Fault. Materials in the scoria cone include anorthite, olivine and ilmenite bombs which have come directly from the Earth's mantle. Featherrock Industries will allow participants of this FNCV trip to fossick away from their operations. In the afternoon the group will examine the You Yangs granite, featuring megacrysts of feldspar, felsic dykes and xenoliths all suggesting a pluton intruded into the higher levels of the crust. Transport is by bus; leaves Batman Ave 9am. Bookings on 435 8408.
- 11 July, Sun. **Walk, Talk & Gawk: Conglomerate Gully.** This little known reserve near Riddells Creek features a small waterfall and interesting natural vegetation. 60km N Melb. "It is well worth a visit". Leader: Geoff Durham (03) 523 5559.
- 12 July. **School holiday, Sherbrooke Lyrebird walk, Dandenong Ranges NP.** Part of the Victorian National Parks Association program. Leader: Gudrun Frese (03) 888 8306. Meet at O'Donohue P.G. at 2pm. Introduce your children to Melbourne's most beautiful forest. Afterwards enjoy a BBQ and share it with the owls. 40km E Melb. Ring Gudrun 7am - 7pm. If unavailable, ring (03) 885 6012.
- 18 July. **Walk, Talk & Gawk: Churchill NP.** This is one of the few large areas of natural bush in the suburbs and is an interesting place for an all day winter walk. We may be lucky enough to see wallabies and kangaroos. BYO lunch. 35 SE Melb. Leader: Paul Ryan (03) 877 2960.

24 July. **Long Forest - Bacchus Marsh.** Botany Group excursion of FNCV. Leader: Janet Leversha, a Friend of Long Forest. Meet at 10.30am at southern end of Long Forest Rd, just off Western Hwy, east end of Bacchus Marsh. Win Bennet (03) 435 1921.

24-25 July, Sat-Sun. **Fauna Survey Group campout - North Central area.** Contact Ray Gibson for details (03) 874 4408.

31 July. **Walk, Talk & Gawk: Long Forest Mallee.** A remarkable outlier of genuine mallee scrub between Melton and Bacchus Marsh that has to be seen to be believed. Something different in a day walk. BYO lunch, 50km W Melb. Leader: Jack Myers (053) 67 2482.

## Restoration Activities

### June

26 Sat 9.30am. **FO Werribee Gorge & the Long Forest Mallee.** Project day: Werribee Gorge - tree planting. Janet Leversha (053) 67 4229. Next Project day: 17 July.

26 Sat 2pm. **FO Sherbrooke Forest.** Project afternoon. Other project day on Wednesday 14 July. Vivien Freshwater (03) 754 3093.

26 Sat 10am-12noon. **Sandringham Community Nursery** - volunteers propagation activities. Sandringham Council Depot, enter Reserve Rd or Talinga Rd. This is on every Thursday and Saturday.

26&27 Sat&Sun. **Mount Eliza Association for Environmental Care** Reserves project days. Call Anne on (03)787 2034 on the evening prior to the project day for details of proposed activity, venue and equipment required. Also on the 24 & 25 July.

27 Sun. **FO Warrandyte SP** project day: Ivy pull. See FOWSP: Thurs 1 July.

27\* Sun 9am. **BEAM** (Broadford Environmental Action Movement) working bee. \*Please confirm. Alison Tomkins (057) 84 2041.

27 Sun 10am-1pm. **FO Braeside Park** working bee. Also on 11&25 July. Ron Pearson 584 7443.

27 Sun 11am-4pm. **FO Royal Park West.** Activity day. Adam Muyt (03) 481 4682.

### July

1 Thurs 10am. **FO Warrandyte SP.** Nursery activities. Pound Bend, Melways map 23, ref A11. This is one of the most regular and frequent events organised by FOWSP. There are many other activities and groups associated with FOWSP or Warrandyte SP. For details about other activities, contact Margaret Burke (FOWSP Coordinator) (03) 844 1060 or Fay Valcanis (Warrandyte SP Parkcare Officer) 844 2659.

1 Thurs 10am. **FO Helmeted Honeyeater** activity day. Yellingbo Ranger's Office. Yellingbo State Nature Reserve, Macclesfield - Woori Yallock Rd, Melways map 119B, ref F11. Gaye (059) 64 8350. Other FOHH activities include nursery activities - 7 July (ring Pat Madeley (03) 727 2359), and work group activities.

3 Sat, 10am. **Green Link Box Hill** activity day. These

events are also held every Monday and Tuesday morning, with Monday being Nursery work. Council Nursery in Nelson Street, Box Hill, further details, contact Minette (03) 898 1364.

4 Sun 9am. **FO Buckley Falls.** Activity day, also on 18 July. Tony Woolford (052) 43 6340.

11 Sun, 10am-3pm. **FO the Yarra** Galatea Pt, Mel 2D, D7. Judy (03) 347 2252. Also on Wed 28 July.

11 Sun 10am. **Meander**.....a group caring for the Menzies Creek and Emerald Tourist Track Inc. Weeding and other work in the creek reserve. Meet at A'vard Picnic Ground, Emerald (Melways map 125, ref E12). Kate Forster (059) 68 5828.

11 Sun 3-5pm. **Green Link Camberwell.** Weeding and planting in the Welfare Pde. Meet at the corner of Dion St & Welfare Pde; Melways map 60, ref E7. Dianna Burgess (03) 809 2092

17 Sat, 10am. **FO Bradshaw Park** propagation & weeding. For details on meeting location contact Dave Bainbridge (03)580 5992.

18 Sun 1-4pm. **Wildlife Watch** Weeding and planting - Butterfield Wildlife Reserve, Melways map 125, ref E6, followed by tea & coffee. Robert Stephen (03) 754 7393 or 754 3792 or Barbara (03) 755 1071.

18 Sun. **FO Avalon Dunes.** Restoration of native plant communities at Avalon Dunes. This involves removal of bitou and other weeds and planting. Marita Macrae (02) 918 3368.

18 Sun 10am. **Men of the Trees.** Deep Rock, Yarra Bend Park; Melways map 2D, ref D6. Minette Russell Young 898 1364.

18 Sun. 10am-12noon. **Brunswick Tree Group** Moonee Ponds Ck. Eric Ward (03) 388 2123.

18 Sun 1.30pm. **Darling Mills Bush Regenerators (NSW).** Meet at the corner of Westmore Drive & Range Rd, West Pennant Hills. No previous experience necessary, just enthusiasm! Robyn Becket (02)872 4510.

24 Sat 9.00am. **FO Organ Pipes NP.** Meet at the Park Office. Robert Bender (03)499 2413.

The **Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers** activities, contact ATCV: (053) 33 1483.

For other **Victorian National Parks Association** activities, call (03) 650 8296.

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 on (03) 650 8296.

**Visitors/participants are welcome to all events listed in Indigenotes.**

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

# IFFA(NSW) Meeting report:

## Aboriginal Plant Use and Modern Horticulture - A Future in Common?

*John McCarthy spoke to our best attended meeting yet (we stopped counting at 87) on a topic of obvious interest to many people. Because of the interest shown, John has given us a close approximation of his entire talk. We hope this, plus the information at the end, will satisfy the people out of Sydney who have contacted us with expressions of interest.*

Most people are aware of the recent trend to bush foods through a spate of books and the rise to fame of a popular T.V. series. We're also aware that this is the year of indigenous peoples. However, one thing that we are not aware of, though when mentioned it may seem obvious, is the connection between the loss of Aboriginal welfare and livelihood with our continued and inappropriate use of Australia's unique habitats and natural ecosystems.

Presently Australia has the worst documented extinction rate of any country in the world. We've lost the equivalent to five thousand years natural soil erosion in 200 years. Half our forests and three quarters of our rainforests are gone. One hundred and twenty or so plant species are extinct and thousands are threatened. One of these is *Diploglottis campbellii*, the native tamarind, a small rainforest tree from Northern NSW that has a succulent edible fruit similar to the flavour of a Lime. There's only between 14 and 20 left in the wild.

In spite of our great "awareness" these days we're still clearing irrationally - one billion trees will be cleared in Queensland over the next 2 - 3 years. We have not even recognised the term "carrying capacity" let alone understood that the land has a limit. Our ecosystems are changing rapidly, we don't understand why or where its' leading. We are a part of, no more, we are the cause of, a phenomenal case of ecological mismanagement.

Bio-diversity and Australia's native resources must be taken seriously if we are to prevent further neglect and destruction of Australia's ecosystems and the continued loss of Aboriginal welfare and livelihood. It's time we showed respect for Aboriginal knowledge by using it. By establishing balanced agricultural systems providing rural harmony for indigenous peoples based on their philosophies of living with the land and not living **OFF** the land.

At this stage most people begin to question, how? Where are these products and what is their value? But the astounding diversity of bush resource species from which they are derived makes it possible to characterise these products of importance are: bushmeats; fish fruits; edible oils; spices; seeds; nuts; medicines; fuelwood; structural materials - ie rattan, bamboo native spp) and various fibres & chemically useful materials such as resins, essential oils, gums, latexes, tannins and dyes; animal products such as honey (from native bees); egg; skins; feathers and other decorative products including cut flowers and foliage.

Some specific examples stand out such as the medicinal value of the Mulla Mulla plant (*Ptilotus* sp) which is now being used for the treatment of skin cancers. Other plants of the genus *Euphorbia* and *Tylophora* have potential cancer fighting properties in their latex. The Backscratch Ginger (*Taipenochilus*) has red bracts which last for months and have exceptional cut flower potential. And our native bees (*Trigona* spp) which have the potential to increase fruit and nut yields of native crops have been ignored for too long.

Our neglect of bush resources is a legacy of tradition passed on by our colonial ancestors. Their land ethic was based on foreign farming systems and a refusal to adopt and adapt to indigenous land ethics throughout the world. We've always sought to dominate our ecosystems, by simplifying them and forcing our foreign animals and plants into ecosystems to which they're completely unsuited. The outcome has been a continuous war with nature, on our farms, waterways and even in our backyards.

We've failed to recognise the fundamental difference between our ancestors use of cool temperate forests, whose economy was based mainly on timbers, and the life of the forest dweller in warm temperate forests and tropical forests, whose life relies on a huge diversity of bush resources, timber being only a small component. Indeed, this legacy still sees us abuse our most obvious resource timber! Presently in Australia we have approximately 100,000 hectares of tree plantations and most of this is *Pinus radiata*. In only three states have we started planting *Eucalyptus* plantations and NSW is not one. Over 108 countries have *Eucalyptus* plantations - Brazil having

around 2 million hectares planted. Indeed it is possible now that there are more eucalypts outside Australia than in it.

It is hardly surprising therefore that our present attitude towards the use of bush resources continues. We need a land ethic based on bio-diversity, not eco-simplicity, and/or alternatively to re-apply past Aboriginal land management techniques and combine them with our present technologies and farm management systems.

We still have the opportunities to do this in Australia, as we have 7 - 8% of the world's bio-diversity. Indeed 13 out of the 19 primitive plant families exist in Australia where flowering plants underwent massive and important early evolutionary development. North Queensland is an area that could be considered one of several birth places of flowering plants. One of these ancient relics is *Eupomatia laurina*, the Native Guava which has an edible fruit and a seed which can be ground and used as a condiment with a similar flavour to cardamom.

In other regions of North Queensland, such as the Daintree, up to 600 species have been recorded to the acre. Unfortunately this has been reduced to one (Sugar Cane) in some areas. The Western Australian wheat belt includes areas where National Parks are only narrow roadside verges approximately 5 metres in width - the habitat of many rare and endangered plant and animal species.

Our present farming systems are based on a dangerous dependence on just a few foods - 85% of our foods come from 20 kinds of plants and 66% of these from just 3 (maize, wheat & rice). Yet throughout time humans have made use of some 15,000 plants for food and an incredible 75,000 have food potential alone without contemplating other resources. This makes a mockery of our present farming system and our knowledge & understanding of our ecosystems let alone their potential resources. We understand the implications of potential famine yet still we fail to act. We need to increase our food base drastically.

In Australia Aboriginal people have used between 4 - 5,000 plant species for food. Presently these foods come from Enrichland Polyculture Systems on Aboriginal or Private lands or from urban

harvesting. Enrichland Polyculture is a farming system that has been developed by Vic Cherikoff (Director of Bush Tucker Supply) to harvest bush resources in a natural way. It's relatively low labour intensive and forest extensive. It seeks to retain and manage useful wild species and supplements the wild source with cultivation.

The following is a list of foods, different to those mentioned in the talk, but more relevant perhaps to the Sydney region and suburban street tree plantings.

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Part Used</b>
<i>Acronychia ablongifolia</i>	Wild aspen	fruits
<i>Acronychia wilcoxiana</i>	Wild aspen	fruits
<i>Apium australe</i>	Sea celery	greens
<i>Aleurites moluccana</i>	Candle nut	kernel (roasted)
<i>Austromyrtus dulcis</i>	Midyen berry	fruit
<i>Austromyrtus tenuifolia</i>	Narrow-leaf myrtle	fruit
<i>Billardiera</i> spp	Apple berry	fruit
<i>Brachychiton</i> spp	Kurrajongs	root, seed, greens
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Fringe myrtle	fruit
<i>Carpobrotus</i> spp	Pigface	fruit
<i>Cissus</i> spp	Native grapes	fruit
<i>Cayratia clematidea</i>	Native grapes	tuber
<i>Correa alba</i>	White correa	tea, greens
<i>Davidsonia pruriens</i>	Davidson's plum	fruit
<i>Dianella</i> spp	Flax lily	fruit, root
<i>Dioscorea transversa</i>	Native yam	fruit
<i>Diploglottis australis</i>	Native tamarind	fruit
<i>Diploglottis campbelli</i> spp	Tamarind	fruit
<i>Elatostemma reticulatum</i>		Rainforest spinach greens
<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>	Guava	fruit, seed-spice
<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	wombat berry	tuber
<i>Ficus</i> spp	Figs	fruit
<i>Geitonoplesium cymosum</i>	Scrambling Lily	shoot
<i>Hibiscus heterophyllus</i>	hibiscus	leaf, flower
<i>Leptospermum petersonii</i>		Lemon scented tree tea
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Mat rush	flowers, leaf
<i>Macadamia</i> spp		kernel
<i>Myoporum acuminatum</i>	Boobialla	fruit
<i>Planchonella australis</i>	Black apple	fruit
<i>Podocarpus elatus</i>	Brown Pine	fruit
<i>Persoonia</i> spp	Geebung	fruit
<i>Rubus</i> spp	Native scrambler	fruits
<i>Rorippa giggantea</i>	Winter cress	fruits
<i>Schizomeria ovata</i>	Crab apple	fruit
<i>Smilax glycyphalla</i>	Sarsaparilla Vine	fruit, leaf-tea
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Kangaroo apples	fruit
<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	Kangaroo apples	fruit
<i>Stercolia quadrifida</i>	Peanut tree	kernel
<i>Syzgium</i> spp	Lilli pillis	fruit
<i>Svaeda australia</i>	Sea blight	greens
<i>Tetragonia tetragonoides</i>	Warrigal Greens	greens
<i>Tasmania insipida</i>	Pepper bush	leaf, berry, spice
<i>Trachymene incisa</i>	Native carrot	root
<i>Urtica incisa</i>	Stinging nettle	greens
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Violets	flowers
<i>Viola betonicitolia</i>	Violets	greens

# Aboriginal Plant Use and Modern Horticulture - A Future in Common? (continued)

The forest is more than food, and in Australia the resource base includes all ecosystems, not only forest. The dismissive epithet "minor forest products" which has been applied to the diverse array of all useful bush resources other than timber is indicative of the extent to which they have been grossly undervalued.

At least 29 million people are critically dependent on these resources in South-east Asia and they value around several billion dollars annually. Rattan alone brings in 3 billion dollars. But in Australia we have around 8 species of our own Rattan. These are called Calamus, a species of climbing palms (though some are clumping) and they can be harvested after 8 years for craft or basket ware or other material uses. In addition we have many other resources.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Uses or part used
<b>MEDICINES</b>		
<u>Essential oils</u>		
Cymbopogon spp	Lemon grass	Decongestant Antiseptic, external
Eremophila spp.	Emu bushes	Antipyretic (reduces body temp during fever) exceptionally high % up to 4.6 decongestant, expectorant, analgesic, anti-diarrhoeal, counter irritant
<u>Barks</u>		
Acacia spp	wattles	
Eucalyptus spp	gums	
<u>Resins</u>		
Callitris columellaris	white cypress-pine	
<u>Gums/Kinos</u> (powerful healing agents)		
Eucalyptus gummifera		Anti fungal bacterial
Eucalyptus maculata		Anti-biotic
Angophora costata		diarrhoea
<u>Latex</u>		
Ficus spp		Anti-biotics
<u>Flower essences</u>		
Darwinia citriadora		Germicidal potential
Agonis linearis		
<u>Green Ants</u>		
Oecophylla smaragdina		
<u>Bach Remedies</u> (Flower essences- psychological remedies)		
Banksia serrata	Old man Banksia	Negative feelings
Lambertia formosa	Mountain Devil	Hatred, anger

<b>DYES</b>		
Haemodorum coccineum	(red) blood lily	root
Pogonolobus reticulatus	(Yellow) blood lily	root, cavelex
<b>NARCOTICS</b>		
Nicotiana spp (19)	Native tobacco	leaf
Pterocaulon serrulatum	Apple bush	leaf
<b>MATERIALS/CRAFTS</b>		
Calamus spp	Rattan	Stems, hooks
Flagellaria indica	Supplejack	Stems, hooks
Hakea arborea	Supplejack	Timber (used also for boomerangs)
<b>INSTRUMENTS</b>		
Eucalyptus spp		timber (also didgeridoo & now guitar)

It is imperative that in all future formulation of land-use and forest policies (and the evaluation of development projects) the impact on bush resources products and their role in Aboriginal welfare and the wider economy should routinely and without exception be considered.

Previous development activities have degraded bush resources and now in many cases prevent the access of indigenous peoples to them. These consequences must be recognised and altered to prevent further degradation of Aboriginal welfare and natural ecosystems. (Legal mechanism for Aboriginals-protection plant variety rights, organised co-ops.)

The acceleration of the commercialisation of bush resources products will occur as awareness continues to grow. If provisions for new markets are successful, they will lead to greater pressures for over-exploitation. Aboriginal welfare will continue to suffer as will our ecosystems. Problems have already occurred with the Macadamia (rare in the wild), the Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*) and the Emu.

Presently the Emu is being farmed economically but there are no free range farms accenting organic methods. The government discourages passive farming (which regulates wildstock by culling young birds) and promotes conventional poultry raising techniques. For the Quandong, monocultural productions are being advocated, along with desired pesticide dosages needed to obtain marketable products even though the pest populations are also native. The idea of diversity has been completely overlooked.

We must be wary of our past mistakes and the exploiter who overtaxes a resource and siphons off

the profits. All aspects of an ecosystem interrelate and must be included in the value of the end product, fruit, nut, medicine or animal. (Woodchips are a classic present day example of resource exploitation and mismanagement in Australia.)

It is therefore imperative that measures to control exploitation of bush resources are implemented. ie better natural forest and land use management with supplements for natural production through cultivation.) Until these methods are implemented past traditions of eco-simplification and mismanagement will continue.

Over 50% of Australia's land is degraded in some form. Soil can be considered our capital and is being mined to produce food in a short term non-renewable manner. Six tonnes of soil are lost for every tonne of wheat harvested and as only 6% of our land is considered arable we're losing our most valuable resource at an incredible rate. But it's not only due to our farming practices. The urban sprawl eats into 10% of this arable land. Almost 1/2 the world lives in Suburbia as do 80% of Australians. Urban areas are enormous polluters and place great stress on natural ecosystems through invasions by feral animals, exotic plants, excess nutrient and chemical run off. They're also enormous energy sinks (fuels for lawns etc, water) and so great responsibility falls on the average urban dweller, home gardener and on local councils. As Australia is the most urbanised country in the world we need to make better use of our backyards, city parklands, streets and gardens.

"The present horticultural industry must take a deal of the blame for our present traditions as we continue to force outdated horticultural ideals into environments which have to be maintained at extremely high energy costs with little outputs. Another aspect of Enrichland Polyculture is Urban Forging. Presently one tonne of bush resources products are harvested from suburbia but this could be increased ten fold by enhancing our parks, streets and council gardens with useful species. With some well thought-out native selections combined with better and more varied exotic selections the home garden could be far more environmentally friendly."

Our present research into exotics is sadly lacking. We still neglect most of the oecania and Gondwana flora that is far more suited to our climates and eco-types. Additionally research into bush resources from Oceania and South-east Asia would provide information for indigenous peoples in these regions to help promote rural welfare and

provide an economically viable & culturally relevant life pattern. Cultivation of traditionally collected products provides a form of cultural continuity for indigenous peoples. Moreover, the precedents for natural bush product cultivation which exist in traditional communities in Australia and Oceania would be studied and built upon as they are relevant to Enrichland Polyculture.

Enrichland Polyculture offers a rural farming system suited to all ecological habitats and soil types where it has more or less been employed by indigenous peoples throughout the world in various forms for thousands of years. Urban forging offers a solution for the urban dweller, landscaper and town planner to utilise existing soil types, micro climates and native indigenous plants enhanced with well researched useable exotics. There is no reason why gardens can't be useful and beautiful. The resources are at our fingertips (ie Botanic Gardens). The cultivation of indigenous species offers suitable plant materials for urban plantings, Bush regeneration, Revegetation & Land Reclamation which all are aspects of Enrichland Polyculture and most importantly provide cultural continuity for Australia's indigenous peoples and indeed are relevant to all the world's indigenous population.

Bush resources constitute a neglected resource which could be an integral component of sustainable multipurpose forest management systems that simultaneously enhance the welfare of indigenous peoples, aid in national economic development, reduce our need to compete in overseas and indeed in internal markets, make us more reliant on our own resources and maintains ecosystem diversity and functions.

Australia is a classic example of species erosion. Yet, in spite of our modern awareness, we continue to threaten the existence of further thousands of our plants and animals. Unlike the developing world we don't have the excuses of over population or poverty.

John McCarthy  
April, 1993

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**References: Look for these in the next issue.**

# Environmental weeds and Greening Australia

**A submission from Darcy Duggan to Greening Australia.**

Organisations such as Greening Australia have played an important role in recent years in raising community awareness of the social, economic and ecological impacts of environmental degradation, and in supporting a range of programs and initiatives to tackle these problems.

It is clear however, given the magnitude of the many problems facing this country, that a coordinated and integrated approach to land management at all government levels will be critical to the overall development of sustainable land use practices and principles. GA has the potential to play a major role in facilitating this process.

GA has released a number of discussion papers for comment which outline various strategic initiatives. These provide a valuable "window of opportunity" for input into the future policies and directions of the organisation.

In reviewing the various initiatives, it is apparent the broad thrust of these are directed primarily towards tackling the massive land degradation issues relating to tree decline, salinity and soil erosion. Two major underlying themes throughout are the importance of conserving biodiversity and developing sustainable land management practices.

Initiatives highlighting the importance of catchment based planning, the re-establishment of "corridors of Green", and the expansion of GA's role in community involvement and education etc will be essential to developing a landcare awareness and action.

Whilst considerable attention to date has focussed on major land degradation issues, other related and equally important problems have not been addressed, specifically the impact of environmental weeds and their implications both in terms of sustainable land management and conservation of biodiversity.

The primary purpose of this brief discussion paper is to highlight the seriousness of environmental weeds and the need to target this issue as part of an overall strategic integrated approach to land management. It is essential that GA acknowledge the importance of this problem and develop appropriate strategies and policy guidelines.

Extent of the problem:

Environmental weed invasion is a world wide phenomenon, and is now recognised by most ecologists as one of the most serious threats to the conservation of indigenous flora and fauna.

Within Victoria, exotic species comprise some 28% of the total flora. Of these various species, a large number are very serious environmental weeds which have the capacity to invade and severely degrade or destroy native vegetation communities and wildlife habitat. In addition to the impact of exotic species, an ever growing list of Australian native species are showing the capacity to invade remnant vushland when planted outside their natural geographic range.

A recent publication by Carr et al [1992] provides a useful overview of the implications of environmental weed invasion

within Victoria. The need to act on this problem is becoming increasingly more urgent.

In attempting to assess the impact of environmental weed invasion within a broader Australia wide context, a study was funded by the endangered species program of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and the CSIRO.

The authors of the report concluded that "introduced plants are an acute and insufficiently appreciated ecological problem posing formidable management and control difficulties that must be addressed through a national approach" [Ecos 92/93].

Despite the overwhelming conservation and economic implications of environmental weed invasion within Australia, relatively little attention has been given to this problem. The reasons for this are many and varied. Researchers point to a variety of political, technical and resource constraints that inhibit Australia's capacity to control environmental weeds [Ecos 92/93]. There is often conflict between conservation and agriculture or horticulture as a result of the promotion of environmentally unacceptable species by government agencies. The lack of legislative controls on the import of ornamental species in particular is of major concern.

Technical constraints include the logistics of broad scale weed management in remote areas. On the resources side, the perceived lack of economic benefits and the long term commitments required result in environmental weed control receiving a low priority.

Current approaches to weed management are generally ineffective due to the lack of a coordinated and integrated policies or strategies.

The need to develop integrated approaches involving federal, state and local government, industries such as agriculture, forestry, horticulture and tourism, academia and the general public is of paramount importance. These must tackle existing problems as well as implementing preventative measures and policies.

The announcement by the federal government that it has begun preparing a National Weeds Strategy, due soon for release and public comment is welcome news. Given the expanding role and responsibilities of GA in promoting landcare programs throughout Australia, there is clearly a major opportunity for GA to take a leading role in highlighting this problem, and in ensuring the integration of an environmental weed strategy as part of an overall land management program.

**General recommendations:**

The following recommendations are put forward for consideration:

1. That GA clearly recognizes and acknowledges the impact of pest plants, specifically environmental weeds, as a major land degradation problem.
2. That GA develop a strategic approach to management of environmental weeds, as part of an integrated land management program. This will be essential to implementing a number of strategic initiatives dealing with

vegetation management as outlined in the discussion papers.

3. That GA develop for each state clear vegetation policy objectives and guidelines based on sound ecologically responsible criteria for all revegetation works and related activities. This will require a review of current GA policy and practices relating to vegetation management.

4. That GA in cooperation with the federal and relevant state governments establish a series of task forces to address environmental weed problems as part of a national strategic approach. It is critical that in developing these strategies a high priority is given to prevention of further introductions of non-essential yet ecologically destructive species, and that sufficient resources are available to ensure early intervention when weed outbreaks are detected.

- **From a submission by Darcy Duggan to Greening Australia**

# IFFA activities:

## IFFA (Vic)

### Next meeting:

Tuesday 29 June at 8 pm at the Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra (Melways map 2G ref 12A). Annual General Meeting including election of office-bearers. See page 4 for the agenda. All IFFA members are encouraged to attend.

### Committee meeting:

To be determined, depending on when new committee members are free.

### SPIFFA

Mon 5 July Waterfall Gully Cnty Centre, Cnr Bayview Rd and Nixon St, Rosebud South at 7.30 pm. Other local conservation groups will be invited to attend. Contact Mark Adams (059)851122.

### Indigenous Nurseries Network:

Tuesday 29 June 6.30pm. (before main IFFA meeting). INN's AGM will be held, including election of office-bearers. All members urged to attend. Contact Murray Ralph (03) 419 3040 or Sue Mills (03) 383 2937.

## IFFA (NSW)

### Next meeting:

Monday 2 August 7.30 - 10.00pm. **Soils ain't soils** - by Simon Leake; Soil Scientist, Sydney Environmental and Soil Laboratory. Simon has pioneered urban soil science in Sydney and has worked with both urban and agricultural soils for the past 10 years. He will discuss the recognition, management, reversal and prevention of urban soil pollution with particular reference to indigenous flora and reclamation and revegetation of land. In the Maiden Theatre, Mrs Macquaries Rd, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. Contact Sally Fisher (02)9706486 (work), Penny Brown or Andrew McGahey (02)9133681 (work).

## Membership

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

Membership includes  
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*Memberships should be sent to the Secretary.*

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

## Contents:

Editorial: <b>Notes from the outgoing editor.</b>	2
Treasurer's report:	3
<b>Grassland research funding</b>	4
<b>Direct seeding reference sites</b>	5
Secretary's report:	6
Coming Events:	8
Sydney IFFA meeting report: <b>Aboriginal land use and modern horticulture - a future in common?</b>	10
<b>Environmental weeds and Greening Australia</b>	14

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**Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editors — the deadline for the next issue will be 3 July.**

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