

# banksia

bulletin

summer 2019-20

**Tribute to  
Michael Norris –  
our hero of the  
Heath**

**Summer By  
The Sea 2020**

**Where the  
Magpie sings**



**Bayside**  
CITY COUNCIL

# From the Mayor

**Welcome to the** summer edition of *Banksia Bulletin*.

Since becoming Mayor in November, I have attended a number of events with our Friends groups and volunteers.

Most recently I attended an end-of-year celebration for our volunteers at Ricketts Point where Michael Norris was acknowledged with the presentation of a golden trowel for decades of work with our Friends groups, particularly Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary. You can read more about our 'hero of the heath', Michael Norris, on page 12.

At this event, we also acknowledged the 50-year anniversary of Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association Inc. If you missed the extensive feature in the Autumn edition of *Banksia Bulletin*, it is available on the Council website.

I would like to congratulate our Friends of Bayside Roads, which achieved a Highly Commended Award from Keep Victoria Sustainable Cities recently.

Derek Jones started picking up rubbish along Cheltenham Road in 2017 and was soon joined by fellow residents. He formally established the Friends group to remove litter from the City's roadside reserves (nature strips) around parks and gardens, golf courses, sporting venues, schools, car parks and council-owned infrastructure.

More than 30 volunteers regularly patrol these areas and have prevented around 1800 bags of rubbish from ending up in our marine environments and natural reserves; not to mention improve the amenity of these areas.



**(L-R) Bayside Mayor Cr Clarke Martin presents Friends of Bayside Roads Convenor Derek Jones with the Keep Victoria Sustainable Cities Highly Commended Award.**

We thank these Friends too for keeping an eye out for illegal rubbish dumped around our City. Over the past two years, volunteers from Friends of Bayside Roads have notified Council of around 250 major illegal rubbish dumps.

All of our Friends groups do a wonderful job keeping our reserves and heathlands maintained and protecting the flora and fauna of Bayside.

More volunteers continue to come forward ready to assist and we have captured this enthusiasm by including an extra propagation session to our weekly schedule at the Bayside Community Nursery, which will ensure we have plenty of native and indigenous plants for sale to the community when the nursery re-opens in April 2020.

The next edition of *Banksia Bulletin* will be distributed as a digital publication, although we will continue to have print copies available at our

Corporate Centre and the Bayside Community Nursery.

The digital format will unlock huge potential for this much-loved publication.

There is, of course, the environmental benefit of reducing our footprint but there are advantages also in the quality of the publication.

We will be able to embed video content and have a much wider selection of photographs that can be published at lower resolution.

Our magazine will also have the potential to reach a much larger audience, with electronic sharing capability between community members and of course of Friends groups.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors and Council staff, I thank you for your work in 2019 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

**Cr Clarke Martin**  
Mayor  
Bayside City Council



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Cover image: Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*)  
By Pauline Reynolds



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## Plants of Bayside

With Aaron Hurrell of Citywide Parks and Gardens

### Coast Daisy (*Brachyscome parvula*)

Coast Daisy (*Brachyscome parvula*) is a small, erect, tufted perennial herb growing between 10-45cm high. It has leaves that are very variable ranging between full linear or elliptical in shape to divided lobed leaves. Flowers grow to 20mm and bloom between September to April. They are white or mauve in colour. As its name suggests, this plant grows along the coast preferring wet soils, marshy areas and full sun. This attractive little plant looks quite nice planted in clumps and is available for purchase from the Bayside Community Nursery between April and September each year.

**Source:** Bull, Marilyn (1991) *Flora of Melbourne: A guide to the indigenous plants of the greater Melbourne area* Carlton Vic: Hyland House Publishing



## Let's propagate TOGETHER!

A third propagation session for volunteers has been added to the schedule at the Bayside Community Nursery.

These volunteer opportunities are proving popular with more and more residents taking part in propagating indigenous and native plants in preparation for the 2020 sales season opening in April.

Sessions for volunteer participation are held between **10am-noon** on **Tuesdays, Thursdays** and **Saturdays** at:

### Bayside Community Nursery

315-317 Reserve Road, Cheltenham

For more information please contact Friends of Bayside Support Officer on **03 9599 4700**.

# Rosellas check into new home

**Volunteers from the** Elsternwick Park Association built nest boxes for a flock of Eastern Rosellas in spring.

Workshops to build new homes for these feathered Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve residents were led by Gio Fitzpatrick and Marcus Gwynne from the Association.

The Rosellas checked in within 24 hours and soon began breeding.

This is a fantastic example of how a community can make a positive difference to our local wildlife.





# Where the magpies sing

**Story and photos by Denis Young**  
Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

**Early morning carolling** from Australian Magpies is a much-loved sound to many.

These birds are widespread across the country, common in suburban Melbourne, farming areas and forest fringes.

The white-backed Magpie appears in south east coastal Australia while the black-backed is found elsewhere except in south-west Australia where a third western subspecies has evolved. Where geographic overlap of the subspecies occurs, there is colour evidence of interbreeding.

Magpies easily co-exist with humans to the extent that almost everyone with a bird story to share begins with a Magpie one. They are intelligent birds

and have a wide repertoire of sounds to communicate with each other, their family group and neighbouring Magpie flocks. Quite a few of these vocalisations are also used towards humans.

Australian Magpies have excellent memories and remember humans they have been in regular contact with.

One November morning five years ago, a local pair of Magpies left their fledgling in our Bayside backyard and disappeared.

We put a water bowl nearby and on the second day bought some Wombaroo Insectivore Rearing Mix following directions to provide food. We also spent time talking to this young bird wondering what its future would be. Three days later the adults reappeared and their family life recommenced in our neighbourhood.

This young Magpie developed a close

relationship with us as it grew up with its parents, often flying in to land on the footpath and say hello as we walked, or suddenly appearing in the yard to drink. Three years ago, she brought a mate and fledgling to our yard and they also became regular visitors. Subsequently new fledglings are introduced each year; the latest arrived two weeks ago and is a daily presence at the drink bowl. Loud begging squawks are now heard throughout the day.

From close observation of our local Magpies it seems the adult pair from 2014, whose territory covered our immediate surroundings, has moved across the street claiming a new area. Their five-year-old daughter and male partner now hold stewardship to a territory of approximately one 200-metre street block of properties wide and five street blocks long.



Each Magpie has slightly different features and characteristics making them fascinating bird neighbours to become familiar with, and co-exist. They make an interesting bird observation hobby if you have time. You may not be aware that your home/unit /yard and nature strip has always been claimed by a family of Magpies.

Take a little time to introduce yourself. A large water bowl in an open area away from a secluded water source for smaller birds is enough to befriend your magpie family.

Feeding Magpies is not recommended, however in drought conditions and if a bird appears underfed or ill, some Wombaroo is the only safe temporary food source to consider.



**To learn more about co-existing with these wonderful birds, read:**

- *Australian Magpie. Biology and Behaviour of an Unusual Songbird* by Gisela Kaplan;
- *Magpie Alert* by Darryl Jones.

Wombaroo is available from  
**Not Just Natives Animal Supplies**  
T: **9746 1127**  
Email: [notjustnatives@bigpond.com](mailto:notjustnatives@bigpond.com)  
Or visit [www.petstock.com.au/](http://www.petstock.com.au/)



Water Boatman.

# Diving Beetles and Water Boatmen

**By Elizabeth Walsh**  
Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

**Photos by John Eichler**

**A beautiful sunny** morning with little breeze made our first comprehensive waterbug survey a pleasant experience at the ephemeral pond at the Sandringham Family Leisure Centre Reserve on the corner of Tulip Street and Reserve Road in late November.

Ten macro invertebrate species were identified and two tadpoles – a Spotted Marsh Frog and a Pobblebonk Frog.

Although clearly identifiable with the naked eye, a magnifier is used to see their smaller defining characteristics.

The pond has dried out over the last two years with a small amount of water remaining for a few months each year,

just enough time for a few species to reproduce.

Over the last decade, we have been monitoring the pond for frogs. Watching the ephemeral nature of the pond is fascinating and now it is time to put our resources into becoming aware of the entire species of wildlife that inhabit the area both in and around the water.

Once the rushes and low growing flora return to the surrounding area of the pond we will continue with insect surveys. In the meantime, the water has beckoned for intensive survey work.

Many invertebrates live their entire life in water, some being predators and others being predated upon. Some of these pond invertebrates are insects, which develop through a number of stages before leaving the water, emerging with fully developed wings.

There are two possible lifecycles; one is larval and the other a nymphal lifecycle.

## Larval lifecycle

During the survey, Diving Beetle larvae, of the family *Dytiscidae*, were found. These have four stages in the larval lifecycle. First, eggs are deposited into aquatic plants in stem cuts made by the female beetle.

The larval stage follows, involving voracious feeding before the larvae build themselves a pupal shell and develop into the adult Diving Beetle.

Larvae have soft, simple bodies when they are young and usually look nothing like their parents.

Taper-tailed Diving Beetle larvae **(pictured-need high res)** eat aquatic species such as other waterbugs,



Taper-tailed diving beetle.

dragonfly larvae and sometimes prey larger than themselves such as fish and tadpoles. They inject digestive juices into the body of their prey and suck up the digested contents through tubular mandibles. They themselves are also prey to fish, frogs and water spiders.

The larvae breathe from a siphon at the end of their body which they stick out of the water to get oxygen, whereas adult diving beetles breathe by storing oxygen in a bubble underneath their wing cases. This is where they get their name of Diving Beetles, as they collect air bubbles from the surface then return below to feed or float amongst the underwater plants whilst resting.

When large enough, the larvae enter a pupal stage, which transforms them into winged adults, usually after one to two weeks. They emerge and head back to the water. However, the wings of predaceous Diving Beetles are strong enough to fly to another pond if the pond they are in should dry up. They use light reflected from the water to find other ponds. Sometimes they get confused by artificial light that lures them away from a habitat pond as they are sometimes found in birdbaths and swimming pools.

Some can live up to two to three years.

### Nymphal lifecycle

Nymphs closely resemble their parents, but lack the wings and size of the adult. They begin as eggs attached by the female to submerged objects and moult a number of times before emerging as mature adults with wings.

We found dozens of Water Boatmen, true bugs of the Family, *Corixidae*. These pass through five moults over about six weeks. They can live up to one year and have a strong flight that can take them to other ponds and, like Diving Beetles, can be disorientated by human light.

Some nymphs leave the water when they become adults. For about an hour, they are more vulnerable to predation. Crawling out of the water, their nymphal skin splits down the back and the newly emerging insect steps out of its skin and begins inflating and uncurling. The new wings are very soft and must harden before the animal can use them to fly.

Some insects such as true bugs and beetles return to the water to live as adults, while others cannot and only venture back to lay eggs and die.

Water Boatmen are found in slow moving or still waters among aquatic

vegetation. They are often the most prolific insects in the pond and predated by fish and other aquatic species.

They feed on other insects such as mosquito larvae, but primarily on bits of vegetation, which they grind up internally. They have a soft tube-shaped mouthpart that sucks in nourishment from plants and algae. They use the saliva to first dissolve the plants and algae before sucking the juices back in through their mouthpart.

A Water Boatman holds a bubble of air underneath its wings and abdomen, needing to break water to replenish. They use their legs to hold on to vegetation to keep from floating back to the surface. They are usually less than 13mm long.

### References

[www.australianmuseum.net.au](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au)  
[en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)  
*The Waterbug Book*, John Gooderham and Edward Tsyrlin



# Good news from George Street Reserve

Story by Co-convenor Valerie Tarrant

Photos by Co-convenor  
Pauline Reynolds

**Friends of George** Street Reserve welcomed the news that a controlled burn is planned for Autumn 2020. This will be the first one of a considerable size, as until now the maximum burn amount has been only 1,000 square metres.

The adoption of the Biodiversity Action Plan by Bayside City Council makes it possible to burn 4,000 square metres and, in addition, burn the fenced area with the exception of most of the corners.

The well-documented use of fire has already proved to be of great benefit to other parts of Bayside, and in many parts of the state including Wilson's Promontory. A vital issue in many cases is that of control, as tragedies from wildfires have caused great distress.

A positive move by Parks Victoria, described in *Parkwatch* 279, is a

proposal to ensure that The Prom becomes a promised 'centre of excellence', which would involve fencing, and reintroduction of animals including Quolls and Bandicoots. However it is unlikely that such a project would succeed in Bayside because of the vast changes that have occurred since the Boonerwring men, women and children lived in the land.

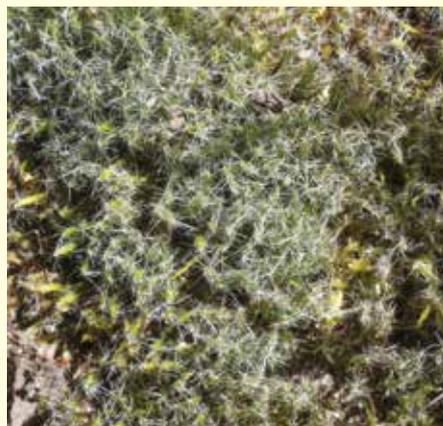
In Bayside, we still have flora that existed in earlier times and many

interested people are eager to discover whether hoped for regeneration of rare plants will occur.

The Common Wedge Pea (*Gompholobium huegellii*), which has a yellow flower, is one of the native plants found at George Street Reserve (see J. H. Willis.Ed., The Sandringham Environment Series – No 3, 'List of Local Plants', Sandringham City Council, 1979).

Jean Galbraith, well known for her knowledge of native plants, has written of pod bearers – plants with Pea Flowers and divided leaves, which include *Gompholobium huegellii*, a spreading shrub with pale yellow flowers. This is in contrast to *G.minus*, Dwarf Wedge Pea – a low shrub with orange-red or red-brown large pea flowers and narrow leaves. (Reference: Jean Galbraith, *Wildflowers of Victoria*, Colourgrature Publications, Melbourne, undated).

Every year we hope for our vegetation to survive the heat of summer so that Friends and Council staff, volunteers and visitors may enjoy the natural treasure that is our George Street Reserve.



# Summertime maritime ready



**By Cameron Toy**

Director Transport Safety

**The second year** of Maritime Safety Victoria's three-year summer safety campaign *Prepare to Survive, Know The 5*, has commenced.

This campaign was developed from known causes of vessel incidents such as knowing the weather, and keeping check on the weather once on the water.

A new boating website and App launched in early December to curb ramp rage and offer trip preparation and decision-making while out on the water.

These resources bring together a list of boat ramps with webcams of ramps showing waterway and current car park capacity.

They also offer hourly weather information, weather and waterway warnings that are location specific.

There are currently 21 webcams around Port Phillip Bay installed to ensure safety.

A new Waterway Rule was introduced on Port Phillip Bay on 16 December requiring PWCs to proceed direction out past 500m markers with no irregular riding.

Victoria Police and Parks Victoria will enforce this new rule.

Officers at councils along Port Phillip Bay are training to become authorised Transport Safety Officers (TSO), giving them power to direct vessels to stop and provide information for the purposes of compliance and investigation.

This means they can stop and check the marine licence details of a vessel's master.

If an offence is detected, the council TSOs can report the offence with accompanying evidence and statements to Maritime Safety Victoria to take compliance action if required.

This waterway rule addresses irregular riding, not speed and distance.



## Resources

- Boating Vic website [www.boating.vic.gov.au](http://www.boating.vic.gov.au)
- Download **Boating Vic** from the **App Store** or **Google Play**



## Before heading out for time on the water, know the five steps of preparing to survive:

- **Know** the weather
- **Practise** getting back on your vessel
- **Carry** a distress beacon
- **Lock** in a buddy plan
- **Wear** a lifejacket

## Did you know?

**86%**

of paddlers don't check the weather during their trip

**50%**

of boaters don't check the weather during their trip

**1,399**

recreational marine incidents were recorded in Victoria during 2018/19

**40%**

Wind gusts are typically 40% stronger than the average marine forecast wind speeds

# Hero of the Heath

## A tribute to Michael Norris

By Sue Forster

Convenor Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary (appointed November 2019)

**Michael Norris is** a familiar figure to Bayside Environmental Friends and regular readers of the *Banksia Bulletin*. He has been a passionate naturalist for most of his life and a local environmental activist for years before emigrating from London to Bayside in 1992.

You can find his name in *How Hampstead Heath Was Saved* by Helen Lawrence (2019).

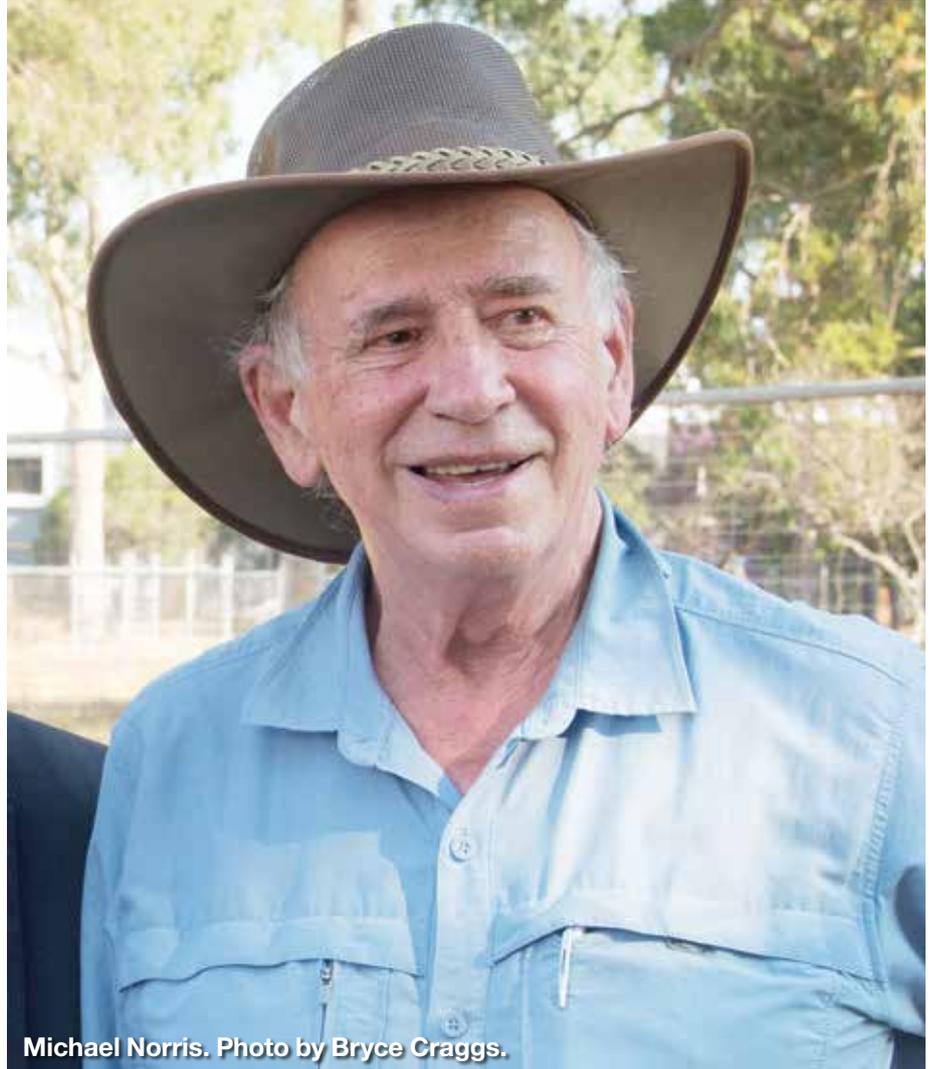
He helped establish Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife (1996), Friends groups for Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary (1996) and Highett Grassy Woodland (2003), Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary and Marine Care Ricketts Point (2002) and the Bayside Environmental Friends Network (2008).

He also edited *Local Birds of Bayside* (Bayside City Council, 1995) and has been a frequent writer for the *Banksia Bulletin* on topics ranging from butterflies, birds and fungi to reports on the Heathland Sanctuary.

From 2005-2012, he played a direct role in developing environmental policy and planning as a Bayside Councillor. His tireless advocacy and outstanding contribution to the foundation and preservation of Bayside's reserves have been recognised in two significant awards: Keep Australia Beautiful's City Pride Community Service Individual Award (2003) and the City of Bayside's Environment Award Individual (2016).

I first met Michael four years ago when I joined a Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary working bee. I can't remember how I came to sign up, but I was soon charmed by the location, the work and the Friends convenor (Michael).

Michael's convenor hat was one of many worn during his busy community life, but he performed his job faithfully and cheerfully and was able to communicate his passion for ecology to all who came to help or be informed. We ended many working bees with a



Michael Norris. Photo by Bryce Craggs.

walk, discovering Blue-banded Bees, an occasional frog, Eastern Rosellas and Spinebills, interesting mistletoes and rare orchids.

It was only recently that I learned Michael had been doing this for an extraordinary 23 years! Seven of these years coincided with his terms as a Councillor. Unfortunately, this came with his decision to stand down as Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary convenor after failing eyesight.

With the imminent risk of losing Michael's in-depth knowledge about this unique reserve, I asked him how he came to be involved with it and how it has changed since that time. I was also curious about how his former life

– his education, career and activities in England – might have prepared him for environmental leadership in Bayside.

Michael describes his education and working life as eclectic. Although he maintained an interest in biology, he graduated from the University of Cambridge in the 1960s with majors in Engineering and Social Anthropology, and went on to study Business Economics (and Philosophy) at the London School of Economics while working in the steel industry.

He strongly believes that we must care first for our 'social ecology' in order to care for our 'natural ecology'. His policy development work provided a prime example of this in action.

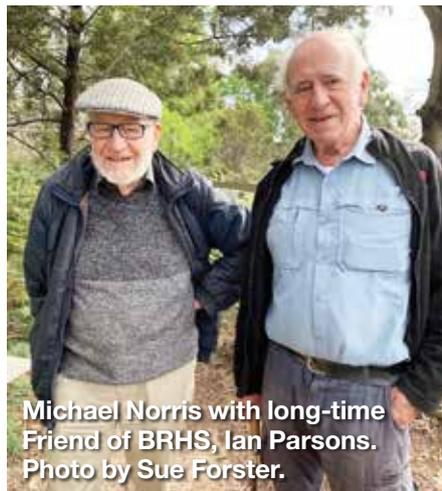


Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary at the 8 November working bee. Back row (L-R): Will McGowan, Deb Marks, Brenda Cullen, Dianna Mannigel, Michael Norris, Sue Forster and Helen Williams. Front (L-R): Nigel Selvi-Lamb, Michael Ruyg, Bengi Selvi-Lamb and Laura Paterson. Photo by Pauline Reynolds.

For example, he represented the World Health Organisation in establishing services for older people throughout the European region. While living in London, his enthusiasm for bird watching on Hampstead Heath became a catalyst for environmental activism. When British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher abolished Greater London Council (1985-1986), he campaigned to stop the historic Heath's administration being split between multiple councils. When Michael moved to Bayside to join his wife Angela, whose parents lived in Brighton, he found significant opportunities to further this interest in environmental politics.

With the amalgamation of the former cities of Brighton and Sandringham into the City of Bayside in December 1994, Michael says he observed a shift towards new, 'more policy-driven ways of running council'.

Conservation Officer Lisa Millie (now Gilchrist) wrote management plans for Bayside's reserves and organised formal Friends groups for existing volunteers, who helped with weeding and planting. Some of their tasks were defined by Citywide's contract requiring its Bushland crew to plant some 20,000 (now 10,000) propagules produced annually for reserves through the Bayside Community Nursery. There were



Michael Norris with long-time Friend of BRHS, Ian Parsons. Photo by Sue Forster.

mutual benefits. The contractors needed community backup but there were also opportunities for Friends to influence future work in the reserves.

Drawn to Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary (BRHS) through his passion for birds, Michael became 'contact person' for its Friends in 1996. He sums up this role as: encouraging others, and interested passers-by, to join in working bees and appreciate the unique aspects of BRHS. As contact person evolved into Friends convenor, the job increased in complexity. Convenors represent Friends to Council and Citywide crew and vice versa, and attend meetings on their behalf. As well as reminding Friends about working bees, convenors contribute updates

to the Bayside Environment Friends Network (BEFN) Facebook page and articles to the *Banksia Bulletin*. They are also required to agree on a joint Action Plan with Citywide for the following year and help introduce new communities to the reserves. In recent years Michael has hosted planting events involving scouts, groups of university students and adjacent apartment dwellers, as well as leading Spring Open Day and Summer By The Sea events.

Located on the crest of an old sand dune, Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary has possibly 85 indigenous plant species, including rare orchids\*. Under Michael's watch, they have benefitted greatly from wide-scale weed reduction. Quaking Grasses (*Briza* spp.) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) have largely disappeared, and indigenous Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) and Soft Spear-grass (*Austrostipa mollis*) have burgeoned since the breaking of the Millennium Drought. Tree Lucerne (*Chamaecytisus palmensis*) and Burgan (*Kunzia ericoides*) are under control and Sweet Pittosporum (*P. undulatum*) has disappeared, along with the rabbits that plagued the Sanctuary before 2004. The Arboretum planted on the western edge in the early 1980s has been allowed to revert back to heathland, and, following removal of woody weeds, ecological

burns in 2003, 2009 and 2018 have helped restore heathland diversity, particularly on the Sanctuary's western side.

As a Councillor, Michael sought to influence Council's Bay Road Industrial Areas Strategy to get better setbacks on developments adjacent to the Heathland. This was particularly important when a nursing home and dense apartment blocks replaced factories on the eastern and western boundaries. He negotiated a sensible compromise when conflicting proposals sought to (1) open up the reserve to Bay Road, and (2) erect a two-metre high fence around the perimeter. Today BRHS is still fronted by dense Coastal Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and a fence at Bay Road, but the fence on the western side is lower and unobtrusive.

For most of the year, public access to the Sanctuary remains limited to Thursdays and working bees (10am-12pm, second Saturday of the month), plus the annual Spring Open Days (mid August to October) that Michael has supported for many years. The limited access helps protect its fragile habitat from human trampling, illicit use and the adverse effects of dogs on indigenous plants and wildlife. Despite these protections, there have been losses. With climate and habitat change, and increased development resulting in fewer wildlife corridors, some wildlife species have declined since the 1990s. Michael deeply regrets the disappearance of four or five families of Superb Fairy-wrens, casualties, he thinks, to predatory Grey Butcherbirds or driven away by recent arrivals, such as aggressive Noisy Miners.

So, what remains on Michael's wish list for BRHS? Foremost, he would like to get the small birds back, to see more low-level heathland, including the Horny Cone-bush (*Isopogon ceratophyllus*) and Banksias, thriving again. Whilst there has been disappointment that a controlled burn in 2018 has so far failed to germinate new Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*), he points to the unusual flowering of four beautiful Wax-lip Orchids (*Glossodia major*) in September 2019 as a hopeful sign for future regeneration.

And what of regeneration beyond the confines of Bay Road Heathland



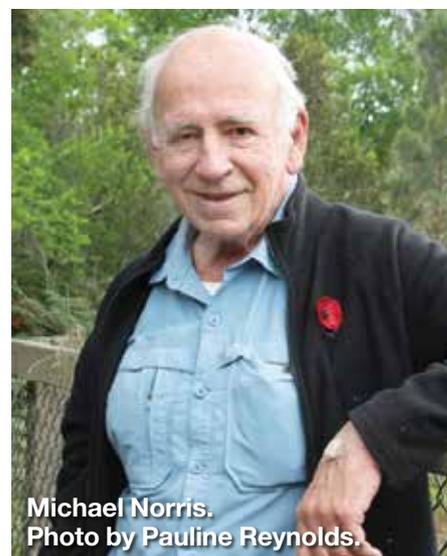
Outgoing BRHS Friends convenor Michael Norris completing his handover to incoming convenor Sue Forster. Photo by Pauline Reynolds.



Michael Norris weeding at Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary. Photo by Pauline Reynolds.

Sanctuary? Unsurprisingly, Michael has other nature-based projects that he would like to pursue, including work with the Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland. The Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary are not yet ready to wave goodbye (hopefully, Michael will remain a frequent visitor and advisor), but they are deeply grateful to him for his many years of dedicated leadership as convenor and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

\* Number of plants based on the indigenous species list in *Rare Plants of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary* by Rob Saunders.



Michael Norris. Photo by Pauline Reynolds.

# Fig trees adorn historic house

**Black Rock House** nestles beneath two mighty Moreton Bay Fig Trees, which are thought to have been planted around the same time as the historic Bayside homestead was built around 160 years ago.

The trees have grown into magnificent giants, shading the wrap-around verandah and stables.

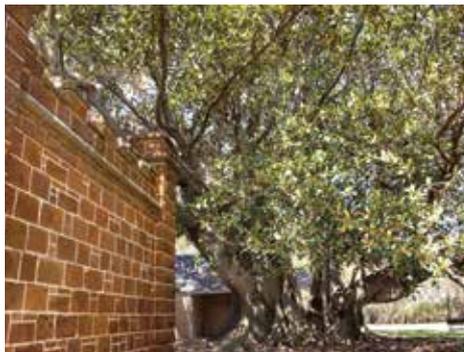
These trees are lovingly inspected and sprayed for Fig Tree psyllid as needed. The driveway into the property was repositioned for greater water catchment for the large tree at the front entrance.

Both trees are on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees.

Black Rock House (located at 34-36 Ebden Avenue in Black Rock) was built between 1856-1858 as a holiday house for Victoria's first Auditor-General Charles Hotson Ebden.

In 1974, the then City of Sandringham (now Bayside City Council) purchased the derelict building and started to lovingly restore it back to as near as the available historical evidence allows.

The Friends of Black Rock House invite you to come and see these beautiful trees in the public garden surrounding the House. While you're there, experience a tour of the house.



## Black Rock House open

First Sunday of every month

Contact President Friends of Black Rock House Inc. Carolyn Brown OAM at [friendsofblackrockhouse@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofblackrockhouse@gmail.com)

## Jellyfish

By Dr Vicki Karalis AM

President of Sandringham Foreshore Association



Have you noticed lots of blue blubber jellyfish washed up on our beaches lately?

This time of the year, during hot weather and depending on wind patterns, we see more of the blue blubber jellyfish congregate on our beaches.

They are usually **not dangerous** but can cause an irritating sting to swimmers and minor skin irritation.

Some people can have an allergic reaction to the sting and require medical treatment.

### What to do for jellyfish stings:

- Wash with salt water and treat with ice for 20 minutes. Do not use fresh water.
- Remove tentacles by hand.

Knowing when and where jellyfish are likely to occur can be challenging even for experts.



The **Jellyfish App** will help you assess what species are likely to be around where you are swimming, what to do to keep from being stung, what to do if you are stung, and how to report alerts so that others will be safe.

Visit [www.thejellyfishapp.com](http://www.thejellyfishapp.com) for more information or:





# SUMMER BY THE SEA

Summer By The Sea will include a program of seven key events in Bayside delivered during the state-wide program throughout January.

These events are free to join and provide plenty of opportunity to discover and enjoy our foreshore, bay, marine life and hidden treasures.

For further information or booking visit [summerbythesea.vic.gov.au/](http://summerbythesea.vic.gov.au/)



DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
tbc	tbc	<b>Aboriginal Coastal Discovery</b>	Join a presentation from the Marine Education Science and Community Centre about the 50,000+ years of Aboriginal people's presence in Australia from the picturesque location of Beaumaris Yacht Club. Following the 45 minute presentation, participants will be taken on a guided walk and talk on Port Phillip Bay – Nairn – history. This will include specific insight into aspects of our local Aboriginal heritage. Bookings essential. This is an all ages event. Children under 14 years old must be accompanied by an adult.
Wednesday 8 January	9.30-11.30am and 12.30-2.30	<b>Snorkelling for people with disabilities</b>	This unique Disabled Snorkelling event is delivered by the Disabled Divers Association (DDA) to provide people of various abilities an opportunity to experience a day at the beach in a new light. Gain confidence in accessing the water environment with the assistance of DDA, a non-profit organisation dedicated to encouraging and supporting people with disabilities. This event will inspire people with disabilities to have confidence in the water. This activity may be rescheduled if weather is unsuitable. Numbers are limited and bookings via the Disabled Divers Association are essential!
Saturday 11 January	8.45-10am	<b>Introduction to snorkelling (beginners)</b>	Take part in a short introduction to snorkelling in the shallows on the shoreline at Ricketts Point. Participants must have their own snorkels, masks and fins. Children must be supervised by a responsible adult.
Saturday 11 January	8.45-10am	<b>Introduction to snorkelling (experienced)</b>	Participants must have some experience in snorkelling and their own equipment including snorkels, masks, fins and preferably wetsuits (5mm recommended).
Sunday 12 January	10-11.45am	<b>Rock Pool Ramble (1 only)</b>	A 30-minute beachcomb exploring the treasures left on the sandy shore by the receding tide, followed by a 45-minute rockpool ramble to search for the unique marine animals that call this rocky intertidal environment home.



DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Saturday 18 January	9-11am	<b>Dogs' Breakfast</b>	Bayside City Council presents Dogs' Breakfast, catering for dogs and their humans. Citywide Bushland and Nursery crews will provide lots of information about the local environment, the importance of keeping your dog on a lead in sensitive vegetation, bird habitat areas and more. This event is suitable for all ages. Children under 16 years of age must be supervised by an accompanying adult. No bookings required.
Saturday 18 January	8.45-10am	<b>Introduction to snorkelling (experienced)</b>	Participants must have some experience in snorkelling and their own equipment including snorkels, masks, fins and preferably wetsuits (5mm recommended).
Sunday 19 January	2-3.30pm	<b>Coastal Photography</b>	Join an introductory session about coastal photography.
Friday 24 January	8.15-9.30pm	<b>Marine and Coastal Discovery: Rakali by Night Life</b>	Join the Friends of Native Wildlife in a search for Rakali, Hydromys, along Brighton's foreshore.



Numbers are limited for many of the Summer by The Sea events.

Avoid disappointment by booking online at [www.summerbythesea.vic.gov.au/](http://www.summerbythesea.vic.gov.au/)

For more information and booking links, visit:

[f /summerbythesea/](https://www.facebook.com/summerbythesea/) [f /Bayside-Environmental-Friends-Network-178293368874446/](https://www.facebook.com/Bayside-Environmental-Friends-Network-178293368874446/)



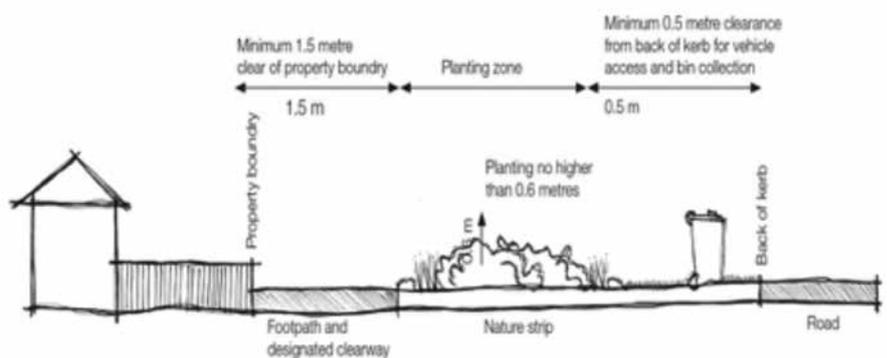
# Just add nature

By Rob Saunders  
Bayside Community Nursery

**Bayside residents are** turning to local indigenous grasses, ground covers and wildflowers to plant nature strips, which can reduce mowing and provide benefits to the environment and amenity.

These were highlighted at a well-attended workshop recently held by the Beaumaris Conservation Society (BCS).

Nature strips make up more than one-third of Melbourne's public green space. In some parts of Beaumaris, nature strip plantings form valuable wildlife corridors between areas of remnant bushland such as Balcombe Park, Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary, Long Hollow Heathland and Beaumaris Reserve. In other areas, including new estates, nature strip plantings have become attractive and important elements of the streetscape.



Indigenous species are particularly appropriate as they are adapted to Bayside conditions. These plants are part of the original food web, allowing local birds and insects to make use of them. This helps control introduced and pest species without using harmful chemicals.

Research also shows important amenity benefits for humans. Adrian Marshall points out in his article that,

‘street greenery helps water soak into the ground, filtering out pollutants, recharging aquifers and making rivers healthier. It cools streets and helps counter the urban heat island effect. It also promotes a sense of community, encourages walking and lowers the incidence of heart disease, diabetes, asthma and depression.’

Bayside City Council has established guidelines to assist residents plant out

## Examples of recommended indigenous plants for nature strips

### Spreading lawn grasses and lawn substitutes

Kidney Weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Prostrate x 1m
Weeping Grass	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	30cm high x 60cm wide
Bristly Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma setaceum</i>	10cm high x spreading

### Tussock grasses

Reed Bent-grass	<i>Deyeuxia quadriseta</i>	15-50cm high x 40cm wide
Long-hair Plume-grass	<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>	50cm high x 30cm wide
Common Love-grass	<i>Eragrostis brownii</i>	10-50cm high x 30cm wide

### Other tussocks

Small-flower Flax-lily	<i>Dianella brevicaulis</i>	50-90cm high x 80cm wide
Pale Flax-lily	<i>Dianella laevis</i>	30-80cm high x 50cm wide
Knobby Club-sedge	<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	15-50cm high x 60cm wide

### Ground covers and wildflowers

Chocolate Lily	<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	20-60cm high x 50cm wide
Karkalla	<i>Carpobrotus rossii</i>	Prostrate x 2m wide
Common Everlasting	<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Prostrate x 50cm wide

### Low shrubs (some may need pruning to keep below 60cm)

Common Aotus	<i>Aotus ericoides</i>	50cm – 1m high x 1m wide
Common Correa	<i>Correa reflexa</i>	30cm – 1m high x 1m wide
Hop Goodenia	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	60cm – 1.2m high x 1.2m wide



shown to be important for residents' health in urban areas<sup>1</sup>. As the climate gradually warms, these trees and the nature strip plantings around them will only increase in importance.

Bayside is well established to assist residents planting their nature strips. Bayside Community Nursery sells many local species. The nursery encourages planting in the cooler seasons by opening from April to October each year. Residents can help Citywide staff and volunteers propagate year-round.

Sessions run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-1pm and Saturdays from 10am-noon.

For more information about indigenous and native plant species please visit [www.bayside.vic.gov.au/bayside-community-nursery](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/bayside-community-nursery)

their nature strips. For more visit [www.bayside.vic.gov.au/how-plant-your-nature-strip](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/how-plant-your-nature-strip)

Guidelines are also included around landscape plans that need to be approved by Council before plantings are established.

A generic nature strip design that conforms to Council guidelines was

prepared for the BCS workshop and an electronic copy can be obtained by contacting BCS (see page 22 for details).

Council's website includes a link for residents to request a nature strip tree. Council also has a well-established program to increase tree planting on nature strips throughout Bayside. Increasing tree cover has also been



Listen to *Nature-strips are everywhere in Melbourne. Should they all be gardens instead?*  
By Richelle Hunt on ABC Afternoons

[www.abc.net.au/radio/melbourne/programs/afternoons/creative-nature-strips/11624138](http://www.abc.net.au/radio/melbourne/programs/afternoons/creative-nature-strips/11624138)

<sup>1</sup> <https://theconversation.com/increasing-tree-cover-may-be-like-a-superfood-for-community-mental-health-119930>

# Thank you volunteers

**An end-of-year celebration** for Bayside's Friends group volunteers was held on Thursday 12 December at Ricketts Point.

During 2019, Friends of Bayside volunteers contributed more than 3000 volunteering hours across 20 different volunteering groups.

Bayside Mayor Clarke Martin acknowledged the contribution our wonderful and passionate volunteers make on the community.

"You are leading the way as the environmental stewards of Bayside, taking action to protect and enhance the natural environment," he said at the event.

"By using your skills, knowledge and experience to improve our natural surroundings, you play a crucial role in promoting environmental awareness across our municipality."

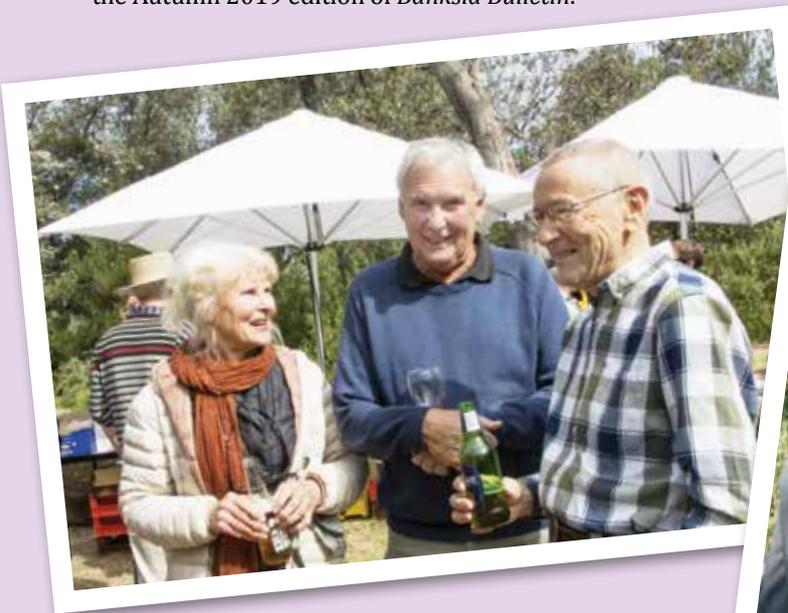
Michael Norris, who recently stepped down as convenor of Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary, was presented with a framed golden trowel as a thank you for the decades he has spent volunteering.

"On behalf of the Bayside City Council, I'd like to thank Michael for his efforts and contribution to the Bayside community," Cr Martin said.

A special mention was also made in recognition of the 50-year anniversary of the Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association.

For more information about Michael Norris please see page 12.

For more information about Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association please see the Autumn 2019 edition of *Banksia Bulletin*.

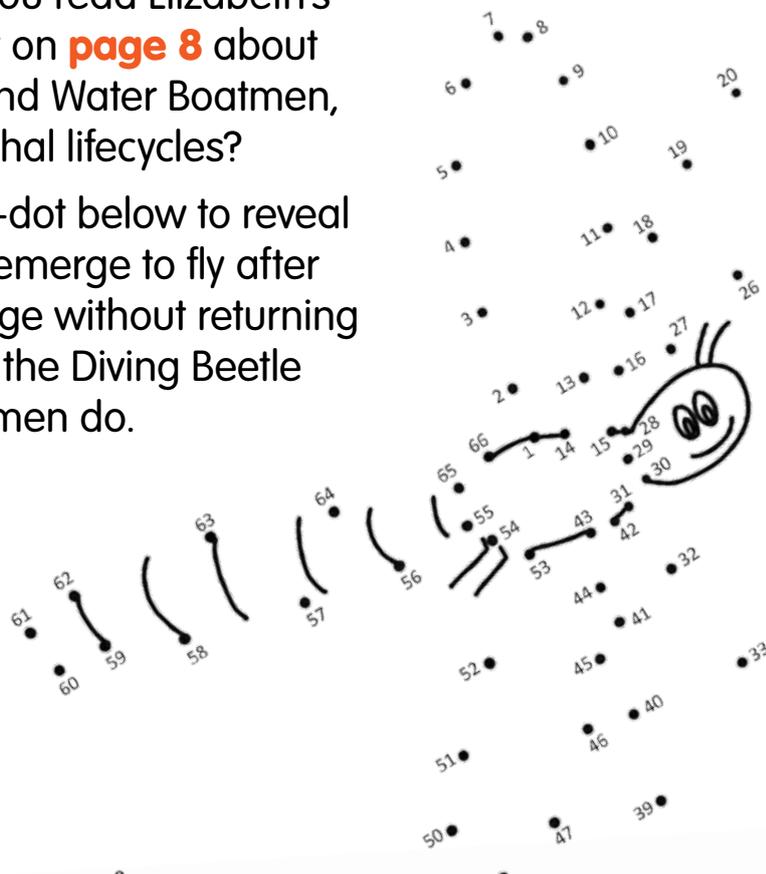


# Kids' Corner



Hey kids, have you read Elizabeth's fascinating story on **page 8** about Diving Beetles and Water Boatmen, larval and nymphal lifecycles?

Finish the dot-to-dot below to reveal waterbugs that emerge to fly after the nymphal stage without returning to the water like the Diving Beetle and Water Boatmen do.



1. Dragonfly 2. Mayfly

## Friends Groups

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### Friends of Balcombe Park

**Convenor:** Ian O'Loughlin

**Mobile:** 0412 432 618 **Email:** ianoloughlin@optusnet.com.au

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 29 **Time:** 10am-12pm

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### Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

**Convenor:** Sue Forster

**Phone:** 0431 688 606 **Email:** sue.forster@optusnet.com.au

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 14 **Time:** 10am-12pm

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### Friends of Bayside Roads

**Contact:** Derek Jones

**Phone:** 0417 360 747 **Email:** derekhjones36@gmail.com

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### Bayside Environmental Friends Network

**Convenor:** Teneille Mahoney

**Phone:** 9583 8408 **Email:** friends@bayside.vic.gov.au

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### Friends of Beaumaris Reserve

**Convenor:** Chris Sutton

**Phone:** 0438 327 924 **Email:** sutc@bigpond.com

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 28

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### Friends of Brighton Dunes

**Convenor:** Jenny Talbot

**Phone:** 0499 592 233

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 7, 14, 21 & 28, Feb 4, 11, 18 & 25, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30  
**Time:** 8-10am

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### Friends of Cheltenham Park

**Convenor:** Valerie Tyers

**Phone:** (03) 9588 0107 **Email:** valerietyers@hotmail.com

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 1 **Time:** 10am-12pm

---

### Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

**Convenor:** Kim Croker

**Phone:** (03) 9589 2443 **Email:** kcroker@bigpond.net.au

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Feb 5, Mar 4 **Time:** 10am-12pm

---

### Friends of George Street Reserve

**Convenors:** Pauline Reynolds

**Phone:** (03) 9598 6368 **Email:** pauline.reynolds.au@gmail.com

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 15 **Time:** 10am-12pm

---

### Friends of Gramatan Avenue Heathland

**Convenor:** Ken Rendell

**Phone:** (03) 9589 4452

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 8 **Time:** 1-3pm

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### Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

**Convenor:** Rob Saunders

**Phone:** (03) 9515 3383 **Email:** srednuas@hotmail.com

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 29 **Time:** 1-3pm

---

### Friends of Merindah Park & Urban Forest

**Convenor:** John de Cruz Douglas

**Phone:** 0417 386 408 **Email:** mainbrace36@gmail.com

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 8 **Time:** 9-11am

---

### Friends of Mother Stock Areas

**Convenors:** Pauline Reynolds and Rob Saunders

**Phone:** (03) 9598 6368 **Email:** pauline.reynolds.au@gmail.com

**Phone:** (03) 9515 3383 **Email:** srednuas@hotmail.com

 **Upcoming events:**

For event dates please contact the convenor

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### Friends of Native Wildlife

**Convenors:** Elizabeth Walsh

**Phone:** (03) 9598 9009 **Email:** info@bayfonw.org.au

**Website:** www.bayfonw.org.au

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Please check the website [www.bayfonw.org.au/events](http://www.bayfonw.org.au/events)

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### Friend of Picnic Point Sandringham

**Convenor:** Terry Reynolds

**Phone:** (03) 9598 2978 **Email:** reynolds\_family@hotmail.com

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### Friends of Ricketts Point

**Convenor:** Diana Pearce

**Phone:** 0448 573 256 **Email:** dipearce39@icloud.com

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 11 **Time:** 9.30-11.30am

---

### Friends of Ricketts Point Landside

**Convenor:** Sue Raverty

**Phone:** (03) 9589 2103 **Email:** sraverty@westnet.com.au

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 17 **Time:** 1-3pm

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### Friends of Table Rock

**Convenor:** Ken Rendell

**Phone:** (03) 9589 4452

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 31 **Time:** 10am-12pm

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### Friends of Elster Creek

**Convenor:** Gio Fitzpatrick

**Phone:** 0432 045 303 **Email:** gio@ecocentre.com

**Meeting point:** Elwood Canal, Glen Huntly Road Bridge

 **Upcoming events:**

Please check [www.facebook.com/friendsofelstercreek/](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofelstercreek/)

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## The Dogs' Breakfast

Bring your dog down to the beach for a cool off and breakfast. This popular annual event is also a great chance to learn about the importance of keeping your dog on a lead in sensitive vegetation and speak with the Citywide bushland staff about Bayside's bushland reserves.

**Date:** Saturday 18 January 2020

**Time:** 9am to 12pm

**Location:** Sandown Spit, Brighton

## Environment Groups

### Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc.

**President:** Murray Orr

**Email:** baysidefossils@gmail.com

**Website:** www.beaumarisfossils.org

### Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc

**President:** Greg Mier

**Contact:** PO Box 7016, Beaumaris 3193 **Email:** info@bcs.asn.au

**Website:** www.bcs.asn.au

### Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association Inc

**President:** Craig Brunnen

**Phone:** 0488 303 887 **Email:** brunnencc@gmail.com

**Secretary:** John Neve

**Phone:** 0479 196 260 **Email:** jneve@ozemail.com.au

 **Upcoming working bees:**

**Dates:** Jan 7 & 15, Feb 4 & 11, Mar 3 & 10

**Time:** 10am-12pm

### Elsternwick Park Association

**Email:** ElsternwickParkAssociation@gmail.com

### Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc

**President:** Elizabeth Jensen

**Phone:** 0419 354 998 **Email:** elizabethjensen@outlook.com

**Website:** www.marinecare.org.au

**Melway Ref:** 86 C9

### Sandringham Foreshore Association

**President:** Dr Vicki Karalis

**Contact:** PO Box 52, Sandringham, 3191

**Email:** sandyforeshore@optusnet.com.au

**Website:** sandringhamforeshore.tumblr.com

## School Groups

### Firbank Girls Grammar

**Contact:** Mary-Ellen Johnson

**Phone:** (03) 9591 5188 **Email:** mjohanson@firbank.vic.edu.au

### St Leonard's College Conservation Group

**Contact:** Simon Daniels

**Phone:** (03) 9909 9300 **Email:** simon.daniels@stleonards.vic.edu.au



# 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

Damien Van Trier  
Manager Open Space,  
Recreation and Wellbeing

### Content Coordinator

Kristi High  
0407 366 466

### Copy deadlines

#### Autumn 2020

Friday 21 February 2020

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 email or via post.

### Corporate Centre

PO Box 27 Royal Avenue

Sandringham VIC 3191

Telephone: 9599 4444

www.bayside.vic.gov.au

banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au

Hours of business

8.30am–5pm

Monday–Friday

(except public holidays)

A close-up photograph of a Kookaburra sitting in a hollow in a tree trunk. The bird has a white head with a brown stripe through its eye and a dark beak. The tree bark is thick and textured, with a hole cut into it. The background is a clear blue sky.

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

Please refer to our website  
[www.bayside.vic.gov.au](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au)



Kookaburra sits in  
Tijajirrin Reserve.  
By Lachlan Egan