

banksia

bulletin

spring 2018

**Daintry Gerrand
returns to Bayside**

**Rare flora and
fauna sightings**

**Tulip Street pond
make-over**

From the Mayor

In what has become a Bayside tradition, the City found its spring with open day events to mark the season at local reserves and heathlands.

Organised by Council in conjunction with CityWide Open Space, and run largely by our Friends group volunteers, these open days are designed for residents to shake off the winter cobwebs and become reacquainted with Bayside's heathland sanctuaries.

If you are quick, you can still visit Bay Road Heathland Sanctuaries in Sandringham every Sunday afternoon until the end of October.

I urge you to take this great opportunity to experience and learn about Bayside's unique flora.

This edition of *Banksia Bulletin* celebrates some rare sightings that warm the soul like the two ringtail

possums (page 7) curled up in a tree during winter; and an orchid so infrequent that we can almost mark our calendar by the day it flowers and then disappears again (page 10).

This is a timely reminder to readers that if you have a photograph and a story, *Banksia Bulletin* gladly accepts submissions.

This publication is dedicated to Bayside's local flora and fauna, and there are no better reporters than our residents who have their eyes and ears out and about all year round.

If you have a photograph or a story idea, please send it to banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au with your details to ensure your work receives credit.

Cr Laurence Evans

Mayor

Bayside City Council



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Cover image: Scented Sundew (*Drosera aberrans*)
at Royal Melbourne Golf Course
Photo by Pauline Reynolds.



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Special features



OUT OF THE WOODWORK



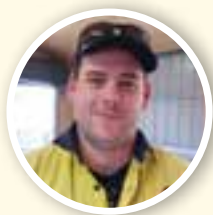
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS A WALK BACK IN TIME



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Plants of Bayside

With Aaron Hurrell of
Citywide Parks and Gardens

Strand Sedge

Carex pumila, also known as the Strand Sedge, was once more frequent in Bayside but is now found at only a few sites, flowering between August and January. The loosely tufted, spreading, coastal sedge stands at around 10-50cm tall. It has flower heads close to the base (culms) that are around 5-20cm long by 1mm wide.

Carex pumila has flat leaves growing up to 50cm long that range between 6mm and 25mm wide. The lower parts of its leaves keel and become coiled at the tip with spreading bristles.

The flower heads are long and narrow (5-10cm), and have between one and four upper spikes, which are male, about 10-40mm long and close together. The lower spikes are female, about 15-20mm long and much broader.

The flowers are yellow-brown to reddish-brown in colour, with white margins near the top.

Carex pumila requires full sun, moist sandy soils tolerating salty soils and winds, making it an excellent sand binder.

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

Community Service Announcement



Quest for marine pest

Story courtesy of Parks Victoria

Marine rangers from Parks Victoria have found the invasive marine pest, *Undaria pinnatifida*, commonly known as Japanese Kelp or Wakame, in South Gippsland during routine marine patrols.

The introduced marine weed was previously restricted to Port Phillip Bay and the harbour at Apollo Bay, which now represents an expansion of the pest weed eastwards along the Victorian coast.

Rangers are concerned it may spread to the pristine waters of Wilsons Promontory National Park, in areas like Refuge Cove, which is popular with recreational boats.

Parks Victoria have been surveying Refuge Cove with a series of dives, equipped with an underwater camera vehicle.

Marine pests like *Undaria* can quickly attach to vessel hulls, ropes or equipment that have been in the water.

Additionally, in early growth stages, they can be too small to see and boat operators may not even know they are transporting them.

Stopping the spread of marine pests such as *Undaria* is the best way to limit its impact. Everyone can help to prevent the spread of marine pests by practicing good boat hygiene.

Remember the check, clean, dry approach:

- ✓ **Check** your vessel and equipment for pests regularly
- ✓ **Clean** it with fresh water to eliminate any you can't see
- ✓ **Dry** it thoroughly before moving to a new marine location

Please report any suspected sightings of marine pests by including a photograph, location and date of sighting, to marine.pests@ecodev.vic.gov.au or 136186.

Rare Plants of Bayside

By Julie Valentine

Nursery Coordinator

Citywide Bayside Community Nursery

The Rare Plants Group is a sub-committee of the Bayside Community Nursery Steering Committee. Its purpose is to reintroduce plants that have declined in local bushlands in the hope that they will start to naturally regenerate.

Once large enough, germinates are planted in Bayside's reserves and then watered and monitored until they are established.

For natural regeneration to occur the quantity of individual plants needs to be substantial – approximately 50-100 plants.

This is a time-consuming process, and the Rare Plants Group focuses its efforts on two or three species at a time.

A great success to date includes Slender Velvet Bush (*Lasiopetalum baueri*), reintroduced after only two specimens on Red Bluff Cliffs were located in the mid-2000s.

This year, the group's focus is on the following three plants.



Photo by Julie Valentine

Common Wedge-pea, Karalla (*Gompholobium huegelii*)

Only one Common Wedge-pea is present in each of Bayside's two bushland reserves.

Some success with this plant has come from cuttings. One of the pots at the nursery was progressing well, but last summer birds attacked the plant. Fortunately, it survived and over this coming summer should be well enough for planting.



Photo by Julie Valentine

Gorse bitter-pea (*Daviesia ulicifolia* ssp. *Ulicifolia*)

Only one Gorse bitter-pea is present in Bayside's bushland reserves. Some success has come from cuttings and seed this year with around 250 forestry tubes propagated for next year's planting.

Horny Cone-bush (*Isopogon ceratophylla*)

Only four individual Horny Cone-bush plants are present in Bayside's bushland reserves with another two in Royal Melbourne Golf Club. One of these plants could be up to 70 years old.

The nursery has two stock plants, propagated by cuttings with material collected from two bushland reserves. The Rare Plants Group has successfully treated seeds with smoke and sowed these seeds resulting in 12 germinates. This plant regenerates well after fire.



Photo by Pauline Reynolds



Out of the woodwork

By Elizabeth Walsh and Denis Young
FoNW Inc.

When Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife Inc (FoNW) put out a call for help to make a large order of bird boxes to enhance habitat in people's gardens, there was an immediate response.

As a result, FoNW received more offers of time and talent than we had boxes to make! Boxes had already been pre-cut and were ready to assemble and paint, partly due to FoNW member Rob Carseldine, who has successfully been fossicking for builders' offcuts.

Recently, FoNW has moved from using recycled hardwood fence palings for boxes to recycled hardwood offcuts from local building sites, which are suitable for a range of bird nesting boxes.

With many new residential homes being built in Bayside, habitat for insects, reptiles, birds and mammals such as microbats need to be recreated.



FoNW is building new nest boxes to house wildlife that would otherwise use hollows and nooks and crannies in established gardens and sheds.

Rob is building wildlife boxes close to the requirements of particular species in the hope that they can find a new home in the local area in an attempt to reverse the drop in population numbers.

For example, wildlife observers have noticed falling numbers of Pardalotes and nesting options for Rosellas. These birds are losing nesting areas to more boisterous species such as Noisy Miners, Rainbow Lorikeets and introduced Indian Mynas.

FoNW recommends keeping leaf litter in the garden, and logs on the ground and in small piles for reptiles and insects.

The best solution, however, is to build up pockets in the garden with thick patches of a variety of grasses and sedges, small bushes and some prickly and understorey shrubs.

One large tree in a garden can provide a huge number of insect and bird habitat to support the web of life.

Some plants provide seeds or are food for caterpillars, which feed birds.

Local indigenous plants from the Bayside Community Nursery provide the right flowering plants to support local small birds rather than larger pushy birds. Indigenous flowers are much smaller than larger hybrid flowers found on many plants in commercial nurseries.



Microbats eat large numbers of insects each night, which keep plagues of insects under control. They do not like increased light in the night sky such as brightly lit gardens and tennis courts or sportsground floodlights.

FoNW would like to thank Bunnings for its generous donation, and its newest volunteers – Mike, Mark, Alan, Clare, Laura, Joy, Paul and John.

Overwhelmed by support, Rob is preparing more kits to enable as many boxes as possible to be ready for the spring breeding season.

The Bayside Indian Myna Action Group are now also using the wildlife boxes from FoNW, and encouraging planting of suitable wildlife habitat from Bayside's Community Nursery, where wildlife boxes are also available for purchase.

Snakes on the move

By Elizabeth Walsh

FoNW Inc.

Photo by Melbourne Water Waterwatch Coordinator Richard Aker

The sun is out and many reptiles are waking from their winter hibernation and on the move for food.

Last year, Bayside had a number of snake sightings so it is timely to remind residents about what to do if a snake does strike.

A tourniquet is no longer the most effective method, with experts explaining that pressure bandages are better for treating a snakebite.

Minimising muscle movement will reduce snake venom from being pumped around the body via the circulatory system.

If possible, remain immobile and allow others to dress your wound. Do not wash off any venom, as this may be the only indication as to the species of snake.

If help cannot come to the victim, carry the person rather than walking them.

When coming across a snake, be still and allow the snake to move away. If it does not move, retreat slowly and quietly.

In spring, snakes are breeding, and



(L-R) Friends of Native Wildlife Inc (FoNW) Convenor Elizabeth Walsh demonstrates applying a pressure bandage to a snake bite on Melbourne Water Waterwatch Coordinator Richard Aker as FoNW volunteer Geoffrey Daniel watches on filming the demonstration with a 3D camera.

may be aggressive. A hurried retreat may be the only option to get away from any nest that a snake may be protecting.

Thumping through the bush will usually alert reptiles, and allow them to move. During cooler periods, when they are more sluggish, standing on one is also a possibility.

Most bites occur on the lower leg from standing on a snake, not on the arm as pictured in the practice photo.

Never attempt to kill a snake as this is also when bites occur.

Remember, reptiles are native wildlife and should be respected in their natural environment.

Eye spy with my little eye ... a possum, or two, in a tree?

Council officer Emily Petrie has been keeping an eye on a cute little friend while visiting Beaumaris Library.

A little possum that appeared to be nestled in the crook of two branches of a large sheoak near the entrance to the library, turned out to be two little ringtails curled up tightly together.

Over the cold winter months the friendly pair would hold onto each other shivering in the early crisp mornings.

Emily called Friends of Bayside Support Officer Jill Robinson who located a possum box, which was upgraded to a salvaged hollow.



Celebrating 40 years

A walk back in time

A celebration at the Bayside Community Nursery to mark its 40th year attracted a very special guest.

With an emphasis on propagating local indigenous plants, Council's first Environmental Officer dating back to the 1980s, Daintry Gerrand (nee Fletcher), treated a group of 'friends' to a guided walk through bushland reserves.

This feature captures some of the stories from the 14 July event.



By Pauline Reynolds

Co-convenor Friends of George Street Reserve

It was lovely to welcome Daintry Gerrand back to Sandringham. Daintry first introduced me to the value and management of our reserves and foreshore in 1981 when we were members of the City of Sandringham's Flora, Fauna and Natural Environment Advisory Panel. This panel had a hands-on involvement in the aftermath of the 1984 wild fire at the George Street Reserve.

Daintry visited the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary, George Street Reserve, Ricketts Point and Long Hollow Heathland on the day after the Community Nursery celebrations accompanied by the Citywide Bushland and Nursery Supervisor Jo Hurse, members of the Citywide Bushland crew, Friends group representatives and some of the bushland and Ricketts Point supervisors.

There was a great exchange of information and memories of the vegetation and fire regimes and management methods.

For example, in 1987, Daintry surveyed vegetation and management at Royal Melbourne Golf Club, which is still as valuable now as it was then.

Bayside City Council recently ratified its new Biodiversity Action Plan which led Daintry to agree that it is important to employ a diversity of management methods to varying requirements of Bayside's reserves and foreshore, with each site unique in many ways.

It is rare to have someone who was so vitally involved in our natural environment visit again after 30 years and be able to comment on the changes.



By Jo Hurse

Citywide Bushland and Nursery Supervisor

It was a very memorable couple of days with Daintry. I was fortunate to walk with her through some of the bushlands and Ricketts Point. It was lovely to share her knowledge of the past, and the current works that have been undertaken. A highlight was the few hours I spent with Daintry, Pauline Reynolds and Stuart Moodie at Royal Melbourne Golf Club. After only two days I felt emotional and reinvigorated – what a wonderful person Daintry is.





By Moira Longden

Former Convenor Friends of Ricketts Point

I would like to share a story about Daintry and a big patch of bamboo, around the size of a tennis court, which was growing on landside of Ricketts Point. It was impenetrable. I know because I had tried to walk through it. Then one day it was gone. I asked the Bushland Crew what had happened to it. They replied, "Oh Daintry bulldozed it."

When I met Daintry again after all these years, I asked her about

it. At first she was a little vague. Then she said it would have "been a back hoe".

A day or two later, Daintry visited the bushland reserves and Ricketts Point. Of interest was the result of a recent environmental burn at Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary and the burn site at George Street Reserve.

She was warm in her praise of the plantings at Ricketts Point and for the management of Long Hollow Reserve.

By Di Pearce

Convenor Friends of Ricketts Point

It was a great pleasure to renew acquaintance with Daintry and walk with her through some of Bayside's heathland areas. Her delight in the areas we visited was obvious, and I only wish I could remember all of the knowledge that she shared as we walked. It was good to be able to show her the Ricketts Point area and the differences that the Friends group has made over the last 22 years.



By Matt Roach

Bayside Community Nursery volunteer

The tour was a fantastic opportunity to learn about the ecological aspects of Bayside's reserves from Daintry's perspective during the time she spent working here in the 1980s. This was valuable as it allowed the current volunteers and employees to appreciate how far environmental management in Bayside has progressed. I particularly appreciated the story of her rediscovery of the Slender Velvet-Bush (*Lasiopetalum baueri*) at Red Bluff, and her joy in seeing how widely planted this species is around Bayside considering they originated from only two plants.



John Eichler and Pauline Reynolds witnessed this elusive orchid flowering in Bay Road Heathland.

It is understood this plant is part of the *Caladenia carnea* complex. This is the first sighting/recording of this orchid in Bayside.



The Waxlip Orchid was also flowering in Bay Road Heathland recently.



Species feature:

The secret life of Guthega Skinks

Story courtesy of Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Biodiversity e-Newsletter

Motivated by the distinct lack of knowledge of Australia's highest elevation reptile, PhD Candidate Zak Atkins has spent the past three years uncovering the mysteries of the life and times of the Guthega Skink (*Liopholis guthega*).

Guthega Skinks are confined to two isolated alpine populations – one in Victoria's Bogong High Plains and the other on the plateau of Kosciuszko National Park in New South Wales. Listed as endangered and on Zoos Victoria's Priority Threatened Species Program, knowledge about these species was extremely limited, hampering species management and options for improved conservation action.

Zak set out to understand the species ecology and through his research unearthed some surprising data, which has made a world of difference to the management of the species in captivity and the wild.

Over a 12-month period, Zak tracked the internal body temperature of individuals every 15 minutes using miniature temperature loggers, revealing that Guthega Skinks are capable of hibernating for multiple months at less than two degrees under the winter snow.

Guthega Skinks are highly restricted and fragmented in their distribution, making them vulnerable to disturbance. By understanding these overwintering requirements, this research informed how the species can be managed in captivity – part of a newly established breeding program to ensure husbandry knowledge is well understood; in the event that the skinks will need to be salvaged from the wild following a stochastic event such as fire sweeping through the habitat.

Working with alpine species restricted to our mountaintops, Zak knows too well that their persistence in the wild will depend on the actions of all Victorians, ensuring that we provide the opportunity for alpine species to adapt to a changing environment that greatly threatens their existence.

After spending a significant amount of time in the field understanding the diet, behaviour, reproductive biology and habitat requirements of the species, Zak believes that 'reducing pressure from introduced species (both predators and herbivores), as well as maintaining habitat connectivity, will best ensure the persistence of this species'. These are the challenges and opportunities presented when working on a species whose natural history has only just been written.



The trouble with Correas

By Rob Saunders

Convenor Friends Long Hollow Heathland

Two indigenous *Correa* species are found in Bayside reserves: White or Coast *Correa* (*Correa alba*) and Common *Correa* (*Correa reflexa*). Both are wonderful garden plants. They are reliable, bird-attracting, hardy and drought tolerant. They can even be shaped into informal hedges from one to two metres tall.

Correa alba occurs naturally along the coast and has white flowers that from a distance look star-shaped, but actually consist of a short tube of fused petals with four pointed lobes at the top.

Correa reflexa usually grows away from the coast and has longer, tube-shaped flowers that hang down.

Correas have been visible in Bayside since early settlement. Some were in flower when a group from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria took an excursion to the Red Bluff area in May 1885.

Their flowers also rated a mention in notes about a nature walk from Sandringham to Cheltenham in September 1918 (Fletcher, 1988). Unfortunately, neither account tells us anything about the colour of those Correas.

When I started as a volunteer at Long Hollow Heathland in the early 1980s, I recall two different forms of *Correa reflexa*.

There was a bushy form about one metre tall that had lime-green, bell-shaped flowers; and a lower-growing form that had narrower, red flower tubes with green tips. The red form was only present at the southern end of the reserve, in the area set aside by Winifred Waddell in the 1950s. Everywhere else the green variety predominated.

In recent times, following regeneration burns, other colour forms have appeared as seedlings in several of Bayside's bushland reserves. There is a pink form with green tips that occurs at Long Hollow Heathland; and a cream form with green tips that appeared at George Street Reserve.



Photo 1: Green with bracts

The trouble with Correas is that they are promiscuous, and many different forms, and even different species, interbreed readily.

While Correas seem to grow quite readily from soil-stored seed following fires, it is difficult to collect their seeds and even harder to germinate them.

Bayside Community Nursery has been propagating several forms of *Correa reflexa* from cuttings. One result is that the range of colours planted back

into the reserves has increased, and at Long Hollow Heathland, many plants have pink or cream flowers, but very few of the original lime green form.

Does this matter?

Like many simple questions, there is not a simple answer. To some extent, it depends on what is needed from Bayside's reserves.

If it is to preserve the original appearance and biodiversity of the reserves, we should try to retain the



Photo 2: Red with toothed calyx, no bracts



Photo 3: Pink with toothed calyx, no bracts



Photo 4: Pink with bracts and toothed calyx

original types. But an understanding of what is going on is needed, and that can be complicated.

Marilyn Bull, in her book *Flora of Melbourne*, states that two forms of *Correa reflexa* are indigenous to the eastern side of Port Phillip Bay – one called variety (var.) *reflexa* and the other called var. *speciosa*. She notes that within the form *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* there can be some diversity of leaf shape, growth habit and flower

colour (Bull, 2014, p. 137). Unravelling what is growing in local reserves takes investigation.

The most detailed taxonomic work available on *Correas* was done in 1998, on the other side of the continent. Peter G. Wilson published a paper in the West Australian journal *Nuytsia* (12 (1) pp. 89-105), which included descriptions of the morphological characteristics of the two forms of *Correa reflexa* mentioned above. Wilson drew attention to some

important identifying characteristics. Interestingly, they are not just the most obvious characteristics of flower colour and leaf shape, which are known to vary geographically, even within a variety.

According to Wilson (1998, p. 100), *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* is characterised by having a pair of tiny leaf-like bracts just above the flower. These bracts look like miniature leaves, but they are not true leaves because there is never a growing point between them and the stem. The only thing that occurs between these bracts is the flower. It appears that the lime-green, bell-shaped form is *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa*, as it consistently has small round leaf-like bracts above its flowers. Sadly, there are only two or three of these plants left at Long Hollow Heathland, and possibly only another dozen in other reserves.

According to Wilson (1998, p. 101), *Correa reflexa* var. *speciosa* does not have the leaf-like bracts above the flower. Instead, it is characterised by having four small teeth on the edge of its calyx (see Photo 2). The calyx is the cup-like part of the flower at the top of the coloured tube. A calyx is actually a set of sepals fused together; much like the coloured tubular part of the flower is the flower's four petals fused together.

It appears that the red form with green tips is probably *Correa reflexa* var. *speciosa*, as it tends to have a toothed calyx but does not have the leaf-like bracts.

I investigated the other two colours of *Correa reflexa* that have appeared in local reserves to see whether they had either the foliaceous bracts, or the four small teeth on the calyx. When the *Correas* were flowering at their peak in June and July this year, I took photographs of all the variants I could find, in the hope that my observations might shed some light on what is happening.

I found some pink flowers both with and without bracts. I also found some with little or no teeth on the calyx, but also some with large teeth on the calyx.

Bracts on these *Correas* can look like small leaves, however they do not have a growing point in the axil between them and the flower stalk.

A similar range of variations also occurs in the cream flowers. In both of these colour forms there is inconsistency in the taxonomically important morphological characteristics.



Photo 5: Cream with toothed calyx and bracts



Photo 6: Cream with bracts; calyx not much toothed



Photo 7: Green with toothed calyx

Unfortunately, there are also green forms with inconsistent characteristics as well possibly resulting in hybrid plants with green flowers.

In relation to the two original varieties of *Correa reflexa*, Wilson (1998, p. 99) states that, 'in practice the separation is far from clear and the distinction between var. *reflexa* and var. *speciosa* is in many cases difficult to discern, possibly due to hybridization between the two varieties'.

There may be a need for more research and further taxonomic analysis of wild populations. In suburban areas it may be that hybridisation is inevitable, and even more authentic looking forms with lime-green bell-shaped flowers may have acquired some genetic contamination.

On the other hand, it appears very likely that Bayside's pink and cream forms are hybrids. Some seem to have appeared naturally, after fires, and have subsequently spread by propagation. The differences within each colour form may be the result of which type (green or red) was the male parent and which was the female parent, or they may simply reflect the genetic diversity within each species.

The key question is, what to do now? Should the Bayside Community Nursery stop growing suspected hybrids? If so, what should be done about the hybrid plants already growing in the reserves?

I have discussed these issues with Bob O'Neill from the Australian Native Plants Society Correa Study Group, and with Correa specialist and author Maria Hitchcock from New South Wales who advised the following:

'I'd discourage the growing of pink forms and try to stick to the original coloured forms. That means just propagating from those and planting out to bulk up the numbers in each area. It is possible that they originally had different pollinators but with the influx of other birds into suburban areas, we now have

birds that visit all the Correas. That is not a problem if you grow from cuttings but you could get a number of hybrid seedlings. I'd wait until they flower then rip them out if they are pink.'

There is clearly an argument for retaining the green form as a kind of heirloom variety for use in remnant reserves. This form is part of Bayside's local heritage and the identity of its reserves, and may eventually be important as part of the overall gene pool. This will require further discussion. I would tend to propagate the red form at the nursery, but only to sell to residents for use in domestic gardens. If it is grown in the reserves it will continue to produce hybrids, which could easily replace our original form(s).

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- Fletcher, D. (1988) *The Bushlands of Sandringham*. Sandringham Environment Series No. 7 <http://bcs.asn.au/sandenv7.pdf>
- Hitchcock, M. (2010) *Correas: Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens*.
- Wilson, P. G. (1998) Notes on the genus *Correa* (Rutaceae) in *Nuytsia* 12 (1) 89-105 <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/science/nuytsia/286.pdf>

News from Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

By Michael Norris

Convenor of Friends of Bay Road
Heathland Sanctuary

First, the exciting news. John Eichler has discovered a fungus, *Anthracobia muelleri*, at the reserve.

Thanks to John and another Friend, Sue Forster, I am aware of some amazing and colourful fungi Bayside has from slimes to classic toadstools, but never did I think that a fungus could appear as the result of an ecological burn.

This fungus, however, did.

Other results from the 3 April ecological burn include the tiny Silver Banksia *Banksia marginata*.

I had hoped it might have grown from a seed, because a major aim of the burn was to regenerate this species. However, it had simply sprouted from rootstock, as have many other plants that have appeared, including numerous Chocolate Lilies (*Arthropodium strictum*).

Soon they will present a wonderful sight, and scent, and from around October the species that have been stimulated by the fire should emerge from seed.



Photo of *Anthracobia muelleri* by John Eichler.

Less happy news was Johann Tiede's decision to leave Citywide to pursue a master's degree in Geographical Information Systems.

Johann's enthusiasm and knowledge will be missed but the Friends wish him well and hope his course will bear fruit.

As compensation, it was great to be approached by four Monash students wanting to participate in some meaningful events during their holidays.

The Friends group was pleased that they joined in some planting and weeding over the past few months.

As part of Bayside's Spring Open Days, the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary will be open from 2-4pm every Sunday until 28 October.



Johann Tiede from Citywide (far right) with students from Monash University. Photo by Michael Norris.



Living Water Workbees is a catchment care project that mobilises volunteers in **Elster Creek** and **Werribee River** catchments to create healthy waterways and habitat, while converting volunteer hours into rebate credits for stormwater infrastructure. Every volunteer hour is converted to **\$25/hour Living Water Rebates**, which can be redeemed for a multi-use rainwater tank or raingarden at schools, homes or businesses in the two catchments.

Homes, businesses and community groups can earn up to \$5,000 and schools and ELCs can earn up to \$20,000 in rebate credits!

Volunteers can earn credits for themselves or donate to the local community. **For schools and ELCs, EcoCentre can tailor curriculum related activities to help raise credits.**

We achieved incredible results in Year 1 and now recruiting for new sites to install stormwater infrastructure! **Sign up for rebates** or **join a local event** to help care for Elster Creek, Werribee River and the Bay!

Find out more at **www.livingwaterworkbees.com** or get in touch:

Port Phillip EcoCentre **www.ecocentre.com**

Reiko Yamada: **reiko@ecocentre.com** / **03 9534 0670**

Werribee River Association **www.werribeeriver.org.au**

John Forrester: **riverkeeper@werribeeriver.org.au**



YEAR 1 IN REVIEW



ENGAGEMENT

2917 volunteers, 72 workbees
10 community partners
4485 hours of volunteer action

CREDITS RAISED

\$12,115 rainwater tank
rebate credits raised for
3 schools & 2 homeowners



WATER QUALITY



16000 L water tanks activated
= 528000 L capacity of annual
stormwater diversion

BIODIVERSITY

6700 trees planted to
increase biodiversity & habitat



LITTER REMOVAL

4895 kg litter removed from
streets and waterways

New association's vision for Elsternwick Park

The Elsternwick Park Coalition has become an incorporated body called Elsternwick Park Association, and will continue to play an important role in the master plan process of Elsternwick Park North.

Representatives from the coalition took part in Council's reference panel in 2016/17, which helped Council form a new vision for the park to become environmentally focused.

Around 10 community groups and 50 individuals make up the Elsternwick Park Association.

Association member Josephine Samuel-King said the vision for Elsternwick Park was truly collaborative between Council, stakeholders and the community, and underpinned by four core priorities – environment, public amenity, flood mitigation and water quality.

"This is a new way for community groups to work with Council and councillors to develop a united vision,



Elsternwick Park is home to threatened and near-threatened species like the Eastern Great Egret (top) and the Grey Headed Flying Fox (bottom), along with a number of rare birds.

which is both exciting and challenging," Ms Samuel-King said.

"We are looking at a number of different models that work in other environmental parks to deliver an optimal outcome for Elsternwick Park North.

"While members within our association may have different priorities, we all share a common vision."

Environmental considerations for the park include the natural history of the area, the inclusion of culturally significant trees, the identification of specific target species for the park and the habitat clusters that will support them.

The association is actively seeking members to help with a fauna survey that will inform a fauna strategy. To join this activity, please contact Josephine Samuel-King via email josephinesk@gmail.com

Background to Elsternwick Park North

Elsternwick Golf Course ceased activities on 30 June 2018, and the site is currently open as public parkland for recreational use including picnics, running, walking and other activities. Dogs are permitted, but must be on-leash at all times.

In late 2018/early 2019, Council will commence the master planning process to develop the former golf course into an environmentally focussed park. The community will have the opportunity for further input during the public consultation phase of the master plan.



The Bayside Citywide Tree Crew has been storing four logs at its depot in Sullivan St Moorabbin for some time as they were too large for the chipper trucks.

During a recent tidy up of the depot, we realised that they would make great habitat logs in one of the bushland reserves.

Citywide's tree crew arranged a crane truck to relocate the logs at Balcombe Park Reserve.

The new logs will provide much-needed habitat for bugs, insects, skinks and lizards that call Balcombe Park home.



Bayside Community Nursery Count down to end of season Final Gala Day for 2018

Date: Saturday 20 October

Time: 9am-2pm

Venue: 315-317 Reserve Road, Cheltenham

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

**The nursery will close for 2018
on Saturday 27 October.**

**Newly propagated plants, including
popular species and others are still
available for purchase.**





Tulip Street pond – An ephemeral pond community planting

By Lewis Hiller

Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

The neglected Tulip Street pond is having a makeover.

Frog sightings have not occurred at the pond since spring 2017 as rainfall has been low and small bushes lost to a now defunct mowing regime.

Thankfully, John Eichler has photographed many amazing insects. This is in addition to a decade of frog recordings. The last time the pond completely dried out was during the latter part of the millennium drought.

On 28 July, the Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife Inc. (FoNW) held an informal morning to support the local frogs, insects and waterbugs by improving the habitat edges of the pond.

Around 30 residents arrived at the Tulip Street pond under ideal conditions with local birdlife looking on to watch improvements made to their habitat.

Local magpies seemed more interested however in eyeing off the light refreshments provided by Citywide and FoNW.

With assistance in the hole-excavation phase provided by Citywide's Abel Dickinson, with apprentice Taylor Davine placing 300 plants at appropriate holes, volunteers set to work diligently planting seedlings raised by the Bayside Community Nursery including:

- *Correa reflexa* (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) – a favourite of the Eastern Spinebill
 - *Indigofera australis*
 - *Leptospermum continental*
 - *Ficinia nodosa*
 - *Lobelia pratioides*
 - *Melaleuca squarrosa*
 - *Einadia nutans* – the berries a favourite of the Common Bronzewing
 - *Poa labillardieri* var. *labillardieri*
- Seedlings were planted with water-retentive gel to assist in their



establishment, and mulch was deployed around them to reduce soil exposure and increase organic matter.

The group was amazed at how sandy the soil was when planting and later when watering, which helped their understanding of the special traits of the Tulip Street ephemeral pond.

Rob Saunders planted and provided information on the rare Swamp Isotome (*Isotoma fluviatilis* ssp. *australis*), a little



Swamp Isotome (*Isotoma fluviatilis* ssp. *australis*). Photo by John Eichler.



gem distantly related to the familiar garden lobelia and miraculously found last year at nearby Cheltenham Golf Course. It is hoped that this swamp denizen will colonise and prosper at the site (pers. comm. 2018).

This was my first visit to the site, a sentiment echoed even by a couple of local residents. My first impression as a horticulturalist was noting that a few remnant natives such as *Melaleucas* persisted, and opportunistic invader from East Gippsland and up the coast *Pittosporum undulatum* was prevalent.

Water levels were very low. Some people recounted times when the water reached the wooden edge at maximum capacity. Others expressed concern about recent rain infrequency, speculating that changing climate, and local changes in water use that impairs underground reserves, could be the cause.

Even in its depleted current state, the pond was frequented by two pairs

of Wood Ducks (*Chenonetta jubata*) among the predominate aquatic plant, an unidentified *Juncus* reed species. This illustrates the vital role even small ponds play as holding islands of indigenous vegetation, invertebrates and other wetland-dependent species such as yabbies and frogs.

Although three species have been recorded over the last decade, none were seen or heard on the day. Instead, the Melbourne Water Frog Census app played sounds from the three species that frequent the pond.

FoNW displayed reference resources on biodiversity facets including local birdlife, and Elizabeth Walsh provided an overview of recorded species through photos.

This included Fishing Spider and Badge Huntsman that I have memories of encountering as a child, and several species that are new to me such as the unusual Scorpion-tailed Spider.

In warmer months, the pond hosts an impressive array of colourful dragonflies and damselflies that present as unassuming aquatic nymphs at other times.

Avian representatives reported on the day included Grey Butcherbirds, Musk Lorikeets, Brown Thornbills, Galahs and Eastern Rosellas feeding on the adjacent golf course, as well as the ubiquitous Noisy Miners dominating the exposed areas.

A recent sighting of the locally uncommon Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*) was noted. Unfortunately, a deceased Tawny Frogmouth near the pond, perhaps the victim of a cat or fox, was noted. An impromptu weed-control initiative was also raised with Citywide, with *Pittosporum undulatum* removed and the presence of blackberries and other exotic shrubs noted for later control measures.

Kids' Corner

It's Spring Time

Have you noticed the days are getting longer? It is great to see the sun staying out longer so we can play in the garden, observe Bayside's native flora and fauna and enjoy other outdoor activities in nature.

Spring is a great time to get planting, and watch the bulbs, seedlings and plantings you have cared for over the past few months burst into life.

Can you find 16 words that relate to Spring in this word search? Have fun!

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

BEE
BIRD
BLOOM
BLOSSOM

BUD
BULB
BUTTERFLY
CATERPILLAR

COLOURFUL
FLOWER
MARIGOLD
PETAL

PLANTING
SOW
SPRING
SUNFLOWER

Kids' Corner



What to plant in Spring



**NOW IS A GREAT TIME
TO PLANT THESE HERBS**



**10 VEGGIES
TO PLANT NOW**

Kids Cooking

Cheesy cauliflower pizza base

How are those cauliflowers that you planted a few months ago growing? Are they ready for you to whip up this delicious recipe?



This cheesy cauliflower pizza base was created by child nutritionist Mary Sacher and can be found along with a whole lot more fantastic healthy recipes on her website and book called Wholesome Child. Check it out at www.wholesomechild.com.au

Ingredients

750g Cauliflower
2 Eggs
1 Cup Of Mozzarella, Shredded
1 Cup Of Gouda Cheese, Shredded
2 Tbsp Of Oregano Or Mixed Herbs
½ Tsp Himalayan Sea Salt
1 Tbsp Coconut Oil (Add To Cauliflower Base) And Use Extra Coconut Oil To Line The Baking Tray Paper

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 180-200°C.
2. Process cauliflower until it resembles rice-like pieces.
3. Place cauliflower in a clean tea towel and squeeze out excess water.
4. Place cauliflower back in processor and add remaining ingredients and process until smooth consistency is formed.
5. Line a baking tray with baking paper and cover with coconut oil.
6. Pour mixture onto baking paper and shape into a thin layer or create individual mini pizza bases.
7. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until starts to brown.
8. Remove from oven and layer with toppings of your choice, and bake for a further 10 minutes on 200°C.



Friends Groups

Friends of Balcombe Park

Convenor: Ian O'Loughlin

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: 28 Oct, 25 Nov **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: 13 Oct, 10 Nov **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 Reserve

Convenor: Chris Sutton

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

For event dates please contact the convenor

Friends of Brighton Dunes

Convenor: Jenny Talbot

Phone: (03) 9592 2109


 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Every Tuesday **Time:** 8-10am

Friends of Cheltenham Park

Convenor: Valerie Tyers

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


 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: 4 Nov, 2 Dec **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

Convenor: Kim Croker

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**


Dates: 7 Nov, 5 Dec **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: 21 Oct, 18 Nov, 16 Dec **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Gramatan Avenue Heathland

Convenor: Ken Rendell

Phone: (03) 9589 4452


 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: 4 Nov, 2 Dec **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

Convenor: Rob Saunders

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: 28 Oct, 25 Nov **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: 14 Oct, 11 Nov, 9 Dec **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Mother Stock Areas

Convenors: Pauline Reynolds and Rob Saunders

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

Email: pauline.reynolds.au@gmail.com

or Rob at 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: 14 Nov, 12 Dec **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: 16 Oct, 20 Nov, 18 Dec **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Table Rock

Convenor: Ken Rendell

Phone: (03) 9589 4452

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: 30 Oct, 27 Nov **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Elster Creek

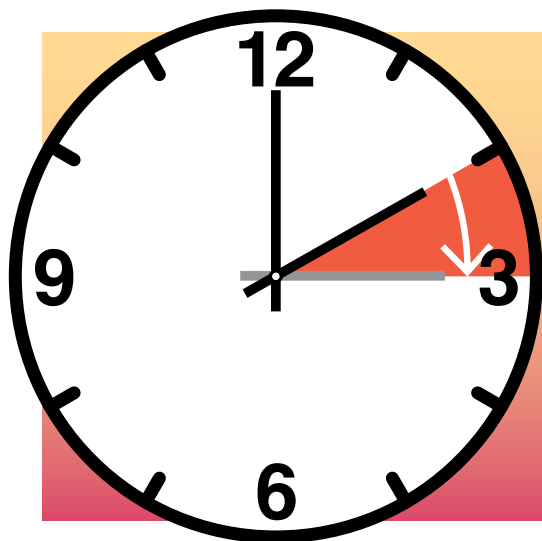
Convenor: Gio Fitzpatrick

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

Meeting point: Elwood Canal, Glen Huntly Road Bridge

 **Upcoming events:**

Please check www.facebook.com/friendsofelstercreek/



Daylight Savings

Please check working bee times as some may have changed since daylight savings started.

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: 16 Oct, 6 & 20 Nov, 4 & 18 Dec

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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