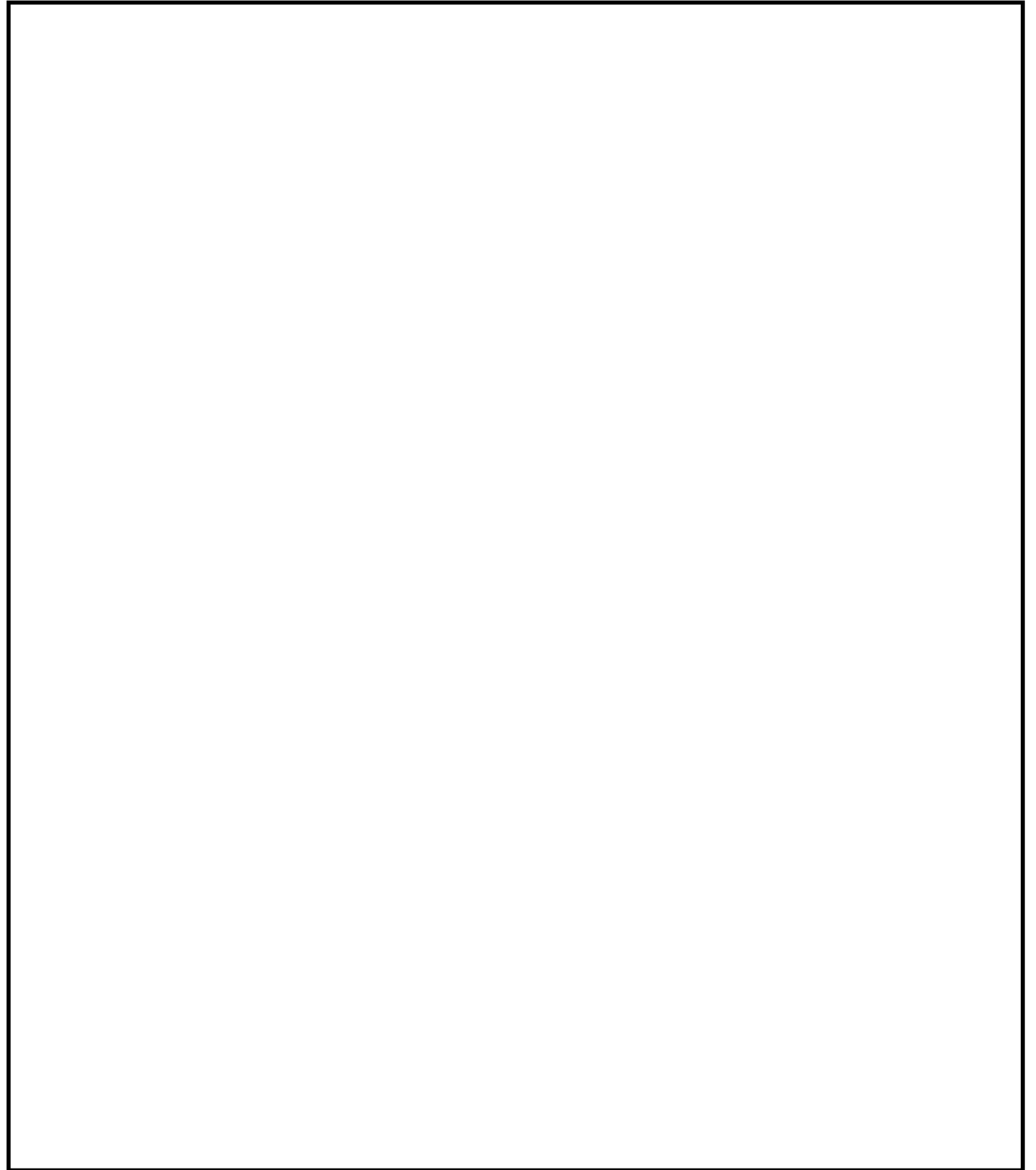


INDIGENOTES



The Plains Wanderer (?)

Narrowing or broadening information options?

The Plains Wanderer's 'Road to nowhere' (Indigenotes, July 1994), is yet another great, thought provoking article from Ian Lunt.

I would tend to agree, at least partially, with the thrust of what Ian is saying. However I wouldn't be so sure as to suggest that small circulation newsletters generally have their genesis in somebody's ego or are necessarily about 'logo' flag waving? But I would agree, it is a problem when good information gets lost at the end of a 'one-way street' small circulation newsletter. Perhaps it is important for writers to consider publishing in more than one journal. And if the article is 'good stuff' then the editor might also consider passing it on for a run in a second publication they know a) has readers who would have not seen the article and, b) has readers who would benefit from the article. Why limit your options? It is probably important not to just focus on publishing within your state boundary. Much more environmental information needs to be going around at the national level. Sure ecosystems vary and actions have to be location specific, but ideas and management models are often very transportable.

Perhaps at this point I should declare my hand as editor of Local Environs, a journal that might easily be classified a '...minority newsletter'. Local Environs is the newsletter of the Municipal Conservation Association and has a focused circulation consisting mostly of officers involved in Local Government environmental management around Australia. Even though the circulation may be small - approximately 915 - Local Environs existence is vital to the movement and sharing of ideas amongst its particular readership. I am certain Local Environs is but one example of a minority publication whose existence must be maintained. Small circulation, focused publications are often a support base for people who are geographically and/or professionally isolated. When journals are loaded with 'coffee table chat material' or barely concealed government lines on this or that, instead of well argued discussion pieces exploring new ideas, then yes the value of a minority newsletter diminishes.

Small circulation, focused readership newsletters

have an important role to play in the dissemination of information. Criticism of the content of such journals is both healthy and desirable, but the criticism of their mere existence or proposed existence should be carefully thought through.

Wheel reinvention is something many involved in environmental stewardship can inadvertently fall into. I would agree that the commencement of a small circulation newsletter is not wise if there are already journals around that could be, or should be carrying the information. Given that wheel reinvention often occurs because information is not circulated efficiently I tend to think it will be increasingly avoided, dare I suggest, as more people venture onto 'information super highways'. E-mail being the most common form. For example, one can down-load prairie research information from Fort Collins USA at the touch of a button (for 'button' now read 'computer key'), whereas by mail it would take up to 3 weeks, or more. E-mail land is actually full of people who want to share data. E-mail is here, and it is here to stay in one form or another. It is simply a communication tool just as hieroglyphs on stone tablets were in Egypt circa 5 000 years ago. We can choose to ignore it if we wish but its benefits are real. Whilst not being a luddite I am certainly no techno-advocate. I can see problems that may arise out of E-mail use. Particularly if writers choose to hitch their wagons to it entirely, forgetting it is but one tool in the global information tool kit.

I don't necessarily agree with everything I read in 'The Plains Wanderer', but I read it every time because it is a column that always stimulates thoughts and ideas. Thought stimulation and inciting people to action should at least be a result worked for somewhere in our 'enviro-media' (be they major or minor).

Try and sustain that energy Ian, you do have many appreciative readers out here.

Alistair Phillips
Municipal
Conservation
Association:
(03) 654 1322

Environmental Weed Note:

No Place to Hide

Recently, stimulated by the excellent "Environmental Weed" brochure and long term acknowledgment of the need to control the substantial infestation of Gorse, a consultative decision to burn the Gorse was made. By all accounts the results were excellent with everyone delighted with the impact achieved. The

local Volunteer Bowen Fire Brigade produced an extremely hot, intense burn totally denuding the area of all signs of Gorse and other vegetation.

The areas of weed control both occurred on National Estate Registered Reserves managed by the City of Clarence. They consist of the Entrance Track leading to the Aboriginal Culture Site incorporating a substantial cave site, middens and artefact quarry known as Bedlan Walls; as well as Waverley Flora Park valued as an outstandingly floristically diverse grassland remnant of over 250 species in 80 ha within two minutes of the G.P.O.

Gorse, a curse to all bushland managers, had gained a strangle hold on the disturbed Waverley terrace sites, once a scene of large scale sandstone quarrying for 100 years or so, beginning in the 1840's. It supplied sandstone for building construction locally and in Victoria and New Zealand. From this focus the Gorse had spread like a cancer into the surrounding pristine grassy woodlands outcompeting the valuable local flora.

The Friends Groups of both areas planned to follow up this excellent use of fire as a management tool, following regular inspections and assessments of the regrowth. Herbicide application and revegetation would be the main thrust of the rehabilitation process.

However, it was a few months later, when leading a guided tour for a fledging Landcare Group that a curious thought pricked my conscience. These areas have both recently been subjected to increased development pressure from all directions. The populations of domestic cats and dogs had exploded in these parks. Their impact on the dwindling marsupial and native bird population is very well recognised by all keen observers.

My thoughts reflected on the entertainment my family receive regularly from our dining room window as the Eastern Barred Bandicoot scurry to and fro, in and out of their natural grassy woodland habitat onto our native grass lawn. They delighted in the odd Curl Grub and other domestic offerings. Their original shelter in hollow logs or shallow nests between thick bushes is failing as a refuge as the domestic pets, feral animals and the foxes (on the mainland) swarm over these last bastions of their habitat. In fact, this little fellow is nearly extinct on the mainland, while the other

Drawing by A. Paget

creature of my concern, the bettong known in these areas, has sadly achieved this status on the mainland.

So what has this got to do with burning a patch of Gorse? For the bettong, bandicoot, potoroo it means the only protective haven currently available as a consequence of its spiky leaves which keeps its enemies out.

One could then argue that if this is the main substitute habitat for our three little fellows, then their populations should flourish as Gorse is a prolific weed invader of natural remnants. However, it's been declared a 'Noxious Weed' and now legally and tax deductibly being eradicated at ever increasing rates over vast areas of rural and urban fringe land holdings.

Hence the old adage - "NO PLACE TO HIDE" is the sad but common conclusion for many of our lesser known, less glamorous, bordering on extinction, marsupial miniatures.

Finally I pose to all concerned readers one question!

What local provenance plant(s) can take the place of Gorse in your revegetation projects to achieve its habitat function whilst enhancing the bio-diversity of your bushland patch?

Philip Watson
Facilitator of Parks and Recreation
City of Clarence, Tasmania

Revegetation at Mullum Mullum Creek

In March and April this year, 12 000 indigenous seedlings were planted alongside the Mullum Mullum Creek in Doncaster East by 4 person crew made up of former participants in the Introductory Horticulture Course at Lenister Farm in Eltham.

Lenister Farm operates as part of Eltham and Diamond Valley Skillshare, and offers training (including an elective subject in Revegetation and the Environment) to long term unemployed people. Emphasis is placed on work outcomes for participants following their completion of the course and the formation of the Bush Crew reflects this pro-active standpoint.

Having been trained in plant identification skills and bush regeneration techniques, the Bush Crew was contracted by the City of Doncaster and Templestowe to revegetate an area of the Mullum Mullum Creek stretching from Warrandyte Road to Reynolds Road in Doncaster East (Melways Ref: Map 34, G3/G4). This site represents the first of six stages in an ongoing program of works outlined in the Mullum Mullum Creek Concept Plan developed by a consultative body which included the City's Assistant Superintendent of Parks, Tim Rowe. The Concept Plan proposes the establishment of a 'linear park' along the creek from its source in Croydon to its junction with the Yarra in Templestowe and aims to integrate the public need for passive recreation with conservation of the waterway itself.

The Mullum Mullum Creek has suffered from high levels of erosion, caused principally by swiftly flowing storm water discharge which concentrates hard surface run-off into the creek from nearby rooftops, car parks, roads, drains and gardens. Periodic flooding has washed away sediment, deepened the creek channel and weakened its banks.

Neil Craigie, a hydrological engineer who studied the creek for the Concept Plan, devised a succession of 'rock chutes' to restore the natural contours of the creek. These chutes have now been installed by Melbourne Water and are made up of large concave arcs of partially submerged rocks spanning the banks at intervals. Each rock chute slows the flow of water a little more, so preventing the sediment from being carried away into the Yarra. Over time the creek bed should rise.

Weeds seeds and surplus nutrients are also carried in storm water. The resulting weed infestation contributes to the degradation of the indigenous riparian plant community. In order to control this degradation, the Council employed subcontractors to treat large areas of weeds with the herbicide Glyphosate. Eucalyptus mulch was then placed throughout the cleared and treated areas in readiness for spreading during the planting phase.

The Lenister Farm Bush Crew was contracted to spread the mulch and undertake the planting according to specific revegetation objectives including erosion control, water filtration, plant community restoration and habitat renewal.

The Crew planted Weeping Grass (*Microlaena*

stipoides) and Purple-sheath Tussock Grass (*Poa ensiformis*), both vigorous and rhizomatous species, to stabilise the soil along with Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*) and Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*), an excellent early coloniser. Drier areas of the banks were planted with Common Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardieri*) to help prevent topsoil erosion.

Public access to the site is provided by a bicycle path and walking track. Run-off from the track is directed into a number of open (swale) drains and then filtered by aquatic species such as Tall and Common Sedge (*Carex appressa* and *Carex tereticaulis*), planted by the Crew for this purpose.

The aim of the Bush Crew was to provide a balance throughout the three main storeys making up the vegetation community, thereby maintaining shelter and habitat for wildlife. Plantings ranged from overstorey species such as Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), a food source for Koalas, to middle storey plants such as Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), host to the Imperial Blue Butterfly caterpillar, and finally, to ground covers which provide a refuge for small marsupials, reptiles and insects.

The revegetation work along the Mullum Mullum Creek is a good example of a professionally conducted project, involving the coordination of expertise and planning between the City of Doncaster and Templestowe and the Lenister Farm Bush Crew. It is a living demonstration of the skilled practices of environmental design and rehabilitation.

Lucy Wilks
Lenister Farm: (03) 439 6698

IFFA NSW Meeting Report: **The Burning Bush**

Report of a talk presented by Dr. David Keith to

IFFA NSW on 6 June 1994. David is a research scientist with the National Park and Wildlife Service in NSW. David's talk focused on the conservation of plants and animals with respect to the management of fire. The main points included the following.

1. The life cycle of plants.

Importance must be placed upon the stage of growth, i.e.:

- Propagules
- Juveniles - not reproductive
- Mature - reproducing through sexual or asexual means

2. If a plant is burnt at one of these stages and the plant is not furnished with an adaptation to fire at a particular stage of growth it may be threatened.

- The Ash group of Eucalypts is not adapted to regrowth through epicormic buds and so often die. They are thereby reliant on seed stored on their branches and in the ground to continue with another generation.
- *Livistonia australis* has a protected apical meristem which continues to grow after fire once the plant is well established.
- *Banksia ericifolia* are obligate seeders and require time for young plants to grow seed before they have the capacity to produce a new generation, as are *Epacris*, *Dillwynia* and *Styphelia*.

3. The environment, plant predators, competitors or mutualism all impact on plant and animal communities. Anecdotal evidence of terrific predation on recently burnt areas where some food is abundant raises the questions of the deleterious effects of burning small areas of bushland. Seed elaisomes are an example of an ant/plant mutualism.

David then went on to discuss how little information we have on plant responses to fire and he estimates that only between 12 to 24 plants of the 2,000 in the Sydney region are comprehensively understood (such as the Banksias and legumes). General groupings can be made such as:

- Plants that are quick to respond after fire, eg, by flowering and only infrequently flower between fires - *Xanthorrhoea* spp., *Blandfordia* spp. and orchids.
- Plants that flower a few months after fire - *Leptospermum trinervium*
- *Isopogon* spp. and *Thysanotus virgatus* flower within the first year after fire.

Points concerning fire temperatures included:

- 120 degrees Celsius is lethal to all plants
- Dormancies are often broken at between 40 and 80 degrees Celsius

Animals have also adapted to fire: Echidnas burrow; reptiles hide under rocks; mammals further burrow or evade fire. Some mammals such as Antechinus, Bandicoots and *Rattus fuscipes* need cover to survive. The succession of animal species after fire from past studies suggest that:

Year 1: Abundance of House Mice and *Pseudomys* spp

Year 2: The House Mice and *Pseudomys* spp. numbers decline

Year 5 to 6: Bandicoots and Antechinus numbers peak

The results of these studies from Myall Lakes differed from studies in Royal National Park where there are more rock overhangs and cliff faces while Myall Lakes is very flat terrain.

Fires also have a mosaic nature in that they have:

- Different intensity/flame height/speed
- They may be canopy or ground fires
- They respond to heterogeneity in the landscape

From Andrew MacGahey

Coming Events:

For IFFA events see back cover

Conferences/Workshops/Talks

August

30 Tues **An invitation to an evening with Georgina Molloy.** 6.00 pm. Hear William J Lines, author of *Taming the Great South Land* read from his new book *An All Consuming Passion*. It looks at the life of Georgina Molloy, an early Australian settler, whose life was transformed by her unexpected passion for collecting Australian flora. Venue: Greens Bookshop, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, 3000. Please RSVP. Call Ross Reading on (03) 654 4367.

September

6 Tues **The Orange-bellied Parrot.** 8 pm. With an estimated maximum population of 200 individuals, the Orange-bellied Parrot is highly endangered. Learn more about this attractive and increasingly rare native parrot at the Fauna Survey Group Meeting of the Field Nats. Club of Victoria. The speaker will be John Starks. Venue: The National Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra. For further details contact Noel Schleiger on (03) 435 8408.

7 Wed **Developing Integrated Weed Management.** Training session organised by Greening Australia Victoria. It will enable participants to select and apply chemical and non-chemical control methods, implement appropriate health and safety techniques, categorise a range of weeds for priority action and design, and implement an appropriate weed management program. Cost \$15.00, Concession \$5.00, GAV members \$3.00. Contact GAV on (03) 654 1800.

8 Thur **"Conservationists, Environmentalists and the Little Desert".** 8 pm. Libby Robbins will be presenting a talk to the Botany group of the Field Nats. Club at their meeting. Venue: The National Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra. Contact Noel Schleiger on (03) 435 8408.

11 Sun **The ecology of Grasslands.** Training session organised by GAV for land managers, experienced community group members and tertiary students. The session enables participants to identify influences on the grassland community, recognise the typical structure of the community, and to identify the species composition of grassland communities. Cost is \$15.00, \$3.00 GAV members or \$5.00 concession. Contact GAV on (03) 654 1800.

19 Mon **A Look at the Myrtaceae family.** 8 pm. An illustrated talk presented by selected SGAP member. Organised by the Society for Growing Australian Plants, Vic. Venue: The National Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra. All welcome! Contact Enid Bowman (03) 882 5297.

20 Tues **Using direct seeding.** Training session organised by GAV. It will enable participants to recognise where direct seeding is appropriate, select site and seed preparation techniques, apply hand and mechanical techniques, and develop post sowing

management strategies. Cost is \$15.00, \$3.00 GAV members or \$5.00 concession. For bookings or more information contact GAV on (03) 654 1800.

24 Sat **Assessing & Mapping your bushland.** Training session organised by GAV for experienced community group members, land managers and secondary/tertiary students. It will enable participants to determine the significance of an area of vegetation, and map an area of vegetation outlining key species, site features and appropriate management activities. Cost is \$15.00, \$3.00 GAV members or \$5.00 concession. Contact GAV on (03) 654 1800.

28 Wed **Propagating local native plants.** Training session organised by GAV. It will enable participants to select and apply typical methods of propagation, select and prepare propagating and potting mixtures, and determine the conditions required for successful propagation. Cost is \$15.00, \$3.00 GAV members or \$5.00 concession. For bookings or more information contact GAV on (03) 654 1800.

29 Thur **Swifts and Swiftlets.** 8 pm. A meeting organised by the Bird Observers Club of Australia with guest speaker Ken Simpson. Venue: Library, BOCA Headquarters. Enter rear of 183 Springvale Road, Nunawading. Bookings essential. Cost \$5.00 BOCA members, \$10.00 non-members. Money raised will help fund BOCA conservation efforts. Contact (03) 877 5342.

October

4, 5, & 6 **1994 National Greening Australia Conference 'A Vision for a Greener City: the role of vegetation in urban environments.'** Includes issues such as 'Ecology of cities and country towns', 'Planning for conservation and development', and 'Management of the environment'. The conference will be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, W.A. Registration opens in August. To register contact Jenny Dyer on (09) 322 2666.

8 Sat **Improving your plant identification skills.** Training session organised by GAV. It will help participants recognise key characteristics of major genera, use appropriate keys and references, and obtain field based practice in plant identification. Contact GAV on (03) 654 1800.

21 Fri & 22 Sat **'Local Government Responds to Rio'.** The first annual conference of the Municipal Conservation Association. Many issues will be explored including, environmental ethics, ecotourism, community participation, ethnic cultures and their contribution to the environment, community & environmental education, and training council staff in conserving and managing remnant ecosystems. For more information contact Sara Williams on (03) 654 1322.

27 Thurs **The Whistlers.** Learn more about these native birds. Whistlers have very distinct voices, and some species are amongst Australia's most beautiful songsters. Presented by Rory O'Brien, the talk is part of a Study meeting organised by the Bird Observers Club of Australia. Venue: Library, BOCA Headquarters. Enter from rear of 183 Springvale Road, Nunawading. Bookings essential. Cost \$5.00 BOCA members, \$10.00 non-members. For bookings contact (03) 877 5342.

Excursions and Field Trips

September

3 Sat **Orchids at Langwarrin Flora & Fauna Reserve.**

Join Cecily Falkingham on this interesting excursion organised by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. A must for lovers of our native orchids. For further details contact Noel Schlieger on (03) 435 8408.

4 Sun **Taylor's Creek Habitat Planting** 1.00 - 3.00 pm. A field trip presented by the Victorian Association of Environmental Education. As part of the Spring Planting Festival join VAEE and the local community to help revegetate Taylor's Creek. Meet at Taylor's Creek, Keilor (Melway ref. 14 H8). Bookings essential, contact Karen Benn on (03) 651 7478.

7, 14, 21 & 28. **Nightwalks in the Yarra Valley Parks.** 7 pm. - 9 pm. Meet the nocturnal inhabitants of the Yarra Valley Parks. Nightwalks take place in Westerfold Park and other various locations. Bookings essential. Contact (03) 846 4499 BH.

9 Fri **Frogwatch & Stagwatch Yarra Valley Park.** Organised by Doncaster and Templestowe Conservation Society. Contact (03) 846 2651 AH, or (03) 669 4145 BH.

12 Mon - 16 Fri **Frog Week in the Yarra Valley.** Various walks and talks including a frog watch on Friday 16 evening. Activities to be held in the morning, afternoon and evening at various parks in the Yarra Valley. Organised by Melbourne Water. For more information contact (03) 846 4499 BH.

17 Sat and 19 Sun **Angair Nature Show.** A fun weekend for all ages. Activities include: indigenous flower display, plants for local gardens, local craft display, art show and sound and light show. Also including free bus trips to see wildflowers, guided nature walks, environmental display, plant sales and an "Evening in the Forest" stage display! For more information contact Flora Anderson on (03) 722 1776.

25 Sun **BBQ and spotlighting evening at Depo Shed.** 6 pm. Join the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater in a night excursion through Yellingbo State Nature Reserve. Meet at Rangers Office, Macclesfield Road, Melways 119J11.

Restoration Activities

August

28 Sun **FO Royal Park West.** 10 am. Planting, direct seeding trials and weed control. (Melways 29 C12) Contact Mick Arundell on (03) 380 8075.

18 Sun **FO the Helmeted Honeyeater** 10 am. Help restore the habitat of this rare honeyeater by joining in on the revegetation day. Meet at Yellingbo Store, Melways 119B J8. BYO lunch. Contact Gaye on (059) 648 350.

September

3 Sat **Cootamundra Walk Advisory Committee.** Planting day along a restored creek. 4,000 shrubs, grasses and rushes need to be planted so it will probably take the whole day. Melways 48 A8. Contact Margaret Witherspoon on (03) 878 5998.

3 Sat **FO Gellibrand Hill Park.** 9.45 am. Project day.

Meet at Workcentre. For further information on the days activities contact Lindley McKay (03) 374 2369, Nina Cowdery (03) 434 7408 or Mark Corr (03) 557 2783.

3 Sat **Greenlink Box Hill Activity day.** For more details contact Minette Russell Young on (03) 898 1364.

7 Wed **FO the Helmeted Honeyeater.** 10 am - noon. Healesville nursery activity day. Park in main car park at Healesville Sanctuary. Ask receptionist at the gate for directions to the community nursery. Contact Gaye on (059) 648 350.

8 Thur **FO Warrandyte State Park.** 10 am. Everyone is welcome to help in the nursery activities every Thursday. Nursery experience is not necessary. Contact Kym Docwra on (03) 876 3807.

10 Sat **FO French Island State Park.** Become involved in the preservation of a state park which is situated in one of the most interesting and unique islands in Australia. The day's activities include pittosporum eradication and some bird observing. Contact Francis Garner on (03) 783 4213

10 Sat **FO Werribee Gorge & Long Forest Mallee.** Survey and mapping of rabbit burrows, weeds, special features in Long Forest Flora Reserve. For further details contact Janet Leversha on (053) 674 229.

10 Sat **FO Organ Pipes National Park.** 9 am. Project day. Meet at the information centre. Contact Carl Rayner (03) 337 4936.

10 Sat **Wurundjeri Garden.** 10 am - noon. This Koori food garden by the Yarra in Hawthorn has been established for three years. Meet Glen Avon Road, Melways 45 A11. Planting and weeding. Contact Dorothy Sutherland on (03) 818 4706.

11 Sun **FO the Helmeted Honeyeater** 10 am. Help restore the habitat of this endangered bird by joining in on the revegetation day. Meet at Yellingbo Store, Melway ref. 119B J8. BYO lunch. Contact Gaye on (059) 648 350.

11 Sun **FO the Yarra.** 10 am. Project day. Activities include hand weeding and revegetation work. Meet at Galatea Point. Melways 2D D7. Also on Wednesdays 10 am. Contact Judy Rutherford on (03) 347 2252

11 Sun URAGE 10 am. **(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. Melways 74 K12. Contact Rob Stephens (03) 751 2407.

11 Sun **Greenlink Camberwell** 3 - 5 pm. Weeding, planting and seed collection in Welfare Pde. Meet cnr Dion St and Welfare Pde. Melways 60 E7. Contact Diana Burgess on (03) 809 2092.

17 Sat **FO Bradshaw Park.** 10 am. Weeding and planting day at Bradshaw Park. For more information contact Dave Bainbridge on (03) 580 5992.

17 Sat **Planting day in Candlebark Grasslands.** 9.15 am - 1 pm. Plantings organised by Melbourne Water and the Doncaster & Templestowe Conserva-

Coming Events Continued:

tion society in Yarra Valley Park (Melways 21G12). Plantings go ahead regardless of weather. BYO morning tea. We also check on the progress of earlier plantings, and try to learn a few plant names, especially grasses. Bring along a thermos, waterproof shoes, parka, gardening gloves, and hat. Tools provided. Contact Judy Zimmerman on (03) 850 4116.

- 18 Sun **FO One Tree Hill Reserve.** 10 am - noon. The One Tree Hill Reserve is located north of Christmas Hills (adjacent to Watsons Creek). There are four significant vegetation types on the reserve, ranging from dry to wet natural forest. The reserve is home to a wide variety of wildlife, and some of the fauna is not found elsewhere in Victoria. Join Ray Jasper, Ranger of One Tree Reserve, and friends for a morning of weed monitoring and planting. Meet at the car park at the Sugarloaf end of the reserve. For more information contact Dianne Silveri on (03) 710 1331.
- 18 Sun **FO Sherbrooke Forest. Mapping Survey.** BYO compass, pencil, clipboard, and sturdy waterproof boots. For more information on meeting arrangements etc. Contact Jeff Preston on (03) 755 2602.
- 18 Sun **Brunswick Tree Group.** 10 am - noon. Working at Union Bush Park, Moonee Ponds Creek. Contact Eric Ward on (03) 388 2123.
- 18 Sun **Meander.** 10 am. Weeding, planting and track work along the Menzies Creek and Emerald Tourist Track. Meet at Vard picnic ground, Melway ref. 125 F12. Contact Kate Forster on (059) 685 828.
- 22 Thurs **FO the Helmeted Honeyeater.** Yellingbo nursery activity day. Meet at Rangers Office, Yellingbo State Nature Reserve, Macclesfield Road, Melway ref. 119B F11. Contact Gaye on (059) 648 350.
- 25 Sun **Planting day on Yarra River.** 10.00 am Spend a day replanting native flora along Melbourne's most important wildlife corridors. Enjoy a sausage sizzle and wandering musicians. Enter through Sommerset car park, Banyule, and follow the signs. (Melways 32 G2). Organised by the City of Heidelberg and Greening Australia Victoria as a part of the Spring Planting Festival. For further information contact John Dalton on (03) 490 4262.

From the Editor:

I want to express thanks to Michelle Lauder for the excellent editing work she generously did over the last couple of months. Thanks Michelle!

I would like to continue making requests for a steady flow of information for Indigenotes. It is entirely what the members make of it so your contributions are crucial.

We still need graphics! I know its hard to draw things without attaching them to specific articles and ideas but can you artists out there continuing making the effort. It is appreciated and needed to liven up the presentation of this newsletter.

I made a presentation to the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Botanical Illustrator's Group in May and got some offers of drawings that have already borne fruit. Thanks to Helene Wild for her wonderful drawings. With more liaison I should be able to get more contributions from the generous members of that group.

The above connection doesn't help get contributions of drawings on the fauna side of things. You fauna people out there need to contribute if you want to read about critters.

IFFA Committee Announcements:

New Treasurer Needed Urgently!

IFFA is still in need of a Treasurer. The job is really quite basic, simply (?) involving the keeping of IFFA's books. It used to involve keeping track of memberships, too, but that task has been sliced off for someone else to do. Please call Roger Jones if you are interested in the task; we need you!

Membership Secretary Taking a Break

Lynlee Smith, our dedicated membership secretary, is taking a break from processing memberships in September and October because of pressing academic responsibilities. Essentially several processes will be on hold: Lynlee will not be processing renewals or cutting off any late subscribers but will process new memberships during those months. So, please don't be concerned if your membership cheques aren't being cleared.

Snippets

Fire Management Conference

A conference entitled "Biodiversity and Fire - The effects and effectiveness of fire management" is being organised by the Victorian National Parks Association. A grant from the Department of Environment, Sport and Territories, together with some support from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will enable several interstate speakers to attend the conference which is planned for the 8th and 9th of October. The venue will be Theatre G370, at the Victoria University of Technology at Footscray, near the junction of Ballarat and Geelong Roads.

It is intended that the conference will help present some of the latest research and discuss some of the fire management issues relevant to the Code of Practice for Fire Management on public land currently being prepared by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. For brochures outlining the program and registration details please phone the VNPA office on (03) 650 8296 or write to the VNPA at 10 Parliament Place, East Melbourne 3002. The cost is \$60 for two days including lunches and proceedings.

Smoke key to growth of plants

Kings Park scientists have made a dramatic breakthrough with the discovery that bushfire smoke - and not heat as was believed - is the trigger that makes many native plants germinate. Now they are trying to track down the chemical, or combination of chemicals, among the 2000 components of smoke which causes germination. They have already used the smoke to germinate all of the seeds used in tests on a range of rare and endangered WA plants which have never been propagated from seed in laboratories or nurseries before.

One plant which has previously proved extremely difficult to grow from seed, although it has been grown from cuttings, is a species of smokebush containing a chemical which has stopped the AIDS virus reproducing in laboratory tests. US and Australian scientists are cooperating in a program to test and possibly mass produce the chemical as an anti-HIV drug.

Environment Minister Kevin Minson said yesterday the smoke technique may provide an alternative to controlled burning as a means of propagating plant species. Previously, the belief that fire was needed to crack open the tough pods of buried

seeds provided a strong argument for those who believed fires were a vital part of the regeneration of Australian plants. Mr. Minson said the research would have a significant impact on the conservation of rare and endangered plant species.

The research team was headed by assistant Kings Park director Kingsley Dixon, who said last night the initial idea came from botanists in South Africa. The breakthrough meant that many plants which had to be picked in the bush could now be grown in nurseries and home gardens. "The real bonus is that we have got germination in 30 species of plants which we were previously not able to propagate apart from tissue culturing them in the laboratory."

One example was the shrub producing the popular flowers commonly known as yellow bells in the Eneabba region, which had resisted five years of efforts to germinate its seeds. Other plants which responded well were feather flowers, commonly known as orange morrison, and the Wyalkatchem foxglove, which was officially down to its last two plants in the wild. Late yesterday, the team had discovered its most spectacular success so far. Barely a fortnight after being exposed to the smoke technique, all of the test seeds from the rare and endangered vanilla lily germinated. "Previously we had not been able to make it germinate no matter what we did," Dr. Dixon said.

Source: *The West Australian* February 23 1994.

New LPG Weed Burner Available

For those of you use fire for controlling various weeds or starting controlled burns there is another weed burner or flame thrower on the market. It is manufactured in France and is available from Blue Gaz Australia Pty Ltd in Port Melbourne. The torch, hose and regulator are available for around \$200 (excluding gas bottle). I have recently purchased one and it looks relatively simple, well made and dependable. I have not tested it extensively yet but if I would recommend a look at this brand if you need a weed burner.

Lincoln Kern

Proposed Australian Biodiversity Council

In March 1994, a short paper proposing the establishment of an Australian Biodiversity Council was circulated to Australian scientific societies and individuals interested in the conservation of biodiversity. The purpose of the paper was to find

better ways for scientific views and insights to influence public debates and decision-making about biodiversity.

Following the positive response to the paper, a workshop was held in Melbourne on 25-26 June to develop the proposal. Participants included scientists representing 17 scientific societies, and a number of centres and departments, as well as interested individuals (IFFA was represented by Geoff Carr). The workshop addressed current problems and future opportunities, the need for a council, its goals and structure, and some aspects of operation and funding. There was a high level of agreement on all key issues.

The workshop proposed the establishment of an Independent Council with the following goals:

1. To advocate the scientifically-based conservation of biodiversity.
2. To familiarise Australians with the importance, benefits and values of biodiversity, its current status and how it is threatened.
3. To ensure that biodiversity is a major consideration in relevant political, social and economic decisions.
4. To promote policies and mechanisms for biodiversity conservation.
5. To promote multi-disciplinary forms for the scientific discussion of biodiversity conservation.

The workshop created a steering group with two main functions: First, to write a constitution, and second, to raise funds. The first function is in the hands of a group which is formulating the structure, mode of operation and responsibilities of the Council based on comprehensive guidelines drawn up at the workshop.

Funds are being requested so that the Australian Biodiversity Council can be established by early November 1994. The workshop unanimously agreed that the Council should be thoroughly professional and well-organised. To this end, it will aim initially to establish a small office. The cost of this was estimated at \$40,000 per annum. At present, any funds donated will be handled by the Treasurer of the Ecological Society of Australia. Please send any donations to Dr. Ross McMurtrie, School of Biological Sciences, University of NSW, Kensington, NSW 2033.

Environmental Databases Available

[The IFFA committee had recently discussed the potential of sharing information about environmental issues with computers and the Internet when this item appeared in the Age computer

section.]

INFORMIT is the electronic publishing division of the RMIT library, which over the past five years has developed an enviable reputation for developing, publishing and distributing database material on CD-ROM in a new way which is now setting new standards, world-wide. Established in 1989, it is the brainchild of RMIT librarian Don Schauder, who realised there was a rapidly emerging need for established Australian databases and indexes to be available in electronic form. INFORMIT has become a successful model for electronic publishing. One of its associate heads, Jan Swinburne, says: "We are able to offer a unique service to database owners. We bear all the development, production, marketing, distribution and administrative costs within our unit, and return them a very generous royalty from sales."

One of the most popular of the INFORMIT titles is the Austguide, which contains guidelines, a subject guide for Australian libraries and includes brief abstracts from almost all the articles indexed from 26 Australian periodicals, including 'Australian Geographic', 'Geo' and 'Scientific American'. Another title, Heritage and Environment, is a compilation of 13 Australian databases relating to a broad cross-section of topics. It includes records of threatened Australian flora and fauna, plus a comprehensive bibliography on literature about the Great Barrier Reef.

For further information, a copy of the Informit newsletter, or sample floppy disks of most of the databases, call Sandra Oxley or Jan Swinburne on (03) 667 0265 or (03) 667 0284.

Source: *The Age* Tuesday 9 August 1994

RAMSAR Conference Update

The RAMSAR, the international wetlands protection agreement, conference will be held in Brisbane from the 19th to the 27th March 1996. A small number of non government organisations (NGOs) met to talk about RAMSAR and we came up with the Australian Wetland Alliance (AWA). The objectives of the AWA are:

1. To promote the awareness of wetlands, wetland values and the RAMSAR Convention
2. To encourage and facilitate the exchange of information on wetland issues and activities between appropriate groups
3. To encourage government agencies to meet their obligations under the RAMSAR Convention
4. To promote and support the 1996 RAMSAR Confer-

ence

5. To encourage greater allocation of effort and resources for wetland conservation
6. To promote the development and implementation of National and State wetland policies and action plans
7. To promote improvement in the knowledge base of wetlands
8. To review institutional mechanisms for coordination of wetland conservation action.

The AWA will be a coordinating framework between existing groups. A review on the need to establish a separate legal entity will be undertaken in the future. A Coordinating group will ensure communication and networking between members. Proposed interim composition - one member from each of the following:

Asian Wetland Bureau Roger Jaensch Ph: (089) 221 759 Fax: (089) 221 739

Australasian Wader Studies Group Mark Barter Ph: (03) 803 3330 Fax (03) 288 0205

Australian Littoral Society Diane Tarte Ph: (07) 848 5235 Fax: (07) 892 5814

Conservation Council of WA Joan Payne Ph: (09) 397 6380 Fax: (09) 220 0653

The Wetlands Centre Mark Maddock Ph: (049) 896 128 Fax: (049) 501 875

Friends of the Earth Karri Giles Ph: (03) 419 8700 Fax: (03) 417 2081

Membership is open to any NGO or other organisation that agrees to the objectives of the AWA.

Member NGOs may agree to decline to participate in AWA initiatives on a case by case basis.

For more information, send to: Roger Jaensch c/- Wildlife Research Unit, Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, PO Box 496 Palmerston, NT 0831.

Source: FOE Australia Wetlands Campaign Newsletter (03) 419 8700

“Managing Your Wetland” Book

A recent publication from the pen of Nan Oates, *Managing Your Wetland, A Practical Guide for Landholders* is highly for people interested in wetlands. This excellent readable book, produced by the Victorian Wetlands Trust and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources with assistance from the Alcoa Landcare Project, is available from the DCNR bookshop, P.O. Box 41, East Melbourne 3002 at \$6 per copy including postage.

Source: Trunkline June 1994

Green Volunteer Program

The State Government has allocated \$550,000 for practical conservation projects. The “volunteers in conservation” grants emphasise projects such as restoring heritage sites on public land, creating walking tracks in national parks, collecting research data and helping control weeds or areas requiring revegetation. Many choices are available and volunteers are always needed to contribute to conservation work in urban and rural areas.

Coast Action, a new community participation project has been set up to tackle coastal problems. It is anticipated that Coast Action will become a model for community action, just as Landcare has. Land for Wildlife is a voluntary scheme to encourage and assist private landholders to provide habitats for wildlife on their property or farm. The Campus Conservation Corps is for tertiary students to work as volunteers in National Parks on their summer break. A first of its kind in Australia, the program provides young Australians with opportunities to gain experience in a range of conservation activities.

To become a Volunteer in Conservation or for more information, Melbourne callers can ring (03) 412 4936 and country callers can ring 008 632 687 or you can write to Box 41, East Melbourne, 3002.

Source: The Age Nature Report 9 August 1994.

Migrating Alpine plants claim the high ground

Alpine plants have had enough of global warming. Many have uprooted and moved to higher ground over the past 90 years, scientists have found, writes Steve Connor. A survey of 26 mountain summits over 3,000 metres above sea level has shown a dramatic increase in the number of plants able to survive at high altitudes.

Scientists believe the movement is the direct result of an increase in temperature of less than one degree Centigrade over the same period. They also believe the trend could soon lead to many species becoming extinct as the summits become increasingly crowded. As fast-growing from the lower slopes move higher, the slow-growing species that grow at higher altitudes become overwhelmed, said Greg Grabherr, professor of ecology at Vienna University: “They are finished because there is nowhere left. Their only chance is to go to heaven.”

Professor Grabherr and his colleagues Michael

Gottfried and Harald Pauli compared the number of species now living on the high slopes with those recorded between 70 and 90 years ago. Their research, published in this week's *Nature*, concluded: "There is no doubt that even moderate warming induces migration processes, and that this process is under way...global warming is already having a significant effect on alpine plant ecology."

"Even in situations where plants must move upwards, the warming is sufficient to stimulate migration, and may cause disastrous extinctions in these environments." The scientists have calculated some species are moving up at a rate of about four metres a decade. Mr. Pauli said the average annual temperature rise over the past 70 to 90 years of 0.7 C was responsible for the upward movement. "The limiting factor for plant growth in higher regions of the Alps is temperature. Less than one degree may not seem much but it is enough to make some plants able to survive higher up."

Source: The British newspaper *The Independent* June 1994

Mt. Stirling in Danger

The Coalition Government recently proposed that Mt. Stirling would be developed into a downhill ski resort. The secret deal was made between the Alpine Resorts Commission (ARC), who manage Victoria's ski fields, and a Melbourne property developer, Rino Grollo and his company Mt. Buller Ski Lifts Pty. Ltd. The ARC wants to lease Mt. Stirling to Mr. Grollo's company with the prospects of it becoming freehold.

Mt. Stirling in the Victorian Alps and adjacent to Mt. Buller, is already compromised by cattle grazing, four wheel drives and resort development. Presently the current uses of Mt. Stirling have less impact on the alpine environment than Mt. Buller's massive ski village and surrounding ski slopes. The proposed development would see the emergence of something like a high altitude Disneyland.

This proposal has shocked local residents and concerned visitors alike, due to the lack of consultation of any community group and considering that this area is in the water catchment of Mansfield. Geoff Coleman, the Minister for Natural Resources has labelled this "desirable minimum development", even though it includes 4 km of cable car linking it to Mt. Buller, and "the development of downhill skiing" and "the construction of shelter with facilities for food, refreshments and accommodation" would cater for more than 17,000 skiers per day. The director of the Victorian National Park Association, Doug Humann com-

mented: "The announcement displays a contempt for the public. Full community consultation should occur before the offer to develop."

The sad irony of this murky affair is that recent climatic modelling by the CSIRO indicates this area may have zero snow cover next century. Recent developments as reported in *The Age* (22 April) show that the Government is "cooling off" on this proposal. Mr. Coleman announced a "comprehensive environmental effects statement" for Mt. Stirling (Tenders were invited for this document from suitable consultants in an advertisement in *The Age* in the second week of August.) and a letter to FOE has confirmed a review of the ARC, also. The government has not ruled out the possibility of eventual development for downhill skiing.

To express your concern and opposition to this development, write to: Minister for Natural Resources, Geoff Coleman (7 Flr./232 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne 3002).

Source: *Friends of the Earth Newsletter* June 1994

Anglesea heathland at risk

The State Government Planning Minister has engineered a land deal allowing scaled down development of 54 houses on the National Estate registered heathland at Anglesea. Under Mr. McClellan's decision, 48 quarter-acre blocks would be developed adjacent to the township with another six 'bush' blocks developed nearby on the land. He also approved construction on two other sites 'subject to stringent conditions' on the heathland block.

Under the deal the, the developer will allowed to build houses on about 10 hectares and two other house sites will be permitted across a total area of 472 hectares of nationally significant heathland vegetation. The Victorian Conservation Trust will buy most of the land, using matching \$250,000 grants from the State and Federal governments, with 240 ha being included in the Angahook-Lorne State Park and 213 ha will be placed under perpetual covenant to "protect" its outstanding flora, fauna and scenic views."

Deakin University associate professor Geoff Wescott said the events leading to the decision "were a shambles". He said: "The minister's compromise will still result in deleterious effects on this nationally significant site." Professor Wescott said damage caused by the development would include "the inevitable baggage that new home owners bring to a natural area. They will request

vegetation clearance for fire protection, and they will introduce weeds, to name but two ways the area will be affected for the worse."

The head of the Great Ocean Road Committee, Ms. Joan Lindros, also said the decision went against all ecological studies on the area. "We now have the spectacle of land listed on the National Estate being destroyed for a few houses," she said.

Mr. McClellan said he believed "that achieving this outcome with \$250,000 of Commonwealth money is miracle enough" for the heathland. "Maybe if the good professor, or the Great Ocean Road Committee, were in my position they may have done better. But (protecting) 96 percent is more than a pass," he said.

Please write to your local MPs, the Premier and the Ministers involved (Planning and Development, R. MacLellan, 477 Collins St., Melbourne 3000, Conservation and Environment, Mark Birrell and Natural Resources, G. Coleman, both at 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne 3002) to state your continued opposition to any development on this nationally significant heathland.

Seastar threat sparks fish import ban

Members of the State's aquaculture industry have called for a ban on the trade of live fish from Tasmania, in an attempt to stop the introduction of the toxic Japanese starfish. The starfish, a fast breeder and voracious eater, has been described as the marine equivalent of the rabbit or cane toad. Mr. Tim O'Hara, a spokesman for an alliance of marine industry groups, said the State Government had taken inadequate steps to protect Victorian waters from the starfish.

The groups say the live fish trade should be shut down during the seastar's spawning period, from August to October, when a female seastar can produce nearly 20 million eggs. Mr. John Garnham, a state marine policy officer, says there are two ways the creature could invade Victorian waters:

* Larvae introduced in the water carrying live fish in tanks by truck, air or vessel.

* In ballast water in large ships.

He says the department has developed protocols with Tasmanian live fish traders who will filter seawater carrying live fish removing seastar larvae. But the alliance, including the fishing industry, divers, seafood processors and conservation groups says more can be done, including compulsory filtering of ballast water. Mr. Garnham said draft guidelines on ballast had been proposed, but this needed national agreement.

Anyone who believes they see a Japanese starfish should record the date, time and place it was discovered, the approximate water depth and, if possible, freeze or ice the specimen and take it to the nearest office of DCNR.

Source: *The Age Nature Report* 9 August 1994

Help Wanted at One Tree Hill

(North of Warrandyte in the Christmas Hills)

Friends of One Tree Hill are currently organising "Operation 60", a vegetation mapping day in the One Tree Hill Reserve planned for October. They are looking for a volunteer to help co-ordinate the day. Anyone interested with good plant ID skills (particularly orchids) and with experience of vegetation mapping can call Dianne Silveri on (03) 710 1331. It should be an interesting exercise as the Reserve contains four significant vegetation types ranging from dry to wet forest types.

Plants of the Merri Merri book is now available

This is the essential guide for residents of the Merri Merri - the northern suburbs of Melbourne - who want to use local native plants in their garden. Plants of the Merri Merri gives an insight into the ecological relationships between the regional landscape, soils, plants and people. It includes illustrated horticultural descriptions of the local plants of northern Melbourne and practical tips for garden design, construction and maintenance.

In Plants of the Merri Merri you will find:

1. 188 descriptions of local native plants - illustrated with line drawings - including information on their use in the garden as well as wildlife, food and other uses.
2. Practical tips on how to design, establish, and care for an indigenous garden.
3. Profiles of local plant communities - which plant grows with which, and which plant community

matches your site.

4. 68 problem plants to avoid in your garden.
5. Maps of soil types and cross-sections of the regional landscapes.
6. A geological, cultural and historical overview of Melbourne's northern suburbs.

The book costs \$15 and \$3 postage if ordered from:
Plants of the Merri Merri
Merri Creek Management Committee
P.O. Box 91 Preston 3072
Editor's Note: We will be reviewing this book next month in Indigenotes.

Australian Forest Conference in Melbourne: Towards a National Forest Action Plan

October 24-25th 1994

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
The Native Forest Network will host a nation-wide forest conference on the campus of RMIT. It will feature speakers, presentations and bioregional reports intended to formulate an Australian Forest Mission Statement and Action Plan. The conference will bring indigenous people, forest dwellers, activists, students, NGO's and government organisations together to discuss the crisis facing Australia's forests. Running over two days the conference will examine threats to Australia's forests and the need for a national action plan. On the Wednesday following the conference there will be a forest tour, then an additional two days of strategy formulation at 'Common Ground' near Seymour.

The Native Forest Network is a global autonomous collective of forest activists, indigenous people, conservation biologists and NGO's. It functions on a consensus basis and is non-violent, non-hierarchical and non-patriarchal.

Outline of Conference:

To be finalised (as of 10/8/94)

Monday 24 October

Registration, Wurundjeri Opening, What is the NFN?, Australian Forests in a National and International Context, Pay the Rent, Forests and Water Panel, Plantations Panel, Woodchipping, Pressures on Victorian Rainforest and Conference Dinner.

Tuesday 25 October

Working with Wood, Radial Sawing, Value-Adding Native Hardwoods, Union Issues, Firewood, Sustainability of Selective Harvesting, Implications of Tropical Timber Imports, MABO, Bioregional Reports, Wrap UP - Towards an Australian Forest Action Plan, Electoral Strategies.

Wednesday 26 October

Forest Tour in the Central Highlands

Thursday and Friday 27-28 October

Strategy Session - Common Ground, Seymour

The costs are quite reasonable for individuals, for more information and a registration form contact Anthony or Gavan at the Native Forest Network Melbourne, P.O. Box 222, Fitzroy Victoria, 3065 on (03) 419 8700 or Fax (03) 416 2081.

Poetry Page

This is a new idea for Indigenotes but we are more than willing to consider printing any poetry that readers wish to contribute.

Eucalyptus botryoides

Lost lawns costing quite a sum,
House footings seemed rather rum,
You don't want branches crushing mum,
Oh please eschew Mahogany Gum!

Eucalyptus crenulata

Silver gum makes buds feel at home
As many as would fill some tome.
Don't waste this space in your garden loam
But Hi Ho! Silver with the plastic gnome.

Eucalyptus globulus

A tree to murder gardens new,
To dig up drives and pathways too,
Perhaps to wreck the outside loo,
By all means plant a Tassie blue!

Grevillea

Most grevilleas come from the West,
A family with many children blessed.
While most are good, a few a pest,
Make careful choice your garden quest.

Hakea tenuifolia

Silky hakea has vicious spikes
Which save it from unwanted tykes,
And kids who want to lean their bikes,
Yet still it's a shrub as some likes.

Melaleuca armillaris

There's quite some good in honey myrtle,
Catches cars as off roads they hurtle,
Hides things - even your pet turtle,
And grows in soil that ain't quite fertile.

Graham Calcutt

Who Planted That Damned Thing?

Source: Austral. Syst. Bot. Soc. Newsletter 78 (March

1994)

Ode to Seed Collectors

My hands are cut and bloody,
My neck is stiff and sore
Sometimes this seed collecting
Can really be a bore.

But think of all the youngsters
Whose lives we'll soon begin.
There's another generation
Of trees and shrubs within.

Their gift to us is wondrous,
Though our deaths they can't forestall.
It's a kind of immortality
Those trees will outlive us all.

Make history. Plant a tree!

Helen Moss



IFFA activities:

IFFA (Vic)

Next meeting:

Tuesday 30 August at 7:30 pm* at the Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra (Melways map 2G ref 12A).

Lincoln Kern will on speak on "Restoration on the Tallgrass Prairies of America and beyond." Lincoln has just returned from a two month holiday in the United States where he travelled extensively, visiting national parks, native/indigenous nurseries, nature centres and reserves and restorationists, as well as attending the 14th Annual North American Prairie Conference. Come along to learn about restoration work happening in the USA through a talk, slideshow and lots of written material picked up along the way. All welcome.

*NOTE THE EARLIER MEETING TIME. Speakers will still start at 8:00, promptly.

Committee Meeting:

The committee meetings have been changed to the second Monday of every month; please take note if you are interested in attending. The next meeting is at Geoff Carr's (75 Heller St., West Brunswick) on Monday 13 September.

SPIFFA

Mon 5 September Waterfall Gully Ctty Centre, Cnr Bayview Rd and Nixon St, Rosebud South at 7.30 pm.

Darcy Duggan will be speaking on the "**Yarra Bend Park Tree Project**". 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 10 October

Doug Benson, Senior Plant Ecologist at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney will speak on "Native Revegetation and Rehabilitation along the banks of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River".

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)

Contents:

<u>Plains Wanderer</u>	2
<u>Environmental Weed Note</u>	3
Revegetation at Mullum Mullum Creek	4
<u>IFFA NSW Meeting Report</u>	5
<u>Coming Events</u>	6
<u>From the Editor</u>	8
<u>IFFA Committee Announcements</u>	8
<u>Snippets</u>	9
(Fire Management Conference, Smoke key to plant growth, new weed burner, Australian Biodiversity Council, Environmental databases, RAMSAR conference, <u>Managing your wetland</u>, Green Volunteer Program, Migrating alpine plants, Mt. Stirling in danger, Anglesea heathland at risk, Seastar threat, Help wanted for plant mapping, <u>Plants of the Merri Merri</u> and Australian Forest Conference)	
<u>Poetry Page</u>	15

NEW Office Bearers for 1994-95:

President: Roger Jones, 106 McConnell St., Kensington 3031. (03) 372 1582 (ah).

Vice-President: Peter Tucker, (03) 482 2344(bh) and (03) 510 1034(ah).

Secretary: Karen Lester, (03) 386 5235(ah).

Membership Secretary: Lynlee Smith, P.O. Box 328, Clifton Hill 3068. (03) 499 3085(ah).

Treasurer: New Treasurer needed desperately!!!!

Committee members: Sharon Mason (03) 386 5235(ah), Geoff Carr (03) 481 7679(bh) and (03) 380 8582(ah), Greg Bain (03) 563 5617(ah) and David Lockwood.

Editorial team: c/o P.O. Box 228, Preston, Victoria, 3072.

Editor: Lincoln Kern, (03) 4814682 (ah).

Coming Events: Elissa Kerassitis (03) 379 1116(ah).

Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editors — the deadline for the next issue is Friday September 9.

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

Before reproducing any material from Indigenotes, please ask the author and editor for permission, and please include an acknowledgement of the form "Reproduced from Indigenotes, the newsletter of the Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association".