

banksia

bulletin

spring 2019



From the Mayor

Spring has sprung and as we start spending more time outdoors, our beautiful trees, flowers and plants come into focus.

Bayside is considered a 'leafy suburb', a reputation only attained by the amount of healthy trees and plants that line our streets and adorn our parks and gardens.

While Council carefully maintains local street trees with regular pruning, feeding and watering, there are times when residents can step in and help by pouring a bucket of water into the root system to help a tree thrive.

At Council, we also have a vested interest in trees on private properties and implement policies to protect and retain trees, acknowledging property owners maintain them.

Did you know Bayside was one of Victoria's first councils to protect trees on private property through a Local Law introduced in 1998?

We use this Local Law to guide policies that assess tree removal applications.

Bayside's policy for protecting trees on private properties is currently under review, and soon we will be seeking your input into how trees should be protected.

Some residents may think that trees on private land are of no concern to Council.

Actually they are.

Council has an obligation to protect against the loss of trees and vegetation with the main intent being to expand Bayside's tree canopy.

Trees play a significant role in our environment and our wellbeing. They provide shade in our urban environment, prevent soil erosion, provide habitats for animals and improve the overall amenity of Bayside.

We get many applications for the removal of trees for safety reasons, which could be avoided if they are



maintained regularly just like any other part of your home or garden.

To look after the trees on your property, arrange an inspection by a qualified arborist.

For more information, contact Council's Open Space Arborist on 9599 4444.

Cr Michael Heffernan

Mayor

Bayside City Council



Manufactured with 100% FSC® post consumer waste.



Manufactured using process chlorine free (PCF) pulps.



RECYCLED
Paper made from recycled material
FSC® C018183

Cover image: Wild Parsnip (*Trachymene composita*)
Photo: Pauline Reynolds



In this issue

Special features



SEAL SPOTTING



A VISIT BY GANG-GANGS



BRASCA TURNS 50

Other articles

PLANTS OF BAYSIDE	4
A NEW DISCOVERY – AUSTRALIAN ROCK FERN	4
CARING FOR STREET TREES	5
INTERESTING LOCAL FINDS	8
BALCOMBE PARK SPRING BURN	16
A NEW HOME FOR FROGS	17
THE FASCINATING TAWNY FROGMOUTH	18
KIDS' CORNER	20
THAT FOSSIL GROUP	21
VOLUNTEER GROUPS	22

Bayside Community Nursery

Last Gala Day for 2019

Date: 19 October **Time:** 9am-2pm

Last day of sales for 2019

Date: 26 October

Time: 10am-12pm





Plants of Bayside

With Aaron Hurrell of
Citywide Parks and Gardens

Streaked Arrowgrass

The Streaked Arrowgrass (*Triglochin striata*) is a slender semi-aquatic perennial plant growing 20-38cm high and 1-3m wide. It has soft and slender rhizomes, not tubers.

Streaked Arrowgrass grows along and around waterways and wet soak areas. The leaves are 8-30cm long and 1-3mm wide in tufts along the rhizomes. The flower stalks are 3.5-15cm long with 20-200 greenish-yellow flowers.

Streaked Arrowgrass thrives in many conditions ranging from poorly drained, moist soil to shallow water, full sun and semi-shade.

In Melbourne, the Streaked Arrowgrass has two forms – matting with curly leaves found along water courses, volcanic plains and coastal saltmarsh, and upright, strap-like leaves found in paperbark swamps and more permanent water floodplains.

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

A new discovery – Australian Rock Fern



By Tiffany Fiddymment

Citywide Bushland Assistant

Photo by Pauline Reynolds

In an exciting discovery at George Street Reserve, Citywide Bush Crew member Will McGowan uncovered and identified a new specimen for the Bayside heathland reserves – Australian Rock Fern (*Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*).

The fern was found within the 2006 wildfire site, among a thicket of the weedy species, *Ehrharta longifolia* that Will was removing when he made the discovery.

This species of fern is unique as it duplicates from both rhizomes and fertilisation.

The fern's fronds are close together at the rhizome before clustering towards the tip of the plant. The height can range from 4-25cm tall and 3-10cm wide (Vicflora, 2017). The specimen in George Street Reserve stands at an estimated 10-15cm tall and is showing fresh budding at the rhizomes.

The only other known specimen on record is within Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary, previously thought to be the only occurring specimen in Bayside. As it is considered so rare, this small specimen is protected within a cage contributed by volunteer Betty Knight.

The discovery of an additional plant at George Street Reserve is an exciting find ahead of a planned ecological burn in 2020 to refresh part of the heathland vegetation to promote further biodiversity of flora in the area.



Caring for street trees

Healthy street trees make a huge contribution to the quality and appearance of our neighbourhood.

Council maintains street trees, including regular watering.

As the weather warms up, please take notice of our street trees and help them thrive.

If you see a tree looking distressed, please give it a bucket of water.

This will keep our street trees looking lush, and help them grow and survive.

For more information please call Council on **9599 4444** or visit **bayside.vic.gov.au**

Seal Spotting

Photos and story by Kim Croker

A popular marine visitor came to Bayside in winter. While the appearance of seals on Bayside beaches is not unusual, this particular seal caused quite a social media frenzy with daily updates of his whereabouts and even media coverage on television and in newspapers.

First spotted in the Ricketts Point area, the seal, named Rick, made his way around the Beaumaris and Black Rock beaches. Daily updates were posted on social media from interested and concerned residents.

Rick was also carefully monitored by the Melbourne Zoo Marine Response Unit (MRU) and a small group of vigilant volunteers.

Local volunteers are often the first to help assess the health and wellbeing of seals that happen to find themselves on Bayside beaches and provide updates to the MRU team. These volunteers also provide information to interested bystanders and, most importantly, try to keep the seal and visitors safe by using barriers and signs.

Wild seals are not 'friendly' and can become aggressive and bite if provoked. They are best viewed from a safe distance. An average female Australian fur seal can weigh up to 120kg and measure 170cm whilst the male can get over 200cm and weigh over 300kgs.

If found on land, seals are there to either rest or moult. If you come across a seal on land remain 30 metres away, or 50 metres if you have a dog. It is illegal to touch or feed a seal.

Unfortunately, Rick was an older seal

with health issues and complications. He was euthanised by the Melbourne Zoo.

Thanks to the Melbourne Zoo veterinary staff, the wonderful dedicated and caring MRU team, Bayside City Council staff, and all of the local volunteers for caring for Rick.

Only a month later, another but much smaller seal also needed attention from MRU, this time at Black Rock.



If necessary, animals rescued by the MRU are brought back to Melbourne Zoo for assessment and treatment by the veterinary team and may undergo a period of rehabilitation at the zoo. Not all seals can be rescued or rehabilitated and it is never easy to make that decision.

Please enjoy our wildlife but keep a safe distance for the wellbeing of the animal and you.

The Marine Response Unit is supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria.

Call 1300 245 MRU (1300 245 678) with the time and location of any seal that may need attention.





Interesting local finds

Balmain Bug comes to shore

John Eichler made a rare discovery recently, a Balmain Bug (*Ibacus peronei*), washed ashore but still alive at Half Moon Bay. After taking some photographs, John released it in deeper water. There are 14 records of Balmain Bug sightings from the Bay in the *Atlas of Living Australia*. They are rarely seen because they mostly live sub-tidally.

Photos by John Eichler



Kookaburra on the wire

Linda Worland discovered a new inhabitant in a recently created habitat tree, a Kookaburra, in Spring Street.

Photos by Linda Worland



Wood Scorpion at two sites

John Eichler has spotted Wood Scorpions at Ricketts Point and Cheltenham Park (pictured). Wood Scorpions are small, measuring 25-40mm long. They are most active during warmer months, and at night. Only three scorpion species are found in Melbourne – Little Marbled, Black Rock and Wood – and while a sting from their tail is painful, it is not likely to be life threatening.

Photos by John Eichler



Nature strip orchids

A naturally occurring (i.e. not planted) colony of Blunt Greenhood (*Pterostylis curta*) grows in the front lawn of a local business on Normanby Road, Brighton.

Photos by Pauline Reynolds





A visit by **Gang-**

Story by Michael Norris

Local Environmentalist

Photos by Marcus Gwynne

Have you seen a cockatoo recently?

Six species live in or visit Bayside, not counting Cockatiels from aviaries.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoos have nested in Bayside for a long time, joined maybe 40 years ago by Galahs and, recently, Long-billed and then Little Corellas. Outside the breeding season, Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos have been visiting annually for a decade, and Gang-gang Cockatoos, the smallest, have been coming for longer.

Wander in the tall forests of the Great Dividing Range between the Otways and Sydney during the warmer months,

and you may hear something like a creaking heavy door or a cork being drawn from a wine bottle – a soft drawn-out ‘airr-airr.....airk’ sound. That call is how I usually locate Gang-gangs, which are often hard to spot. In May, one flying past my Hampton home taught me that they can also give a screech.

Outside the breeding season they move around, mainly to lower forests in south-eastern Australia with vagrants turning up in every state and territory.

In Canberra, they are the faunal emblem because some breeds are commonly found in gardens during winter.

Every couple of years, single birds or small groups come to Bayside but this



-gangs



year we were blessed with an influx of Gang-gangs.

This year, they have been seen as far south as Ricketts Point. Most records come from around Merindah Park in

Sandringham where the first report was on Facebook in early April. Later there were at least a dozen birds, some drinking from water bowls.

Marcus Gwynne's wonderful photos are from the new Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve. The birds were feeding in the 'cockatoo tree', a Sugar Gum where Sulphur-crested Cockatoos have nested in a large hollow for at least five years. They now have to defend their hole against interested Corellas.

The bird with an all-red head is a male; the other photo shows the immature male plumage with some red. These pictures show why the species was also called the Red-headed, Red-crowned, or Helmeted Cockatoo.

The females and immature birds have stronger white bars on their wings and breasts with brighter green-yellow barring rather than orange- yellow.

They are often hard to spot, but were obvious ripping into a White Cedar that was naked except for the berries, and later in a Cotoneaster near Sandringham Village.

Visits like this year's are rare, but in 2001 Gang-gangs were seen through most of Bayside. Their main target then was the Sugar Gums on the Brighton Golf Course and Dendy Park where up to 17 were seen over six months.

I'm looking forward to a record of them feeding on locally indigenous plants.



BRASCA turns 50

By Jim Richardson and Pat Salkin
BRASCA

Congratulations to the Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association (BRASCA) on reaching its 50-year milestone. Let's take a look at the history of this wonderful Friends group.



'Stop polluting our car park!'

Bayside Reflections, Pauline Reynolds, courtesy of Val Tarrant.

In early November 1969, Sandringham Council wanted to bulldoze an area overlooking Half Moon Bay to build a long car park.

The Black Rock Foreshore Protection Committee sent a protest to every Sandringham Councillor and to the Port Phillip Authority, which was established by the Victorian Government in 1967.

The coastal bushland, a living green belt along Beach Road, provided a screen and a wind break from the sea. Many people including residents, visitors and car drivers benefited from it. These people did not want a car park.

A meeting was held in the Black Rock Civic Hall on 21 November 1969

to oppose the proposed car park. A temporary committee was formed under the chairmanship of Keith Tarrant. On 8 December 1969, a meeting was held to decide on policy regarding the foreshore.

Serious concerns were also arising from the amount of rubbish dumped on the foreshore between Royal Avenue and Harold Street.

A letter was sent by a local resident to the Minister of Health pointing out that Sandringham Council was establishing a rubbish dump and this required a public notice. The dump proposal was abandoned. The artist Tandberg assisted the conservationists with a singularly appropriate cartoon.

BRASCA was formed in answer to these concerns regarding the foreshore. The founding president was Keith Tarrant and his wife Valerie Tarrant was its founding secretary.

A constitution was established in 1970 setting out the structure of the organisation and its main concerns. These were to be vigilant in retaining the beauty of our bayside suburbs, to protect especially the beach and coastline, to restore and conserve areas of native flora for native fauna, and to learn from and give support to similar conservation movements elsewhere.

Over the past 50 years there have been many members of BRASCA,



BRASCA Working Bee.



Former BRASCA Presidents, Janet Ablitt (top) and Bob Whiteway (bottom).

all volunteers. Keith and Val Tarrant were respectively president and secretary during much of the 1970s.

After Keith passed away in 1994, a memorial seat overlooking Half Moon Bay was installed to acknowledge his considerable contribution to the conservation movement over many years.

Val has had a continuous membership of BRASCA since its inception and currently serves as a committee member. She is also the current co-convenor of

Friends of George Street Reserve with Pauline Reynolds.

Stephen Morey joined BRASCA shortly after it was founded, and has been president, secretary and treasurer at various times.

He has given continuous service as a committee member and still does.

He has also been president of the Port Phillip Conservation Council (PPCC). Former Sandringham Mayor, and one-time president of BRASCA, Michael Harwood opened the Aboriginal Resource Garden

(now known as the Native Resource Garden) in 1988 on the grassy patch where Royal Avenue joins Bluff Road.

Janet Ablitt was the longest serving president from c. 1985 until c. 2010, passing away in 2015. She was constantly active in weeding, removing exogenous plants, particularly Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), and planting indigenous plants such as Coast Wattle (*Acacia sophorae*), She Oak (*Allocasuarina verticulata*), Sea Box (*Alyxia buxifolia*), Common Boobialla



BRASCA mounted a strong campaign against plans to put a wall in front of the cliffs, destroying vegetation in the process.

Instead, a groyne was built and sand pumped from Sandringham Yacht Club to renourish the beach, reduce erosion and save the cliffs.

Other campaigns conducted by BRASCA include one led by Bob Whiteway in 1998 to maintain the rural ambience of Cheltenham Road, which was threatened with an 'upgrade' that included removing vegetation and installing concrete gutters and culverts.

Over the years, BRASCA has been vigilant whenever there are plans that could adversely impact on the environment of the foreshore; for example, the opposition to the Hampton Teahouse proposal and the plan to put a bicycle path through the foreshore vegetation.

The main activity of BRASCA volunteers for over 50 years has been to nurture the foreshore.

Bob Whiteway spearheaded the gigantic campaign to remove tens of thousands of invasive Boneseed, with volunteers working every Sunday morning cutting and dabbing to eradicate this weed.

This task and others still continue most alternate Tuesday mornings. Boneseed has seeds that survive in soil for more than a decade. In place of the removed weeds, endemic plants have been put in. At first these plants were bought from a commercial nursery. Gradually there have been changes, and now the Bayside Community Nursery, working in conjunction with Citywide, provides indigenous plants. Many thousands of plants are now thriving thanks to the hard work of volunteers. During the long drought in the early 2000s, new plants were watered every week so that that they would survive.

Currently, BRASCA's efforts are concentrated mainly on weeding, planting and seed collecting. President Craig Brunnen and Secretary John Neve keep in contact with Bayside City Council in matters concerning the environment.

BRASCA's vision is to provide continuing and sustainable protection of the natural coastal environment for future generations. Its mission is to work actively with Bayside City Council and the local community to protect, preserve and enhance the environmental quality of our sensitive coastal park.

(*Myoporum insulare*), Seaberry Saltbush (*Ragodia candeleria*) and many others.

The secretary during most of this period was Bob Whiteway who succeeded Janet as president when she relinquished the role. The treasurer during this period was Molly Hamilton, who was succeeded by current treasurer Darrell Reid.

Another early member was Don Neale who contributed to the establishment of the Bayside Community Nursery as well as contributing to the design of the

Native Resource Garden (previously the Aboriginal Resource Garden).

This was upgraded about 10 years ago, in part as a consequence of a concern raised by Janet Ablitt.

The signage indicates the use of indigenous plants for food, medicine and artefacts by the local Boonwurrung people.

Former committee member for many years, Helen Shannon, played a major role in combatting cliff erosion near Southey Street.

Balcombe Park Spring Burn



By Jo Hurse

Citywide Bushland & Nursery Supervisor

The Citywide Bushland and Nursery crew conducted its inaugural spring ecological burn at Balcombe Park Reserve, Beaumaris in September, which was destined to be a learning curve.

The site was approximately 1,500 square metres – making a total of 4,000 square metres of Bayside bushlands burnt in 2019. This achieves the new annual ecological burn target recommended in the Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan endorsed by Council in 2018. The other sites were Gramatan Avenue and Long Hollow heathland sanctuaries, which underwent consecutive ecological burns in April.

Balcombe Park Reserve was once a thick stand of Coastal Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia sub sophorae*), which are both regarded as weeds this far inland.

Preparing the site started in June with felling of Coastal Tea-trees. On the day of the controlled burn, conditions were perfectly cool and still. However, a heavy



dew that morning delayed ignition by a few hours, and it was around midday before the fire began.

The crew were on the frontline of the burn for around four hours. During the debrief, it was determined that any future spring burns may benefit from a

later afternoon ignition as opposed to the traditional early morning ignition to combat any overnight moisture on the ground.

Now, we wait and observe the regeneration of Balcombe Park heathland species.



Wild Parsnip (*Trachymene composita*)
Photo by Pauline Reynolds.

Wild Parsnip reappears

It has been more than a year since a wildfire burnt through Cheltenham Park. In this time, several indigenous species have regenerated among the burnt Coastal Tea-tree. A highlight of this growth has been the reappearance of Wild Parsnip (*Trachymene composita*) in the area, which is also pictured on the cover of this edition of *Banksia Bulletin*. In the months since the wildfire, this annual colonising plant has flowered and set seed. This has given us the opportunity to collect seed and begin stages of propagation at the Bayside Community Nursery. Soon enough it will be time to plant this back into Cheltenham Park and re-establish a once lost species to the area.

Matthew Powell
Bushland Crew



Tulip Street Pond planting.

A new home for frogs

Story by Elizabeth Walsh

Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

Photos by Sally Eldridge

Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

More than 20 people joined Friends of Native Wildlife Inc. (FoNW) and Abel Dickinson from Citywide to further vegetate the ephemeral Tulip Street Pond on the corner of Reserve Road and Tulip Street.

Plants that enjoy some inundation such as Basket Grass (*Lomandra longifolia*), Running Postman (*Kennedia*

prostrata), a low twinning shrub that provides good ground cover, plus a variety of grasses, small shrubs and acacias, now support last year's planting and natural seeding.

Basket Grass is used by Indigenous Australians who use the fibrous leaves for weaving, grind the seeds for damper, and quench their thirst by chewing the base of the leaves that contain water.

These plants also provide places for insects to lay eggs so grubs like beetles, bees, wasps, butterflies, flies, ants, grasshoppers and dragonflies or

damselflies have food. Some of these insects use the water to grow through many cycles before emerging as an adult ready to breed and begin the cycle again.

Nothing is more beautiful than a pond shimmering in the sunlight with dragonflies skimming the water surface and butterflies, bees, wasps and flies hovering around flowering plants surrounding the pond edge.

It was surprising, and pleasing, to see much of the pond covered with water. Around eight Spotted Marsh Frogs (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) were seen and heard. Some frogs lay eggs around the reeds and grasses, and others in jelly-like floating nests.

The pond was dry through a long hot summer and warm autumn.

Tadpoles need to grow fast in a pond, which has unreliable or short-term water. It appears that the Spotted Marsh Frogs can survive these conditions. Common Brown Tree Frogs and Pobblebonks are also heard calling from this pond at various times of the year.

It will be interesting to see whether the *Isotoma* planted last year will survive and flower once the water recedes later in the year.

A pair of Australian Black Ducks were also seen enjoying a few laps. Over the years, Wood Ducks, Herons and Bronzewing Pigeons have been seen at Tulip Street Pond. If you observe any wildlife at the pond, please pass on any sightings to info@bayfonw.org.au



Preparing to plant Basket Grass (*Lomandra longifolia*) and Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*) at Tulip Street Pond.



Abel prepares plants at Tulip Street Pond ready for FoNW Inc. planting.



The fascinating Tawny Frogmouth

By Sally Eldridge

Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

Hey, that broken branch looks a bit like a bird! Wait, it is a bird!

Tawny frogmouths (*Podargis strigoides*), or 'Tawnies', are fascinating neighbours.

Found only in Australia they often nest or roost in residential gardens, although you may hardly ever see them.

Adults are large birds, growing 34-52cm long. In Victoria, they are greyish in colour with black, white, brown and reddish-brown mottled feathers that resemble tree surfaces. It is difficult to tell the male and females apart in the field, unless seen together as the females are often smaller and browner.

The hatchlings are delicate, white fluff balls that grow into cute fluffy mottled nestlings. Tawnies' feathers

are exceptional insulators that are practically waterproof.

Camouflage is key to their survival. During the day, when danger approaches, they flatten their feathers, narrow their eyes and stretch their bodies into a motionless, broken tree branch pose.

When not posing, their notable features include very large, yellow eyes, large heads, fluffy feathers, and wide, flat beaks with tufts above. They are mostly





Facts about baby Tawnies

- Females lay up to three large white eggs like small chicken eggs in a roughly made nest
- Males incubate during the day and females at night
- Hatching occurs a month after laying
- Parents share feeding
- Youngsters fledge a month after hatching, leaving their parents 1-4 weeks later.



seen when roosting during the day on a branch or nesting 2-15m above ground, or at night as a perched silhouette or large, swooping shape.

Tawnies are mostly heard when both sexes produce a low and repetitive 'oom' call, sometimes as a duet, before and during breeding season (September to December).

Tawnies mainly hunt from dusk to dawn. Their flight is silent to humans, swooping to pounce on prey on the ground or in vegetation where they forage for short periods.

Tawnies consume large numbers of invertebrates including insects, which make up around 80 per cent of their diet, as well as spiders, centipedes, caterpillars, snails and slugs. They also feed on mice, lizards and frogs. They eat more in autumn to build up fat for winter.

To cope with very low temperatures and less nutrition in winter, Tawnies are capable of bouts of inactivity at dawn and night to lower their body temperature.

Their lifespan is not well known but is thought to be quite long, with one known to live at London Zoo until 32 years of age. Couples partner for life and show strong affection. Pairs stay in a home range for many years and often nest in the same spot, becoming beloved neighbours of humans.

Key threats to Tawnies in suburbs are mature tree loss, cats, cars at night and poisoned prey (mice, cockroaches, termites, slugs and snails).

Females lay up to three large white eggs like small chicken eggs in a roughly made nest. Males incubate during the day and females at night. Hatching occurs a month after laying. Parents

share feeding duties and youngsters fledge a month after hatching. They leave their parents one to four weeks later.

To help Tawnies survive keep cats inside at night, retain mature trees and avoid rodenticides and insecticides. Use fauna-friendly snail and slug pellets if necessary.

Please record Tawny sightings or callings by emailing Friends of Native Wildlife Inc. at www.bayfonw.org.au

Resources:

Gisela Kaplan, *Tawny Frogmouth*, 2nd Edition CSIRO Publishing, 2018
Michael Morcombe, *Field Guide to Australian Birds*, 2nd Edition Complete Compact Edition, Pascal Press, 2018

Kids' Corner



Bird watching is a great pastime that for many grows into a life-long passion. We are lucky to live in Bayside, which is one of Melbourne's best areas for spotting birds.

This is because Bayside has a variety of habitats ranging from seashore through to well-treed gardens, golf courses and many parks, reserves and heathlands.

What you will need

Bird watching is an environmentally friendly and inexpensive hobby. You could get away with just your eyes and ears and travel as far as your street, garden, school or the beach.

If you want to go a step further, here are some other things that will make bird watching fun:



Binoculars – to increase the detail and colour of a bird and help you identify it.



Field guide – visit the Gould League of Victoria for small guides, www.gould.org.au



Recording equipment – take a notebook and a pen, maybe even a camera



Where to go bird watching

Grab an adult and go for a walk or a drive to one of these local bird-spotting locations in Bayside:

- Beach Park
- Head Street – Middle Brighton Baths
- Hampton Cliffs
- Sandringham foreshore
- Ricketts Point to Charman Road

What to look for

There are many bird species to spot, here are just a few.



Little Pied Cormorant

Features: Short yellow bill and younger birds have darker heads.

Best place to spot: Hampton Beach to Beaumaris Bay.



Brown Goshawk

Features: Mature birds have grey upperparts, rounded wings and long tail. Young birds are brown and white and more heavily streaked.

Best place to spot: In Bayside's heathlands and Beach Park in autumn.



White-faced Heron

Features: Long yellow legs, pale grey body, long neck, white face, long bill.

Best place to spot: Along the foreshore, particularly at low tide.



House Sparrow

Features: Male has grey crown of head, brown-streaked upperparts, pale underneath and a black bib. Female has buff head, faint pale eyebrow, no black bib.

Best place to spot: Common resident often seen in flocks on the ground or in bushes.

Information for this edition of Kids' Corner has been provided by *Local Birds of Bayside*, a Bayside City Council publication written by Michael Norris (Editor), George Cornwell, Moira Longden, Ian Parsons and Frank Stewart.

For a copy of *Local Birds of Bayside*, please visit Council's Corporate Centre, 76 Royal Avenue Bayside. There is no charge for this publication.

That Fossil Group

By Murray Orr

President Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc.

Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc. (BESS) formed two years ago, and is known as the 'fossil group'.

Like crabs on the beach at low tide, you'll find our members and others on the foreshore at Beaumaris Bay. Fair weather or foul, it's on the beach that you realise you have stepped back 5.5 million years in time.

Man's ancestors would not emerge out of the trees (perhaps somewhere in Africa) for another two to three million years, and nature managed itself just fine.

The Bay was much larger and extended inland towards Caulfield back then. The Bellarine Peninsula didn't yet exist and the Bay was far more open to the southern seas. Large rivers, predecessors of the Yarra River, flowed into the Bay bringing animal bones and trees to settle in the soft mud, which later became stone and preserved the remnants of the past.

Life in the Late Miocene period was abundant. The beach was crowded with seals, sea lions and giant penguins, all jostling for space. Strange animals like the Marsupial Lion and 500kg wombat-like *Diprotodon* lurked along the foreshore, whales of all sizes, some baleen and some of the largest carnivorous whales like *Livyatan melvillei*, 18 metres long and weighing 40 tonnes, swam in our waters alongside corals, fish and sharks.

Carcharoles megalodon was the largest of the sharks at about 15 metres in length, with a mouth full of teeth each the size of your outstretched hand.

Maiko, White Pointer, Tiger and Port Jackson sharks were only some of the hunters patrolling our waters. Dolphin and Dugong also hunted amongst the prolific shoals of fish while trying not to be eaten themselves. Shells and crabs occupied the sea floor and foreshore and Chambered Nautilus (*Aturia coxi*) hung seemingly weightless below the surface of the water. All of this was overseen by the bird life including *Pelagornis*, the great gliding hunter, with a 5-6m wingspan and a bill edged with teeth.

Why do we get excited at searching for the evidence of this past life? Who



Fossils on show.



History lives here.



Lovenia woodsii



Shells found on the Bay.

couldn't be excited at picking up their first whale ear bone and wondering what that whale might have heard five and half million years ago, or perhaps a fish vertebrae with part of a shark tooth embedded in it? We find evidence of life during an epic time of climate change. We see what is now extinct.

BESS shares its rare finds with Museums Victoria, which in turn shares its knowledge with the world.

BESS Inc. was formed to provide a common voice through citizen science. We are determined to have the valuable geological/fossil resource at Beaumaris sustained for current and future generations to access, study and interpret. We value our living environment and stand against digging on the foreshore. Our website provides a brief insight into what we find and

our annual exhibition during August or September provides the opportunity for the community to step back into that world.

The Bayside community has many family histories which include collections of fossils from the Bay. Who knows, that funny looking bone or tooth your great uncle found on a picnic and has spent its recent life in a drawer in the back room, may be a missing link that Museums Victoria has been looking for, for a century.

BESS welcomes membership from anyone who has an interest in nature.

One thing is likely – when you pick up your first fossil, you are the first human to have ever seen it.


For more information visit beaumarisfossils.org or email baysidefossils@gmail.com

Friends Groups

Friends of Balcombe Park

Convenor: Ian O'Loughlin

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Oct 27, Nov 24 **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: Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Bayside Roads

Contact: Derek Jones

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

Bayside Environmental Friends Network


Convenor: Teneille Mahoney

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:**

Dates: Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 15

Friends of Brighton Dunes

Convenor: Jenny Talbot

Phone: 0499 592 233

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Oct 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, Nov 5, 12, 19 & 26, Dec 3, 10 & 17
Time: 8-10am

Friends of Cheltenham Park

Convenor: Valerie Tyers

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

Convenor: Kim Croker

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4 **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: Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Gramatan Avenue Heathland

Convenor: Ken Rendell

Phone: (03) 9589 4452


 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1 **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

Convenor: Rob Saunders

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Oct 27, Nov 24 **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: Nov 10, Dec 8 **Time:** 9-11am

Friends of Mother Stock Areas

Convenors: Pauline Reynolds and Rob Saunders

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

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

 **Upcoming events:**

For event dates please contact the convenor


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: Oct 9, Nov 12, Dec 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: Oct 15, Nov 19 **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Table Rock

Convenor: Ken Rendell

Phone: (03) 9589 4452

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Oct 29, Nov 26 **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/

Did you know?

In 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences declared that each year, **5 December** would be recognised as

World Soil Day

to celebrate the importance of soil as a critical component of the global natural system, and as a vital contributor to human well-being.

For more visit vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/soil_world-soil-day



Environment Groups

Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc.

President: Murray Orr

Email: baysidefossils@gmail.com

Website: www.beaumarisfossils.org

Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc

President: Greg Mier

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

Website: www.bcs.asn.au


Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association Inc

President: Craig Brunnen

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

Secretary: John Neve

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Oct 1 & 15, Nov 5 & 19, Dec 3 & 17

Time: 10am-12pm

Elsternwick Park Association

Email: ElsternwickParkAssociation@gmail.com

Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc

President: Elizabeth Jensen

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

Website: www.marinecare.org.au

Melway Ref: 86 C9

Sandringham Foreshore Association

President: Dr Vicki Karalis

Contact: PO Box 52, Sandringham, 3191

Email: sandyforeshore@optusnet.com.au

Website: sandringhamforeshore.tumblr.com

School Groups

Firbank Girls Grammar

Contact: Mary-Ellen Johnson

Phone: (03) 9591 5188 **Email:** 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.

Editor

Damien Van Trier
Manager Open Space,
Recreation and Wellbeing

Content Coordinator

Kristi High
0407 366 466

Copy deadlines

Summer 2019/20


Friday 22 November 2019

Banksia Bulletin is published quarterly by Bayside City Council to service people interested in enjoying and protecting the local environment.

If you would like to be added to the Banksia Bulletin mailing list, please contact Bayside City Council on 9599 4444 or email: banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au Please indicate whether you would prefer to receive your Banksia Bulletin by email or via post.

Corporate Centre

PO Box 27 Royal Avenue
Sandringham VIC 3191
Telephone: 9599 4444
www.bayside.vic.gov.au
banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au
Hours of business
8.30am–5pm
Monday–Friday
(except public holidays)

A photograph of several Maroon Hood (Pterostylis pedunculata) flowers. The flowers are dark maroon with white stripes and long, thin, yellowish-brown stamens. They are growing on tall, green, slender stems. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.

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

Please refer to our website
www.bayside.vic.gov.au



Maroon Hood (*Pterostylis pedunculata*)
Photo by Pauline Reynolds