

banksia

bulletin

autumn 2019



Amazing bird sightings

**Bayside Community
Nursery now open**

**Fun at Summer
by the Sea**



Bayside
CITY COUNCIL

From the Mayor

Welcome to the Autumn edition of *Banksia Bulletin*.

As you know, Bayside is fortunate to have many Friends groups that are passionate about our local environment, made up of enthusiastic volunteers who spend countless hours in our bushlands, reserves and foreshore ensuring they are maintained and cared for.

But, for now, I would like to highlight the work of one volunteer, a champion of Bayside's wildlife and habitat for many decades – Elizabeth Walsh.

On Australia Day, Elizabeth was the very worthy recipient of this year's individual Environment Award.

As the inaugural president of the Friends of Native Wildlife Inc, Elizabeth's work has led to significant increases in community knowledge and awareness of many local wildlife, particularly Rakali,

frogs and bronzewings.

She is also the driving force behind protection and restoration of the Tulip Street Pond, working tirelessly to coordinate a team of 30 volunteers to revegetate this important wetland in the heart of Bayside's sandbelt golf course precinct.

This included working with the Bayside Community Nursery to identify and select suitable local indigenous species for habitat restoration, and coordinating volunteers for major replanting during July 2018.

I thank all our volunteers for the work you do, and in May we will have the opportunity to formally express our appreciation for how each of you contribute to making Bayside a better place to live at a special event during National Volunteers Week (see page 19).



Cr Michael Heffernan
Mayor
Bayside City Council

About the front and back cover images

Photos and words by Pauline Reynolds

This interesting plant, *Selliera radicans*, or Shiny Swamp-mat of the *Goodeniaceae* family, grows in Bayside at the base of Red Bluff Cliffs among other places, very exposed to salt spray and winds but close to fresh water seepage from the cliffs. It has succulent leaves and flowers and seems quite vulnerable, but must be tough to thrive in those conditions. When growing in kinder locations, it can form

a dense mat and be a useful soil binder, particularly in damp positions, while it seems to tolerate dry times.

Selliera radicans is propagated at the Bayside Community Nursery, which is now open for sales.

The close up cover photograph is of the plant, complete with tiny pollinator, in a pot. The back cover was taken at the base of Red Bluff Cliffs.



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Bayside Community Nursery NOW OPEN

The Bayside Community Nursery is open for 2019. Pick up some fantastic indigenous plants to create a thriving, low maintenance garden that attracts local wildlife, birds and insects.

Saturdays, 10am-12pm
Thursdays, 10am-2pm

Gala Days

Saturday 27 April, 9am-2pm
Saturday 15 June, 9am-2pm

Bayside Community Nursery:
315-317 Reserve Road, Cheltenham.



Plants of Bayside

With Aaron Hurrell of
Citywide Parks and Gardens

Beaded Glasswort

The Beaded Glasswort (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora* ssp. *quinqueflora*), also known as the Beaded Samphire, is a succulent prostrate plant that can grow to 30cms high and spread between 30cms and 1m wide along the ground through stolons that have long slender segments ranging from 5mm to 20mm long. It flowers between March and June with 10-18 flowers arranged in false whorls. The fruit producing stalks are 1-5cms long and 3-5mm wide. The seeds are covered with hooked bristles.

The Beaded Glasswort prefers moderately salty areas in full sun and is widespread in grasslands, salt marshes and brackish wetlands.

Seeds can propagate the Beaded Glasswort, cutting and dividing stolons that have been produced. It is similar to the closely related Thick Headed Glasswort (*Sarcocornia blackiana*).

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

Vale Ron Leech



The Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary, Bayside Environmental Friends Network, Bayside City Council and staff at Citywide acknowledge the life of active volunteer Mr Ronald James Leech, who passed away on 4 March 2019.

Ron was an active member of Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary for 20 years.

Born on 21 February 1925 in Black Rock, Ron attended a number of schools including Sandringham East and went on to become a carpenter and builder – a trade he learned at Brighton Technical School. He served in the Royal Australian Air Force between 1944-1946 and returned to build spec homes in Cheltenham and Highett. Ron lived in a home on Bay Road, adjacent to the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary, which was built by his father.

He is survived by his sister Val and sister-in-law Marcellina, who described him as a 'gentle and kind man'. Our thoughts are with the family.

Revegetating with indigenous plants

Story by Chris Sutton

Convenor, Friends of Beaumaris Memorial Community Centre

The Friends of Beaumaris Memorial Community Centre (formerly Friends of Beaumaris Reserve) formed in August 2017 and met monthly throughout 2018.

Works during this time included planting Casuarina, Coast Banksia and Tea Trees between the tennis courts and oval along Victor Street, Beaumaris.

It is fantastic to see these trees establish over the past 12 months, with steady growth over summer 2018/19.

This area was in need of revegetating after a thinning of Tea Tree and wattle, and the removal of blackberries a few years ago.

We will plant understorey species in this area to provide vegetation diversity and small bird habitat.

Other work during 2018 included clearing out rubbish and weeds in the bush areas around the oval.

Our proudest achievement has been mulching and planting the area next to the tennis courts along Victor Street.

I walk past this area every day and have been delighted to see this strip of patchy grass and trees revitalised with a diversity of indigenous plants.

The area had a good spread of mature trees and our focus was to plant shrubs, grasses and groundcovers.

Some of our volunteers are new to indigenous vegetation, and planting this area has provided a perfect opportunity

to learn about Bayside's native plants.

We are incredibly fortunate to source our plants from the Bayside Community Nursery, which is stocked with a wide range of vigorous and affordable plants.

Without the nursery we could not obtain all these plants and Bayside, including Beaumaris, would slowly lose its irreplaceable and distinctive vegetation character.

We are thrilled at how quickly the plants became established and transformed this space. The grasses and groundcover are thriving and it has been useful to observe the varying rates of plant growth, the impact of varying sun exposure and the relative dependence of different plants on watering.

I look forward to the shrubs filling out and hopefully attracting smaller bird life, which has become crowded out by Noisy Miners and more recently Currawongs.

The Beaumaris Reserve Masterplan includes an action item to provide interpretative signage of the plants and trees around Beaumaris Reserve. I hope this area becomes a showpiece of the diversity of indigenous plants from groundcovers to mature trees, and inspires residents about what they can plant in their own gardens.

We planted over 200 plants, with only a handful not surviving, thanks to Citywide watering this area. Our summer was a



very challenging period keeping all plants across Bayside adequately hydrated. Fortunately the good rains in December provided a growing boost with the onset of warmer weather.

To supplement Council's watering, we have a small trailer that is packed with two-litre plastic water bottles and hand water. While labour intensive, this watering has proved critical to keeping the plants alive.

We have had success selectively spraying weeds with an organic weed killer called Slasher, where the active constituent is nonanoic acid. Also known as pelargonic acid, nonanoic acid is derived from plant oils and is also found in pelargoniums. This weed killer has been very effective but needs follow-up spraying to be fully effective.

This year we plan to mulch areas under the bushy areas along Victor Street and around the oval towards Cloris Avenue. We will also plant shrubs to increase indigenous plant diversity across the whole reserve. We will focus our efforts on small sections at a time, which worked well in 2018.

Thank you to the reliable and responsive Paul Tope from Citywide who is a big supporter for our plans and activities.

Please join us at our Working Bees. See page 18 for details under our new name – Friends of Beaumaris Memorial Community Centre.

A special working bee

Story and photo by Pauline Reynolds

A group of volunteers took part in a special working bee at Cheltenham Park specifically to remove Coast Tea-tree, which has germinated in the thousands since a fire swept through the area in early 2018. Coast Tea-tree is considered to be a woody weed when it grows in the bushland reserves, stifling growth of the heathland species. The park is slowly regenerating, despite harsh conditions after the fire with little rain last winter, heavy rain in December and very hot days in 2019 that have burned some of the new plants. The group, together with Citywide, removed a truck full of seedlings — a really good effort.



Volunteers hold young Tea-tree plants.

Weeds and work at Bayside's George Street Reserve

Story by Valerie Tarrant

Photos by Pauline Reynolds

At our February working bee, Friends of George Street Reserve removed Slender Dodder Laurel (*Cassytha glabella*), an indigenous parasitic creeper that can smother its host plant and spread to other plants if not controlled.

However, it does have a place in the biodiversity of the reserve, being habitat for insects and a particular blue butterfly, so even if we could, we would not remove it all.

It is so persistent that even people's best efforts fail in dealing with every plant. Workers' fingers become sore, but Pauline Reynolds is hopeful that a new tool with bent tongs may make removal easier and hands more comfortable.

Some wattles may be regarded as weeds if they spring out of their usual habitat, like Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia subsp sophorae*); Friends have removed many small seedlings from inland reserves, including George Street. Coast Wattles have been described as thugs if they become environmental weeds in the bush (*Australian plants as weeds*, *Naturelink Newsletter of the*



Cranbourne Friends, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria).

In my garden in Black Rock, a number of trees and smaller species that have been purchased at Bayside Community Nursery are similar to some in the reserve.

I have noticed that once they have settled in, they need very little water.

Occasionally, a small seedling that has grown from a nearby parent – a Coast Wattle, a Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*) and Chocolate Lilies (*Arthropodium stricta*) – is found.

The Tulip Street nature strip remains a source of interest for Friends and visitors, who would otherwise be unaware of the indigenous plants that belong in the George Street Reserve. The Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*, formerly *Themeda australis*), with its long drooping seed heads, still thrives there among other local plants.

The dry summer has created challenges for our vegetation. Most trees, shrubs and groundcovers are surviving, but would benefit greatly from a series of downpours. We remain hopeful.



Ecological Controlled Burns 2019

Citywide Bushland Crew will manage two controlled ecological burns in early April 2019 that are overdue in terms of frequency of fire.

Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary is currently threatened by local species Dodder-laurel (*Cassytha pubescens* and *C. glabella*). It requires burning to introduce indigenous species and help control fire-sensitive weeds.

Long Hollow Heathland Sanctuary is threatened by Coastal Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia subsp longifolia*).

Bird walk at Ricketts Point

Story by Dennis Young

Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

Photos by Michiko Iida

Light cloud, low tide and a slight sea breeze greeted 20 keen birdwatchers early Saturday morning 23 February. This occasion was another popular Ricketts Point bird walk organised by committee members of Bayside's Friends of Native Wildlife Inc (FONW).

The group departed from the Yacht Club car park and followed the shoreline south, immediately noting a large number of Crested Terns and Cormorants resting on exposed reef areas opposite the Ricketts Point Teahouse.

There were quite a few Pied and Little Pied Cormorants indicating fish activity around the adjacent reefs. We were fortunate to observe a number of Australian Pelicans with some gliding in to land above our heads.

A White-Faced Heron was actively hunting in rock pools accompanying us along the shoreline to the Lifesaving Club. We appreciated the

distance covered, and energy expended, by these solitary birds as they seek out food.

Among the land birds, Superb Blue Wrens were heard but not seen. This was unusual as they are commonly sighted along the walking paths at Ricketts Point. A pair of Scaly Breasted Lorikeets was noisy and active near the teahouse. Along with three nearby pairs of Rainbow Lorikeets these beautiful birds appeared to be exhibiting nesting behaviour in tree hollows.

Encountering six Spotted Pardalotes foraging in Banksia foliage around the barbecue area was the walk highlight.

Local birdwatchers get excited seeing these beautiful little birds given the intrusion of Noisy Miners and Little Wattlebirds into their habitat in recent years, along with the increasing number of predatory Pied Currawongs and

Grey Butcherbirds. To watch a flock was a rare experience.

Exchanging notes after the activity, we confirmed sightings of around 27 different birds, although some were by sound only. While accounting for seven separate identifications, the largest numbers were water birds with Silver Gulls being the most common, however there were nearly as many Crested Terns.

FONW is planning at least one more walk at the same location this year as species and numbers fluctuate with the seasons. Bayside is fortunate to have this unique setting where a mix of land and water birds can be observed so readily.





Amazing birds at our northern foreshore

Willie Wagtail by Ed Dunens

Story by Michael Norris

Friend of Bayside

Council has been consulting about the draft North Road Foreshore Masterplan that covers the stretch between the pier at Middle Brighton Baths and Head Street – sometimes known as Brighton Park.

I first visited that area in 1978, on a trip from England, and was dismayed by the lack of vegetation or birds. Returning in the 1990s it had vastly improved following the City of Brighton's 1992 Foreshore Management Plan.

There were beds of mainly indigenous trees and shrubs among the lawns and near back fences. Alongside the promenade was a variety of low indigenous coastal plants.

Before long I had seen Blue Wrens throughout the precinct with one nest about two metres up in a near-bare wattle by a back fence, possibly located to avoid Black Rats.

Other native birds, such as Brown Thornbills and White-browed Scrubwrens, were limited to a few beds, mainly close to the area of Coast Tea-tree near North Road.

A bushy garden near that area attracted Silvereyes and breeding Willie Wagtails, with a nest at eye level until 1999 (possibly following Bayside's first plan for the area), and a Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo laid its eggs in a Thornbill nest.

My local botanist friends showed me some unusual coastal plants that had

probably arrived with sea spray.

I returned to this area in February to tour the precinct before I commented on the vegetation proposals in the draft Masterplan.

It was about midday that I stopped for a coffee at the end of North Road. Walking about 50 metres north, I was enthralled by the sound of Silvereyes calling from low coastal vegetation, soon followed by a male Blue Wren popping up with at least another brown one. And then a Willie Wagtail and a New Holland Honeyeater appeared.

Willie Wagtails have sadly become scarce in Bayside although one pair hangs on – and breeds – near the former golf course, provisionally named the Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve.

Away from here they are seen elsewhere in Bayside, usually in February once every two years, while New Holland Honeyeaters are spotted about once a year.

Returning to pick up my bike I heard an unusual call in the Drooping She-oaks near the café – and there was a gorgeous male Red-rumped Parrot.

As far as I know this species was only occasionally recorded in Bayside before 1999 when they stayed at Elsternwick Park, probably following their colonisation of Albert Park in the last 10 years.



New Holland Honeyeater
by Graham Winterflood



Male Red-rumped Parrot
by Arthur Chapman

Since then they have been there regularly in the cooler months. In the rest of Bayside they've been seen about once a year.

Playing with the probabilities you could say I had a nearly one in a thousand experience. A lesson from all this: you can enjoy birds at noon in summer; no need to get up at dawn.

Celebrating the two-year anniversary of the Friends of Bayside Roads Roadside Litter Patrol program. (L-R) Derek Jones, David Chamberlain, Michelle Bentley, the Hon Brad Rowsell MP and Andrew Petley.



Keeping our roads litter-free

Story by Derek Jones

Convenor Friends of Bayside Roads

Litter patrol volunteers have celebrated their two-year milestone of keeping Bayside roads litter-free.

Friends of Bayside Roads regularly patrols and removes litter from Bayside roadside reserves (nature strips) that are continuously under litter attack, mainly from drivers and passengers of private and commercial vehicles.

Since the group launched its Roadside Litter Patrol program in early 2017, the 20 registered volunteer patrol team, and its support group of 12 people, have collected around 1,800 large bags of roadside litter around parks and gardens, bushland reserves, sporting arenas, golf courses and public open spaces.

Council car parks and public infrastructure like libraries, schools, community centres, as well hot spots Cheltenham Road, Black Rock Village, Bluff Road and Tulip Street Sandringham, are often patrolled weekly.

Each volunteer covers about 1.5kms on each side of the road twice a month. This equates to around 40 kilometres of nature strips from Charman Road to Bluff Road, and Bay Road to Balcombe Road.

Volunteers work independently, carrying out roadside clean-up when and how often it suits them.

Items collected include drink bottles and cans, plastic and paper, tissues,



cigarette butts and packets, fast food packaging of all types, newspapers, lolly wrappers, masses of general merchandise packaging, cardboard cartons, broken glass, bottle tops, miscellaneous items of hard rubbish, the list goes on.

Members notify Council of any illegal rubbish dumps, which are collected within 48 hours.

The Friends also report suspicious behaviour and events, as well as graffiti, broken water pipes and acts of vandalism.

Along with litter thrown from vehicles, there are major dumping incidents such as builders' rubbish, paint cans, tyres,

carpets, household and office furniture and equipment. Recently, a truckload of broken cement paving was found dumped in this area.

There are vacancies for patrol routes covering open spaces in Brighton, Hampton, Highbury, Cheltenham and Beaumaris.

If you would like to join Friends of Bayside Roads, please contact Derek Jones via derekhjones36@gmail.com

Volunteers are fully briefed and provided with work and safety kits. A monthly briefing is held at the Sandringham Golf Links Café.

Enjoying Summer by the Sea

The Bayside Environmental Friends Network delivered another fantastic Summer by the Sea program throughout January.

Around 40 volunteers led more than 10 free family activities held around Bayside's magnificent stretch of Port Phillip Bay.

Enjoy this feature, showcasing some of the highlights from our Summer by the Sea 2019 events.



Coastal photography

Keen photographers, eager to hone their skills taking nature shots, heading out from Ricketts Point to capture local wildlife, marine animals in rockpools and the beautiful coastline.

Microbat talk and walk

Native wildlife experts sharing knowledge about microbats as participants search for wildlife at dusk.



Our evolving coastline

Learning how beaches form and the impacts of sand movement while discovering local fossils that are millions of years old.



Foreshore and rockpool ramble

Uncovering treasures of sandy shores left behind after a low tide, and catching a glimpse of unique marine animals at home in rockpools.



Curious kids go coastal

Children aged 6-10 years learning about indigenous plants and local fauna through playing games and participating in nature-based/environmental activities.



Snorkelling

Experiencing the enchanting underwater environment by snorkelling the Teahouse Reef in the Sanctuary.



A foreshore and sea country walk

Discovering the Boon Wurrung's (local First People) way of caring for, and living in harmony with, their Sea Country including facts about indigenous plants and their role in traditional Aboriginal food and culture.



Indigenous plants terrarium workshops

Young people with their finished terrariums made with local plant species from the Bayside Community Nursery.



A Dogs' Breakfast

Story by Taylor Davine
Citywide

The annual Dogs' Breakfast is an event just for dogs and their owners.

This year's event was once again hosted by Citywide and took place on 19 January at the off-leash dog beach at the end of Sandown Street, Brighton.

The Citywide crew including myself, Will McGowan, Jo Hurse and Julie Valentine provided information

about biodiversity and wildlife along Victoria's coast.

This included information about the local environment, the importance of keeping dogs on leash in sensitive vegetation and bird habitat, local Friends groups, and copies of *Banksia Bulletin*. Council provided give-aways such as leads, water bowls, doggie-bag carriers and show bags with family activities.

Citywide's Aaron Hurrell took charge of the barbecue, serving up breakfast for dogs and their owners.

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



Community wins on CSIRO land

Council has achieved a significant milestone in securing community benefits from the sale of 9.3 hectares owned by the CSIRO in Highett.

Bayside Mayor Michael Heffernan said an agreement was recently reached with CSIRO, guaranteeing that land gifted by the Federal Government will be set aside for open space. Council will have the opportunity to purchase further land for community facilities.

"The land in Graham Road, Highett, is one of the most significant development sites in inner metropolitan Melbourne and represents a unique opportunity to obtain land for open space and new community facilities," Cr Heffernan said.

"Both the Highett and wider Bayside community will benefit from high quality public open space, community facilities and increased housing opportunities in this area, close to public transport and services."

The site contains important, remnant vegetation that will now be protected and enhanced. The agreement ensures that three hectares encompassing the Highett Grassy Woodland will be set aside for conservation to encourage regeneration



Local residents join Member for Goldstein Tim Wilson MP (centre), who is flanked by Bayside Friends Elizabeth Walsh (left) and Pauline Reynolds (right), standing beside Mayor Cr Michael Heffernan and Friend of Bayside, Michael Norris.

of indigenous species and natural habitat.

A further one hectare of open space has been set aside for recreation purposes. Council is confident it will purchase another 3,500 square metres to build new community facilities including a library.

The Federal Government announced its intention to dispose of the former CSIRO site in 2011. In 2013, a commitment was secured from the Federal Government that four hectares of the site would be transferred to Bayside City Council.

CSIRO has demolished all buildings on the site and is currently removing any potentially hazardous materials to ensure the site is left in a safe condition. The entire site is expected to be listed for

sale on the open market in April 2019.

The recent agreement between Council and the CSIRO guarantees the land will remain open space in perpetuity and for community facilities. It also leaves Council able to negotiate the best outcomes with the eventual purchaser.

Access to the site will be strictly limited until the CSIRO completes remediation work. After this time, Council has negotiated limited access to begin planting and weeding but titles and full site access will not transfer to Council until 12 months after settlement. In the meantime the community will be consulted on a masterplan for the three hectares in the southern end of the site.

Minister visits Highett Grassy Woodland

Story and photo by Pauline Reynolds

It is not every day you have the opportunity to discuss conservation with the Federal Minister for Environment but on 21 January, two Friends of Bayside did just that. Minister Melissa Price MP toured the key environmental gems of our area during a visit to Tim Wilson's electorate of Goldstein.

Her visit included the Highett Grassy Woodland at CSIRO where she heard about its long and fascinating history from local environment naturalist Michael Norris. Mr Wilson, together with Bayside



(L-R) Member for Goldstein Tim Wilson MP, Michael Norris, Minister for Environment The Hon. Melissa Price MP, Pauline Reynolds and Mayor Cr Michael Heffernan.

Mayor Michael Heffernan, was pleased to show the Minister the land and its trees.

The site has been cleared of old buildings in preparation for the

long-awaited handover to Bayside City Council, which is finalising its negotiations with the CSIRO.

The Minister's electorate, Durack in Western Australia, is one of the largest in Australia, covering more than 1.6 million square kilometres.

Coming from such wide and open spaces, the Minister was interested in the importance of the natural environment in highly developed urban areas.

She commented on how every tree and area of open space counted, and how they are obviously appreciated by people she had met during her visit.

Urban Forest Strategy



Council will test the benefits, outcomes, limitations and opportunities of a future Urban Forest Strategy with a suburb-level case study.

This initiative responds to community concerns about the incremental and cumulative impact of tree and vegetation loss from both low-scale development and applications to remove trees and vegetation generally.

An Urban Forest Strategy would assist Council to manage trees and vegetation as a collective and integrated environment. The City's urban forest consists of all trees and vegetation located throughout Bayside,

irrespective of the tree species, origin, location or ownership.

An Urban Forest Strategy would provide an opportunity to consider the cumulative benefits of an entire tree population and implications as a result of canopy loss on amenity and urban character, resilience to climate change, the urban heat island effect, flora and fauna and urban ecosystems.

Although Bayside enjoys a high level of tree and vegetation cover across the municipality, there is a need to monitor tree coverage and ensure that this is maintained and enhanced into the future.



Zero plastics by mid-2020

Single use plastics will no longer be issued from Council's Corporate Centre and libraries by the end of June this year.

Other Council-owned properties such as community centres and senior citizen centres will stop using single use plastics by the end of June 2020 as Council commits to a future of zero single-use plastics.

Buruli ulcer research

Story and photos by Pauline Reynolds

A group of unlucky Bayside residents infected with Buruli ulcer (also known as Bairnsdale ulcer) have taken part in a collaborative research study led by CSIRO, Barwon Health, Department of Health and Human Services and the University of Melbourne.

The research aimed to uncover new information to help prevent and control the disease in Victoria. Samples of soil, water, biting insects, mammal faeces and vegetation were collected for analysis.

Buruli ulcer is a skin and soft tissue infection caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium ulcerans*. The toxin made by the bacteria attacks fat cells under the skin, which leads to localised redness and swelling or the formation of a nodule (lump) that can develop into an ulcer.



It is not known exactly how people become infected with the bacteria, or where in the environment it prefers to live. The highest risk for infection is during the warmer months, but the disease can be acquired at any time of the year. Buruli ulcer is not thought to spread from person-to-person.



Tips for stopping Buruli ulcer

- **Avoid** insect bites by using suitable insect repellents and long clothing, especially during the warmer months or high mosquito activity
- **Protect** cuts or abrasions with sticking plasters
- **Wash and cover** scratches or cuts from working outdoors
- **See your doctor** if you have a persistent skin lesion and mention the possibility of Buruli ulcer.

Kids' Corner



Hey kids, autumn has started across Australia and there are lots of changes in our natural landscape occurring across Bayside.

We hope you all had a great summer and now it is time to prepare for the upcoming winter.

But first, stop, breathe and take in everything that we all love about autumn – the brilliant changing colours of our trees and plants, falling leaves, cooler days and much more.

QUICK QUIZ

Q1. WHAT CAUSES SEASONS?

- (a) Gravity
- (b) Earth's tilt on its axis
- (c) The moon
- (d) Distance from the equator

Q2. WHICH SEASON HAS THE LONGEST DAYLIGHT HOURS?

- (a) Summer
- (b) Autumn
- (c) Winter
- (d) Spring

Q3. WHAT ARE THE SHORTEST AND LONGEST DAYS CALLED?

- (a) Axis
- (b) Solstices
- (c) Equinox
- (d) Equators

Q4. IN WHICH SEASON DO TREES AND OTHER PLANTS GROW THE MOST?

- (a) Summer
- (b) Autumn
- (c) Winter
- (d) Spring

Q5. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE EARTH TO GO AROUND THE SUN?

- (a) One year
- (b) One month
- (c) One light-year
- (d) Two years

Q6. WHEN DOES AUTUMN HAPPEN IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE?

- (a) June to August
- (b) December to February
- (c) September to November
- (d) March to May

Q7. WHICH TYPES OF TREES LOSE THEIR LEAVES IN AUTUMN?

- (a) Palm trees
- (b) Cactus
- (c) Deciduous
- (d) Conifers

Q8. WHAT DO OUR FRIENDS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD CALLED AUTUMN?

- (a) Trip
- (b) Fall
- (c) Skip
- (d) Tumble

Q9. WHY DO LEAVES FALL FROM TREES IN AUTUMN?

- (a) So kids can earn pocket money raking them up
- (b) To keep the grass warm in winter
- (c) To provide food for wildlife
- (d) So new trees can start to grow

Q10. WHAT POPULAR BAYSIDE ASSET OPENS IN AUTUMN TO SELL INDIGENOUS PLANTS?

- (a) Sandringham Library
- (b) Council's Corporate Office
- (c) Bayside Community Nursery
- (d) Thomas Street Playground

ANSWERS TO THIS SEASON'S QUIZ

Q1: (b) The earth's tilt means that one-half of earth leans towards the sun and the other leans away. Q2: (a) Days are longest and nights are shortest in summer. Q3: (b) The longest and shortest days are called the summer and winter solstices. Q4: (a) Warm, sunny days help plants grow. Q5: (a) A year is the time it takes earth to go around the sun. Q6: (d) Autumn starts in March and continues until the last day in May. Q7: (c) Deciduous trees such as Oak and Sycamore drop their leaves in autumn. Q8: (b) Some countries, like America and Canada, call autumn, fall. Q9: (d) Leaves fall so new growth can start in spring. Q10: (c) The Bayside Community Nursery is now open. Check out page 19 for this season's Gala Days!

Kids' Corner



A PERFECT AUTUMN SATURDAY OUT

Ask mum, dad, a grandparent or adult friend to take you on a visit to the Bayside Community Nursery this autumn.

Our volunteers and staff have been busy over summer propagating indigenous plants for public sale and to use in our parks, reserves and heathlands.

Indigenous plants are available to purchase in forestry tube (starting at \$2.35), 6-inch pot (starting at \$7.50) and 200mm pot (starting at \$26.00).

They might sound small, but it is better to buy and plant indigenous plants like this instead of larger pot sizes.

This way, they develop better root systems and will be more tolerant to drought conditions.

Autumn is the perfect time to sow seeds because the soil is moist and the weather is not too hot.



BENEFITS OF INDIGENOUS PLANTS:

- sustainable
- low maintenance requirements (compared to other gardens) are easy to maintain and propagate
- thrive without the need for artificial fertilisers or sprays
- use minimal water
- fauna-friendly; attracting, providing food and shelter for local native birds and insects, which helps preserve the biodiversity of Bayside.

BAYSIDE COMMUNITY NURSERY OPEN:

Saturdays, 10am-12pm

Thursdays, 10am-2pm

315-317 Reserve Road, Cheltenham VIC 3192

For more information call (03) 9583 8408 or visit www.bayside.vic.gov/community-nursery



AUTUMN RECIPE

ROAST PUMPKIN, TOMATO AND FETA PASTA



Show off your cooking skills using those pumpkins you picked from your autumn veggie garden. Here's a delicious and simple pumpkin recipe perfect to cook for the family on a Sunday night.

INGREDIENTS

500g pumpkin
500g Roma tomatoes
4 clove garlic (unpeeled)
1tbs olive oil
100g feta
400g pasta
Parmesan to serve

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 160C (140 fan-forced). Peel and chop pumpkin, and quarter tomatoes. Place in a baking pan with unpeeled garlic cloves and olive oil. Toss to combine, seasoning well. Bake for 1-1.5 hours until soft and caramelised.
2. Place pumpkin and tomatoes in a blender or food processor with feta. Pop the garlic cloves out of their peels and add them as well. Blitz until smooth.
3. Cook pasta in a pot of rapidly boiling salted water until al dente (it means 'just right!'). Drain, reserving about half a cup of the cooking liquid. Reheat sauce in a pot, adding a little of the reserved cooking liquid to loosen it.
4. Add cooked pasta to the pan and toss well to coat. Serve with shaved parmesan and a side salad.


Thanks kidspot.com.au for this awesome idea!

Friends Groups

Friends of Balcombe Park

Convenor: Ian O'Loughlin

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 28, May 26, Jun 30, Jul 28 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

Convenor: Michael Norris

Phone: (03) 9521 6879 **Email:** menorris@ozemail.com.au

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 13, May 11, Jun 8, Jul 13 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Bayside Roads

Contact: Derek Jones

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

Bayside Environmental Friends Network


Convenor: Jill Robinson-Bird

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

Friends of Beaumaris Memorial Community Centre

Convenor: Chris Sutton

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 28, May 26, Jun 23, Jul 21

Friends of Brighton Dunes

Convenor: Jenny Talbot

Phone: (03) 9592 2109


 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 2, 10, 16, 23 & 30, May 7, 14, 21 & 28, Jun 4, 11, 18 & 25, Jul 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 **Time:** 8-10am

Friends of Cheltenham Park

Convenor: Valerie Tyers

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


 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 7, May 5, Jun 2, Jul 7 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

Convenor: Kim Croker

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**


Dates: Apr 3, May 1, Jun 5, Jul 3 **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


 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 21, May 19, Jun 16, Jul 21 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Gramatan Avenue Heathland

Convenor: Ken Rendell

Phone: (03) 9589 4452


 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 7, May 5, Jun 2, Jul 7 **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

Convenor: Rob Saunders

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 28, May 26, Jun 30, Jul 28 **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Merindah Park & Urban Forest

Convenor: John de Cruz Douglas

Phone: 0417 386 408 **Email:** jdecdouglas@internode.on.net

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 14, May 12, Jun 9, Jul 14 **Time:** 9-11am & 10am-12pm

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


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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Please check the website www.bayfonw.org.au/events

Friend 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:** dipearce39@icloud.com

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 10, May 29, Jun 12, Jul 10 **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: Apr 16, May 21, Jun 18, Jul 23 **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Table Rock

Convenor: Ken Rendell

Phone: (03) 9589 4452

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Apr 30, May 28, Jun 25, Jul 30 **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 events:**

Please check www.facebook.com/friendsofelstercreek/

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week

celebrates the generous contribution of volunteers in Australia, and is led by peak body Volunteering Australia.

Bayside City Council will hold a special afternoon tea event to recognise the contribution of volunteers at the **Brighton Art Gallery** on **Wednesday 29 May**.

More details to come.



Environment Groups

Bayside Bushwalking Club (Charman to Cromer Roads, Beaumaris)

Contact: Jo Hurse **Phone:** (Citywide Park Care) 9283 2052

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: Apr 2, 16 & 30, May 7 & 21, Jun 4 & 18, Jul 2 & 16

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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Copy deadlines

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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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