

# Band of Islands Conservation Association

Newsletter No. 14 April 1986

## What Native's Flowering?

BOTANICAL NAME: *Banksia marginata*

COMMON NAME: Silver Banksia

FAMILY: Proteaceae

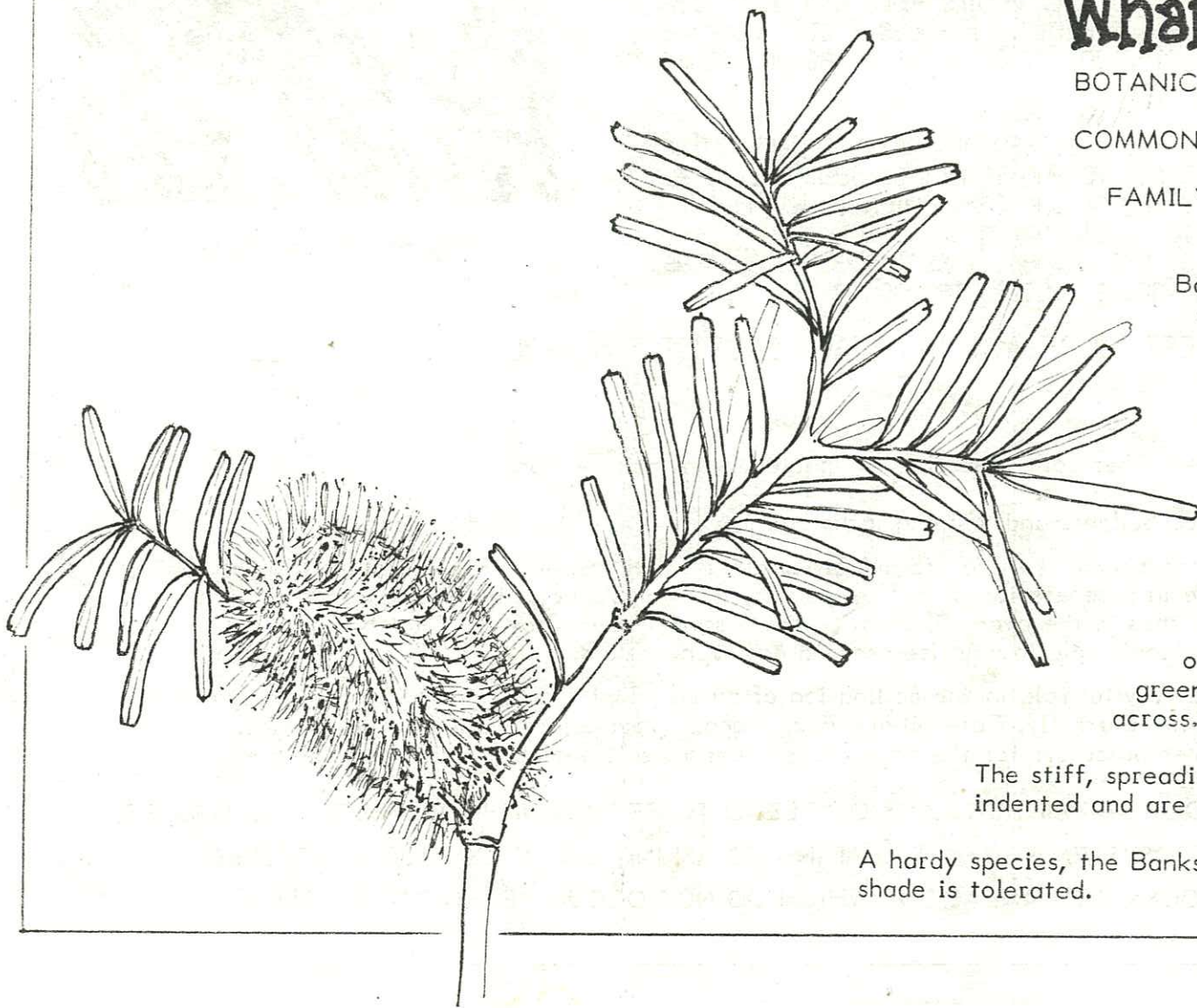
*Banksia marginata* or Silver Banksia is a variable species depending on its origin. It is a low shrub in heaths, scrub and drier mallee country (deserts), to a sturdy branched tree in open forests. In our Box/Stringybark forest its form is a tall shrub or small tree.

To ensure you get the true form for this area, collect the local seed and propagate it yourself.

Flowers begin to appear in March and continue through to April or May. A typical feature of Banksias is the erect cylinder of tightly packed greenish-yellow flowers, 7-10 cm. high and 5 cm. across.

The stiff, spreading leaves have blunt ends which are slightly indented and are dark green above and whitish beneath.

A hardy species, the *Banksia marginata* prefers good drainage and some shade is tolerated.



# Invertebrates... Invaluable Inhabitants

Most of us are aware of the many native mammals and birds living in our forest. They're cute and fairly obvious. There are thousands of other smaller, less obvious creatures which live amongst us ... the 'invertebrates'! This group depend upon a variety of habitats in bushland and play a vital role in maintaining the ecosystem in a balanced and healthy state. Yet invertebrates are at risk, firstly because most people don't know much about them and secondly because so little is known about them except that as research proceeds it becomes more and more clear that they are vital to the survival of natural systems. Because little work has been done on invertebrates they are not 'protected' by legislation as are other rare and endangered species.



Chrysomelid - Leaf Beetle

Many invertebrates are not often seen, have short lifespans, are not particularly inviting to look at and often have quite secretive and sometimes seemingly bizarre habits, yet they are critical to the well being of our environment. Without them there would be no birds, skeletal soils which would not grow plants and trees, no regeneration and probably proliferation of exotic pest-insect species such as European Wasps, Argentine Ants, Aphids and Thrips just to mention a few.

IT IS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE FOR A FOREST TO RETAIN AN INTACT ECOSYSTEM WITHOUT INVERTEBRATES!

## ANTS

Very roughly ants fall into 3 different categories. There are thousands of species, many still un-named.

1. Predators (Carnivorous) - These include bullants and jumping jacks and prey on other ants and insects.
2. Scavengers - Meat ants fall into this category and there are numerous other small species. These ants live mainly on dead insects and some play a vital role in regeneration of native grasses, lilies and acacias by storing seeds of these species. Not all seed is destroyed and thus in the event of wildfire these stored seeds provide a supply for regeneration. Thus these ants play a valuable role in wildfire prone areas such as ours.
3. Nectar Eating Ants - these species play a vital role in the pollination of native plant species and some have a symbiotic relationship with species such as the Blue Butterfly, Caterpillars, Frog Hoppers, Scale Insects and native Aphids. The ants exchange protection from other predators for the honey substances these invertebrates secrete for them.

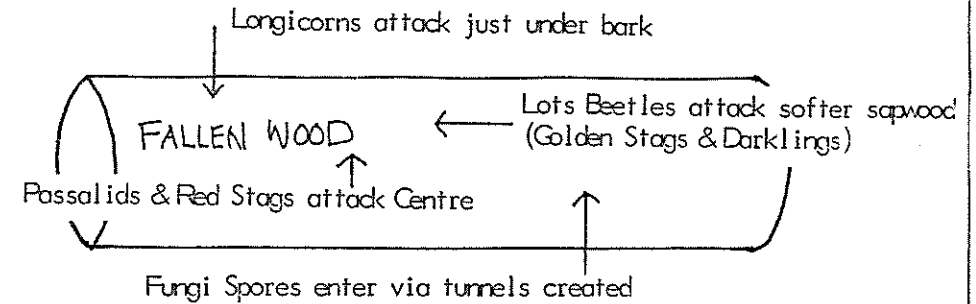
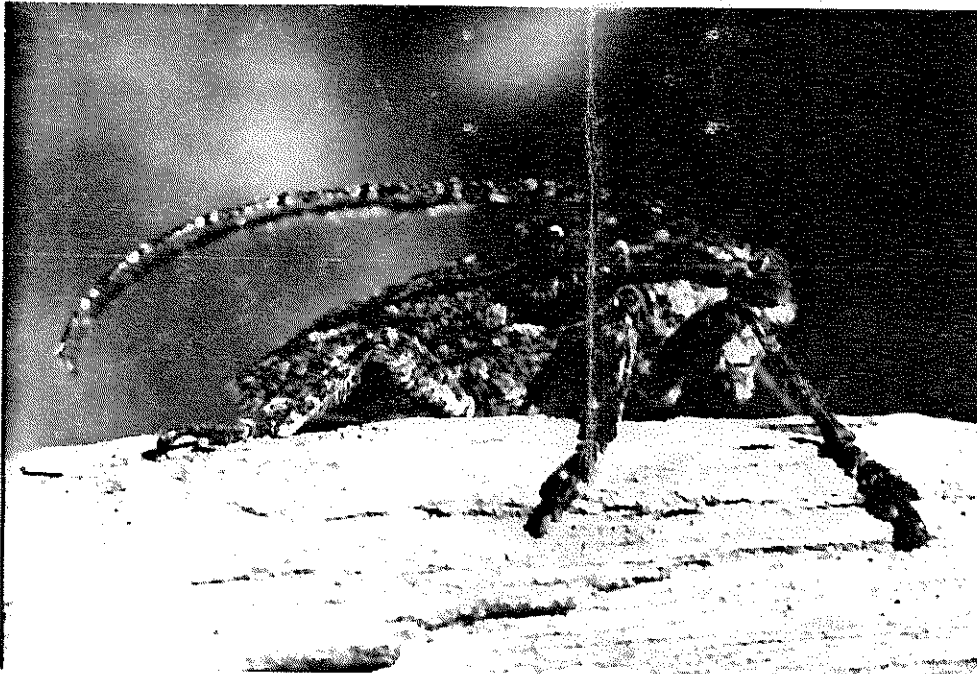
THE DISTURBANCE OF SOILS WHICH PROVIDE HABITAT FOR ANTS CAN LEAD TO REDUCTION IN NUMBERS AND SPECIES, AND THUS AFFECT THE BALANCE OF AN ECOSYSTEM PERHAPS LEADING TO AN INFLUX OF EXOTICE (PEST) SPECIES SUCH AS THE ARGENTINE ANT WHICH PLAGUES CITY AREAS BUT WHICH DO NOT OCCUR YET IN INTACT BUSHLAND.

## BEETLES

Beetles are most important as a single entity because more species play an integral role in the ecology than any other single group of creatures, providing immeasurable affects upon the growth and health of plant species and the presence of other flora and its dependent fauna.

Beetles play a vital part in the breaking down of dead wood to humus (soil). Longicorn beetles attack the outer areas of wood, Other types such as the Golden Stag and Darkling beetles attack the softer sapwood and Passalid beetles eat the inner heart wood of logs. All these beetles create tunnels allowing various fungi spores to enter. The Beetles and Fungis work in harmony to turn fallen forest wood into soil thus re-releasing trace elements locked into the trunks of trees and needed for the growth of flora.

The removal of large quantities of dead wood and fallen wood from a forest leads to loss of food and habitat for thousands of beetles. The beetles themselves in turn provide food for birds, lizards, frogs, other predator insects and for smaller mammals such as Bats.



Many of our beetles are incredibly beautiful, particularly the flower beetle which pays a major role in the pollination of Eucalypts, Ti Trees and other showy white-flowering, honey bearing trees and shrubs.

The Longicorn and Jewel Beetles also attack living trees and might appear to be pests however their role is to remove or kill sick trees thus creating room for healthy young trees to germinate. They do not remove whole stands of trees UNLESS the balance has already been disturbed by human impact.

THE LONGICORN BEETLE



## BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS

Butterflies are extremely beautiful, many of exquisite patterns and colours. They live only 6-8 weeks. As juveniles they eat foliage and seed pods and in doing so prevent certain flora species from proliferating in imbalance. Each species has its own food plant, in fact every plant in the bush has several insects including butterflies which feed on them, thus contributing to ecological balance.

For example, the Emperor Gum Moth, along with other foliage eaters, feeds on gum leaves appearing to do damage, but again only the healthy trees survive. This feeding also checks excess leaf growth which sometimes occurs after wet spells which promote bursts of heavy leaf growth and cause branches to fall.

Of the Mistletoe feeding species, we have 5 present in the Bend of Islands, the Imperial White, Wood White, the Dark Purple and Olane Azures (both quite rare generally) and the Giant Day Moth. The Mistletoe feeders reduce the foliage load and thus lessen the demands made on the host Eucalypts.

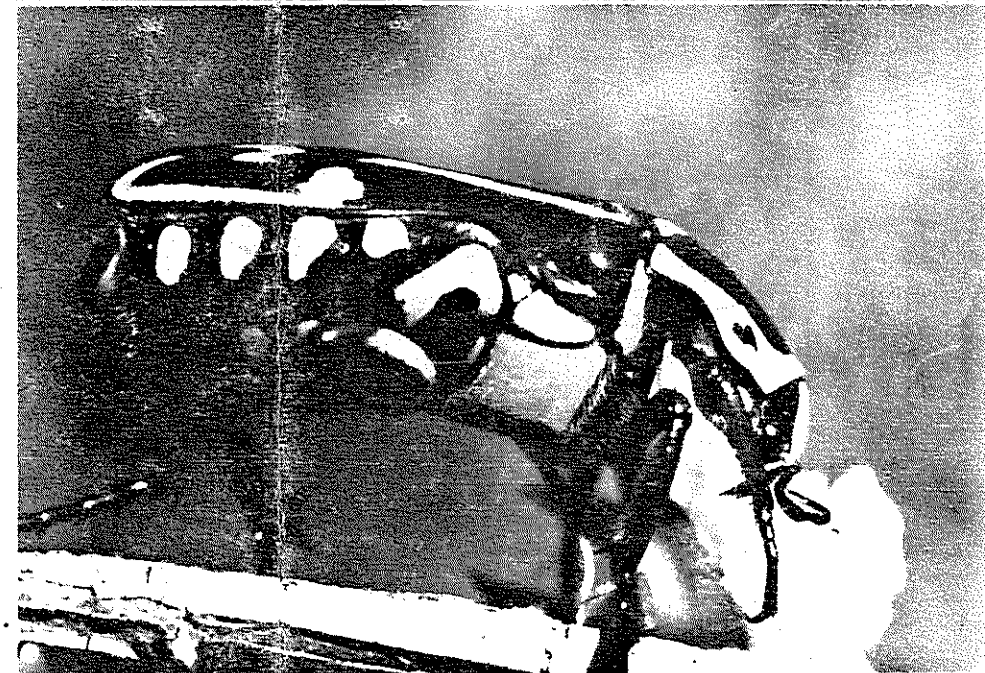
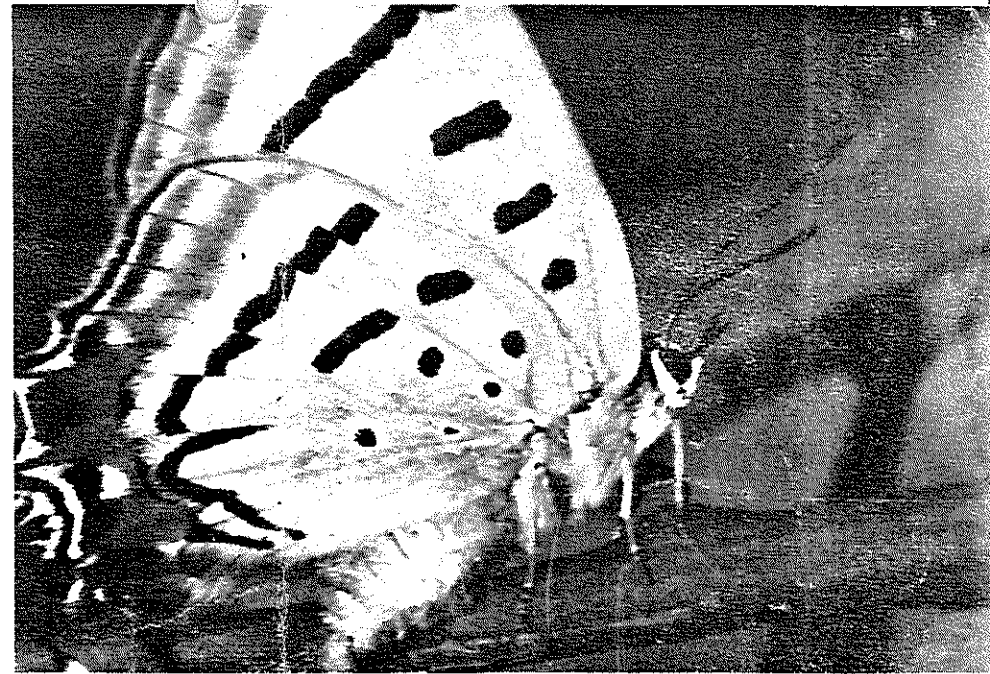
The Swift Moths come to the Bend of Islands in Autumn and live for only one week. They are very spectacular being huge (from 2 to 8 inches wide) and can be grey, beige or silver. The Swift Moth is an underground feeder, eating mainly Eucalypt roots although some species feed on native grasses and wattles.

A DROP IN NUMBERS, FREQUENCY OF SIGHTINGS OR DIVERSITY OF MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES CAN INDICATE THAT ALL IS NOT WELL ECOLOGICALLY IN A FOREST.

## SLUGS & SNAILS

The Semi slugs are not quite snails, still retaining humps on their backs but with no shell and are tussock feeders in turn providing food for birds including White Winged Choughs & Quail Thrushes. The Leopard slug is large (up to 5"), is pinky-grey with black leopard spots and eats pest slugs. Another native slug is dark dappled yellow with blue feelers.

The two native snails present are small (the largest is the size of a one cent coin) and these species feed on rotting wood and fungi.



Above: Imperial Blue Butterfly  
Below: Flower Beetle

ARACHNIDS (Spiders)

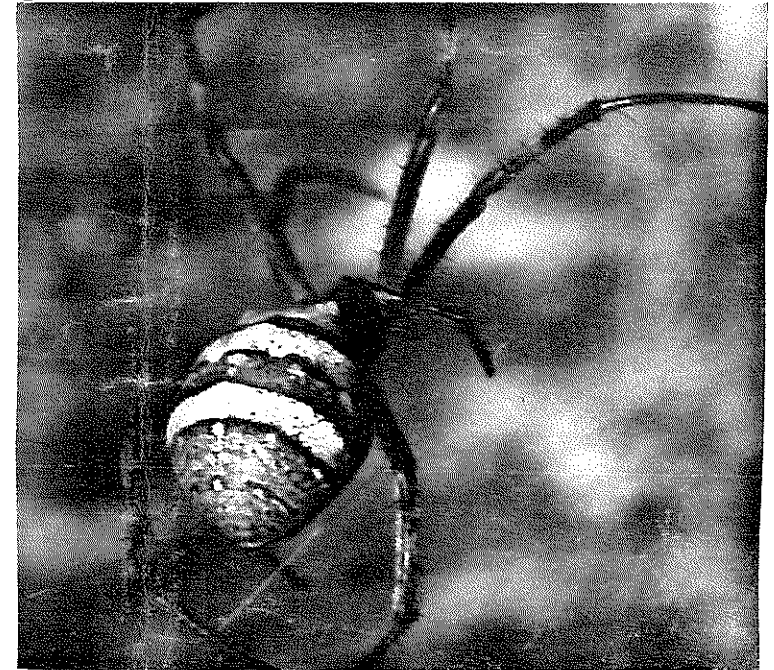
Most people shudder at the thought of spiders but they can be extremely beautiful if looked at closely with delicate and often colourful patterns. All spiders are predators and roughly fall into three types.

First, spiders which live in the soil such as Funnel Webs, Mouse & Wolf Spiders and Garden Spiders. Care should be taken however of any spider which lives in the soil.

Second, spiders which live under bark such as Night Stalkers, Huntsmen, the Shield and Flat Spiders.

Third, the web spinning spiders of which there are many varieties including the Golden Orb, the Needle, the Jewel and Flower Spiders and the St. Andrews Cross Spider. Many of this group are breathtakingly beautiful.

St. Andrews Cross Spider



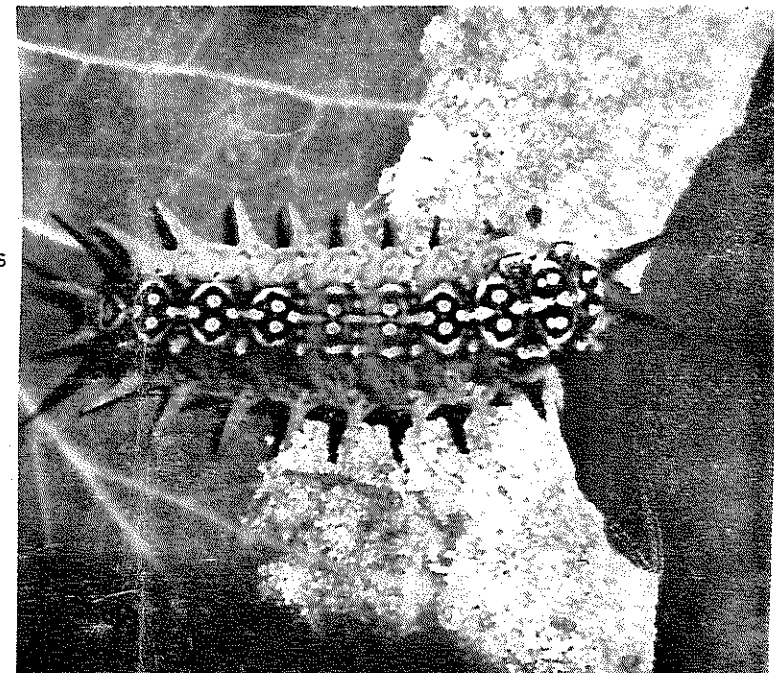
BEEES AND FLIES

Native bees are marvellous 'buzz pollinators' which literally 'vibrate' pollen from plants. Some are brightly coloured and others plainer grey/black. They are extremely important in the ecosystem being the only insects able to release pollen from species such as Dianella, Chocolate Lillies, Kangaroo Apple and a number of other native plants. It is suspected that the Leafcutter Bee is the only insect able to pollinate Diuris Orchids.

Not a great deal is yet known about the interdependence of bees and native plants however each new discovery points to native bees playing a critical part in the survival of native flora. Native bees find habitat in holes in dead wood eaten out by Longicorn Beetles, in the trunks of dead wattles, the bark of trees and sometimes in earth tunnels.

Native Flies pollinate flowers too, mainly Eucalypts and Ti Trees. Their larvae feed on rotting wood. There are hundreds of species, some quite beautiful. The Big, shy Buzz Flies with iridescent colours and patterns and the variety with a skull emblazoned on its black velvety body are to examples. The Buzz Fly is roughly 4 times the size of a Blow Fly and its wings are more aeroplane like. Native flies do not carry germs as they do not feed on refuse but on pollen.

Cup Moth Larvae eating gum leaves

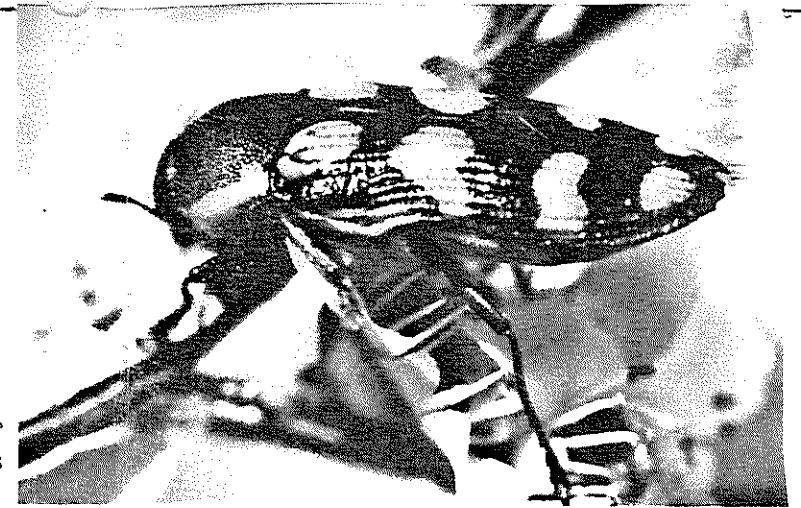


The scientific knowledge of invertebrates is limited considering the thousands of species which exist. There is a fear that some species may even become extinct before they are named/studied and thus their role in the ecology may never be known. However as research proceeds it becomes more clear that reductions in numbers and species will have detrimental affects on the ecology.

EXCERPTS FROM 'INVERTEBRATES WHO NEEDS THEM' (New Scientist 19/5/83 pp. 441,444 by Mark Collins & Susan Wells.

"Animals without backbones are of great importance to human beings in ecological, economic and aesthetic terms.

'Save the Whale has a convincing ring ... 'Save the Snail'? Attempts to argue the case for conserving invertebrates are often met with derision. Yet we ignore invertebrates, animals without backbones, at our peril. For one thing, there a lot of them about; some one and a half million species inhabit the world .. 30 times the number of species with backbones. All of those worms, corals, snails, butterflies, starfish, octopuses, prawns, clams, spiders, beetles and sponges make a significant contribution to the global eco-system, not least by providing humans with an important source of protein. And the very diversity of creatures, often adapted to unique ways of life, confirms their value even for the most self centre humans; for invertebrates have evolved answers to some of the biological problems that also confront people.



JEWEL BEETLE

Invertebrates are a source of valuable medically active compounds used in the diagnosis and treatment of a number of diseases. Invertebrates also play a crucial role in ecological networks, not least in the process of decomposition. Essential nutrients sequestered in living organisms must be extracted from dead organic hosts and returned to the soils whence they came, to begin again the journey from plant to herbivore to predator. Without invertebrates, soils as we know them would not form. Most of the world's soils contain an enormous biomass of invertebrates.

Insects are at work at the centre of all ecological processes, the reproduction of plant life and are essential for the pollination of a wide range of wildflowers.

Because of their small size and modest needs, invertebrates occupy ecological niches that are more numerous and smaller in all dimensions (space, time and son), and therefore more sensitive than those of vertebrates.

THE GREATEST THREAT TO INVERTEBRATES IS THE GROWING POPULATION OF HUMAN BEINGS, AND THE INCREASING EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND DESTRUCTION OF NATURAL HABITATS THAT FOLLOWS"

Right now, the Victorian Government is considering a proposal for legislation called THE NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA GUARANTEE. This proposal calls for invertebrates to be included in legislation so that when and where it is necessary, protective measures may be taken to ensure their survival and well being.

After reading this information on the role of invertebrates in the ecology, you might like to support the inclusion of invertebrates in the proposed legislation. You can do this by writing to the Minister for Conservation, Forests & Lands, Ms. Joan Kirner, 240 Victoria Pde., East Melbourne, 3002.

THANKS TO FABIAN DOUGLAS FOR INFORMATION & PHOTOS

# B.I.C.A. Calendar 1986/87

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 1986 - FIELD DAY 2 p.m. 'FAUNA OF THE BEND OF ISLANDS'

SUNDAY 25TH MAY, 1986 - GENERAL MEETING 2 P.M.

SATURDAY 28TH JUNE, 1986 - FIELD DAY ' LOWER PLANTS '

SATURDAY 19TH JULY, 1986 - WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/FILM

SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST, 1986 - GENERAL MEETING 2 P.M. 'WEEDS'

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, 1986 - WORKING BEE - WEED IDENTIFICATION

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER, 1986 - FIELD DAY 2 P.M. 'INVERTEBRATES'

SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 1986 - GENERAL MEETING 2 P.M.

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 1986 - 10 A.M. - WORKING BEE - WILLOWS/ROADSIDES

SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY, 1987 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2 P.M.

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH, 1987 - WORKING BEE 10 A.M.

SATURDAY APRIL 25 1987 - FIELD DAY 2 P.M. - 'GEOLOGY OF THE AREA'

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B.I.C.A Committee Meetings are held on first Friday of each month - Members welcome

President: Janet Mattiske (7120 237)

Secretary: Michael Pelling (7120 286)



# B.I.C.A. Working Bee



Watched by an apprehensive Norm Linton-Smith, Mick Woiwood wields a mighty blow to a vision-obstructing piece of vegetation. AT rear is Frank Pierce doing something?



Watched by an entranced Neil Harvey, Kay (Wonderwoman) Hawkins loads the ute!



Neil Harvey, demonstrates the art of looking busy by picking up a stick. Neil maintained on the day that the lack of a suitable hat sapped his vitality.



This little Bend of Islands Play-grouper bares all on the wilds of Catani. Seen hacking away at the environment are Dee and Franca.



Tim Ealey caught making a fast getaway.



John McCallum, unhampered by the lack of suiting hatting, shows the art of picking up two at a time. Watched admiringly by Janet Mattiske who at the time, was doing nothing at all.



# Autumn Planting

9.

Autumn is planting time! Now's the time to take cuttings from your native shrubs, to propagate native seeds (See Newsletter No. 13 for details on how to do it). It's also a good time to look around the nurseries for plants native to our area to add to your landscaped areas around the house. A quick check of three local nurseries revealed they have the following species available which are native to our own forest.

B = BRANCH OUT NURSERY - Cnr. Ringwood-Warrandyte Road & Oban Roads, North Ringwood (Joe Wilson - 876 3479)

C = CHALKA NURSERY - Ringwood/Warrandyte Road, South Warrandyte (Bill King - 876 1298)

M = MINGARA NURSERY - 740 Main St, Eltham (near Pub) (Ken Edwards - 439 3343).

IMPORTANT NOTE: None of the above nurseries had *Hardenbergia violacea* in stock, instead they all carry the hybrid 'Happy Wanderer'. The pure form was nearly always available in the past and it seems nurseries are simply not carrying it. The 'Happy Wanderer' is really quite different to the species native to this area and it would be a great pity if the hybrid plant was to proliferate widely at the expense of the pure species. If you have the Purple Coral Pea native to our area growing on your land, treasure it and perhaps propagate from the seeds it provides to ensure that this species is not replaced.

## TREES

Eucalyptus - Red Box, Red Ironbark and Yellow Box (C and M)

Acacia dealbata (B) Acacia stricta (B), Acacia pycnantha (B, C & M), Acacia genistifolia (B), Casuarina littorales (B & C),

## TALL SHRUBS

Spyridium parvifolium (Dusty Miller) (B), Sweet Bursaria (C).

## MEDIUM SHRUBS

Dilwynia cinerascens (Egg & Bacon) (B), Epacris impressa (heath) (B, M & C), Stylidium granifolium (Trigger Plant) (B),  
Acacia acinacea (C), Correa reflexa (C), Indigofera australis (C).

## GROUNDCOVERS AND CLIMBERS

Pimelia humilis (B), Isotoma (B), Goodenia humilis (B), Pratia (B), Kennedia prostrata (B), Clematis microphylla (B & C),  
Billardiera scandens (B & C).

Note: Mingara Nursery in Eltham usually have Eucalypts and if you ask, can often obtain other species.

# For the kids ...



How many words can you make from the letters of the word's COMMON WOMBAT?

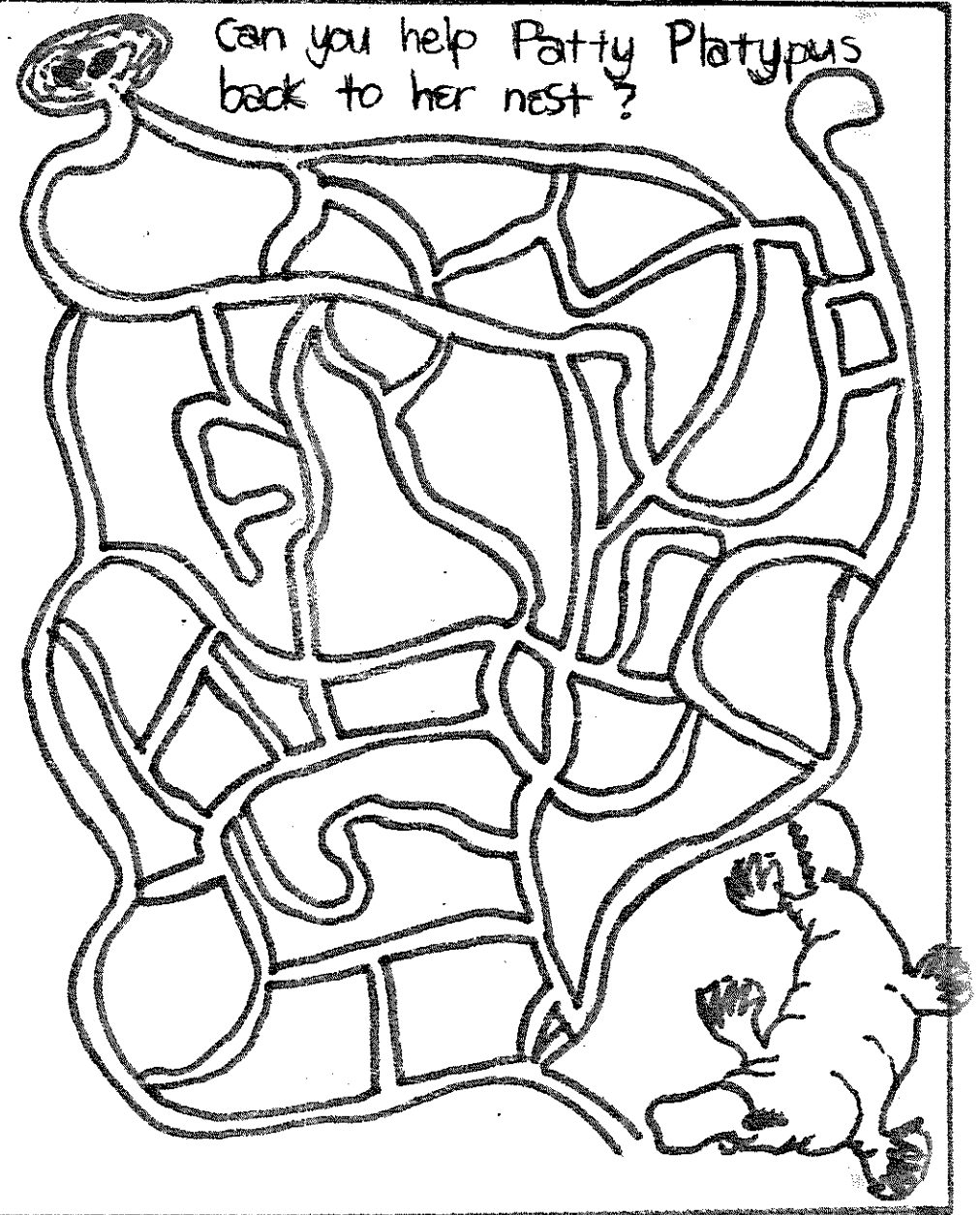
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Joke Time!!

Q: What can a wombat have that no other animal can have?

A: A baby wombat!



Can you help Patty Platypus back to her nest?

# B.I.C.A. Business

## 1988 B.I.C.A COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Janet Mattiske (712 0237)

VICE PRESIDENT: John McCallum (712 0319)

SECRETARY: Michael Pelling (712 0286)

TREASURER: Frank Pierce (712 0361)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Merdith Barker  
Andrew McMahon

Ross Henry  
Neil Harvey

Franca Majoor  
Mick Woiwood

Joy Coldrey  
John Roberts

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES 1985/86

Throughout 1985 the B.I.C.A Committee met each month and dealt with many and varied issues affecting the Bend of Islands area. In particular, emphasis in 1985 was placed on developing a greater understanding of our area, its ecology, our impact and ways of minimizing our impact. The Calendar of events included meetings, workshops, field days, working bees and guest speakers. The Committee was involved in ...

\* Attending Council meetings \* Supporting groups including 'Friends of Warrandyte State Park', 'Native Flora and Fauna Guarantee Support Group', the 'Upper Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges Environmental Council' and the 'Watsons Creek Consultative Committee' \* Submissions were prepared and presented on 'Local Government Restructure', 'Recreational Use of Sugarloaf Dam', 'Use of Watsons Creek Dam excess lands', Upgrading of Henley Road, the Final Report of the Ministry for Planning & Environment's Study Group and many other planning matters.

### NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF B.I.C.A

As proposed at the last Annual General Meeting, the Committee now intends to proceed with incorporation of B.I.C.A. For the cost of approximately \$60 the Association will be incorporated and thus as a legal entity, be recognized at appeal hearings. It will also remove liability from the Committee and/or Members of the Association. After this notice, a vote will be taken at the next General Meeting and the application completed.





DRAWING GROUP

10 a.m. Tuesdays Neil Douglas House

Come along or  
Contact Fabian or Tessa

7120 352

FOOD CO-OPERATIVE

7120 393

7120 547

like to join? Ring Cric or Wendi

CHRISTMAS HILLS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Contact Peter Mumme 730 1823

B.I.C.A NEWSLETTER

Contributors: Felicity Favis, Preece Family, Cric Henry,  
Syl Tunne, Hilary Jackman, Janet Maittiske,  
Fabian Douglas, Mick Weirwood, Michael Pelling

Convenor: Felicity 7120 422

Local Litter

FIRE BRIGADE AUXILIARY

New Members welcome

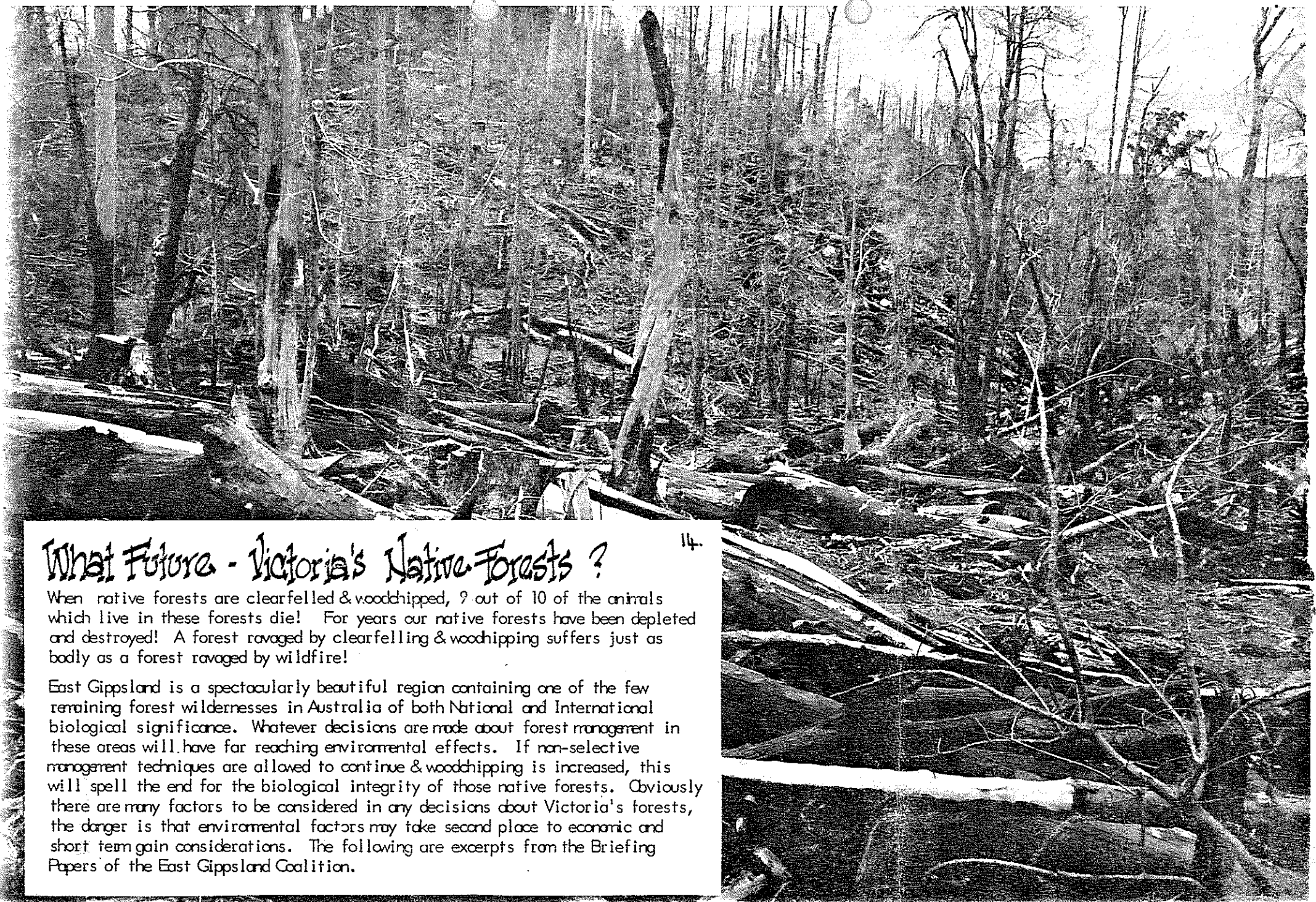
President: Shayne Parris

BABY SITTING GROUP-PLAYGROUP

Contact Pam McMahon 730 1652

MIXED BASKETBALL

Contact Pete Wilson 7120 220



## What Future - Victoria's Native Forests ?

14.

When native forests are clearfelled & woodchipped, 9 out of 10 of the animals which live in these forests die! For years our native forests have been depleted and destroyed! A forest ravaged by clearfelling & woodchipping suffers just as badly as a forest ravaged by wildfire!

East Gippsland is a spectacularly beautiful region containing one of the few remaining forest wildernesses in Australia of both National and International biological significance. Whatever decisions are made about forest management in these areas will have far reaching environmental effects. If non-selective management techniques are allowed to continue & woodchipping is increased, this will spell the end for the biological integrity of those native forests. Obviously there are many factors to be considered in any decisions about Victoria's forests, the danger is that environmental factors may take second place to economic and short term gain considerations. The following are excerpts from the Briefing Papers of the East Gippsland Coalition.

"East Gippsland is unquestionably Victoria's most diverse natural area. One third of all Victoria's plant species are found there, in an area which comprises just 4% of Victoria's land area. Many rare and endangered species are dependent on the area for much of their habitat. East Gippsland encompasses:

\* Most of the remaining mature montane forest in Victoria \* Nearly all the remaining pristine river catchments in Victoria \* The last extensive forested wilderness areas in Victoria \* Unique Sassafras dominated mature rainforest \* The largest remaining areas of both cool and temperate rainforest in Victoria \* Much of Victoria's oldest surviving vegetation dating back 500 years or more \* Large numbers of rare undescribed & endemic species of both flora and fauna including the following: the Long Footed Potaroo, the Tiger Quoll, the Giant Burrowing Frog, the Yellow Bellied Glider, the unique Podocarp, Mountain Plum Pine and the Giant Earthworm.

All these plant communities, habitats and species are endangered by present forestry practices and by the inadequacy of present reserves. Victoria has adopted clearfelling almost universally whilst N.S.W uses mainly selection systems.

Prior to 1945 the forests in this region were mainly pristine and untouched and since that time the policy of overcutting has led to

\* an unstable timber industry \* regional sustained yield estimates have collapsed & cannot be maintained at present rates of cut or even with a 50% reduction \* employment in the Timber Industry is exactly the same in 1985 as it was in 1954 \* little, if any timber, has been exported out of the country.

At the current rate of cut East Gippsland's forests will be incapable of supplying timber past the year 2030. In 100 years the forests in the region will have been completely cut out!

The 23 sawmills operating employ 550 people and involve clearfelling and burning techniques. Large areas are clearfelled of nearly all standing trees then burned. Studies show that Sawmills recover 39% of the wood from each log brought to the mill.

INTERGRATED HARVESTING is a term used by forest managers to describe logging for sawlogs AND WOODCHIPS. After good sawlogs are removed from the forest the remaining trees are cut and chipped for pulp in paper making. This wood is often referred to as pulpwood. Thus the technique of 'intergrated harvesting' is another name for 'clearfelling'. In East Gippsland it is generally accepted that for each sawlog felled, three pulp-logs can be obtained. At present 'intergrated harvesting' is not allowed however wood from sawmill waste is chipped and exported. These woodchip exports are subsidised by the Government and the process of woodchipping employs fewer people than a practice of value added products from timber would.

Those who advocate 'intergrated harvesting' argue that by removing pulp-logs they will be able to 'economically' harvest forest areas which are currently 'uneconomic' to harvest for sawlogs only.

Environmentalists believe that 'intergrated harvesting' invariably leads to wholesale forest destruction primarily aimed at satisfying the needs of the woodchip industry. Intergrated harvesting, clearfelling and woodchipping are seen by environmentalists as one and the same thing in that they are all highly destructive and unnatural forest management techniques.

FOUR STRONG ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF WOODCHIPPING RELATE TO:

\* its environmental impact \* the dominance of woodchipping over sawmilling when both compete for the same resource \* the financial burden imposed on the public through hidden subsidies to export woodchipping \* the inappropriateness of woodchipping as a solution to the economic problems of regions such as East Gippsland.



The Draft Timber Industry Strategy released by the Victorian Government in November, 1985, has proposed that woodchipping take place in any native forests where sawlogs are harvested, including East Gippsland. In East Gippsland the stated objective is to manage forests primarily for sawlog production. A case for woodchipping is presented on the basis that the 'residual wood' is a wasted resource which should be used. The unstated link in the argument is that it is 'clearfelling' which provides these 'residues' and the unsupported assumption that clearfelling is the best method of harvesting and regeneration in all forests under all conditions. Environmentalists feel it is an environmentally destructive technique.

The danger is, if presently 'uneconomic' sawlog harvesting areas are opened up then the emphasis will be on the pulpwood (woodchip). The Timber Industry Strategy states that sawlogging is the primary objective with pulpwood being a by-product, but if areas which are presently 'uneconomic' for sawlogging purposes only become 'economic' through the amount of pulpwood which can be obtained, then it is obvious that the primary objective is pulpwood.

The problem then is, how can the present economic problems of the region be overcome without resorting to large scale destruction of forest resources? The Environment movement has presented proposals based on 'selection systems' and on 'value added' timber production which add greater processing to any one piece of wood and accordingly have potential to provide more jobs than the woodchip industry. They have called on the Government to implement a Regional Economic Strategy which focuses on the development of the region's other attributes, including those related to the Timber Industry and including:

- \* the establishment of a re-afforestation program
- \* a plantation program oriented toward high quality furniture & decorative timber production (value added)
- \* the development of National Parks in the region, with provision for infrastructural work to enable the establishment of the proposed Parks, and the further development of existing ones
- \* the development of a tourism strategy for East Gippsland, which promotes the National Parks as well as the region's coastal features.

This would undoubtedly lead to a greater rate of increase in tourism-related employment it would also involve a commitment to expenditure and assistance to develop and publicise the region's attributes.

The amount of increased employment associated with the introduction of woodchipping is uncertain because of the extremely weak resource estimates for non sawlog material. The rate of employment is uncertain because of the uncertainties relating to its market, and the time required for contractors to gear up for the industry.

Integrated harvesting can have highly significant impacts on native flora & fauna. Many studies have been done on this and the conclusion of Bennett (1982 pp 3,4,12) is that ..

'Increased pulpwood production may be achieved by the expansion of pulpwood harvesting into areas currently uneconomic for sawlogs, such as young forest, marginal foothill forests, or forests having a high proportion of 'over mature' or defective trees. The implications for native fauna are ..

- \* additional widespread loss of mature forest
- \* replacement of large areas of mature forest with young regenerating forest in mosaic or uniform age classes
- \* widespread disturbance to the forest ecosystem.'

The foregoing excerpts are just a small part of a much more detailed analysis of the Government Timber Industry Strategy. Its a very complex issue but one which will affect forever the native forests of Victoria. IF YOU CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR NATIVE FORESTS, FIND OUT MORE BY CONTACTING THE EAST GIPPSLAND COALITION (663 1561).



Peter Rawlinson



# Natural Dyes

Years ago i began experimenting with dyes from native plants. They can provide beautiful colours.

The reddish shades come from Red Box leaves and many others including Eucalyptas crenulata. It needs no 'mordant' (a substance often a mineral salt, which causes the material to take the dye and can alter colours). I used a galvanized iron rubbish bin at first and would half fill it with leaves, cover them with water and boil up wool for hours. It is all a bit mysterious because sometimes the colour comes quickly in 20 minutes to an hour and other times hours of boiling will give only a pale colour. Some say the colour is best at the end of a long dry spell.

I use Long Leaf Box a lot too, as these are plentiful in the Bend of Islands area. It gives a pale orange and if copper sulphate is added, it goes green. If I added Sulphate of Iron then I would get brownish shades or olive green or mixtures of these.

Sometimes I took the material out and replaced it with new material to be dyed and I got a blueish colour which was rare in natural dyeing.

Wild Cherry and Black Wattle leaves give an olive green but the material being dyed needs to be inserted inside say pantyhose or it fills with bits of leaves.

Red Box bark gives a cream colour. I haven't tried native lichen but branches from dormant trees covered with lichen gave a rich ginger colour when fresh and a pale green when used the day after picking. Its all very tricky.

To give multi coloured effects I would hang skeins of wool in the dye so that only one end of the skein was in the dye bath. Then I would turn it around when I added another mordant or put in a different dye bath. Long Leaf Box was very good for this as it would give all shades of orange and green and brown.

Dyeing fabrics already woven is difficult but people have done it successfully that I know of with Red Box Leaves. The leaves would need stirring for hours or perhaps the colour extracted from the leaves and then strained to remove them before adding the fabric. The trick is .. try anything!

Most of the other eucalypts in the Bend of Islands area other than those I've mentioned, give a lemon yellow shade.



Leaf Beetle larvae eating a Red Box Leaf

