

banksia

bulletin

issue number 43 — summer 2011

What's Inside:

Bayside's
**Summer by
the Sea 2012!**

**Making a
Difference...**

Sustainable Homes Program

**An ecological
burn site
six months on**

**Breakfast with
the Birds at
Elsternwick Park**



Bayside
CITY COUNCIL

From the Mayor

I am continuously inspired by the number of residents expressing a desire for our community to move towards a more sustainable way of life. Only by working together are we able to realise this desire.

This spirit is displayed in great measure by our friends groups, who donate their time to care for our local environment. I would invite you to join me in thanking them for their wonderful efforts and passions, as without their dedication and spirit, we would be unable to enjoy our natural reserves.

This holiday season, I would like to encourage you and your family to take the opportunity to enjoy the many wonderful environmental features of Bayside, and to be mindful of the joyous and indomitable spirit of the volunteers that look after them.

I am excited to inform you of the "Summer by the Sea" program commencing in January of next year. This program features a series of events that encourage participants to discover the wonders of Bayside's coastal environment. Further details of this wonderful family event can be found later in these pages.

As we look forward to a new year, I think of the many exciting opportunities that it presents for us to both work together and grow together as a community. I would like to take this moment to express my gratitude at having had the opportunity to work with such a vibrant community.

Thank you all.

Cr Alex del Porto
Mayor
Bayside City Council



Front cover image

Sundew,
(*Drosea sp*)

Back cover image

Black Wattle,
(*Acacia Mearnsii*)

Photographs by Pauline Reynolds





In this ISSUE

Special Features



7

Community comes together for Family Life
Open Garden Day



8

Breakfast with the Birds at Elsternwick Park



10

An ecological burn site six months on



18

Making a Difference
Interview with Danielle King

Other articles

Ho, Ho, Ho Merry (sustainable) Christmas! Tom Walsh	4
The Sharehood Michael Green	5
New to the Crew: Citywide Bushland Team Update Jo Hurse	6
Bayside Community Nursery	11
Bird highlights 2006-2011 Michael Norris	12
A Heathland Thrives Michael Norris	17
Friends of Ricketts Point Landside Sue Raverty	20
The George Street Reserve Valerie Tarrant and Pauline Reynolds	21
Become a Bayside Bat Detector	22
Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve Kim Croker	22
Moths by Moonlight Elizabeth Walsh	23
Bayside's upcoming Sustainability eNewsletter Tom Walsh	24
And the winner is...	25
Bayside Environment Friends Network	25

Ho, Ho, Ho Merry (sustainable) Christmas!

How to have a Christmas
that won't cost the Earth.



Christmas is a time for relaxing, taking a break, and enjoying time with our friends and families. For many, it's an opportunity to take a break from the hectic pace of modern life and to enjoy some time reconnecting to the natural world.

It's also a time of getting presents!

Whilst it is easy to get caught up in the excitement and thrill of the holiday season and get carried away purchasing gifts for our loved ones, it is important and rewarding that we consider the impact of our actions and subsequently the health of our environment.

Five ways to have a greener Christmas.

1. Choose a real Christmas tree

Choose a real tree for Christmas over a plastic one – they need fewer resources, create less pollution and can be recycled in your green waste bin.

2. Donate to charity

There are many people who will be going without this Christmas. Consider making a donation on a friend's behalf rather than giving them a present.

3. Recycled wrapping

Re-use old wrapping paper, newspaper, or even get your kids involved by painting on used office paper and using it to wrap presents. Cut down on waste this Christmas.

4. Celebrate healthy eating

Meat has a large environmental footprint, and often has to travel a long way to get to your plate. Consider going vegetarian this Christmas, or having some delicious vegetarian alternatives on hand.

5. Give the gift of an experience

Our houses are already full of stuff. Consider giving someone the gift of a massage voucher rather than their own personal foot spa.

Tom Walsh

Environmental Education Officer
Bayside City Council



GET INVOLVED

Make the environment part of your celebrations this Christmas by celebrating outdoors. Bayside has numerous parks and reserves that provide a perfect setting for your families Christmas.

Many of our reserves have pavilions and rotundas that can be booked for your function. To find out how, visit www.bayside.vic.gov.au/venues, or call Bayside Council on 9599 4444

The Sharehood

Co-operation makes things happen

For many of us, summer is a time to catch up on projects around the house. But what if you don't have the screwdriver or sewing machine you need? What if you could borrow a handsaw for an afternoon, instead of buying one new?

The Sharehood is an easy way for neighbours to share skills, things and time. When you sign up to the website – www.thesharehood.org – you can see the hundreds of members who live nearest to you and the things they're happy to lend and borrow. There is also a local notice board where people who live within walking distance can post events and questions for each other.

People can share anything, from veggies, tools, books or washing machines, to gardening help, bike fixing, languages or childminding. Often, neighbours get the most out of spending time together – be that at a Christmas party, picnic, swap meet, movie night, or with a simple hello in the street.

How did it start?

The Sharehood began in 2008 when it occurred to web developer Theo Kitchener that he probably

didn't need to walk all the way to the laundromat – there were many washing machines lying in wait much closer to his house, he just needed to know their owners.

So, together with other volunteers, he developed a free website that anyone could use to help get to know people in their area face-to-face. Now there are about 1700 members who've listed nearly 4000 'shareables'. Most of them live in Melbourne, but people have joined up all over Australia and in several other countries.

Why share?

According to the Australian Conservation Foundation's Consumption Atlas, we have the fourth-largest eco-footprint in the world. By swapping, lending and sharing items, instead of buying them new, we can significantly reduce our consumption, and reduce the pressure on the earth's limited resources.

But there are personal benefits too; you can save money by borrowing things, rather than purchasing them for yourself.

It also helps to create better places to live. Nowadays, in our cities, it can seem awkward to say hello to



GET INVOLVED

Ready to get started?

Sign up at
www.thesharehood.org

people you don't know on the street. The Sharehood is a good excuse to connect with your neighbours – and that makes for a safer, friendlier community, where people have a strong sense of belonging.

How do neighbours get involved?

When you sign on, there might not be many others who live close by. A great way to spread the word in your area is to leaflet the streets around your house and invite them to join, or to come along to a Christmas party or summer BBQ where you can chat about The Sharehood.

The Sharehood website – www.thesharehood.org – has a sample letter you could adapt, as well as all the information you need about possible events or things to share. If you've got any questions, ask Liz! (contact@thesharehood.org)

Michael Green

Freelance Journalist
The Sharehood

Photographs by: Michael Green



The Sharehood



UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

By swapping, lending and sharing items, instead of buying them new, we can significantly reduce our consumption, and reduce the pressure on the earth's limited resources.

New to the Crew: Citywide Bushland Team Update

The past few months have seen an exciting shake up for Citywide's Bushland Crew with the addition of three new members. Hailing from a diverse range of backgrounds these new members have never-the-less formed a great team undertaking weed control and revegetation across Bayside. They are eager to work with and learn from the rest of the bushland team, friends groups and other volunteers. The new members have been amazed by the high level of passion and enthusiasm shown by the friends.

Andrew Magdis

Andrew is a mechanic by trade and has completed a Conservation Land Management course at the North Melbourne Institute of TAFE. He has worked in the Yarra Ranges for Indigenous Design as a member of the weed control team and also for the Department of Sustainability and Environment as a Project Fire Fighter. He has been on the crew for three months and is dedicated to restoring Bayside's bushland and foreshore.



From left to right: Thomas Dell'Oro, Jacob Loughridge and Andrew Magdis

Thomas Dell'Oro

Thomas completed a Bachelor of Conservation Biology and Ecology at La Trobe University. He has participated in a number of volunteer programs such as the Regent Honey Eater Project, where he met past bushland team member Anthony Davidson. He is especially interested in the role of fire in heathland ecosystems and is looking forward to seeing the positive effects of ecological burns in Bayside.

Jacob Loughridge

Jacob completed a Bachelor of Conservation Biology and

Management (Honours) at the University of Western Australia. He's worked for the New Zealand Department of Conservation as a part of the weed control team in the Marlborough Sands. He is excited to learn about the local flora and fauna and is looking forward to the challenges of summer and beyond.

The new bushland crew will be working on Sundays in the bushland reserves alongside the enthusiastic friends groups. Please take the opportunity to come down and say hello and also share in the wealth of local knowledge about the area and its native plants and animals.

Thomas Dell'Oro, Jacob Loughridge and Andrew Magdis
Bushland Crew
Citywide Open Space



Community comes together for Family Life Open Garden Day

Open Garden Day

The beautiful 'Old and New Gardens' of Brighton drew an impressive crowd for the Family Life Open Garden Day held on Sunday 23 October.

With over 1,300 guests enjoying a spectacular sunny day, Family Life raised over \$46,000 making this 10th anniversary event the most successful ever.

Guests enjoyed live music provided by local school groups, informative exhibits from local nurseries and sponsors, activities for children, courtesy vintage car rides and delicious culinary delights from the BBQ and Devonshire Tea stands.

The day is run by a team of dedicated and hard working volunteers and is an important fundraising event for Family Life. Money raised is allocated to Family

Life's Community Bubs program which helps support vulnerable local families, ensuring their children can stay living safely in their care.

Family Life would once again like to thank the sponsors, volunteers and committee for organising and contributing to such a successful community event.

Asha Gaskell
Community Relations Officer
Family Life



A close-up photograph of a woman with short blonde hair, wearing dark sunglasses, a yellow patterned scarf, a white long-sleeved shirt, and a dark vest. She is holding a metal rod with a red ball on top, which is attached to a clear plastic sign. The sign features a silhouette of a grey duck-like bird. The background shows a tree trunk and green foliage under bright sunlight.

Breakfast with
the Birds at
Elsternwick Park

Early in the morning on Saturday 5 November, while most of you were probably sound asleep...

...Barbara Jakob (Coordinator of Bayside Environmental Friends Network) and her son prepared for Breakfast with the Birds in Elsternwick Park. They put up a blue shade tent with tables laden with *Banksia Bulletins*, birding information, tea, coffee and yummy Danish pastries. Hosting the event were Tania Ireton from Bird Observation and Conservation Australia (BAYBOCA) and Friends of Native Wildlife. In the past Breakfast with the Birds has been held on days that exhibited the worst of Melbourne's weather conditions, however this year the weather was perfect.



Buff Banded Rail (*Rallus philippenisi*)



We saw a variety of birds around Elsternwick Park Lake including three Buff Banded Rails (pictured) that timidly appeared from the reeds and a pair of Dusky Moorhens shadowed by two dark fluffy chicks. A pair of Grey Teals rested with heads tucked under wings on a sandy island haven while we inquisitive 'birdos' gazed at them through binoculars and a telescope. As the sun broke through the morning cloud an Australasian Coot took umbrage to the Teals' meditative state and headed out from the reeds and insisted that they

move on until safely out of reach of it's nest where the nestlings were being kept warm. The caring and protective Coot then headed towards the main bank where it foraged for vegetable matter and worms. It returned to the nest to pass these morsels on to its partner who then fed the chicks with the morning's cache of delicacies.

Twenty eight people attended the Breakfast with the Birds and we spotted 26 bird species. I hope that this programme continues as it provides a wealth of information to

locals and anyone else interested in local birdlife and other natural treasures.

Thank you to all participants and Debbie Lustig for the photos.

Elizabeth Walsh
Friends of Native Wildlife

Photographs by: Debbie Lustig



An ecological burn site six months on

Bayside City Council with Citywide Bushland team (Council's Open Space contractors) conducted a controlled ecological burn at Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary in Beaumaris on Tuesday 5 April 2011.

The natural vegetation of this area is defined as 'sand heathland'. Fire is an important management tool for this vegetation type as it contains indigenous plant species that require fire for regeneration. Burning also provides other benefits such as removing invasive weed species and opening the plant canopy allowing smaller species to grow.

To prepare the site in the Sanctuary for the burn, all of the vegetation within the prescribed area was felled and used as either fuel or removed. The burn commenced at 10 am and went for approximately two hours with a moderate to high fire intensity. This intensity is the appropriate level required to stimulate natural process within heathland ecosystems.

Three 4 m x 4 m quadrats were established across the site in order to monitor the regeneration of indigenous species post burn. The vegetation within these quadrats was surveyed one month prior to the burn and again six months after. All indigenous and exotic species present were recorded along with their cover abundance.

The six month monitoring of the burn has provided us with some interesting results. Pioneer plants have germinated as have smaller indigenous plant species such as Silky Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia sericea*), Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*) and Twiggy Daisy-bush (*Olearia ramulosa*).

Measuring the success of an ecological burn requires a calculation of the diversity of indigenous plants regenerating and the reduction in cover abundance of weed species. For this burn site the percentage cover of weed species in the monitoring quadrats has been kept below 20%. With intensive weed control over the next few years the number of weed species is expected to continue to fall.



The monitoring results of this burn highlight the positive influence that fire has on restoring the diversity of our indigenous vegetation communities. Continued monitoring will also contribute to improving our knowledge on the role that fire plays in the healthy functioning of native heathland ecosystems.

Jo Hurse

Bushland & Nursery Team Leader
Citywide Open Space

Photographs by: **Pauline Reynolds**

Bayside Community Nursery

Since the 1980's The Bayside Community Nursery has been growing indigenous plants propagated from local native seeds and cuttings.

The nursery provides indigenous plants for Bayside's bushland and foreshore reserves. These plants are naturally suited to the local environment, they do not require fertilizers, pesticides or regular watering and provide ideal habitat for native wildlife.

You can also purchase indigenous plants from the nursery and help create a bit of bushland in your own backyard. For a comprehensive list of all plants grown at the Bayside Community Nursery please visit the nursery or Bayside City Council's website (www.bayside.vic.gov.au).

Why not also become a volunteer at the Bayside Community Nursery, where you can:

- Learn how to sow seeds, strike cuttings and care for developing plants.
- Purchase plants at cost price for your own use.
- Participate in excursions to other bushland areas, nurseries and training sessions.



GET INVOLVED

Come along to a working bee and take a walk through the Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary burn site.

When?

5 February, 4 March, 1 April

Contact

Coordinator: Ken Rendell
Phone: (03) 9589 4452



GET INVOLVED

Get involved in extra activities including tree planting and enjoy the company of like-minded folk.

Open Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 12noon.

319 Reserve Road, Cheltenham

Phone: 9583 8408

Melway Reference: 77 D12

Bird Highlights 2006-2011

From 1998 to 2005 I wrote annual reports on Bayside's fauna for the *Banksia Bulletin*. I deeply regret that I've been too busy to continue and also have much less time to enjoy our wildlife for myself!

I still have the pleasure of 'seeing' wildlife through the eyes and ears of over 100 people who have provided records to the Friends of Native Wildlife over the last six years. Many thanks to them all, from the person who called about the weird noise at Thomas Street Park (a Tawny Frogmouth) to several contributors to Birdline Victoria, a website for reporting unusual birds.

There are some rarities that were photographed: a Bassian Thrush that stayed in Rob Saunders' Cheltenham garden in early 2006, the huge Northern Giant-Petrel drifting around the foreshore later that year and, my personal favourite, some of the locally rare Sooty Oystercatchers seen in 2008.

Since then Sooty Oystercatchers have become quite easy to see in Bayside with up to five at Picnic Point in 2011, recorded sightings along with results from the Victorian Wader Study Group, has indicated that numbers have increased three-fold in the past 20 years. Read Michelle Leber's poem about these birds in 'The Weeping Grass' (APC, 2010) and check her observations for yourself.

Birds recorded for the first time in Bayside over the six years were a Blue-billed Duck on the Brighton Golf Course in 2006, a Square-tailed Kite flying over Black Rock in 2007,



Sooty Oystercatchers, Brighton

Red Knots (migrant shorebirds from Siberia) in 2008, last year's Arctic Tern at Ricketts Point, and finally this year's immature Red-tailed Tropicbird at the Brighton marina.

Michael Norris
Coordinator
Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife

Welcome to the annual festival of all things marine and coastal...

Bayside's Summer by the Sea Festival 2012

13 January to 24 January

 Summer
by the sea
2012

Bayside is home to a wondrous array of marine environments. Come join us and explore.

Australia's southern marine waters are unique and our coastline is a showcase of marine marvels. Summer by the Sea invites participants to discover the wonders of Bayside's very own marine sanctuary at Ricketts Points as well other Bayside beaches at Half Moon Bay, Sandringham Harbour and Middle Brighton Beach.

Snorkel the underwater world, ramble over rock pools and shorelines, get up close to mysterious marine inhabitants, take a tour of the dunes or learn how to stand up paddle board.

Our Envirokids sessions offer creativity and learning for preschoolers in our Marine Education Centre at Beaumaris Life Saving Club, and the Club's "nippers" activities on each Sunday of the program will teach your children vital water safety skills necessary for Australia's water loving lifestyle.

With activities to suit all ages, Summer by the Sea offers the whole community a unique experience of Victoria's marine and coastal wonders - and it's free!

The Summer by the Sea program is facilitated by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, and is being delivered locally by Bayside City Council, Marine Care Ricketts Point, and Beaumaris Life Saving Club.



Bayside's Summer by the Sea Festival 2012

13 January to 24 January

Friday 13 January

9:30am – 11:30am

Coastcare Kids

Mud Pies and Body Art.

Location: Half Moon Bay Surf Life Saving Club.

Melways: 85 H2

Booking details: Barbara 0408 032 963

5:30pm – 7pm

Geology Rocks

Presentation and guided tour by Sandringham Foreshore Association about Bayside's changing dunes, the summer/winter beaches, fossil discoveries, impacts of climate change and coastal processes.

Location: Brighton Life Saving Club, Esplanade, Brighton.

Melways: 67 B12

Booking details: Bayside Council (03) 9599 4444

7:30pm – 9pm

Into the Blue

Twilight Film Night.

Location: Brighton Life Saving Club, Esplanade, Brighton.

Melways: 67 B12

Booking details: Bayside Council (03) 9599 4444

Saturday 14 January

9am – 12pm

Dog's Breakfast

Breakfast for dogs and their owners. Dogs must be on a lead

Location: Sandown spit area, Brighton. Access from Bay Street of Sandown Street, Brighton.

Melways: 67 B9

Booking details: Just show up!

Sunday 15 January

9:30am – 11am

Snorkel Safari

Slip on a snorkel and explore the ocean with an experienced guide from the Parafin Divers.

Bookings are essential

Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

BYO Snorkelling gear.

Participants must be able to swim well.

Location: Meet at the beach access ramp near Beaumaris Yacht Club, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Melways: 86 B8

Booking details: Peter Dedrick (03) 9584 3414

10:30am – 3:30pm

Interactive Storm

Water Model

Come and learn about storm water with Melbourne Waters amazing interactive exhibit.

Location: Ricketts Point Tea House Gardens

Melways: 86 C8

Booking details: Just show up!

11am – 12:30pm

Dolphin researcher for a day

Dolphins are amazing! Learn just how amazing with the Dolphin Research Institute. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: 1300 130 949

2.30pm – 3.30pm

Water Awareness and Safety

Teach your children vital water skills.

All Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

Location: Beaumaris Life Saving Club, Beach Road, car parking fee payable

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: Just show up!

Sunday 15 January (cont.)

2pm – 3:30pm

Rockpool Discovery

Rock pools contain an amazing diversity of life. Come and learn about them with the Gould League.

All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Please wear sturdy footwear.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: 0429 193 134 or register on www.gould.org.au

Monday 16 January

9.30am – 11:30am

Envirokids: Creative

learning about Marine life

Learn about marine life with Bayside's very own playgroup.

Suitable for children up to 8 years of age.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: Email baysidefriends@gmail.com or phone 0408 032 963

3pm – 4:30pm

Rockpool Discovery

Rock pools contain an amazing diversity of life. Come and learn about them with Marine Care.

All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Please wear sturdy footwear.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: Phillip Wierzbowski (03) 9296 4525 or 0411 409 815

Tuesday 17 January

9.30am – 11:30am

Envirokids: Creative learning about Marine life.

Learn about marine life with Bayside's very own playgroup.

Suitable for children up to 8 years of age.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: Email: baysidefriends@gmail.com or phone 0408 032 963

9am – 10am

Walk on the Wild Side

Take a guided walk through Bayside's coastal environments.

Location: Meet at Half Moon Bay Surf Life Saving Club.

Melways: 85 H2

Booking details: Email: baysidefriends@gmail.com or phone 0408 032 963

3:30pm – 5pm

Rockpool and Coastal Discovery

Discover the amazing variety of life that calls our community home with marine care.

Please wear sturdy footwear

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Meet at the Southern car park B18 and follow the road to Beaumaris Life Saving Club.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: Phillip Wierzbowski (03) 9296 4525 or 0411 409 815

Wednesday 18 January

9:30am – 11:30am

Envirokids: Creative learning about Marine life

Learn about marine life with Bayside's very own playgroup.

Suitable for children up to 8 years of age.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: Email: baysidefriends@gmail.com or phone 0408 032 963

Friday 20 January

10am – 4pm

Surf the Sandy

Book in for a free 1.5 hour introductory lesson windsurfing or stand up paddle boarding lesson with Sandy Beach HQ Windsurfing School.

Suitable for 12 – 17 year olds

Location: Meet at Sandy Beach HQ, Jetty Road, Sandringham.

Melways: 76 F8

Booking details: Bayside Council (03) 9599 4444

Saturday 21 January

11am – 12:30pm

Dolphin researcher for a day

Dolphins are amazing! Learn just how amazing with the Dolphin Research Institute. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Park in Southern car park B18 and follow road to Beaumaris Life Saving Club.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: 1300 130 949

2pm – 4pm

Coastal Discovery: Marine Mysteries

Learn about dolphins and other mysterious marine inhabitants with the Dolphin Research Institute. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Park in Southern car park B18 and follow road to Beaumaris Life Saving Club.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: Just show up!

Sunday 22 January

9:30am – 11am

Snorkel Safari

Slip on a snorkel and explore the ocean with an experienced guide from the Parafin Divers. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. BYO Snorkelling gear. Participants must be able to swim well.

Location: Meet at the beach access ramp near Beaumaris Yacht Club, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Melways: 86 B8

Booking details: Peter Dedrick (03) 9584 3414

Sunday 22 January (cont.)

11am – 12pm

Birds on the wing

Come and learn about migratory birds and our protected marine areas.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Park in Southern car park B18 and follow road to Beaumaris Life Saving Club.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: Just show up!

12:30pm – 2pm

The Coastcare Experience

Coastal and Marine life discovery with the Gould League.

Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Park in Southern car park B18 and follow road to Beaumaris Life Saving Club.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: Just show up!

10:30am – 12:30pm

1pm – 3pm

Kayak Adventure

See our beaches from a new perspective. An adventure for those who don't mind getting wet.

Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult

Location: Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre, Beach Road, Beaumaris.

Park in Southern car park B18 and follow road to Beaumaris Life Saving Club.

Melways: 86 C9

Booking details: (03) 5984 0888

Tuesday 24 January

9am – 10am

Walk on the Wild Side

Take a guided walk through Bayside's coastal environments.

Location: Meet at Half Moon Bay Surf Life Saving Club.

Melways: 85 H2

Booking details: Barbara 0408 032 963

Car parking fees may be payable at events.

DID YOU KNOW?

80%

of all life on Earth
is found in the sea.

DID YOU KNOW?

Discarded plastic
kills around

1 million
sea birds,
100,000

sea mammals
and countless fish
each year.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are
approximately

46,000

pieces of plastic
floating in each square
mile of the world's
oceans.

DID YOU KNOW?

Plastics persist in
the environment for

hundreds
of years.

Ocean systems are delicate and complex, and so the rubbish that we dump on our shores has a huge impact on marine life.

Remember to do the right thing when enjoying our beaches by putting your rubbish in the bin.



For further information visit
www.bayside.vic.gov.au/summerbythesea





A Heathland Thrives

It's been a year of blessings for the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary.

We've been joined by some new volunteers with at least seven or more working at our monthly working bees.

These new volunteers have arrived from a variety of sources including involvement in the Bronzewing planting in George Street, Landcare volunteers moving to Bayside and looking for work, the Scouts, and personal contacts. With three people aged around 30 and our bushland crew members, a huge amount of woody weeds have been removed. At the same time, 'senior citizens' like me have been getting on with weeding out South African grasses (*Ehrharta* spp.) and flowers such as Freesias.

Weeds have been hard to find. It's as if the wonderful rain has made the Bent Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) and other native vegetation so vigorous that the weeds are for once being overwhelmed.

There have been reports of Superb Fairy wrens (I am still hoping for expert confirmation) however Blue-tongued lizards, (which is the case across Bayside), seem to be elusive.

We've had some more plants cropping up including the Rock Fern (pictured) (*Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*). The late and great Dr Jim Willis in his 1989 List of Local Native Plants (Sandringham Environmental Series) says the fern was only known at Bay Road. It appears that this is still its only home in Bayside.

Michael Norris

Coordinator Friends of the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

Photographs by: Pauline Reynolds

Rockfern (*Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*) at Bay Road.



GET INVOLVED

Come along to a working bee.

When?

14 January, 11 February, 10
March, 14 April
10am – noon

Contact

Michael Norris (Southern
Ward Councillor)
Phone: (03) 9521 0804.
menorris@ozemail.com.au



Making a Difference

Interview with Danielle King, facilitator of the Sustainable Homes Program



Danielle King

Recently I had the opportunity to interview Danielle King, facilitator of Bayside City Council's Sustainable Homes Program (and Director of Green Move Australia), on how the program can help people make a positive contribution to dealing with the complex issue of climate change.

Tell us about yourself, why do you do what you do?

I think it's really necessary. I firmly believe we have a problem, as in a global problem, and that we need to do something about it at the grassroots and household level.

There are many ways that everyone can help. And the great thing about it is that by living more sustainably we save money as well as helping the environment.

How long have you been active in the field of sustainability?

I have been seriously active since 2009, so I'm relatively new to it as a job; however I have always had an interest in sustainability and have been an avid follower of new trends and technologies in this area.

Can you tell us a little about Bayside Council's 'Sustainable Homes' program, that you are currently facilitating?

The sustainable homes program was put together by SECCA (South East Council Climate Change Alliance), primarily Daniel Pleiter. It's a series of five workshops that begins with describing what climate change is and what it means— so that people understand the big picture – and then it looks at what actions can be taken to create sustainable gardens, reduce waste, water and energy use (and of course those bills).

It's not a workshop where you sit and are lectured at. It's about sharing experiences, learning what you can do, ask questions and then develop a list of actions that you can take home and do to reduce your impact on the environment.

So how does each workshop work?

It's a highly interactive experience. Depending on the particular topic, we may have an inspirational speaker or show a short video. Participants get the opportunity to ask questions and then we break into workshop groups and start coming up with ideas on what can be done, then we come back together and share what has been learnt.

For example one person mentioned that they didn't like turning their compost pile, another person responded to this by saying that they should get an old plumbing pipe, drill some holes in it for air circulation and

put it down the centre of the pile to allow air to get in. This is something I hadn't thought of and it just goes to show that even as a facilitator I learn something new every time I run these sessions, which is great.

What feedback have you been getting from participants?

It's been very positive. The people that have been attending are not new to sustainability, most have already been involved in some way but are keen to do and learn more. They've become excited about what they've done at home and want to do more.

Because the industry changes so quickly it's really good to come to a workshop and speak to someone who has been keeping their finger on the pulse.

So what can participants expect to walk away with?

A workbook developed from CSIRO research which includes a lot of useful information. This workbook also provides approximate costs of various actions you might take, and the amount of money that you could expect to save. People will also get an idea of the reduction in pollution that they can achieve.

There's no pressure for people to act - you simply do things as and when you can. Basically the workbook gives some guidance, and this seems to be an effective way to help people get started.

Thanks for answering all of my questions. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

I think we have a huge opportunity to make a difference. I know people think, 'I'm just one person, what can I do?' The truth is one person can become one hundred which becomes one thousand, and so on – that is a force to be reckoned with.

I think that if everyone took some action, it would make a huge difference. We just need a large number of people to make some simple changes.

People are looking around and can see the direction things are headed and, quite rightly, getting worried. We all want a decent future for us and our children, but if we don't take action now, there won't be much of a future for them to inherit. I don't want to say to my children (or grandchildren) – 'well we knew where it was going but didn't do anything about it'. It is much better to make some changes now, and change the end result for the better while we can.

Tom Walsh

Environmental Education Officer
Bayside City Council

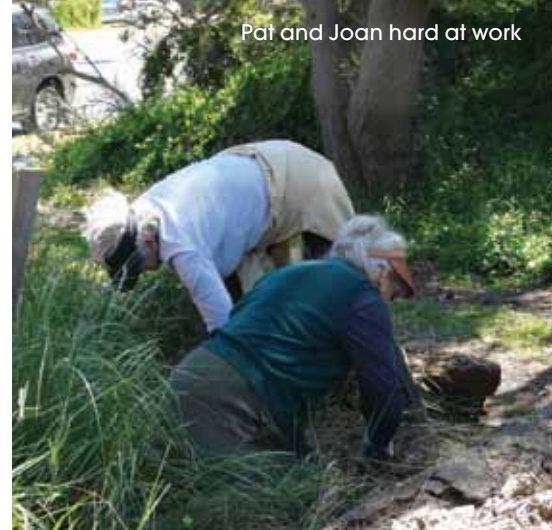


GET INVOLVED

The next series of 'Sustainable Homes' workshops will be held in May 2012. To be notified, sign up to Bayside's upcoming Sustainable Living eNewsletter by sending an email to twalsh@bayside.vic.gov.au



Large fallen Coastal Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) in revegetation bed



Self sown Coastal Banksia seedling

Friends of Ricketts Point Landside

Strong spring winds recently brought down two old Banksia trees at Ricketts Point Landside. One of these huge trees landed in the centre of a revegetation bed and thankfully did not cause any damage to property. The other Banksia is stuck in a neighbouring tree, making it difficult to remove.

To ensure the fallen Banksia does not go to waste its smaller branches will be removed and used as border edging for revegetation beds. Larger branches will also be removed and placed around the site to provide new habitat for insects and other small creatures.

Nature has responded to this loss and we now see a Banksia seedling sprouting at the base of its fallen parent. I hope that this seedling will also grow to be over 200 years old. Interestingly, self sown Banksias have been shown to have a higher survival rate than those planted from tube stock. This is possibly because self sown seedlings develop more extensive root systems than those grown in nurseries.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Pat Wundersitz who is returning home to South Australia. We will miss her bright smile, dedication and exceptional contribution to the work at Ricketts Point Landside. We wish her all the best and hope she will visit us again soon.

Sue Raverty

Coordinator

Friends of Ricketts Point Landside

Photographs by: Sue Raverty



GET INVOLVED

Come along to a working bee.

When?

17 January, 21 February, 20 March, 17 April
12.30pm – 2.30pm

Contact

Sue Raverty
Phone: (03) 9589 2103
sraverty@westnet.com.au

The George Street Reserve

Tulip Street was crowded with cars and people on the final day of the Presidents Cup, which was also the day of the most recent Friends of George Street Reserve working bee. Luckily we managed to find spaces to park and carry on our work, which was mostly weeding out the persistent Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta erecta*).

Recently, Erika Anderson from Citywide visited the Reserve to collect seeds for propagation in the Bayside Community Nursery. We are looking forward to seeing the good results of her work as native plants

are attractive to local birds, providing them with food and shelter.

Author Barbara Salter, who lived next to the Reserve, encouraged birds in her garden by planting native species. From 1954 to 1968 she recorded 120 species in and around her garden. In her book, *Australian Native Gardens and Birds (1970)* Salter wrote that regrettably Australian city dwellers often live in environments that lack 'a distinctive national characteristic'. She sees that a way of remedying this deficiency is to retain as much of the local flora as possible.

It was this vision of Barbara Salter's that provided the original motivation for the Friends of George Street Reserve that remains to this very day.

Valerie Tarrant and Pauline Reynolds

Joint Co-ordinators
Friends of George Street Reserve



GET INVOLVED

Come along to a working bee.

When?

15 January, 19 February, 18 March, 15 April 10am – noon

Contact

Val Tarrant
Phone: (03) 9598 0554
vtarrant@ozemail.com.au

Pauline Reynolds
Phone: (03) 9598 6368
pauline.reynolds@bigpond.com

Slender Sun orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*)
Photograph by: Pauline Reynolds



Become a Bayside Bat Detector

Microbats range from the size of a moth to a hand, and live off mosquitoes and other insects.

These tiny, not to mention interesting looking creatures are extremely important for the liveability of our neighbourhoods, eating up to 600 mosquitoes an hour!

Bayside City Council is a proud partner in a microbat project with Melbourne University and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology (ARCUE) which will help determine where microbats live, how many there are, what they need to survive and their conservation status within urban areas.

Melbourne University with the Bayside Environment Friends Network and Friends of Native Wildlife are inviting

you to become a bat detector for an evening in the name of conservation.

Participants will conduct night surveys searching for and trapping bats. You will discover microbat habitats, nesting locations and learn about the threats facing microbats.



Close up of a Gould's Wattled Bat



GET INVOLVED

When? Saturday,
18 February 2012 6pm until late
Limit 20 people

Where? Cheltenham Park
Melway Reference 86 G1
Meet at the BBQ area off Park
Road, Cheltenham

Cost? Free

Contact

Please RSVP to attend
Barbara Jakob
Mobile: 0408 032 963
BaysideFriends@gmail.com

Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

Purple Peas and Kangaroo Apple

The Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve have a diverse range of interests and experiences making them a strong and cooperative team. Thank goodness for the keen eyes, many years of acquired knowledge and some natural reasoning and logic.

The other day, while giving our new Citywide Bushland crew member Thomas a run down on who we are and how long we have individually and collectively been around, we came across a soft leafed purple pea plant.

The botanists amongst us immediately thought it was Australian Indigo (*Indigofera australis*), however after some discussion and

comparing it to another plant, we all concurred that it was actually Vetch (*Vicia sativa*). As adults we like to make immediate decisions using our knowledge.

In November I was lucky enough to be part of the Enviro Kids day at Donald MacDonald Reserve. Kids are amazing learners and it was a pleasure to roam the paths of the reserve with them.

Even though I was the one showing the children around the Reserve, it was they that taught me how to look differently at the same plants that I walk past all the time. Who would have thought that Kangaroo Apple leaves make great wings for a bird, that little eucalyptus nuts can be



GET INVOLVED

Come along to a working bee

When?

5 February, 4 March, 1 April
10am-noon

Contact

Coordinator: Kim Croker
Phone: (03) 9589 2443
kcroker@bigpond.net.au

wonderful eyes or that the flowers of Clematis make very soft and woolly coats for clay animals? I also learnt that Correa flowers make great hats or big drinking cups. The children also told me that in amongst the Wallaby Grass were at least three sleeping wallabies. Who needs knowledge when you have imagination?

Kim Croker

Coordinator
Friends of Donald MacDonald

Moths by Moonlight

In the field of entomology, Peter Marriott is supreme in the area of 'Lepidoptera' (or moths and butterflies). His three books on moths of Victoria are a colourful scientific catalogue with a wealth of information.

In Victoria over 2000 species of moths are known and many more remain to be discovered. Moths are closely related to the butterfly however they are far more common. There are 140 families of moths compared to a mere five families of butterflies. Moths can be well camouflaged and have an amazing array of patterns and colours. Many are quite small, requiring strong magnifiers to identify and photograph them. Their caterpillars can be hairy and some cocoons are made from silk which can be tough, durable and as varied as the moths themselves. Many moths feed on specific plants, so as a rule of thumb more species will be found where plant diversity is greatest.

Recently, Peter Marriott delivered a fascinating talk on moths at the Senior Citizens Hall in Beaumaris, followed by a field tour in Long Hollow Heathland Reserve. Peter set up a large white sheet with a brilliant light directed at it which attracted many interesting moths. The group gathered along the boardwalk in the Reserve to view the moths and enthusiastic photographers had a field day.



Vine moth feeding on Buddleia
Photograph by: Peter Marriott

We all came away far more appreciative and knowledgeable of moths and their role in our ecosystems.

Friends of Native Wildlife greatly appreciates the support of the Bayside Environment Friends Network in delivering this event. Special thanks to Barbara Jakob for organising the delicious supper

and venue as well as her husband Bernhard who stood guard over the equipment until the talk had finished.

Please contact Friends of Native Wildlife on (03) 9521 0804 or menorris@ozemail.com.au should you wish to have further information or purchase Peter Marriott's books and CD's.

Elizabeth Walsh
Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife

Bayside's upcoming Sustainability eNewsletter

A greener lifestyle, delivered straight to your inbox.

Passionate residents, business owners, schools and community groups are working towards a more sustainable future.

Achievements in sustainability often go unrecognised by the larger community and from my experience the best information on how to encourage the rest of our community to live more sustainably is to connect people together. So how can Bayside City Council help with this?

We are currently in the process of developing an electronic newsletter that will aim to:

1. provide *practical* knowledge on sustainable practices,
2. *connect* people already engaged in sustainability practices,
3. *facilitate* the development of the communities' collective wisdom.

The really exciting thing about the eNewsletter, is that rather than hearing from me on what you should be doing, you will be reading stories from community members on what *they* are doing.

Even more exciting, is that some of those stories will be selected for inclusion in future editions of the Banksia Bulletin (which is great if you don't use email).

The eNewsletter will be launched in early 2012. Further information will be provided in the next edition of the Banksia Bulletin.

Tom Walsh

Environmental Education Officer
Bayside City Council



GET INVOLVED

If you would like to be included in the development of the eNewsletter, you can volunteer to be part of a test group. This will include reviewing an early version of the eNewsletter and having the opportunity to provide feedback on its design and content.

To register your interest in participating in this group, or in subscribing to the eNewsletter when it is released, please contact Tom Walsh on (03)9599 4444 or twalsh@bayside.vic.gov.au

And the winner is...

Congratulations to Heather Knowles winner of Bayside City Council's eNewsletter competition. Heather won a Vermihut worm farm which can be used to compost a variety of food scraps.

Worm castings are a great fertiliser for your garden and worm farms help to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Residents interested in starting their own worm farm can purchase one from Council by contacting our Waste Field Officer on 9599 4444.

If you are interested in signing up to our e-Newsletter please contact Tom Walsh on 9599 4444 or twalsh@bayside.vic.gov.au.



Bayside Environment Friends Network

Are you interested in native plants and animals?
Do you have a passion for the environment?
Then the Bayside Environment Friends Network may be just for you!

Members of Bayside's 17 Friends groups and others interested in the natural environment of Bayside meet regularly to discuss latest projects and environmental issues.



GET INVOLVED

Meeting Dates

23 January 2012

27 February 2012

26 March 2012

4.30pm - 6.30pm

Where?

Beaumaris Senior Community Centre

Reserve Road Beaumaris (behind the Beaumaris Library)

Cost?

Free

Contact

Barbara Jakob, Coordinator

Mobile: 0408 032 963

BaysideFriends@gmail.com

Working Bee Calendar

FRIENDS/ ENVIRO GROUPS	MELWAY REF	CONTACT DETAILS
Friends of Balcombe Park	86 C4	Coordinator: Joan Couzoff Phone: (03) 9589 1060
Friends of Bay Rd	77 B11	Coordinator: Michael Norris (Southern Ward Councillor) Phone: (03) 9521 0804 Email: menorris@ozemail.com.au
Bayside Environmental Friends Network		Coordinator: Barbara Jakob Mobile: 0408 032 963 Email: baysidefriends@gmail.com
Bayside Bushwalking Club (Charman to Cromer Rds, Beaumaris)		Contact: Jo Hurse (Citywide) 9283 2052
Bayside Community Nursery	77 D12	Coordinator: Ken Rendell 319 Reserve Road, Cheltenham 3192 Phone: (03) 9583 8408 Open Thurs and Sat 10am - 12pm
Beaumaris Conservation Society		President: Chris Sutton PO Box 7016, Beaumaris 3193 Email: ggd@netspace.net.au
BRASCA		Coordinator: Janet Ablitt Phone: (03) 9589 6646 Email: jablitt@bigpond.com Coordinator: Bob Whiteway Phone: (03) 9502 0060 Email: bobwhiteway@optusnet.com.au
Friends of Brighton Dunes	76 C2	Coconvenors: Elizabeth McQuire Phone: (03) 9592 6474 and Jenny Talbot Phone: (03) 9592 2109
Friends of Cheltenham Park	86 G1	Coordinator: Valerie Tyers Phone: (03) 9588 0107 Email: valerietyers@hotmail.com
Cheltenham Primary School Sanctuary		Contact: Marg McIntosh Phone: (03) 9583 1614 Email: mcintosh.margaret.h@edumail.vic.gov.au
Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve	86 B6	Coordinator: Kim Croker Phone: (03) 9589 2443 Email: kcroker@bigpond.net.au
Enviro Kids		Enquiries to Barbara Jakob Phone: 0408 032 963
Friends of George Street Reserve	86 B1	Coordinator: Val Tarrant Phone: (03) 9598 0554 Email: vtarrant@ozemail.com.au. Coordinator: Pauline Reynolds Phone: (03) 9598 6368 Email: pauline.reynolds@bigpond.com
Friends of Gramatan	86 C6	Coordinator: Ken Rendell Phone: (03) 9589 4452
Friends of Long Hollow Heathland	86 D5	Coordinator: Ken Rendell Phone: (03) 9589 4452
Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc	86 C9	President: Ray Lewis Mobile: 0408 308 768 Email: ray.lewis@greypath.com
Friends of Merindah Park and Urban Forest	77 B12	Coordinator: David Cockburn Phone: (03) 9598 6148 Email: davidcoc@optusnet.com.au
Friends of Native Wildlife		Coordinator: Michael Norris (Southern Ward Councillor) Phone: (03) 9521 0804 Email: menorris@ozemail.com.au
NED (New Environment Directions) at Elsternwick Park		Coordinator: Neil Blake, Port Phillip EcoCentre Phone: (03) 9534 0413 Email: neilblake.ecocentre@iinet.net.au
Friends of Ricketts Point Landside	86 C9	Coordinator: Sue Raverty Phone: (03) 9589 2103 Email: sraverty@westnet.com.au
St. Leonards College Conservation Group		Contact: Luisa Ingram Phone: (03) 9909 9300 Email: Luisa.Ingram@stleonards.vic.edu.au
Friends of Table Rock	86 E10	Coordinator: Ken Rendell Phone: (03) 9589 4452
Friends of Watkins Bay	86 D9	Coordinator: Moira Longden Phone: (03) 9589 2725

February 2012 to April 2012

TIME	FEB	MARCH	APRIL
10am – noon	26	25	29
10am – noon	11	10	14
Contact Jo Hurse (Citywide) 9283 2052			
	7, 21	6, 20	3, 17
8am – 10am	7, 14, 21, 28	6, 13, 20, 27	3, 10, 17, 23
10am – noon	5	4	1
9.00 – noon Contact School 9583 1614			
10am – noon	5	4	1
10am – noon	19	18	15
1pm – 3pm	5	4	1
1pm – 3pm	26	25	29
10am – noon	12	11	14
1st Saturday 9.30am			
12.30pm – 2.30pm	21	20	17
12.30pm – 2.30pm	28	27	24
1pm – 3pm	29	28	25



banksia bulletin

Editorial Policy

The purpose of publishing the Banksia Bulletin is to circulate information, report on events, and to profile relevant environmental issues important to our community. The Bulletin is also published to support the network of people involved in enjoying and protecting our local environment.

Bayside City Council encourages people from our local community groups to submit articles of interest, share experiences and news about any upcoming events. All articles are reviewed prior to publication and Council reserves the right to omit or edit submissions.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the people who have contributed to this issue of *Banksia Bulletin*.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in the *Banksia Bulletin* are not necessarily those of Bayside City Council nor its representatives.

Editor

Stephen Thorpe, Manager Environmental Sustainability and Open Space.

Copy deadlines 2012

Copy deadlines are set for the first Friday of the month of release:

Autumn 2012

Friday 2 March for release end March.

Winter 2012

Friday 1 June for release end June.

Banksia Bulletin is published quarterly by Bayside City Council to service people interested in enjoying and protecting the local environment.

If you would like to be added to the *Banksia Bulletin* mailing list, please contact Bayside City Council on 9599 4444 or email: banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au. Please indicate whether you would prefer to receive your *Banksia Bulletin* by post or via email.

Corporate Centre

PO Box 27 Royal Avenue
SANDRINGHAM VIC 3191
Telephone: 9599 4444
www.bayside.vic.gov.au
enquiries@bayside.vic.gov.au
Hours of business 8.30am – 5pm
Monday – Friday
(except public holidays)



**IN THE NEXT
EDITION**

Your guide to a
**Sustainable
Gardening**

Do you want to know more
about Bayside and the
Banksia Bulletin?

Please refer to our website
www.bayside.vic.gov.au



Bayside
CITY COUNCIL