

banksia

bulletin

summer 2018-19



**Bayside's
photogenic creepy
crawlies**

**Summer By The
Sea is back**

**2019 controlled
burn plan**

From the Mayor

Summer has arrived and there is plenty in store for you to enjoy over the coming sunny months right here in Bayside.

The Bayside Environmental Friends Network has once again put together a fantastic event calendar for the *Summer By The Sea* program.

This state government initiative keeps growing year-on-year and we are so proud of our Council staff, Citywide and Friends Network volunteers for working together and showcasing how truly wonderful summer is in Bayside.

These events are of course fun, but they are also important to share our knowledge with the community about Bayside's local natural assets, flora and fauna and how they can be enjoyed responsibly.

I encourage you to take a close look at this year's program on page 10 of this edition of *Banksia Bulletin* and sign up to take part in a foreshore walk, a night time guided tour, or learn more about microbats and other wildlife that live near our coastline.

You could also take the opportunity to learn a new skill like snorkelling and learn more about our Aboriginal

heritage and how Bayside connects with our First People.

As 2018 draws to a close, I would like to thank all of our volunteers who have completed another excellent year's work helping to enhance and maintain our brilliant bushland reserves and heathlands.

Without all of you, our job would be much harder.

Council is doing its best to ensure the next generation is ready to contribute to the environment.

I recently visited Beaumaris North Primary School to recognise its students who are putting their leanings about environmental sustainability into action.

Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability is a school-based program that has been supported by Council since 2014.

As a result of this program, the Beaumaris North Primary School is researching and designing an indigenous garden for their playground.

This is the first step in garden improvements for the school and was inspired by the students' desire to increase their knowledge of indigenous culture and the need to improve biodiversity habitat.



Programs like these foster awareness and interest among young people to generate volunteers for the future that will be important to ensure Friends groups thrive for generations to come.

On behalf of all Bayside Councillors and staff, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Cr Michael Heffernan

Mayor
Bayside City Council



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Cover image: Male Peacock spider, *Maratus tasmanicus*, by John Eichler



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UPDATE ON BURNS



SUMMER BY THE SEA



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Plants of Bayside

With Aaron Hurrell of
Citywide Parks and Gardens

Coast Spear-grass

Coast Spear-grass (*Austrostipa flavescens*) is an open-tufted grass that grows up to 1.2 metres high. It has a root-like subterranean stem system (rhizomatous) and tends to branch out after the first seeds start to mature.

The leaves of the *Austrostipa flavescens* are smooth and variable, going from flat to narrowly in-rolled that grow up to 70cm long and 7mm wide.

The many flowered heads appear between October and March, irregularly and loosely branched with a twice-bent awn ranging in length from 4-7cms.

Austrostipa flavescens requires moist well-drained soils, tolerates salt spray and thrives in semi-shade to full sun. This makes *Austrostipa flavescens* very useful for sand dune stabilisation, coastal planting and is a hardy plant for any garden. *Austrostipa flavescens* is available for purchase from the Bayside Community Nursery during opening months of April through to October.

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

Flower power for bees

Source: CSIROscope



Bees cannot live without protein-packed pollen and nourishing nectar, making the first step for attracting native bees planting lots of flowers.

Banksia, *Callistemon* and *Melaleuca* are all fantastic plant groups because they produce lots of pollen and nectar.

Macadamia and *Leptospermum* do not have a lot of useful pollen but they are very rich in nectar whereas some *Acacia* species (wattles) are packed with pollen. Ground-dwelling bee species devour daisies and other shallow flowers.

Many bees have developed special features to exploit plants from their region, so if you are starting your garden from scratch try for as many local plant species as possible.

Indigenous plants help bees keep your garden looking great as they are primed to thrive in local climate and soils.

Easy-care grass and non-flowering trees such as conifers offer nothing for native bees so avoid them when you can.

The Bayside Community Nursery will re-open in April 2019.



The Little Wattlebird

By Dennis Young

Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

Little Wattlebirds are the first to wake and last to roost in our neighbourhood.

Their unique range of calls are varied, loud and constant, with some of the stranger, harsh grating noises very unbirdlike.

A Japanese visitor enquired about the strange noisy animals that woke him on his first morning in Australia.

Upon being shown a Little Wattlebird in full voice he could not believe a bird, especially one that small, was responsible.

These vivacious Little Wattlebirds have become the common resident nectar feeders in parts of Sandringham.

Competing directly with flocks of Noisy Miners for territory and food, Little Wattlebirds appear to be holding their own mainly because they appear to live within a contained area and strongly defend it.

Red Wattle Birds were more common in our garden two decades ago, however they are rarely seen now.

Smaller nectar eating honeyeaters such as the White naped, White plumed and Yellow faced are also rarely sighted.

Possibly the territorial nature of local Little Wattlebirds is directly affecting the presence of other nectar eaters.

One particular female has used our yard as her home base for many years, nesting elsewhere but always bringing her young ones into tall trees surrounding the house once they have fledged.

During the day incessant squawking pinpoints a moving location where both parents can bring their next feed.

On early summer evenings she is joined by her partner and previous fledglings (they had four hatchings this spring and summer) and playtime begins as they swoop, dive, chase and pirouette, breaking from their games to catch flying insects.



I observe many local birds and the Little Wattlebird is by far the most energetic, playful and very communicative with humans.

The female I mentioned earlier spends her nonbreeding months feeding from our Correas, Grevilleas and Banksias, putting on acrobatic performances accompanied by various calls.

As I set out early in the morning to walk the dog, she sits in a Banksia by the front gate wishing us goodbye and welcoming us back a short time later.

Update on burns

Bay Road ecological burnsite

By Jo Hurse

Citywide Bushland & Nursery Supervisor

Two Bayside sites are starting to come out the other side of burning in 2018 – a wildfire in Cheltenham Park in January and the April controlled burn at Bay Road Heathland.

Cheltenham Park is starting to look good after a wildfire swept through last summer.

A highlight is the discovery of the *Trachymene composita* var. *composita* (Wild Parsnip).

The Citywide Bushland Crew has spent many days in the first 12 months at the wildfire site to get on top of the weeds, which is critical in any burn site.

The one hectare wildfire site at Cheltenham Park is massive – five times the size of Bay Road – and has proven to be a lot of work.

Works initially involved spraying the *Salpichroa origanifolia* (Pampas Lily-of-the-Valley), which is an invasive weed that blankets the ground preventing germination of other species.

This involved three herbicide applications over a period of two months.



Grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea minor*)

The annual and perennial weeds germinated after this process, and a significant amount of manual hand weeding was required.

Over the coming years, it will be interesting to see what germinates. This wildfire was extremely hot, which does not usually result in diverse regeneration, however time will tell.

If bare earth remains, direct seeding and some revegetation works will be considered.

It has been nine months since a controlled ecological burn was conducted at Bay Road Heathland in April 2018.

Prior to the controlled burn, Bay Road was covered in *Arthropodium*

strictum, *Chocolate lilies*, *Burchardia umbellata* (Milkmaids).

This was a high quality site before the burn and we are pleased to see plants regenerating from rootstock like the *Xanthorrea minor* Grass tree, which are quite spectacular.

In the last month, soil stored seed has germinated and there are blankets of *Hibbertia sericea*, *Bossiaea cinerea* and *Aotus ericoides* covering the ground.

This is typical of a successful burn site and germination will continue for many years.

We are anxious to see *Banksia marginata* seedlings soon, which was the main objective of the burn.

The Citywide Bushland Crew has spent many hours hand weeding with the biggest challenge being to control the *Austral bracken*, which was present pre-burn and regenerates well post-burn.

One of the benefits of a controlled burn is the removal of dead fronds, which makes new shoots accessible and allows light for germination of soil-stored seed.

Control (slashing) is all in the timing.

Over the coming months, new growth will continue to be controlled in the hope of slowing down in 2019.



2019 controlled burns

Bayside City Council has introduced a controlled ecological burn target of 4000m² annually. This target will help Council achieve a 20 year burn program, and revegetation of burn sites with dominant species that have largely disappeared like Prickly and Heath Tea-tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides* and *L. continentale*), Scrub/Green She-oak (*Allocasuarina paludosa/paradoxa*), Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*), and Eucalypts.

The first controlled ecological burn for 2019 will be done in April at the northern end of Gramatan Avenue

Heathland Sanctuary. This is the first burn at Gramatan Avenue in more than 30 years and will regenerate this old heath.

A second controlled ecological burn will be at Long Hollow Heathland Sanctuary on the corner of Gramatan Avenue and Gareth Avenue.

This is a large stand of old *Leptospermum laevigatum* with an understorey of *Lepidosperma concavum* – an indicator that there will be some successful regeneration. This site has not seen fire since the Beaumaris wildfires in the 1940s.

North Road foreshore plan

The café on the foreshore at the end of North Road will be redeveloped under a long term plan for improving the foreshore between Head Street and the Royal Brighton Yacht Club.

The draft plan also proposes a stepped terrace down to the water's edge, duplicating a section of the Bay Trail between Middle Brighton Baths and Sandown Street, improvements to parking and traffic movements, new shade trees and bollard lighting along the shared path.

These and other ideas will be tested with the community during summer 2018/19 when the area is at its busiest.

Learn more about this proposed plan for North Road and register for updates on consultation opportunities at

bayside.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay





Dry springtime in George Street

Soft Spear Grass (*Austrostipa mollis*)

Story by Valerie Tarrant
Photos by Pauline Reynolds

While racegoers at Melbourne's famous Cup Day events wished in vain for fine weather, Friends of the George Street Reserve and staff at Citywide and Bayside City Council were delighted with rain that fell on parched ground.

More rain would be good, and we trust that Bayside's precious flora remains resilient.

Grasses are surviving. In the nature strip outside the Tulip Street boundary, Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra* syn. *T. australis*) and Soft or Supple

Spear Grass (*Austrostipa mollis* syn. *Stipa mollis*) look healthy. Kangaroo Grass, with its glossy brown spikelets, was important to many Indigenous Australians who used the stems and leaves as string to make nets.

The Tulip Street nature strip is host to at least 15 large tussocks of Kangaroo Grass with foliage that is typically 'purple-green in spring, turning a pale rusty colour over summer months'. (Judy Allen *et al*, Australian Plants Society, Keilor Plains Group Inc, Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains: A gardener's guide to the original flora). Flower spikes have rust or gold seed

heads in summer, which, as well as spring, is the season when Kangaroo Grass flourishes.

The name originated in the time when the grass provided food for the mobs of kangaroos who lived in western Victoria, and also fodder for stock, after the arrival of colonial settlers.

Spear Grass (*Austrostipa* syn *stipa*, *mollis*), with its distinctive tall tufts, also grows in the nature strip and within George Street Reserve. Despite liking moist soils, it has managed to survive the dry weather.

Among the green and brown colours that predominate within George Street

Promoting our reserves

Wild Melbourne writer Lyndsey Vivian visited Bayside's heathlands and reserves recently and recorded her experience in a great article that appeared on the website in September.

Her first stop was Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary where she spoke with volunteers during a winter working bee.

Convenor Michael Norris showed Lyndsey around, stopping to spot bird life and interesting plants and learning the importance of controlled ecological burning.

Citywide Supervisor Jo Hurse and Co-convenor Friends of George Street Reserve Pauline Reynolds showed off Long Hollow Heathland Sanctuary and Balcombe Park Reserve and explained the ongoing work to manage weeds. The knowledgeable pair provided Lyndsey with a wealth of information ranging from removing Coast Tea-tree, local ecology and the beautiful mistletoe.

While promoting Bayside's sanctuaries and heathlands, Lyndsey also promoted the Open Days.

To read the article, please visit <http://wildmelbourne.org/articles/the-heathland-sanctuaries-of-bayside>

Reserve, a few Wattles (*Acacia spp.*) with blossoms beginning to fade, Twiggy Daisy Bush (*Olearia ramulosa*) and a couple of *Correa reflexa* are providing the only flowers. The brilliant red of the Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*) is now a happy memory.

At the November working bee, volunteers picked up rubbish and broken glass, and undertook seed collection that is vital to regeneration.

Pauline Reynolds and I, along with all of the volunteers, look forward to returning in 2019, meeting current Friends of the George Street Reserve and welcoming new people.



Twiggy Daisy Bush (*Olearia ramulosa*)



Twiggy Daisy Bush (*Olearia ramulosa*)



Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)



SUMMER BY THE SEA

There is an activity for every age, ability and interest during January as the Bayside Environmental Friends Network delivers another fun and informative program for Summer By The Sea.

Activities and events will kick off in Bayside on Saturday 12 January and the last event will be held on Saturday 26 January.

Take a look at this year's program and please register as numbers for many events are limited.

Don't miss out, book your place here: <http://summerbythesea.vic.gov.au/>



DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Saturday 12 January	10–11am and 12–1pm	Disabled Snorkelling	Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, Beaumaris Meet at Bayside beach carpark B17 (adjacent to Beaumaris Yacht Club)	Disabled Snorkelling, delivered by the Disabled Divers Association, provides people of various abilities the opportunity to experience a day at the beach in a new light.
Saturday 12 January	2pm–3:30pm	Coastal Photography	Beaumaris Life Saving Club (BLSC), Ricketts Point. Meet on the grass outside the BLSC.	Trying to take that perfect sunset snap or rockpool wonder shot, but can't quite capture the natural beauty? Join our local photographer on an introductory session to coastal photography.
Thursday 17 January	Arrive 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start, Finishes 9.30pm	Microbat Talk and Walk	Brighton Dendy Beach & Sea Scouts hall Park at Green Point beach carpark and allow 10mins walk to the Sea Scouts hall meeting point.	This event opens with a presentation from local native wildlife experts, uncovering the wonderful world of microbats. After the presentation, explore the Brighton foreshore bushland at dusk and discover the wildlife living here.
Friday 18 January	10am–11:30am	A Foreshore and Sea Country Walk	Beaumaris Yacht Club Meet at the disabled access ramp, adjacent to car park B17	Take a guided foreshore walk and talk to learn about the 60,000+ years of Aboriginal people's presence in Australia. Discover how the Boon Wurrung (local First People) cared for, utilised and lived in harmony with their Sea Country. You will also learn about many indigenous plants and their role in traditional Aboriginal food and culture.
Saturday 19 January	Arrive 8:45am for 9am start. Finishes 10am	Snorkelling Experience + Introductory session available	Beaumaris Yacht Club Meet at the disabled access ramp, adjacent to car park B17	A one-hour introduction to the enchanting underwater fish and other marine life, reefs and seagrasses of the Seahouse Reef in the Sanctuary. Alternatively, take part in a separate 45 minute snorkelling lesson in the shallow 'inner lagoon' – perfect for complete beginners.
Saturday 19 January	9am–12pm	Dogs' Breakfast	Sandown Spit, Brighton, look out for signage	Breakfast for both dogs and humans provided along with plenty of information from on the local environment and the importance of keeping dogs on a lead in sensitive vegetation, bird habitat and more.



DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Saturday 19 January	Arrive 5:15pm for 5:30pm start. Finishes 6:30pm	Foreshore and Rock Pool Ramble	Beaumaris Lifesaving Club Meet at grassed area adjacent to club and car park	With the help of our local guides, explore the treasures left on the sandy shore by the receding tide, followed by a rockpool ramble to search for the unique marine animals that call this rocky intertidal environment home. A one-hour walk and talk.
Sunday 20 January	10am–12pm	Our Evolving Coastline	Sandringham coastline via beach path Meet at the playground (beachside) opposite Sims Street	A fascinating guided walk and talk to learn how beaches form over millennia, the trends and impacts of sand movement, the history of local rock geology, issues of coastal erosion, Bayside's living museums of local fossils and more.
TBC	TBC	Curious Kids Go Coastal	More details soon http://summerbythesea.vic.gov.au/	The Bayside Environmental Friends Network will facilitate this activity for 6-10 year olds to explore our coastal environment with fun games and activities.
Friday 25 January	10–11am	Indigenous Plants Terrarium Workshop	Bayside Community Nursery, 315-317 Reserve Road, Cheltenham.	Bring along a glass jar, vase or terrarium to this workshop where you will learn how to create a miniature open living landscape using all Bayside indigenous plants. All other materials are provided.
Saturday 26 January	Arrive 8:45am for 9am start. Finishes 10am.	Snorkelling Experience	Beaumaris Yacht Club Meet at Disabled access ramp adjacent to car park B17	A one-hour introduction to the enchanting underwater fish and other marine life, reefs and seagrasses of the Teahouse Reef in the Sanctuary.



Numbers are limited for many of the Summer by The Sea events.

Avoid disappointment by booking online at www.summerbythesea.vic.gov.au/

For more information and booking links, visit:

[f /summerbythesea/](https://www.facebook.com/summerbythesea/) [f /Bayside-Environmental-Friends-Network-178293368874446/](https://www.facebook.com/Bayside-Environmental-Friends-Network-178293368874446/)

Bayside critters on show

A number of interesting invertebrates have appeared in Bayside's reserves recently. John Eichler from Friends of Native Wildlife Inc has shared these beautiful images along with some information about our creepy crawly friends in this very special feature.



Name: Spittle Bug, *Bathyllus albicinctus*

Sighting: Long Hollow Healthland.

Interesting Fact: Named for the white foam they produce and secrete. Adults are sometimes called Froghoppers.

Name: Cryptic grasshopper, *Psednura pedestris*

Sighting: Long Hollow Healthland.

Interesting Fact: Little is recorded about this uncommon grasshopper species, which is also known as the Common *Psednura*, except that the best time to catch a glimpse is early Autumn.



Name: Crab Spider, *Hedana valida*

Sighting: Balcombe Park Reserve.

Interesting Fact: It makes a shelter made by bending the tip of a leaf several times.

Name: Tiny Jewel Beetle, *Ethonion sp*

Sighting: Gramatan Avenue and Bay Road Heathlands.

Interesting Fact: Most adult beetles only live for up to two weeks, some only one or two days.



Name: Striking caterpillar, *Capusa sp*

Sighting: Long Hollow Heathland.

Interesting Fact: This beautiful caterpillar turns into a rather drab grey moth.

Name: Jewel Beetle, *Melobasis sp*

Sighting: John Eichler's garden.

Interesting Fact: There are approximately 450 species of jewel bugs around the world.



Name: Small orb weaving spider, *Gea theridioides*

Sighting: Long Hollow Heathland.

Interesting Fact: It is a widespread across Australia but still uncommon, with only two recordings in Victoria. It is possible it could be overlooked because of its small size



Half Moon Bay parking trial

Changes to the way visitors park at Half Moon Bay are being trialled to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Signage showing new shared pedestrian zones, designated crossing points and refuge areas around the public boat ramp have all been installed to improve pedestrian safety.

New line marking and signage define boat rigging areas to maintain clear pedestrian and emergency vehicle

access through to the beach.

Line marking has also been introduced to define the boat trailer waiting area, showing drivers with boats where to queue, to reduce congestion.

An accessible parking space has been added near the beach and café by adjusting existing bay widths, so no existing bays have been lost. New bicycle parking near the café has also been added.

Council will monitor the effectiveness of the bollards, signage and line marking over summer.

The changes respond to community feedback received from the Draft Half Moon Bay to Red Bluff Foreshore Masterplan last year.

Council is seeking feedback on the trial. Please visit <https://yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/half-moon-bay> to have your say.

Protect against Buruli ulcer

Source: Victorian Health Department

Gardening is a popular pastime in Bayside but residents are being asked to plant and tend to their weeds with caution as incidents of Buruli ulcer are on the rise.

Buruli ulcer, caused by *Mycobacterium ulcerans* (*M. ulcerans*), is a growing concern in Victoria, with a steady increase in notifications since 2015 in people who have travelled to or live in endemic areas.

Although the risk is low, south-eastern Bayside suburbs are within the endemic parts of Victoria for Buruli ulcer transmission.

This slow developing painless nodule can sometimes be mistaken for an insect bite, and early diagnosis is critical to prevent skin and tissue loss.



Picture: Paul Jeffers The Australian
Source News Corp Australia

People of any age can become infected but those aged over 60 years are at highest risk, and symptoms may occur up to nine months after exposure to any endemic area.

Simple precautions include wearing protective clothing when gardening or taking part in recreational activities

in endemic areas. Cuts and abrasions should be cleaned promptly and exposed skin contaminated by suspect soil or water washed after outdoor activities.

Although not confirmed, *M. ulcerans* may be transmitted by mosquito bites. As a precaution, use insect repellent when outdoors.

Highest risk areas in Victoria are Rye, Sorrento, Blairgowrie and Tootgarook on the Mornington Peninsula.

There is a moderate risk in the Bellarine Peninsula (Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, Point Lonsdale, Queenscliff), Frankston and Seaford areas. East Gippsland is also considered a low-risk area.

Buruli ulcer is a Group B disease and must be notified to the Department of Health within five days of diagnosis.

Nest box waiting for wildlife

Mitzi Mann

Friends of Merindah Park and Urban Forest

At the end of winter, Council removed a dead pine tree in the Merindah Park Green Belt that had begun to drop limbs.

The lower trunk was untouched, providing an excellent home for local wildlife.

In early spring, a nest box was carved into the tree trunk, which is around six metres high. Using a chainsaw, a hollow was cut and the outer layer replaced to create the new residence complete with a handy entrance hole.

Recently, a pair of Rainbow Lorikeets arrived to inspect the potential new home. While the pair spent time investigating the nest box, the birds did not move in straight away.

We imagine it will not be long until a local wildlife resident discovers it and chooses to make it a permanent home.



Ricketts Point signs

Visitors to Ricketts Point can learn more about the natural features and creatures of the Marine Sanctuary thanks to new signage recently installed by Council.

The 24 new signs will help to improve visitors' foreshore experience.

The signage includes new educational and interpretive information on Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, as well as wayfinding and entry directions and clear advice around regulations such as on/off leash times for dogs.

Sign locations were selected to give maximum public exposure with minimal disturbance to cultural heritage materials and native vegetation. Natural views were maintained as much as possible.

The local community, State Government, and agencies including Parks Victoria, Fisheries Victoria and VicRoads were consulted during the project.



Kids' Corner



summertime is here!

Summer brings out the best of Bayside and now is time to enjoy everything we have right on our doorstep.

Magnificent beaches, beautiful foreshores, fabulous parks, gorgeous reserves and heathlands.

You wouldn't want to be anywhere else – spoilt from sunrise to sunset with so much to do and explore.

So, enjoy the Summer holidays and remember to always be sunsmart!

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

BARBECUE
BEACH
HAT
HEATWAVE

HOLIDAYS
ICECREAM
OUTDOORS
PLAYTIME

SANDCASTLE
SUMMER
SUNNY
SUNSCREEN

SURFBOARD
SWIMMING
SWIMSUIT
WATER



Summer holiday project

Upcycled Sandbox Garden

Have you outgrown your old sandbox? Don't throw it out or keep it tossed in the corner of the shed. These old favourites are the perfect size and shape for an edible garden bed – a great school holiday project.

What you will need:

- BPA-free sandbox
- pavers
- gravel
- weed barrier fabric (cut to fit interior of sandbox)
- potting soil
- assorted edible starter plants with shallow root systems
- utility knife and a drill (for an adult to use!)
- garden tools and gloves



Step 1: Prepare the location

Choose an area with partial shade and place the emptied sandbox onto a few pavers to provide some drainage.



Step 2: Create drainage

Good drainage keeps plants healthier and staves off root rot. Once you've added pavers and adjusted them so the bottom of the sandbox is level, add several drainage holes using a drill and large bit. Make a hole every 15-20cm in the bottom of the sandbox.



Step 3: Add weed barrier

Cut weed barrier fabric to size and lay down in the sandbox so the bottom and sides are covered. This will help create a barrier and discourage any weeds attempting to make their way into the garden through the drainage holes.



Step 4: Add gravel

Spread a 5cm layer of gravel along the bottom of the sandbox, directly on top of the weed barrier.



Step 5: The good soil

Premium soil is key to the success of your garden, so make sure it's suited to your plants and climate. Consider mixing in a supplement or soil additive that's specifically suited to your plants.



Step 6: Select your plants

Plants with shallow root systems will be best for this garden bed. Try a mix of fruits, veggies and herbs with a variety of scents and textures to make your garden bed interesting. Our suggestions are beans, peas, chives, coriander, mint, basil, poppies, lettuce, garlic, onions and strawberries.



Step 7: Make ID Tags

You can make your own tags to identify your plants using painted popsticks (another fun project).



Keep a garden journal

Part of the fun of having a garden is tracking the growth of each plant. Make notes of each harvest and write down tips for future plantings. Before- and after-photos are fun too.

Friends Groups

Friends of Balcombe Park

Convenor: Ian O'Loughlin

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 31 **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: Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9 **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:**

Dates: Jan 20

Friends of Brighton Dunes

Convenor: Jenny Talbot

Phone: (03) 9592 2109

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Jan 8, 15, 22 & 29, Feb 5, 12, 19 & 26, Mar 5, 12, 19 & 26

Time: 8-10am

Friends of Cheltenham Park

Convenor: Valerie Tyers

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Feb 3, Mar 3 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

Convenor: Kim Croker

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**


Dates: Feb 6, Mar 6 **Time:** 9:30am-11:30am

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: Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Gramatan Avenue Heathland

Convenor: Ken Rendell

Phone: (03) 9589 4452


 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Feb 3, Mar 3 **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

Convenor: Rob Saunders

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 31 **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Merindah Park & Urban Forest

Convenor: John de Cruz Douglas

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

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10 **Time:** 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: Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13 **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: Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 19 **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Table Rock

Convenor: Ken Rendell

Phone: (03) 9589 4452

 **Upcoming working bees:**

Dates: Jan 29, Feb 26, Mar 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/



The Dogs' Breakfast

Bring your dog down to the beach for a cool off and breakfast. This popular annual event is also a great chance to learn about the importance of keeping your dog on a lead in sensitive vegetation and speak with the Citywide bushland staff about Bayside's bushland reserves.

Date: Saturday 19 January 2019
Time: 9am to 12pm
Location: Sandown Spit, Brighton

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: Jan 15, Feb 5 & 19, Mar 5 & 19

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

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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Recreation and Wellbeing

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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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