

banksia

bulletin

autumn 2018

**Summer's
garden wildlife**

**Volunteers'
Australia Day
awards**

**Nursery Gala Day
7 April**

From the Mayor

Another magnificent summer has passed, and autumn has arrived in all its splendour.

The wonderful thing about nature is that it continuously surprises and delights no matter what season is upon us.

We are so fortunate in Bayside to be able to enjoy and utilise our natural environmental resources all year round.

This is made possible through the work of many volunteers who care for our foreshore, reserves and heathlands – rain, hail or shine.

At the recent Australia Day Awards, we recognised two individuals and one organisation for their contribution to Bayside's environment.

Congratulations to Meren Reid and Robert Saunders – joint winners of the individual Environmental Achievement award. The 1st/14th Brighton Sea Scouts received the Environmental Achievement – Organisation award for their tireless effort in raising the profile of the environmental damage caused by microplastics. It is important also to recognise the Bayside Environmental Friends Network and the 'Our Garden: Our Refuge' project who were also

nominated for an award.

To all the individuals and organisations recognised through these annual awards, thank you for your outstanding contribution to making Bayside a better place to live; you can be truly proud of this achievement.

The Beaumaris Bay Consortium, made up from a number of local community groups, has put Beaumaris Bay forward for National Heritage status.

Beaumaris Bay is a site of natural beauty and is becoming increasingly recognised for its land and marine fossils that provide important insights into Australia's ancient history.

Council has supported the consortium's nomination to the Federal Government, which is a necessary step towards what will be a fantastic outcome for Bayside residents and visitors.

We will continue to support the consortium as it undertakes some further work to consider the needs of some local organisations.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Banksia Bulletin*. There have been



some changes with convenors and working bee dates of some of our Friends groups recently. Please take a look at the volunteer groups listed at the back and see if you can join a working bee or an event at one of Bayside's reserves or heathlands over the next few months.

Cr Laurence Evans

Mayor
Bayside City Council



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Cover image: Emperor Gum Moth Caterpillar
by John Eichler.



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Bayside Community Nursery Gala Day

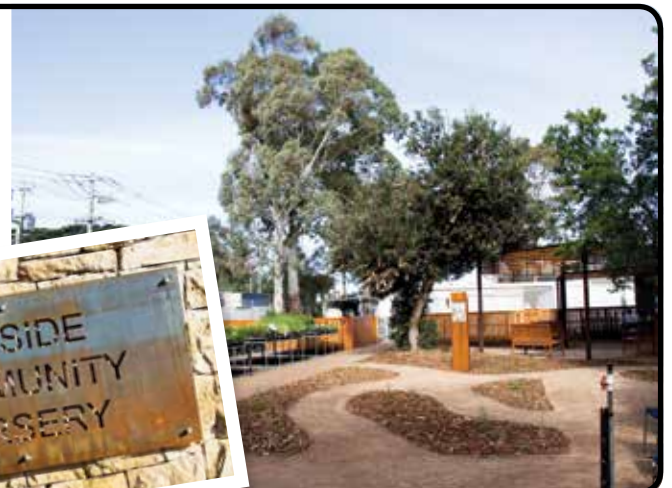
Celebrating 40 years in 2018

Date: Saturday 7 April

Time: 9am-2pm

Venue: 315-317 Reserve Road, Cheltenham

Details: Lots of native plant varieties available for sale and free BBQ for customers.





Plants of Bayside

With Aaron Hurrell of
Citywide Parks and Gardens

The Purple Loosestrife

The Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is an annual hairy, erect herb that dies back after summer to a perennial rootstock.

It has striking purple to magenta coloured flowers that appear between September and March. They flower in clusters of 3-5 individuals with oblong to ovate leaves in pairs or threes. The Purple Loosestrife is a very showy plant that prefers full sun and moist soils or shallow water, which makes it an excellent plant for ponds, pools and waterways. Historical records show it was collected from the banks of the Yarra River as far back as the 1950s.

The Purple Loosestrife can be propagated via cutting and division as well as self-seeding.

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

Profile

Meet **Paul Gibbs**,
Bayside's Open Space
Coordinator who joined
Council in August 2017.



What does your role at Council entail?

My team and I are responsible for Bayside's foreshore, beaches, parks, gardens and bushlands. Our role is to ensure these areas are suitable for residents and visitors. We also develop masterplans and policies that ensure Bayside's open space can improve and thrive. Our team of seven is based in the office, one staff member at the Community Nursery and we are supported by our Open Space Service Provider, Citywide, plus a large and dedicated network of Friends groups and other volunteers.

What is the current focus of the Open Space team?

After being in the role just over seven months, I have realised that the team is involved with a diverse portfolio, including ecological burns (planned and unplanned!), maritime cultural heritage, dredging and water harvesting as well as the standard maintenance of parks, trees and the foreshore. But our current focus is ensuring open space within Bayside is protected in these times of increasing population and the subsequent pressure that puts on existing land uses.

Tell us about your career path, which has led you to Bayside?

I have spent a large part of my career working in the field of environmental risk identification and mitigation. While working in England and Australia I have worked for utility companies (water and power) and environmental consultancies. When the role of Open Space Coordinator came up at Bayside City Council I jumped at the chance to get involved with local government.

What, or where, is your favourite place to visit in Bayside?

While I really enjoy the parks and bushlands (especially George Street Reserve as I can walk there on my lunch break), my favourite part of Bayside is the foreshore. I enjoy relaxing on the beach in Brighton or Black Rock, and getting fish and chips at Half Moon Bay in the evenings.

How do you spend your time away from work?

I try to stay active. Since moving to Melbourne I have been able to play golf regularly – this wasn't possible in the UK due to the cold mornings. My wife and I also try to get on the bikes as much as possible to explore Melbourne. We have also travelled a lot in our time here; our favourite trips have been to Uluru and Kakadu in the Northern Territory and to the Ningaloo Reef in Western Australia.



The comeback moth

Words and photos by John Eichler

The Emperor Gum Moth (*Opodiphthera eucalypti*) begins life as a small black caterpillar. After several moults it turns a blue-green colour with blue, orange and red projecting bristles, and it may reach a length of about 10cm. When the caterpillar is ready to pupate it turns pinkish-brown and spins a firm oval-shaped cocoon attached to a twig or bark. The moth that eventually emerges is large (up to 15cm wingspan) and spectacular with orange-brown to pinkish-brown wings bearing large eyespots.

An image of a large Emperor Gum Moth Caterpillar was recently posted on the Friends of Native Wildlife Facebook page and this resulted in a number of similar comments – that people have not seen this distinctive, colourful, easily recognised caterpillar for many years. The caterpillar was one of three found feeding on the young leaves of a Coast Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *pryoriana*) at Donald MacDonald Reserve, Beaumaris. These are the first I have seen in the 36 years I have lived at Black Rock.



My recollection as a child living in suburban Melbourne is that these caterpillars were fairly common in the 1950s. Where I lived then, they could be found on the Brush Box street trees, Peppercorn trees in parks and the schoolyard and some Eucalypts. I also recall seeing my first European Wasp at around that time – probably in the late 1950s. A senior staff member at Museums Victoria considers that the introduced European Wasp is largely

responsible for the demise of this impressive insect, particularly around Melbourne.

It is hoped that the few caterpillars found at Beaumaris are an indicator that the Emperor Gum Moth is making a gradual comeback. If you would like to try to attract this insect to your garden and have the space it would be worth planting one of the local Eucalyptus species. These can be purchased from the Bayside Community Nursery at 315-317 Reserve Road, Cheltenham.



Australia Day Awards

Congratulations environmental leaders

This year's Australia Day Awards for leaders living in Bayside included two recipients for contributions to the local natural environment.

The Individual Environmental Achievement award was jointly presented to Meren Reid and Robert Saunders for their long-standing volunteer contribution.

The 1st/14th Brighton Sea Scouts took out the Organisation Environmental Achievement award for their innovative Leading on Litter beach monitoring program, which is contributing to better understanding of plastics pollution in the Bay.



Meren Reid

Individual Award (joint winner)

Meren's love of the natural Bayside environment was developed as a child.

Meren first visited the Bayside Community Nursery with her mother before she was three years old and volunteered there for almost 25 years.

Her volunteering work at the nursery included collecting seeds, cleaning seeds, sowing seeds, pricking out seedlings into tubes, taking cuttings and many other tasks.

Meren has also been involved with the Black Rock & Sandringham Conservation Association (BRASCA) for more than 10 years.

Through her volunteering with BRASCA, Meren has supported the conservation and preservation of our wonderful natural areas in Bayside, helping to protect them for generations to come.



Rob Saunders

Individual Award (joint winner)

Rob has worked to preserve the biodiversity of Bayside over many years.

As an active volunteer for several Friends groups, the Bayside Environmental Friends Network and Bayside Community Nursery, he has made a significant contribution to our natural environment.

Rob has identified and propagated locally rare plants, encouraged and supported other volunteers, helped the community appreciate our environment and defended our natural heritage.

He was an influential part of the working group which achieved formal reservation of what is now Long Hollow Heathland – which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Rob has also championed locally rare species, some of which would have disappeared but for the work of the Bayside Community Nursery.

Rob utilises his professional skills, experience, and his abiding enthusiasm to help retain Bayside's biodiversity, enhancing its inland and coastal reserves, and promotes local plants and their contribution to sustainable living.



1st/14th Brighton Sea Scouts

Group Award

Brighton Sea Scouts' *Leading on Litter* program shows how community action can influence the way issues around sustainability and protecting Bayside's local environment are addressed.

This program has contributed to a greater understanding of the impact of sand movement on plastic pollution.

By working with Port Phillip Baykeeper Neil Blake OAM, the 1st/14th Brighton Sea Scouts have developed a program that not only gathers data to inform evidence-based government strategies but also raises awareness of the issue in the wider community.

The group will extend the reach of their program to train other scout groups in the survey method with State Government funding.

This will generate more powerful data to help spread the word about coastal pollution and reduce the impact on the beloved coast and Bay.



More Australia Day winners



Citizen of the Year
Sergeant Arran Ferguson



Young Citizen of the Year
Millicent Roper and Stevie-Lou
Answerth (joint winners)



Community Event of the Year
PRG 24 Hour Charity Bike Ride

Ken Rendell retires

By Pauline Reynolds

Ken Rendell came to live in Beaumaris in the 1960s after looking for a bush block close to Melbourne. He found some suitable land in Beaumaris where he designed and built a beautiful house for himself, wife Jill and their children. Ken and Jill still live there, and their garden is still a wonderful bush garden.

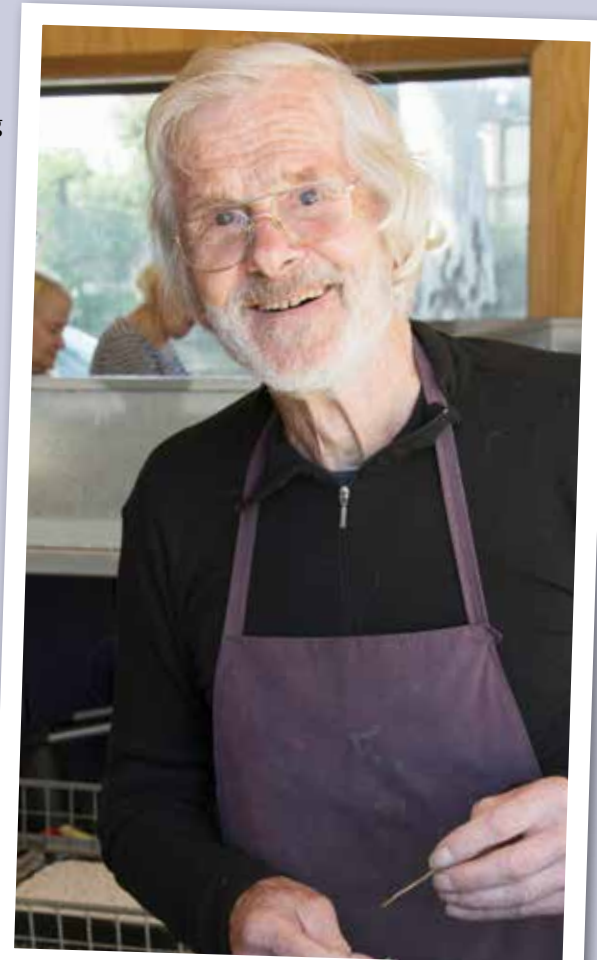
Bayside Community Nursery started operating in 1978, and was one of the first indigenous nurseries anywhere in the world. Initiated by volunteers with a commitment to maintaining the foreshore and inland reserves, the nursery was established because many indigenous plants with the correct provenance could not be sourced from existing nurseries.

Ken heard about the community nursery through an advertisement in the local paper, joined as a volunteer, and quickly earned the respect of everyone there.

Ken's easy-going but purposeful approach and unobtrusive leadership qualities led to him being invited to join the Nursery Steering Committee when it formed. He has been an active and influential member ever since. The first meeting of the committee was on 26 June 1997, with Ken an inaugural member.

Ken has always been pleased to help wherever he could. He says his considerable knowledge came from working in the nursery and watching things grow. He also learned from planting in his own garden, around the remnant vegetation he had carefully preserved during the building of his house. Some of those original plants can still be seen.

Ken has worked at the nursery nearly every Saturday morning since he joined the volunteer group, propagating plants and advising residents on what species to grow and how to care for them in local gardens. He has always been committed to educating residents about the advantages of growing indigenous species.



Apart from his work at the nursery, Ken is the current Convenor of the Friends of Gramatan Avenue and the Friends of Table Rock. He was also the former Convenor of the Friends of Long Hollow Heathland for over 20 years; one of the first to recognise the importance of the remnant vegetation found in Long Hollow Heathland and is still an active member of that Friends group.

Ken's wisdom, experience and enthusiasm have been invaluable. His practical skills, commitment and leadership have made an integral contribution to the Nursery Steering Committee for nearly 21 years. While Ken is not retiring from activities other than the steering committee, he considers it time to hand over to others. Ken's contribution has been, and will continue to be, outstanding.

All of the volunteers in Bayside thank Ken very much and wish him well for the future.

Blue Wrens at Ricketts Point

Words by Moira Longden

Photo by Kim Croker

In November last year, I witnessed an amazing event at Ricketts Point where the Friends Group works.

I was sitting at the table when a pair of Superb Blue Wrens flew out from the bushes beside the adjoining car park.

Behind them came a little bouncing ball of fluff, which stopped beside the table near my feet in a clump of grass.

The parent birds became extremely frantic, calling loudly to the chick till it bounced away to them. I left, as I did not want to distress them anymore. I walked around to the adjacent car park to find the father Blue Wren almost at my feet calling out most pitifully 'don't hurt me' (my translation).

His tail was dragging along the ground and his left wing was drooping. He could barely walk. He stumbled along calling out to me looking back over his right shoulder. What a display! It was the broken wing act that other birds do, but I had never seen it before.

A few weeks later in the same area I saw four Blue Wrens, a beautiful male in his splendid bright plumage, his mate in her brown dress and brown eyes, and two juveniles. So all ended well.



Expression of Interest

Bayside Community Nursery Nursery Steering Committee Community Member Position

Vacant The Nursery Steering Committee (NSC) provides a mechanism for stakeholders to come together at regular intervals to discuss operations and to plan future strategies for Bayside Community Nursery. The NSC consists of members from the Bayside community, Bayside City Council and Citywide (Council's Open Space Service Provider.)

Members contribute by:

- providing input on nursery retail and propagation operations and current issues
- representing ideas from the Friends Network
- providing input into target planting and retail species
- volunteer training and advocating for the nursery within the community.

NSC community members are appointed for a three-year term, at the end of which the position will become vacant and a standing committee member may re-nominate for appointment.

**Expressions of Interest
close Tuesday 1 May 2018.**

To apply, please contact
Friends of Bayside Support Officer
friends@bayside.vic.gov.au or **9583 8408** to receive an Information Pack.

To submit an application, please email
friends@bayside.vic.gov.au or post to
Friends of Bayside Support Officer
Bayside City Council,
PO Box 27 Sandringham, 3191

Wild in Bayside

Words by Elizabeth Walsh

Friends of Native Wildlife Inc

Photo by Ian Parsons

The Wild in Bayside talk last September was all about flora and fauna found in local gardens. More than 40 people attended an excellent talk by Jeff Smith, an educator and vegetation and environmental management consultant. His understanding of flora and fauna relationships was demonstrated admirably with subtle anecdotes to help us appreciate the types of plants we need to nurture so that a healthy mix

of wildlife will keep biodiversity at its optimum, a difficult juggling act in many suburban gardens.

Following Jeff's talk, the Gardens for Wildlife initiative was launched by Bayside City Council's Open Space Planning and Policy Officer Jennifer Trucchi who has spearheaded the new program.

Interested residents can have their gardens assessed by volunteer assessors over the years to come. Whether your family wants to plant a special corner for wildlife or you would simply like to learn more about how best to grow a healthy and biodiverse garden in mostly sandy Bayside, the Gardens for Wildlife program may suit you.

Participants receive a colourful sticker to place on their fence to show their passion for gardens and wildlife, a helpful guidebook on Bayside flora, information on habitat recipes for wildlife, and a voucher to use at the Bayside Community Nursery.



At the event, FoNW Inc. member Ian Parsons was presented with Life Membership after 21 years of support since the Friends group was initiated in 1996. It was his concern about the lack of water along the clifftop that instigated action by our then small group to introduce the shallow water bowls under many Council taps to support the small birds and skinks, particularly during drought years.

FoNW now has a good volunteer base who regularly fill the bowls, particularly in the summer months.

During the drought of the 2000s the Superb Blue Wren population dropped heavily, but we are hopeful that the healthy populations we are now observing from Beaumaris to Brighton may have been helped by the availability of water along their habitat corridor.



Doggie treats

By Taylor Davine

Citywide Service Solutions

The Citywide Bushland Crew welcomed many local and visiting dogs and their owners at this year's annual Summer by the Sea event, A Dog's Breakfast.

The event, held on 13 January at Sandown Spit in Brighton, was part of Coastcare Victoria's Summer by the Sea program.

The team spoke with dog owners about the importance of keeping their four-legged furry friends on a leash in areas containing sensitive and remnant

vegetation, and the impacts dog droppings can have on the environment when they are not picked up.

Breakfast was provided for dogs and their owners, and information brochures about local Friends groups and the Bayside Community Nursery were also handed out.

For more information about on and

off-leash areas, and seasonal restrictions for dogs on beaches, please contact Bayside City Council on 9599 4444 or visit bayside.vic.gov.au/walking-your-dog-bayside





A dry start to autumn

Words by Val Tarrant

Co-convenor George Street Reserve

Photos by Pauline Reynolds

Co-convenor George Street Reserve

Years ago, poet Thomas Hardy wrote in *The Darkling Thrush* that the energies impelling growth in the earth were 'shrunk hard and dry'. These words certainly reflect the state of George Street Reserve in early 2018.

Walking on the tracks is like stepping on fine powder and wind stirs up the grey sand. The leaves of *Correas* (*Correa reflexa*) are drooping and, apart from a few tiny Twiggy Daisy Bush flowers

(*Olearia ramulosa*), there is not a blossom to be seen.

However, just as Hardy's spirits were revived when he heard the song of an 'Aged Thrush', so are visitors to George Street Reserve who can enjoy the many birds that rest or fly through the heath and bushland.

Visitors will also appreciate the grasses, particularly the beautiful feathery *Austrostipa mollis* (syn *Stipa mollis*), which grows abundantly and brushes walkers' legs as they move along the pathways.

Also known as Supple Spear Grass, it is similar to *A. semibarbata* and the two are fairly common in coastal

heathlands. (David Meagher and Michele Kohout, *A Field Guide To Wilson's Promontory* (Oxford University Press, 2001, p. 244)

Discussions about the management of the reserve are underway. Fire has been important in regrowth, but the last burn was in 2006 and it would be good to have another. However, since, the next controlled burn is to be in a different area, there is an alternative under consideration – the possibility of slashing which has been used in the Royal Melbourne Golf Club, parts of which contain similar vegetation.

Reflecting on the role of fire, and writing from experience, former



George Street Reserve two years after the 2006 fire.

City of Sandringham officer Daintry Fletcher said that the absence of fire over a long period can result in proliferation of Coast Wattle. This is because the build-up of seed means that when a fire does occur, the dense regeneration 'suppresses the growth of slower growing heath and woodland understory plants'. (*The Bushlands of Sandringham*, The Sandringham Environment, Series No.7 1988.)

Citywide Bushland Crew and Friends of George Street Reserve have made efforts to deal with the problem by pulling out unwanted seedlings, but this is a slow task, making the use of fire appear more appropriate.



***Austrostipa mollis* at George Street Reserve.**



Cheltenham Wildfire

The fire that took place at Cheltenham Park Reserve in late December 2017 has breathed new life into the reserve.

Words and photos by Dave Rollo
Citywide Service Solutions

According to authorities, the fire may have been the result of a campfire that spread out of control in the dense bushland area adjacent to the oval.

In the weeks that followed, Citywide staff, along with other contractors, were brought in to clear the fallen trees and reinstate the paths and vehicle tracks. The bush crew began removing the remaining burnt Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) branches from the burn sites in order to assist this complex ecosystem's natural regeneration.

Friends of Mother Stock Areas and Friends of Cheltenham Park Flora and Fauna Reserve also held a working bee to pick up large quantities of glass from the area to allow for safe work practices in the future. As the burn area was fairly impenetrable prior to the wildfire there was a build-up of broken glass.

Many of the management areas in Cheltenham Park Reserve have previously





been burned with controlled ecological burns undertaken in 2005 and 2010.

As a result, these areas do not contain *L. laevigatum*, which is considered to be an invasive species in a Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland, the Ecological Vegetation Classification for Cheltenham Park Reserve.

It is an ongoing priority for bushland staff to keep burn sites completely free of *L. laevigatum* to maximise growth and germination of the native heath species.

A study conducted by the Botany Department at La Trobe University identified that in the absence of fire, *L. laevigatum*, can invade heathland sites and eventually take over the entire area.

The study also highlighted the importance of fire in a heathland setting due to the amount of post-burn regeneration due to germination of soil-stored seed.

Moving forward bushland workers will implement a weed management program to assist this area in becoming a diverse and species-rich heathland.

Best Friends



Bayside Friends groups are encouraged to nominate for this year's Best Friend Award.

Coordinated by the Victorian Environment Friends Network (VEFN), the awards acknowledge the outstanding contribution made to the environment by volunteer members of Friends groups.

Nominations are assessed by an independent judging panel, based on how the nominee has made an outstanding contribution under some or all of the following criteria or equivalent activities:

- Form strong relationships and partnerships for the benefit of the reserve.*
- Attract funding for the benefit of the reserve.
- Show personal dedication – 'the above and beyond' factor.
- Introduce young people to the reserve as a means of planning for succession.
- Make a personal impact on the establishment of major improvements in the reserve.

**The term 'reserve' can also refer to species, waterway or cultural heritage. It is used generically to refer to the purpose of the group.*

Nominations are now open and can be submitted up until 5pm, Wednesday 27 June, 2018. Visit www.friendsvic.org for more information and to make a nomination.

Check out the website for details about the VEFN poster competition. Friends groups are encouraged to submit their posters for a prize to be awarded at the Best Friend Award ceremony to be held late August.



How a Friend of Bayside bushlands saved the 'Little Beach' and inspired other conservation work

The 'Little Beach' at Black Rock 2016: in 1970, local conservationists saved this site from becoming a car park. Photo by Marjorie Johnston.

By Marjorie Johnston

It was on the cliff tops between Sandringham and Beaumaris where I first came to understand the value and importance of the Australian bush.

The significance of this magical coastal landscape remains today in part because of the work of a local environmental champion: my mother, Dr Valerie Tarrant.

My first experience of the Black Rock foreshore was of the freedom it offered.

As children we spent many happy hours at Half Moon Bay playing, sailing, exploring and swimming. It seemed as if this was a place that would never change.

Yet, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, our local area became a battleground for an early conservation war fought between engineers and developers wanting to change it – and local environmentalists like Mum wanting to protect it.

Just one of these battles was over a small beach near the Half Moon Bay pier known locally then and to this day as the 'Little Beach'.

In 1970 the then City of Sandringham Council proposed a plan to fill in that small crescent of beach, south of the

Arkaringa Crescent ramp, with concrete landfill to extend the car park.

Council rapidly commenced the dumping of what were large broken pieces from local concrete footpaths. The demolished materials were brought down the ramp to the Half Moon Bay car park and landfill was underway.

Word soon spread.

A local protest campaign was mounted and Mum became a key spokesperson.

In the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Beaumaris Tree Preservation Society on 28 September 1970, other concerned local conservationists spoke out about this.

It was moved by Mr J. (John) Iggulden and seconded by Mr A. (Alfred) Gilford that the Secretary should write to the City of Sandringham Council objecting to the scheme at Half Moon Bay of dumping concrete blocks on a sandy beach.

The motion was carried unanimously.

We first heard about this proposal from Mum one day after school and we were all very concerned.

In her out of work and family hours (which were few), Mum met with media at the site. She eloquently emphasised the importance of the natural assets – clay cliffs, indigenous shrubs, bird and

other wildlife and the significant marine environment – and why no further concrete should be dumped at the site.

There were prominent newspaper reports, letters and phone calls.

Thankfully the proposal was stopped and the fill halted. Some restoration was also completed.

It is still possible to see some of the concrete at the Little Beach and notice that the cliff vegetation has still not completely restored.

Today, the Little Beach is a favourite stopping place when Mum and I walk her dog at weekends. We often talk about what invasive structure might have been created below the unique clay cliffs.

Bayside is a very special place and its foreshore, in particular, is much loved by our family. That includes natural gems like the Little Beach, saved more than four decades ago with the help of a conservation champion.

Marjorie Johnston grew up in Black Rock and is currently the President of the Silverleaves Conservation Association on Phillip Island.



Don't let your recycling efforts go to waste

Your voice is needed for a campaign to help fix recycling in Victoria.

The Victorian recycling industry is in crisis as the impacts of changes in global recycling markets come to bear.

Recent changes in China require higher standards for the recycled materials it receives. The changes have resulted in a worldwide glut of mixed recyclables, and reduced the price paid for this material.

Although kerbside recycling collection services will continue to operate in Bayside, without demand for recyclables from overseas markets and with little demand for this material locally, there may be no option but to send recyclables to landfill.

For the past two years China has been foreshadowing significant changes to the materials it accepts but there is still no clear plan on how Victoria will manage recycling into the future.

As a state-wide issue the Victorian government needs to take the lead and it already has the funds to do so via the \$500 million Sustainability Fund.

The purpose of the fund is to help foster environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management and promote innovative responses to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. However, successive state governments have failed to provide

a clear plan to help invest in new technologies and local market demand to ensure that our recycling industry isn't vulnerable to commodity markets or policy decisions of foreign governments.

Over the past six years alone, Bayside residents have paid over \$6.6 million to the State Government via the compulsory Waste Levy. These funds are paid into the Sustainability Fund which now has over \$500 million in unspent funds.

Bayside residents have a long and proud history as outstanding recyclers.

With the system now in crisis, the State Government needs to step up and show leadership in setting the strategic direction for a sustainable recycling sector. In this matter we need your support. Join your fellow citizens and share your concerns with all our local members as well as representatives from all major political parties.

Lend your voice at bayside.vic.gov.au/FixRecyclingNow or sign the petition at your local Bayside Library.

- Without State Government intervention Victoria's recycling could end up in landfill
- Ratepayers directly fund the State Government's Sustainability Fund through the Waste Levy
- 62% of Bayside's landfill costs go into the Sustainability Fund
- The Sustainability Fund is now valued at over \$500 million
- Successive state governments have ignored the looming crisis in the global recycling industry
- Action needs to be taken now to ensure that your efforts in recycling don't go to waste



Wildlife in the Gardens

Photo by Sue Raverty

Sue Raverty and Pauline Reynolds provide *Banksia Bulletin* readers with a peek into what they found in their gardens over Summer 2017/18.

By Pauline Reynolds in collaboration with Sue Raverty, John Eichler, Joan Amiet, Alan Sherlock and Michael Norris.

Bird Poo Spider

The Bird Poo Spider (*Celaenia excavata*) is camouflaged to resemble a bird dropping, giving it protection from birds. It eats mainly male moths at night, attracting the moths by releasing a chemical scent (pheromone) that mimics the airborne sex pheromone released by female moths to attract their mates, and produces many egg sacs. They are often found in Sue Raverty's garden in Beaumaris from September until mid-February. The 21 egg sacs found in Sue's garden may contain up to 200 tiny young, which parachute away on silken threads.



Blue spotted bee

The Chequered Cuckoo Bee (*Thyreus caeruleopunctatus*) is a native bee with blue spots in true neon. It parasitizes the nests of Blue-banded Bees. The Chequered Cuckoo Bee is not often spotted in Bayside, and was only seen once during this summer feeding on Pauline's English Lavender.



Eastern Spine Bills

Two juvenile Eastern Spine Bills (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) visited Pauline's garden with their parents in late January. Adult Spine Bills are often seen, mostly in the middle of the year, feeding on the *Correa reflexa*. This was the first time Pauline has noticed young birds before. They stayed for a couple of days, eating what they could find, and still being fed by the parent. It was lovely to know that they were probably bred in Bayside.

Redback Spider

While pottering in the garden one Sunday in February, Pauline noticed some plant tubes woven together quite firmly by what turned out to be a big web of a Redback Spider (*Latrodectus hasseltii*) complete with three egg sacs. Pauline carefully put the tube on the grass to photograph it and put it back. The spider didn't seem to worry and the photographer was very wary.



St Andrew's Cross Spider

In late December the mysterious St Andrew's Cross Spider (*Argiope keyserlingi*) was spotted in its fascinating web. The reason for this spider's cross is not fully understood but it could be strengthening for the web or attractive to prey or a warning to predators. Its diet includes flies, moths and butterflies, which it wraps up and then bites to paralyse, then stores away for a later snack.

Photos on this page by Pauline Reynolds.



Spotted Pardalotes

By Lewis Hiller

One of the smallest Australian birds, the Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*) is named for the spots on its forehead, wings, back and tail.

Given its diminutive size of around 8-10cm, and tendency to hide away in high foliage, its presence is often more readily detected in the area by virtue of its sound (Birds in Backyards 2018).

This birdcall – a repetitive ‘whe whe’ (Morcombe 2004) is transcribed more imaginatively as ‘sleep baby’ by Slater (2009). It is surprisingly loud for such a small bird and is emitted regularly, so much so it has even led to a ‘headache bird’ common name moniker (Birds in Backyards 2018).

Both the genus name *Pardalotus* and the species name *punctatus* mean ‘spotted’ in Greek and Latin respectively (Slater 2009). As is often the case in the avian world, the males are considerably more colourful than the females, in this case exhibiting bright yellow throats.

Both sexes live up to the scientific name, the females’ subtle colour scheme serving to not distract from the pleasingly spotted appearance. Birds in coastal south-eastern Australia, including Bayside, display bright red rumps while in the inland subspecies this is partially replaced by yellow (Morcombe 2004).

Occasionally a fortunate observer is treated to good views of a confiding bird feeding at close range on a low branch, or a bird descending to the ground collecting nesting material or approaching its nesting burrow. These instances provide excellent photography opportunities, though in the latter case observers should avoid intruding too close.

The Spotted Pardalote is heavily dependent on the presence of a canopy of *Eucalyptus* species, from which it derives most of its sustenance in the form of minute sugary excretions deposited on the leaves by sap-sucking insects such as psyllids, the bird often

feeding on these insects themselves (Birds in Backyards 2018).

Its continued occurrence in urban areas is strongly reliant on Eucalypts comprising a high percentage of the tree cover. Unfortunately, the fragmented nature of the urban canopy cover provides ideal habitat for the ubiquitous Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*) to proliferate, a species that is often successful in eliminating this Pardalote, and other species, from the area. They are also regularly chased from the area by Red Wattlebirds.

Spotted Pardalotes often form loose feeding parties, particularly during the cooler months comprising the non-breeding season and often in the company of other smaller birds. In Bayside, this includes associating with the likes of Brown Thornbills, Silvereyes, Grey Fantails, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Mistletoe birds, and occasionally locally uncommon species like Golden Whistlers, Robins and other Honeyeaters (pers obsv.).



The nesting habits of the species are quite intriguing; many being surprised to learn that such a small bird is capable of digging into the ground to excavate a nesting burrow, which is often located on sandy banks.

In suburban landscapes, Pardalote nesting tunnels have been recorded in deposits of landscaping sand (Pizzey 2012). Alternatively, Pardalotes may use natural tree hollows, with more opportunistic pairs opting for more unconventional nest sites such as

cracks in brickwork or tiles, hanging baskets, pot plants, and disused garage roller doors and pipes (Australian Museum 2018).

This species lays an average of three eggs (Pizzey 2012) in a globular nest of fine grass and bark situated inside the burrow or tree hollow. Both parents raise the chicks (Birdlife Australia 2018). The conservation status of the bird is rated by Birdlife Australia (2018) as 'secure', though it is locally threatened by habitat destruction.

Reference List

Australian Museum, 2018, 'Spotted Pardalote', <https://australianmuseum.net.au/spotted-pardalote>

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Morcombe, Michael. 'Field Guide to Australian Birds', Pascal Press, 2004. Glebe NSW 2037, pp. 252.

Slater, Peter *et al.* 'The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds', Reed New Holland, 2009, Chatswood NSW, 2067, pp. 296.

Pizzey, Graham & Knight, Frank. 'The Field Guide to the Birds of Australia', Ninth Ed. Harper Collins Publishers, 2012, Sydney NSW 2000, pp. 354.

Kids' Corner



SEARCHING FOR AUTUMN

In Australia seasons begin on the first day of the month to keep things simple. This means autumn started on 1 March and will go through until 31 May.

This is the season where days become shorter as we head towards winter. Nature around us starts to change too.

Leaves start to alter in colour, and some will fall.

Can you find 20 words below that relate to autumn?

R	D	B	H	E	G	N	I	T	L	I	W	G	U	U
Q	E	K	B	G	L	Y	F	O	L	I	A	G	E	N
U	C	Q	W	E	A	L	Y	E	L	L	O	W	E	H
B	I	N	S	M	X	D	A	U	W	C	K	E	P	E
D	D	W	U	H	H	O	I	F	Y	D	O	R	M	Y
L	U	D	L	A	N	M	U	T	U	A	L	E	A	Z
E	O	B	K	U	Z	J	H	D	E	H	U	G	R	J
A	U	T	U	M	N	C	Z	Q	Z	I	F	N	C	S
F	S	U	L	L	R	C	U	J	S	H	R	I	H	E
N	J	D	L	U	N	I	G	D	C	S	U	G	J	A
X	C	A	N	W	N	E	D	L	O	G	O	N	E	S
P	F	C	O	O	K	V	O	O	N	T	L	A	E	O
F	H	R	X	A	L	I	R	P	A	B	O	H	O	N
Y	B	K	R	G	E	A	R	T	H	Y	C	C	X	R

AUTUMN
LEAF
SEASON
COLOURFUL
FALL

CHANGING
BROWN
YELLOW
RAKE
EARTHY

DECIDUOUS
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
WILTING

CRUNCHY
GOLDEN
AUTUMNAL
EQUINOX
FOLIAGE

Kids' Corner



WHAT TO PLANT IN AUTUMN

It is time to clear out the summer crops and get ready to plant herbs and green leafy vegetables like spinach and bok choy as the weather starts to cool down. Here's a quick guide to planting an autumn veggie garden.



10 MORE VEGGIE FAVOURITES

BROCCOLI

CABBAGE

CARROT

CAULIFLOWER

LEEK

LETTUCE

ONION

PEA

SILVERBEET

SNOW PEA

10 HERBS TO PLANT NOW

CHIVES

CORIANDER

DILL

MINT

OREGANO

MARJORAM

PARSLEY

ROSEMARY

SAGE

THYME



For more variety options, information, or to start planning ahead for winter, visit yummygardensmelbourne.com

COOKING CORNER

Still picking tomatoes and zucchinis from an abundant summer veggie garden? Try this delicious recipe.



ZUCCHINI-TOMATO RELISH

Ingredients

- 1 cup chopped tomato
- 1 cup chopped zucchini
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, minced

Directions


In small bowl stir together tomato, zucchini, oil, vinegar and garlic.

Store in refrigerator up to 24 hours. Makes about 2 cups of relish.


Now your relish is ready. Put a blob on your pasta, a sausage roll or chicken strips for an even tastier dinner or snack!

Friends Groups

Friends of Balcombe Park

Convenor: Ian O'Loughlin
Mobile: 0412 432 618 **Email:** ianoloughlin@optusnet.com.au
Melway Ref: 86 C4
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 29 Apr, 27 May, 24 Jun **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

Convenor: Michael Norris
Phone: (03) 9521 6879 **Email:** menorris@ozemail.com.au
Melway Ref: 77 B11
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 14 Apr, 12 May, 9 Jun **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Bayside Roads

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


Bayside Environmental Friends Network

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


Friends of Beaumaris Reserve

Convenor: Chris Sutton
Phone: 0438 327 924 **Email:** sutc@bigpond.com
Melway Ref: 86 D6
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 22 April, 27 May, 24 Jun **Time:** 9-11am


Friends of Brighton Dunes

Convenor: Jenny Talbot
Phone: (03) 9592 2109
Melway Ref: 76 C2
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Every Tuesday **Time:** 8-10am


Friends of Cheltenham Park

Convenor: Valerie Tyers
Phone: (03) 9588 0107 **Email:** valerietyers@hotmail.com
Melway Ref: 86 G1
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 1 Apr, 6 May, 3 Jun **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

Convenor: Kim Croker
Phone: (03) 9589 2443 **Email:** kcroker@bigpond.net.au
Melway Ref: 86 B6
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 4 Apr, 2 May, 6 Jun **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of George Street Reserve

Convenors: Val Tarrant, Pauline Reynolds
Phone: (03) 9598 0554 **Email:** vtarrant@ozemail.com.au
Phone: (03) 9598 6368 **Email:** pauline.reynolds.au@gmail.com
Melway Ref: 86 B1
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 15 Apr, 20 May, 17 Jun **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Gramatan Avenue Heathland

Convenor: Ken Rendell
Phone: (03) 9589 4452
Melway Ref: 86 C6
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 1 Apr, 6 May, 3 Jun **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

Convenor: Rob Saunders
Phone: (03) 9515 3383 **Email:** srednuas@hotmail.com
Melway Ref: 86 D5
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 29 Apr, 27 May, 24 Jun **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Merindah Park & Urban Forest

Convenor: John de Cruz Douglas
Phone: 0417 386 408 **Email:** jdecdouglas@internode.on.net
Melway Ref: 77 B12
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 8 April, 13 May, 10 Jun **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Native Wildlife

Convenors: Anne Jessel, Elizabeth Walsh
Phone: (03) 9585 6788 **Phone:** (03) 9598 9009
Email: info@bayfonw.org.au
Website: www.bayfonw.org.au


Friends of Picnic Point Sandringham

Convenor: Terry Reynolds
Phone: (03) 9598 2978 **Email:** reynolds_family@hotmail.com


Friends of Ricketts Point

Convenor: Diana Pearce
Phone: 0448 573 256 **Email:** tedip@bigpond.com
Melway Ref: 86 D9
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 25 Apr, 30 May, 27 Jun **Time:** 9.30-11.30am


Friends of Ricketts Point Landside

Convenor: Sue Raverty
Phone: (03) 9589 2103 **Email:** sraverty@westnet.com.au
Melway Ref: 86 C9
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 17 Apr, 15 May, 19 Jun **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Table Rock

Convenor: Ken Rendell
Phone: (03) 9589 4452
Melway Ref: 86 E10
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: 24 Apr, 29 May, 26 Jun **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Elster Creek

Convenor: Gio Fitzpatrick
Phone: 0432 045 303 **Email:** gio@ecocentre.com
Meeting point: Elwood Canal, Glen Huntly Road Bridge
 **Upcoming event:**
www.facebook.com/friendsofelstercreek/events



Welcome to our new group!

Friends of Mother Stock Areas

Convenors: Pauline Reynolds and Rob Saunders

Phone: (03) 9598 6368 (Pauline) (03) 9515 3383 (Rob)

Email: pauline.reynolds@gmail.com or Rob at srednuas@hotmail.com

Meeting point:

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: 10 Apr, 8 May, 12 Jun **Time:** 9-11am

Environment Groups

Bayside Bushwalking Club (Charman to Cromer Roads, Beaumaris)

Contact: Jo Hurse

Phone: (Citywide Park Care) 9283 2052

Beaumaris Conservation Society

President: Greg Mier

Contact: PO Box 7016, Beaumaris 3193 **Email:** info@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: 3 & 17 April, 1 & 15 May, 5 & 19 Jun

Time: 10am-12pm

Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc

President: Elizabeth Jensen

Phone: 0419 354 998 **Email:** elizabethjjensen@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:** mjohnson@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.

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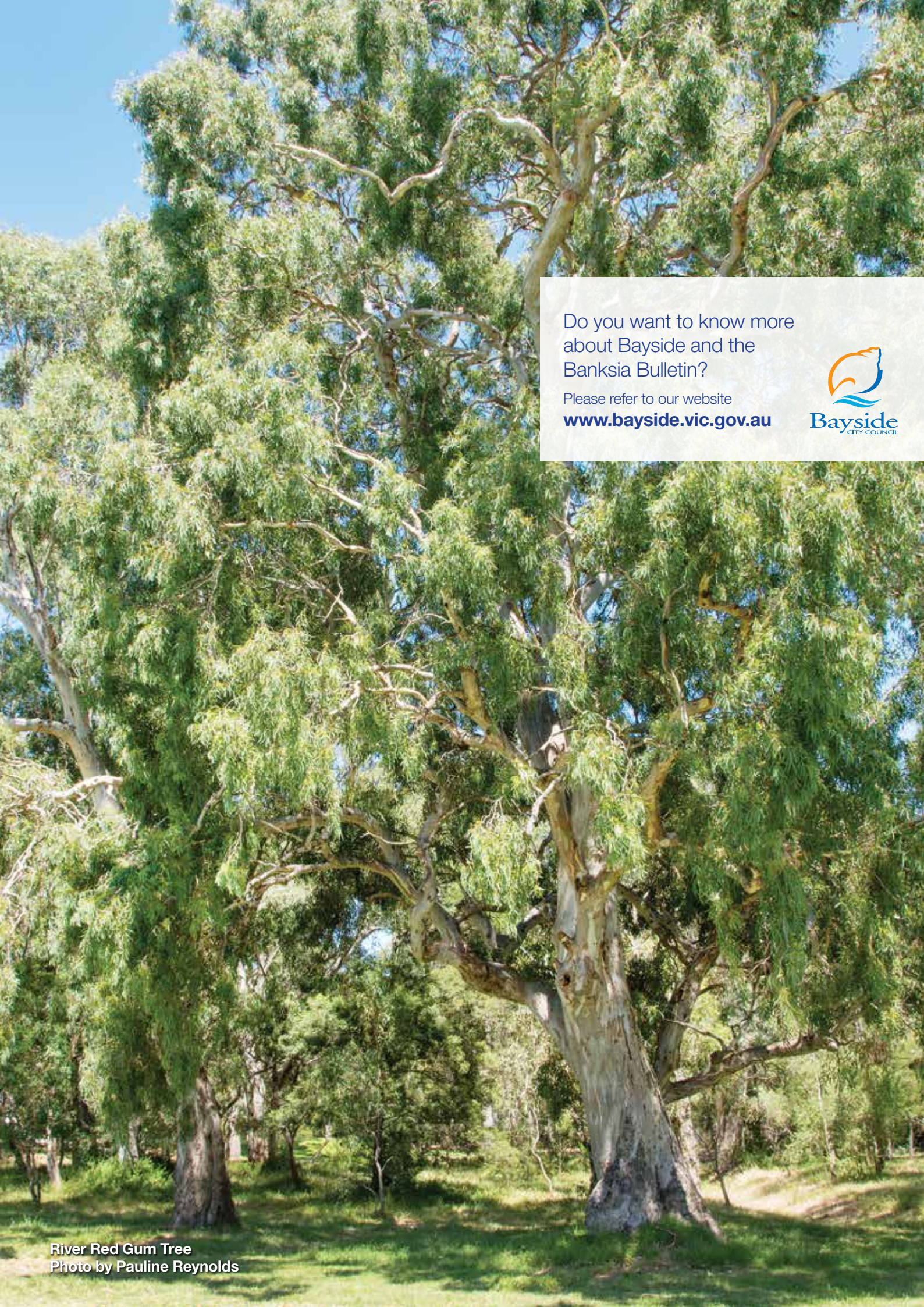
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