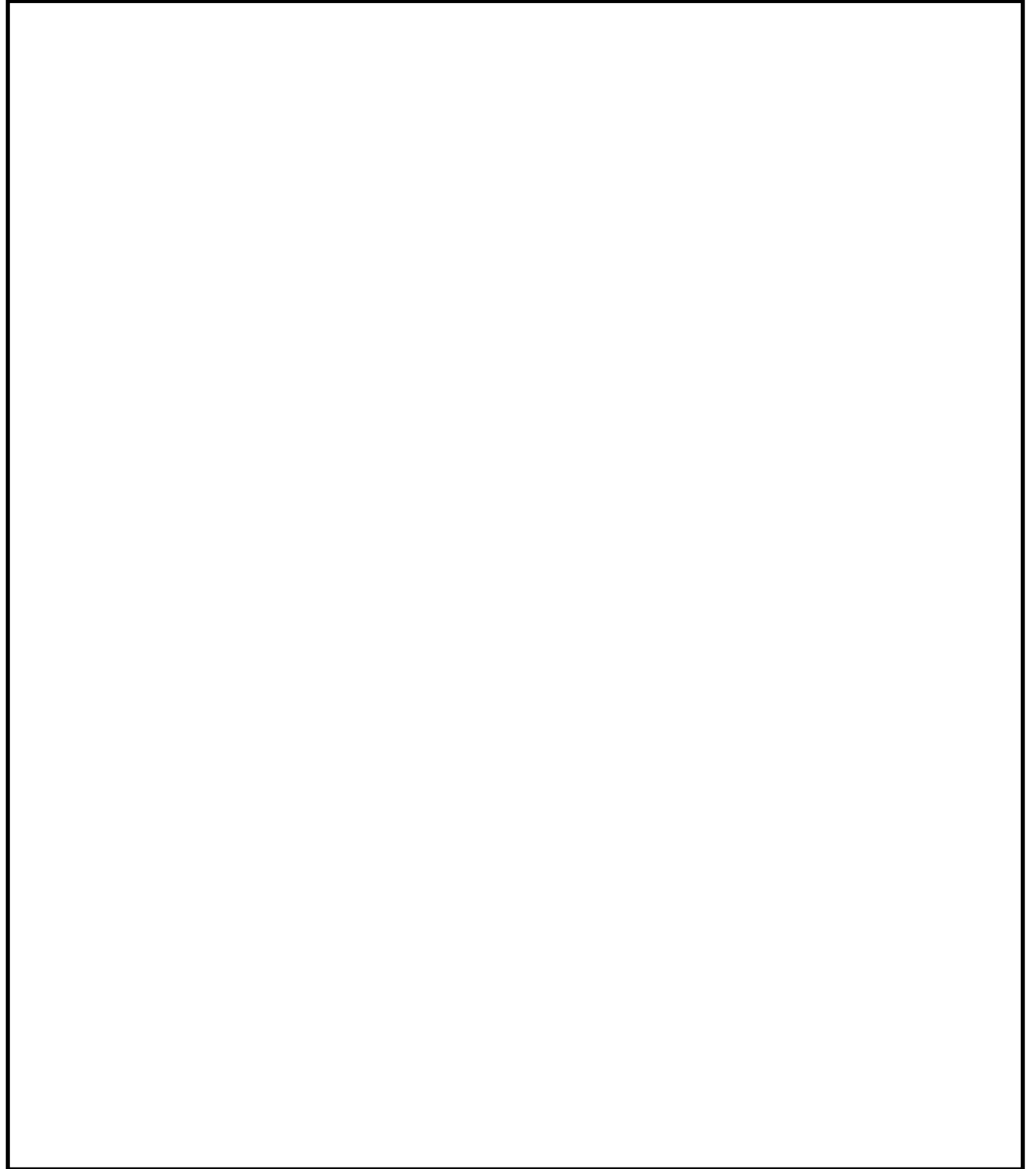


INDIGENOTES



Meeting Notes:

Your esteemed Editor, Lincoln Kern, was the speaker at the August Meeting. He spoke about his experiences of a recent trip to the United States, travelling from the south-west, through the central south and the prairie states up to the north-east.

While in the States Lincoln spoke with as many restorationists and managers as he could find as well as attending the annual Prairie conference. The experiences of many of the people he met are very close to our own - spooky, isn't it possums? It was interesting to see how people were dealing with the problem of habitat loss and their efforts to revegetate. The slides demonstrated the spectacular beauty of much of the country - pine trees are not at all offensive in their natural habitat!

Lincoln also described the payment of indulgences for lost habitat. Destroy a habitat, pay a sum of money to a fund and a similar habitat can be created elsewhere. Problem is that critical location, local provenance and restoration quality are not stressed anywhere near strongly enough. The payment of money is both permission to remove habitat and expiation for doing so.

Similar problems are rearing their head in Victoria. The Public Transport Corporation has offered \$20K to DCNR for the privilege of placing a station on critical habitat for South Gippsland Grassland at Cranbourne. The total community area is <20 ha, and this site, 500 x 18 m, is the richest as it was burnt regularly until recently. A number of groups, including IFFA, have written to protest the move because of the dangerous precedent it creates. We can live without the payment of indulgences for habitat destruction in Victoria.

On a hotter note, Mark Trengove spoke at our September meeting. He described a burn in Pt. Lonsdale heath in 1992. The burn, although on a small area, was successful for a number of reasons:

- the area had been weeded for many years, the only remaining weeds being Coastal Tea-tree - the overstorey!
- the methods used were carefully thought out. Little was left to chance.
- the size of the area was suitable for intensive follow up.
- the soil store of seed had remained for 50+ years for about a 500% increase in species richness after the burn.
- the locals were warned beforehand.

The results were brilliant. It showed that a considered approach will meet with success and provide

good instruction for the participant's future attempts at pyro-horticulture. Pass the matches, please.

The Committee has decided to change the printing, folding and mailing methods for Indigenotes. This will deliver it to your door in goodly time for future meetings. Note the change in venue for October's meeting. We have had some good response for our calls for a long term venue in last month's Indigenotes, so stay tuned.

We would like some feedback from members on the direction IFFA should take. Long, protracted battles with the government are not our forte, as we do not have the resources to carry them out. I lean to education and communication, and feel that if we strengthen our approach in this area, other benefits will follow. Any committee member would welcome your opinions.

I am concerned with the attendance at meetings. The last two talks have been given by members, and both were instructive and enjoyable. I know the Herbie hall is a bit short on ambience, but when folks take off before any business is attended to, or do not show at all, it makes it very hard for an organisation to function.

IFFA is an organisation dedicated to change. We wish to change attitudes to the natural environment. To be agents of change, we need to communicate ideas. To communicate ideas we need to communicate with each other, ie MEET. If there are reasons as to why you could physically attend meetings, but do not, please communicate those reasons. IFFA needs this sort of input to thrive.

Next meeting:

The destruction of habitat listed by the FFG Act.
Changes to Indigenotes production
Leasing of grazing rights on important habitat for others, please contact myself or Peter Tucker.

Enough grizzling. Enjoy your spring.

Roger Jones

The Dune Saga

Brighton City Council has plans to extend the bike path along Beach Road which will link Sandringham and the City of Port Phillip. Unfortunately, plans put the bike path through a small remnant of dune vegetation on the foreshore between Were St and Dendy St. Although not botanically significant, it is important because there is little of this vegetation left. 100 years ago, city dwellers used to travel to Brighton to view the heath in flower.

Now...

The alternative is to place the track adjacent to Beach Road. This is the route taken in Sandringham and is preferred by Bicycle Victoria. Many local groups also prefer this route, but it is opposed by Brighton Council on safety grounds. The bike riders reject this. Dr. Jim Willis has written eloquently in support of preserving the remnant; he has a 55 year history with the area.

Local groups have pledged to pursue revegetation in the remnant whether the track goes through or not. Common sense says the council should now graciously accede the point and place the track along the road. The locals would like all who know the area to let the council know of your concerns if you share them. For more information, contact Elizabeth McQuire on 592 6474.

Grazing Leases on Public Land

Long term grazing leases are to be let on public land as part of a process of doing away with short-term lease renewals. There has been concern from many individuals and groups on the effects of such leases on habitat quality. As people will know, there are many valuable sites on road and reserves, waterfrontages and the like.

Many studies in recent years have identified historical long-term leases as a process which endangers habitat. In fact, this has been one of the major factors in the creation of short-term licences in recent years. The move back to long term leases for reasons of better financial recovery does not allow for areas of natural value to be conserved.

It is critical that biologically significant areas on Crown land Reserves be managed for the values that make them significant. It is not DCNR's job to compromise these values for the benefit of a better account line. IFFA is supporting a campaign that uses the following strategy:

- (1) in every DCNR area, identify some listed taxa and communities that are affected by grazing and which are known to occur on specific parcels of licenced Crown land.
- (2) Ascertain that the Crown land used by the listed taxon or community is licenced for grazing and is 'managed' by the Department.
- (3) Ideally from parish plans or 'information provided by the local DCNR office,
identifying the unused road, waterfrontage etc., in terms of file number, location by Parish and allotment number or location by reference to a detailed map.
- (4) Write to the area manager, providing the same

information and asking what is going to be done to protect listed wildlife.

- (5) Stress that the Act requires the Dept to protect known sites with listed wildlife and that known sites should be excluded.
- (6) Add that assessments need to be done to search for other sites.

We encourage all people to document local sites with biologically significant elements that may be subject to long term grazing leases and send details to the regional manager of DCNR. Further information will be made available at the next IFFA meeting.

Obituary:

Angela Papantuono

Angela Papantuono died young, she was almost 30 when she died of cancer on Thursday September 29. She hadn't been an IFFA member long, a couple of years, but it was part of her connection to a passion for her in life. This passion was expressed as untiring energy to make the world a better place, for children and other people and our flora and fauna (not all indigenous).

I first met Angela on a revegetation course at Lenister Farm in Eltham in 1992. She stood out because she talked alot, always brought nice cakes for morning tea and was always cheerful. I subsequently got her casual work with Save the Bush and she loved working to restore the bush and grassland. She also began to come to IFFA meetings. Angela didn't necessarily remember latin names very well but she was always asking questions; you knew she was interested, always learning and cared.

Everyone who knew Angela will miss her very much and her example will always serve as a benchmark in their own lives.

Lincoln Kern

The Eels are running

By Helen Gibson

It is the end of October when sudden warm days bring the cicadas out and thoughts turn to the beach and fishing from a boat or from the shady bank of a river or creek.

The word goes round. The eels are running. Only a few know what this means, the naturalists, the biologists, the fishermen. And even to them it remains one of the greatest mysteries of nature.

The baby eels or elvers are coming in from the sea, into the creeks, the rivers, the drains, across wet marshy ground, all the down the east coast of Australia, from Cape York to the Glenelg River in western Victoria for one species, the Short Finned. And for the Long Finned as far south as the Gippsland coast.

In England they call it the Eel Fare.

These tiny fragile creatures have come in their millions through thousands of kilometres of ocean, from the tropical waters of the Coral Sea where they were spawned. They were carried as larva - leptocephali, leaf-shaped - by the oceanic currents. As they neared the coast the metamorphosis into glass eels or elvers took place.

And here is the mystery and the miracle. From studies of eels in Europe and North America it seems that they return to the same streams from which their parents came.

Millions must have perished on the way and millions more will perish in the battle against overwhelming odds. The current is always against them. Where there are waterfalls or weirs they must scale a rushing torrent, a vertical wall of concrete or rock.

During daylight they hide in the crevices or in the mud or water weeds to be safe from the keen eyes of water birds or other predators. At sunset they start again on their incredible journey.

As dusk comes you clamber down the steep bank and wade up and down the channel or stream, shining a torch on to the edges of the water. The elvers are clustered there in hundreds, like thick, eight to fifteen cm long threads of reddish silk, almost transparent in the torch beam. They creep forward, each twist of the sinuous little bodies significant in the climb, taking advantage of every crevice and protuberance in the rough surface. Some have reached the two metre high wall down which the water is cascading. They edge up at the sides, pausing from time to time, exhausted. Then on again, up, up, almost over the top only to be caught in the current and swept down again.

Some will never make it. Some will struggle on and on until they reach their goals, the creeks, the rivers, the waterholes which are to be their future homes.

Here they will live for the next ten to twenty years, growing in length and girth. One day, in Autumn, driven by the inexorable life urge, they will set out on their wedding journey to the sea, down those same streams, across damp ground on dark nights, gradually changing colour from brown to silver. Many months later they will reach the tropical ocean where they will spawn and die.

And the eels will be running again.

Source: Forest Focus Friends of Sherbrooke Forest Newsletter Spring 1994

Action Page: Act Now!

Eltham Pest Plant Law Abandoned

At its meeting of the 23 August, Eltham Council abandoned the proposed pest plant local law in favour of a entirely co-operative process. This process involves Council producing and distributing information to help residents address the pest plant situation in a voluntary manner.

A public meeting was held on September 1st at the Eltham Community Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to provide residents with the opportunity to put forward their ideas regarding how invasive plants can be controlled by co-operative means. Council has favoured this approach in response to community requests that more co-operative approaches be utilised to address invasive plants. For it to work it is important that everyone is involved.

Thank you for your interest in this matter and we look forward to working with you on developing suitable educational strategies.

Marianne Henderson, Land Protection Officer for the Shire of Eltham

Source: Network News September 1994

Silent Invaders on the Age

Gardening Page

On Saturday 17 September 1994 the debate about environmental weeds in the Shire of Eltham and beyond burst out onto the Age Gardening page.

Elizabeth Donoghue wrote a long article exploring the reasons for the failure of the Eltham Pest Plant Law. She asserted that gardeners are generally ill-informed about the environmental issues involved and were unconvinced of the existing and potential impacts of environmental weeds. She also wrote that the failure of the law came about because of the accessibility of influencing local government.

Gardeners were urged to curb the incursions of plants for ethical and pragmatic reasons. Her final warning was that the story is just beginning, the State's recent Catchment and Land Protection Act means that bushland invaders are likely to be added to the list of noxious weeds.

The editor of the Gardening page ended the piece by asking for letters and opinions about the issue. Subsequently on the 8 October edition we were told that there has been overwhelming response to the issue and that letters and articles will be presented in the 16 October edition. I suspect that the feelings were strong on both sides of the issue and hope that support for actions such as the Pest Plant Law were strong; I made my contribution and hope to see it. I would also recommend we keep this issue alive in such a public forum; gardeners need to be educated! So, please continue to write letters to the Age (The Editor, Gardening, The Age, 250 Spencer Street, Melb. 3000) and anywhere else you consider worthwhile.

Lincoln Kern

The Plane Tree debate continues...in the bush or Eco-tourists Wanted

Are there any tourists out there in readerland who would like to see indigenous flora and fauna when they visit Bendigo City? If so, put pen to paper and tell the commissioners of the City of Greater Bendigo, PO Box 733, Bendigo 3550. They are currently looking at a Civic Improvement Study which proposes to strengthen existing plantings of exotics (such as Plane Trees and Lombardy Poplars) and of non-local trees (such as Spotted Gums and Sugar Gums).

The consultant team working on the study (which does not include an ecologist) argue that Bendigo is surrounded by plenty of Box-Ironbark woodlands, and that people coming into the city need a change in vegetation to impart a sense of arrival(!). One of the stated aims of the study is to positively contribute to the preservation and presentation of

Bendigo's built heritage and natural environment, and the promotion of Bendigo as a tourist destination. They also claim to be contributing to a greater regional identity by using the same old tree species as in countless other cities.

According to local naturalists the habitat value of the urban area has been devalued over recent decades. Native birdlife has noticeably decreased. For example, until the 1950's Regent Honeyeaters were commonly seen in central Bendigo. They are now very rarely seen. We are calling for a progressive planting program to replace exotic trees with local indigenous species of trees, shrubs and grasses. We believe that the use of indigenous plants in council street plantings would also act as an example to citizens, encouraging pride in our unique natural landscape.

Frances Cincotta

Friends of Bendigo's Box-Ironbark

Ph (054) 42 3382 AH

Broadford's Wildflower Protectors need help

Recently I was invited to give a talk to a keen group of tree planters in Broadford on the work Greenlink Box Hill and Mott are doing here with groundflora restoration and preservation of remnants. The members of the group are particularly interested in these topics because their own patch is under dire threat from developers. They took me to see the wonders they have on their backdoor step right in Broadford.

I could hardly believe my eyes. Carpets of orchids, I didn't know where to put my foot, Tetratheca in a great range of shades, Early Nancies, Bulbines, Chrysocephalums, Pultaneas and numerous others. Most, but not all, were quite familiar. I was surprised actually just how similar the species range was to ours here in Box Hill. However the numbers of plants, their robust healthy state and absence of weeds among them was something different. It was a real view of what our eastern suburbs probably looked like before we messed them all up.

For those of you who want a treat it's only a bit over an hour up the freeway to Broadford and David Laurie would be delighted to show you around. Give him a ring on (057) 849 286. You might even be lucky and see the Blue Fringe Flower in bloom. I saw the plants for the first time bud, but sadly no flowers out yet. If you feel moved to write to Broadford council and tell them how precious the site is, it might just help to save the area, but hurry! The developers pegs are already in place.

Minette Russell Young.

Merri Creek Grasslands Update and the Central

Creek Grasslands Campaign

So far the native grassland campaign is going well. The Friends of Merri Creek/Merri Creek Management Committee/Victorian National Parks Association/Victorian Conservation Trust joint effort to establish a Merri Grasslands and Wildflower Park has had several significant boosts in September - but there is still a very long way to go.

The general proposal is to establish a grasslands reserve system comprising five sites linked by the Merri, Malcolm and Central Creeks - namely the grasslands at Bald Hill, Mt Ridley, Craigieburn, Cooper Street and Central Creek.

Negotiations are proceeding well with Boral (Bald Hill) and the private landholder at Mt Ridley to achieve the reservation and conservation management of several hundred hectares of grassland and grassy woodland at these sites.

We are investigating options to purchase the 400 hectare Craigieburn grasslands from Clifton Brick, using a joint Federal/State/Local Government fund and a public tax-deductible appeal established by the VCT. The MCMC Manager, Rod McLellan, made a flying visit to Canberra to put the case for federal funding assistance for the purchase of the Craigieburn grasslands. It seems that Canberra is responding positively and has sought the views of the Victorian Minister for Conservation, Mark Birrell on the values of the site. Minister Birrell visited Craigieburn with James Ross of the VNPA and was apparently impressed with the site and collective proposal to create a reserve system linked by waterways. The MCMC has requested the Department to contribute \$400,000 to the acquisition fund - informal reports indicate that this request is being handled seriously and that Craigieburn has risen to somewhere near the top of the list for new purchases. Meetings with representatives of Clifton Brick will be held to establish their intentions for the land and to open discussions on improved management in the short term and possible acquisitions in the longer term. If there is any money left over, or even better, if Clifton Brick is willing to donate land or cash through the VCT Appeal (for which they would receive a tax advantage), the next step is to negotiate with the owner of Cooper Street for more of this land to be brought into public ownership.

The final site - Central Creek, is still the subject of dispute, with VicRoads and Melbourne Parks and Waterways pressing ahead with plans to sell this State significant site. The Friends of Merri Creek are mounting an increased campaign over the next few weeks to draw attention to the threat to this

site.

At its meeting on 15/9/94, the MCMC resolved to write to all relevant Ministers and State agencies urging the retention of the majority of the Central Creek grasslands as a Flora Reserve. The MCMC will try to take a stronger role in reaching a compromise on the acceptable level on the site.

Merri Creek Management Committee Inc.

Ph: (03)482 2399 Fax: (03) 482 2522.

Your immediate action is important!

Please do three things right now:

1. Send a letter to the Minister, Hon. Geoff Coleman,
Min. for Natural Resources, 9/2 Burwood Hwy.,
Burwood East 3151.
2. Get your friends or relations to send a letter too!
3. Telephone the Minister's office and say I support the
Friends of Merri Creek Campaign to save the Cen-
tral Creek Grassland. The phone number for
Minister Coleman's office is (03) 412 4950.

Coming Events:

For IFFA events see back cover

Conferences/Workshops/Talks

October

27 Sun **Open Day at McKinnon Wildlife reserve.**
11am - 4pm. Take this opportunity to visit McKinnon Wildlife Reserve at Mooramong (near Skipton), managed by the National Trust of Victoria. Mooramong (Moora meaning water hole) and the adjoining Wildlife Reserve is being developed by the Trust to demonstrate good farming/conservation techniques and to prove that conservation and productivity can be linked with problems such as tree die-back. Activities include Kangaroo grass harvesting and native grassland establishment. Tim Barlowe will lead tours through the reserve. For further details contact (053) 406 558.

November

3 Thurs **A Night in the Mallee** 7.30pm. Well known zoologists Dr Joe Benshemesh and Peter Robertson will present illustrated talks on the unique fauna of Victoria's Mallee. Organised by Friends of Wyperfeld National Park. Venue: Melbourne Parks & Waterways Offices, 378 Cotham Rd, Kew. Contact Elizabeth Doery (03) 859 3738.

20 Sun **Men of the Trees Annual General Meeting.**
2pm. Guest speaker is Mr Russell Costello, the Project Officer for the State Environmental Protection Policy for the Yarra Catchment, who will speak about the impact of the S.E.P.P. on the management of the Yarra Catchment. The meeting will be preceded by a planting and barbecue at 12.30pm. Venue: Yarra Bend Park Headquarters. Melway map 2D G4. Contact Minette Russell Young on (03) 898 1364.

Excursions and Field Trips

October

28 Fri - 31 Mon **Camp at Bringalbert (Western Victoria).** Join Friends of the Grey Crowned Babbler on a camp to survey babblers in roadsides and blocks of Crown land. BYO water and camping gear. The Grey-crowned Babbler inhabits dry open forest and scrubby woodlands, trees by roads, and farmland with isolated trees. For further details contact David Lockwood on (03) 543 8227.

November

1 Tues **Walk and Talk through Cooper St Grasslands.**
10am. Join the Friends of Merri Creek on their annual stroll through the grasslands on Melbourne Cup morning. Meet at the eastern end of Northbourne Rd, Melways Map 180 J12.

5 Sat **Walk and Talk at old Yering Station.** 10am.
Park your car at the Airfield entrance where Dr. Graeme Lorimer who will show you the rich diversity of this tiny site. From there we will travel to the old Tarrawarra Station site to see what can be found along there. Apparently the Herbarium at the Botanic Gardens has many recordings of rare species from this area. Contact Jackie Hamlet on (03) 730 1268.

12 Sat **Leadbeaters Possum Survey.** A survey in Victoria's Central Highlands organised by the Fauna Survey Group of the Field Naturalist Club, Victoria. For details contact Ray Gibson on (03) 874 4408.

13 Sun **Walk through the Derrimut Grasslands.** A walk organised by the Victorian National Parks Association. For further information contact James Ross (03) 650 8296.

13 Sun **Walk through Central Creek Grasslands.**
4.30pm. Join the Friends of Merri Creek on a walk through the grasslands to enjoy the wildflowers. Come along - the afternoon sun will be creating a golden light amongst the Kangaroo Grass. Meet at Davidson St, Melways Map 8 B12.

16 Wed **Yarra Grange Farm Walk.** 6.30pm. Join in on a walk along the Yarra River to see the excellent remnant vegetation on this property. (To be confirmed). For further details contact Jackie Hamlet (03) 730 1268.

19 Sat **Bushlink Annual General meeting featuring Plants and Birds of Badger Weir.** Join in a walk and talk about the wildlife of the Badger Weir Reserve followed by an evening BBQ in pleasant surrounds. Located East end of Badger Weir Rd, Healesville (approx 3 km from the Don Rd intersection). BYO food, drink and binoculars. Contact Rik Brown (059) 62 4332 AH or Lou Sbalchiero (059) 62 5714 BH.

20 Sun **Evans Street Grassland Walk (Sunbury).**
Come and enjoy the beauty of the grasslands in flower. For further information contact James Ross (03) 650 8296.

20 Sun **Rare plant Survey in Gippsland.** Take part in important survey work of the Central Gippsland Plains Grassland. For further details contact James Ross (03) 650 8296.

27 Sun **Urban Woodland Forest Walks.** 2.30 - 4.30pm.
Take a walk on the wildside through Melbourne's indigenous forests and then join us for a BBQ. Organised by the VAEE. Venue: Wildlife Reserve, La Trobe University. For further details contact John Rathjen (03) 459 0222 or George Paras (03) 479 1284. Bookings are essential.

29 Sat - 1 Mon (Dec) **Fauna Survey at Jilpanger Scrub.** Jilpanger scrub is a pristine piece of bushland past the Grampians. Organised by the Fauna Survey Group of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Contact Ray White 903) 379 3602 for details.

Restoration Activities

November

- 2 Wed **Healesville Nursery activity day.** 10am.
Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater need your assistance. Park in main carpark at Healesville Sanctuary. The receptionist at the gate will give you directions to the community nursery. Contact Gaye on (059) 648 350. Also on Wed 16th Nov.
- 3 Thurs **Sandringham Community Nursery.** 10am - 12pm. Volunteer propagator activities at Sandringham Council Depot. Enter from Talinga Road. These propagation days are on every Thursday and Saturday. Contact Lisa Carty (03) 584 5255.
- 5 Sat **Greenlink Box Hill.** 10am. Activity days also every Monday and Tuesday. Activities include planting, weeding and mulching. The venue is often the Council Nursery in Nelson St, Box Hill, but it would be wise to ring. For further details contact Minette Russell Young on (03) 898 1364.
- 5 Sat **FO Gellibrand Hill Park.** 9.45am. Meet at the Workcentre. Activities include weed control, flora survey, legless lizard and bandicoot count. Contact Lindley McKay (03) 374 2369.
- 5 Sat **Dandenong Creek Revegetation Project.**
Community planting day. Includes barbecue lunch and refreshments. A City of Croydon and Melbourne Water funded project using indigenous plants grown by the Arrabri Community Nursery. Contact Debbie McGrath (03)720 6141.
- 9 Wed **FO Sherbrook Forest Project morning.**
9.30am. Will be working on Ridge track, past oBig Bendö on lower side. Meet at Ridge Tck entrance gate on Belgrave-Ferny Creek Rd (75 D5). Clearing ivy, so bring pruning saw to cut ivy from trees. Contact Jeff Preston (03) 755 2602.
- 12 Sat **FO French Island. Restoration Day at Blue Gum Point.** Will be checking condition of the track, and removing Boneseed and Bridal Creeper. Departure from Stony Point will be on the 9am ferry. Please let Francis know by the 8th of Nov if you can come so she can arrange transport on the island. Contact Francis Garner (03) 783 4213.
- 12 Sat **FO Werribee Gorge & Long Forest Mallee.**
9.30 am. Meet at the Happy Valley car-park off Long Forest Road. Another day of tackling the weeds and rubbish piles behind the car park. There are still many succulents and cacti near the dam to be dug out. Other tasks include survey and mapping, seed collecting and bird watching. If there are enough helpers on the day a small group may drive out to Werribee Gorge to remove any tree guards remaining in the quarry area. BYO gloves, mattock, trowel, wire cutters, rubbish bags, paper bags, pencils, binoculars, compass and lunch. Contact Janet Leversha (053) 674 229.
- 12 Sat **FO Coastal Reserve** 10am. Project Day. Meet at the cnr of Eaglehawk Pde and Beach Rd, Airey's Inlet. Contact Flora Anderson (03) 722 1154.
- 12 Sat **FO Organ Pipes National Park.** 9am. Project day. Meet at the information center. Contact Carl Rayner (03) 337 4936.
- 13 Sun **FO Sherbrook Forest Mapping Survey.**
9.30am. Meet at the Kiosk at Grant/Es Picnic Ground (75 K4). Contact Jeff Preston (03) 755 2602.
- 13 Sun **FO Helmeted Honeyeater.** 10am. Revegetation day. Meet at Rangers office, Yellingbo State Nature Reserve, Macclesfield Rd (119B F11). BYO lunch if you would like to stay until about 2 in the afternoon. Contact Gaye on (059) 648 350. Another revegetation day will be held on Sunday 27 Nov.
- 13 Sun Urage. 10am. **(Upwey Regional Action Group for the Environment) Project Day.** Weeding of ivy, blackberry, wandering jew. Planting and restoration of indigenous vegetation along ferny creek. Meet cnr Deans and Morris Rd, Upwey (74 K12). Contact Rob Stephens (03) 751 2407.
- 13 Sun **Greenlink Camberwell.** 3-5pm. Weeding, planting and seed collecting in Welfare Pde. Meet cnr Dion St and Welfare Pde (60 E7). Contact Diana Burgess (03) 809 2092.
- 13 Sun **FO the Yarra.** 10am. Meet at Galatea Point, Kew (2D D7). Revegetation activities. For further details contact Judy (03) 347 2252. Also Wednesdays.
- 19 Sat **Planting day in Candlebark Grasslands.**
9.15am - 1pm. Organised by the Doncaster and Templestowe Conservation Society in the Yarra Valley Park. Plantings go ahead regardless of the weather. BYO morning tea. We also check on the progress of earlier plantings, and try to learn a few plant names. Tools provided. Melway map 21 G12. Contact Judy Zimmerman (03) 850 4116.
- 19 Sat **Burnbrae Tarrawarra Rd Restoration Day.**
9am - 12pm. Plantings will take place downstream from Greens Point Entry off Maroondah Highway. This riverside planting is funded by Permaculture International Tree Tax. For further information contact Jackie Hamlet (03) 730 1268.
- 19 Sat **FO Bradshaw Park.** 9am. Weeding and watering day at Bradshaw Park. For more information contact Dave Bainbridge (03) 580 5992.
- 20 Sun **Men of the Trees.** Planting day at Yarra Bend Park. Melways map 2D D6. For further details contact Minette Russell Young (03) 898 1364.

Thank you to everyone who has sent us information regarding their group activities. If you would like to have your coming events covered in Indigenotes please contact Elissa Kerassitis on (03) 379 1116.

Snippets

Cat controls at last!

The Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Bill, was introduced into Parliament at the start of the spring session. The proposed legislation, as well as improving regulations for dogs, will bring cats under legal control for the first time. The legislation will require registration and identification of all cats and dogs over 6 months of age. Cheaper fees will apply to de-sexed animals.

Councils will have the power to restrict the wandering of cats if they wish, e.g. a "cat curfew" in areas of special conservation significance. As at present, dogs will not be allowed to wander unsupervised at any time. Anyone will have the power to seize a dog or cat at large in an area where it is prohibited, provided the animal is promptly taken to the local Council officer whose duty it is to deal with wandering animals. Registered animals can then be identified and returned, and their owners fined if necessary.

We believe this legislation is an important step in protecting our wildlife by assisting feral animal control and encouraging responsible cat ownership including desexing of pets. We hope it will be passed without being weakened and urge our readers to write or speak to their local members supporting the legislation.

Jenny Barnett and Felicity Faris
Source: VNPA Newsletter October 1994

Grasslands Field Trip:

Visit the best of Victoria's spring wildflowers on the forthcoming Western Plains Grassland excursion, sponsored by Greening Australia Victoria, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Landcare.

Buses will be leaving Melbourne on Saturday 5 November for a weekend tour some of the best native grassland sites of the Western Basalt Plains. We will stay overnight in the Warrimbeen-Gumley Demonstration Farm, between Shelford and Rokewood, get a tour of the farm demonstrating the integration of farming and conservation and visit some of the spectacular native grassland remnants of national and state significance on roadsides, rail reserves and private land.

The tour begins on Saturday morning and ends on Sunday afternoon. Costs: Bus \$40, All meals \$20 or Lunch \$8, Dinner \$8 and Breakfast \$4. For registration form and more information call Murray McIntyre at CNR Ballarat (053) 336825 or Vanessa Craigie at CNR Heidelberg (03) 4508697 or Claire Dennis at Greening Australia (052) 335584.

The Flowers of Toohey Forest 1995

Queensland's Toohey Forest Protection Society
Page 10

presents its popular Calendar for 1995. This year, the artwork has been designed by local artist, Nola Jefferys. For each month, a beautiful drawing depicts a flower that can be found in Toohey Forest. Give a calendar to a friend or relative for Christmas and help Toohey Forest Protection Society to preserve Toohey Forest. If you would like to join this strong, enthusiastic group, please give us a ring. This year's calendar is exceptional value. At \$5.00 each they will sell quickly. If you would like one (or more) hurry in your order! Enquiries: Toohey Forest Protection Society, Brisbane, Queensland.

President: Dr. Bob Walton, Secretary: Shirley Walton (07) 848 1036

Treasurer: Margaret McKinnon (07) 275 2225.

Weed Awareness Week in Queensland

6-12 November 1992

The greatest threat to our natural waterways are introduced aquatic weeds, some of which may be in your fishtank. Find out more by joining in the activities; contact the Land Protection Branch, Dept. of Lands on (07) 227 8683. Also sponsored by the Weed Society of Queensland.

Source: Australasian Science Spring Issue 1994

Save The Bush One-day Courses Spring 1994

National Trust's Save the Bush Program this year will run some one day courses. These will be held on weekends in November and early December. We will offer the following (subject to level of interest):

- Plant Identification - trees and shrubs
- Plant Identification - grasses and understorey plants
- Management of Urban Remnants

Sessions will be held at various bushland sites throughout Melbourne, and will be led by specialist botanists and parks and gardens personnel responsible for the management of urban remnant bushland.

Cost: \$45 for the day. Numbers will be limited, so an early application would be advisable. For more details contact (03) 654 4711.

No place to hide, or is there?

Most would have to concede the Gorse is a difficult and more often than not an undesirable plant in our environment. Despite its aggressive and hostile characteristics it does provide ideal shelter for bird life and as Phillip Watson points out in *Indigenotes* Vol. 7 No. 8, its an ideal haven for bettong, bandicoot and potoroo.

On the Mornington Peninsula there are many thickets of Gorse often containing good shelter for wrens etc. Where it is seen that the Gorse is the only shelter immediately available a stage removal process may sometimes be adopted. This can be done by removing a portion of the infestation by the cut and paint method followed by heavy plantings of locally indigenous plants.

Plant species chosen for our purposes include *Acacia paradoxa*, *Acacia verticillata* and *Bursaria spinosa*. Plantations may consist of one or all of these species. As the plantings grow and thicken up further areas of Gorse can be treated in the same manner. It is advisable to disturb the soil and ground surface as little as possible and add mulch around the plantings. Ground disturbance will only trigger soil stored seed into germination which would otherwise lay dormant.

In most regions it is more than likely that there are local plants with similar characteristics to those of a particular weed targeted for removal. When works are to be conducted on a large scale it is advisable to only clear an area which can be effectively maintained with available resources.

Craig Houston
Conservation Officer
Shire of Mornington

Bush Property for Sale

A unique opportunity to enjoy a secluded, self-sufficient lifestyle amongst 46 acres of bush with abundant native flora and fauna and extensive views of Mansfield and the High Country (skiing, boating, golf etc.). Including an 8 year old, 3 bedroom B.V. home set in four acres of cleared land, gardens of native and exotic plants, vegetables and orchard. SEC, plentiful water; mains pressure gravity flow from spring fed dam.

\$225,000 O.N.O.

Ring Monica Allen (057) 769564

Forest Update

Woodchipping in the Wombat Forest

From Chile to Siberia and Canada, local residents are finding that woodchipping destroys their forests and communities. In the Daylesford region the same thing's happening in the Wombat Forest. Each year the Wombat Forest regrows at around 98,000 cubic metres, yet this financial year it will be woodchipped, logged and burnt at around 330,000 cubic metres. The amount of timber 'waste' burnt on the forest floor each year could heat homes of every household in the Wombat region for a whole year. During this year alone some 2,830 hectares of forest will be logged. That's one fourteenth of the entire forest in one year! So much for an 80 year rotation.

It's not sawmilling and firewood collection that's killing our forest. Woodchipping - turning trees into paper bags by chipping them in Geelong, and exporting them to Japan - is what's destroying jobs, wildlife habitats, and the forest.

Slicing up the Wombat Pie

Woodchipping and its burnt 'waste' is responsible for 67% of the forest destruction in the Wombat each year. But the old myth that they're providing secure long term jobs for people in our communities just doesn't hold up to close scrutiny. From 1965 to 1985, while wood production from Australian forests increased by 40%, jobs in the industry were cut by 40%. And woodchipping is an increasingly capital, not labour, intensive operation. Only 2% of the industry jobs are provided by woodchipping, yet this sector is responsible for 60% of the forest destruction.

Daylesford Region

In the Wombat Forest there are nine sawmills providing jobs for local people. Yet one export woodchip company, Midway Wood Products providing a fraction of the sawmill employment, takes out more timber each year than all the sawmills combined.

Around Daylesford, the woodchipped destruction of the forest is not always visible. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) have a policy they call 'visual corridors'. They leave the roadsides unlogged, but a short drive down many of the side roads leading into the forest reveals massive destruction, and piles of small diameter trees ready to woodchipped. If we continue to allow our forest to be woodchipped, we will eventually lose all long-term employment options from forestry operations. Of the 440 timber related jobs around the Wombat Forest, approximately 30 are for

Department staff, but only 10 are provided by export woodchipping operations - even though woodchipping takes a lion's share of the forest pie. Small trees going to be woodchipped represent future jobs for our communities disappearing down the highway to help line the pockets of executives who don't live here and don't care about the future of "the lungs of Melbourne".

What Should We Do?

All export woodchipping from native forests should cease immediately so we can concentrate on building a sustainable plantation based industry with secure jobs. There are 220,000 hectares of plantations ready to go right now in Victoria. The woodchippers could buy their stock from these supplies instead of destroying our forest.

The Department should also come clean and admit that its operations are sustainable, and reducing all cutting to the rate at which the forest regrows. The Wombat Forest Society has called for an independent judicial inquiry, and local council has supported this call.

What You Can Do

Join the Wombat Forest Society. You will be informed of progress on the campaign to save the Wombat Forest from woodchipping, through the quarterly Wombat Forest Guardian. You can help with:

- Letter writing campaigns to governments (they do work, and they always will, simply because politicians need voters to keep them in power)
- 'Forest Watch' recording of logging code breaches
- Community displays and the WFS permanent undercover stall at the Daylesford Sunday market. Go up for a Sunday and have a chat.

Wombat Forest Society

PO Box 51

Trentham 3458.

Annual membership is \$16 per individual, \$18 per household, and \$12 concession.

References

1994-95 Midlands Forest Management Area Wood Utilization Plans, 30 March 1994. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Forest & Timber Inquiry Draft Report, Resource Assessment Commission, AGPS, Canberra, Volume 1, July 1991, pp 95-121.

Source: FOE (Fitzroy) Newsletter Sept. 1994-Forest Insert

East Gippsland Update

The Forest Network has recovered from the effort of organising last summer's protests and is involved in a range of new activities. Our stalls and talks programs are going well, and we have recently completed a strategic planning process aimed at

giving our campaign clearer directions and priorities for the next few years. Preparations for direct actions during the main summer logging season and for the Forest Action Festival begin months in advance.

Former campaign head-quarters in East Gippsland has been kept as the Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO) to provide information to visitors, a focal point for local activists, to promote eco-tourism and to be ready to support direct actions in the near future. You are welcome to visit anytime. (Ph 051 54 0156)

A recent success has been 'endangered species surveys weekends' organised jointly with the Concerned Residents of East Gippsland. Groups of forest lovers have traipsed through the under-growth in the Ellery Creek catchment, putting out 'hair tubes' in the forest and yabbie traps in the creeks. The results have confirmed that Ellery Creek is a vital endangered species habitat area. Rare Orbost Spiny Crayfish have been located and Sooty and Powerful Owl calls have been heard. To join a weekend trip call Kerry on (051) 540 144 or Liz on (03) 427 1242.

Hopes are high that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will finally be forced to withdraw the catchment from logging plans, but preparations for direct action are continuing just in case!

Meanwhile DCNR has its hands full cooking up a new hare-brained scheme; this time it's called the East Gippsland Forest Management Plan (FMP). This plan, if implemented, will entrench export woodchipping, and see vast tracts of old-growth forest levelled in the quest for an unsustainable volume of timber and woodchips. Unlike management plans for practically any other industry the FMP does not contain an economic management strategy.

The reserve design maps contained in the plan would make very attractive wrapping paper but will do little to ensure that our endangered species survive and flourish. As long as timber commitments rule the show there is no room for a truly comprehensive reserve system to preserve the region's unique bio-diversity.

All in all the Forest Management Plan is about as much use as re-arranging deck chairs on the Titanic. For more information ring and ask for Louise; submissions will be needed when the final draft is released sometime in November.

Logging trucks have been roaring down the Bonang Highway all winter, and with increasing frequency of late. On average, in East Gippsland alone, we lose 13 football fields of native forest a

day. So don't wait till summer to get involved!

Source: FOE (Fitzroy) Newsletter Sept. 1994-Forest Insert

Endangered Species Forest Forever Camp 29th Oct - 1st November (Cup Weekend)

Be awed by the diversity of pristine rainforest. Be outraged at the continuing destruction! Camp by the Brodribb River and learn about East Gippsland's forests, their evolution, their remarkable diversity, their endangered flora and fauna and why it is so important to protect what remains. Expert speakers will talk on rainforest ecology, powerful owls, and endangered fauna. Including: Spotlight prowls, rare fauna surveys, guided walks, bushcraft, on forest issues.

Cost for four days: \$30 per person or \$25 concession. \$50 per family or \$40 concession. Or \$10 per day (under 16 free). BYO camping gear, food and transport. Contact Kerry (051) 54 0144, Jill (051) 54 0145 or Liz (03) 427 1242. Or write: Concerned residents of East Gippsland, Bonang Hwy, Goongerah 3888.

Help Stop Export Woodchipping - Write now!

Export woodchipping, with its extensive logging and clearfelling, began in earnest in Australia 25 years ago. It has been responsible for massive loss of wildlife habitat, devastating soil erosion, degraded water catchments and polluted river systems. It threatens to destroy our precious forest ecosystem and unique forest wildlife. Opposition has been mounting over this 25 year period to the needless destruction. This year is our best chance ever to stop it.

Licensed to Chip

Woodchipping is one of the biggest threats to Australia's native forests. In Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, vast areas of forest are clearfelled each year. The most horrifying aspect is up to 90% of the wood extracted from these forests ends up as woodchips; more than 5 million tonnes a year and the timber industry still wants a massive increase!

For woodchipping to continue, woodchip export licences have to be renewed each year by the Federal Government's Resources Minister, currently David Beddall. In a recent letter to Mr. Beddall, the new Federal Minister for the Environment John Faulkner proposed that strict conditions be placed on woodchip export licences before they are renewed this year.

Moratorium

The main condition proposed by John Faulkner, and supported by the conservation movement, is that no woodchips for export should come from old-growth and wilderness forests. This is possible under a moratorium clause contained in the 1992 National Forest Policy Statement. All State Governments have ignored the required moratorium on the logging of areas likely to have a high conservation value. It is the Federal Government's responsibility to enforce it as they control the issue of export woodchip licences.

Permanent Protection

Conservation groups in each state have identified areas of important native forests which need to be permanently protected in parks and reserves. A comprehensive reserve system must be developed to ensure that National Estate values are protected. Areas in South-Western Tasmania and North-Eastern New South Wales can be saved by the Federal Government nominating them for World Heritage Listing. All these areas can be protected now by implementing the moratorium clause.

Prime Minister Paul Keating must take action and insist that the moratorium clause be implemented and a comprehensive reserve system be put in place. Federal Cabinet will be making their decision about export woodchip licences shortly. It is critical to post or fax a letter to the Prime Minister today.

Send your letters to: The Hon. Paul Keating, Prime Minister, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, Phone: (06) 277 7700, Fax: (06) 273 4100. We suggest that you congratulate the Prime minister on his concern for protecting the environment and forests of the South Pacific and then ask him to:

- Protect Australia's native forests and wilderness from export woodchipping and logging by implementing the moratorium clause in the National Forest Policy Statement.
- Support his Environment Minister's actions to protect all high conservation value forests.
- Immediately nominate an extended eastern boundary to the Western Tasmanian World Heritage area.
- Speed up the monitoring process for World Heritage listing in the North-East Forests of NSW.
- Recognise that Australia has more than enough plantations to meet current and future needs and provide employment.

Include any of your own thoughts. If you would like more information on how to save forests contact: Friends of the Earth, PO Box 222, Fitzroy, Vic 3065, Phone: (03) 419 8700 Fax: (03) 416 2081

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A CHECKLIST OF YARRA BEND CRYPTOGAMS PART II: SOME UNUSUAL FUNGI

By John Sago

Considering that Yarra Bend is only 4 km from the CBD, the diversity of fungi is impressive and is an indication of the quality of the ecological niches present. But such diversity is patchy with extensive areas lacking any macro-fungi, whilst elsewhere, especially Wurundjeri Spur, with over 40 species noted. A modest Dry Sclerophyll Forest complement can be found. The reasons for this are unknown but are probably historical with fire and grazing implicated.

The Gasteromycetes, or puffball, assemblage is well represented. The earth-stars, *Geastrum*, are typically found growing gregariously on dry sites associated with *Acacia*. *Lycoperdon*, the commonest puffball, which in its immature state is off-white with a minutely dimpled surface can be observed in open areas or even turfed areas. *Scleroderma* and *Pizolithus* are larger puffballs that tend to found singly embedded in bare, often compacted, earth.

Amongst the terrestrial Ascomycetes are the coral fungi; *Ramaria gracilis* is common in damp, shaded sites, whilst the

purplish *R. fumigata* is rare at Yarra Bend as is *Clavulinopsis miniata* distinguished by its scarlet colour. The small tan cups of *Peziza* can also be encountered occasionally on bare earth amongst grass in winter.

The enigmatic *Cordyceps gunni*, a parasite on Oxycedrus moth larvae, is restricted to one site east of the Studley Park boathouse. Remarkably this was the first location of the species in Victoria in 1857 and represents over 130 years of reproductive continuity for the site. Another remarkable ascomycete, *Hymenoscyphus*, consists of tiny yellow, stalked, cups that grow upon the moss *Bryum billardieri*. Apparently it is at the capsule formation stage of the mosses lifecycle that parasitism occurs.

Of the species associated with decaying wood, are the bracket or shelf fungi. These include the common bright orange *Pycnoporus coccineus*, the brown and cream rainbowed brackets of *Trametes versicolor* and the dark, corky *Phaeotrametes decipens*. Smaller wood inhabiting species include the rare, glossy *Coltrichia*, the fan-shaped *Resupinatus* and the tiny blue-green cups of *Chlorociboria aeruginascens*. The tiny pink parasols of *Marasmius crinitus*, though easily overlooked, can be found on branches, twigs and rotting leaves at densities of over 50 individuals p.s.m., if conditions are suitably humid. Finally, *Stereum illudens*, a species usually found in wetter habitats, can be discovered in its crustose state, forming thick, fleshy chocolate-white patches on rotting wood.

References

Fuhrer, Bruce (1993). A Field Companion to Australian Fungi. Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, South Yarra.

Cole, M., Fuhrer, B. and Holland, A. (1984). A Field Guide to the Common Genera of Gilled Fungi in Australia. Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Hood, I.A. (1992). An Illustrated Guide to Fungi on Wood in New Zealand. U.P. Auckland.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge Dr. Tom May for valuable taxonomic opinion.

Forest Update Cont:

IFFA activities:

IFFA (Vic)

New meeting venue:

RAOU Headquarters, 415 Riversdale Road Hawthorn East, Melways 45 H 12
The building is on the north side of Riversdale Road a few hundred metres west of Camberwell Junction; you'll recognise the building by the big Emu on the side and the sign saying "Australian Bird Research Centre." It's on a tram line and a short walk from Camberwell Station. This could be our permanent meeting venue; please come along, see what you think and tell us your opinion.

Next meeting:

Tuesday 27 October at 7:30 pm at the RAOU. Geoff Carr, Ecology Australia Pty. Ltd., will talk on "Willow invasions in southeastern Australia and their management." The genus *Salix* (willows) contains 300 or more species, mostly northern hemisphere trees and shrubs. Many taxa have been introduced into Australia for ornament and utility and about 14 species, varieties and hybrids are now naturalised, far more than was previously realised. They are among the most biologically and environmentally devastating of environmental weeds, mostly in riparian zones. Willows are unusual in their reproductive biology and capacity for vegetative spread. A recent study of willow invasions in Victoria and New South Wales will be outlined and the biology, ecology and appropriate control methods and strategies are discussed. All welcome.

Committee Meeting:

The committee meetings have been changed to the second Monday of every month; please take note if you are interested in attending. Ring any committee member for the venue.

SPIFFA

Mon 7 November Waterfall Gully Citty Centre, Cnr Bayview Rd and Nixon St, Rosebud South at 7.30 pm. **Peter and Cathie Strickland will be speaking.** Contact Mark Adams (059)851122.

Indigenous Nurseries Network

subcommittee:

Contact Murray Ralph (03) 419 3040 or Sue Mills (03) 383 2937.

NSW activities:

Next meeting:

Monday 5 December 7:30-10:00 pm.
Gary Henry, Principal Manager - Recreational Fisheries, NSW Department of Fisheries, will speak on "**Management of Marine Reserves and Rock Platforms**".

In the Maiden Theatre, Mrs. Macquaries Rd., Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Contact Sally Fisher (02)9706486 (work).

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Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editors — the deadline for the next issue is Friday November 11.

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