

INDIGENOTES

A selection of noxious weeds: (a) Spear Thistle (**Cirsium vulgare*), (b) Gorse (**Ulex europaeus*), (c) Blackberry (**Rubus fruticosus* sp. agg.), (d) Boneseed (**Chrysanthemoides monolifera*) flowers, seedling, (e) Sweet Briar (**Rosa rubiginosa*)

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Native Grasslands Update

From James Ross, VNPA Grasslands Officer.

Prior to the recent State Election the Government announced its intention to create a grassland and grassy woodland reserve system including the acquisition and protection under the National Parks Act of grasslands at Terrick-Terrick and at Craigieburn. The following comments provide the detail of these pre-election commitments:

Terrick-Terrick

A property of approximately 1,000 hectares of open grasslands, grassy woodlands and grassy wetlands will be purchased and added to the adjoining Terrick-Terrick National Park. The land supports numerous threatened plant and animal species and is almost certainly the finest area of temperate grassland remaining in Victoria. Negotiations to purchase the property have commenced. Funding has been provided by the Commonwealth under the National Reserves System Cooperative Program and the State Government.

Cressy

A property of approximately 250 hectares of unimproved Western Plains Grassland will be purchased with funds from the Commonwealth and State and become the Cressy Grasslands Flora and Fauna Reserve. The site provides excellent habitat for Plains-wanderers and Striped Legless Lizards and numerous regionally significant flora species. It will be an ideal site for restoration programmes for threatened grassland flora. Negotiations to purchase the site have been commenced. An adjacent block of similar size and quality may also be protected in the future.

Craigieburn & Merri Creek Grasslands

The Craigieburn Grassland on the Merri Creek will be purchased to become the Craigieburn Grasslands Flora and Fauna Reserve. The site of some 400 hectares includes Western Plains Grassland, Stony Rises, Grassy Wetlands and Escarpment vegetation and many threatened plant and animal species. Funds have been provided by Federal, State and Local government towards the purchase.

Negotiations to purchase the site have commenced. A freeway easement through the centre of the site will be moved to outside the boundary although it may intrude onto a part of the grassland at some point.

A committee has been convened to investigate the future planning of the Mt. Ridley area. Conservation of impor-

tant grassland and woodland areas will be addressed in the process. The Bald Hill Grasslands are the subject of another planning process with the owners proposing a quarry for part of the site and conservation management plans for the majority of the area. The government will "examine future options for the protection of the Cooper Street Grasslands". There is no further news on the Central Creek Grasslands in Preston.

Mortlake

The Mortlake Common is to be reserved as the Mortlake Grasslands Flora and Fauna Reserve. The site is approximately 400 hectares of open Western Plains Grassland and wetland. The process of reservation has commenced.

These proposals when achieved will represent a quantum leap forward for nature conservation. At present only the Derrimut Reserve is the only permanent reserve in Victoria - these proposals will massively improve the representativeness of our reserve system. All of these sites are regarded as being vital to the future conservation of grassland communities in this state and indeed throughout south-eastern Australia. Of course much more is still required for grassy ecosystem conservation including further reservation, management of reserves and the proper protection and management of grassland areas outside of reserves including high-quality areas on road and rail reserves, in cemeteries and on private land. I urge all those interested in the conservation of Victoria's Grasslands to write to the Minister Marie Tehan in support of these Commitments.

Source: Society for Growing Australian Plants - Keilor Plains Group Newsletter, No. 72, July 1996.

Rare Orchid nears extinction

At Keilor Plains SGAP we are well aware that native grassland is one of the most endangered vegetation types in Southern Australia. Wildflowers and native grasses that once covered 2 million hectares have dwindled to remnant patches on private property, roadsides and railway easements.

The survival of a rare orchid, the small golden moths orchid, *Diuris sp. aff. lanceolata* is at stake, isolated on a block of land earmarked for an industrial development in Altona. The area is between the Melbourne-Geelong railway line and Kororoit Creek Rd., next to the Altona Petrochemical Complex. The 250 hectare native grassland remnant can be seen if you are driving to Geelong on the Princess Highway and look across to the chemical complex.

A private developer has been given approval to subdivide the land for housing by Hobson's Bay City Council. But the Department of Natural Resources and Environment has taken the council to the Administration Appeals Tribunal.

In November 1995, the orchid received a preliminary recommendation for listing under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act by the Scientific Advisory Committee. In May 1996, the Department declared the site be listed as a critical habitat under the Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act, thus using this section of the Act for the first time. The declaration acts as trigger to allow the Minister to implement an Interim Conservation Order. An environmental law expert, Mr. Chris Loorham, a solicitor for the Environment Defender's Office, said the AAT hearing was a test case of the Act's effectiveness. He said, "It's also a test of will for the Minister and how much of a guarantee of protection there is in the Act." The Tribunal hearing, which is the equivalent of a court injunction, failed to put a stop order on the planned subdivision and a full hearing of the AAT is set for a few weeks away. The AAT indicated that it believed the matter should be resolved under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. However the Department and the landowner have undertaken to meet and negotiate in between time and it is believed that the Minister, Marie Tehan wants a negotiated settlement.

The Victorian National Parks association estimates that fewer than 200 of the golden orange orchids survive on the site. James Ross, V.N.P.A. grasslands officer, said "This is an undescribed orchid, new to science. It's quite ironic that it's in danger of becoming extinct before it has even been described."

Source: Society for Growing Australian Plants - Keilor Plains Group Newsletter, No. 72 July 1996.

Please write a letter...

These two articles clearly demonstrate that all of our past efforts to highlight the plight of native grasslands and the species that depend on them have been somewhat successful. We've got election promises, as yet undelivered, to purchase significant grassland sites and the very first 'critical habitat' designation under the FFG Act; these are big accomplishments in themselves.

It is still vitally important to keep the pressure on! Write a letter to support both of the issues highlighted on these pages! Remember that politicians generally know that 1 letter represents 100 votes. So, no matter how brief write a personal letter. Here's a sample from SGAP Keilor:

Weeds

Which weed invasions in your garden really get up your nose?

In Ian's garden at Gisborne, onion grass *Romulea rosea* is a problem; Wandering Jew *Tradescantia fluminensis* drives Heather to distraction in her garden at Alphington; in Pat's garden at Dallas the more the soil is disturbed the more the yellow flowering oxalis *Oxalis pes-caprae* grows; at Riddell onion weed *Allium triquetrum* invades the creek banks and vegies battle paspalum, bidgee widgee, Yorkshire fog, plantains, etc. On the patch of Earth that we feel personally responsible for, we either rage against the weeds, or we expect periodically to spend time pottering out the offending plants.

Alternatively you can share Jackie French's view of weeds - that weeds are an integral part of your growing system. In her garden at Araluen near Canberra, weeds stabilise disturbed soil; weeds indicate soil conditions - deep rooted weeds bring up leached elements; weeds help control pests by providing a home base for pests and their predators; they are the main source of mulch; a source of slow acting organic fertiliser; the basis for plant tonics and pest control remedies. But this is not your normal vegies-all-growing-in-a-row garden. There is nothing offensive about weeds, they are just opportunists in the wrong place. The home gardener's version of a weed is often the farmer's view of good pasture.

However, we personally manage the weeds in our gardens, our intervention ensures they do not develop into a crisis situation. Not so, in the parks, bush and farmlands of Victoria. Environmental weed invasion can eliminate indigenous vegetation and exotic plant infestation can render paddocks useless for agriculture.

Grasslands and grassy woodlands are particularly prone to invasion by the largest number of weeds. Grasslands in close proximity to settlement are at great risk as there is a high number of weed species to colonise the area.

A recently published study covering 50 councils and five government departments nationwide found that exotic weeds have overrun half of Melbourne's bushland and national parks to a level where authorities were losing the battle to control them. The study's author, Mr. Mark Dignam, from the market research firm Bell Dignam, said Melbourne's council amalgamations and cuts were blamed as the main reason for Melbourne being Australia's most weed damaged capital. 80 per cent of those surveyed said they did not have the time or the resources to control weeds properly. Mr Dignam said "People in charge of the

maintenance of bushland told us that they have to tender to compete with the private sector and everything is being done on a short-term cost saving basis. But weed damage is a long term problem. You need to have a progressive plan to eliminate them". The survey listed weeds that are killing Melbourne's bush as Pittosporum, Fennel, Sallow wattle, Patterson's curse and blackberries. Aquatic weeds such as hyacinth, salvinia and cumbungi also posed environmental problems.

The Minister of Conservation and Land Management, Marie Tehan has announced that the State Government has asked the State Parliament's Environment and Natural Resources Committee to enquire into the economic and environmental cost of weeds to Victoria. Over recent years governments have cut back on staffing and resources of government departments and on assistance and advice provided to landowners and conservationists. The enquiry is a step in the right direction provided it is prepared to act on the resulting recommendations.

The Shire of Melton has implemented a positive environmental enhancement policy. Rural landowners are only granted a rate rebate if they do specific work to address land degradation problems. The Shire has nominated noxious weeds as their priority. Serrated tussock, artichoke thistle, Patterson's curse and Prairie ground cherry are the most serious found in the Shire. Other priorities include rabbit infestation and soil erosion. If a landowner has all three problems, the control of noxious weeds must be tackled first. Assistance to develop a control program can be sought from the Shire and DNRE Bacchus Marsh.

Biological control of weed species has been trialled in the case of Blackberry, English broom, Bridal creeper, Asparagus vine, Horehound, Boneseed and Bitou bush.

The Keith Turnbull Research Institute, part of the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment has, for the past three years, been researching the biological control of Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) which is wide spread in Victoria and parts of WA, SA, Tasmania and NSW. The closely related Bitou Bush, which in-

festes much of the coast of NSW and southern Queensland is also a target for this research. The main thrust of this work has been on the Bitou Tortoise Beetle (also a native of South Africa, like its host plants) to see that it is host specific and will not attack native flora. Having passed this test, the beetle is now in an intensive breeding program at the Institute prior to being released at control sites in eastern Australia.

If the Bitou Tortoise Beetle performs as hoped, it could reduce the Bitou Bush to a level of no longer being a problem, or weakened so that it may be controlled by other methods. The implementation of biological control is not usually a fast process as the beetle needs to establish itself on its host bushes and build up into a large population - which can take a number of years. The Bitou Tortoise Beetle does not take kindly to the cooler climate of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, so it will not be effective on boneseed. Other beetle species, including the Black, and the Blotched Boneseed Leaf Beetles are being released in large numbers in these states. These have not yet established themselves, but the quantities being distributed increase the prospects of establishment. Until this happens, the main control of boneseed continues to be the "Boneseed Pull"; the activity enjoyed (?) by a number of SGAP Groups and other like-minded organisations & community groups.

Source: Society for Growing Australian Plants - Keilor Plains Group Newsletter, No. 72, July 1996.

WeedWatch

Himalayan Honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*) is on the march in Victoria. Having already invaded huge areas of natural vegetation in New Zealand, Victorians cannot afford to let this one get away!

Himalayan Honeysuckle, or Elisha's Tears, is one of the very serious environmental weeds invading Victoria. It is currently smothering Mt Buffalo National Park and popping up in many other places. We must hit this weed now!

Originating in Himalaya, it is a very common environmental weed in New Zealand threatening natural vegetation and causing problems in for-

estry production areas.

This deciduous hollow-stemmed shrub is used in gardens for its lush green leaves and drooping crimson bracts and white flowers followed by dark crimson berries. Each berry is filled with about 60 fine seeds most of which are apparently viable. In the UK, some people eat the fruit which taste like burnt raisins (apparently an acquired taste!). Beware, other information suggests that the fruit may be poisonous. Birds eat the fruit and may spread the seed in their droppings. The seeds can also be spread by water, machinery, vehicles and in soil.

Control of Himalayan Honeysuckle:

The only published information to hand is based on research conducted by the Keith Turnbull Research Institute on its chemical control in Victoria. Ensure treatment occurs before berries form. Mulch and/or revegetate the control site with indigenous plants to prevent other weeds establishing themselves.

What can I do next? Remove from gardens and replace with a non invasive species or better still, an indigenous plant from your local area. Always encourage people to dispose of garden prunings responsibly and consider helping local volunteers eliminate this plant and other environmental weeds from local bushland.

References: Flora of New Zealand Vol.4 (1988).

Pritchard (199?) Control of Himalayan Honeysuckle.

Map from the Flora Information System, July 1996, with distribution overlaying rainfall.

Coming events:

For IFFA events see back cover

Conferences/Workshops/Talks

Sat 27 July 10am. Composting Toilet Information Day.

All your questions answered! Invited speakers from the Environment Protection Authority, City West Water, Local council representatives, commercial suppliers, people living with composting toilets. Held at the International Development Technologies Centre, University of Melbourne (Old Engineering Building off Grattan St), Parkville, Melb. Following presentations at Uni will be a tour of composting toilets at CERES. Cost: \$12/\$8 concession. Hot soup will be provided, BYO sandwiches. For bookings or Queries contact: Stuart Downs (03) 9388 0186, Bob Fuller (03) 9344 6879, IDTC office (03) 9344 7839.

Fri 2 August 8pm. "Dryandras." Guest Speaker Tony Kavanagh will present a talk at the SGAP - Keilor Plains Group meeting. At St. Stephen's Uniting Church, cnr of Flora & Church Sts, Keilor. Contact Group Secretary Marilyn Anderson on (03) 9336 7754.

Sat 3 August. Organising a community event. Greening Australia Victoria training day. Develop skills in planning and organising a community conservation event. It will cover attracting the public to your event, producing media material, and planning a successful event. Cost: \$30.00, GAV & community group members \$8.00. For Bookings contact the GAV Training Co-ordinator, Gerard Clark on (03) 9457 3024.

Sun 4 August 8pm. "Frogs found in South West Victoria." A talk presented by Ivor Graney, from Portland FNC, a local expert on frogs. Part of the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria meeting. FNCV headquarters, 1 Gardenia St, Blackburn. Contact Noel Schleiger on (03) 9435 8408.

Tue 6 August 8pm. "Arboreal and Ground Dwelling Mammals in Post-fire Mountain Ash." Mr Rodney Vanderree will talk about forest management practices. Fauna Survey Group meeting. FNCV headquarters. Contact Felicity Garde on (03) 9818 4684.

Tue 6 August 7.30 pm. "Celebrating 20 years of Community activism on the Merri Creek." Join the celebration of 20 successful years as Bruce McGregor, founding member of the Friends, talks about the challenges which Creek activists faced in the early days up to the formation of the Merri Creek Management Committee. Featuring slides showing how sites along the Merri Creek looked 20 years ago. Harry Atkinson Centre, Lake Grove, Coburg.

Thu 8 August 8pm - 9pm. "Waders of Broome & the North West." A talk presented by Clive Minton, organised by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union. To be held in downstairs area of the Head Office at 415 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn East. RAOU sales office open before the meeting. Everyone welcome!

Wed 14 August. "Protection & Management of Remnant Vegetation." Greening Australia Victoria Training

Day. Develop skills in recognising management issues and goals. It will cover threats to remnant vegetation, prioritising management issues, and developing skills in a) design & construction of fences, barriers etc. to protect remnant vegetation, or b) feral animal & environmental weed control issues. Cost: \$30.00, GAV & community group members \$8.00. For Bookings contact the GAV Training Co-ordinator, Gerard Clark on (03) 9457 3024.

Thu 15 August 8pm. "Introduction to the Heath Family." Hilary Weatherhead will introduce the diverse and beautiful Epacridaceae. FNCV Botany Group meeting. FNCV headquarters. Contact John Eichler (03) 9598 9492.

Mon 19 August, 8pm. "Flora of the Mornington Peninsula." An illustrated talk presented by Stephanie Rennick at the Society for Growing Australian Plants Meeting. Venue may either be at the Astronomers Residence or the National Herbarium Hall, so check first. Contact Enid Bowman on (03) 9882 5297.

Wed 21 August 8pm. "Identification of Fungi by their spores." Tom May will describe this technique, essential for the identification of Fungi to species level. FNCV Microscopical Group meeting. FNCV headquarters. Contact Ray Power on (03) 9717 3511.

Sun 25 August. "Integrating Ecological Restoration and Permaculture Principles" One day forum run by Greening Australia Victoria, Environs Australia and Permaculture Melbourne. An opportunity for informed discussion and debate on the relationship between permaculture and nature conservation, examining the effects of permaculture practices on bushland vegetation, with case studies. Cost: \$35.00, GAV or Community Group members \$12.00. For Bookings contact GAV Training Co-ordinator, Gerard Clark on (03) 9457 3024.

Mon 26 August. "Indigenous Theme Gardens for your School." 5 pm - 7 pm. A VAAE Professional Development activity. Bring members of your school council and others interested in developing indigenous gardens and planning a theme garden using native plants. Themes include: Koorie plant garden, sensory garden and a butterfly attracting garden. The steps and processes involved in species selection, project planning, and using a project focus to integrate environmental education across the curriculum will be discussed. Book by August 19. Venue: Statewide Resources Centre, 217 Church St, Richmond (Mel Map 2H A5). Cost \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Contact Pam Welsford (03) 9428 9812.

Sat 31 August 10am - 4.30 pm. Mistletoe Forum - the Lectures. Organised by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Invited speakers will present short papers on all aspects of Mistletoe. Cost \$30 (FNCV members \$15). Held at the FNCV headquarters. Contact FNCV office for booking forms on (03) 9877 9860. Booking closes Thursday 22 Aug. Including field trip to the west of Melbourne on Sunday 1 September.

"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 Department of NRE & The University of Melbourne - School of Forestry. Contact Trish Kevin & Geoff Park, DCNR - Creswick Nursery & Landcare Centre. Tel 053 452 200 or Fax 053 452 795.

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. Contact Chris Knight, Promotions officer, Australian Weeds Conference, PO Box 987, Frankston, Vic 3199. Tel (03) 9619 2603, Fax (03) 9619 1756.

27 - 31 October 1996 13th Conference - Fire & Forest Meteorology - "International Perspectives on Landscape Fires". Organised by the American Meteorology Society and the Society of American Foresters. This 13th conference will be the first held outside of North America and will be at The Cumberland Resort Lorne, Victoria. Topic areas will include: fire ecology, fire management, fire disaster planning, media issues, smoke, meteorology/climatology, fire physics, modelling, and urban interface issues. Contact IAWF, PO Box 328, Fairfield, Washington, USA 99012.

Thur 28 - Fri 29 November 1996 "Sustainability & Local Environments - Myths, models & milestones." Environs Australia, the local government environment network, proudly presents its second National Conference, held in Sydney. Explore the cutting edge of sustainability practice in local communities. Contribute to the development of achievable goals for the 21st Century. It follows on from 1994 Conference - Local Government Responds to Rio. It is about the people who are in the field and making substantial, real changes, and who are able to share their practical experience. Contact Peter Lyon, Executive Officer, Environs Australia, Ph (03) 9654 1322, fax (03) 9654 1625 or E-mail mcavic@peg.apc.org

Excursions and field trips

Platypus Behind the Scenes Tours. Includes an illustrated talk on the unique platypus by Conservancy researchers. Learn about platypus research techniques & try your skills at spotting wild platypus. Tours run until October. Tour dates for August: Sat 3/8/96, Sun 18/8/96 & Wed 28/8/96. Tours commence at 3 pm and lasts until 5:30. Cost: Adults \$6.50, Children \$4.00, Family (2 adults, 2 kids) \$17.00. Friends of the platypus members free. Bookings essential. Contact Australian Platypus Conservancy, PO Box 84, Whittlesea 3757, Ph (03) 9716 1626.

Weekend 27 - 28 July, Orange-bellied Parrot national count...in saltmarsh across Victoria. Organised by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union. Contact Jonathan Starks at the RAOU Head office on (03) 9882 2622 to help.

Sat 3 August. Night Explorer Walk at Shepherds Bush, Dandenong. 7 - 9 pm. For queries, cost & bookings contact Earth Encounters Pty Ltd (03) 9574 8444 during business hours.

Weekend 3 - 4 August, Swift Parrot survey. Ring Chris Tzaros or Rob Price, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Bendigo (054) 44 6666 for more information.

Sat 3 August "The Creation of a Zoo, Australia meets Africa - Behind the scenes at Werribee Zoo." Field trip presented by Victorian Association for Environmental Education. Take this rare opportunity to look behind the scenes at the development of a new international zoo, led by education officers and keepers. Curriculum materials provided. Bookings essential. VAAE members \$12, non-members \$18, concession \$15. Contact Jenny Gardiner (03) 9742 7933 or VAAE (03) 9428 9812.

Fri 9 August. Campfire night at Braeside park. 7 - 9 pm. For queries, cost & bookings contact Earth Encounters Pty Ltd (03) 9574 8444 during business hours.

Sun 18 August Horseshoe Bend Country Fair at Brimbank Park, East Keilor. Last year the fair attracted 500 people, and the organisers are planning much more this year. The Keilor Plains Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants will be selling indigenous plants and books. Come along, there will be something for all tastes and interests.

Sun 18 August - Wattle Park Fungi Survey. A continuation of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria pioneering survey of an urban park. Meet at Chalet car-park, Wattle Park, Melways 60 K3 at 10 am. Contact Botany group member John Julian on (03) 9830 4795.

Sun 18 - Sun 25 August. The Wildlife Art Society of Australasia Inc. 23rd Annual Exhibition. Our society is dedicated to raising public awareness to the natural world. The exhibition includes paintings, drawings & sculpture in realistic and interpretative styles. To be held at the Victorian Artist's Society Galleries, 430 Albert St, East Melbourne. Gallery hours: Daily 11 am - 4.30 pm, Thur & Fri 11 am - 8 pm. Contact President Peter Flinn on (03) 9560 5003.

Sat 24 August - "Wattles of Hochkiss Reserve." See the Wattles in Bloom with Cecily Falkingham. Organised by the Botany Group of the FNCV. Meet at the Reserve, Exeter Road (Melways 36 K8) at 10 am. Contact Noel Schleiger on (03) 9435 8408.

August-December 1996 "Birds and Tree Hollows Survey." Another project of the RAOU studying the use and distribution of tree hollows in the Box Ironbark forest of northern Victoria on public and private land. Contact George Appleby at the RAOU head office in Hawthorn on (03) 9882 2622.

Sat 28 & Sun 29 - "September Grampians Wildflower Show", held by the Grampians Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants. For more details see "Snippets" this issue.

Sat Oct. 12 to Sat. Oct. 26, 11 am to 5 pm daily. "Wild Wings" Colourful paintings of beautiful Australian Birds by Janet Flinn. Olinda Art Gallery, 1 Parsons Lane, Olinda (Melways 66 J7). Ph. (03) 9751 1812.

Restoration Activities

July

Sat 27 FO Koolunga. Working Bee 10 am - 12 noon. Tasks include weeding and replanting depending on the progress of the creek works. Contact Gordon Carter on (03) 9762 2117.

Sat 27 FO Sherbrooke Forest Project Afternoon. 1pm. Meet at Nation Road entrance (melways 75 K10). Will be working at the Welch Plateau No. 1 site mostly on Ivy. Contact Vivien Freshwater on (03) 97543093.

August

Sun 4, 10am. Society for Growing Australian Plants - Keilor Plains Group. Working bee at St. Albans Rail Reserve. We will meet opp. the St. Albans Primary School in West Esplanade. This reserve desperately needs attention, any help welcome. Contact Marilyn Anderson on (03) 9336 7754.

Sun 4 RAOU Volunteer activities at Yellingbo. Revegetating cleared areas to expand Helmeted Honeyeater habitat. Contact Michael Fendley at RAOU on (03) 9882 2622.

Sat 10 & Sun 11th. FO the Grey-crowned Babbler. Planting weekend near Violet Town. Help improve habitat for the Grey-crowned Babbler. Organised by the Friends group in association with the Sheep Pen Creek Land Management Group. Contact David Lockwood (03) 9543 8227 AH, or Doug Robinson (057) 632 318 AH.

Wed 14, 9.30 am. FO Sherbrooke Forest Project morning at Moore Break site. Meet at Jacka St entrance (Melways 75 E3). Mostly ivy and holly. Contact Vivien Freshwater on (03) 9754 3093.

Sat 17, 9.30am. FO Werribee Gorge & Long Forest Mallee Inc. Meet at the stand-pipe (south gate into Merrimu Reservoir) on the Diggers Rest-Toolern Vale Road. In the morning we will plant some trees on the top of the rise along the western boundary of the reserve. Afternoon will be spent repairing the information shelter at Canopus Circuit, and other maintenance. Bring along mattock, gloves, hammer, shovel, buckets, pliers, wire-cutters etc.

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. 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.

Greenlink Oakleigh - 10am to 1pm, holds working bees every Sun (except on long weekends) at the nursery.

Doug Evans (03) 9579 4686 AH, (03) 9556 4433 BH.

Riverlands Conservation Society: Yarra Flats Park Planting Days from 10 am. Contact Betty Dowell (03) 9499 2742.

2nd Saturday of the month:

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

FO French Island - Goeff Lacey (03) 9578 2873 or Francis Garner (03) 9783 4213

Tereddan Drive Reserve, Kilsythe - Graham Lorimer (03) 97285841.

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)

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. Planting at Yarra Bend Park. 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 Sherbrooke Forest - 2pm (1pm in Winter). Vivien Freshwater (03) 9754 3093

FO Koolunga Bushland Reserve - 10am to noon. Gordon Carter (03) 9762 2117

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

FO Valley Reserve, Glen Waverley - 1:30 to 4 pm. Contact Alf Salkin (03) 9802 6213

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:

Wuurundjeri Garden - 1st Tuesday of the month from 10am to 12pm. Dorothy Sutherland (03) 9818 4706 (Mel 45 A11)

FO the Koornong - first Wednesday of the month at

10am. Cathy Willis (03) 9844 1841.

Green Link Box Hill - every Monday & Tuesday morning, and the 1st Sat each month. 10 am. Often at Council Nursery in Nelson St, Box Hill. Minette Russell-Young (03) 9898 1364.

FO Sherbrooke Forest - 2nd Wednesdays, 9.30 am. Vivien Freshwater (03) 9754 3093.

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. Mike Coupar (03) 9844 1650.

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.

For Melbourne Parks & Waterways Parks Activities Program contact the Hotline on 13 1963.

For those interested in a range of volunteer activities run by the Royal Australasian Ornithologist Union please phone Michael Fendley at RAOU on (03) 9882 2622.

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 BH (03) 9457 3024 or through IFFA's mailing address.

Weed Snippets: Coastal Weed Workshops 1996

Coastal areas, like all other natural areas in Victoria, are being invaded by environmental weeds. To help volunteers, land owners and the community look after these areas, a series of workshops have been organised focusing on weeds. They will be held at several locations along the Victorian coastline on Sundays commencing in August through October 1996.

Date:	Location:	Contact:
11 Aug	Seaford Foreshore	Peter Maganov (03) 9651 3276
25 Aug	Merricks	Peter Maganov (03) 9651 3276
8 Sept	Lakes Entrance	Jenny Lewis (051) 520 439
22 Sept	Inverloch	Kath Gosden (051) 825 155
13 Oct	Anglesea	Sharon Hinton (052) 891 732
27 Oct	Warrnambool	Tracy Pennington (055) 619 950

or contact the Coast Action Hotline on (03) 9412 4385.

The Weed Science Society of Victoria (WSSV) is organising the series in conjunction with Coast Action and the Flora Section of DNRE.

The one day (10 am to 4 pm) program includes: Welcome and introduction - why are we here?

Environmental weeds along the coast

What are environmental weeds and why are they a problem?

The types of weeds and how are they spread?

Identification of coastal plants and weeds and materials to help you identify them

Management approaches: what can we do and where do we start?

Guiding principles: prevention, education, determining priorities and follow-up

Demonstration A - weed prevention

importance of prevention, role of disturbance, where do weeds come from?, weed hygiene, site management, community education

Demonstration B - herbicides

safety and handling, which herbicides where?, application methods

Demonstration C - other treatment methods

which method where?, equipment, safety

A workshop on the Monday after each event will be

considered at the same locations to provide information to Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) staff, local government and other authority staff. These workshops will focus on how government can provide support to community groups and individuals working on environmental weeds. They will also provide an update on new developments in weed management, community education and resources and materials to assist staff. Please contact Kate Blood on (03) 9412 4187 or email k.blood@dce.vic.gov.au Programs will be available soon for circulation.

Victorian Parliament Inquiry into Pest Plants

The Governor in Council, under section 4F of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1968*, refers the following matter to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee for inquiry, consideration and report to the Parliament-

1. Identify the impact of pest plants on the Victorian economy and environment.
2. Determine the current and projected costs of control of pest plants on private and public land.
3. Assess the adequacy of current information and research on pest plant control strategies.
4. Advise on the rationale for classification of pest plants, and distinctions between environmental and agricultural weeds.
5. Provide advice on the appropriate roles of State and local governments, industry and landholders in research, information transfer, and education and implementation of strategies.
6. Provide advice on suitable cost sharing arrangements for pest plant controls.
7. Advise on statewide priorities for pest plant control.

Dated 28 May 1996

Published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*, 30 May 1996. Responsible Minister: The Hon. Marie Tehan, MLC, Minister for Conservation and Land Management. Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resource Committee: Mr. David J. Perrin, MP

For more information on how to make a submission please contact: Sarah Walters, Executive Officer of the Committee, Nauru House, 80 Collins St., Melbourne, Ph. (03) 9655 6859.

Editor's Note: The IFFA committee is planning on making a submission to the inquiry and would like input from the membership. Please feel free to make an individual submission if you have issues to discuss.

Plant Imports Go Wild

By Peter Hunt

Australian scientists have demanded tighter

controls on imported plants that have the potential to become noxious weeds.

From 1947 to 1985 one northern Australian pasture improvement program imported 463 exotic South African and South American species. Only 21 proved to be useful to the cattle industry while 60 became weeds. Of these, 21 are now weeds of cropping, 20 are environmental weeds and the rest invade both cropping and native vegetation.

Australian Weeds Committee Chairman Ian Smith told the Australian Quarantine Review Committee hearings in Melbourne last week there were too many holes in the current system. "We're pressing for the implementation of an improved quarantine screening system developed by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture Weed Science Branch," he said.

The Australian Academy of Science reported that none of the pasture plants in the northern Australian program were screened for weed potential and no attempts were made to contain them during trials. "Because the benefit to the cattle industry was perceived as a national good, Australia must now pay a huge and continuing cost for these introductions." the AAS report stated.

Recently a roly-poly type plant, *Kochia scoparia*, was introduced in Western Australia to stabilise salinised land. It was not listed in the schedules of proclaimed weeds, was imported without restriction is now listed as a noxious weed.

Other examples of pasture or ornamental species that have become major weeds include *Mimosa pigra* which lived in Darwin gardens for many years before escaping to become a major pest as did Lantana and Patterson's Curse [and Spanish Heath].

Mr. Smith said a system was developed to test weediness but AQIS had not implemented any uniform program. "In the past we've relied on a black and white system which relied on a list of prohibited species and that was it," Mr. Smith said. The West Australian system sets out a protocol for accurately identifying the imported species and its range, reproductive and other biological characteristics to assess its potential to become a weed.

Source: Weekly Times, 5 June 1996, P. 13

Editor's Note:

This articles highlights a few other questions for me:

1) Is there more studies analysing programs and efforts to introduce new plants for agriculture and ornamental gardens into Australia that have results as damning as the one quoted in this article? If so, can we hear about them so that they can be spread through the pages of Indigenotes?

2) Will any new screening procedures include all plants

considered for import into Australia, from pasture species to garden ornamentals?

- 3) What kind of pressure, if any, will relevant industry groups bring to bear on governments when the inevitable and major impacts of restricting plant introductions become apparent? Many groups may say their economic livelihoods are threatened if the restrictions are as strict as many scientists and conservationists would like to push for; most of the plants appropriate for Australian conditions will inevitably be considered to weedy.

It would be great to get comments about any of these questions and beyond into these pages.

Environmental weeds in the Australian Alps

The Australian Alps Liaison Committee are having a coordinated approach to environmental weeds from the ACT, through NSW and into Victoria. An Alps Weed Manual is just being completed to improve management techniques and strategies. This will be closely followed by an identification guide to help parks staff and visitors identify the weeds in the Alps.

From Kate Blood, DNRE

Southeastern Australia leading the way on environmental weed management

Southeastern Australia is forging ahead in Australia with State and Territory weed management plans and strategies.

The management of environmental weeds in Victoria will soon have a clear direction. The Environmental Weed Directions Plan for Victoria is being prepared by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE). It will raise Victoria's profile as one of the leading States in Australia on current environmental weed management approaches.

Moving away from the "control" mentality, the Department is adopting a strategic, ecological and integrated management approach. Prevention and early intervention will be given a higher profile than in the past. Copies of the draft plan will be available soon for comment.

Tasmania released its final draft of *WeedPlan - A Tasmanian Weed Management Strategy* in August 1995. The Australian Capital Territory released a

draft *ACT Weeds Strategy* in February 1996. South Australia are currently working on their draft Weed Strategy for South Australia and New South Wales is working on a Noxious Weeds Strategy. These strategies and plans should fit under the National Weeds Strategy and The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity.

From Kate Blood, DNRE

Environmental weeds in remnant vegetation

The community are playing a very important role in looking after our local remnant vegetation on both public and private land. The remaining remnants are very important to Victoria and its indigenous flora and fauna. Apart from vegetation clearing, environmental weeds are one of the biggest threats to what we have left.

To find out how the Department of Natural Resources and Environment could help the community look after these areas, NRE conducted a survey. Two hundred community groups and individuals were surveyed with a questionnaire. The 33.5% that responded provided lots of information that will assist NRE help them in the long term. A strategy was prepared to address the issues identified by the questionnaire.

The main things that the community groups and individuals wanted include: (1) human resources, (2) community involvement, (3) other resources & support, (4) training, (5) information material and (6) community awareness & education.

A number of other items were prepared to further assist NRE staff and volunteers. A prototype of an Environmental weed management handbook was prepared which forms the basis of a future publication. An Environmental weed resource directory for Victoria was also put together and includes lots of information sources and references on these problem plants. A small selection of publications were included in an Environmental weed resources pack to give examples of some of the valuable material that is around. Copies of the complete project, titled "Helping the community to manage environmental weeds in Victoria", are available from NRE libraries and each Regional Manager. Some sections of the project, mentioned above, have been printed separately and are available from the Outdoors Information Centre on (03) 9412 4795.

Books etc. About Weeds:

Willows on the march

Following on from recent media coverage of Willows as environmental weeds, there are a number of new publications available to assist in Willow identification and management:

Willow identification for river management in Australia

Willows spreading by seed - implications for Australian river management

Willow control

The Identification booklet is particularly useful. Trying to tell the many (over 14) common invasive Willows apart can be quite tricky but this easy-to-use booklet makes it easy.

Copies are available from Mr R. Trounce, NSW Agriculture, Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800.

Environmental Weed Resource Directory for Victoria

Don't know where to start to find information on environmental weeds? The Department of Natural Resources and Environment has developed the directory for you! The directory covers contacts, general weed books, booklets, general brochures and posters (not individual species yet), other documents and kits in production, journals and newsletters, proceedings, legislation, procedures, strategies, policies, guidelines, plans, displays, photographs, slides, audio visuals, community education programs, electronic networks, databases etc - everything (well almost) you need to know about environmental weeds.

Copies are available for \$5 from the Outdoors Information Centre at 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne or call (03)9412 4795.

Schools weed activity kit

A kit to help teachers and others tell the environmental weed story is now available. The kit was

primarily developed to provide material for teachers to use in primary and lower secondary schools. The original kit was developed by the Regional Pest Plant Strategy Working Group in the Upper Yarra Valley and the Dandenongs. After field testing by Trudi Mullett at schools in the Dandenongs, the kit was further developed until published jointly by the Gould League and NRE this year. Copies are available from the Gould League on (03)9532 0909 or the Outdoors Information Centre at 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne or call (03)9412 4795.

How Green are your Mudflats? proceedings now available

Proceedings from the Spartina Conference held in Yarram in May 1995 are now available from Dept of Natural Resources and Environment at Yarram on (051)825 155.

Other Books:

Australian Gov't Printing Service 50% off Sale

The Australian Government Printing Service is having a sale on all of the books in its flora and fauna catalog. They include:

The Flora of Australia Series (the basic references on Australian flora to date);

The Fauna of Australia (the basic references on Australian fauna to date);

Australian Flora and Fauna Series (monographs on specific topics of research) and the

Zoological Catalogue of Australia (more publications on fauna).

The sale is on until July 31st and the Melbourne store is at 190 Queens St., Melbourne. Other stores in other capital cities across Australia will also slashing prices....

Snippets:

National Reserves System Cooperative Program

In his Environment Statement in December 1992 the Prime committed the Commonwealth Government to the establishment of, in cooperation with the States and Territories, of a comprehensive, representative and adequate system of protected areas by the year 2000. The major thrust of the national reserve system (NRS) is to complement the existing protected area systems of the State and Territory nature conservation agencies and collectively establish a comprehensive NRS that adequately samples the biodiversity of all ecosystems in Australia. The Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) administers the National Reserves System Cooperative Program (NRSCP), which is addressing this issue across all terrestrial ecosystems other than forests. Forests are being considered in more detail under the National Forest Policy Strategy.

The report "*Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA); A framework for setting priorities in the NRSCP (Version 4.0)*" was produced by a technical working group convened by ANCA following a direction provided by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) in October 1993. ANCA is working with the State and Territory nature conservation agencies to establish a technical basis for understanding the environmental patterns across Australia utilising the data and expertise of ANZECC's member agencies.

In April 1994 ANZECC welcomed the cooperative development of the IBRA and endorsed continued discussions to refine the technical aspects of the regionalisation as a framework for the NRSCP. The IBRA report has been agreed to by the Commonwealth, State and Territory nature conservation agencies. ANCA is using the IBRA in identifying deficiencies in the national systems of reserves and for setting priorities for resource allocation under NRSCP.

Submissions should reach the following address by 29 September 1996:
Director, Reserves System Unit, ANCA, GPO Box 636, Canberra ACT 2601. If you require copies of the IBRA report contact Richard Thackway, ANCA, Ph. (06) 2500381, Fax (06) 2500731.

Greening Australia Victoria Seminar & Training

Program 1996

Greening Australia Victoria's Seminar and Training Program for this year is now up, running and offering training sessions designed to cater to both individuals and community groups. The 1996 program includes 11 'hands on' training days, that range in scope from plant identification and other conservation issues to project management.

After the success of last year's bus tour we've expanded the number to 3 where we'll visit wildlife corridors, wetlands and seeding project sites. We also have 3 seminars and for the first time, a forum, held in August, addressing the integration of ecological restoration and permaculture principles. See 'Coming Events' this issue for the August sessions.

If you'd like more information or a program please phone Gerard Clark at GAV on (03) 9457 3024.

Information Forum - Rabbit Calicivirus

For City Based Farmers

A new window of opportunity for effective rabbit control. Organised by FarmSmart, Victorian Farmers Federation, Department of Natural Resources & Environment and Agriculture Victoria.

Four evenings will be held at three different locations:

Wednesday 4 September - Victorian Farmers Federation, 6th Floor, 24 Collins St, Melbourne. Bookings: Lisa Keedle (03) 9207 5555.

Thursday 5 September - Keith Turnbull Research Institute, Conference Building, Ballarto Rd, Frankston (Melways Map 100 E6). Bookings: Penny Richards (059) 647 088

Wednesday 11 September - Victorian Farmers Federation, 6th Floor, 24 Collins St, Melbourne. Bookings: Lisa Keedle (03) 9207 5555.

Thursday 12 September - Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Symes Rd, Woori Yallock (Melways Map 286 F10). Bookings: Penny Richards (059) 647 088.

All sessions start at 6pm and are scheduled to finish at 7.30pm. Spaces are limited so bookings are essential.

Coast Action/Coast Care Grants

The Minister for Conservation and Land Management, the Hon. Marie Tehan, invites applications for funding through an exciting new State/Commonwealth/Local Government partnership in coastal management. In Victoria, the Coastcare program will be delivered through Coast Action to

ensure an integrated approach to coastal planning and works. The Coast Action/Coast Care program will primarily on publicly owned or managed coastal land and marine areas.

Coast Action/Coast Care aims to encourage community groups to work cooperatively with local managers to responsibly manage their local coastal and marine environments and contains an Indigenous Communities component. Grants will be provided for projects such as revegetation, erosion control, rehabilitation of marine and estuarine areas, improvements to walking tracks, construction of lookouts and improvements to local facilities.

Consideration will be given to larger scale projects that are staged over two or three grants periods if comprehensive planning can be demonstrated. For further information, guidelines and application forms, contact the COAST ACTION HOTLINE on (03) 9412 4385. Community Grants Application closing date will now be the 2nd of August, 1996.

Sites of Significance Mapping in Regional Victoria

The project commenced in 1995-96 and involves the documentation and mapping of sites of biological significance within local government areas. Five trial LGAs were selected, one in each Natural Resources and Environment Area. These are the Shire of Glenelg (SW Area), Shire of Gippsland (Gippsland Area), City of Greater Bendigo (NW Area), City of Wangaratta (NE Area) and City of Greater Geelong (Port Phillip Area). At this stage, it is anticipated that this project will continue as a priority in 1996-97 with additional LGAs to be selected. Liaison with the relevant LGAs has occurred throughout, in an effort to tailor the outputs to their needs.

The project basically involves NRE staff identifying, collating and entering information on sites of biological significance onto a database (the FLora and Fauna Directory or Site Register) and mapping the boundaries of sites for inclusion in NRE's Geographic Information System. At this stage it is anticipated that municipal staff would receive up-to-date copies of maps and print-outs of the database information, with guidelines for its interpretation. Ultimately, on-line access, including the ability to add new sites or new information, may be available. It should allow information regarding sites of biological significance to be considered in the full range of strategic and statutory planning activities undertaken by local government.

Contact Flora and Fauna Branch for more info: Adrian Moorrees (03 9412 4232) or Ian Mansergh

(03 9412 4743).

Source: Biodiversity and Local Government Seminar, 29 May 1996

Volunteers Needed: Trust For Nature - Flora and Fauna Survey Group

The Flora and Fauna Survey Group is a voluntary group established by the Trust For Nature. This group provides a service for private property owners who were interested to know what indigenous flora and fauna were found on their land. The group also provides the ideal opportunity for any individuals interested in undertaking flora and fauna surveys to gain practical experience and visit some biologically diverse properties throughout Victoria.

The Flora and Fauna Survey Group begun survey work early 1996. In this time two areas (over two weekends) have been surveyed - three properties in Smiths Gully and another property in Grantville. These areas were rich and interesting floristically with over one hundred species being recorded from both these areas. Notably a pair of Powerful Owls were observed at one of the properties and heard calling in the distance from another. These birds are normally quite elusive so we were all suitably impressed.

All property surveys are conducted over a weekend and data collected subsequently entered into The Flora Information System (FIS) and the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife. Between now and the end of 1996 a further 4 properties are scheduled to be surveyed throughout the State. These properties are situated in Ulupna, Wartook, Gembrook and Spring Hill.

Survey equipment and travel expenses are provided by the Trust. Members of the group provide their own camping equipment, personal gear and food. All volunteers are welcome, no matter what your previous survey experience, currently we have a group with a variety of skills and different levels of expertise.

The Flora and Fauna Survey Group is seeking more volunteers to assist in this valuable and rewarding survey work. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Marianne Henderson at the Trust on 96514040.

Native Flower Show

Society for Growing Australian Plants, Grampians Group Inc.

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September 1996, 10 am to 5 pm

Come to the Pomonal Hall in the tiny town of

Pomonal only 10 minutes from Halls Gap and enjoy a spectacular flower display, plant sales, book sales, dried and pressed flower sales, advice, refreshments, children's corner and competition, open nurseries, a raffle with autographed Volumes of Stan Kelly's Eucalypt books as first prize. A Village Market will also be held in the Pomonal Primary School Grounds. The theme for this year's show is "Escape to Your Garden". Admission: Adults \$2.00, Children & Students free. For more information contact (053) 566 352.

Jobs: Environmental Employment in the UK

If you're thinking of travelling to the United Kingdom and would be interested in finding paid or unpaid employment in the environmental field then you might be interested in some of the following information for starting points.

Paying jobs are advertised in two small bulletins that are published by two private environmentally based companies and some are also advertised in the environmental employment section of the Guardian newspaper on Wednesdays¹. The first of the two bulletins is called the *Environmental Post* and it is published on twice-monthly basis with its optional job listing, called the *EPC*. My September, 1995 issue lists about 20 paid jobs and numerous volunteer positions. Some of the advertised jobs can include administrators, wardens and rangers, education officers, urban wildlife officers, terrestrial ecologists, field officers and environmental charter assistants to name a few. The *Countryside Jobs Service*³ is a similar publication but issued weekly. It again advertises paid and voluntary positions (including lots of warden and ranger positions) and in my promotional material lists 37 jobs for an October 1995 issue.

For those seeking paid employment you should be aware there are visa requirements to do this, and typically you are not allowed to work in your profession (although this is unmonitored and there are Australians working in many other professions such as teachers, nurses and engineers, etc.). Contact the British High Commission in Canberra for more details.

For travellers who do not want to gain long term employment or are unable to work for money for legal reasons, there are some fantastic environmental working holiday options with the British

Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)⁴. They run a very worthwhile series of weekend and week long working holidays that seem to be well organised (they do support over 80,000 volunteers). They can be a lot of fun and can turn into offers of accommodation all over the place! They provide a good insight into the environmental issues facing the Brits (markedly different to our problems) and the ways in which they deal with them. Just prepare your bladder for lots of cups of tea. Projects occur all over the country throughout the year and include hedgelaying, coppicing, dry stone walling, fencing, path construction, Rhododendron clearing and boardwalk construction. Similar organisations exist in Scotland⁵ and Ireland⁶ and the BTCV also offers working holidays in other countries. It may be possible to work as a volunteer leader (all leaders are volunteers on these holidays) which means your accommodation and food would be free, otherwise the week long working holidays tend to cost between 30-60 pounds for the week.

¹ The *Guardian* is currently published on the internet and the employment section may be listed here.

² The *Environment Post* is published by ADC Environment, 33 Nobel Square, Burnt Mills, Basildon, Essex, SS13 1LT, tel: 01268 724259, fax: 01268 590005. Subscription to the *Environment Post* alone is 20/25 pound per year and with the *EPC* supplement is 32/37 pound per year. No overseas subscription rates are advertised.

³ The Countryside Jobs Service (CJS) is compiled by RENTaRANGER for the Country Management Association and the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association. All enquiries to CJS, Groves Bank, Sleights, Whitby, N. Yorks, YO21 1RY, tel/fax: 01947 810220. Subscription rates 1.50 pounds per week for non-members with a minimum subscription of 10 weeks. No overseas rates are advertised.

⁴ The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers is contactable at 36 St. Mary's St., Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 0BR, tel: 0491 839766, fax: 0491 839646. A six monthly Working Holiday programme is sent to all members. Overseas subscription rates were 20.00 pounds in May, 1995, otherwise 12/6 pounds per year.

⁵ Scottish Conservation Projects Trust (SCP), Balallan House, 24 Allan House, Stirling, FK8 2QG

⁶ Conservation Volunteers Irelands, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

IFFA activities:

IFFA (Vic)

Next meeting:

Tuesday 25 June, 7:30 pm at the

Herbarium Hall

at the Botanic Gardens, South Yarra
(Melways 44 A12).

Please note the temporary change of
venue!!!!

**Mark Trengrove of Geelong Indigenous
Nursery and the Geelong Environment
Council (?) will speak on the
"Natural History of Point
Lillias".**

**Come along and learn about what will
be lost if the chemical storage depot
goes ahead.**

Committee meeting:

**The Committee meeting is now the second Monday
of every month.**

SPIFFA

**Public meetings are on the first Monday of every
month at 7:30 pm at the Waterfall Gully
Community Centre, corner of Bayview Rd. and
Nixon St., Rosebud.**

Contact Jon Greening (059) 855561.

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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**Contributions to Indigenotes should be sent to the
editors — the deadline for the next issue will be August
14th. 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.*