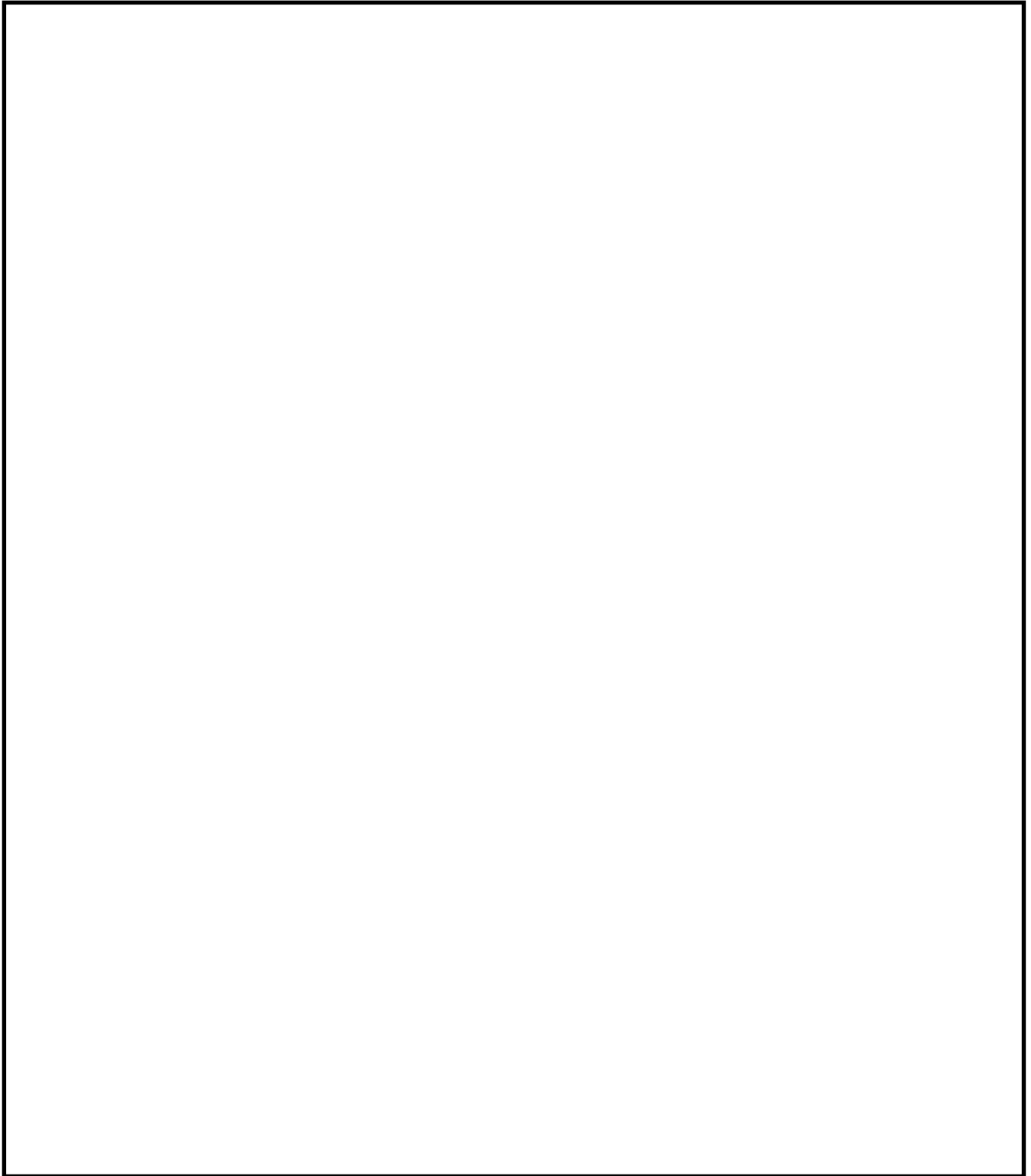


INDIGENOTES



From Organ Pipes National Park: A Natural History; see page 6

Diuris sp. aff lanceolata: Reply From the Minister

Last month we published a letter, written by Geoff Carr, asking for an Interim Conservation Order to protect the Small Golden Moths at Burns Road, Altona.

I neglected to describe this site last month... It is better known as the Slough Estate; it is approximately 250 ha and is "between the southwest railway and Truganina Swamp, at the western end of Slough Rd. and north of the south-western railway, east of the Princes Highway and south of Kororoit Creek Rd." If you have driven to Geelong and looked across a large paddock at Laverton to the Hoechst chemical complex and Truganina Swamp you've seen this impressive native grassland remnant. Not only is there many rare grassland herbs in this regionally significant (from DCE 1990: *Remnant Native Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands of the Melbourne Area: An Action Plan?*) site it would be an addition to the habitat and open space of the adjacent Truganina Swamp. The site is presently zoned industrial. The place needs more defenders...

Well, Geoff received a reply to his plea on 13 March. It read as follows:

Dear Mr. Carr

Thank you for your letter of 16 February 1996, regarding protection of the orchid Small Golden Moths (*Diuris sp. aff. lanceolata*). The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is aware of the threats which face this orchid species.

Since the orchid received a preliminary recommendation for listing by the Scientific Advisory Committee in November 1995, the Department has met with the owner and the City of Hobson's Bay to discuss the protection of the orchid. Following these meetings the site was burnt by the Department (with the owner's agreement) to encourage regeneration of the orchid. Various options are now being explored to give the orchid long term protection.

Should you have any more enquiries, please contact Mr. Mark Winfield, Flora, Fauna and Fisheries Co-ordinator at the Department's Melbourne office on (03) 9651 3290. Thank you for your interest and offer of assistance.

Yours Sincerely
Geoff Coleman, MP
Minister for Natural Resources

New listings under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

IFFA has recently received a set of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Scientific Advisory Committee's new Recommendation Reports comprising 26 final recommendations and 17 preliminary recommendations.

Below is a list of those recommendations

Preliminary Listings

Larus pacificus pacificus - Pacific Gull (eastern subspecies)

This nomination is considered not to satisfy at least one of the set of primary criteria for listing under the FFG Act. As such the Scientific Advisory Committee, SAC, does not support listing under the Act.

Litoria raniformis - Growling grass frog.
As above.

All of the following items are supported for preliminary listing under the Act by the SAC:

Eulamprus tympanum marnieae - Corangamite water skink

Dry rainforest (limestone) community

Ogyrisidmo halmaturia - Large brown azure butterfly

Pseudemoia cryodroma - Alpine bog skink

Pimelea spinescens - Plains rice flower.

Cyclodomorphus michaeli - Eastern she-oak skink

Cyclodomorphus praealtus - Alpine she-oak skink.

Diuris sp. aff. lanceolata - Small golden moths
This species was the subject of a letter to the Minister for Natural resources by Geoff Carr on behalf of IFFA requesting the implementation of an Interim Conservation Order to protect the site where it occurs from destruction (Indigenotes Vol. 9, No. 3).

Acacia deanei ssp. deanei - Deane's wattle

Phebalium obcordatum - Dainty Phebalium.

Zieria aspalathoides - Whorled zieria

Aprasia parapulchella - Pink-tailed worm-lizard

Egretta garzetta nigripes - Little Egret

Taraxacum cygnorum - Coast dandelion

Austrogammarus haasei - Amphipod

Final Recommendations

All of these items have been recommended for final listing by the SAC except those specifically mentioned as otherwise.

Cryptostylis hunteriana - Leafless tongue orchid

Warm Temperate Rainforest (Coastal East Gippsland) Community.

Warm Temperate Rainforest (Cool Temperate Rainforest Overlap, Howe Range) Community

Warm Temperate Rainforest (Far East Gippsland) community.

Herb-Rich Plains Grassy Wetland (West Gippsland) Community

The invasion of native vegetation by environmental weeds. Potentially Threatening Process.

Introduction and spread of *Spartina* to Victorian estuarine environments. Potentially threatening Process.

Degradation of native riparian vegetation along Victoria's rivers and streams. Potentially Threatening Process.

Asterolasia phebaloides - Downy star-bush.

Cacatua leadbeateri - Major Mitchell Cockatoo.

Christella dentata - Binung (soft fern)

Dipodium hamiltonianum - Yellow Hyacinth Orchid

Prasophyllum lindleyanum - Green Leek-orchid
This nomination is considered not to satisfy at least one of the set of primary criteria for listing under the FFG Act. As such the Scientific Advisory Committee, SAC, does not support listing under the Act.

Thelypteris confluens - Swamp Fern

Agrostis billardierei var. filifolia - Coast Blown-grass.

Bracteantha sp. aff. subundulata - Swamp Everlasting.

Caladenia concolor - Maroon-red Spider orchid

Caladenia formosa - Blood-red spider orchid

Caladenia fulva - Tawny spider orchid

Caladenia lowanensis - Wimmera spider orchid

Caladenia magnifica - Magnificent spider orchid

Pterostylis cheraphila - Floodplain rustyhood.

Ardea intermedia - Intermediate Egret.

Caladenia xanthochila - Yellow-lip spider orchid.

Caladenia amoena - Charming spider orchid.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON A NOMINATION FOR DE-LISTING

Eusthenia nothofagi - Otway Stonefly.

This nomination is supported by the SAC.

This species had not been recorded since 1932 despite searches at its type locality and elsewhere. Recent surveys have indicated that the species is more widespread through forested areas within the Otway Range than originally known, occurring in relatively low numbers in a wide variety of habitats, streams and altitudes.

IFFA has a complete set of preliminary and Final recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee available to members. If any members wish to avail themselves of this please contact Peter Tucker. In the next issue we will endeavour to produce the full list of the SAC'S recommendations for people's information.

Editor's Note: Once items are listed on the Flora and Fauna Guarantee the government is responsible for compiling "Action Statements" for all listed species and potentially threatening processes. They should be forthcoming if the staff is available to do it.

A Broader View

Musings from the 6th Annual Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration

By Stephanie Mills

An expectation of radical change - from the demise of cultural imperialism to the deconstruction of the U.S. Forest Service to the all-but-unstoppable invasion of natural areas by exotic species - informed the sixth annual conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER).

A thousand participants were registered and more turned away. The gathering, held in Seattle last September, was big enough to accommodate shadow conferences and subcultures: among the multitude were government employees - the good folk charged with the care and feeding of public lands ; grad students alert to the possibility of interesting work ; "Avant Gardeners" - landscape architects and nurserymen and women advancing the native plants' cause; timber company employees; Monsanto riders discreetly touting the merits of their herbicide ; Hoh, Squaxin and S'Klallam people; and a contingent of Aussies bringing word of a bush restoration movement.

A symposium, "The Role of Restoration in Ecosystem Management", was convened by self-proclaimed practitioners (on both public and private lands) of EM. In the forests of the Pacific Northwest, Ecosystem Management is "multiple use" in contemporary guise ; it feeds that perennial hope of being able to have the cake and eat it too. The actual ecologists considering EM reached consensus only on the magnitude of our ignorance.

"A lot of science that restoration management is dependent on is still in its infancy" said Michael Williams, a plant ecologist and one of the symposium organisers. "And we don't have a good handle on how ecosystems are responding". In fact, he said, "Ecosystems are flopping all over the place", making unexpected responses to management moves, and casting serious doubts on even the possibility of ecosystem management.

Traditional elders and spokespeople from various native peoples declared in plain speech that traditional environmental knowledge is comparable to that yielded by western science, if not superior in that it is engendered by spiritual practices. Given a long history of tending their landscapes for food, fuel, fibre, game and medicines, traditional people have vast and intimate knowledge of their bioregions and an ultimate stake in their restoration. As one speaker put it, "scientists have got to

be humble enough to take direction in collaborating or entering into native territories".

Future primitives-reinhabitants see restoration similarly. Several speakers from the bioregion movement spoke to plenaries and workshops on the ways in which restoration can inform cultures of place and vice versa. Several sessions dealt with the possibility of restoring community economies, with reforestation offering good employment, and permaculture and sustainable agriculture a decent subsistence.

Keynote speaker Robert Gilman exhorted the gathered restorationists to "accept the invitation to participate in profound cultural change". The conference arrayed hundreds of constructive responses to ecological crises, from planning sound ecosystem reserves to discovering that a little bit of lime could encourage the moonscapes around Ontario's Big Nickel smelter to revegetate itself. In this latter instance it seemed as though the spirits of place decided to pitch in. And in healing this living, teeming, unpredictable world, the genius loci is the chief physician, for, as one speaker put it, "Ecological restoration should not fall wholly on human shoulders".

From the *Whole Earth Review*, No. 89, Spring 1996

Snippets:

Northern Victorian Native Grasslands a High Priority for Action

A community based report on nature conservation in the Avoca-Loddon-Campaspe region has identified native grasslands as the highest priority for action.

Priorities presented in the report were identified following eleven community workshops held throughout the region. Elvyne Hogan, author of the report, said, 'It was apparent from the workshops that the community is very aware of the threats to remnant vegetation, such as grasslands, and the urgent need to protect the areas we have left.'

The report highlights the 20 mammals which formerly occupied grasslands in Victoria but which have since become extinct. 'With only 0.5% of these grasslands left in Victoria, this is a state and national issue,' said Ms. Hogan. 'However the north-central region is vital to the survival of grasslands as it contains over half the remaining areas.'

Many birds and mammals which rely on the grass-

land habitat are becoming rare or are threatened with extinction. The Dunnart, a small, mouse-like marsupial, is now rare in Victoria while birds such as the Stone Curlew and the Plains Wanderer are vulnerable to extinction.

The report makes a number of recommendations for actions to protect native grasslands and their threatened fauna. Entitled *Agenda for Action: Nature Conservation in the Avoca-Loddon-Campaspe Region*, the report has been produced through the Trust for Nature(Vic) and is now available for public comment.

Reports are available from the Trust office for \$10 which covers postage and handling. Contact the Trust on (03) 9651-4040. Elvyne Hogan can be contacted on phone/fax (054) 353-344.

Bendigo Bushland Appeal

A Bendigo Bushland Appeal Committee has been formed by Trust for Nature to raise money from within the Bendigo community to purchase and support land of high conservation value. The first priority purchase is Lot 6, Bennetts Rd., Strathfieldsaye. The block is a 10 ha. piece of land adjacent to the O'Keefe Trail, a council owned walking and cycling track which follows the old Bendigo to Axedale rail line.

Although a small block of land when compared with most conservation areas, it is significant because of;

*its mature trees, diversity of shrubs, and wonderful lilies and orchids on land which is virtually weed free. The adjacent roadside to this property is also considered to have high conservation values due to the presence of rare flora;

*its provision of habitat for wildlife halfway between One Tree Hill Regional Park and the Longlea Forest.

If you would like further information about this land or the Appeal, please contact the Treasurer: Shelly Cohn on 054 415569 or the Secretary: Judith Clark on 054 395395. The Bushland Appeal Committee invites you to make a donation. Please make cheques payable to Trust for Nature. The address for correspondence is Trust for Nature, Bendigo Bushland Appeal, 8th. floor, 49 Spring Street, Melbourne, Vic, 3000.

Bendigo Bush Fixers

Bendigo Environmental Services is a supported employment agency providing employment for adults with disabilities. Currently it is running a gardening service and an indigenous seed orchard. The orchard has been established for three years and is just starting to produce commercial quantities of seed. These quantities are meeting the demands of a mail order system as well as

providing seed for smaller projects.

Ultimately there will be enough seed for major projects requiring re-vegetation, and it is hoped that in the near future it will be conventional or mandatory to rehabilitate indigenous vegetation on land disturbed by earthworks, ie. works by VicRoads, local government, mining companies, landscapers, farmers, landcare groups, developers.

It is the aim of the Bendigo Environmental Services to make local seed available through its seed orchard. To supply seed collected from the wild in sufficient quantities is not only ethically irresponsible, but is physically and economically difficult. Collecting from the bush is time consuming, labour intensive, requires repeated checking for seed ripening, seed is subject to predation and the vagaries of the weather. *Arthropodium minus* (Small vanilla Lily) is a good example: in its natural environment seed can only be collected in small amounts. However for the last three years the seed orchard has harvested 100grams annually. *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Common Everlasting) has produced even better results. The seed orchard in an established state has the potential to alleviate many problems associated with harvesting quantities of seed of these types easily and economically in a monoculture situation.

A copy of the seed catalogue and any further information can be obtained from:

Bendigo Environmental Services,
P.O. Box 117,
Bendigo Victoria 3550.
Phone (054) 414 688.

Book:

Bring Back the Buffalo!

"If we decide that it is fitting for these noble beasts to share our future, and make room for them on the continent again, we will be a different people. It is worth entertaining the possibility that we will be a more humble, less driven, less exploitative people, with a livelier sense of connection to the world in ourselves as well as in bison".

So concludes Ernest Callenbach's treatise on the ecological imbalance of the boom-or-bust Great Plains region of the USA. *Bring Back The Buffalo* records a vision of bison past, present and future that explores the connection between the rural inhabitants (animal, plant and human) and the great grazing herds that once roamed the Plains. It's a history lesson, a field guide to a sustainable lifestyle (recipes included) and a glimmer of hope for a damaged world.

280pp, available from Island Press, Box 7, Covelo, California 95428. US\$26.75

Book Review:

Organ Pipes National Park: A Natural History

Written by Barry Kemp and Edited by Robert Bender

This book was mostly written in 1987 after Barry Kemp had spent much of his leisure time since 1972 helping to revegetate Organ Pipes National Park. Barry Kemp was a pioneer in indigenous revegetation; from the beginning he helped establish a policy of only using local provenance in the park. This book is a summary of the work he was involved in over the years at Organ Pipes as well as a useful guide to identifying the local flora.

The book begins with several maps of the park over time. The most enlightening map is of the planting zones devised for the park at the beginning of the revegetation process. All of these zones are linked to an explanation of the different vegetation types and their dominant characteristics and species. Barry also explains how he planned his plantings.

The largest part of the book is descriptions of the Keilor Plains flora. All of the descriptions are illustrated with basic but useful drawings, details about key characteristics for identification, information and tales about existing remnants in and around the park and stories about their use in the revegetation program. For example, Barry summarised the known historical and modern distribution of trees such as Drooping She-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) and Silver Banksias (*Banksia marginata*) in the local area.

Barry also obviously knew the local plants very well and how to teach others about their identification; there are useful lists with drawings comparing the local eucalypts and saltbushes (Chenopodiaceae) as well as a "Keilor Plains Danthonia Key".

The rest of the book is a whole range of lists, including historical and contemporary plant records as well as all fauna recorded in the park, and essays on different aspects of the park and region. There's information about birds, geology and history. There is also a comprehensive reference section and index as well.

In summary, this book is not professional or refined; in fact it's a thick bound stack of photocopies. It is simply the effort of an enthusiastic and committed amateur to document his years of effort in restoring an indigenous landscape. For this reason it is interesting and valuable as a historical document. It is also a useful book for basic information about the park and the Keilor Plains area: if you're interested in learning more about the flora of the Keilor Plains and restoration work in general this would be a useful book to own.

Organ Pipes: A Natural History is available for \$15 (\$5 extra for postage) from the Organ Pipes National Park Information Centre, Ph. (03) 9390 1082 and Fax (03) 9390 1607.

Saltbushes

From Organ Pipes National Park: A Natural History:

Coming events:

For IFFA events see back cover

Conferences/Workshops/ Talks

May 7 Tues. 8pm. "A Victorian Yabby Tale". Dr Chris Austen (School of Aquatic Sciences, Deakin University) tells a fine yarn. Organised by the Survey Group of the Field Naturalists Club of Australia. This talk will be held at the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria headquarters: 1 Gardenia St, Blackburn 3130. Contact Felicity Garde on (03) 9818 4684.

May 20 Mon. "Gardening at Wandin" 8pm. An illustrated talk presented by Bob O'Neill, organised by the Society for Growing Australian Plants - Victoria. The venue is at the Conference Room, Astronomer's Residence, Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra.

May 22 Wed. 8pm. "Polar Dinosaurs". Dinosaurs are an endless source of fascination: hear about them from Victoria's renowned expert, Tom Rich (Curator of Palaeontology, Museum of Victoria). This talk will be held at the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria headquarters: 1 Gardenia St, Blackburn 3130. Contact Doug Harper (03) 9890 0913.

May 29 Wed. 9:30-4 pm. "Biodiversity and Local Government". DCNR and Environs Australia (formerly the Municipal Conservation Association) present a one day workshop for local gov't officers involved in environmental management at Arthur Rylah Institute, 123 Brown St., Heidelberg. The program includes: 1) a demonstration of CNR databases, 2) an outline of Land for Wildlife and Botanic Guardian schemes, 3) an environmental weed management update, 4) Sites of Significance surveying - a local gov't case study and 5) various workshops. The cost is \$15 (cheques to Environs Australia), bookings by 15 May to Environs Australia, 2mn Floor, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000. For information contact Katrina Woolfe at (03) 9654 1322.

September 30 - October 3 1996 "Australian Weeds Conference". The Weed Science Society of Victoria Inc., in conjunction with the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies, will be hosting the eleventh of these triennial conferences at Melbourne University. The conference will focus on the significant land use systems - cropping pasture, public lands, forest rangelands and urban areas. For further information contact Chris Knight, Promotions officer, Australian Weeds Conference, PO Box 987, Frankston, Vic 3199. Tel (03) 9619 2603, Fax (03) 9619 1756.

Landcare for Educators Vacation Course, Creswick.
Course 2: 30 Sep - 4 Oct 1996. A course designed for teachers, community educators and anyone with an interest in landcare education. Presented by the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources & The University of Melbourne - School of Forestry Creswick Ltd. For further enquiries contact Trish Kevin & Geoff Park, DCNR - Creswick Nursery & Landcare Centre. Tel 053 452 200 or Fax 053 452 795.

27 - 31 October 1996 13th Conference - Fire & Forest Meteorology - "International Perspectives on Landscape Fires". These series of conferences have been open, research meetings organised by the American Meteorology Society and the Society of American Foresters. This 13th conference will be the first one to be held outside of North America and is to be held at The Cumberland Resort Lorne, Vic Australia. Topic areas will include: fire ecology, fire management, fire disaster planning, media issues, smoke, meteorology/climatology, fire physics, modelling, and urban interface issues. A second announcement will be distributed by the organisers mid year calling for papers and registration forms. If interested in finding out more contact IAWF, PO Box 328, Fairfield, Washington, USA 99012.

Excursions and field trips

Exhibition now on!! ..until May 31. "Images of the Western District - Lines on the Landscape". Includes the work of Buvelot, Tibbits & Clark circa 1860's & Comparable Landscape Panoramas (1995) by J. Kiely. At the Hall, Burnley College, Yarra Boulevard, Richmond. The Hall is open to visitors Monday to Friday 9am - 5 pm. A catalogue is available at Reception. For general enquiries (03) 9810 8800.

Sun 12 May. 10am. Blackburn Lake - Come and see what's on our doorstep. An excursion organised by the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria. Blackburn Lake is only 10 minutes walk from the Blackburn Bus/Railway Station. We will explore the nature trail and hear about the history of the Lake Sanctuary. contact Dorothy Mahler (03) 9435 8408.

Fri 17 - Sun 19 May. Camp at Rushworth State Forest in Box-Ironbark Forest, with the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Check nest-boxes for Phascogales and other animals. Contact Ray Gibson of the Fauna Survey Group (03) 9874 4408.

Sat 25 May. For those who live near Melbourne's bayside, the Bird Observers Club of Australia will be conducting a morning walk starting at 8.30 am finishing at 10 am. For enquiries contact the BOCA office on (03) 9877 5342.

Restoration Activities

The Candlebark Community Nursery, a community association operated by volunteers dedicated to the conservation of local flora and fauna and provision of quality environment education is open on Wednesdays between 10am and 3pm and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. The nursery is located at The Village School, 9 - 13 Holloway Rd, Croydon North, and always welcomes volunteers. For more information contact Debbie on 9720 6141 or Lyn on 9729 3538.

Sun 5 May FO Cheltenham Park, Cheltenham. Working Bee 10am to 12 noon. At Cheltenham Park we have been working hard preparing for this year's planting program by extending our rabbit proof fence and spreading mulch. The first of some 3300 plants are to go in with this working bee. Contact Andrew Mason 9584 5301. Melways Map 86 H1

Sun 5 May FO Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary, Sandringham. Working Bee 2pm. to 4pm. This heathland is a significant remnant of the once famous and still treasured 'Sandringham' Flora'. It is home to many species of indigenous flora species and fauna characteristic to low growing sclerophyllous vegetation. We are looking for interested volunteers to start up a Volunteer Group for this sanctuary. Its diversity of flora and fauna, and natural beauty are worthwhile getting to know. If anyone is interested, please contact Ms Lisa Carty or Clare Johnston on 9584 5255 at Bayside City Council. Melways map 77 B10.

Sun 5 May. Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary, Beaumaris. Working Bee. 2pm to 4pm. Even though it only covers 4 houseblocks there is a great diversity of plant species in this heathland. If you wish to join the Friends group to help in Gramatan Avenue Reserve, please contact Ken Rendell on 9589 4452. Melways Map 86 C6.

Sun 12 May. FO George Street, Sandringham. Working Bee 10am to 12 noon. Friends will continue the constant work of weeding and commence the first stage of the plantings. The rewards are many and friends enjoy morning tea and the pleasure of welcoming new to the group. Enter at the slip-rail in Tulip Street or at the entrance to the track that begins half way along the George St boundary, Melways map 86 B1. Contact Valerie Tarrant (03) 9598 0554 or Pauline Reynolds (03) 9598 6368.

Sun 12 May. FO Brighton Dunes working bee. 10am to 12 noon. We are a group of volunteers who are working with the Bayside Bushland rangers to regenerate the unique dune area between the Lifesaving Club (Carpark opposite Keith Crt) and the Sea Scouts (opposite Were Street). Melways Map 67 C12, Map 76 C1 & C2. We are doing sensitive hands-on weeding, and if you would like to work with us please ring Jenny Talbot (03) 9592 2109 or Elizabeth McQuire (03) 9592 6474.

Sat 25 May. FO Werribee Gorge & Long Forest Mallee. Project Day in Long Forest: survey and mapping, fence removal, tree guard maintenance. Meet 9.30 am at the Happy Valley car park. We may also begin some tree planting. Bring walking shoes, note-pad, pencil, mattocks, buckets, gloves, pliers, wire cutters & lunch. Contact Janet Leversha (053) 674 229.

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) 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 to 12 noon.

Helen Graesser (03) 9744 4097 (Mel 113 B10)

FO Fourth Hill - 10 am to 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.

FO Donald MacDonald Reserve - 10am to 12 noon. Lorna Leslie (03) 9598 5241 & Alison Johnston (03) 95895459.

FO Buckley Falls, Geelong - 9am. Also every 3rd Sunday of the month. Tony Woolford (052) 436 340.

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)

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 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.

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 contact Elissa Kerassitis AH on (03) 9379 1116 or through IFFA's mailing address.



Dear Editor

When I wrote this poem a while ago, I was thinking about Geoff Carr and the battles he has fought for our flora, as well as my mispent youth - growing up in Warrandyte in the '60's and riding my beautiful old thoroughbred mare along the bush tracks to look at wildflowers. Mispent? - my father went to his grave wishing I had studied "something useful". He could never understand what we all know - that if we do not study our flora now, there will never be another chance. So, in response to Geoff's letter, my poem.

Cheers, Helen Moss.

When I was young and Spring had sprung and (almost) all was right with the world

In the springtime of my life
Upon the hills I used to roam
Seeking out the tiny orchids
In the bush, not far from home.

I found a whole menagerie
In native grasses hiding,
Tigers, Leopards, Birds and Gnats
And Spiders to delight in.

Reminiscent of a rainbow
Were those flowers' ethereal hues -
Of Greenhoods, Waxlips, Brown Beaks, Beards
And bright Sun-orchids' dapper blues.

And if, perchance, you hungered,
You could always feast your eyes,
With those culinary upstarts
Leeks, æspuds' and Onions to apprise.

But tranquility incarnate
Can rarely be retained.
From bushland, for developers,
There's nothing to be gained.

Pity this embattled landscape
Where, priorities askew,
The 'dozers scraped the soil away
And orchid tubers too.

Now rows of houses crowd the place
Where once the orchids bloomed
And 'progress' seals the awful fate
Of our priceless treasures doomed.

I recall my vernal wand'rings
And detest conceited man
Who destroys all other species
As only humans can.

Is the death of the defenceless
Something easy to forgive
When all they really needed
Was a little space to live?

No words can ever compensate
No recompense suffice
For our world's without its magic
If our flora pays the price.

Through the trials of my autumn
In my memories I go
To a place upon a hillside
Where the orchids used to grow.

Snippets Continued:

Port Phillip Bay Environmental Study

The Port Phillip Bay Environmental Study is a four year, \$12 million project managed by CSIRO and principally funded by Melbourne Water. As part of this project two schools-focused education kits have just been produced. One kit is aimed at primary schools and the other at secondary schools. Both kits provide the latest information on the health of the Bay, its ecology and how its systems work. It also includes:

- * Ten minute video on the Study and underwater life in the Bay
- * Illustrated map and poster of the Bay
- * Full colour brochures and Dolphin Research booklet
- * Six issues of CSIRO's official Bayeco newsletters.

The information in the kits is the most up to date and scientifically validated information on a marine environment in Australia.

For more information on the kits and how to attain copies contact Melbourne Water on (03) (615 4955).

Grand Canyon flooded to start grand experiment

A great wall of water will be unleashed down the Grand Canyon in an artificial flood that is meant to repair ecological damage caused by dams built 33 years ago.

Over the years, the Glen Canyon dam, on the Colorado River, has reduced the river temperature by 11 degrees C., as its waters are drawn from the depths of Lake Powell upstream. It has built up deep layers of silt that used to be washed downstream, allowing weed species to drive out native plants which now threaten the Grand Canyon.

After 13 years research costing \$78 million and despite strong opposition from local fisherman experts have concluded that without the floods the shoreline will disappear. They point out that the 1.6 km. high canyon cliffs are starting to crumble.

The water will raise the river level by two metres in the canyon and it will be more than one metre higher than usual when it reaches the Pacific Ocean as 135 billion litres a day will pour down the river.

Currently crystal clear and ice cold after being dammed up, the Colorado River is expected to resume its brown color, celebrated in folk songs as

"too thick to drink, too thin to plough".

Source: *The Age* 27 March 1996

Canyon Regains Grandeur

Like a giant food mixer, the artificial flood unleashed in the Grand Canyon last month did what it was designed to do, according to experts - churning up tonnes of sediment, restoring estuaries and enlarging beaches and wildlife habitat.

"The success exceeds the most optimistic hopes of the scientists," said the Interior Secretary, Mr. Bruce Babbitt, who triggered the week-long gusher that released about the same amount of water that Los Angeles uses in seven months.

Canyon beaches and sand bars grew by 30%, say scientists who observed the flood from different vantage points along the Colorado River. While the river rose more than 13 feet, scientists said they found little damage to any of the endangered fauna in the canyon.

Source: *The Age* 13 April 1996

Floods Needed in Australia?

When I was up on the Snowy River in January this year several locals emphasised the perceived need for such a flood from the dams on the Snowy to clear the floodplain of weeds and restore some of the original ecology. Perhaps this idea is appropriate other dammed rivers such as the Yarra? Any readers/members know anything about this issue in Australia? Please write in if you do...

From the Editor:

Here I am agitating for material again. We haven't had sixteen pages for awhile and it would be great to have that much material to put in. We need articles, snippets, events etc. to publicise as well as any graphics including photographs.

Is there anyone out there who would like to come to meetings and report on our speakers?

I also have very good facilities to work on Indigenotes at my home if anyone wants some experience putting the newsletter together.

Lincoln Kern

IFFA activities:

IFFA (Vic)

Next General Meeting:

Tuesday 30 April, 7:30 PM at the Astronomer's Residence at the Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra (Melways 44 A12).

Stephen Sadlier, fisheries biologist with the Arthur Rylah Research Institute will speak on the "Significance of Riparian Vegetation for Aquatic Fauna."

Everyone welcome!

Committee meeting:

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

SPIFFA

Contact the Secretary: Shirley Walters on (059) 868 347.

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of each month at the Waterfall Gully Community Centre, corner Bayview Road and Nixon Street, Rosebud.

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.*

Table of Contents:

Reply from the Minister	2
New Listings under the FFG Act	2
A Broader View by Stephanie Mills	4
<u>Snippets:</u>	4
<u>Book:</u> <i>Bring Back the Buffalo</i>	6
<u>Book Review:</u> <i>Organ Pipes National Park: A Natural History</i>	6
<u>Coming Events:</u>	8
Poetry from Helen Moss	10
<u>Snippets Continued:</u>	11
<u>From the Editor:</u>	11

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Contributions to *Indigenotes* should be sent to the editors — the deadline for the next issue will be Friday May 9th. Contributions can be typed or hand written but computer disk copies on IBM-compatible format is preferred.

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

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