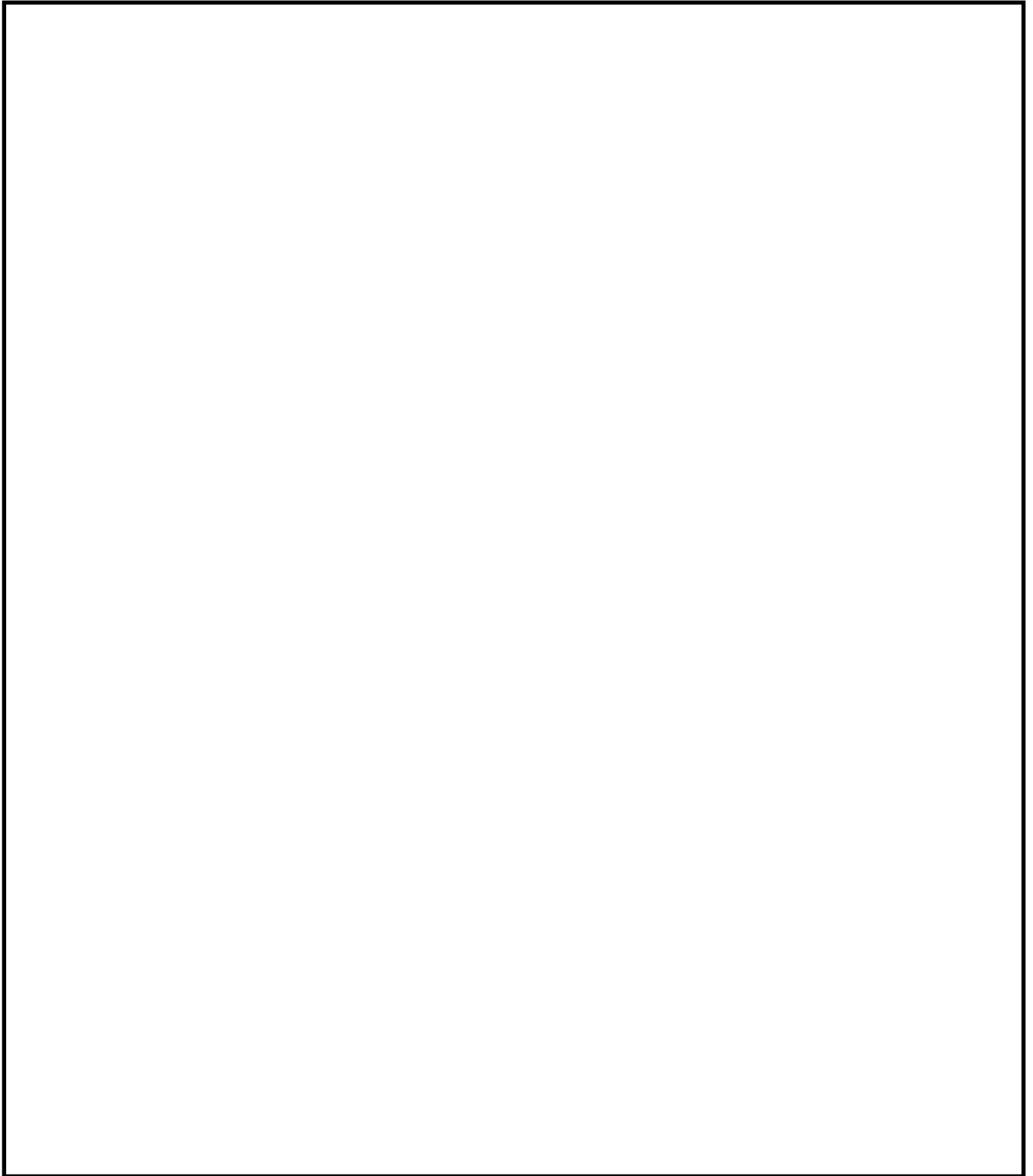


INDIGENOTES



Caledonia tentaculata from Tyaak Reserve, Broadford.
Drawn by Alison Tomkins.

South Gippsland

By Karri Giles

Editor's Note: This is a personal perspective on the destruction of the Merinda Park site at Cranbourne last year, an issue already covered in different ways on these pages over the last year.

Damien Cook specialises in the Plains Grassland of the Gippsland area and around the former Carrum Swamp. This magnificent ecological community used to cover 2400 ha and now is down to less than 100 ha. If it is ever acceptable to be biased towards eco-systems it is valid for this red gum grassland.

They were ideal 'gardens' for human habitation. This didn't happen by accident as they were undoubtedly modified by aboriginal people. Myrnong would propagate from broken pieces and the area was awash with chocolate lilies and other tubers. It was pounding with herds of kangaroo and emu. It was jumping with other little marsupials, whose burrows kept the soil aerated along with the yabbies, which even our one hectare site at Thompson Road (better known in these pages as Merinda Park, Cranbourne) was embedded with. Soil so fluffy and vegetated stores water well and Koories carried reeds and stuck them down yabby holes for a drink of clean water. The area had little open wetland bits with flocks of good eating birds but would be dry enough in most places to get away from mosquitoes. Red Gums provided shade and wood and were scattered enough to allow a view of the distance to see other tribes approaching.

These grasslands were the perfect permacultural system. These Red Gum Woodlands stretched from areas in the Western District across the basalt plains, past Melton, through St. Kilda, down through Cranbourne and out to the Koo-we-rup Swamp. They were tended for centuries through climate changes and burnt systematically by Aboriginal people to increase diversity and productivity. And today the Plains Grassland in Gippsland has many significant and registered scar trees and surface artefacts because of the density of the Bunerong population before white invasion.

The Plains Grassland of Gippsland is an ecological system which had no protection under law, until late last year when Damien (and others) got it listed on the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. It is on the outskirts of the expanding Melbourne where it was not valued as highly for recreation as it was a grassland easy to stock with domestic animals.

Last year Damien took us on a Friends of the Earth Swamp tour to the biggest patch of Grey Craspedia still surviving on the side of the rail way

line at Thompson Road. This year the biggest patch of Craspedia for show on the Swamp tour was on the Western side of the railway line at the Barnham Swamp. Damien, after discovering the patch at Thompson Road, went through formal processes to try and save it, including starting the process to get it listed on the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. But when he took our group through he explained that it was imminently threatened.

The Thompson Road patch was fought for with everything we had. Damien and I worked with a dozens of others as hard as we could using many actions. We tried a legal injunction, media and political lobbying. We ended up personally blockading the patch and negotiating with the Public Transport Corporation for an extra day to dig up some bits to transport to Braeside Park. Digging up the patch tore us all apart. Damien collected a few yabbies which were identified as a unique species to the area. We then got a small grant from Melbourne Parks and Waterways to look after the patch. With the seed Damien collected from the sight last year we will propagate also propagate other plants. An Intensive Planting and Weeding Day for these transplanted bits is planned for November 26th, at 9.30 am at Oakleigh Green Link and 12.30 pm at Braeside Park (meet at the information centre then walk to the site).

Possible Victory for the Barnham Swamp: Ecologists use the legal system as a tool to save the bush

The Barnham swamp lies next to the turf farm on the Dandenong-Hastings Road in Lyndhurst. It is an example of Plains Grassland South Gippsland and it has significant Koori Heritage values. It was pencil marked for residential development until Damien Cook formed the Barnham Swamp Protection Group and used a variety of tactics to protect this area. In mid-November Damien Cook was pleased to receive the report of the Advisory Committee for the Cranbourne Planning Scheme Amendment L100 LSP1 - Lyndhurst Local Structure Plan.

It is impossible to misread the intentions of this report. It starts: "the principal function of the Cranbourne wetlands, of that portion of it to be retained, should be to achieve flora and fauna

conservation objectives as set out under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, with respect to the Herb-rich Grassy Plain Wetland and the two individual species of (vulnerable) flora identified. “

It goes on to comprehensively tackle all the issues it faced including the building of the new sewer. "It is understood that Melbourne Water can readily adapt the sewer alignment to conform with the deviation needed around the wetland and...a location on the western side of the railway is not favoured because of it's proximity to the existing flora reserve." It even states that "precautions should be taken to ensure that in the construction of the sewer groundwater levels should not be adversely protected.”

The Panel recommends that the Department of Planning and Development should establish an interim management committee, to include the Shire, Melbourne Water, CNR, Parks and Waterways, landowners and the Barnham Swamp Protection Group. It recommends that the management committee get advice from through the Minister for Conservation, via the Scientific Advisory committee and undertake the mapping of surface artefacts and similar archaeological studies, as defined in the requirements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. It goes on to recommend that an action and management plan should be developed by this committee and a revised layout be developed for the LSP1. The revised layout should have regard to the environment objectives in the Strategy Plan and LSP1 for this area, and in particular the necessity of linking areas set aside for recreational, nature conservation and cultural purposes. Options for location of the drainage, sewerage, roads and other services should be considered having regard to the above, and in consultation with the various authorities.

It is also recommended that the Department of Planning prepare advice for the general public on the obligations of the various stakeholders under legislation covering environmental, conservation, archaeological, heritage matters.

Please write to the Minister for Planning to make him aware that the scientific community are following this issue and that he shouldn't ignore the findings of the Panel in recommending the conservation of this precious swamp.

- Karri Giles

Obituary:

James Hamlyn Willis A.M.

It is with sorrow that we must announce the death of botanist Jim Willis on 10 November. A memorial

service was held for him on 13 November at the Girrawheen Chapel in Brighton.

Jim Willis was born in Stanley, Tasmania on 28 January 1910. He was trained in forestry at Creswick, Victoria and he was assigned to a position at Belgrave, Victoria in 1932 as a forestry cadet. He married his wife Mavis in 1933 and set up a home in Cockatoo and started work as Assistant Forester in Gembrook at that time. He next moved to Melbourne in 1937 and took up the position of Government Botanist at the National Herbarium. He stayed in this position until his retirement .

Jim's most enduring contribution in his life was certainly the two volumes of *A Handbook to Plants of Victoria*, published in the early 1970's. Many botany students were forced to become familiar with it and many other people have consistently used it as an essential botanical reference in the years since its publication. Many volumes of 'Willis' have travelled extensively throughout Victoria with the many keen people who needed Jim's indirect but essential help in indentifying plants.

However, he did much more than write the essential key for Victorian plants. He worked diligently over his entire life to share his extensive experience and knowledge with others, particularly through many 'erudite' and stimulating slide shows and groups such as the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria, publishing extensively in their journal, the *Victorian Naturalist*, over many years.

Jim Willis was an inspirational person who contributed greatly to increasing our knowledge of the natural history of Victoria and he will be greatly missed. IFFA members extend their sincerest condolences to his family and friends upon his passing.

Lincoln Kern

Response to Steele Creek Threat from Biosis Research

29 August 1995

Dear Editor

We would like to respond to your article in the [August] issue of *Indigenotes*, relating to a report by Biosis Research on the Coghlan Street Niddrie (Steele Creek Valley) site prepared by Catherine Costello. There are two main areas that require comment:

Firstly, we believe that it is unfair and improper for you as the editor of *Indigenotes* to use the newsletter as a vehicle to criticise the integrity and competence of a fellow member of IFFA. You did this without having the courtesy to contact Catherine before hand, or offer the opportunity of reply, preferably in the same issue.

Secondly, we would like to discuss the contents of the report, its alleged inadequacies, and the conservation values of the site. You state that the site 'does not have particularly high conservation values'. We agree:

* More than 95% of the site supports introduced vegetation, with occasional native species (5 species). The total species list contains thirteen indigenous taxa, including two riparian species, generally found as a very small population (1 or 2 specimens in some cases)

* Fragments of Themeda-dominated grassland occur on the steep slopes near the eastern boundary of the site. They total approximately 300 m², (less than 0.3% of the site) and include small populations of 8 other native species. Introduced species including *Lycium ferocissimum*, *Nassella neesiana*, *Phalaris aquatica* and *Plantago lanceolata* occur around the grassland patches, and comprise a high proportion (though less than 50%) of total plant cover within the grassland.

* The site is highly disturbed by earthworks, tracks, dumped fill and garden and domestic rubbish. The flatter areas are mown.

* The future survival of remnant native species or communities is threatened by the presence of highly invasive exotic shrubs and herbs including *Lycium ferocissimum*, *Foeniculum vulgare*, *Nassella neesiana*, *Genista monspessulana* and *Phalaris aquatica*.

* In view of the habitat (western aspect, steep

rocky escarpment slopes) it is more likely to have been a grassy shrubland community, typical of these environments in the west of Melbourne and Merri Creek Valley (Frood 1992, McDougall 1987) than Western Basalt Plains Grassland, however 'it is not possible to positively determine the original vegetation community'. The FFG Act is irrelevant in this case, and was not discussed in the report: CNR has not yet defined critical habitat for WBP Grassland, which would be necessary for the AAT to apply if the site is considered Crown Land, and if the land is considered private land, the FFG only applies to listed taxa, not communities.

Our tentative conclusion that the community presents is unlikely to be Western Plains Grassland is not a 'copout' but was Catherine's considered opinion after deliberation.

You criticise our report for finding only one grassland area on the site, and state that you personally found three 'distinct areas with native vegetation'.

* If this is the case, our understanding is that you did not provide evidence of the three sites to the AAT, or provide Vanessa Craigie, who did give evidence, with the information. Even with the existence of an additional two small sites of native grassland, on the evidence provided the conservation value of the site would remain low.

* The land was inspected by an officer of CNR (Ms. Craigie), who identified only one site (shown on the figure as south of lots three and four). CNR did not object to the permit application.

You disagree with our assessment that 'the area of native grassland on the eastern boundary is.... of local significance...(but) 'is considered to be non-viable in the medium to long-term unless intensively managed' because of its small size, and the presence of highly invasive weeds including *Nassella*, and further claim that this statement is not qualified, and the term non-viable is not defined.

The statement is qualified, however. Catherine defined the area about which the comment was made, the existing threats, the action which would be needed, and the time frame in which the comment about viability applied. Non-viable was not defined explicitly, however it is straight forward, non-jargon term.

In conclusion, you imply throughout your article that the site has conservation values and that the Biosis research report negligently failed to assess them, and/or was improperly biased in its evaluation of the site in favour of development. You provide no supporting evidence, and in particular you provide no evidence of any botanical values of the site that are not addressed in the report. By making exaggerated claims for the conservation values of this disturbed and degraded site, you lose credibility, but more importantly reduce the credibility of conservationists in general, including IFFA.

Biosis research is proud of its record in conservation and of the skill and integrity of its staff. We have a high level of credibility exactly because we do not overplay the value of degraded areas. This means we are taken seriously when we consider that, on the facts an area does have high values. It is important that IFFA is also taken seriously - a position that your article does not assist.

Yours sincerely

Charles Meredith
Director
(IFFA Member)
Catherine Costello
Botanist
(IFFA Member)

Editor's Reply

I apologise for the personal nature of my comments; I did not mean to discredit any individual and certainly did not intend to imply any bias in the individuals involved in this case. I also feel that I may have gone beyond my role as editor; my comments should have been clearly labelled as

being an individual opinion. I simply wished to highlight how any consultant in the planning process can become a pawn in the current development juggernaut.

I also wanted to highlight the inconsistencies of the various evidence presented to the AAT in the Steele Creek case. I had passed some information on to Vanessa Craigie, although I was not informed that the AAT was considering the case and was not asked at any point to formally present evidence to the panel. Ms. Craigie's report to the AAT mentioned one area of native vegetation on the site while the Biosis Report mentioned another. They were two different areas and the reports were clearly inconsistent; why didn't the AAT panel question this? It might it also be useful to cast a wider net for information about such sites; consultants may have little time for field work but there may be other people with more long term data available.

Finally, my most important aim in the commentary was to get completely beyond the personal and the specific case and promote discussion about wider issues in flora and fauna conservation, particularly in the urban context and contemporary political situation. I would still like to do this! There are a few questions highlighted in this case that I would like to see discussed in these pages and beyond (if possible):

What do you think about the use of the term 'non-viable'?

What can the community do to prevent the sale and development of important open space, wildlife corridors and other land of conservation significance?

Where do we begin our restoration work in the urban landscape?

What is happening to democracy, the involvement of the community in planning and the concept of ecologically sustainable development in contemporary Victoria?

So, please consider addressing these general questions in future contributions to Indigenotes. We need to keep discussing and acting on such relevant issues. Thanks and again apologies for previous intemperate comments.

Lincoln Kern

A Focus on Plains Grassland in

Coming events:

For IFFA events see back cover

Conferences/Workshops/ Talks

- 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 inquiries or bookings contact Mary Satchell or Dale Tonkinson on (03) 9421 0900.
- 4 Mon December "Conserving Platypus" 7.30 pm. A talk presented by Melodie Serena for the Australian Platypus Conservancy. The evening will be held at the Community Contact Centre, Whittlesea. Bookings essential. Phone (03) 9716 1160 for information.

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 19 November, and 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) 457521.
- 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/performance carried out in conjunction with the Wurrundjeri people. To be held at the CERES community environment park, 8 - 10 Lee St, Brunswick East. Contact (03)9387 2609.
- 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

November

- 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)97552602.
- 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.
- 26 Sun Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater - Healesville Nursery Day. 11 am. At Healesville Sanctuary. Please remember to sign in and leave vehicles outside. For more information contact Tanja Biedermann on (03) 9429 8638.

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)95782873.
- 9 Sat Friends of Werribee Gorge. End of year break-up at Werribee Gorge. BYO BBQ/ picnic lunch and bathers. Meet at the picnic ground at around 12 pm. There will be a Christmas Raffle so bring your change. If it is a Total Fire Ban Day the park will be closed so phone Janet on (053) 674 229 on the day for alternative arrangements.

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 have organised this year.

Remember...to celebrate the coming festive season, uproot a few Radiata Pine and Holly bushes! Have a Merry Christmas, and I look forward to hearing of all your activities in the New Year. Elissa Kerassitis, (03) 379 1116.

Regular Restoration Activities

Please remember that these dates will apply to November. There will be changes to activity days in December. Obviously none would be held during Christmas. Some groups may not even be meeting in January so it's best to check first.

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) 95572783

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:

Wurundjeri 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) 98708126.

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

Week day activities:

FO the Koorngong - 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.

FO Warrandyte State Park nursery activities - every Thursdays at 10am. Afternoon activities: walk, flora fauna park skills. Margaret Burke (03) 9844 1060

Snippets:

Unite to stop the Ring Road Freeway

"This Ring Road is not intended to serve a demand but to create one. The aim is to stimulate the development of shopping centres, industrial estates, office parks and drive-in food outlets. Housing densities will increase, bushland and parkland will be lost, the creeks will be bulldozed, there will be increased air and noise pollution...houses will be demolished...property values along the route will fall."

Nick Low, Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning, University of Melbourne

VicRoads plans to build over 210 km of new freeways around Melbourne. This includes a 92 km Ring Road freeway from the western suburbs to the Mornington Peninsula. Aware that freeways are increasingly unpopular, VicRoads have renamed them 'bypasses', 'ring roads', 'arterials' and 'links'. VicRoads intends to release several alternatives for the Ring Road including a tunnel under the Yarra River at Heidelberg. They want to divide the community by pitting groups of residents against each other, each fighting to keep the freeway out of their 'backyard'.

What the Ring Road will mean:

- * Houses compulsorily acquired and destroyed.
- * Valleys filled and bushland demolished.
- * Diseases such as asthma and lead poisoning more widespread.
- * Urban and industrial development diminishing the

unique character of the Green Wedge.

- * Entrenching our dependency on fossil fuels, increasing greenhouse emissions.

There is overwhelming evidence that freeways do not reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. Instead of a Ring Road, a heavy or light rail could be built from the city to East Doncaster for about the same cost as the proposed Eastern Freeway Extension. The Hurstbridge line could be duplicated as well.

In 1981 the State Government abandoned its plan to build a freeway from Greensborough to Ringwood. Now the Ring Road is back on the agenda. Together we can, once again, unite to stop the freeway from destroying Eltham, Research, Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Donvale.

The present State Government is committed to building freeways. The ALP does not have a comprehensive alternative. The two major parties are leading us into an ecological and transport nightmare. We have to build a unified community campaign to educate and organise people against freeways.

What you can do:

- * Become better informed.
- * Talk to other people.
- * Write to the newspapers.
- * Contact your MP: write, phone or arrange a visit.
- * Join Anti Ring Road Organisation

For more information contact:

Marcel Cameron 9844-3849, Stephen Clendinnen 9844-3454, Greg or Joy Hildebrand 9844-2638

Source: Network Newspaper Spring 1995

Forest Code Review

It is 6 years since the Code of Forest Practices was first put into place with a commitment for review 3 years to take into account new research information and field experience. This Code has long been controversial, both because of perceived weaknesses in the Code and because of many breaches detected by conservation groups and government surveys of operations. Now at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have released proposals for a reviewed Code and have invited public comment until the 30th November.

Copies of the two main documents can be viewed at, or obtained for \$20, DCNR offices. We encourage members interested in forestry issues to obtain these documents and make submissions, and/or to pass comments on to Jenny Barnett at the VNPA office.

Source: VNPA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 10, November 1995

Editor's Note: This is the first I have heard of this important opportunity to comment on how logging occurs in our native forests and I, and several other keen watchers, did not find notice in The Age or other venues. Is this another example of the current State Government's so-called extensive community consultation processes.

Managing the Impacts of Logging on Private Land in Water Catchments

Friends of the Earth has successfully taken a logging company, that is linked to the Liberal Minister for Industry Roger Pescott, to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. This is thought to be the first time a community group has successfully prosecuted a logging company in Victoria. The AAT found that STY Afforestation committed breaches of logging permit guidelines in the catchment which supplies water to Kallista, Emerald, Gembrook, Macclesfield, Avonsleigh, Cockatoo, the Patch and Menzies Creek. The most serious contraventions included logging within 60 metres of a watercourse, logging on land with a slope greater than 18 degrees, failure to construct properly and maintain three creek crossings and failure to construct properly logging roads, table drains and cross pavement culverts. Loris Duclos, our spokesperson and former hills resident said "it was bad enough that this company was allowed to log the water catchment in the first place. What makes this issue even worse is that the company was given strict permit guidelines to adhere to and they have totally ignored those guidelines."

Not only has the McCrae Creek Catchment, that supplies water to seven townships in the Yarra Ranges, been logged without legal regard for critical permit conditions designed to protect water quality but this happened within a vacuum, demonstrating a lack of effective water resource management in this state. It is well known that Shires do not inspect private land adequately. It is a running joke within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Water Boards that they cannot fulfil their responsibilities as authorities because they have been severely downgraded. Workers within the Environment Protection Authority are just starting to receive the infamous pink slips which have been handed to over 40,000 public servants in the State by the current Government.

Who is left to do land management? The Catchment and Land Protection Legislation has been put into place by this government, and it takes over protection for gazetted Water Supply Catchments. The name sounds good but comes without

a time line, a budget for resourcing, an economic framework for paying landholders to grow vegetation out of water rates, or clear powers.

At the moment it is left to the community to investigate and advocate for badly managed Water Supply Catchments in the Yarra Ranges, the Otways, the Wombat, in East Gippsland and on the Thompson.

Karri Giles

Water Catchment Collective and FOE representative for EPA and Catchment and Land Protection Legislation and Wetland Campaign co-ordinator.

US Needs Australian Bugs

An Australian tree that is spreading through Florida's Everglades National Park at a rate of 20 hectares a day is threatening to overrun the World Heritage wetland forest.

Scientists are waiting for the approval to introduce at least 10 insect species from Australia - starting with a weevil now in quarantine - to help control the spread of the tree. *Melalueca quinquenervia*, commonly known in Australia as broad-leaf paperbark, can be found in coastal areas from Cape York to Sydney.

But in the U.S. it is considered a menace and has infested 200,000 hectares of south Florida. "Next to the supply of water it is the biggest threat to the park," warned the research leader for Florida's Aquatic Plant Control Research Laboratory, Dr. Ted Center. "They can restore the supply of water to the park but unless something is done we will be preserving a melaleuca and not the Everglades." Mr. Don Schmitz, a biologist with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, said: "It's an ecological bully and it provides absolutely no source of food for native insects or animals. The reason it is growing at a rate of 50 acres a day through the south Florida wetlands is because nothing can eat it. In Australia there are 400 insect species that take a bite out of it." -AAP
Source: The Age, Thursday 27 July, 1995

Books:

Guiding the Gardeners

This is a book to subversively seduce the home gardener with lots of gardener-friendly descriptions and ideas. There are delicate ground covers, highly ornamental climbers, attractive, easy to grow, pruneable plants for any garden situation illustrated with color photos. Oh and by the way, they happen to be part of the original flora of the western plains of Melbourne. It's great to see a garden guide book produced in average gardener jargon to complement the more usual botanophilic production.

Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains: A gardeners guide to the original flora is a publication of The Society for Growing Australian Plants Keilor Plains Group and funded by DCNR, Melbourne Water, Cities of Brimbank & Hume, Shire of Melton and Keilor Plains SGAP. It costs \$5.95 and for orders, write to SGAP Keilor Plains Group, PO Box 115, Niddrie Vic, 3042. Tel: (03) 9336 3228 Fax: (03) 9331 5501. Postage and packaging for 1 to 3 copies - \$1.80; 4 to 9 copies - \$6.00.

Lisa Pittle

The Edge of Extinction

The most up-to-date, easy to understand book about Australia's endangered species. An excellent introduction to 75 of Australia's endangered animals and plants, the processes causing their decline and ways that we can help to reverse these processes. \$12.95 from the Gould League, Ph. (03) 9532 0909.

Source: *Conservation Gazette*, November 1995

National Parks Field Guides: Wilson's Promontory By Geoff Wescott

'The Prom', the southernmost tip of mainland Australia in Victoria, is a magnificent land and seascape of imposing granite mountains, cool forests, rocky coastline and glorious sandy beaches jutting into the frequently wild blue water of Bass Strait. Rich in very diverse and easily seen plant and animal life, it offers active, adventurous and enlightening visits in some of the best of Australia's great outdoors.

This beautiful and practical field guide provides all the information you need for an unforgettable visit, such as the best walks, the best views and landscapes, where to look for wildlife and native plants.

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From The Editor:

I am willing to stand for the position of Indigenotes Editor for yet another year at the AGM. But be warned...my efforts in this regard can only go on for so long. I have been editor for two and half years; I don't necessarily want to match Tony Faithfull's six year tenure. Other members need to be involved in its production and hopefully can become editor in the future. I now have good facilities and adequate space at my home to involve more people. Please ring me in the new year to get involved.

Thanks to all contributors, Elissa Kerasittis, Adam Muyt and John Sago for their hard work over the last year.

By the way... I need a guest editor for January. I'm going off to lead some research on an old growth forest expedition to East Gippsland. Anybody interested in a trial period as Editor?

Finally, I feel that the discussion spread on pages 4 and 5 of this issue highlights the lack of framework in which I act as editor. There is no editorial committee, no owner's manual and no clear guidelines for the job and the process of editing Indigenotes. Is this a problem? Sometimes I think it is...but I get on with the job in the time and with the skills and direction I have. I feel that the role, function, style and content of Indigenotes should be discussed at the coming AGM. Please come along!

Lincoln Kern

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Membership Secretary
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IFFA activities:

IFFA (Vic)

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!

Everyone welcome!

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

SPIFFA
Contact Mark Adams (059)851122.

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Vice-President: Peter Tucker, (03) 9482 2344(bh) and (03) 9510 1034(ah).

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Membership Secretary and Treasurer: Neil Gardiner, 174 Lower Heidelberg Rd., Ivanhoe 3079, (03) 9499 7048.

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Coming Events: Elissa Kerassitis (03) 9379 1116(ah).

Contributions to Indigenotes should be sent to the editors — the deadline for the next issue will be January 8th.

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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.