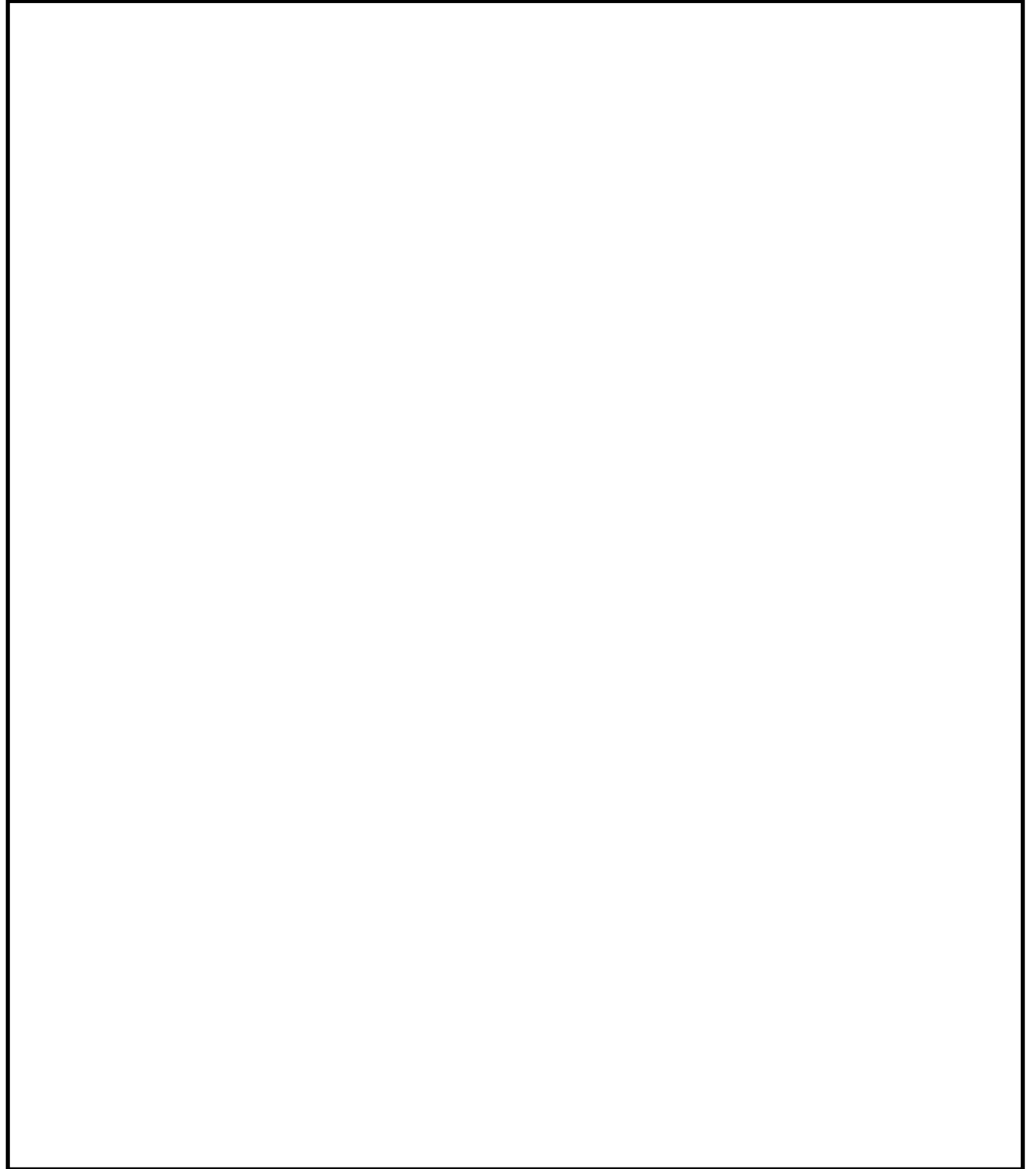


# INDIGENOTES



# Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

Just a short note to say that after writing Plains Wanderer articles for the past three years, I've decided to call it a day, as I've run out of ideas for interesting articles (as you've undoubtedly noticed from recent contributions). Hopefully, I'll still write to Indigenotes occasionally in the future, but if I keep on writing Plains Wanderer articles, I'll just waste a page that could be devoted to more useful contributions. I'd like to thank you and Tony Faithfull for your hard work in editing Indigenotes, and also all the readers who wrote to respond to my rantings and ravings.

Best Wishes,

Ian Lunt

## New Venue for Meeting Needed!

The Herbarium Hall is as drafty as ever and is still going up in price with the management of the Botanic Gardens changing. For these reasons the IFFA committee is searching for an alternative venue. Some basic characteristics would include the following:

1. Close to public transport.
2. Somewhere central to most of Melbourne.
3. Reasonably nice atmosphere.
4. Presentation equipment availability would be nice.
5. Reasonable cost.

So, if anyone has any suggestions of a new meeting venue please ring Roger Jones or Peter Tucker (the numbers are on the back page). The time is nigh when we need to move.

## New Treasurer Still Needed!

We are still need a Treasurer... It is a not a huge job but needs a few math skills. Please give anyone on the Committee a ring if you are even remotely interested so that we can convince you to take up the role.

# Indigephile Abroad: Awakening Indigenous Plant Species in Sumba, Indonesia

Imagine an island raised out of the sea as the Australian continental plate met the Indonesian archipelago. An island which for nine months of the year is dried by winds originating from its neighbour, creating a grassland/savanna ecosystem dominated by *Themeda triandra* and *Imperata cylindrica* (alang-alang grass). Here cockatoos, rainbow lorikeets, kingfishers and bee-eaters can be found in the remnant semi-deciduous monsoonal forest. This is not part of Australia, but Sumba, Indonesia.

My task here is to assist the local Forestry Service to improve the success of its reforestation project. But from day one I was truly amazed by their choice of species. The aim of this project is to cover many of the denuded hills with trees for soil and water conservation purposes, hence local villagers are forbidden to log these areas. Sounds good... Here's the species mainly used:

<i>Tectonia grandis</i>	Teak
<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	Mahogany
<i>Cassia siamea</i>	(timber species)
<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	(fast growing)

Confused? So was I, and still am. Where the hell are the local species?

Then I realised the immense challenge ahead of me. I was dealing with a bunch of foresters with a knowledge of perhaps five timber species commonly used on other islands of Indonesia. The local forest species are completely ignored. Perhaps because they are already 'there'. Unfortunately estimates have been made that the extent of Sumbanese forest has been reduced by 70% over the last century, resulting from increased population pressures and grazing pressures to supply the rest of Indonesia with meat and horses. Only 10% forest cover remains.

So how to justify using local species to these

closed-minded foresters? As Indonesia is full of practical oriented people, forget the speeches about the need for wildlife habitat and oxygen production. Reforestation must provide a direct benefit to them to eat, feed to their livestock, burn as firewood, build with and harvest to sell or you can jump on your head. Bird watching and bushwalking are a long way from being part of the Indonesian way of life.

Thus, off to the villages to conduct a bit of ethnobotany to provide a basis for justifying these local species. Hours of sitting around yarning and chewing betel nut, followed by a trek into the local forest with the villagers reeling off names in Sumbanese, together with stories as they point at huge tree trunks which have foliage that begins fifty metres above me. Anyone got a good book for keying out tropical species from their bark?!

Consequently my floor is littered with many unidentified seeds, with the aim of propagating and planting, and following up with the identification when flowering occurs. Sounds Backward? Such are the pressures when you only have two short rainy seasons during a two year contract.

As the rainy season draws near, the need for local species is being talked about by the forestry bosses in Eastern Indonesia. Good start. Even the head of the Sumba Forestry Service is collecting local species seed. Yep, he told me that he and his family had collected seed that had dropped from the Teak tree which had been planted in his front yard 20 years ago!! Hmmm...maybe we've still got a way to go!

Mick Jeffrey  
World Food Program  
Sumba

**Mailing Address:**  
**KOTAK POS 127**  
**WAINGAPU 87112**  
**SUMBA TIMUR**  
**N.T.T.**  
**INDONESIA**

### **A Map to Help Place You Geographically and Ecologically:**

# Review:

## A Lay Person's Guide To 4, 6 and 8 Cylinder Weeds

By Adam Muyt

I have real problems trying to tell apart most late model cars, particularly the small engined jobs. So many modern car shapes seem indistinguishable from each other. Even the variety of colour schemes appears much reduced from the heady days of the 1970's. (Whatever happened to that metallic purple every tenth Holden seemed adorned with? Or vinyl roofs? And G.T. strips? They've given way to paint blotches and brand labels!) Of course if I was interested in cars I could sort the different models out. But I'm bored by the subtleties of the World Car Design so I can't imagine I'll unravel it's mysteries soon.

Perhaps one day I'll own one of these clones. Then I reckon I'll have to sort out the differences if I'm going to use shopping mall carparks. It's not unlike someone approaching plant identifications for the first time. Most people can readily tell a gum from a pine and a grass from a shrub. But how do they go about learning something more than general descriptions? More to the point, how do they go about finding out some plants are environmental disasters waiting to happen?

To continue with this auto theme a tad longer, it isn't that long ago that I thought a solanoid probably had something to do with a sunroof or that a fanbelt could be another dexterous K-Tel 'wonder' product. I was suffering under autophobia. At least now I can do basic repairs and maintenance though if something really stuffs up, I call in the Expert. Con, in Moreland Road. I admire his straight forward manner and he doesn't rip me off. More importantly, he never makes me feel like an idiot. He's very approachable, free with his advice and presents it so even I can unravel the message. Thanks Con.

Land managers, parks and gardens staff and those involved in community conservation groups can use their experience, knowledge and contacts to work out whether a plant presents a threat to a particular ecosystem. Controlling a pest plant then comes down to drawing on those same resources.

For those curious about the Bush Liberation Front but with little or no experience, just relying on books and pamphlets to learn about environmental weeds may present difficulties. The finer points of plant identification, ecology and control can

prove illusive. Many weed books are highly technical and the scientific language can be a major hurdle. Others lack clearly written descriptions while some undermine the text by poor drawings or photos. A few place a great strain on the hip pocket.

In May Northcote City Council (now absorbed into the City of Darebin) put out an excellent, accessible and inexpensive guide to 30 weeds found along the waterways of the municipality. Weeds of Urban Waterways : A guide to the Identification and Control of Environmental Weeds, aims to assist those working in the field while giving 'novice' locals an opportunity to understand and help preserve their bit of remnant bushland.

Not all shades of green are necessarily equal though how many people realise this when they wander through their local patch of bush? Northcote's an old inner suburb with little indigenous vegetation left except along it's three waterways: the Merri Creek, Darebin Creek and Yarra River. These valleys are quite beautiful in places and are the most relaxing open spaces within the area. Lots of residents use them, definitely a sign of their appreciation. So now locals have a means of learning that their parklands aren't in 'perfect' health and that if they are to have a depth to them, the community needs to take some direct responsibility for their upkeep.

Each of the 30 species is described in around 400 words, on a single (loose) page. The lay-out is easy to read, with information provided in defined blocks supplemented by a drawing. Largely devoid of technical language, the clear, solid text should be enough to assist most readers with comprehending the risks each species pose. Information covers identification, distribution, dispersal, as well as what chemical, mechanical and hand control options exist. Where indigenous plants may be mistaken for the weed, ie. Blackberries and Native Bramble, identification notes are included.

If a species has a cultural value, for example, Artichoke Thistles' use in both dry flower arrangements and cooking, then this is described. (I find this addition pleasing. Viewing a plant purely as a 'baddie' seems to me rather simplistic. Plenty of weeds are extremely useful).

A well detailed drawing appears with each species. These highlight key features such as flowers, fruit and leaf shape. A simple, seasonal box calendar

shows the yearly life cycle of each species.

30 for \$10. Phone Anne on (03) 490 4427, week-days.

I'd recommend this publication for those active in ecological restoration works. All the weeds can be found growing in a variety of places and habitats throughout Victoria. It has valuable pointers on control methods and contains some interesting cultural notes. It's also the type of guide to use as a teaching aid when training people in weed identification or bushland management techniques.

The guide has been written by Darcy Duggan (Yarra Bend Park) and Anne Fitzpatrick (Northcote C.C. Bushland Management). Drawings were provided by Brian Bainbridge. If interested, you can purchase any single sheet for 50c or the set of

**A page of  
the guide:**

# Coming Events:

For IFFA events see back cover

## Conferences/Workshops/Talks

October

8 Sat - 9 Sun **Biodiversity and Fire.** A Code of Practice for Fire Management on Victoria's public land is being developed by DCNR. To complement this process the VNPA is hosting a two day conference, bringing together a range of fire specialists at the Victorian University of Technology, Footscray. Sessions include effects of fire on flora and fauna and the reconciliation of fire protection and conservation issues. For further information contact Jenny Barnett, VNPA (03) 650 8296.

12, 19, 26 (Weds) & 30 Sun **Environmental Restoration Seminars 1994.** Six speakers, all leaders in their respective fields, have been chosen to provide practical and theoretical knowledge to all those interested in environmental restoration in the Geelong region. The seminars are held Wednesday nights 7pm - 10pm at the National Wool Museum, Geelong. A field trip to three revegetation sites near Geelong will be held on Sunday 30th, 10am - 2pm. The cost for the full program is \$30 or \$10/session. Concession prices available. To register or for seminar details contact (052) 264 660.

21 Fri & 22 Sat **Local Government responds to Rio. The first annual conference of the Municipal Conservation Association.** Organised around three key themes of sustainability, networking and training, the conference provides the rare opportunity for personal contact with practitioners and insights into working situations and environments as varied as seaweed composting in Port Melbourne, bandicoot breeding at Gellibrand Hill and innovative energy planning controls at Leichhardt. For more information contact Sara Williams on (03) 654 1322.

27 Thur **Priorities for weed control in heathland communities.** A seminar organised by Greening Australia Vic. The session will enable participants to identify why individual weed species pose problems in heathland communities, and will outline current approaches to managing specific weeds. For registration contact GAV (03) 654 1800.

November

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 12.30 pm. Venue: Yarra Bend Park Headquarters. Melway map 2D G4. Contact Minette Russell Young on (03) 898 1364.

## Excursions and Field Trips

October

2 Sun **Greenlink Oakleigh Open Day and Spring Planting Day.** 10am - 2.30 pm. Activities include planting out a heathland display site in the morning. Activities commence from 12.30pm and include sausage sizzle, exhibition of watercolour paintings of local plants, tours of nursery facilities and project sites, seed sowing activities for children and plant sales. Meet at Greenlink Oakleigh nursery at southern end of the Senior Campus of South Oakleigh Secondary College, Bakers Rd, South Oakleigh. Melways map 78 F2. Contact Doug Evans (03) 772 1422 BH or Roy and Caroline Lovel (03) 579 0306.

2 Sun **Spring planting day at Braeside Park** As part of the Spring planting festival many activities will take place at Braeside park. These include the Ranger Tree Planting Train, displays by local conservation groups and the C.F.A., a sausage sizzle, live music, conservation show bags, bush regeneration workshops and Ranger led activities. Contact Mark Mooney or Priscilla Stevens at Braeside Park on (03) 551 1640.

2 Sun **Birding at Gellibrand Hill State Park** 10.30 am. Join Peg Hendry and members of the Bird Observers Club in an outing to Gellibrand Hill. More than 70 species of native birds can be found in this Park. From Melb. take Tullamarne Fwy & Sunbury Rd to Oaklands Rd (Melway 177 J10). Turn right into Somerton Rd. Park entrance is 1.5 km further on right (Melway 178 C6). Contact Bob Millar (03) 885 7179 if you want to come along.

5, 12, 19 & 26 **Nightwalks in the Yarra Valley Parks** 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Organised by Melbourne Parks & Waterways. Discover the possums, bats, owls and other nocturnal inhabitants of the Yarra Valley Parks. Walks take place in Westerfolds Park and various locations. For bookings contact (03) 846 4499 BH.

9 Sun **Park Care Family Fun Day** - Wildflowers and Weeds 2 - 3.30pm. Join VAEE on a one and an amble through the Warrandyte State Park, identifying wildlife, wildflowers and weeds whilst partaking in environmental games. Find out how to make your garden 'wildlife friendly'. Meet at Pound Bend Reserve, Warrandyte State Park Melway map 23 A10. Bookings essential. Contact Fay Vulcanis (03) 844 2659 or VAEE (03) 428 9812.

9 Sun **Carrum Swamp Tour** 10am - 4.30pm. A tour presented by the Friends of the Earth Wetlands Campaign and Damien Cook. Meet at Edihvale Railway. BYO gumboots and lunch. Cost is \$5 or \$10 per person depending on income. Bookings crucial for van space, contact Damien Cook (03) 438 3739 or Karri Giles on (03) 419 8700.

15 Sat **Birding at You Yangs Forest Reserve** 10am - 1.30pm. A special outing organised by the Bird Observers Club of Australia for beginner birdwatchers. Meet at the Ranger Headquarters just past boom gate car park. If you want to join in and benefit from the wisdom of seasoned birdos contact Geoff Deason (03) 898 5886. BYO binoculars.

16 Sun **Orchid Identification at One Tree Hill Reserve.** The One Tree Hill Reserve is located north of Christmas Hills (adjacent to Watsons Creek).

This vegetation mapping day known as 'Operation 60' will be an event not to be missed by anyone with an interest in orchid identification. For further details contact Ray Jasper (03) 844 2659 or Diane Silveri (03) 710 331.

22 Sat **Outing to Warrandyte State Park.** Organised by the Doncaster and Templestowe Conservation Society. For more information contact (03) 669 4145 BH.

22 Sat **Walk in Werribee Gorge.** 10am. Join Bruce Salau on a social walk through Ironbark Gorge. Bring lunch, drink, camera and binoculars. Organised by the Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee. Meet next to the railway crossing on the Ballan-Ingliston Road. Contact Daryl Akers (03) 743 2495.

## Restoration Activities

October

1 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. Helpers are very welcome. For further details contact Minette Russell Young on (03) 898 1364.

1 Sat **FO Gellibrand Hill Park** 2pm - 11pm. Afternoon project day commencing with a Flora Survey and ending with a Frog Watch at the Billabongs and the Somerton Rd Dams. For more information contact Lindley McKay (03) 374 2369, Nina Cowdery (03) 434 7408 or Mark Corr (03) 557 2783.

2 Sun **Planting day at Warrandyte Riverside Walk** 10 am. A planting day co-ordinated by the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. Help plant out the wetland and restore riparian vegetation. Meet at the Stiggants Rd carpark. Melway map 23 C12. For more information contact Tim Rowe on (03) 840 9300 BH.

5 Wed **FO the Helmeted Honeyeater** 10am - noon. Healesville nursery activity day. Ask receptionist at gate for directions to the Community nursery. Contact Gaye on (059) 648 350.

8 Sat **FO French Island State Park** 10.50 am. Activities include a pelican count, checking pittosporum and other weeds en route. Depart from Stony Point on the 9am ferry. To arrange transport to the Island please let Francis know at least three days before the project day. Contact Francis Garner (03) 7834213.

8 Sat **FO Koolunga** 2:00-4:00 pm Restoration Activities at Koolunga Native Reserve, Forest Road, Ferntree Gully. Contact Kathleen Loxton (03) 758 3112 or Petina Pert (03) 762 2473.

9 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. Melways map 74 K12. Contact Rob Stephens (03) 751 2407.

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

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

15 Sat **Planting day in Candlebark Grasslands** 9.15am - 1pm. Organised by the Doncaster and Templestowe Conservaion Society in the Yarra Valley Park. 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. Tools provided. Melway Map 21 G12. Contact Judy Zimmerman on (03) 850 4116.

15 Sat **FO Organ Pipes National Park** 9am. Project day. Meet at the information centre. Contact Carl Rayner (03) 37 4936.

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

16 Sun **Men of the Trees.** Planting day at Yarra Bend Park. Melways map 2D D6. For further details contact Minette Russell Young on (03) 898 1364.

16 Sun **Brunswick Tree Group** 10am - noon. Working at Union Bush Park, on the Moonee Ponds Creek. Contact Eric Ward on (03) 388 2123.

22 Sat **FO Sherbrooke Forest** 2pm. Project afternoon. Work on Ridge track lower side approaching from Woodfull track. Weeding ivy. Meet at Pound creek parking area on Belgrave Ferny Creek Road at the Sandells Rd Junction. Melway map 75 E6. Contact Jeff Preston (03) 755 2602.

29 Sat & 30 Sun **Plant Survey at Cranbourne Botanical Gardens.** Commencement of plant surveying by the botany group of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, with an introduction to the park and a Post-burn survey (A pre-burn survey has been done). Contact John Julian for details on (03) 830 4795.

The fourth annual **Spring Planting Festival** is now upon us and plantings days will be taking place in over 100 different sites through out Victoria until the end of October. Take this opportunity to get out there and do your bit for the environment, and have fun while you're at it! There are planting sites in many suburbs and municipalities around Melbourne and in many rural towns and cities so phone the Festival hotline on 008 806 555 to find out your nearest location.

**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.**

# More on Revegetation at Mullum Mullum Creek

*Editor's Note: The article on this subject last month prompted two responses, a signed letter and an anonymous cartoon. They are both presented here.*

I am writing in response to the in last months Indigenotes on the revegetation works being carried out along the Mullum Mullum Creek. Whilst the article was essentially correct I feel I a responsibility to other people involved to clarify a few points.

Unfortunately, although I am heavily involved in the implementation of the Concept Plan for Stage 1 and will be involved shortly in the development of the management plan for Stage 2, I was not involved in the development of the original concept.

I must also highlight that before Lenister Farm began planting, many hours were spent in preparation of the site. The main organisation involved in this often tedious task was the Save the Bush Project of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). They were involved from the start of the on site works in July 1992 and are still involved today. Works they initially carried out included site evaluation and surveying, hand weeding, spot spraying and drilling and filling woody weeds.

It was this work that began the transformation of the creek from a heavily degraded site into something that is now beginning to resemble the plant community that would have

been evident 50 to 100 years ago.

In addition to these people, there have been many others, including Friends groups, that have significant contributions to the project.

Work is continuing on Stage 1 including the development of a major wetland system in 1995 and further planting into prepared areas. To help stabilise the creek further we are looking to plant wetland species into the silted areas of the creek bed over the coming Summer.

The Stage 2 Management Plan for the section between Reynolds Rd. and Tindals Rd. will be developed shortly with on site works commencing in late 1995.

I will finish be echoing the conclusion in the last article by Lenister Farm by stating that the project is indeed a good example of a well planned and coordinated project utilising the skills of a great number of both professionals and enthusiasts in the field of bushland rehabilitation.

**Tim Rowe**  
City of Doncaster and Templestowe

## Snippets:

### Fisheries Helps in Fight Against *Spartina*

Cord Grass (*Spartina* sp.) is a coastal weed deliberately introduced into Victoria some decades ago when conservation values differed from those today. It was introduced as an reclamer of coastal marshes and it is very effective at trapping sediment and turning marine habitat into land. This loss of marine habitat is now of concern in marine parks in corner inlet, in Anderson's Inlet where it is now the dominant plant, and in other bays and inlets, such as the Barwon River and Western Port Bay, where it has only recently become established or its range appears to be increasing.

Graham Pritchard, KTRI, has established recently that "Fusilade", a grass-specific herbicide, is the most cost-effective herbicide for control of this weed. Ross Williamson, who has been coordinating studies of *Spartina* from the Yarram Region, is now understandably anxious to commence control spraying of the weed in marine parks and to prevent newly established outbreaks from spreading. However, before toxic chemicals are sprayed, it is important to establish they will cause minimal impact on non-target species.

Victorian Fisheries Research Institute staff Don Palmer and Greg Parry have commenced studies to examine the toxicity of "Fusilade" to seagrass and to a range of intertidal invertebrates, particularly polychaetes, in the field. A pilot study has also commenced to establish whether *Spartina* alters the invertebrate fauna where it establishes, to facilitate better documentation of the ecological impact of *Spartina* beds.

Source: Victorian Fisheries Fish Tales Newsletter June 1994

Steps are being taken to develop a formal network for the exchange of information, techniques for control, public education as well as strategies for control and eradication. For further information contact Kim Robinson at the DCNR on (03) 412 4452 or Tim Allen from the Marine and Coastal Community Network on (03) 650 8296.

Source: Trunkline August 1994

### Marine Pest Centre

The Federal Government has allocated \$1.4 million to set up a national centre for research into introduced marine pests in Hobart. There are more than 30 known exotic marine pests in Australian waters, each a possible threat to fishing industries and coastal ecosystems. The centre will work on early warning systems and better control methods.

Source: The Age 22/8/1994

## Action Page:

Editor's Note: It seems clear that Snippets has formerly been very broad and that many entries could clearly fit elsewhere. This new section will include any items that ask for action on behalf of readers.

### The Chase...Community Land...Not For Sale!

Four years ago a strong lively campaign saved the Chase from development with Eltham Shire voting to acquire, with cooperation of the developer, 11.2 hectares of most important habitat - The Chase Reserve.

South of the Chase is Bedstead Hill (Crown Allotment 4D), 6 hectares of almost undisturbed bushland that forms part of a wildlife corridor with Warrandyte State Park. This is one of our little known bushland gems: a steep ridge line with dense stands of box and stringybark overlooking the valley. In spring the slopes are sprinkled with orchids and the purple flowers of the *Bracyscome multifida* var. Warrandyte, locally rare and sadly not found in the State Park. A large 'stag' tree is used by our eagles as a lookout perch and roost.

Bedstead Hill is a logical extension of the Chase and best protected in the long term, being acquired as public open space. It was not part of the original development but has since been acquired cheaply. A planning permit has been rejected by Eltham Shire for environmental reasons. In October 1993, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal reversed the decision, despite a strong case by Eltham Shire, DCNR (who listed the area as regionally significant as habitat for rare fauna) and local conservationists.

Following the Appeal we have searched unsuccessfully for funds to purchase Bedstead Hill (\$160 to \$190 000) and would still like to pursue this avenue. On 2/8/1994 final permission was given to begin destroying bushland for the housing and access sites.

It is now a matter of urgency that we rebuild a determined grassroots campaign, so we can work together and save this special part of Warrandyte. If you would like to become involved, please contact Marcel Cameron on (03) 437 1918 or (03) 482 1756. More information has been pinned up on Friends of Warrandyte State Park notice boards etc, as well as petitions, example of letters of a strong and heartfelt nature (we reject threats or abuse).

Source: Friends of Warrandyte State Park Newsletter August 1994

### Park Management Plans

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has released the Approved Management

# Action Page

## Continued: Plan for the Big Desert Wilderness Park

as well as the following Draft Management Plans:

### **Otway National Park**

### **Melba Gully State Park**

The Department invites comments on the draft plans which specify conservation and management practices and further developments to be undertaken in the parks.

Written submissions will be accepted until 30/11/94.

Copies are available from local CNR offices and:

- 1) Outdoors Information Centre, 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne 3002 (03) 412 4795
- 2) Information Victoria, 318 Little Bourke St, Melbourne 3000 (03) 651 4100

Source: *The Age* 10/9/94

## **Environmental Effects Statements**

### **Western and Southern Bypasses**

The Western and Southern Bypasses provide a road linking the Tullamarine Freeway and the West Gate Freeway, a tunnel connection between West Gate Freeway and the South Eastern Arterial and upgrading of the South Eastern Arterial to Toorak Road. VicRoads has prepared an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) for the Western Bypass and an EES for the Southern Bypass. The EESs discuss a range of Alternatives for north-south and east-west travel in the Central Metropolitan Melbourne area, develop options for the Western and Southern Bypasses and describe the likely impact on a range of environmental aspects. A summary of the EES has also been prepared. The EESs will be exhibited until 10 October 1994.

A copy of each EES, supporting Supplements and the Summary will be on display at the following locations:

- 1) **Department of Planning and Development, Ground Floor Information Centre, 477 Collins St. Melbourne**
- 2) **VicRoads, Planning Investigations, 3rd Floor 60 Denmark St., Kew (03) 854 2094**

and at

**State Library Reference Centre, Swanston St., Melbourne**  
**Environment Centre, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne**  
**Citys of Melbourne, Essendon, Yarra, Borondoor, Stonnington, Moreland, Port Phillip, Broadmeadows, Footscray and Port of Melbourne Authority.**

Copies of the Summary Reports are available free of cost from VicRoads or at the Display venues. Copies of the EESs (\$20.00 each) and supporting supplements (\$65.00 for set of seven) may be purchased from VicRoad's Bookshop at 60 Denmark St. Kew from mid-September (ph. (03) 854 2782).

Submissions on the EESs are invited from the

public and interested parties until Monday 10 October 1994. Any submission lodged will be considered as a public document.

Following his assessment of the EESs and advice from the Minister for Roads and Ports, the Minister for Planning will amend the Planning Schemes.

Submissions should be forwarded to:

Chief Assessment Officer, Department of Planning and Development, 477 Collins St., Melbourne 3000

Source: *The Age* 27\8\94

## **LCC Final Recommendations for Melbourne Area 2**

The Land Conservation Council presented its Final Recommendations for Melbourne Area 2 (Central Highlands, Mornington Peninsula, and Westerport catchment) on 22 August. As usual the Forest Protection Society and the Victorian National Park Association were both unhappy with the new national park recommended for the Central Highlands called the Ash Ranges National Park. The park is based on the water catchments with a few additions and the VNPA have said it is too small to guarantee the long-term viability of the important flora and fauna values in the area.

The recommendations also call for a National Park on French Island, additions to Dandenong Ranges National Park, the Nature Reserve at Yellingbo, Kinglake National Park and a new State Park for Phillip Island.

These recommendations are presented to the Government of the day. It is now Parliament's turn to act on them. They may need some encouragement. Take a look at the report, available from Information Victoria Bookshop, Department of Planning Bookshop, DCNR offices in Melbourne and in Alexandra, Traralgon and Dandenong, and 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) and urge them to accept the LCC recommendations, go beyond their recommendations for the Central Highlands National Park and to pass legislation soon to implement the recommendations.

# The Cat in the Trap Saga

The purchase of a cat trap has led to some unexpected flak from our Shire representatives. After some discussion at the last meeting of Wildlife Watch I chose to do the 'right' thing if a cat was trapped. We concluded that despite 'anecdotal' evidence of swift and permanent action being carried out by some owners of the traps, the responsible action would be to call the ranger. I will detail the reaction from our council representatives and this may help you decide what to do when a cat springs our trap.

1. Bylaws Officer tried to tell me it was illegal to own a trap.  
*I pointed out that before I purchased the trap I checked with one of their bylaws officers and also DCNR. Traps are legal but trapping Wildlife needs a permit.*
2. It had been trapped in a non council trap and therefore they would not collect it.  
*I suggested immediate elimination could result.*
3. I was told this was not illegal and could result in charges.

4. David Young takes over the discussion. I was told "You should have requested a trap from the council!"  
*I pointed out that the last time I tried it took council 5 months to supply me one and many other people I have spoken to have had the same problem. I pointed out that I had purchased the trap in order to do all I could to support the councils own bylaw.*

5. Limited resources are a problem.  
*I pointed out that, being the person responsible for carrying out the bylaw, it was his job to ensure council was aware of his inability to carry out his function.*

6. Due to the politically sensitive nature of the bylaw the council didn't want vigilante cat trappers.  
*I replied that it was generally concluded that the much heralded public backlash had not come about and the bylaw now has general public support. I also quoted a recent survey of 1230 people that show 75% support for cat registration.*

7. Back to the cat in the trap - David offers to send in a ranger.  
The result was, the ranger arrived and pointed out that the owners had been notified and the cat was released. Given that I have indicated that I do not want the cat on my property, if the cat returns the owners are open to a fine.

Comments: It should not be this difficult to get action on cats on your property. God help the more timid members of the community who just want the neighbors cat from stinking up the roses. If a cat is trapped once then trapping it a second time will be near impossible. I should not have to track down the owners of the 5 or 6 cats hunting on my property and state my views. If the owners want to let their animals roam they should survey the wishes of the householders in the 3 Km hunting range around their house. The cost of the enforcement process should be reflected in an immediate fine for allowing a cat to roam.

Note: For those who have traps - some helpful hints. Lightly sauteed liver is said to be irresistible to moggies and placed in a stocking tied to the cage will improve results.

Request: A herb called catnip is said to give sexual signals to cats and may help lure them into a trap. I would be grateful to anyone who knows where I can get some.

**Source: Spotlight - Wildlife Watch Newsletter Vol 5, No 2, June 1994**

# Book Review:

## Plants of the Merri Merri

Reviewed by Lincoln Kern

This book has been long awaited. It is essentially a major revision of the 1984 edition of the same name, with some changes and additions. The biggest change is in the area it describes; the northern suburbs Melbourne from Moonee Ponds Creek to Darebin Creek. It also claims to be more technically correct than earlier editions because of extensive research in the last decade.

The book is primarily designed as a 'home gardener's guide to using indigenous plants in the northern suburbs', a comprehensive resource to help residents of the region bring some native bush and grassland into their gardens. I think it does this more than adequately with the inclusion of several features I like particularly well.

The chapter on 'Living Models for Revegetation' includes a drawing that is a great graphic model for understanding the original vegetation of the northern suburbs. The chapter goes on to describe the vegetation communities across the region including the dominant plant species and other relevant information. It is designed to help gardeners design a planting appropriate to their particular site but it goes much further in encouraging a general understanding the great diversity of vegetation communities across a landscape in general and of the Merri catchment in particular.

If you are particularly interested in the plant species in the diverse vegetation communities in the region a detailed table is included in the back listing all the indigenous species that exist in the three creek valleys sorted by vegetation community. This is a feature that would be useful for any professionals in the area or anyone particularly interested in the minute detail.

The chapter on 'the home garden' is also quite good. It goes over the basics of indigenous garden establishment, planning, species selection, site preparation, buying plants at a nursery, planting and the all important process of maintenance.

This section is comprehensive yet simply presented. Other issues such as grassland restoration, indigenous lawns and seed collection are also briefly explored here.

Detailed descriptions of 188 of the around 400 species indigenous plants in the region are included in the second half of the book. The descriptions are comprehensive; they include all the information necessary to help select plant species for the garden and how to place them. The vegetation communities they would live in are detailed here and cross-referenced with the community types listed in the living models for revegetation section of the book. Their appearance, the garden situation they would like, cultural notes and their uses in gardens, by Aboriginals and for wildlife. The descriptions are arranged according to life form, grasses, small plants, groundcovers, climbers, semi-aquatic, aquatic and different sizes of shrubs and trees, to allow easy selection of species

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**'Living Models for Revegetation'**

for different layers in the garden. Each entry includes a drawing by George Stolfo, the same illustrator whose work we saw in the Flora of Melbourne.

There are also several weaknesses in the book. Firstly, the quality of some of the photographs leaves a good deal to be desired. Many are good while others seem to be scraped together for the volume. The map detailing the geology of the northern suburbs is also difficult to use. I know the area relatively well and I had trouble finding particular spots; there are a few landmarks defined and roads on it but the roads aren't named.

Any reader shouldn't expect much detail from the general introductory chapters. They just that that, brief introductions to the geological history of the landscape, aboriginal inhabitants, waterway rehabilitation and invasive plants as well as the sections mentioned above.

The *Plants of the Merri Merri* is primarily designed for home gardeners who want to have an indigenous garden. It presents the case well for the reasons for a such a garden. It shares information effectively that allows a gardener to make the right choices for their site. It would be a wonderful reference for amateurs and people new to the indigenous scene. The information is presented in a way that is easily integrated and linked together for a clear understanding about how to design an indigenous garden.

It is also a reasonable resource for professionals in the field, especially for people new to the field of revegetation and restoration. The book could easily serve as a text for a crash course on the vegetation of the Merri and beyond. It would also provide much of the basic information necessary to design small scale revegetation projects in the region.

I would not hesitate to recommend this book, particularly for home gardeners. The *Plants of the Merri Merri* has brought together all of the necessary information in a simple and accessible way; it is the perfect gift for the gardener who needs some help to get the bush and grassland back into their gardens.

## Books:

### Aboriginal Melbourne

By Gary Presland (McPhee Gribble, \$16.95)

Gary Presland takes the reader on an archaeological tour of the city and its environs. Thus we learn that Emerald Hill is the site of a long extinct volcano, that the flood-prone Yarra once meandered all over the place like a mad woman's vomit (as it were) and that the MCG was once the meeting place of the local Aboriginal tribes. Indeed, it seems that Melbourne was as much a capital for the Kulin people (a generic grouping for the five tribes of the region) as for its later landlords.

The archaeological evidence indicates an intricate social order among Kooris and a superb knowledge and utilisation of natural resources. What is most impressive about Presland's survey is not the realisation of what the Kulin people lost, tragic though that be, but what we have lost through wilful neglect in the interim. This welcome reissue (it was first published in 1985) should be read by every Melburnian.

**Source: The Age Saturday September 3 1994**

### From the VNPA:

*The Grampians in Flower* by Ian McCann. (\$19.95). This book follows the format of the previous *In Flower* series, including 120 pages of superb photographs from which it is possible to identify many of the plants of the Grampians.

*The Forgotten Forests* (\$19.95) with 70 pages of photographs by Ian McCann and others, as well as an introduction and ecological overview of the Box-Ironbark Forests and communities.

### From Leon Costerman:

*Trees of Victoria and Adjoining Areas* by Leon Costermans (\$12.00). This is effectively the 5th edition of his earlier *Trees of Victoria*; an illustrated field guide". Leon has adopted the same format of the earlier edition, updated the nomenclature and included many more trees and large shrubs.

**All of these books should be available at the Greens Bookshop on Flinders Lane in the city where IFFA members are entitled to a 10% discount on their purchases.**

***Plants of the Merri Merri* is \$15.00 and is also available from the Merri Creek Management Committee and Spellbound Books.**

# Poetry Page:

## Who is Somebody Else?

We've all heard that famous line  
It's Somebody Else's job, not mine.  
If an undone task does ire inflame,  
There's always Somebody Else to blame.

Can't Somebody Else remove the weeds?  
Can't Somebody Else collect the seeds?  
Won't Somebody Else for Indigenotes write?  
Why should I work day and night?

And reserves are council's job, you see,  
They're really nothing to do with me.  
Let Somebody Else the Ivy kill,  
The Briza cut and Pittosporums drill!

But what if Somebody Else does nought,  
Despite the fact they surely ought?  
Who'll save the land, beast, bush and tree?  
Does that leave only you and me?

Well, come on friends, let's show them how.  
There's certainly no better time than now,  
But I can't sit here phrasing rhyme and pun,  
Somebody Else's work is never done!

Helen Moss

## The land clearers

Weep Weep Weep  
your resin tears  
the men come with their saws  
the ripping plough  
to maim and slice you,  
for the shade you gave  
their children  
blocks sunshine from the grasses now  
the bleating sheep  
the cloven hooves of cows  
and snuffling pig-marks  
on the landscape seem  
more aptly fitting to their inner soul  
than thou majestic tree  
who sculpts not their dreams  
or heritage.

Kevin Gilbert  
from *Black from the Edge*  
Published by Hyland House

# Checklist of Yarra Bend Cryptograms Part 1: Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens

By John Sago

The cosmopolitan urban species include the mosses *Funaria hygrometrica*, *Bryum argenteum*, *Tortula muralis*, and *Ceratodon purpureus*; the liverworts *Marchantia berteroana*, and *Lunularia cruciata*; and the lichen *Parmelia* sp.

The common generalised terrestrial species include *Bryum dichotomum*, *B. billardieri*, *Barbula torquata*, *B. crinata*, *Campylopus clavatus*, *Fissedens* spp., *Triquetrella papillata* as well as the allied liverworts *Lophocolea semiteres*, *Fossombronina* spp., *Riccia bifurca*, *Asterella tenera* and the lichens *Cladia aggregata*, *Cladonia* spp. and *Heterodea muelleri*.

On more humid sites the mosses *Breutelia affinis*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Thuidium furfurosum* as well as the locally rare *Bartramia papillata*, *Ptychomnium aciculare* and *Eurhynchium* sp. may be found. On drier sites the mosses *Gigaspermum repens*, *Pleuridium nervosum* and *Goniomitrium enerve* occur. Rock inhabiting species include the moss *Grimmia pulvinata* and the crustose lichen genera *Lecanora*, *Buellia*, *Candelirella*, *Acarospora* and *Porpidia*; and the foliose genus *Neofuscelia*. Bark and wood inhabiting lichen genera include *Teloschistes*, *Hypotrachyna*, *Usnea* and *Xanthoria*. The locally rare fruticose species *Cladia schizopora* is restricted to burnt logs.

## Table 1.

Legend:

Substrate Preference: Soil S      Rock R      Bark/Wood B  
Frequency in study area: Common 1      Uncommon 2      Rare 3

### LICHENS (Lichenised Mycomycetes)

<i>Acarospora</i> aff. <i>citrina</i>	R1
<i>Baeomyces</i> sp.	S2
<i>Buellia</i> sp.	R1
<i>Candelariella vitellina</i>	R1
<i>Cladia aggregata</i>	S1
<i>C. schizopora</i>	B3
<i>Cladonia fimbriata</i>	S1
<i>C. humilus</i>	S1
<i>C. scabriuscula</i>	S1
<i>Diploschistes scruposus</i>	S2

<i>Endocarpon simplicatum</i>	
var. <i>bisporum</i>	S1
<i>Heterodea meulleri</i>	S1
<i>Hypotrachyna</i> sp.	B1
<i>Lecanora</i> sp.	R1
<i>Lecidea</i> sp.	R1
<i>Neofuscelia</i> sp.	R1
<i>Parmelia</i> sp.	R1
<i>Porpidia crustulata</i>	SR1
<i>Teloschistes chrysophthalmus</i>	B2
<i>T. velifer</i>	B3
<i>Trapeliopsis</i> sp.	S2
<i>Usnea</i> sp.	B1
<i>Verrucaria</i> spp.	SR1
<i>Xanthoria</i> sp.	RB2

## LIVERWORTS

<i>Anthoceris</i> sp.	S2
<i>Asterella tenera</i>	S2
<i>Cephaloziella exiliflora</i>	S2
<i>Fossombronina intestinalis</i>	S1
<i>F.</i> sp.	S2
<i>Lethocolea pansa</i>	S1
<i>Lophocolea semiteres</i>	SRB1
<i>Lunularia cruciata</i>	S1
<i>Marchantia berteroana</i>	S2
<i>Riccia bifurca</i>	S1

## MOSSES

<i>Archidium stellatum</i>	S2
<i>Barbula crinita</i>	S2
<i>B. torquata</i>	S1
<i>Bartramia papillata</i>	S2
<i>B. stricta</i>	S3
<i>Breutelia affinis</i>	S2
<i>Brachythecium albinum</i>	S3
<i>salebrosum</i>	S2
<i>Bryum argenteum</i>	S1
<i>B. billardieri</i>	S1
<i>B. dichototum</i>	S1
<i>B.</i> sp.	S2
<i>Campylopus clavatus</i>	S1
<i>C. introflexus</i>	S2
<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>	S1
<i>Eurhyncium</i> sp.	S3
<i>Fissidens bifrons</i>	S1
<i>F. vittata</i>	S1
<i>Funaria hygrometrica</i>	S1
<i>F. producta</i>	S2
<i>Gigasperma repens</i>	S2
<i>Goniomitrium enerve</i>	S3
<i>Grimmia pulvinata</i>	R1
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	S1
<i>Leptodontium paradoxum</i>	S3
<i>Pleuridium nervosum</i>	S2
<i>Polytrichum juniperum</i>	S1
<i>Pottia truncata</i>	S2
<i>Ptychomnium aciculare</i>	S3
<i>Ptychomitrium australe</i>	S3
<i>Rhacopilum convolutaceum</i>	S2

<i>Rhyncostegium tenuifolium</i>	S2
<i>Thuidium furfuriosum</i>	S2
<i>Tortella calycina</i>	S2
<i>Tortula muralis</i>	SR1
<i>T. papillata</i>	B2
<i>T. princeps</i>	S2
<i>Triquetrella papillata</i>	S2
<i>Weissa contraversa</i>	S2

## Acknowledgements

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## References

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*Lichens of South Australia*. Filson, R.

*Flora of Australia*, Volume 54 - Lichens, Introduction, Lecanorales 1.

## B. The Lichen *Porpidia crustulata*

# Membership

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

**Membership includes  
11 issues of Indigenotes per year.**

*Memberships should be sent to the  
Membership Secretary.*

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

# 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). Mark Trengrove of the Geelong Indigenous Nursery will speak on "The Use of Fire to Restore Heathland at 'Bullara', Point Lonsdale". Bullara, 3.4 acres of coastal heathland on private property at Point Lonsdale, has degraded over the years due to invasion of Coast Tea-tree. A controlled burn and followup management have led to a 400% increase in the number of indigenous vascular plant species present on site. 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. Ring any committee member for the venue.

### SPIFFA

Mon 3 October Waterfall Gully Citty Centre, Cnr Bayview Rd and Nixon St, Rosebud South at 7.30 pm. **Tony Varcoe of DCNR at Dromana will be speaking.** Contact Mark Adams (059)851 122.

### 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)

## Grasslands Field Trip:

Visit the best of Victoria's spring wildflowers on the forthcoming **Western Plains Grassland** excursion.

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 Warrimbine area, between Shelford and Rokewood, and visit some of the spectacular spring wildflower sites on roadsides, rail reserves and private land.

Details and costs are being arranged and will depend on the number of people attending. To indicate your interest please call Murray McIntyre at CNR Ballarat on (053) 33 6825 or Vanessa Craigie at CNR Heidelberg on (03) 450 8697.

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

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