

## WHAT LOCAL PLANT IS FLOWERING?

**Botanical name:** *Pterostylis concinna*

**Common name:** Trim Greenhood

**Family:** Orchidaceae

**Flowering Period:** May to October

This small terrestrial orchid is found in the dry & valley sclerophyll forest of the Bend of Islands.

The slender flower stem, (10 - 30 cm high), stands upright, arising from the centre of the ground hugging rosette of four to six, short-stalked leaves. The species has a single hooded flower at the top of the stem.

The basal rosette leaves are dark green, glabrous, 30 mm x 15 mm, with entire or wavy margins

The flower stem is light brown with two stem clasping leaves.

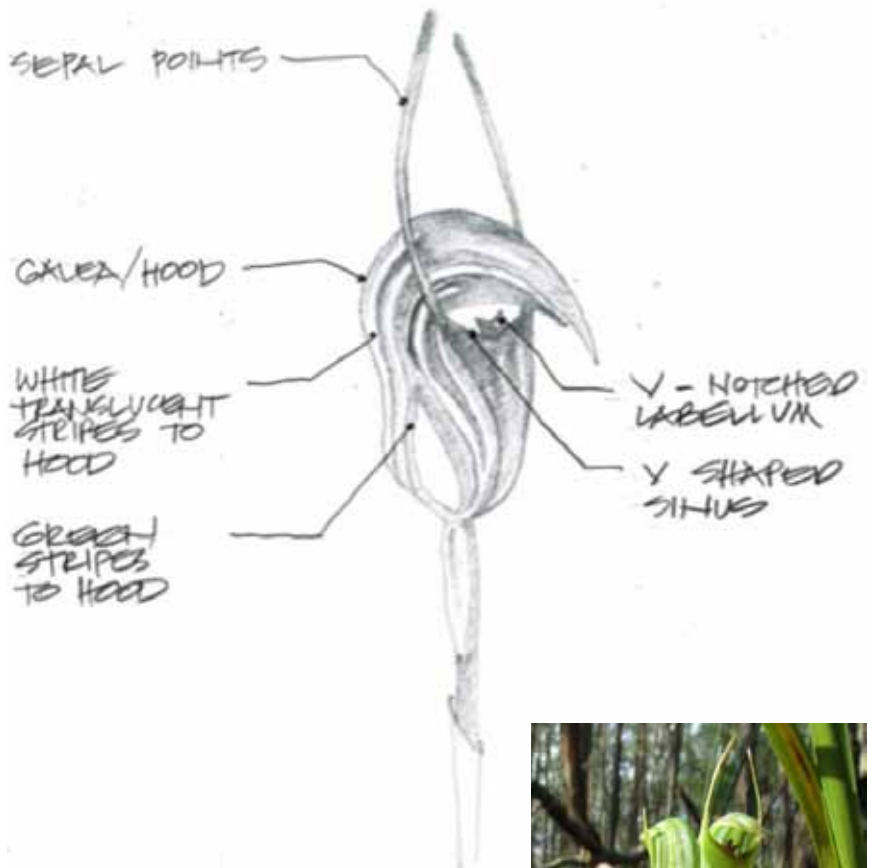
The single hooded flower is 15 mm long. The hood is erect, translucent white with fine green stripes and faint brown toning on extremities, near sepal points and sinus. Dorsal sepals and petals are united to form the hooded structure called the Galea.

The Galea or hood is typical of all Victorian *Pterostylis* species. With this species the hood is upright for three quarters of its length before curving forward at its tip, ending in a fine point. The lateral sepals are erect, joined at the base, enclosing the hood with the two fine free sepal points extending 20 mm above the hood. The sinus (opening of the hood) formed by the fused lateral sepals is broadly V shaped. The curved labellum (tongue) is just visible inside the hood over the sinus. The labellum has a V-notched tip, which is the distinguishing feature of this species.

This orchid may form colonies usually in shaded areas with moist soils. It spreads by growing from a tuberoid, (the swollen end of an underground root) and will tolerate full sun in moist, well drained soils.

Pollination occurs by fungus gnats and small flies.

**Cric Henry**





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## President's Report

I have been away for just over 4 months and returned to the Bend of Islands to find it in bloom, the red box are flowering profusely, orchids thick on the ground and the birds are starting to nest – it's delightful to be home. While I was away, the BICA Committee continued the work on a range of projects. Here are some highlights:

- As part of the Nillumbik Conservation Corridors Project BICA arranged with the Co-op to place gravel and tiles in key places on the Co-op to provide habitat and to identify whether common dunnarts are in the area.
- Thanks to Tim Read, BICA arranged a new sign on the Jess Bull Reserve as the previous sign had collapsed.
- Rudi Pauli, the Treasurer has been updating the asset register and developing a process so that members can borrow some of the BICA assets (see later in this newsletter). Rudi is delighted that the current membership of BICA has reached 80% of landowners in the Bend of Islands.
- The Land Management Plan identified serious weed infestation in hard-to-reach places on the escarpment (Henley Rd. Catani Blvd. and Oxley Rd). Weeding of these areas has continued with a grant from the Shire of Nillumbik. Dylan Osler, who has been doing the work, has been targeting Bridal Creeper, Boneseed, Blackberry and Pittosporum and has also found some interesting flora there – Annual Fern and Large Autumn Greenhoods – both rare plants for the Bend of Islands.
- Liz Mildenhall, Tom Fisher, Phil Wierzbowski, Mick Woiwod, James Armstrong and others have been working with the Shire and the Wurundjeri to produce a new sign for the Bend of Islands as well as an interpretive sign explaining the history and pre-history of the area.
- BICA has been updating the new resident's package of information. We are grateful for the continuing support of Nillumbik Shire Council. Council is very committed to the Bend of Islands area and supportive of BICA's goals and has furnished us with grants to cover much of the weeding works. They have also allocated a substantial sum of money towards the updating of our new residents information pack.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee who have done a great job in keeping these projects running and in organising the regular activities of BICA. Thanks to Neill Kamminga (Vice President / Acting President), Gavin Masters (Secretary), Rudi Pauli (Treasurer), Felicity Rose (Minutes Secretary), Liz Mildenhall (Community activities Coordinator and Property Coordinator), Deirdre Lucas and Jo Henry (joint Coordinators Nillumbik's Conservation Corridors Project), Jessica Rae, and Leanne and Phil Wierzbowski.

**Robyn Duff**

P.S. Don't forget to take a look at the new website:  
[www.bendofislands.wordpress.com](http://www.bendofislands.wordpress.com)

## CONTACT BICA:

Secretary BICA Committee: [bicacomm@gmail.com](mailto:bicacomm@gmail.com)

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## WELCOME TO THE BEND

Welcome to new BICA Members:

Rosalind Baxter

Jasper Eames

Nici Hart & Mick Gibbs  
and family



# THE HARBINGERS OF SPRING

By Gavin Masters

**While bird migration in Australia is not as pronounced as it is the northern hemisphere due to our much milder winters, there are still a number of birds that move with the changes of the seasons. We don't have the skeins of geese that cross the USA or the Cuckoo clock call of the Common Cuckoo of Europe, but we certainly do have cuckoos that announce their presences and the end of winter in August and September.**

While the winter months are quieter, a few birds do visit during this period. The obvious ones are largely birds from the mountains which move to dryer areas that are more open for the winter. In the Bend of Islands, these include Rose, Pink and Flame Robins, Olive Whistlers and sometimes Crescent Honeyeaters. Less obvious are some of the migrants, which come from Tasmania such as Silvereyes and White-naped honeyeaters, which replace the local birds, which have gone north, leaving us with some individuals present all year. Another factor is the winter flowering of the Ironbarks in the northern parts of "The Bend", which attract other honeyeaters as well as night time visits from Flying Foxes. This coincides also with the northward movement of Swift Parrots from Tasmania. These rare birds have been recorded in "The Bend" but don't seem to be regular visitors. But back to spring!

Of the approximately 160 birds recorded locally, about 20%, which breed locally, are recognised as making regular north-south movements based on seasonal changes. Some of these are complete migrants with the entire population leaving southern Victoria while others have some individuals which stay for the winter where they are few and far between and much quieter than in the warmer months when they are breeding. On top of this, there is a further group (about 10% of the total) that are more aptly described as nomadic with less regular movements based on rainfall and nectar flow. The north south migrants are a very wide ranging group including two honeyeaters, a nightjar, a kingfisher, a kite, two flycatchers, three cuckoo-shrikes, an oriole, a reed-warbler, two fantails, a whistler, a white eye, two swifts (which breed in Asia) and six cuckoos. Many of these birds call and display when they return, but as in Europe, the cuckoos are loud and prominent when they return. They regularly call (Sing!) from high open perches for long periods both day and night.

The first is usually the Fan-tailed Cuckoo with a number often staying right through the winter. Their regular call is a somewhat sad, downward trill but the female also makes a loud "Postman's Whistle". They tend to call from open branches about midway up to the canopy.



*Fan-tailed Cuckoo - Photo fp*

Another early arrival is the Shining Bronze-Cuckoo. This is a small bright glossy green bird with a loud whistling call. It alternates between rising and falling tones gradually becoming wilder and wilder. As with all cuckoos in Victoria, these birds are nest parasites and their presence is often noted by small birds such as thornbills mobbing them.



*Shining Bronze-Cuckoo – Photo Mal Chicksen*





## The Harbingers of Spring continued

The traditional “Harbinger of Spring” in country Victoria is the Pallid Cuckoo. These mid-sized grey birds perch high in dead trees with a rising whistling call usually of 8 notes, sometimes described as “I am the Harbinger of Spring”.



*Pallid Cuckoo – Photo fp*

A second Bronze-Cuckoo – Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo, is more a bird of open country so not as common in Bend of Islands. It is also not as obvious as the Shining Bronze-Cuckoo with a quieter, less excited call that consists only of a repeated downward note. It often calls from wire fences or small shrubs in open spaces.

Later in the spring, Brush Cuckoos arrive. In the Bend of Islands, there are only a few of these and they mainly visit along the watercourses such as the Yarra River and Watsons Creek. Their call is heard as often at night as through the day and, is a leisurely spaced call of about 10-12 clear descending whistles.

The last cuckoo, which is much the rarest of the lot in our area, is the Eastern Koel. This is the “Cooee Bird” of Northern New South Wales and Queensland. This is a large, glossy black bird that is much harder to see than other cuckoos. Its name is its call with “Ko-el” repeated 8- 10 times. This gradually rises until it reaches a pitch where it seems the bird cannot go any higher. At

this point, it stops then starts over again. It has always been very rare in Victoria however, in the last few years (Due to climate changes?), it has been recorded much more regularly including often around Melbourne. Last year a single bird was heard locally by people at around midnight the second time ever. And this year...?

One last notable bird to listen for, which is not a cuckoo, but returns to the Bend of Islands to breed in the summer, is the White-Throated Nightjar. These are large night-birds that nest on the ground and are very difficult to see; however, their calls betray their presence through the summer. They are present on rocky dry northern facing ridges, common in our area and their call is an ascending, accelerating “laugh” heard only at night.

As I write this, in early September, I am aware that the first three cuckoos above have arrived.

All the cuckoos’ calls are distinctive and not easily confused. If you want to learn the cuckoos’ (and other birds) calls, a great place to start is the website:

xeno-canto: Sharing bird sounds from around the world (<http://www.xeno-canto.org/>).

So listen for these birds and you will have another way of sensing that spring is in the air.

**Gavin Masters**

**Links for the call of each species are as follows: -**

**Fan-Tailed Cuckoo**

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Cacomantis-flabelliformis>

**Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Chrysococcyx-lucidus>

**Pallid Cuckoo**

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Cacomantis-pallidus>

**Brush Cuckoo**

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Cacomantis-variolosus>

**Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo**

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Chrysococcyx-basalis>

**Eastern Koel**

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Eudynamis-orientalis>

**White-Throated Nightjar**

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Eurostopodus-mystacalis>



# SPRING ORCHIDS - A DIGITAL WALK

By Frank Pierce

These photos, all taken since 1/9/2014, represent a few of our orchids that are currently flowering.



*Large Bird-orchid*



*Blue Fingers*



*Waxlip Orchid*



*Pink Fingers*



*Donkey-orchid (Wallflower)*



*Small Spider-orchid*



*Common Gnat-orchid*



*Mayfly Orchid*

More information and photos of the orchids of the Bend of Islands are available on the BICA Website at <http://bendofislands.wordpress.com/flora-and-fauna/plants/> .





## BIRD NOTES

The following can be reported since April 2014.

### Lyrebirds:-

5 new records in the ELZ have been reported from Tom Clark and F Pierce. The details of all Lyrebird records reported since July 2000 will soon be on the new BICA Website.

Please pass on details of any 'encounters' you are lucky enough to have with these iconic birds. The records are valuable as they form concrete evidence that the Warrandyte-Kinglake Habitat Corridor is working and that Stevenson Creek is an important part of this link.

### Bird Survey Highlights:-

The September Bird Survey was a good one at Yanakie. 52 species were recorded, indicating that 'Spring has sprung' in the Bend!

### Other Interesting Observations:-

The successful raising of a White-throated Nightjar chick in the ELZ was reported on in the last newsletter. Monitoring continued. The mother was last recorded on 11/04/14 and juvenile was last seen on 14/04/14 which was the night prior to the full moon, with ideal conditions for migration to the north.



*Juvenile White-throated Nightjar - 2 days before migrating*

A Hybrid CrimsonXEastern Rosella was seen and photographed through the window at the south end of my house on the Co-op on 30/03/2014. This bird was seen but not photographed on a few other occasions around that time. This is the 1st time I've seen such a hybrid. It coincides with a consistent increase in Eastern Rosellas in the adjacent bush over the last couple of years, especially around September to November.



*Crimson Rosella left, Hybrid CrimsonXEastern Rosella on right.*

The Birds Section of the new BICA Website is under preparation and will be available soon. It will have lots of information about the birds of our area, as well as an up to date summary of our on-going bird survey.

Could you please record the details of any unusual sightings you make and pass them on to Frank Pierce, (97120237), or email – [jmandfp@bigpond.com](mailto:jmandfp@bigpond.com) - especially Lyrebirds.

All are welcome to join us on the bird walks on the second Sunday of each month. Times are as per the BICA Calendar.

**Frank Pierce**

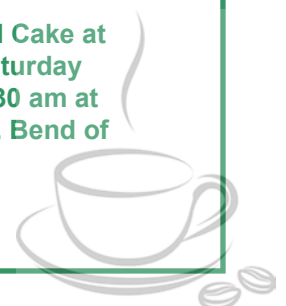
## What's going on here?

This morning Peter and I rushed for the cameras. There was a White-eared Honeyeater having a good old peck on the back of a young kangaroo right outside the back door. Was it picking out fleas or nits or helping itself to some fur for a nest or something else altogether? Of course it flew off before we could get a picture for proof. Trusting one of our local naturalists will throw some light on this matter.

**Liz & Peter Mildenhall**

## CAFE BENDERS

Come and join us for Coffee and Cake at Cafe Benders, held every 3rd Saturday of the month, starting about 10.30 am at the south Station, 6 Catani Blvd. Bend of Islands.





## Nillumbik's Conservation Corridors Project Update

Nillumbik's Conservation Corridors (NCC) project is funded by the Communities for Nature grant and administered by a Steering Committee of representatives from local Landcare groups and coordinated by Julia Franco, Nillumbik Shire Council Biodiversity Officer.

The aim of the project is to enhance and conserve the Kinglake – Warrandyte wildlife corridor, of which Bend of Islands is a part, by carrying out work difficult for Landcare groups to complete due to lack of resources or funds.

The project is now half way through its funding period, with two years of funding remaining. Julia Franco has recently received confirmation that funding will be honoured if a change of government occurs at the next state election in November.



*Image of Bridal Creeper infestation on the Plenty Gorge, Victoria*

The Nillumbik's Conservation Corridors (NCC) Project was recently nominated for the UNAA World Environment Day awards. The NCC project was shortlisted as finalists for two categories, the Biodiversity Award and the Virgin Australia Community Award categories. While we did not win the award, it was great that the project was recognised and was amongst the finalists.

**We would like to give you an update on what BICA has been able to carry out recently thanks to the funding we have received from the NCC project.**

### Weed Control Work

Follow up weed control is continuing to target high-treat weeds such as Bridle Creeper on the escarpments along the Yarra River. The escarpments where the control works have been undertaking include Henley Road, Upper Catani Boulevard and the end of Oxley Road. Bridal Creeper (\*Asparagus asparagoides) is listed as a Weed of National Significance, and identified as a priority weed for control within the Bend of Islands Land Management Plan.

This highly invasive creeper has the ability to establish in a wide variety of habitat types from sands to rocky escarpments, with seed being dispersed by animals, which forms extensive underground mats of underground tubers. Once established this species will smother the ground layer vegetation thus changing the composition of species present.

If Bridal Creeper is left to form large infestations (such as on Menzies Road) it is a very difficult weed to control, and if left untreated, it will become one of the significant weed issues for Bend of Islands.

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*Bridal Creeper image taken from the Weeds of National Significance Website*

During these weed works, a few exciting plant species have been found:

- Anogramma leptophylla – Annual Fern, which is a new population for BOI.
- Pterostylis sp aff Revoluta – Large Autumn Greenhood, first time since the 1980s that the orchid has been recorded in BOI and first time outside RTBCC.

We have also received additional funding to contract an arborist to fell the Pine trees that remain on Ironbark Road. The Pines will be felled and the debris will be cleaned up at our next Landcare working bee.

**Continued on next page**





## Nilumbik's Conservation Corridors Project Update continued

### Dunnart Survey

The Round the Bend Conservation Co-operative has recently installed 15 artificial habitat pavers as part of this project. The concrete pavers were placed over a base of pebbles. It is hoped that small marsupials such as Dunnarts will utilise these Habitat Pavers, which will allow for easier surveying to identify whether species such as the White-footed Dunnart are still present within the area. They haven't been recorded within the Bend of Islands since the 80's. The pavers were installed in two locations, one recently burnt area and another unburnt area of Grassy Dry Forest which contains a high cover of tussocks grasses such as Silvertop Wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma pallidum*) and Grey Tussock-grass (*Poa sieberiana*). It would be fantastic to find that populations of this species continue to be present within the Bend of Islands.



*Laying Dunnart Tiles on the Co-op*



*NSC Orchid Walk on the Co-op*

### Shire Orchid Walk

Last month Julia Franco organised an orchid walk on the Co-op with Paul Piko from the Australasian Native Orchid society. The event was well attended with around 40 people, who saw a good range of orchid species.





## Nillumbik's Conservation Corridors Project Update continued

### Flora and Fauna Survey

There were a few landowners in BOI that signed up for the flora and fauna surveys that were on offer. These surveys are now underway and consist of either;

- General flora and fauna survey
- Intensive flora survey
- Threatened flora survey

### Future BOI Projects

We are currently planning future projects in BOI that aim to protect and enhance our rare and threatened flora and fauna. A few projects being considered are;

- Installing small fencing plots and or cages around some of our more locally rare and threatened orchid populations
- Continue with weed control on priority weed species
- Weedy wattle control in high quality bushland areas
- Local nest box survey using newly purchased council nest box camera

### Other NCC Projects

A Nillumbik local orchid identification guide is currently being prepared through this project. It will take the form of an online database, probably hosted on the Nillumbik Landcare Network's website. The information will print to a template including picture, description, habitat and distribution.

Julia Franco has organised for the collection of fungi necessary to continue the attempts at propagating threatened orchids. Last year's attempt by Royal Botanic Gardens staff at propagating Rosella Spider Orchids and Wine-Lipped Spider Orchids was unsuccessful, so this year two more species, Silurian Striped Greenhood and Emerald Lipped Greenhood, will be propagated as well. Orchid propagation is an expensive process with no guaranteed results.

A demonstration weed control site is to be established on about an acre of land at Running Creek triangle in Arthurs Creek. This is still in development with more information to come later.

If you have any further questions, or would like more information please contact Jo Henry or Deirdre Lucas, or Julia Franco, Biodiversity Officer at NSC.

**Jo Henry & Deirdre Lucas**



## BICA BIKA 2014

An experienced group of local cyclists turned out for the annual BICA cycling tour on 27 April. As usual, participants were able to join at several points along the way, choosing from three different distances along the Eastern Freeway, Eastlink and Blind Creek trails. This year's route started at Springvale Road with the Mullum Mullum Valley Challenge. Starting riders Neill Kamminga, Quentin Mattiske, Norm Parris and Tom Fisher (who managed to remember his helmet this year but fell off his bike within the first minute) climbed steadily and plunged into the scenic rain forest beside the Mullum Mullum Tunnel before emerging puffing and panting at Ringwood.

At Ringwood, they were met by Flavia Pintossi and her two sons. Flavia, riding the vintage Italian roadie that she has owned since she was 15, was pulling her massive eBay kids' trailer for the first time and earned the Queen of the Mountain jersey for hauling sons Renzo and Corrado up several climbs along Eastlink, urged on by cries of 'faster, mum' from her passengers. Karyn Kamminga joined the peloton after it crossed High Street Road just before the turn-off for the Blind Creek Track, which took us into Jells Park for lunch at the café there. The Giro d'Italia contingent opted for motorised transport home from there provided by chauffeur Graham, while the remaining riders rejoined the Eastlink Trail south of Jells Park and then turned north to return to their starting points. Total distance covered from the start was approximately 39 Kms, with a total altitude gain of some 434 metres.

Planning for next year's BICA BIKA is tipped to revolve around a pancake brunch at the tram café along the Warburton Trail.

**Tom Fisher**



## Art at the heart of Bend of Islands



This area has long been a haven for artists and craftsmen who find inspiration and peace in the bush.

On Sunday 23rd June, 35 residents (including 4 children) of Christmas Hills and the Bend of Islands came together to celebrate the amazing contribution of our Artists to our community.

Robina and Tony Summers created the perfect setting for an exploration of the works of many resident artists even those no longer with us.

The sun shone as each artist present spoke briefly about their work or on behalf of someone who couldn't attend. Neighbours Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson and many others loaned works which were displayed throughout Tony and Robina's home.

Neil Douglas was the first artist explored. Janet Mattiske related stories about his "cuppa tea" humour and his influence on other artists as well as the community in the area.

Margot Healey drew on her love of native flora illustrating all that grows in Christmas Hills

The Review of works included paintings like those of Jules Burns & Geoff Drummond, the botanical illustrations of Carol Bonny and Margot Healey, pottery by Michael Skews, metal sculpture by Tim Weir, photography by Tony Summers, paintings by Veronica Holland and textiles by Robina Summers Liz Vercoe's gentle work was mentioned (she has now moved out of the area).

Tributes were paid to Ern Mainka and Peter Oysten.

The usual feast was enjoyed by all with much discussion about the previous night's Venetian Masquerade Ball.

**Kay Hawkins**

### **BICA ITEMS FOR LOAN** BICA has the following items which are available to members for use:

- Cameras (Night or Day - movement activated)
- GPS
- Brush Burner (Great for burning weeds)
- Cat Trap
- Rabbit Traps
- Elliot Traps (for catching mice etc. humanely. It is important to distinguish mice from antechinus)

For further details contact Rudi Pauli 0419556879 or [rumetpa@yahoo.com](mailto:rumetpa@yahoo.com)





## FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Our Christmas Hills Fire Brigade Captain, Dianne

Simmons has this Important Message for us ...

I recently took part in a training exercise designed to look at managing large fires, and part of this session focused on the Emergency Services Commissioner's (Craig Lapsley) Strategic Control Priorities for managing incidents.

The priorities are:

- 1. Protection and preservation of life is paramount** - this includes fire-fighters, residents, and people within the affected area generally, for whatever reason
- 2. Issuing of community information and community warnings** - to assist residents to make informed decisions about how to respond to fires
- 3. Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets** - for us this probably means Winneke Water Treatment Plant, fire stations, and school
- 4. Protection of residential property** - this might be your priority, but it is a bit down the list!
- 5. Protection of assets supporting individual livelihoods and economic production** - e.g. farm or business infrastructure
- 6. Protection of environmental and conservation values** - at least it is on the list!

For people managing bushfires, from Brigade level up, there is now a clear direction from the Emergency Services Commissioner to focus on **primacy of life** and the **issuing of community information and community warnings** when the Brigade attends incidents.

## CAFE BENDERS

Come and join us for Coffee and Cake at Cafe Benders, held every 3rd Saturday of the month, starting about 10.30 am at the south Station, 6 Catani Blvd. Bend of Islands.

### Getting warnings to the community is now expected, but do you know how to respond to them?

You will have seen media reports that we are likely to see an El Nino event affecting the coming fire season, which will mean drier and warmer conditions. This usually means more extreme fire behaviour and the high potential for loss of lives and houses. Getting our properties prepared to survive a bushfire is part of our pre-season planning (I hope!), but have you thought about HOW you will get any emergency warnings if they are issued?

Do you know the difference between the three warnings - **Advice, Watch and Act** or **Emergency Warning** - that can be issued?

Most importantly have you planned what you will DO if there is a bushfire in or around the area, and you do get a warning - Will you stay? Will you go? Where will you go? What route will you take?

Planning to make these decisions is just as important as getting your property prepared, so start talking to your family, friends and neighbours now, and get your plan together.

You can get some more information about warnings at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/about-warnings/>

You may also be interested:  
From the Christmas Hills Fire Brigade

### Living with Bushfire : Community conference 3/4 October Churchill

Some of you may be interested in the **Living with Bushfire : Community conference 3/4 October Churchill** .

It is \$20 per day to attend the conference, and the first day focuses around fire and the environment, and the second day around fire and the community. Speakers include Craig Lapsley (Emergency Management Commissioner), Kevin Tolhurst (Melbourne University) and Steve Leonard (Latrobe University).

There will also be booths and posters and a dinner on the Friday night.

For more information please visit:  
[www.federation.edu.au/fireconference](http://www.federation.edu.au/fireconference)



## THE JESSIE BULL RESERVE

The Jessie Bull Reserve is a small triangular patch of land on Catani Boulevard which was donated by the Jessie Agnes Cameron Houghton family to be preserved in the Bend of Islands. A tree came down over the previous sign in this spot so local resident and artist, Tim Read replaced it with this beautiful sign. Jessie celebrated her 90th birthday at Café Benders in 2014 and hopefully will come to see the sign and share memories of the times she spent on this property, later this year.



## RUBBISH. How to manage your bins



**I presented at the last BICA General Meeting about Nillumbik's waste service at the lovely Rosemary's house. I knew I would be preaching to the converted around all things recycling and the correct disposal of certain items, but it was great to have such an engaging audience. For those who missed the presentation I'll give a snapshot of the highlights.**

### **Green waste bin**

As many of you may know, our green waste has been going to landfill over the last 5 years due to the closure of the local facility. A new composting facility, which is run by Veolia has now opened and is processing our green waste - yippee. The facility is situated in Bulla and operates as a closed vessel composter. Once at the site, our green waste is unloaded onto the ground and contamination such as plastic bags is picked out. The material is shredded and loaded into a series of large vessels (4m x 2.5m x 25m), which look a lot like huge shipping containers. These containers are computer controlled to maintain temperature, humidity, moisture and gas levels. The leachate created is used to regulate moisture across all the vessels and the gas is captured to generate electricity. The composting process takes about 10 days when the material is screened and separated into a fine soil and coarse soil for broad acre fertiliser. Visit <http://backtoearth.vic.gov.au/> to find out more.

Unfortunately Nillumbik's green waste loads have been quite contaminated. We are one of 11 councils going to this new facility but we are the only council that accepts vegetable,

meat and dairy scraps in the green bin. There have been households using plastic bags to place their food waste in, thinking that even if the bag is 'biodegradable' or 'compostable' that it is ok. This is not the case as the composting process is too quick for the plastic to decompose.

Nillumbik has been doing bin inspections and placing stickers on contaminated bins to educate residents about these issues. The Bend of Islands came out very well with only a small number of households with contaminated green bins. This is good news as the composting facility had been rejecting many loads of green waste. Keep up the good work folks.

### **Yellow Recycling Bin**

We discussed the confusion around what plastics can go in the recycling bin. Nillumbik states 'any plastic that holds its shape or form' can be recycled which means if it is rigid or semi-rigid, then it is ok. If it's a plastic wrapper or plastic bag then it is not ok. For example, if you purchase a packet of Sakata rice biscuits, the tray that holds the biscuits can be recycled and the wrapper cannot (take your plastic bags and wrappers to Coles for recycling!) New items that are accepted include old plastic toys and metal pots and pans. Please feel free to contact me [tobey.henry@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:tobey.henry@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or visit the website for more information [http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Living\\_in\\_Nillumbik/Waste\\_and\\_Recycling](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Living_in_Nillumbik/Waste_and_Recycling)

**Tobey Henry**





## Getting to Know your BICA COMMITTEE

The Association has an active group of twelve Committee members, meeting each month to address local issues which promote the aims and objectives of the Conservation Association.

### Meet Rudi Pauli



Sue and I have lived in the Bend of Islands for in excess of 12 years. I had heard about the area previously from a friend who had moved into Pantan Hill. She told me a lot about the area. Sue and I were attracted to the bush and living on the river. But it was also very important to be surrounded by like minded people and

a sense of community. We didn't want to live amongst a bunch of red necks.

I joined the Committee over 8 years ago and with the recent retirement of Tom Fisher and Mike Pelling, I am now the current longest serving committee member. I was invited to join and for the first year I just sat and listened, soaking up and learning so much about "the Bend". I then joined the Community Involvement Sub Committee co-ordinating the calendar of events. Last year I gave up this role to take on the Treasury. I am also involved with the Publications Sub Committee which involves overseeing the production of the newsletter, website, calendar and other occasional publications.

We live in a very special area, something we shouldn't take for granted. It has only happened because of the hard work of those that came before us. I enjoy being able to make a contribution to the community and land in which I live and give something back to this wonderful place.

My attitude to the land has changed over time. When I first moved in I was attracted to the trees. Now I have come to admire the much bigger picture of the amazing understorey and all the subtle changes in the flora and fauna as seasons change. At present I am watching with delight all that is flowering and the annual migration of birds back to the Bend. The Oriole that has returned as it does each year to the same group of trees.

## IT'S JUST A BIT OF RUBBISH!



Collected in 30 minutes from the roadside in Henley Rd, this is unfortunately an example of what is/can be/ collected around here.

For those who travel at a more leisurely pace around the Bend ... along Catani, along Henley and Gongflers, skirting Skyline ... walking, jogging, cycling ... this is what can be found!

Let's keep an eye out for the crap that is thrown out! And "dob 'em" in to

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/get-involved/report-litter>

## WOMBAT!



Mum & baby wombat at Carol & Warwick Leeson's, Kangaroo Ground.

Warwick comments:

"The flap over the burrow entrance is for mange management; fortunately, there is no sign of mange at the moment but, given that the burrow is shared by foxes, I have been giving a 2 monthly precautionary treatment. The wombats are completely undeterred by the flap.

I am similarly treating another 3 active burrows on our land".



## CLIMATE CHANGE ... a walk to Canberra?

A number of locals will know of the work of Alan Cuthbertson, who lives in Lower Plenty and runs a company that focusses on improving housing stock environmentally...with a focus on double glazing and draft prevention etc.

He has helped a number of locals and has a regular monthly newsletter that is most informative. His website and information trails can be found at [www.diydoubleglaze.com.au](http://www.diydoubleglaze.com.au)

Alan's work with us on double glazing many of our bigger windows downstairs has significantly improved our comfort levels and heating efficiency.



Recently Alan decided that a walk to Canberra with a petition highlighting the need to combat climate change would be his personal way of taking up the fight to bring these matters back into the political spotlight.

Details of his walk to Canberra and the petition can be found at: [www.climatewalk.org.au](http://www.climatewalk.org.au)  
His walk to Canberra in September and October will start on 21st September which is the day of the Climate Change Rally in Melbourne. Alan's plans are as follows:

11: am – 350.org and Getup are organising a BIG rally at the State Library and they will march to Treasury Gardens

2:00 pm -Immediately after the rally I will start my walk with 3 others to Canberra. You can join me as we walk to Fairfield

7:30 pm - Lower Plenty Scout Hall. I and my co walkers will talk about Climate Change. Come along for an informal chat

Note: Although we are not trying to fund raise, if you would like to make a small donation to help the walk, you can do so at <http://www.climatewalk.org.au/donations>  
A small number of people are joining Alan on his walk to Canberra, some for the entire walk, others for part of it and you can see those plans on his website.

Liz and I are joining Alan at Holbrook on Thursday October 13 and walking for three days to Tumarumba. You may like to sign the petition or visit the website and wish Alan well. As Frank Pierce recently highlighted, "this is a real issue that is impacting on us all and we need to urge decisive action as soon as possible".

**Liz and Peter Mildenhall**

## Vale Ern Mainka

Ern passed away at home, on the evening of Wednesday 28 May, surrounded by the bush he loved so much.  
Ern became a Member of the Co-op when he bought Tim Ealey's share in October 1998.  
He was an active member of the Bend of Islands community.  
Ern had a strong connection with the bush, and this was never better expressed than in his photography, which is truly beautiful and inspiring.



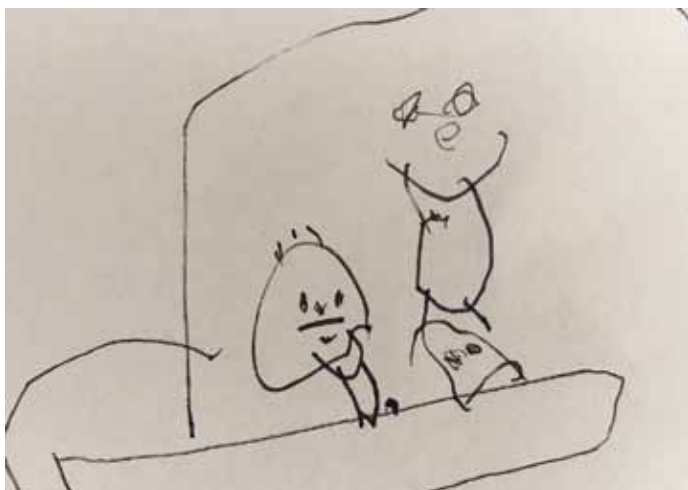




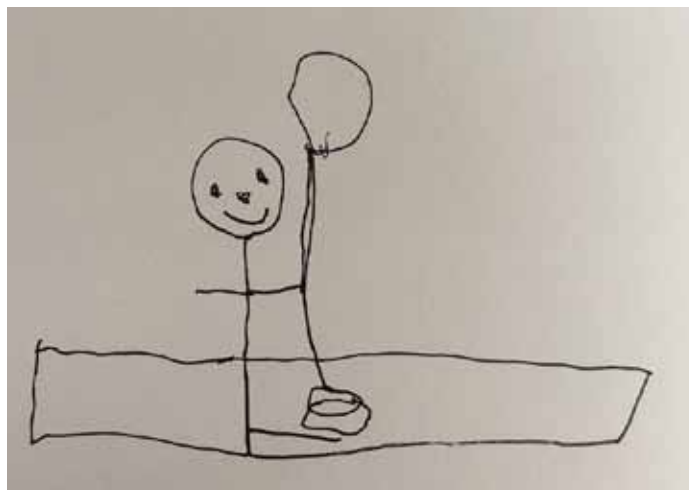
## TWO LUCKY CHILDREN LIVING BY THE YARRA RIVER

Last weekend the sunshine inspired a family boating expedition. We started at the end of Henley and paddled down to our place which took just over 2hrs. It was a big trip for Mac our 5 year old as it was his first time going down that many rapids in his own boat. It proved for a very entertaining and wet journey full of laughs along the way.

Here are some drawings and reflections from the children.... **Lauren (Catani Blvde)**



"One day dad sailed on the boat with us and fell in the water with a splash and helped Mac. I liked the bumps!"  
**Pip (4yrs)**



"I went over the rapids all by myself. I fell out of my boat with Dad" **(Mac 5yrs)**

## DATES OF INTEREST

### SHIRE OF NILLUMBIK: Practically Green Festival

**Sunday 19 October 10am-4.30pm Edendale, 30 Gastons Road, Eltham**

Celebrate sustainable building, living and all things green at the Practically Green Festival. A highlight on the Nillumbik community calendar, this free festival offers quality exhibits, demonstrations, live music, food and children's activities



**YOU TOO MAY ENJOY THE ENVIRONS ALONG THE YARRA** with a stroll along a picturesque section of the Yarra in North Warrandyte on **Sunday, 5 October**.

The walk starts 10.30 am in front of 42 Osborne Road, North Warrandyte (Melways 23 K10) and follows a narrow, unsealed bush track, duration 2 hours. Learn about the wonders of the river from the Yarra Riverkeeper.

For information and registration, contact Ian Penrose at [info@yarrariver.org.au](mailto:info@yarrariver.org.au) or phone 0409 510 766.



# 2014 BICA CALENDAR

## October

- 5 Flora Walk
- 5 Daylight savings start
- 9 Committee Meeting
- 12 Bird Walk (8:00 am)
- 18 Café Benders
- 19 Landcare
- 26 Pub Walk

## November

- 9 Bird Walk (7:30 am)
- 13 Committee Meeting
- 15 Café Benders
- 16 Landcare
- 22 Open Artist Studios
- TBC Night Event
- 23 BICA AGM
- 23 BICA Subs Due
- 29 Open Artist Studios

## December

- 4 Committee Meeting
- 14 Bird Walk (7:30 am)
- 20 Café Benders Christmas (evening)
- 21 Landcare

Thank you to all who contributed to this Newsletter.

Keep writing and sending me your articles and photos of the Bend of Islands.

The Editor  
jmandfp@bigpond.com



*Blue Star Chamaescilla corymbosa*



*Hovea linearis*



*Native Buttercup Ranunculus lappaceus*