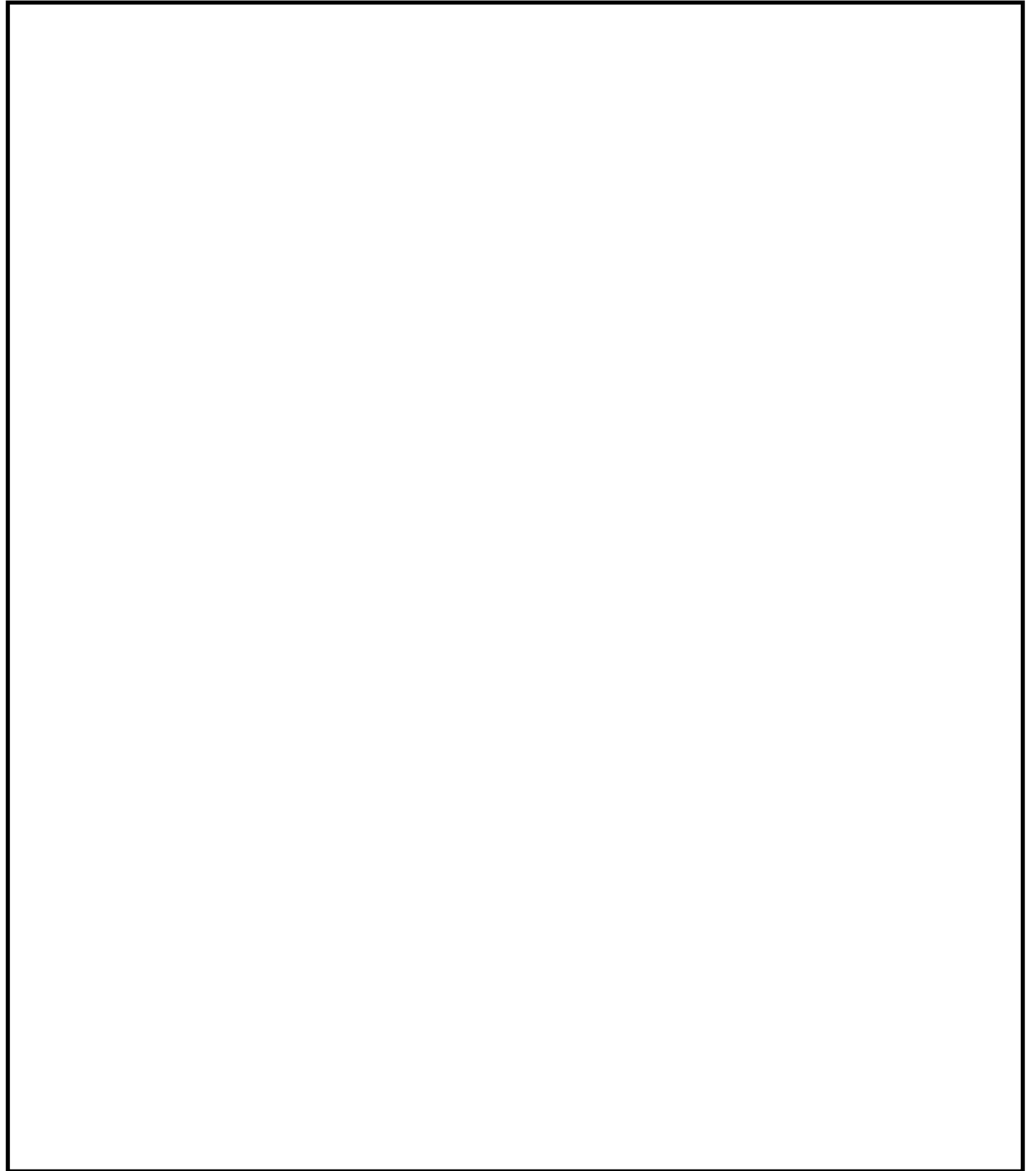


# INDIGENOTES



# Cranbourne Grassland Destruction and the FFG Act

I would like to respond to the comments made by the spokesperson for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) printed in *Indigenotes Vol. 8, No. 9, 1995* and Caroline Milburn's article in *The Age*, Tuesday, 4 July 1995 concerning the destruction of the rare plants at Merinda Park, Cranbourne North. The spokesman for Minister Coleman was right that procedures were followed under the Act, but correspondingly wrong in his assessment of the conclusions which flowed from these procedures.

What resulted from the investigations was a strong scientific argument that the Merinda Park plant community be conserved and this position was argued forcefully by me in conjunction with scientific officers before the independent panel on 11 May 1995 (the panel process was set-up under the planning and Environment Act).

The spokesman's comment regarding the taking of seeds for propagation is very hard to understand. It begs the following questions: where are these plants being propagated? And where is the community going to be replicated? Any credible botanist, however, would point out that the propagation and replication of such a complex plant community would be extremely difficult if not impossible to achieve.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the translocation of complex native plant communities (such as the former Merinda Park community) to another site is not a viable option. This is because of the problems associated with replicating the soil type, nutrient and moisture levels in the soil type, nutrient and moisture levels in the soil, micro-organisms and microclimatic conditions to mention a few.

This position has been made very clear in DCNR's own publication *Sites of Botanical Significance in the Westernport Region*, published in 1984, the panel submission cited above and various other reports prepared by the Department's scientific officers. In addition, it should be noted that the destruction of this plant community was contrary to the whole idea of biodiversity and the need to retain genetic resources.

The other point made by Mr. Coleman's spokesperson that he (the Minister) was satisfied that a couple of remnants existed in South Gippsland and by implication that the rare plant community could be destroyed is both perplexing and disturbing.

If this argument were valid, it would be quite legitimate to remove say Sherbrooke Forest and replace it with a golf course/condominium development, and to justify this action by arguing that a couple of similar forests still existed somewhere in South Gippsland.

The points to bear in mind in relation to the destruction of the rare plant community at Merinda Park are that:

- many of the species of the rare plant community were protected under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG);
- the Scientific Advisory Committee had already given recognition to this plant community and was in the process of preparing a recommendation for its listing as an endangered community under the FFG Act;
- Section 48(4) of the FFG Act makes it clear that the Director-General must not issue a permit for the taking of protected flora if to do so would threaten the conservation of the community. It goes without saying that the construction of the railway station would certainly have threatened the conservation of the Merinda Park plant community.

The significance of the above facts is that the Director-General should have advised the Minister that he was unable to issue the permit for the destruction of the plant community given the conditions set out under the FFG Act, the fact the Scientific Advisory Committee was in the formal process of recommending the listing of the community as an endangered community under the Act and that his scientific officers had already made strong representations to the panel that the plant community be conserved.

In conclusion the following questions need to be asked:

- 1) why did the Secretary of DCNR issue a permit for the destruction of the rare plant community given its scientific significance?
- 2) why was 'better cities' money (from the federal government) used as the bait to get DCNR to issue the permit? (N.B. This point is highly relevant because the federal government is signatory to a number of international treaties for the protection of the environment.)

The Minister for Planning has recently appointed a Committee under Section 151 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to examine the environmental issues relating to the Cranbourne Swamp and wetland which is situated approximately two kilometres north of the Merinda Park railway

station. It is imperative that the fauna, flora and hydrological values of this area of wetland are protected in accordance with the legislation. Let's hope that the appallingly short-sighted decision at Merinda Park is not repeated again.

**John Dee**

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning  
University of Melbourne, Parkville 3052

## **South Australian Threatened Plant Action Group Moves Mountains....!!**

Following a highly successful day rescuing the nationally endangered fat-leaved wattle (*Acacia pinguifolia*) from death by strangling, a mountain of the weed vine Bridal Creeper was removed by a dozen enthusiastic volunteers. Only 120 plants of this wattle now survive outside of Southern Eyre Peninsula, all on roadside and railside vegetation near Finniss (west of Lake Alexandrina). Past vegetation clearance has pushed the species towards extinction, including on Eyre Peninsula. Weeds and roadside bulldozing could well finish these populations off within our lifetimes unless actively managed. Much thanks to the several locals who helped make the day such a success.

When one talks about the brink of extinction, one can not get closer to the brink than perennial blown grass (*Agrostis limitanea*). Previously known from only one specimen collection from Riverton railway in 1931, this "feathery" headed grass was considered extinct. Amateur botanist Bob Bates astonished the botanical world by rediscovering the species near Spalding in the late 1980s, on a pipeline reserve next to a creek. The TPAG recently made its second visit to the site to continue its war against the weed grass *Phalaris* and to monitor the *Agrostis*. It was pleasing to see the *Agrostis* colonising sites where *Phalaris* had been removed, although overall plant numbers had decreased. The site will be visited again next year to follow up the weeding and determine whether the decrease was due to the drought or is a longer term trend.

Other ongoing projects of the TPAG range from monitoring the nationally threatened neat wattle (*Acacia rhetinocarpa*) and jumping jack wattle (*Acacia enterocarpa*) in Ferries-MacDonald and Aberdour Conservation Parks; to weeding sweet pittosporum, olive and boneseed in Belair National Park; to weeding, fencing and signposting the small remnant of Adelaide Plains vegetation at Hope Valley Reservoir. The area in Belair contains the last large population of the nationally vulnerable leafy green-hood orchid (*Pterostylis cucullata*) in South Australia, while Hope Valley Reservoir contains the last 14 plants of the nationally en-

dangered small scurf pea (*Psoralea parva*) on the Adelaide Plain. A tour of threatened species in the Finniss-Monarto area to discuss management was particularly popular with much interest shown by locals.

The TPAG is always looking for new active members and the next few months provides several opportunities for interested persons to become involved:

10 am Sunday 5th November - Monitoring and weeding around the nationally endangered small scurf pea (*Psoralea parva*) at Hope Valley Reservoir. Meet at north entrance of Filtration Plant. (Contact Rick Davies Ph. (08) 276 5061))

10 am Saturday 2nd December - Weeding gorse in Millbrook Reservoir adjacent to the biggest population in the world of the nationally endangered white spider-orchid (*Caladenia rigida*). (Contact Pat or Peter Clark Ph. (08) 261 6615))

9:30 am Saturday 20th January - rescuing the nationally vulnerable leafy green-hood orchid (*Pterostylis cucullata*) from weeds in Belair National Park. Meet at main entrance. (Contact Rick Davies Ph. (08) 276 5061))

The next meeting of the TPAG will be held in the Conservation Centre (NCS office) 120 Wakefield St., Adelaide, at 5: 30 pm on Wednesday 8th November. All Welcome.

Rick Davies

Convenor, TPAG, Ph. (08) 336 3755 (w) and (08) 276 5061 (h).

### **Threatened Plant Species Management in the Pastoral Zone of South Australia By Richard J. P. Davies (1995)**

Pastoral Management Branch, Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, 284 Portrush Rd., Kensington, SA 5068

This book includes detailed case studies of 11 nationally threatened species including their distribution, habitat, locations, threats and management requirements. The book is essential information about the plants and region concerned and would also be very useful for others doing similar work, the monitoring techniques are described very well and appear as if they would be very effective for similar assessments elsewhere.

## Why my chocolate lilies set no seed?

I planted seven chocolate lilies (*Arthropodium strictum*) in my garden and noted last a very low seed set. Three flowers produced seed. This resulted in one new chocolate lily germinating this year and a disheartened gardener. This August I noted that:

Each individual flower only comes out for a day, with the exception of one occasion. The same seven flowers on three separate plants were out on the 4th and 5th of August, both days overcast/raining/some sun.

Flowers seem to come out regardless of weather conditions.

Flowers open at different times during the day, some are fully open by 9:00 a.m. with others taking till 4:00/5:00 p.m. Even at this late hour, flowers will not be open the next day.

A spider was lying within one flower, presumably waiting like me for the pollinator to visit. I saw no kill and observed no pollinators visiting flowers, although nearby Bulbine lilies were regularly seen to be visited by hover flies and other insects.

My plants average 50 flowers per plant (counting flowers and buds yet to flower).

Why so few seeds? I don't know. My first guess was and remains too few plants spread to distantly. It seems I know so little about a relatively common plant.

**Sharon Mason**

## Water Deva

**From an interview by Karen Van Epen  
Karen Firehock**

*is program director for the Izaak Walton League of America, a grassroots conservation group formed in 1922 to "defend the nation's soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife." She lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.*

When I was fourteen I found out that protecting the environment was something you could do as career. I decided that's what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. Unlike most fourteen-year-olds I pretty much had it all figured out.

We often find that people are really discouraged - they have seen their creeks become polluted for years and they couldn't get anyone in government to be concerned. When I explain how limited the government is with funds and staff, and show people that the rivers can be cleaned up if they will be partners with the government instead of just complaining, they get really inspired.

Government agencies say: "We don't want to train all these volunteers to be lay scientists - they'll never leave us alone. They'll understand how bad it is and then they'll be really mad." I tell them, "No, What will happen is these citizens will understand the problem better. They won't just call you and expect you to fix it."

Because the truth is, the best way to clean up a pollution problem is at the local level. People just want to call someone else and have them come make it better. Once they understand that individual actions are what are required, they put their energy into positive action for change, instead of into anger.

I have a long-term perspective. I don't expect to be able to solve problems right away. It's a never-ending battle. One thing that keeps me going is that every now and again we have a wonderful success in an area we thought was hopeless.

Being fairly young, I can probably outlast a lot of sceptics. Some of the people I fight against are looking at things in ways that don't work anymore, and it's hard to change their attitudes. Those people can be really tough. But I figure they'll retire. Other people, I can help change their attitudes.

I write my own grant proposals. So, I have a lot of control over what work I do: I can decide to do something because there is a dire need for it and no one else is doing it. That makes my work very pleasurable.

Right now I'm finishing up a stream habitat restoration handbook that tells people how they can be stream doctors: assess what's wrong with their rivers, initiate emergency care, write long-term prescriptions for watershed health.

I want to make sure we all have a safe place to live, for future generations. If I'm going to get up and work ten hours a day or seven days a week, I want to be doing something I love.

## Save Our Streams

*The best way to ensure high-quality water for the world is to prevent pollution right where it enters the flow. Cleaning up damage downstream is more difficult - perhaps impossible. And by far the best way to create cleaner water is to train citizens to monitor the waterways near their homes.*

*The Save Our Streams Program has developed a river protection network of volunteer adults and schoolchildren to monitor and restore water quality. Their educational materials are first rate: interesting, varied, well organised, and to the point. Karen Firehock has filled these handbooks with expertise acquired the hard way.*

*Can you imagine what would happen if all the world's kids learned science creekside and could immediately put their knowledge to work for their community, understanding their power to effect change? This is what education ought to be.*  
- Karen Van Epen

Sampling the stream after potential pollution events, such as rainfalls or chemical spills, is another tool used to determine pollution sources. For example, if non-point source pollution is a problem in your watershed, rainfall may bring a high load of surface pollutants, such as soil, animal faeces, oil, road salt and other harmful constituents into the river. Walking your stream's watershed during a rainfall is an excellent way to observe areas where muddy or discoloured water is running off different land uses into the stream.  
- SOS Volunteer Trainer's Handbook

Monitoring should be conducted at the chosen location no more often than once every two months. This is extremely important. Students disturb macroinvertebrates and other aquatic life when they walk in the stream and rub rocks. Aquatic life need a chance to repopulate a the site during the two months between monitoring events. The sediment disturbed by students walking in the stream causes turbidity that blocks light to underwater plants and may smother fish gills.  
- SOS Teacher's Manual

**Save Our Streams:** Information from SOS, Izaak

Walton League of America, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2983; 301/548-0150, fax 301/548-0146.

## In Service of the Wild

*Perhaps the human species will be able to flourish in a world of cyberspace, or thrive in interstellar space surrounded by only steel and stone. Stephanie Mills, however, claims that our connection with the other life forms around us is vital to our emotional, psychological, and spiritual well-being. In fact, she claims that the ecological crisis we see around us is but a mirror of our unbalanced psyches. Her recommendations in these pages - part science and part shamanism - are a simple yet profound recipe for healing ourselves as well as the land.*

- Paul Winternitz

Numbed and paralysed by the degree of damage that has been inflicted on the land, we may be domineering and exploitative toward it, or even blindly destructive. Our behaviour toward the land is an eloquent and detailed expression of our character, and the land is not incapable of reflecting these statements back. We are perfectly bespoken by our surroundings.

"It's not about control, but about surrender," say the prairie restorationists in Chicago. "The biosphere is using this river to pour all this information into our hearts," say the salmon restorationists in Northern California.

What restoration could and should be for in us is the transformation of our souls. In addition to what this work may accomplish in the land, I yearn for it as the yoga that will cause us to evolve spiritually, that will restore to us a feeling of awe in something besides our own conceits.

### **In Service of the Wild (Restoring and Re-inhabiting Damaged Land)**

Stephanie Mills. Beacon Press, 1995; 237 pp. ISBN 0-8070-8534-0\$23 (US\$27.25 postpaid). Putnam Publishing Group, P.O. Box 506, East Rutherford, NJ 07073; 800/631-857

**Interview and book descriptions excerpted from the Whole Earth Review, No 86, Fall 1995**

# Frogs in Peril

## Herbicide use and declining frog populations

Frog populations are declining worldwide. In Australia, at least 10 species are believed to have become extinct over the past 15 years and over 30 species are considered endangered or vulnerable. As Australian frogs have remained unchanged for some 60 million years, this recent decline and extinction of Australian frog species represents a period of ecological catastrophe. Similar disappearances of frogs, toads and salamanders have also occurred in North, Central and South America, Europe and Africa.

## Why you should be concerned

Frogs are an essential component of the earth's ecosystem. As predators, they are major consumers of invertebrates, especially insects. As prey, they are eaten by other predators including fish, mammals and birds. Amphibians form an essential link in the food chain. Their loss may profoundly disrupt the species diversity and abundance of the ecosystem as a whole.

Geelong Environment Council Inc.

# Herbicide under review

The National Registration Authority for Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals (NRA) will reconsider the approval of glyphosate, a herbicide used widely in agriculture and home gardens.

This follows a report by the Western Australian Department of Environment Protection that laboratory studies indicated that glyphosate products may be acutely toxic to frogs. NRA spokesman Mr Greg Hooper said the report had been assessed by the NRA.

"Although the study did not prove conclusively that glyphosate products were having an effect on frog populations, a growing body of scientific evidence suggests that the margin of safety has been reduced to a level that now requires the NRA to reconsider the conditions under which glyphosate products are approved," he said.

A review had begun of all products containing glyphosate, especially those with uses in aquatic environments. He said that glyphosate products

contained surfactants or wetting agents which appeared to be of more concern than the glyphosate itself. Formulations now available overseas has little or no surfactant. "We believe the solution lies in the introduction of new formulations or the withdrawal of approval for aquatic uses," he said. "We have asked product manufacturers to respond to our proposals as a matter of urgency."

Monsanto Australia Limited announced the next day an expansion of its continuing research program into the use of Roundup herbicide in aquatic situations. Monsanto said it would also participate in the review by the NRA of all glyphosate products used near waterways.

Monsanto's regulatory and environmental affairs manager, Mr Nic Tydens, said the company had already given the NRA extensive environmental and toxicological data about the use near waterways of Roundup. "Monsanto will be putting its resources at the disposal of the NRA to ensure all aspects of use of Roundup herbicide near waterways can be fully assessed," Mr Tydens said. "In addition to the NRA review, Monsanto's research is evaluating new formulations of glyphosate for aquatic use. Field trials are already under way in Australia testing a number of new formulations and surfactants. We will, in consultation with the NRA, also look at issues such as labelling to make sure our product is used safely."

The Monsanto statement said that Roundup had been used around the world for almost 20 years. There had been no documented reports of adverse effects on natural populations of amphibians or other aquatic organisms in the field after its use.

Later, the NRA's Mr Hooper emphasised that the Western Australian study had been undertaken in laboratory conditions and that there had been no suggestion that there had been any problems in the field. He said the concern was only management of aquatic weeds in dams and riverbanks. Used in correct quantities to control weeds around trees, Roundup was a desirable herbicide which was environmentally safe.

**From: Greening Australia, Issues & Opportunities, Vol 1 No 5 October 1995.**

## Environment and Health Impacts of Glyphosate

**Excerpts from a report to Leichhardt Municipal Council written by their Environmental Officer Birgit Seidlich**  
"The wetting agent (surfactant) is a easily blended product consisting mainly of polyoxyethylene (POEA). It is easily absorbed through the skin and toxic to fish than the Glyphosate itself. Due to the ability of surfactants to accumulate in living

organisms, disperse through the human body and disrupt cell membrane function, they are highly suspect of hazards to human health and environmental quality. Surfactants have been found to retard the growth of Fish, damage chemo-receptor organs, destroy the gill surface, and increase susceptibility to disease" (D.H. Monroe, 1990, Toxicology Professionals)

A U.S. study to measure runoff of Round-up found that glyphosate was detected in runoff 4 months later and could be detected in the surface water a few weeks after it had disappeared in the runoff. The toxicity of glyphosate to fish and aquatic invertebrates varies from low to moderate depending on the species, the temperature of the water and other factors. As with other ecological effects the data is incomplete and spraying near waterways is considered a hazard.

Other studies in the U.S. have also shown that exposure to Round-up decreases survivability of trout eggs by 50-75% and affects the behaviour survival of the young stages of salmon and cod. It reduces the abundance of songbirds, small mammals and insects especially and affects insect eating animals.

Glyphosate can form N-nitroso-glyphosate which can be carcinogenic and needs further investigation.

Glyphosate breaks down into different chemical compounds when it comes in contact with soil bacteria. It's half-life varies from less than a week to more than a year depending on the extent of the soil binding microbial breakdown. However, it is not rapidly destroyed by sunlight, water or plant tissue.

In Leichhardt, Glyphosate is sprayed predominantly onto hard surfaces, where it rarely comes in contact with soil but washes straight into the stormwater system and into local bays, where it has a half-life of 3-4 weeks and high potential for long range transport.

#### References

- Watts, M. (1993). Round-up Information Summary. Soil and Health Association New Zealand.
- Monroe, D. (1990). Potential Impacts of Herbicide Use in the Bell Irving and Bowser River Watersheds. Monroe Toxicology Professionals.
- Total Environment Committee (Toxic Chemicals Committee) (1993). Fact Sheet No. 24, Round-up and Zero.

## Book: "Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains"

### **A gardener's guide to the original flora**

The publication of Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains is a further sign of growing community interest. Although this may be the first guide book about gardening with indigenous plants in the western region, interest in local plants is by no means new. The Koories who occupied and skillfully managed the western plains for 40,000 years or more were original devotees of the local flora. Sadly, interest among European settlers was much less widespread. Indeed many farming practices which came with European settlement were clearly hostile to the survival of the original flora. The spectacular seas of wildflowers which once carpeted the region every spring were quickly reduced to a mere shadow of their former glory under the pressures of sheep, cattle, cropping and urban expansion. So profound has the change been that much less than one per cent of the region's original grassland flora now survives.

In the face of this persistent slide towards extinction, the period particularly since the early 1980's has been a growing desire to appreciate and conserve Melbourne's indigenous grassland flora. The publication of Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains supports this growing interest, which draws its strength from the increasing number of people valiantly working for the conservation of their local flora. And it is a movement which anyone can be a part of, by planting something of the original landscape in their garden.

This book gives you the information about the plants and techniques you need to create your own indigenous gardens. Its simple format and easily understood text are designed to cater for those with only limited knowledge of local native plants. Developing an indigenous garden can be an immensely satisfying and rewarding pastime. We hope it will be made easier and more rewarding by your reading of this book.

Order From: SGAP Keilor Plains Group  
P.O. Box 115, Niddrie Vic 3042  
Ph. (03) 9336 3228 Fax: (03) 9331 5501  
'Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains'  
\_\_\_\_\_ No. of copies @ \$5.95 each

Plus postage and packing @ 1-3 copies \$1.80 or @ 4-9 \$6.00

*We'll have a review in Indigenotes next month.*

# Coming events:

For IFFA events see back cover

## Conferences/Workshops/Talks

Monday 30 Oct. to Wednesday 1 Nov., Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, The National Conference on Approaches to Bioregional Planning: A framework for Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Sustainability. Leaders and practitioners from all spheres of gov., science, conservation and community organisations, and industry are invited to attend this conference. The Conference will provide a valuable opportunity to develop a broad appreciation of the benefits of bioregional planning for the conservation of biodiversity and ecologically sustainable development.

16 Thurs & 17 Fri November 1995. Managing with Climate Variability Conference. The purposes of the conference are to review the progress of the National Climate Variability Research and Development Program; to disseminate and discuss the results of projects supported under the first phase of the program; and to plan future activities for support under the second phase of the program. The conference will be held at the Lakeside Hotel, Canberra. If you are interested in attending the conference please contact as soon as possible - Managing with Climate Variability Conference, C/- Conference Solutions, PO Box 135, Curtin ACT 2605.

23 Thurs November "Penguins with Crests". A Study meeting presented by the Bird Observers Club of Australia. Speaker: Ken Simpson. Book early. Venue: BOCA Library at rear of 183 Springvale Rd, Nunawading. Supper is provided. \$5 members, \$10 non-members. The money raised helps to fund our conservation efforts. Phone (03) 9877 5342 for bookings.

26 Sun November Grassland Plant Identification and Management training day. Greening Australia will hold a special training day at the Evans St. Information Centre. The day will include a tour through the grasslands. Full fee: \$25, GAV members \$6, Concession \$10. BYO lunch. For inquires or bookings contact Mary Satchell or Dale Tonkinson on (03) 9421 0900.

## Excursions and field trips

Every Sunday discover Queensland's Toohey Forest. 7am sharp. Rain, hail or shine we will leave from the high picnic area on Toohey Road for a 2 hour bushwalk. Spring is the best time to join our walks. Inquiries Margaret Collins (08) 848 7829 or Lorrie Davis (08) 848 4816.

3rd Sunday of every month - Bus Tour of the Wombat Forest. See logging in the Wombat Forest with your own eyes. Spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon on a guided tour of the Wombat Forest, conducted by experienced bush people and local residents. Afternoon tea included at a picnic spot in the forest.

1.30pm - 4.30pm on the following dates: 19 November, 17 December. Tickets are available from Daylesford Health Food Shop, Vincent St, Daylesford. Adults \$12, Concession \$9, Family \$24 (2 adults, 2 Children). For more information or bookings contact the Wombat Forest Society on (053) 48 3632, or (053) 45 7521.

3 Fri - 7 Tues November Camp at Urimbirra. Camp over the Cup Weekend. Events will include a Halloween Bonfire night and the Urimbirra Co-op Annual General Meeting. Contact Les Smith (03)9874 2641 or Ivan Pimm (03)9844 4211.

11 Sat November VAAE Presents Western Grasslands Tour. The Victoria Association for Environmental Education has included a tour of the Western grasslands as part of its æWindows on endangered speciesÆ programme. James Ross will be the guide and the field trip will include tours of several grasslands, concluding at the Evans Street Grasslands. For further details or bookings please contact David Pace on (03) 9285 9355 or Helen Graesser (03) 9744 4097. There will be another guided walk held on Sunday the 12th of November.

11 Sat November Yarra Valley Bus Trip 9.30 - 5.00pm. Join the Upper YarraCare Group on a tour of the upper Yarra region. Visit three regenerating forest coups in the central Highlands, see sediment problems from carrot washing and other land degradation issues, and strategies to manage these problems. The bus departs the Shire of Yarra Ranges Lilydale Office at 9.30 am sharp. Lunch at Yering Winery will be provided by the Yarra Valley Tree Group. Book by 27th October at the YarraCare Office on (03) 9480 7408.

12 Sun November Wildflower Walk. Join the Friends of Evans Street Grasslands on a wildflower walk through the Evans Street grassland, Sunbury. Refreshments provided. Melways ref. 113 B10. Contact Helen Graesser (03)9744 4097.

18 Sat November Return of the Kingfisher Festival. A celebration of the return of the Kingfisher to the Merri Creek, Brunswick that followed an extensive revegetation programme. There will be activities, workshops, food stalls and a huge community procession/parade.

20 Mon November SGAP Annual Plant Sale 8pm. Choose from an assortment of Victorian indigenous plants grown by the Society for Growing Australian Plants. It will be held at the National Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra. Contact Enid Bowman (03) 9882 5297.

## Restoration Activities

### October

28 Sat Friends of ~~Sherbrooke Forest~~ Project Afternoon. 2pm. Woodfull-Ridge Track site. Tackling Ivy. Meet at Belgrave-Ferny Ck Rd, Woodfull Tck gate (Melways map 75 F6).

29 Sun Friends of Warrandyte State Park Sunday Activity. Ten free plants and a sausage sizzle can be yours. All you have to do is turn up to the nursery from 10am onwards, put in a little time and be

prepared to get your hands dirty. Jobs will include cleaning, mulching, weeding, shifting stock and planting. In the afternoon there will be a guided walk around the area to see, hear, smell, touch and talk to some of the local flora and fauna as well as learn their names. Contact Mike Coupar (03) 9903 9567 or Ron Taylor (03)9844 4285.

## November

- 8 Wed Friends of Sherbrooke Forest Project morning 9.30am. Control of ivy and cestrum on the Welch Track. Bring garden forks and mattocks if you desire. Meet at Nation Rd entrance gate (Melways 75 K10).
- 11 Sat Friends of French Island Project Day. Barge landing (opposite Corinella) and beyond, pittosporum eradication. We usually depart from Stony Point on the 9am or 10 am ferry. Bring lunch, snacks and togs. In order to make arrangements for transport to the island contact us at least 3 days prior to the project. Francis Garner (03)9783 4213 or Geoff Lacey (03)9578 2873.
- 19 Sun Friends of Sherbrooke Forest Mapping Survey 9.30 am. Meet at Foden track, Grantulla Rd, Kallista (Melways 124 C6). Contact Jeff Preston (03)9755 2602.
- 25 Sat Friends of Sherbrooke Forest end of year picnic, Annual General Meeting and General Extravaganza. 11.30 am. Meet at Coles Ridge Rd end of Grant's at 11.30 am. Bring along a celebratory picnic lunch and all your normal gear (chairs & stools optional) for we will be walking in the grassy area at the beginning of the regeneration area. The festivities include the AGM followed by lunch and ivy removal in the afternoon. Contact Jeff Preston (03)9755 2602.

## December

- 9 Sat Friends of French Island Project Day. Tortoise Head - cape wattle eradication. We usually depart from Stony Point on the 9am or 10 am ferry. In order to make arrangements for transport to the island contact us at least 3 days prior to the project. Francis Garner (03)9783 4213 or Geoff Lacey (03)9578 2873
- 26 Sun November Grassland Plant Identification and Management training day. Greening Australia will hold a special training day at the Evans St. Information Centre. The day will include a tour through the grasslands. Full fee: \$25, GAV members \$6, Concession \$10. BYO lunch. For inquires or bookings contact Mary Satchell or Dale Tonkinson on (03) 9421 0900.

## Regular Restoration Activities

### 1st Saturday of the month:

Greenlink Box Hill - also every Monday and Tuesday at 10am. Minette Russell-Young (03) 9898 1364.

FO Gellibrand Hill State Park - 9.45am. Mark Corr (03) 9557 2783

Loughies Bushland - Nth Ringwood 9.30 am. Meet cnr Kubis & Werac Drv. Carole Clarke (03) 9870 8126.

### 1st Sunday of the month:

FO Evans Street Grasslands - 9.30am. Helen Graesser (03) 9744 4097 (Mel 113 B10)

FO Fourth Hill - 10 am - 12 noon. Meeting place varies. Dave V. Bockel (03) 9844 2659.

Heathmont Bushlinks - works in 5 different areas 10 am - 1 pm. Roger Lord (03) 9870 5262.

2nd Saturday of the month:

Wuurundjeri Garden - 10am. Dorothy Sutherland (03) 9818 4706 (Mel 45 A11)

FO Timber Reserve - 2 - 3pm. Brian Phefley (03) 9844 2659 (Mel 35 G3)

Tereddan Drive Reserve, Kilsythe - in July working bee is the 3rd St. Graham Lorimer (03) 9728 5841.

### 2nd Sunday of the month:

Greenlink Camberwell - 3pm. Diana Burgess (03) 9809 2092 (Mel 60 E7)

Friends of the Yarra - 10am. Also Wednesdays. Judy Rutherford (03) 9347 2252 (Mel 2D D7)

FO the Wandering Brogil - Joy Hildebrand (03) 9844 2638 (Mel 23 D8)

Gad's Gang at Stony Creek - Mark Gardner (03) 9844 3799 (Mel 23 C9)

FO the Hundred Steps - Keith Vagg (03) 844 1457.

FO the Common - Kim Dowcra (03) 9876 3807, Deb Parker (03) 9846 2214.

### 3rd Saturday of the month:

FO Bradshaw Park - 10am (9am in Nov & Dec). Dave Bainbridge (03) 9580 5992 (Mel 87 E10)

### 3rd Sunday of the month:

Men of the Trees - 10am. Minette Russell-Young (03) 9898 1364 (Mel 2D D6)

Meander (Menzies Creek & Emerald Tourist track) - 10am. Kate Forster (059) 685 828 (Mel 125 F12)

Brunswick Tree Group - 10am. Eric Ward (03) 9388 2123

FO One Tree Hill - Diane Silveri (03) 9710 1331

Osborne Peninsula Landcare - Margaret Dimech (03) 9844 3812 (Mel 23 J9)

FO Pigeon Bank Creek - 2pm. Linda Bromilow (03) 9844 2541 (Mel 23 J6)

FO Tindals Wildflower Reserve - 11am. Kim Docwra (03) 9876 3807 (Mel 35 A3)

### Last Saturday of the month:

FO Organ Pipes National Park - 10am. Carl Rayner (03) 9331 2810

### Last Sunday of the month:

Friends of Royal Park West - 10am. Mick Arundell (03) 9380 8075 (Mel 29 C12)

JB Hubbard Reserve - Nth Ringwood. Carole Clarke (03) 9870 8126.

FO the Helmeted Honeyeater - 11am. Nursery activities  
- Healesville. Jeff Dickinson (03) 9568 2768.

### **Week day activities:**

FO the Koornong - first Wednesday of the month at  
10am. Cathy Willis (03) 9844 1841.

Fred Rogers Reserve - Heathmont 12 am - 2 pm. Gwen  
Elliot (03) 9879 1427

FO the Koalas inc - Koala counts are held at the Koala  
Conservation Centre, Phillip Island, every 2nd  
Tuesday of the month. Contact (059) 522 407.

FO Stane Brae - second Wednesdays 10am. Ron Taylor  
(03) 9844 4285.

For Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers  
activities, contact ATCV: (053) 33 1483

A large range of activities such as bushwalks and  
"Friends" activities are published by the Victorian  
National Parks Association in their newsletter. For  
details contact VNPA on (03) 650 8296.

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

Thank you to all the people who contact us regarding  
on-coming events their groups are organising. If  
you wish to have your events covered, or you can  
see corrections that need attention, please get in  
touch with Elissa Kerassitis, (03) 379 1116.

## **Another Conservation Job: Western Plains Landcare Group Co-ordinator**

We are seeking an enthusiastic person with good  
communication skills for a full time position work-  
ing for landcare groups west of Melbourne. The  
person will be required to coordinate group pro-  
grammes related to serrated tussock control and  
sound land management.

For further information contact Sue Oldfield (Ph.  
03 9747 1411) or Frances Overmars (Ph. 03 9748  
1294).

## **More Things To Do: Spring walk at Derrimut Grasslands**

The largest concentration of the once abundant  
Basalt Plains grasslands of Victoria east of the You  
Yangs are at Derrimut in a wedge between the  
Ballarat railway and Geelong Rd.

In the Conservation Department study "Remnant  
Native Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands of the  
Melbourne Area" of 1990 the Derrimut grasslands  
was said to be 625 hectares with the jewel being  
the 154 ha Derrimut Grassland Reserve of Na-  
tional significance. This compares with 402 ha at  
Cragieburn which the government hopes to buy.

Since that study some of the privately owned  
grassland areas have been lost to industry, while a  
newly opened section of the Western ring road at  
Ardeer has skirted around the north east of the  
Derrimut Grassland Reserve and links Boundary  
Road and Fitzgerald Road. Conservation values of  
the reserve have further declined due to the  
spread of Chilean needle grass.

For the better, a program of mosaic burning has  
begun to maintain floral diversity and some weed  
spraying is continuing. However the management  
plan is yet to be approved and there is no guaran-  
tee of funding to ensure control of spreading  
weeds. Thus the risk remains that the estimated  
\$10 million spent on lengthening the ring road by  
500m in order to avoid the reserve may be wasted.

So come and see the Reserve at its best in a walk  
led by some of our leading grasslands botanists.

Sunday 12th November at 10.00 a.m. *sharp*  
wear boots and heavy trousers at the Fitzgerald Rd  
gate at the north west corner of the reserve.  
(Melway Map 39 H4).

Enquiries - Eric Ward 388-2123 or 388-0411 or  
James Ross VNPA 650-8296.

**Make a day of it and go to the  
Wildflower Walk at Evans Street in the  
Afternoon!**

# **Botanic Guardians: Help Needed for Rare Grassland Species Monitoring**

IFFA has just undertaken a project under the Botanic Guardians scheme administered by DCNR to survey identified sites on the Melbourne-Geelong rail line for populations of *Rutidosia leptorhynchoides*, the button wrinklewort and *Senecio macrocarpus*, the large fruit groundsel. At present Action Statements are being prepared for these two species under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Information gained from the survey will be valuable in planning future management strategies. The aim of the project is to map the occurrences of the plants on the sites, assess the status of the populations in terms of numbers of individuals present, signs of recruitment and identification of threats such as weed invasion and present the information in a report to Geelong region of CNR.

It is planned to visit the sites three times over the spring - summer in November and December. Proposed dates are:

**12 November 1995 and  
10 December 1995.**

These are all Sundays (less trains).

If you are interested in being involved and seeing some of our remnant railside gardens please call Peter Tucker on (03) 9818 1537 AH to arrange times and transport

## **The 1996 Toohey Forest Protection Society Calendar Available now**

Illustrated by Rosemary Opala  
Price \$5.00

Also packs of 5 Gift Cards at \$2.50

Available from the officebearers:

President: Rob Simson (07) 33454527

Treasurer: Ruby Gilbert (07) 33491425

or from the Society at P.O. Box 2041, Runcorn 4113.

Six days of exhilarating field-based studies with expert instructors. Learn about the plants, animals and soils that make up alpine ecosystems and about land use and conservation issues in the alps such as grazing and tourist development. Accommodation is in comfortable ski lodges at Mount Hotham resort.

Course Fee: \$590 includes accommodation, meals, instruction and course notes.

Course limited to 40 participants.

Applications close November 10.

Enquiries and application course forms:

Deirdre Slattery - office and home (03) 9497 4043

Lyn Paul (03) 9412 4560 Fax (03) 9412 4586

*Enjoy studying ecology at the peak of the wildflower season*

Presented by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

# IFFA activities:

## IFFA (Vic)

### Next meeting:

**Tuesday 31 October, 7:30 pm at Cybernet Cafe, 789 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn (close to the Glenferrie Train Station and on the tram line). We've got computers booked for the evening to enable us to do a sample surf on the Internet. Come along and give it a go!**

### Committee meeting:

The Committee meeting is now the second Monday of every month. Contact any committee member for the location.

## Southern Peninsula IFFA

### Next Meeting:

**Monday 6th November 1995  
Waterfall Gully Hall - 7:30 pm  
Contact Mark Adams (059)851122.  
And...November 7th Breakfast with the Birds at Tootgarook Wetlands.**

## AGM Announcement

**Our Annual General Meeting will be Tuesday November 28, 1995 at 7:30 pm at the RAOU Headquarters, 415 Riversdale Rd. Hawthorn East, Melways 45 H 12.**

**We will review the last year and consider directions for next year. Please come along, your involvement is wanted and needed!**

## 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.*

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## Office Bearers:

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

**Vice-President:** Peter Tucker, Flat 7, 7 College Parade, Kew. (03) 9818 1537 (ah).

**Secretary:** New Secretary Still Needed!!.

**Membership Secretary:** Lynlee Smith, P.O. Box 328, Clifton Hill 3068. (03) 460 1669(ah).

**Treasurer:** Neil Gardiner, 174 Lower Heidelberg Rd., Ivanhoe 3079, (03) 499 7048.

**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) 481 4682 (ah).

Coming Events: Elissa Kerassitis (03) 596 8127(ah).

**Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editors — the deadline for the next issue will be September 10th.**

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

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