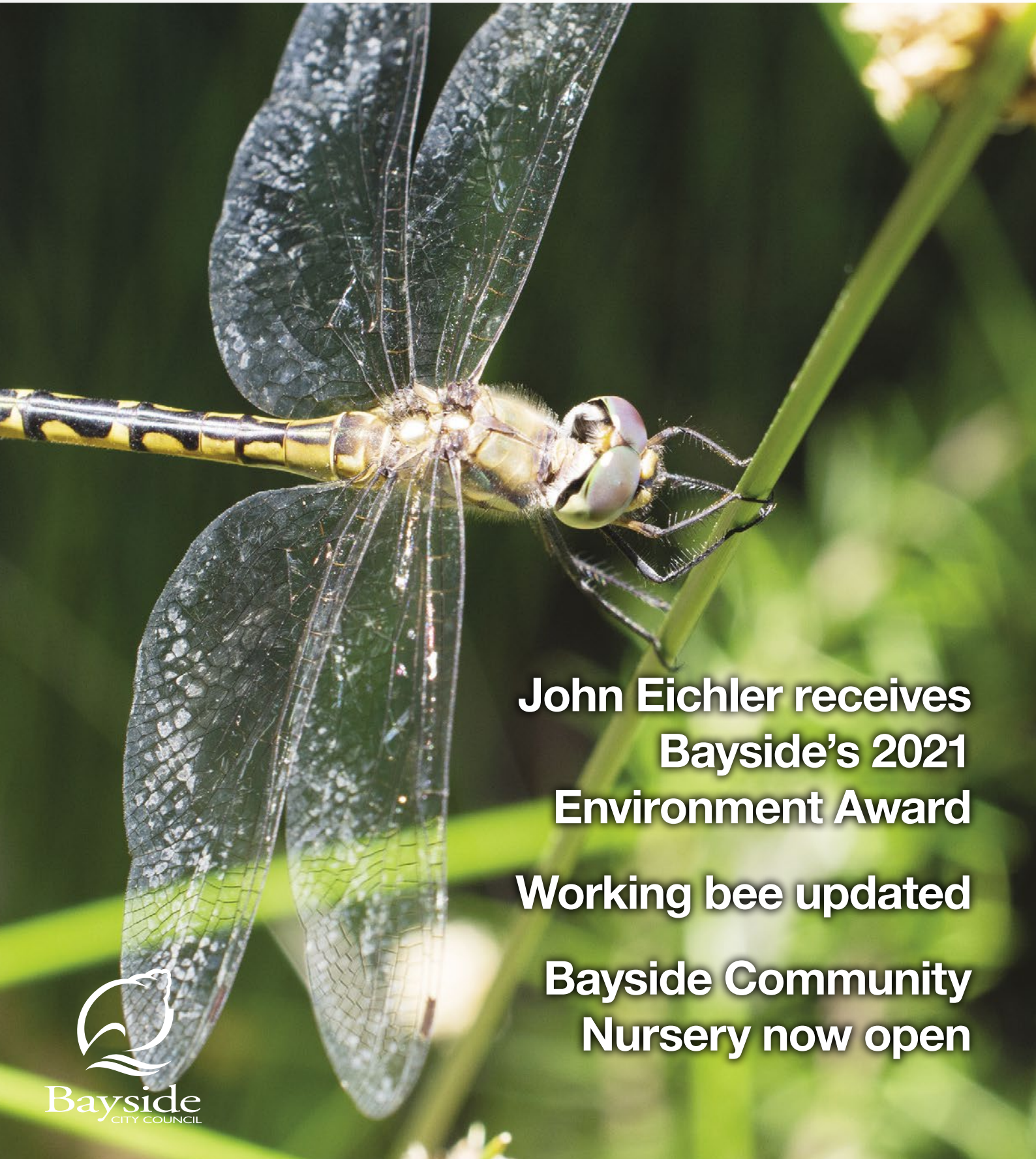


# banksia

bulletin

autumn 2021



**John Eichler receives  
Bayside's 2021  
Environment Award**

**Working bee updated**

**Bayside Community  
Nursery now open**



**Bayside**  
CITY COUNCIL



# From the Mayor

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

It is wonderful to be out and about in Bayside, seeing familiar faces and enjoying our natural environment once again.

A huge 'welcome back' to the Bayside Community Nursery, where a fantastic gala event was held on Saturday 27 March to mark the opening of the 2021 season.

It has been nearly 18 months since the nursery has been open to the public. Thank you to all the volunteers who have been busy in the preceding months preparing our indigenous plant stock for sale. Joining me at the opening were Cr Hanna El Mouallem and Cr Fiona Stitfold. I'm looking forward to planting the *Eucalyptus viminalis* I purchased at Fairway Aged Care as part of a planning regulation, very soon.

I had the pleasure recently of joining 23 environmental groups at the Bayside Environmental Groups' Listening Forum.

The idea to hold this event came from Caroline Lawton, President of the Beaumaris Conservation Society, who had the brilliant idea to bring all the environmental groups together to share their priorities with Council.

Over the course of the morning, we listened to representatives from each group as they presented many ideas. These ranged from introducing a program to plant replacement *Banksia integrifolia* trees on the coast to ways we could better protect and expand Bayside's tree canopy. Many groups shared ideas about how to best recruit, train and retain volunteers.

Council listened as environmental volunteers spoke passionately about how their groups play an important



role in protecting and enhancing our local environment. We heard about some of the challenges we face such as maintaining Ricketts Point as it continues to grow in popularity as a destination for visitors from far and wide.

Thank you to my Councillor colleagues who also attended including Cr Clarke Martin, Cr Alex Del Porto, Cr Fiona Stitfold and Cr Jo Samuel-King. Thank you also to the Council Officers who helped organise the event and for showing their interest in listening to our community by joining the conversation on a Sunday morning.

Council is considering the ideas that were presented and looks forward to progressing some of these in the near future.

**Cr Laurence Evans**  
Mayor  
Bayside City Council



Mayor Laurence Evans OAM speaks to the crowd at the Bayside Environmental Groups' Listening Forum.

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Australian Emerald Dragonfly  
(*Hemicordulia australiae*) by Pauline Reynolds





Water Ribbon (*Triglochin procera*)



Words and photo by Aaron Hurrell,  
Citywide Bushland Crew

## Water Ribbon

The Water Ribbon (*Triglochin procera*) is a variable and robust, formed, perennial plant with a thick woody rhizome and cylindrical tubers that can handle being fully aquatic or live an amphibious lifestyle.

The leaves are erect, or float on the water, usually between 0.1-3.5m long and 5-40mm wide with dark green colouring on the top surface and the bottom surface paler in colour to a yellowish green.

The flowers of the Water Ribbon are found densely packed on a 6-51cm long spike but shorter if found growing in permanent water, roughly numbering between 52 to 320 small greenish flowers. The flower spikes can either be standing erect or falling over.

The Water Ribbon requires freshwater up to 2m deep or irregular flood areas in full sun and semi-shade.

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

Australian Painted Lady  
(*Vanessa kershawi*) by David Cook  
(Creative Commons)



## Attracting butterflies

**Butterflies are a welcome addition to any garden and are easily attracted with a few simple design principles.**

Put out a dish of damp sand and a flat rock for butterflies to bask in the morning sun. Provide sheltered and shady positions throughout the garden that let them retreat during the heat of the day. Butterflies prefer flat flowers, such as daisies, that are easy to land on to extract nectar. They are attracted to a range of coloured flowers, in particular blue, yellow and red.

Look for the butterfly icon on pages 28-60 in *Live Bayside*, *Plant Bayside* publication for plants that provide food and shelter for butterflies.

You can purchase some of these plants from the Bayside Community Nursery, which is now open for sales (see page 12 for more).



L-R: Alison Murnane, Jason Hall, Michael Norris, Michael Ruyg, Cr Jo Samuel-King MBBS, Helen Williams and Sue Forster. Photo by Annie Dennis.

## Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

### February working bee

A recent Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary working bee on Saturday 27 February attracted a great turnout of volunteers from the Friends group.

This unscheduled working bee made up for the previously scheduled activity, which was cancelled due to the snap lockdown in February.

Friends enjoyed an impromptu visit from Councillor Jo Samuel-King MBBS who dropped by for a quick chat and to help with bracken removal.



Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary Friends group removing bracken on Saturday 27 February. Photos by Sue Forster.



# In my garden

Story and photos by Pauline Reynolds

Here, I share recent sightings from my garden.

This spectacular Wandering Ringtail Damselfly (*Austrolestes leda*) was spotted on 11 February 2021, in the same week I also saw an Australian Emerald Dragonfly (*Hemicordulia australiae*) on 6 February 2021 (inset and on the cover).

Both were warm days and these magnificent creatures were photographed enjoying the late afternoon sun.

You will notice too they are both sitting on indigenous plants – Austral Storksbill (*Pelargonium australe*) and Knobby Club-sedge (*Ficinia nodosa*) respectively.



Wandering Ringtail Damselfly (*Austrolestes leda*)







Pale Wedge Pea (*Gompholobium huegelii*) – a locally rare indigenous wildflower. Photo by Rob Saunders.

# Peas in a pod?

By Rob Saunders

Friends of Long Hollow Heathland  
and Rare Plants Group

Most of Bayside's indigenous peas are small shrubs with bright 'eggs and bacon' coloured flowers.

Eight local species from the genera *Aotus*, *Bossiaea*, *Daviesia*, *Dillwynia*, *Platylobium* and *Pultenaea* all have flowers that come in shades of yellow and reddish brown. Even Golden Spray (*Viminaria juncea*), a taller upright shrub, has similar flowers.

Three other local pea species are more distinctive, being varied in their growth form and flower colour.

The local Purple Coral Pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*) is a strong climber with eye-catching sprays of mauve, pink and lime green flowers. The popular Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*) is a ground cover with bright red flowers. And the adaptable Austral Indigo (*Indigofera australis*) has very pretty sprays of pink or mauve flowers.

Bayside has one other indigenous member of the pea family, but it is as hard to find as the other peas are



Unripe pods of Pale Wedge Pea (*Gompholobium huegelii*) January 2021. Photo by Rob Saunders.



Blood-tipped Resin Bee photographed at Long Hollow by John Eichler.

hard to miss. Our Pale Wedge Pea (*Gompholobium huegelii*) tends to be a low, scrambling shrub. It has tiny leaves in groups of three, but relatively large (2cm) flowers. Unlike any of our other bush peas, they are single-coloured, with a lovely soft, pale lemon hue (above left).

For a long time, I have been concerned about losing the Pale Wedge Pea from Bayside's reserves, as it is only present in very low numbers. While

one or two seedlings have emerged after some of Bayside's ecological burns in recent years, we know of fewer than 10 plants scattered around just four reserves – Long Hollow, Gramatan Avenue, Balcombe Park and George Street.

Propagation of the *Gompholobium* has not been easy either. Bayside Community Nursery has grown a few trays of cuttings, but until this year no seed had ever been collected.

Propagating from seed has advantages from a conservation point of view. Seedlings provide genetic diversity, whereas cutting-grown plants are clones and have genes identical to the parent. Often, seedlings are also more resilient when planted out, as they have stronger or better-structured root systems.

It was very exciting to find some 'pea pods' forming on the Pale Wedge Pea at Long Hollow this year.

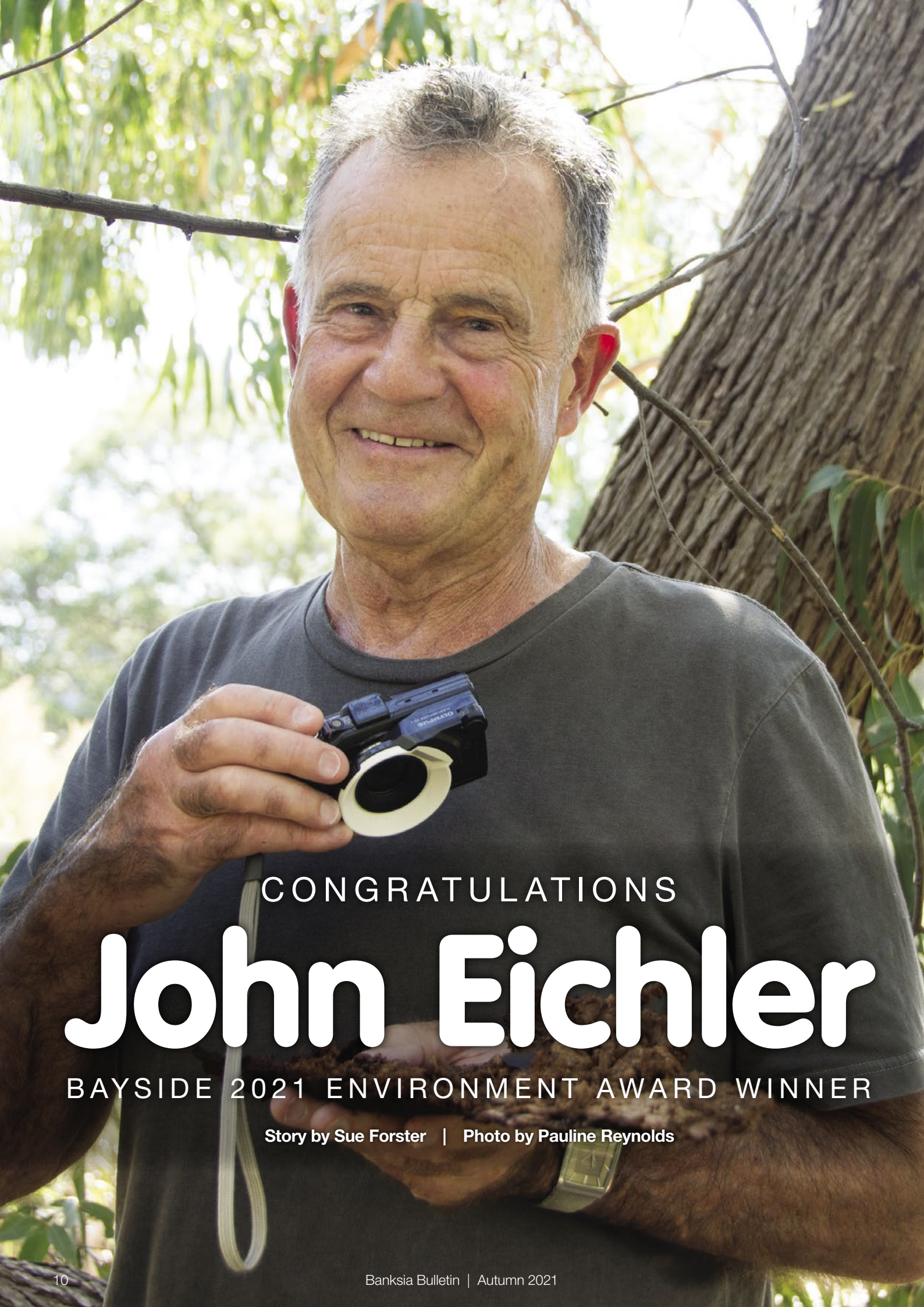
I'm curious as to why our *Gompholobium* has set seed, apparently for the first time, this year. Is it because we had a wetter season and the plant wasn't struggling to survive as it normally does? Or is that only part of the explanation? I have watered the Long Hollow *Gompholobium* to ensure its survival over several previous summers. But it didn't set any seed then.

Another possibility is that there may be more or different pollinators around locally than in previous years. Nectar producing flowers such as peas attract a range of different insects. There are many native pollinators and their abundance tends to change from one season to the next, for reasons that are not fully understood.

Certain characteristics of the pollinator are critical with bush peas. A long tongue is useful for the insect to reach the hidden nectaries of pea flowers. But only an appropriately-sized insect can part their petals and trip their spring-loaded stamens, dusting the insect with pollen to transport to another flower. It seems likely that successful pollinators for *Gompholobium* would be larger than those for the more common 'eggs and bacon' flowers.

Over the years, John Eichler has photographed a number of different native bees at Long Hollow, including several from the *Lasioglossum* family (Social Burrowing Bees) and a couple of different *Megachilids* (solitary Resin Bees and Leafcutter Bees). Research in Tasmania suggests the native *Megachilids* can be important pollinators for *Gompholobium huegelii*. Another field naturalist who specialises in orchid pollination, Rudie Kuiter, has also told me the *Megachilids* are abundant this year. Perhaps they are producing an unusually fertile year for our *Gompholobium*?





CONGRATULATIONS

# John Eichler

BAYSIDE 2021 ENVIRONMENT AWARD WINNER

Story by Sue Forster | Photo by Pauline Reynolds

**Black Rock naturalist** John Eichler is a regular contributor to *Banksia Bulletin*, known to readers for his extraordinary photo-documentation of local fungi, flora and fauna, particularly marine life, insects and birds.

On 26 January 2021, John was the worthy recipient of Bayside Council's 2021 Australia Day Environment Award for an Individual. The award recognises his 'outstanding community service to the environment through his identification and photography of flora and fauna within Bayside and his many featured articles in the *Banksia Bulletin*'.

Mayor Laurence Evans OAM and Councillor Alex del Porto presented the award and flowers at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony at Sandringham Yacht Club. John told their audience:

***He is probably Bayside's foremost authority on all matters fungal, having conducted regular surveys in the reserves since 2003.***

*'I started keeping natural history records when I moved to Bayside over 40 years ago. My initial focus was marine life and fungi and in more recent years that focus has shifted to insects, spiders and the like. After buying a digital camera almost 15 years ago, it became easier to document and share those observations.*

*Until recently I spent a lot of time visiting bushland throughout Victoria and beyond. That changed in 2020 for two reasons. Firstly, there was a series of COVID-related lockdowns and, secondly, Sue Forster, convenor of the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary (BRHS) Friends group, asked me to assist in documenting invertebrates there.*

*I have been visiting BRHS on a semi-regular basis for a year now and documenting the species seen there. I have followed a similar but less regular routine at other local bushland reserves (George Street Reserve, Gramatan Avenue Reserve, Tulip Street Pond, Balcombe Park, Long Hollow Heathland).*

*This enforced local focus has revealed several surprises. These include:*

- the richness of life forms present, many of which were new to me – a total of over 570 species at BRHS;*
- the ability to consistently find new species on each visit;*
- numerous, apparently new, records for Bayside;*

- a handful of records of species that are rare in Victoria; and*
- a few species that appear to represent new state records\*.'*

One example of John's rare finds is a *planthopper* or fungus bug that has been acknowledged as one of only four national records of a new genus in the family *Achilidae*.

Another recent discovery is a rare moth, *Philobota chrysopotama*, that had not been recorded in Victoria since the type collection was made in Hampton in 1890.

At George Street Reserve, John recently identified three beetles that he hadn't seen in Bayside before — Clerid Beetle (*Opilo variipes*), Longicorn Beetle (*Phacodes obscurus*), and Honeybrown Beetle (*Ecnolagria grandis*).

The Clerid Beetle has only five other records in Victoria. Ricketts Point foreshore and Balcombe Park Reserve have also yielded insects with no previous Bayside records: an unusual Margin-winged Stick Insect (*Ctenomorpha marginipennis*) at Ricketts Point and a Bee Fly in the genus *Aleucosia* at Balcombe Park.

Beyond Bayside, John has added four new plant species to Victoria's botanical record and discovered the threatened fungus known as Tea-tree Fingers (*Hypocreopsis amplexans*) as well as three of its five known sites. He is probably Bayside's foremost authority on all matters fungal, having conducted regular surveys in the reserves since 2003.

John is equally at home down at the beach, documenting marine invertebrates such as shrimps and sea slugs, seastars, molluscs and corals. Many of these have been included in the publication *Algae and Marine Invertebrates of Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary*.

John's photos are particularly valuable for what they reveal about ecosystem complexity. Thanks to his careful observations, we have a photographic record of 78 species of fungi found in Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary. We also know that there are still four species of skink and the Marbled Gecko living among its

logs, and its documented insect species now number over 266.

For the past 40 years, John has been an active contributor to surveys with the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. His skills have been honed through this field experience rather than formal study, although in his professional career he was a town planner. He is unusual in the breadth of his interests, understanding how to take a photo that illuminates the key identifying features of almost any living subject.

Due to his reputation for discovering new species and new examples of rare species, John is now highly regarded by professionals in fields that he entered as an amateur. When he gave a talk on rare plants in 2019, senior staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Victorian Government's Senior Botanist from the Department of Land, Water, Environment and Planning joined the conversation.

John Eichler's trained eye misses very little and his camera equipment is simple. Even at night, he works without a tripod, relying on a flash and years of practice to get a shot right. His gift to Bayside is that he shares his vision through exquisite photos that are a joy to view.

*\*John Eichler uses both iNaturalist and the Atlas of Living Australia websites for data to support species identification. His Bayside photos can be viewed on the iNaturalist website.*



Congratulations to another Friend, Derek Jones, on being recognised at this year's Australia Day Awards as Bayside's Senior Citizen of the Year. Derek founded the Friends of Bayside Roads group in 2017, which now has 45 members collecting litter along local roads. You can read more about Derek's work in Council's *Let's Talk Bayside* magazine.





# Autumn bird count

Join the Birds in Backyards – a BirdLife Australia program – survey this autumn and document who is visiting your garden.

By Birds in Backyards

**To do a Birds in Backyards survey,** spend 20 minutes in one spot where you can view birds – your backyard, local park, school, or other favourite outdoor place.

Simply count how many you see of each bird species using that space and tell us about what the outdoor space is like.

Then to enter your survey data, register your free Birddata account, read the instructions for the web or app or watch the video. If you download the Birddata app you can take your smartphone or tablet outside with you to do your count.

## What if I don't know much about birds?

If you are unsure where or how to start, or even feel like you don't know the first thing about birds only that you love to see them, then fear not! The Birddata web portal and app automatically gives you a list of 30 birds from your region to get you started.

## What if I only have super common or introduced birds?

That is really useful! We want to know about the birds you don't see just as much as the ones you do. So, if your list is only small, all introduced birds or full of birds you don't think are very 'exciting', that is still important information for us. All surveys are important so please give it a go.

## Why do these surveys?

Your surveys are used by BirdLife Australia to track the health of our urban birds, and to monitor the impact of our gardens, outdoor spaces and even our own behaviours on bird populations. We can learn a lot from Birds in Backyards surveys, like how different types of gardens can attract different types of birds, and which features birds may be avoiding or are negatively affected by. In 2021 your surveys will also be used in the very first Urban Bird Index for BirdLife Australia's State of Australia's Birds Report.

Importantly, your surveys contribute to the on-ground conservation work we undertake with our volunteers, branches and partners – from local planting and habitat improvement projects up to national advocacy and campaigns. We also use the survey data in seminars and workshops conducted by staff, or for our projects such as the Powerful Owl Project. Read about how the surveys you do in your gardens are helping in our post-fire conservation work here.

## How often should I survey?

Each quarter, BirdLife Australia launches a seasonal survey. The autumn survey period runs throughout March and April – but you can still submit surveys at any time. You can do as many surveys as you like, as often as you like! Some people like to just participate once a quarter (or four times a year) in our seasonal surveys, while others like to count their birds more frequently.

## What else can I record?

There are a few important interactions you can share with us if you see them. Keep an eye out for:

- Breeding behaviours – If you see a bird carrying nesting materials, sitting on a nest or feeding chicks, let us know. Select the option under 'Breeding Activity' that best matches your observation (Remember to keep your distance though from birds who are breeding. We don't want to disturb any nests. Be sure to limit your observations and don't get close enough to scare a bird off its nest.).
- Aggressive interactions – Let us know if you have observed any species initiate interactions with other birds and whether this interaction could be classed as aggressive – you can do this in the 'Sighting Details' tab using the 'Specific Species Interactions' option.
- Have you seen any birds feeding on the native plants in your garden? If so – who was dining on what? – you can tell us in the notes section when you record the species you have observed under 'Sighting Details'.
- Have any birds been dabbling in some Oscar-worthy acting? Tell us about the weird and wonderful things your backyard birds have been up to using the notes section in the 'Sighting Details' tabs.

Check out the survey instructions page for more info and FAQs.

# Bayside Community Nursery now open

By Pauline Reynolds

## Bayside Community Nursery

is stocked with beautiful plants ready for public sales every Saturday from 10am-12pm and Thursdays from 10am-1pm.

Forestry tubes cost just \$2.55 and this year a table of 'specialty plants' will be on sale for \$12.50.

The specialty plants are some of the less common species growing in Bayside and are often the most difficult to propagate and temperamental to grow.

There will be a small number of Silky Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia sericea*), Common Flat-pea (*Platylobium obtusangulum*), Common Heath

(*Epacris impressa*), Honey Pots (*Acrotriche serrulata*) and several others.

This is the first year the Bayside Community Nursery has offered specialty plants and the species will change each year depending on successful propagation or availability of seeds or cuttings.

The purpose of introducing specialist plants is to emphasise how challenging these species can be to propagate and that they may require extra attention and a longer growing time in the nursery.

We would also be interested in buyers' feedback to know if they thrive in people's gardens and in what conditions they do best.

## Prices list

Forestry tubes	\$2.55
150ml pots	\$7.65
Rocket pots	\$30.60
Specialty pots (150ml)	\$12.50

Payment is by card only.

It's very exciting to be opening again and we looking forward to seeing the healthy plants on their way to local gardens in Bayside and elsewhere.

**Bayside Community Nursery is located at 319 Reserve Road Cheltenham.**  
Call 9583 8408 or [visit the website](#) for more.



# What are the Bushland and Nursery Crews up to?

**By Jo Hurse**  
Bushland and Nursery Ops Supervisor

**On behalf of** the Bushland and Nursery Crews we'd like to send all our volunteers a very warm "welcome back"!

Despite a slight hiccup with the five-day circuit breaker lockdown in mid-February, all seems to be getting back to COVID-normal.

The volunteers were sorely missed for much of 2020 so here's hoping 2021 is more to our liking.

Here's a quick update on what's coming up and what the crew has been up to.

Julie and Jim have worked tirelessly through propagation season and needless to say have had great success so the nursery is looking full to the brim.

They had great pleasure in welcoming back the volunteers at the end of 2020. The nursery opened for sales every Thursday from 10am to 1pm and Saturdays from 10am to 12pm starting 27 March.

The bushland crews that work predominantly on the foreshore – Andy, Aaron and Connor – have spent many weeks over summer pruning and tackling grassy weeds. This is quite unseasonal for summer but attributed to all the fantastic rain we had. Over the last year, the foreshore has been busier than ever so they have done extremely well working along all the paths, ramps, staircases etc, trying to get them all safely pruned.

The preparation for the controlled ecological burn at George Street Reserve has commenced.

The crew plans to burn 4,000 square metres of the 2006 wildfire site, where fire swept through a thick stand of *Leptospermum laevigatum* in the reserve. Post-fire there was much hand weeding that resulted in the spectacular regeneration of the Heathland. Now, after 15 years, the heath needs a controlled burn.



George Street Heathland Sanctuary, dominated by Tea Tree and weeds before burn, 2006. Photo by Pauline Reynolds.



George Street Heathland Sanctuary, heath species in full bloom, two years post burn, 2008. Photo by Pauline Reynolds.

The preparation for the controlled ecological burn at Donald MacDonald Reserve is nearly finished. The 4,000 square metre site will be the largest patch of *Leptospermum laevigatum* we have ever burnt. We believe that *Leptospermum laevigatum* has invaded the heath and, with the absence of fire, formed a dense canopy that is taking over the site. There are some plants at

this site that indicate the regeneration will be successful. For example, in the understorey there are patches of *Lepidosperma concavum* and some isolated *Bossiaea cinerea*.

I would like to specifically thank the CityWide Bushland team who has worked relentlessly to prepare the burn sites. All of the crew look forward to working with our wonderful volunteers again in 2021.



**Story and photos by Elizabeth Jensen**  
President Marine Care Ricketts Point

**Beach Patrol 3193** has returned after a long period of inactivity due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We had a wonderful turnout in February for our first beach clean since March 2020.

Beach Patrol 3193 is run by Marine Care Ricketts Point with President Beth Jensen organising the events.

Twenty-four people made up of regulars and a number of children helped to clean around the Beaumaris Life Saving Club and foreshore area.

To meet Beach Patrol Australia's COVID-19 regulations everyone brought

their own gloves, buckets and some picker-uppers. They also kept a tally of the items they collected, which we then collated.

It was a beautiful mild day and within an hour we had collected 40kg of rubbish. As usual, our major items collected continued to be plastic pieces, cans and bottles.

It was disappointing to find 839 carelessly discarded cigarette butts considering smoking is banned on the foreshore of Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.

There were also a number of face masks, disposable food containers and even a child's scooter.

However, the highlight of the clean-up was spotting a pod of dolphins visiting



the Sanctuary playing about 200 metres offshore.

Beach Patrol 3193 meets on the first Saturday of every month starting at 11am at the Beaumaris Yacht Club. New members are always welcome.

Check out our website and join our Facebook page to stay up-to-date with our activities.



# Water

## – the lifeblood of life on Earth

By Elizabeth Walsh

Convenor Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

**Water for wildlife** has become even more critical as the world is warming rapidly with more frequent heatwaves and violent weather conditions such as stronger winds and ocean/foreshore events.

The coastal path in Bayside has a number of shallow to medium depth pottery water bowls placed under taps along the coastal cliff-top walking path from Beaumaris to Brighton.

They are specifically designed to provide a drink and sometimes a bath for birds, reptiles and insects. Although dogs use them too, we would prefer owners sought the few metal bowls for pets that are popping up rather than our pottery wildlife bowls as the smell of dogs is a deterrent to many small animals.

The water bowls were made by an amazing potter, Chris, members of a local art group and students from Berendale School. Council set them in concrete, however one or two bowls have been removed due to alterations to the cliff-top path.

FoNW Inc have been assisted by long-term helpers Sueli, Denis, Pat and Sue along with Anne, Heather and Marza who have joined in more recent years.

A recent call for help in the Brighton area initiated an immediate response from Rosa and George who have taken to filling the bowls on the green lawn just to the south of the Brighton Baths.

The taps over one set of bowls have been discontinued recently. There is a new south-east water drinking fountain nearby, which is fine for people and dogs but unsuitable for wildlife, so our volunteers now bring water-filled containers to transfer water to the wildlife water bowls.

Rosa and George have taken to this responsibility with heart and gusto,

having also cleared away excess growth from the other set of bowls which caused silting of the shallow one. They have been joined by Sheridan who has kindly filled in for Rosa and George

when they are away. Sheridan has been most concerned at the lack of available water around Melbourne for wildlife and is now doing something positive in her local area.



Brighton bowls south water bowl.

### How you can help

There are a few simple steps you can take to help, particularly during extreme heat events and every day when the weather reaches into the high 20s and 30s.

1. In your garden or a local park provide a shallow bowl of water, preferably heavy such as pottery (a pottery planter base would be suitable) and 300cm wide.
2. Fill with fresh water regularly and flush out at least once a week to discourage mosquito larvae.
3. Use pebbles, a rock or branch to allow small insects or skinks to access the edge either from within or without.
4. Place in a shady area to lessen water evaporation.
5. Place near a grassy tussock or shrub where wildlife can perch or hide safely from predators.
6. Regularly clean the bowl with an old kitchen brush or similar.
7. Keep pet cats in cat runs or inside as they are the worst predators of suburban wildlife and could stake out the bird bath.

FoNW Inc. is planning future water provision across Bayside to ensure survival of wildlife within our municipality. All ideas and initiatives are welcome by contacting us at [info@fonw.org.au](mailto:info@fonw.org.au)

# How to put ecosystems back together with a pole

By Gio Fitzpatrick

Committee member Elsternwick Park Association

**Mistletoe is the ecological Robin Hood** – stealing from the rich trees and giving to the poor soil.

In a healthy woodland containing mistletoes, it is quite possible that one in every three birds you see and hear are only there because of these important parasitic plants.

It's incredible to realise that when researchers removed mistletoe from woodlands to test its importance in the ecosystem, one-third of the birds disappeared over the following three years.

Along with the obvious attraction of nectar, fruit and dense structure, mistletoes drop an abundance of nutritionally-enriched leaf litter which has been found to support over 1,000 extra arthropods per square metre under the host tree. Imagine the flow-on effects of that!

No other plant supports biodiversity quite like a mistletoe and yet people still almost never plant it.

I'm hoping that bush regenerators will soon realise that our work is not even nearly done until mistletoe is back in the system. Probably the strongest indication that we're not yet harnessing the power of mistletoe is the realisation that I'm single-handedly running the largest mistletoe restoration project in Australia with zero funding.

These constraints ended up fostering a rather unsophisticated innovation that now brings mistletoe restoration into the hands of anyone with dramatically lowered cost, time and risk – planting mistletoe with a pole!

Species such as Creeping Mistletoe (*Muellerina eucalyptoides*), whose seeds have a long sticky 'tail', can be dangled from the pole and transferred to a receiving branch with a 'flick and stick' motion while those without a 'tail',



such as Wire-leaved Mistletoe (*Amyema preissii*), can be squirted directly onto a branch by a small hose connected to a hand-powered air pump. Such methods have allowed thousands of mistletoes that stretch up to five metres above the ground to be planted without expensive cherry pickers or arborists.

BirdLife Australia has also adopted this method for its Regent Honeyeater recovery work involving the Long-flowered Mistletoe (*Dendrophthoe*

*vitellina*). It's an honour to be able to help their cause and a reminder that the pursuit to understand and care for our local patch has wider benefits of many kinds.

Three of Bayside's four mistletoe species – *Amyema preissii*, *Amyema pendula* and *Amyema quandang* – were locally extinct before this project began, and all are now beginning to make a modest revival. Who knows what other long-lost wildlife might follow them back?



## Friends Groups

### Friends of Balcombe Park

**Convenor:** Ian O'Loughlin  
**Mobile:** 0412 432 618 **Email:** ianoloughlin@optusnet.com.au

### Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

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

### Friends of Bayside Roads

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

### Friends of Beaumaris Reserve

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

### Friends of Brighton Dunes

**Convenor:** Jenny Talbot  
**Phone:** 0499 592 233

### Friends of Cheltenham Park

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

### Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

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

### Friends of George Street Reserve

**Convenors:** Pauline Reynolds & Val Tarrant  
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### Friends of Gramatan Avenue Heathland

**Convenor:** Ken Rendell  
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### Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

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### Friends of Merindah Park & Urban Forest

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### Friends of Mother Stock Areas

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### Friends of Native Wildlife

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### Friend of Picnic Point Sandringham

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### Friends of Ricketts Point

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### Friends of Ricketts Point Landside

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### Friends of Table Rock

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### Friends of Elster Creek

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

## Environment Groups

### Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc.

**President:** Murray Orr  
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### Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc

**President:** Caroline Lawton  
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### Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association Inc

**President:** Craig Brunnen  
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**Secretary:** John Neve  
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### Elsternwick Park Association

**President:** Natalie Davey  
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### Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc

**President:** Elizabeth Jensen  
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**Website:** www.marinecare.org.au

### Sandringham Foreshore Association

**President:** Dr Vicki Karalis  
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**Website:** sandringhamforeshore.tumblr.com

## School Groups

### St Leonard's College Conservation Group

**Contact:** Simon Daniels  
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The Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants are now open for schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Girl Guides and youth groups to secure funding from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to engage young people in outdoor, hands-on, on-ground projects and environmental learning activities.

**View the guidelines.**  
**Applications close 30 April 2021.**



Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning



### 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.

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### Copy deadlines

**Winter 2021**  
Friday 21 May 2021

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.

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Do you want to know more  
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Banksia Bulletin?

Please refer to our website

[www.bayside.vic.gov.au](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au)



Nankeen Kestrel  
Photo by John Eichler