

BEND OF ISLANDS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INC

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20th Anniversary Newsletter

Number 44 April 1999

What Native's Flowering? by Cric Henry

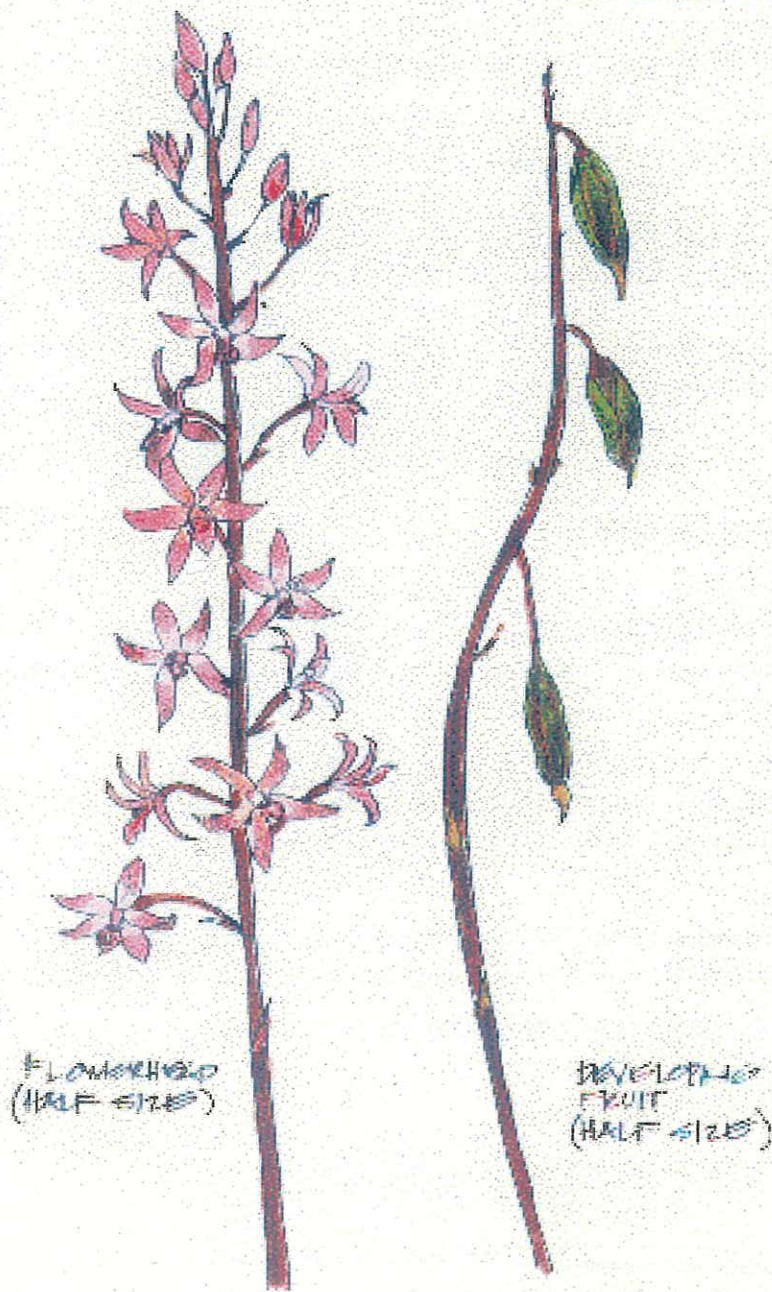
Botanical Name:	<i>Dipodium roseum</i>
Common Name:	Hyacinth Orchid
Family:	Orchidaceae
Flowering Period:	Late Summer

A perennial herb with flowering stems appearing in late Summer, with a few late flowers in Autumn. The stem is straight or sinuous, leafless, fleshy, 4-8 mm thick and a purplish-red colour, varying in height to 0.3 to 0.9 metres. The flowering stem carries few to many flowers arranged in a terminal pyramidal raceme i.e. a 150-300 mm. long unbranched spray of stalked orchid flowers in a pyramidal shape at the end of the stem. The flowers are pink with darker reddish purple spots. Each individual flower is about 1-3 cm. across, consisting of 3 sepals, 2 petals (up to 17 mm. long) and a modified petal, (the labellum) in front of the male and female parts. The labellum is 3 lobed, erect, up to 13 mm long and hairy on the under surface. Pollination is by native bees,

A few plants were seen flowering in the Bend of Islands in January and early February. As this newsletter goes to the printer, flowering has finished and all that remains is a darker, brownish, more shrivelled stem with 3 large developing seed pods.

Dipodium roseum is the largest of the ground orchids, growing from an intricate and extensive branching of underground tubers and roots. Being completely leafless the plant obtains its nutrients from dead organic material, supplied by a fungus in the root system of associated eucalypts.

The Hyacinth Orchid is difficult to cultivate, due to this close association with the fungi and the roots of other plants to provide the nutrients for the developing seed germination. Survival of the species in the bush depends on letting seed be dispersed in their natural surroundings and not spreading the seed or moving the plant to a different location. If left undisturbed the pods distribute the many seeds readily.



FROM THE EDITOR

Once again, thank you to all contributors to the BICA Newsletter. It is always a bit of a scramble getting the thing together; nothing like working under stress for a good result! This time, however, I seem to have had more time than usual and have been able to hone my desk-top publishing skills on the cover page.

Looking back over some past issues as, it seems have a number of other people, I noticed a number of Newsletters with a theme to the articles. These days there seems to be a sufficient quantity of material of a varied nature for this to be neither possible nor necessary.

We have a wide range of contributions from our regulars and I have dug up a few pictures from our illustrators in the past. Syd sends his wishes to the critters in his birthday cartoon.

Thanks again Cric for a wonderful picture. When I asked if she wanted to re-use some illustrations from past covers, Cric was adamant that she would prefer to present a new species. In fact she suggested a couple of possibilities! It seems that she isn't going to run out of ideas for a few years yet.

The article by Mal I have reproduced with little or no editing. It is the story, long overdue, of BICA from the time it became really active until the time Mal moved away. Mick's potted history of the Newsletter is in his usual wry style and presents a good summary of the kind of articles that have made this journal popular. Frank has provided us with an update on the BICA Bird Survey; must get him to do another of those little articles that help us to sort out those difficult to distinguish members of our local bird fauna. Sheila has entertained us over the years and looks set to continue to do so. Readers will remember her childhood reminiscences of the Bend of Islands in earlier issues.

For a quick observation on important issues Peter Gurney has been a regular contributor and his informative note on weeds this issue resurrects a theme that we ran some years ago. Solid, factually based material has been supplied by Steve Craig for most newsletters that I have looked after and his concern for real conservation is reflected in his questioning of some of our ideas and practices.

We have nearly always had some reference to the activities of the local fire brigade in the Newsletters. This reflects the unique relationship between BICA and the Brigade. Dianne elaborates on this in her article this issue.

The importance of Town Planning in the story of our area is covered in Janet's article and a number of other contributors have provided material for this important issue of our Newsletter

From long before I took over editorship, this Newsletter has received complimentary comments from outside the area, not just because it reflects community environment values, but because of its sound conservation basis. It is a credit to all who have had anything to do with it. Be proud of it and continue to support our Association and its journal. **JM**

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Field Day Date Change

The date for the field day at Alan Reid's property in Glenburn has been changed to Sunday, April 25. Meet at the South (Catani Boulevard) Fire Station at 9.00 am.

Night Event

Thanks to all performers and the audience. As usual the music was of a high standard and a nice nights entertainment was had by all.

Future Events

Don't forget the general meeting in May and the Trivia Night in July. See the last BICA News-sheet for details of these and other activities in 1999

New Number for Wildline: 0500 540 000



YARRA BRAE FOLLIES

by Mal McClure

It was good to get a contribution to this anniversary newsletter from Mal. He and I worked closely together for a period during the early years of BICA. As Mal says in the article, BICA had a role as a community organisation before Yarra Brae days; my first introduction was in the late 60s. The then Shire of Healesville, through their 'Proper Officer' (now Fire Prevention Officer), required every landowner to cut down all plants of smaller trunk diameter than 300mm. BICA and others acting on their own behalf were successful in reaching a satisfactory solution to this. Then came Yarra Brae.

BICA apparently existed, however, for some years prior to this, perhaps from the late 40s. The Weigall family know more about this and an article about this era would make fascinating reading.

JM

Oh, how well I recall those halcyon days in 1969 when Allie and I settled in the Bend of Islands. We had 3 acres on Ironbark Road and for 3 years we thoroughly enjoyed our escape from suburbia. Then, in January 1973, Premier Hamer announced that the government would implement the recommendations of the 1961 Parliamentary Public Works Committee report on the future of Melbourne's water supply and take water from the Yarra above Warrandyte. Three dams were proposed, the lowest at Yarra Brae which would dam up 16 miles of the river and ensure that Melbourne would never again suffer the water restrictions which were recurring more and more frequently as the years passed and the population increased. The water was to be pumped up to a higher storage dam on Sugarloaf Creek and the third stage would be a very large reservoir on the upper reaches of Watsons Creek behind Panton Hill.

We resigned ourselves to the fact that we had been given a few blissful years on the river and it seemed that we would have to accept the situation and move on. However, when we went further into the alternatives available we found that there was plenty of clear mountain water to be obtained from the Big River north of the Great Divide yet this had been rejected by the PPWC. More research into the motivation behind the PPWC Report revealed that the govern-

ment was sticking to a promise made by former Premier Bolte in the fifties that 'not one drop of country water would ever be piped to Melbourne'. Victoria then had a stable one-party government after decades of coalition rule and there was no way that the current government was going to do anything which might disaffect country voters.

The appalling factor in this decision was that there was a huge surplus of this pure Big River water helping to overflow Eildon Reservoir on the country side of the Divide and subsequently swelling the Goulburn River on its way to the irrigated fruit farms in the Shepparton and surrounding districts. The end result was so much underground water flowing in the aquifers that damaging salts were being leached to the surface and killing off the fruit trees.

So we had this idiotic situation where the Victorian government was committed to a policy which maintained the status-quo regardless of environmental and other considerations and the newly elected Whitlam Federal government had instituted a scheme which paid the fruit farmers to pull their dead and dying trees out of the ground. It would have been a perfect subject for a 'Yes, Minister' episode had it not been so seriously true.

As the pieces of the jigsaw came together we quickly lost all of our earlier thoughts about accepting the situation. A few of us formed the Yarra Brae Action Committee to do what we could to publicise the reasons why we were destined to lose our river environment if we did nothing. Our major effort was holding a meeting in the Warrandyte Hall in September 1973. We had arranged for the three Melbourne universities to be leafleted, had posters displayed throughout all towns in the area and the hall was packed with well over 400 people. It was a lively meeting!

The most positive effect from then on was that both the Government and the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works, the precursor of the present Melbourne Water, had become aware of our existence and, having had their own representatives in attendance at our protest meeting, believed that there was significant opposition in the area to their plans. In actual fact, most of the initial impetus came from the dynamic, redoubtable Renate Block who, with her husband Gerd Block, owned a riverside weekender in Catani Boulevard. Gerd Block had done a superb job of chairing the September meeting which became quite boisterous at times.

The role that Allie and I played then was more in terms of researching the available data, talking endlessly to wellwishers and devising strategies to exploit all the conflicting positions which we uncovered. Dorothy Weigall was our archivist, building voluminous files on everything associated with the Yarra Brae project and associated water development schemes. But, a couple of months after the Warrandyte meeting, Gerd and Renate moved to new Zealand and we sorely missed Renate's drive and vigour for we then had to undertake her role as well as our own. She was the right person for the time she was with us, though, and the nature of our campaign changed to a more constructive rather than confrontational approach after we had received the recognition that the meeting had brought about.

A rich source of material for us were the annual reports issued by the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission who were more concerned with maintaining control over country water than doing anything about the environmental disasters it was creating. We found many statements and data which were often inconsistent with the position taken by the M.& M.B.W. which was more concerned with building more and bigger dams wherever the opportunity arose. The M.& M.B.W. already had plans on the drawing board to build the huge existing reservoir on the Thomson River in Gippsland which rendered the proposed Watsons Creek dam superfluous as soon as it came on stream.

This was the crux of our argument against building the Yarra Brae dam. We could see that it was a short-sighted insurance policy against the possibility of drought, which would cost the government city votes if suburban Melbourne was required to accept water restrictions in the few years before the Thomson was added to the system. To us, this was a poor justification for despoiling Melbourne's major river for all time.

We found a great ally in Tim Colebatch of 'The Age' who was that paper's environmental writer at the time. We were feeding him information which we turned up and he was writing very convincing articles which caused the government and the M.& M.B.W. some concern. For these were not opinions we were presenting but obvious facts which could not be denied.

From this publicity, which was supported by careful data verification to ensure that no accusation of either inaccuracy or political bias could be sustained against us, we developed a mutual respect with the Chief Engineer of the M.& M.B.W. for each other's position which enabled us to negotiate a settlement of the issue in November 1973. The government had to take the credit, of course, and it took another five months before they made their announcement that plans for the Yarra Brae dam would be scrapped, the Sugarloaf Dam and treatment plant would be built, and the Watsons Creek dam plans would be shelved indefinitely. This was a completely satisfying outcome from our position and far better than we had hoped to achieve when we first took up the issue.

Of course, there were many others who made a personal input to the environmental case against the Yarra Brae dam. Neil Douglas was always a loose cannon firing off his salvos to any who would listen. He gained the attention of the electronic media more than anyone else and this publicity was most useful to the cause.

It may surprise some that I have made no mention of BICA so far. This is because BICA's input was played by the established rules of the game and 'activism' was almost a dirty word in those days. BICA was primarily a residents association in its early years and it was mainly concerned with local issues such as fire protection, roads, no dogs or firearms etc. It was not geared up to deal with such a large issue as the Yarra Brae dam was promising to be.

In fact, a rift had developed between the President and Secretary of BICA at the time and, although adjacent neighbours, they were not talking to each other. No meeting of BICA had been held since October 1970 and none was called following the announcement of the Yarra Brae project in January; nor any called until I got together with John McCallum and drew up a petition in accordance with the BICA constitution to demand that a meeting be called. This took place in August 1973, seven months after the announcement, and it soon became quite clear that political affiliations would obstruct any attempt to pursue a solution from within BICA on environmental grounds.

We had started off with the notion that sweet reason would win our case for us and so, when I was elected to the position of BICA secretary at that meeting, my first action was to put together a 25 page submission which included much

scientific data from a number of expert contributors. The game plan was that this would be considered along with all the other hundreds of personal and organisational submissions and duly considered by the government before it made its final decision. This is the way democratically elected governments run things; they always know what their final decision is going to be but they need to abide by the illusion that they have given the people the opportunity to have their say before they pronounce it.

But the M.& M.B.W. had commenced initial drilling at the dam site back in June, before the formal government procedures were gazetted so we did not really trust the democratic process. And because they had 'jumped the gun' in this respect, they had given us an opportunity to publicise the issue through Tim Colebatch and *The Age*.

A major factor that influenced Premier Hamer in our favour was an invitation by Renate Block to spend a weekend at their Catani Boulevard house. Renate was on friendly terms with the Premier's wife, April Hamer. The feedback we received after this weekend was that the Premier was so moved by the imminent destruction that he said, 'We must find an alternative; we cannot destroy this beautiful place'. Soon after, he made a statement that the dam may be built seven miles upstream to save the Bend of Islands and the gorge. And this was the time when we were negotiating the alternative with the M.& M.B.W.

There is so much more that could be told here but I do not have the time to write a book. The situation was changing on a daily basis and I am talking here of an eighteen month period. But after the Yarra Brae battle was over we then had the speculators waking up to the increased value of their sites so we needed to deal with that issue. Our Environmental Living Zone was the solution to this problem. Then we had the S.E.C., now Eastern Energy, wanting to chop down our trees, the still-present threat of a ring road through the area, the pressure for development and associated infrastructure and so on.

The history of planet Earth has always been a battle between those who seek to use it for their own self-centred purposes and those who seek to preserve its integrity for future generations. We can be grateful that many who seek to preserve it are automatically led to live in the same area and thus we create our own society which largely provides the values which are so important to most of us.

FIRE FACTS by Steve Craig

There are a number of interesting points resulting from the analysis of the location of forest fires. Five per cent of forest fires occurred in National Parks, burning 4.3% of the total area burnt. This is substantially lower than the 20% of public lands that National Parks and reserves represent in Victoria. State Forest comprises about 53% of Victorian public land. Fifty-six per cent of all forest fires originated in State Forest, burning 88% of the total area burnt by forest fires. Therefore, in terms of potential risk of ignition, the risk is more than four times greater in State Forest than in National Parks or other reserves, in terms of the area burnt. These facts conflict strongly with the commonly expressed view that National Parks and reserves increase the risk of wildfire.

Analysis of the different causes of fires in different land tenures shows that lightning fires were equally frequent in both National Parks and in State Forest. With the exception of arson, which is twice as frequent in National Parks, most other ignition causes were less frequent in National Parks.

The community is often quick to point the finger at National Parks and other reserves for increasing fire risk or as the cause of wildfires when apportioning blame after the event but on the available statistics, managers of National Parks are four to eight times more effective at reducing fire risk than are managers of State Forest.

Reference:

Fire and Biodiversity, The Effects and Effectiveness of Fire Management. Department of Environment Sport and Territories. Biodiversity Series, Paper No. 8, Biodiversity Unit, October 1994.



ANOTHER TWENTY MILESTONES PASSED

by Mick Woiwod

This edition marks the 20th Anniversary of the Bend of Islands Newsletters. The first came out in March 1979; this is its 44th, just over two a year, all of which except the first having an indigenous plant to adorn its front cover. Great continuity Cric in line with the newsletter's founding artist, Neil Douglas, whose art appeared in the first.

Like all top publications editors have come and gone over the years, each adding their bit to the common weal and ultimate worth of the Bend of Island community. Mostly though they've been a team effort in which once a contributor's arm has been twisted all would gather to endlessly circle the Henry's kitchen table picking up pages for others to staple and address. The first issue (1979) edited by Jenny Bayley, was partly handwritten and partly typed and ran to a mere four pages – no whiz-bang computers then to delight the eye!. It farewelled Mal McClure from the district, and, for those unaware of his central role in the then developing community, look for it in this edition. The topics of 1979 were fire brigade, land sales, roads, subdivisions, recycling and an apt story headed 'Sense of Community', all still to the fore today

Newsletter 2 was a bumper issue, running to seventeen pages, to inform all and sundry that Jim Mattiske had organised BICA's inaugural Bird Walk' and that spring had seen the appearance in the district of Cara Gurney, Simon Herd, Tobey Henry & Raiannin Leach – all very sophisticated and at the wheels of cars these days. A suggestion too that Mt Lofty ought to be made a National Park (a further 18 years along the track and it became incorporated into Warrandyte State Park). As usual, enthusiasm was running high and the third edition bettered the record and ran to a mighty 28 pages. Newsletter 4 though saw it's editorial staff down to earth devoting the issue almost entirely to weeds. Notable inroads have been made into the ranks of those devils since then!

Next edition (No. 5, 1982) saw many future residents busily building their mud-castles and local architect Ross Henry acquainting us how best to site them against that other local devil, 'fire'. The decks were being cleared too for the formal Gazettal of the ELZ. Who'll ever forget the marvellous scene on

Oxley Bridge with the flower-bedecked cumbungi 'ribbon' barring the way, ready to be formally cut by 'The Minister', then, after the speech-making, all trooping up the hill for afternoon tea at 'Dougo's' – another milestone for our remarkable community.

What better caption for an article in the subsequent issue than 'In the Beginning', an eight page story by Betty Littlehales dealing with a world that once was out here in the gum trees.

Still no up-front editor revealed but Felicity appears to have been a guiding light with articles on 'endangered species' & 'fauna & flora guarantees', others by Tim Ealey on Phascogales, John Roberts on Shire affairs (we even had our 'own' councillor in those days), Claire Watson on K. G. farms and Sheila Dixon with wonderful tales of growing-up in the Bend of Islands; also Jeph Neale on 'fire' and how best to deal with it.

Who remembers the food Co-op we had up and going before modern lifestyle seems to have got in the way? And the Fire Brigade Balls in the old Chrissy Hills Hall and Ross Henry and Glennie getting up its present extension? Articles here by John McCallum on 'Sugar gliders', 'algae' and 'ferns'.

Art has been a strong feature of our informative newsletter. At first it was Neil Douglas, Cric & Ross, then along came Syd Tunn adding his inimitable laugh and wry humour to the serious affairs of state, Hilary too, with droll choughs and gum leaves – not that the editor of the day ever refused the odd pirated image from any old unnamed outside source.

That's the typical mud-brick Benders of the ELZ all over – artistic to a sin with anyone with a talent willing to be a part once the editor of the day has turned the screw. Sure, but how different it all was then! the old road out from K.G as rough as they come and a veritable flock of handwritten signs on the Catani-Henley corner to let the outside world know where in the gum trees they might find us. But the world it were a-changing

You can see it there in the winter edition of 1985 with Felicity's 'Some Further Thoughts on Life in the ELZ' in which she laments the loss of local 'culture'. Here are her musings on the subject:

'Upon settling in the ELZ I was amazed and jubilant to find a vast array of

different 'types' there were what I call the 'old settlers' (those here before the green boom), a dozen or so nuclear families, a collection of dedicated 'greenies', a couple of hobby farmers, one real old style farmer, and finally, a bagful of miscellaneous misfits which included painters, potters, wheeler dealers, builders, musicians, academics, plumbers and others with no tag at all. A bunch of bods living alone, in vague couple situations and small groups.'

And, here's Felicity once again further along in her musing: 'For me it's sad to see our drifters and dreamers, our crazies, stirrers, wheeler-dealers and tellers of tall tales moving on. Together they made a lovely mish-mash of ideas and lifestyles.'

Another article to stand out was captioned 'A Bunyip Buggers Off'. It's in newsletter 16 – an interview with Neil Douglas put to paper by Felicity complete with a grand snap of the Bunyip himself, all whiskers and homespun, draped across an equally gnarled old log. Here's Neil speaking under the sub-heading, 'There are Triumphs and Disappointments':

In 1976, the ELZ was part of the United Nations Human Habitat Conference in Canada. We were hailed as a world precedent because we were a sort of National Park owned and managed by its residents. I think that we're one of the most vital experiments ever to take place in the rat race. We're still here and we're accepted in the corridors of power so to that extent it's a great achievement.'

That was in '86. How much more the achievement today, thirteen years down the track! Too often, it seems, we're inclined to live for the moment without the important backward glance at the path we've trod to ponder our 'triumphs and disappointments'. The road may have been somewhat rocky at times but now it's all sealed.

One complete set of newsletters at least has survived the years to inform us of

the path we've trod although a question mark seems to hang over 'No 15'. Was it ever printed or did its editor miss out on a finger? – there's a reward, I believe, awaiting the one to bring it in!

Here's a pot-pourri of further themes, story-tellers and issues dealt with over the years to jog a few memories:



Abbie Heathcote on natural dyes, Norm on Antarctica, Neil Harvey on a potted history of the Co-op, Alan on 'meandering monotremes', Janet & Frank on their 'puggle' progeny, Meg on groupies afoot, Laura & Todd on Tuans, Cara & Guy on Clean-up Australia, Sheila on yellow-tailed blacks, Rodney on rabbits & the foxes supposed to devour them, the Bonneys on how they escaped Montmorency (ferals, or garden escapes, I imagine?). Also there's Barb Whiter on silverfish and her 'first night experience' (not connected it seems) – and so the good and the bad with the years roll on : Marie on wedge-tails, Jeph on fire (wow!-ed), Steve on owls, Jo à la cafe benders, Carol on boot-bending & 'walk, talk and gawk', Peter on nails (in trees) and working bees of the non-indigenous kind, Martin on ants, Teri on termites, Dianne on rat-packs, Sheila on wasps, Frank on cuckoos, and good old Millo's 'As Time Goes By', Tony on non-alcoholic pub walks, and somewhere in there I'm sure someone on copulating male antichinii? – what on earth's dear Felicity on about – surely we're just as weirdo as ever!

Anyhow, surely it must be considered 'relaxed and comfortable' to be a little around the bend at times if only to be able to escape on the odd binge into the urbs

for a Lebanese Dinner or a canoodle down the water we know as the Yarrer or for an escape to that other mad mob up the creek for a grudge match of cricket Or better still, and more often, a Saturday drive to St Andrews to know deep in our hearts that we're not nearly as weird as some in the rat-race might think us.

BIRD SURVEY REPORT

by Frank Pierce

The Bird Survey group has now had 107 walks and the results of these are attached to this Newsletter. Also attached is a copy of the Bend of Islands Bird Recorder for your use.

The weather has been rather extreme over the previous year or two, with a dramatic decrease in the foliage in the 1997/98 summer/autumn due to the very low rainfall in '97. The numbers of all honeyeaters were significantly lower than previous years. No yellow tufted honeyeaters were recorded in the '98 winter after consistent records in the three previous years. On the other hand gang gang cockatoos, rainbow lorikeets, long-billed corellas and darters seem to be on the increase in the ELZ. Some unusual sightings were recorded last summer including yellow rosellas, masked woodswallows and a red capped robin. Powerful owls and wedgetailed eagles have both bred successfully for the last two years with one or two chicks fledging each time. This summer, brown goshawks have bred at three locations in the ELZ.

The bird survey walks are held on the second Sunday of each month, we meet at the upper corner of Henley and Catani. All members are welcome to join us. We are keen to record any unusual birds or happenings in the ELZ and request that these be reported for follow up by our group:

Please ring me on 97120237 if you have any queries or items to report.

WEEDS AND LANDCARE

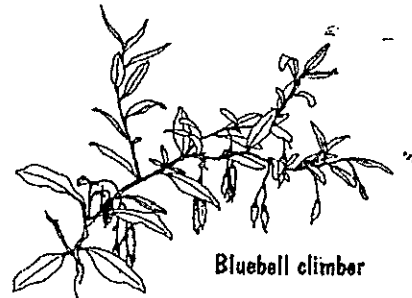
by Peter Gurney

Since November our local landcare group has been chasing the normal issue of summer weeds; blackberries and thistles in the main. But we have to report that we are finding a couple of relatively common garden plants are escaping into the bush in serious numbers and causing extra work to control. The two escapees are bluebell creeper (*Sollya*) and agapanthus.

Blue Bell Creeper

Bluebell creeper is a West Australian plant which was planted around a number of local homes years ago without anyone understanding its potential to spread. Birds and other animals eat the seeds and then deposit them through their droppings into the bush, also the wind disperses seeds when the pods open. We have had three working bees pulling out young plants along Catani Blvd

between Ironbark Rd and Gongflers Drive, and also down Henley Rd extension, and we have removed many hundreds of small vigorously growing plants. They have also been seen in a number of other locations. We encourage you to get rid of any plants of this species



Bluebell climber

Thank you to Lauryn and Brendan at 119 Catani Blvd, to Joyce Harriss and to Alwyn and Marion for removing the mature bluebell creepers from their properties. This plant has been seen at other homes in the ELZ and if you have any doubt what the plant looks like please

phone me (9712 0408). I may also be able to arrange to help you get rid of your plants.

Agapanthus

This attractive garden plant is also now starting to spread through our local bushland. Like bluebell creeper, agapanthus was also planted in the ELZ some years ago in small clumps around some homes and has now spread by bulb division and seeding into larger clumps, some of which have joined up to exclude any native plants. The species also spreads by seed.

It is relatively easy to stop agapanthus spreading. Keep some plants at your place and enjoy the colour through the summer. Please though, cut off the flower heads before they seed, bag them and put them in your rubbish bin or wait until burning restrictions are off and then tip the flower heads into a pile and burn them.

Finally

If you would like to help keep our bush healthy please join in with the Landcare Group working bees which are generally held on the third Sunday afternoon each month. Watch the sign tree for details.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BICA NEWSLETTER

by Shiela Dixon

So, it is 20 years for the BICA Newsletter. That makes it about 13 for me, give or take a memory lapse or two. It seems that one minute I was working and living in Carlton, the next having a long conversation with choughs. How the mighty have fallen!

Way back then it was a frantic day in the clinic where I worked, my main hobby being books on alternative lifestyles, herbs and vegetables. I used to dream of the acres in the country with the time to go back to cooking, jam making and herb drying; above all, how my life was not conducive to this.

One morning, however, I lifted my head from the pillow, sat up and said 'I'm going to finish work, go on the pension and build a house at Kanga. Within a fortnight I had told the family, put the house on the market and organised my retirement.

As this was the first house that I had built I left my brains in the back garden at Carlton. My boss at the clinic used to say 'any fool can have hindsight'. Mine now is that I wish that I had built in mud brick. I like the inside of my house but it seems that the outside is there solely for the cockies to nibble on.

However, there is more to living up here than houses. There are my Christmas Hills just waiting out there for a drink, to make jam for to hammer a nail in, to give me a hand with the garden and many other tasks over the years. Then there are the dinners and the friendship with the lady next door and the smell of this place when I come home from the city. Oh, also the smell of the chicken concentration camp up the hill on a hot evening!



I can watch the seasons come and go on the river and hear the new crop of birds in the spring.

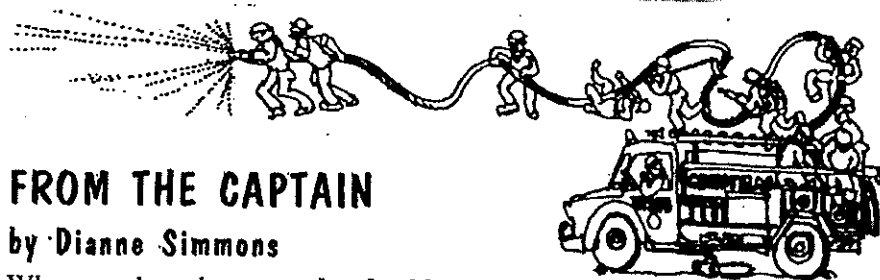
Then there is the Saturday market up at the fire shed. That's very special! I'm sure that it is growing bigger. Where else does a community come together on such a regular basis? I find it to be quite unique. Catch up with the gossip and stuff your face with lovely cakes and other food. Swat away the wasps in summer and autumn.

And what about our fire brigade? Men, women and teenagers! A cross section of our community. Like all people I know they can come driving up my driveway any old day.

Where else would one watch an echidna wombling about in front of the house, a wombat leaving parcels on a log nearby or seven choughs all together having a splash in a small bird bath. Now that's something to see!

Oh, and don't forget the weeding under the auspices of 'give him a go' Gurney. People probably think that we are mad weeding creeks and the side of the road. But there you are; it feels good.

Finally a word for all the folks who came before me with BICA. Thanks a lot, for without the focus on the conservation of this lovely area I hate to think what would have happened. It was hard work but as far as I am concerned I reckon that you made it happen for us who came later.



FROM THE CAPTAIN

by Dianne Simmons

When you have been together for 20 years or more, it is very easy to take your partner for granted. Perhaps it's the same for BICA and the Fire Brigade!

People often ask me if we really are an unusual combination and the answer is YES! For the last 20 years or so, the Fire Brigade has been operationally effective, committed to community values, and with an unashamedly green tinge. I am often approached to speak on behalf of the Brigade about how we do things. For example, a consultant was recently hired by the CFA to carry out an independent assessment of CFA community education programs, which aimed to look at Brigades where there was good community support. I agreed to a couple of hours of formal questioning which was taped, and thought I had said it all! However, there was a technical glitch, and the tape was faulty. The consultant decided that our activities were interesting enough to ask for a repeat interview, and the repeat took 3 hours! This is just an example of the sort of interest in our Brigade where we have done things in an effective and perhaps slightly different way. Importantly, I think that the "ethos" of the Brigade has very clearly come from the community support, energy and participation that BICA has promoted over a long time.

Does the interaction between the "Fire Brigade" and "BICA" really matter? All the evidence from the effects of major fires says YES. For example it is often quoted that virtually no marriages survived the 1983 fires in Airey's Inlet, and in Cockatoo there was an almost complete changeover of population after the 1983 fires. The situation seems to have been very different in Upper Beaconsfield where there were close links between the various community groups. One flow on from an interactive community seems to be the ability for the community (and the individuals in it) to fully "recover" after major fires. If anyone would like to see some reports about these suggestions, please ask me.

The Brigade has managed to maintain an amicable membership with good relationships with the community, and an acceptance and support of conservation values over 20 years - believe me this is no mean feat! We are now working towards a "handover" to a new (and younger!) group of people who will manage the Brigade into the future. I think we can look forward to the next 20 years with confidence.

DEATH IN THE EVENING

by Peter Gurney

Peter presents an hypothesis about road kills in our area. I have not seen any data about the numbers of animals killed on our roads at different times of the year but many animals certainly are active in the early evening. If you commute then, take extra care! JM

After living in the ELZ on and off for 22 years I have begun to expect an increase in native wildlife on the roads from about mid-March until early June, and of course the number of road kills goes up too. This is possibly because as the season changes and the gentle rain increases the grass beside the roads becomes green and lush earlier than the grass in the paddocks or the bush. I think that this may be due to water run off from the roads and spray from the passing vehicles which irrigates the new growth. Another reason is that the animals are seasonally active looking for a mate and also they are feeding up in preparation for winter. Anyway, our local wombats, wallabies and kangaroos certainly seem to be killed in greater numbers on the roads through March, April and May than over the summer months.

In the winter native animal activity declines somewhat and there is more green growth in the paddocks so they feed away from the roads a bit more than in autumn. Then in Spring from about mid-September, the road kills increase again until the summer. This spring time road death period seems also to be tied to growth of grasses and seasonally increased movement and activity by the animals as hibernation ends and young are born and have to be fed.

Please be aware of this pattern of animal activity. Be doubly careful on the roads at about the equinoxes in March and September and for about three months following. By being more alert and driving a little more slowly in these months of the year we can reduce the number of animals killed and injured on our roads.

A LOCAL FERN

by John McCallum

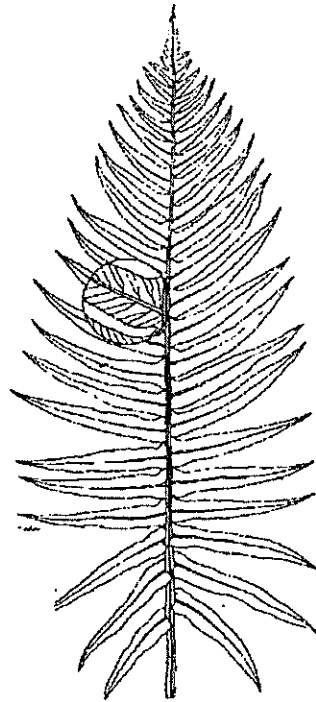
Gristle-fern (*B. cartilagineum*) is unusual amongst Australian members of the genus *Blechnum* in that the fertile fronds are not much different in appearance to the sterile ones. The fertile (spore bearing) fronds on the last two species that we have looked at (*B. nudum* and *B. minus*) are thinner and distinctly different from the more numerous barren fronds.

It is a large fern that can form quite large groves, often in low areas or areas that have been burnt a lot. It is sometimes found in association with bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) or false bracken (*Culcita dubia*), both of which are found in the local area.

Gristle-fern has pinnate (once divided) fronds, generally of a mid-green colour, that can be up to 150 cm long and 40 cm broad. They are clustered towards the end of the underground stem and appear tufted. The pinnae (leaflets) are sessile, that is they are attached to the stem by their broad bases, adjacent pinnae running into each other except towards the lower part of the frond where they are separate. The leaflets have many parallel veins that are very conspicuous on the lower surface.

The stem is clothed in shiny black scales. The sori are arranged in linear bands running each side of the midrib of the pinnae on mature fronds. Young plants can be tinged with pale lime green, bronze or pink.

In our area, gristle-fern grows along creeksides, generally on flat, poorly drained ground.



Blechnum cartilagineum

THINGS THAT GO SLURP IN THE NIGHT

by Teri O'Brien

In February of '94, I spent a lot of late-night time on the porch at Atunga, experimenting with my new way of doing artworks. A male brushtail developed a considerable curiosity about what I was doing, and often came down the branches to perch on a crossbar about 4 feet from where I worked. Turning his head one way and then the other, he would peer at the work as it developed, eventually passing judgement on it by turning his back and peering away into the bush!

One night, I decided on a late-night snack and brought out the remains of a small bucket of vanilla ice-cream. This proved to be of much more interest to brushie than my artwork, and he began stretching himself out for some. All my good training about not feeding animals etc evaporated in the face of this onslaught of emotional blackmail, and I offered him some on the dessert spoon. One sniff, one lick, and he tugged the spoon out of my hands, and licked it dry! This I captured as a photo, but as soon as the spoon was empty, he dropped it in the dirt! I can just see the advert: "Peter's is good for baby, good for possums and must be good for you, da! da!"

A few nights later, this same animal was engaged in one of the most remarkable animal interactions I have ever seen. I saw him eating up some residual crushed oats that had been put out for the choughs (again, this is before enlightenment!). Suddenly, in a series of comings and goings, a brown male rat (introduced variety; *Rattus rattus*) that lived in the roof at Atunga developed the courage to approach the same oats. He went nose to nose with brushie, who absolutely ignored him, allowing both to feed at the same pile. Again, I was able to document this with a series of flash photographs. I wonder if such close encounters between introduced species (white humans and rats) and native wildlife are rare? Certainly, they both were precipitated by feeding, and should not be encouraged.



TWENTY YEARS OF PLANNING!

by Janet Mattiske

The main basis for the continued integrity of the Bend of Islands has been the special planning that has applied to the area since 1976 when the Shire of Healesville made the area subject to an Interim Development Order. This IDO was eventually replaced as the main planning document for the area by the shire's Planning Scheme in which the Environmental Living zone was formally established.

Leading up to the IDO, during the transition from the IDO to the gazetting of the ELZ, BICA committee and members have had a continuous job monitoring and contributing to the planning process. Janet reflects on some of the activities over the past 20 plus years.

What are the planning issues in the Environmental Living Zone? What has changed? I have just done a reality check and meandered down memory lane as I scanned my copies of the Newsletter for the last twenty years. Many of the issues are still the same and some things have changed. For instance we are no longer in the same shire. We no longer have the 'security blanket' of the Regional Strategy plan under which we felt relatively safe. The plan has been replaced by the Municipal Strategic Statement, a fairly bland document in comparison but it does give us some reasons to exist as a special use zone.

When I think of all of the food that has been prepared and the wine offered to visiting politicians, councillors, council officers and other dignitaries over that twenty years I think we could also lay claim to be the EEZ (environmental entertainment zone)!

What a celebration we had in 1982 when the ELZ was finally gazetted in the planning scheme! Evan Walker, the then planning minister, cut the garland of flowers on Oxley Bridge. This was followed in 1987 by the exhibition of a new planning scheme by the Shire of Healesville. All of the arguments for maintaining the zoning were virtually equivalent to those being used today! The president's report in the Newsletter of the day outlines our concerns.

In 1993 standardisation of Victoria's planning system resulted in a scheme into which we did not fit. Local government restructuring soon after saw us part of the Nillumbik Shire. Another new planning scheme went on display and we have just (March 1999) presented our submission to the panel.

To date we have been successful in retaining what is currently in the ELZ in a new Special Use Zone. We know that our work in retaining the essential planning requirements for the preservation of the area will not stop at this.

Another issue that we were involved with was the Bissett-Johnson land on the other side of the river being purchased by the government to form a reserve. BICA was also involved in the negotiations that led to Yarra Brae and Stane Brae being included in the Warrandyte State Park

A desperate battle was the one fought against the proposal to duplicate the high tension power transmission line through the area. We lost that one and it has been an ongoing source of management problems.

The Christmas Hills community, including BICA was involved in the establishment of the conditions governing the current recreational use of the Sugarloaf dam. A planning issue that has been active for many years and is still unresolved is the ultimate use of the remaining Yarra Brae land. This issue is the focus of the current committee's closest attention.

These are just some of the planning issues that have been mentioned in our Newsletter over the years.

DR O'BRIEN'S SAFE WEEDICIDE

I have been frustrated by weeds of all varieties that grow in places where removal by hand is difficult or impossible. I am talking about in cracks in pavements, between layers of chicken and rabbit wire surrounding the transpiration bed, in cracks in rockeries, or in vast numbers on very steep slopes. I have been experimenting with a modification of the steam method used by Banyule Council to control weeds in roadside plantings on the freeway.

Boiling water turns out to be great in this situation. I boil a large pot up on the outside fire, then bucket it carefully onto the offenders. About a week later it is obvious what has been missed (still green) and it easy to get them with a second dose.

By taking care, one can do this successfully quite close to valuable plants. It has the advantage that the dead plant stays where it is, no soil is dug or disturbed (good for slopes and banks), and it is cheap and non-polluting. And it kills the not-so-little devils between the layers of wire! Give it a go.

A BURNING QUESTION

by Steve Craig

The objective of fuel reduction burning or "prescribed burning" as it is now called, is to reduce fuel loads during periods of mild weather so that wild-fires, when they occur, will have less impact or will be more easily controlled.

The methodology was first developed in Western Australia on the basis of a small number of experimental burns and quickly adopted by other States including Victoria and is now widely used in the forests of south-east Australia. The use of prescribed burning in Western Australia appears to have reduced the incidence of very high intensity fires, although no adequate assessment has been made to substantiate this.

The apparent reduction in severe fires achieved in Western Australia is not reflected in Victoria or elsewhere, apparently because of major differences in topography, rainfall and overall weather patterns between the Western Australian forest environment and the forests of south-east Australia.

The effectiveness of prescribed burning has been poorly studied in Australia and recent reviews are largely subjective. Numerical analysis is generally absent or has not been statistically tested. However, the results of the few studies that have been done indicate that prescribed burning is effective against severe fires but only for about three years post fire.

It seems amazing that no publicly available, cost benefit study of prescribed burning or other fire protection works has ever been done in Australia. There is remarkably little information to indicate the effectiveness of many fire management practices, let alone whether they have a positive cost-benefit ratio. At a time when economic rationalists rule and Governments at all



levels are happy to close down whole industries if analysis shows them to be economically unviable, fire management seems remarkably free of such constraints.

Reference:

Fire and Biodiversity, The Effects and Effectiveness of Fire Management. Department of Environment Sport and Territories. Biodiversity Series, Paper No. 8, Biodiversity Unit, October 1994.

TWENTY YEARS AFTER

by Alan Bonny

It's the twentieth anniversary of our Newsletter. It may have been an editorial error but Vol. 1 No. 1 of March 1979 was titled "The Bend of Islands Association Newsletter", the second edition had added "Conservation" into the heading and it has stayed that way. Early publications were issued as required with some quite long intervals between editions. This newsletter will be numbered 44 but its probably the 43rd issue as I cannot find any copy of number 15. With only four months between the issue 14 and 16 it was probably missed. Maybe another editorial error?

The current aim is to produce three issues a year and with your contributions our editor, John McCallum, achieves this and produces a most readable newsletter. Reading through the old editions you see that some things don't change. Issue 1 featured the perennial issues of subdivision and land sales in the region. Other things also remain the same, people on the move, playgroup, CFA, walking group and yoga were on the menu. Issue 2 saw Cric Henrys "What Local Native's Flowering" appear as the constant page 1 over the history of the publication. Congratulations to all those who have contributed in one way or another. The good news is that the Newsletter is alive and well after 20 years. Happy birthday to our Newsletter!

Thank you to the people who wrote articles or produced drawings for this special edition of our Newsletter. Those who read back over past issues will recognise some illustrations that I have resurrected. Thanks to Hilary, Neil and others!

JM

A RAMBLE WITH A RESIDENT

by Ross Henry

Ross writes of his and Cric's experiences bringing up a family in the fledgling ELZ. What he doesn't talk about is his contribution to BICA and, in particular, to the Newsletter. Early editions carried articles about living in harmony with the bush and Ross and Cric were regular helpers here.

For a number of years Felicity Faris was the stabilising element in a number of facets of BICA's functioning, not the least of which was the publication of the Newsletter. We looked forward to its appearance and the informative articles about developments in the creation of our unique zoning.

Later, Ross took over editorship of the Newsletter. His advice on building and site design have been helpful to many. His professional input has resulted in the existence of many beautiful houses in the Bend of Islands.

JM

We moved into Gongflers Drive 21 years ago from sunny Queensland into a miserable Melbourne winter. We had decided to continue on with our loose, hippy type lifestyle in a natural bush environment and to see if we liked the Bend of Islands which had just been recently saved from the threat of inundation from the Yarra-Bae dam. We lived without electricity, a temperamental pump and a 12 month old baby. It was cold, dark, and wet. It didn't take us long to feel quite isolated and a wee bit nervous. We knew very little about local conservation issues and even less about the strange people that emerged from the bush occasionally and then suddenly disappeared again.

Before long we were able to meet with some of these inhabitants and my initial impression was of a disparate lot, with varying interest in the area and without strong combining influences for a vibrant community. There were several "white knights" whose wisdom was occasionally sought on all manner of things from building, botany, to bull ants. These individuals had lived in the area for quite some time and were, in most cases, the real energies behind the creation of the E.L.Z.

I observed all this as a rank outsider, gradually picking up on ways and means of

settling into this new lifestyle together with several others at the same stage, having recently purchased property and many embarking on the mudbrick "owner - builder trip"

Over a relatively short period a broader community seemed to emerge with catalysts such as the babysitting club, food co-op, school carpools, playgroups, bird watchers and, of course, the regular meetings, working bees and field days of BICA. At the same time for those involved in building there was a network of interest in sharing ideas, materials, and labour.

With time, observation, reading and discussion little bits of information were absorbed by us all about our special environment and by osmosis we became more and more delighted at its make-up and sensitive to the impact we could avoid having. We gradually became more aware of its movements, its smells, its noises, how seasons affected things and it was a gradual process of step-by-step understanding of how it all ticked. The longer one lived in the area the more importance one put on minimising the impact on the area and the more precious and contrived aspects of lifestyle became less and less relevant.

Another catalyst for this increase in awareness was kids. In their younger years with limitations on pets and normal suburban pastimes we, instead, spent hours and hours walking with them in the bush, playing with them in the bush, swimming with them in the river all the time trying to answer their probing questions. During adolescence there was the inevitable question of 'why are we here' and 'why don't we live in a real street?' This was coupled with the need to drive everywhere to satisfy their social and sporting lives, not to mention their school being half an hour away from home. We found this period fairly difficult and we had to draw on all our resources of attachment to the area to remain committed to staying here. The kids, now adults, have as a result swung around to respecting the bush lifestyle and are part of a new wave of interest in environmental issues

So, from our experiences, I suggest that the longer people stay here, the more tolerant they become to the frustration's of ELZs restrictions and that the strength of the conservation values of the community is dependent on these people being able to arrive relatively ignorant, settle in and make mistakes along the way, to slowly adapting and respecting their new lifestyle within the bush. BCA is very important in facilitating this process and in making us belong and want to stay. The ELZ is only as strong as the people in it.

BICA BIRD SURVEY RECORD

Records from May 1989 to Jan 1999
Walks 1 to 107

AREA. The areas used by the BICA bird survey group are as follows:

A. "Box-Stringybark" includes area between River and Henley

B. "Ironbark Forest": North of Henley

C. "Watsons Creek" includes Yanakie

- Recorded in ELZ but not on survey

? - May have been recorded in ELZ

o - Not yet recorded in ELZ

1

PAGE	MONTH AREA	JAN			FEB			MAR			APR			MAY			JUN			JUL			AUG			SEP			OCT			NOV			DEC			TOTAL							
		A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	ELZ							
	No OF WALKS IN AREA	4	3	3	5	3		4	3	1	4	4	1	5	5		4	5		3	4	1	4	4	1	4	4		5	3	1	4	4	2	6	3	2	52	45	12	109				
188	BEE-EATER, RAINBOW																																					#	0	0	0	0			
162	BLACKBIRD	2	1	2	2			2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1		3	1		1	1	1	2							18	9	7	34
210	BLACK COCKATOO, Y-TAILED													1							1																		1	3	2	6			
182	BRONZE-CUCKOO, H'FIELD'S																									1													2	1	0	3			
182	BRONZE-CUCKOO, SHINING																									0	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	2	1		7	8	3	18			
152	BRONZEWING, BRUSH													1																									1	0	0	1			
152	BRONZEWING, COMMON	1	3	2	2			1	1			1									1					1	1		1	1		2	3		3	1			11	11	3	25			
320	BUTCHER-BIRD, GREY	1	3	2	5	3		4	2	1	3	2	1	5	4		4	1		2	1	1	4	2	1	2	2		3	2	1	2	3		2	3	1		37	28	8	73			
90	BUTTON-QUAIL, LITTLE																																					?	0	0	0	0			
88	BUTTON-QUAIL, PAINTED																																					#	0	0	0	0			
316	CHOUGH, WHITE-WINGED	3	3		2	2		2	1		3	2	1	5	2		3	3		2	2		3	2		4	3		3	1		4	3		5	3	1		39	27	2	68			
212	CICADA BIRD																																					#	0	0	0	0			
244	CISTICOLA, GLDN.-HEADED																																					#	0	0	0	0			
160	COCKATOO, GANG-GANG																1	1		1	1																		2	2	0	4			
160	COCKATOO, SULF. CRESTED	1	1	3	3	1		2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2		2			3	1	1	4	1	1	3	2		4	3	1	3	1	2	4	1	2		32	15	12	59			
96	COOT, EURASIAN										1																												1	0	0	1			
160	CORELLA, LONG BILLED																												2										2	0	0	2			
48	CORMORANT, GREAT										1															1			1										2	0	1	3			
48	CORMORANT, LITTLE BLACK																															1							1	0	0	1			
48	CORMORANT, LITTLE PIED				2			1	1	1																													3	1	2	6			
48	CORMORANT, PIED																			1						1													1	0	1	2			
92	CRAKE, AUSTRALIAN																																					o	0	0	0	0			
92	CRAKE, BAILLON'S																																					o	0	0	0	0			
92	CRAKE, SPOTLESS		1			1			2						1			1											1										0	8	1	9			
180	CUCKOO, BRUSH																									1													1	0	0	1			
180	CUCKOO, FAN-TAILED		1	2		1		1				1		1	2					1				1	0	1	2		4	3	1	4	4	1	3	2			17	15	4	36			
180	CUCKOO, PALLID																							1		1			3	1	1	3	1		1				9	2	1	12			
210	CUCKOO SHRIKE, B'FACED	3	3	2	4	2		1	3	1	2	2		1			1							1	0	4	3		3	3		3	3	1	5				28	19	4	51			
322	CURRAWONG, GREY	1	3	1	3	3		2	3		3	3		1	5		3	1		3				1	3	1	2	3	5	2		3	2		4	3	1		31	31	3	65			
322	CURRAWONG, PIED	4	2		1	2		1	2	1	3	2	1	3	2		2	1		1	2	1	3	4			1		1	3	1	2	3	1	1	1	2		22	26	5	53			
48	DARTER, AUSTRALIAN							1									1																						2	0	0	2			
188	DOLLAR BIRD																																					#	0	0	0	0			
154	DOVE, PEACEFUL																																					?	0	0	0	0			
64	DUCK, PACIFIC BLACK	1	1	1	3			2		1	1									2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1		4	1		1	1		2		1		20	6	5	31			
62	DUCK, WOOD (MANED)			1	1			1			1																		2	1	1	1			1	1			14	10	5	29			
78	EAGLE, WEDGE-TAILED							1	1	1							1																						5	2	2	9			
52	EGRET, CATTLE													1																									1	0	0	1			

PAGE	MONTH AREA	JAN			FEB			MAR			APR			MAY			JUN			JUL			AUG			SEP			OCT			NOV			DEC			TOTAL																		
		A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	ELZ																		
	No OF WALKS IN AREA	4	3	3	5	3		4	3	1	4	4	1	5	5	4	5	3	4	1	4	4	1	4	4	5	3	1	4	4	2	6	3	2	52	45	12	109																		
52	EGRET, GREAT										1																									1	0	0	1																	
246	FAIRYWREN, SUPERB	4	2	3	4	3		3	1	1	2	3	1	1	5	3	4	2	2	1	3	2	1	4	4	3	3	1	4	3	2	6	3	1	39	35	11	85																		
80	FALCON, BROWN																																				0	0	0	0																
82	FALCON, PEREGRINE																																					0	0	0	0															
243	FANTAIL, GREY	4	3	2	5	3		4	3	1	3	3	1	4	5	3	3	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	2	5	3	1	4	4	1	6	3	1	43	38	9	90																		
243	FANTAIL, RUFOUS	1						2																														6	1	0	7															
306	FIRETAIL, RED-BROWED	1	1	2									1	1													1	1										2	2	6	10															
232	FLYCATCHER, LEADEN	2	1			1																																	4	4	0	8														
232	FLYCATCHER, RESTLESS			2																																				0	0	2	2													
232	FLYCATCHER, SATIN	2	1			1																																			5	6	1	12												
196	FROGMOUTH, TAWNY				1									1																												1	1	1	3											
160	GALAH			3	1			1		1	2		1	1		1		1		1		1	1			1		2		1	1	1	2	2								13	1	10	24											
262	GERYGONE, WHITE THROATED																																												0	0	0	0								
72	GOSHAWK, BROWN	1	1																																										5	1	2	8								
12	GREBE, AUSTRALASIAN										1																																			1	0	0	1							
202	GROUND-THRUSH, AUSTRALIAN							1				1		1		1		1								3		1		1																	6	4	0	10						
62	HARDHEAD																																														0	0	0	0						
258	HEATH WREN, CHEST.RUMP																																															0	0	0	0					
54	HERON, PACIFIC	1														1																																2	0	0	2					
54	HERON, WHITE-FACED			1	1			1								1											1		1		1	1																5	1	3	9					
280	HONEYEATER, BLCK CHINNED																																																0	0	0	0				
280	HONEYEATER, BROWN-HEADED	1									1			1	1													1																					3	2	0	5				
290	HONEYEATER, CRESCENT														1											2																							0	7	0	7				
288	HONEYEATER, FUSCOUS															1																																		0	1	0	1			
290	HONEYEATER, NEW HOLLAND	1			1								1	3																																			2	8	1	11				
290	HONEYEATER, REGENT																																																	0	0	0	0			
274	HONEYEATER, SP.-CHEEKED																																																	0	0	0	0			
284	HONEYEATER, WHITE-EARED	3	3	3	5	1		4	3	1	4	4		4	5	3	4	3	4	1	3	4	1	2	4	5	2	1	2	2	1	5	2	2														43	38	10	91					
280	HONEYEATER, WHITE-NAPED	4	1	3	1	1		4	1	1	2	1		1	5	5	2	2	3	1	3	3	1	3	3	5	3	1	3	2																				37	26	7	70			
288	HONEYEATER, WHITE-PLUMED	1		3									1	1																																					2	2	9	13		
284	HONEYEATER, YELLOW FACED	4	2	3	5	3		4		1		1			4	2	2			1						3	1	2	4	5	3	1	3	3	1	6	3	1											31	29	8	68				
284	HONEYEATER, YELLOW TUFTED														1		1																																		0	2	0	2		
58	IBIS, SACRED																																																		0	1	0	1		
58	IBIS, STRAW-NECKED																																																			0	0	0	0	
220	JACKY WINTER																																																		1	0	0	1		
82	KESTREL, AUSTRALIAN												1																																							1	0	0	1	
188	KINGFISHER, AZURE																																																			0	0	0	0	
186	KINGFISHER, SACRED	2	2	3	1	1																																														7	6	6	19	
80	KITE, BLACK-SHOULDERED																																																				0	0	1	1
76	KITE,WHISTLING																																																				0	0	0	0
184	KOOKABURRA, LAUGHING	3	2	3	4	3		4	2	1	3	2	1	4	5	3	4	3	4	1	2	4	1	4	4	4	3	1	4	4	1	5	3	1																	43	40	10	93		
98	LAPWING, MASKED												2																																								5	0	1	6

PAGE	MONTH AREA	JAN			FEB			MAR			APR			MAY			JUN			JUL			AUG			SEP.			OCT			NOV			DEC			TOTAL			
		A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	ELZ			
	No Of WALKS IN AREA	4	3	3	5	3		4	3	1	4	4	1	5	5	4	5		3	4	1	4	4	1	4	4	5	3	1	4	4	2	6	3	2	52	45	12	109		
164	LORIKEET, RAINBOW			1				1																				1	1				1			3	0	3	6		
324	MAGPIE, AUSTRALIAN	4	3	3	5	3		4	2	1	4	4	1	5	5	4	4		3	4	1	3	4	1	4	3	4	3	1	4	4	2	5	2	1	49	41	11	101		
316	MAGPIE-LARK		2	3	3	1		3	1	1	2		1	1	1							2	1	1			2	1	1	1		1	2		2	15	8	10	33		
64	MALLARD							1																											1	1	0	1	2		
200	MARTIN, FAIRY																																			?	0	0	0		
200	MARTIN, TREE																																			?	0	0	0		
278	MINER, BELL	3	2	1	5	1		2	1	1	4	1	1	3	3	2	2		2		1	3	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	4	1	34	16	8	58			
278	MINER, NOISY		1	1	1			1		1	1	1		1							1			1			1		1		1				5	2	6	13			
300	MISTLETOE BIRD				1								1	1	1								1	1						2					3	4	1	8			
96	MOORHEN, DUSKY				1						1																		1		1				4	0	0	4			
316	MYNAH, COMMON				1								1											1				1	1						2	0	3	5			
96	NATIVE-HEN, BLACKTAILED																																		?	0	0	0			
194	N'JAR, WHITE-THROATED																																			#	0	0	0		
198	NEEDLETAIL, WH.-THROATED			1	1			2	1	1				1											1											#	3	1	4		
54	NIGHT HERON, RUFOUS																																			#	0	0	0		
314	ORIOLE, OLIVE-BACKED	1	1	1																							2	1	2	1	1	3	1	4	1	10	6	3	19		
192	OWL, BARKING																																			?	0	0	0		
190	OWL, MASKED																																			?	0	0	0		
192	OWL, POWERFUL																																			#	0	0	0		
192	OWL, SOUTHERN BOOBOOK																																			#	0	0	0		
194	OWLET-N'JAR, AUSTRALIAN																																			#	0	0	0		
304	PARDALOTE, SPOTTED	4	1	1	2	1		2	2	1	4			3		2	2		2	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	2	3		2	1	27	21	5	53			
304	PARDALOTE, STRIATED	2	1	1	3			1		1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2		1		2				1	1	3		2				5		#	25	7	35			
176	PARROT, BLUE-WINGED																																			#	0	0	0		
168	PARROT, KING																																		1	#	1	0	1		
	PEA FOWL	1																																1		#	2	0	2		
50	PELICAN																																			#	0	0	0		
152	PIGEON, DOMESTIC																																			#	0	0	0		
88	QUAIL, BROWN																																			?	0	0	0		
88	QUAIL, STUBBLE																																			o	0	0	0		
238	QUAIL-THRUSH, SPOTTED							1						1										1						1						o	0	5	5		
94	RAIL, BUFF-BANDED																																			#	0	0	0		
92	RAIL, LEWIN'S																																			o	0	0	0		
334	RAVEN, AUSTRALIAN	1		1				1		1		1		1		1	1			1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1				2		o	7	7	19			
334	RAVEN, LITTLE	2	1	1	4	1		2	1		3	1		1	3	3	2		2	3	1	2	1		2	3	2	2		1	3		2	1	26	21	3	50			
218	ROBIN, EASTERN YELLOW	4	1	1	2			3	1	1	3	1	1	1	5	1	3		1	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	2		4	1	28	19	7	54			
214	ROBIN, FLAME																																			#	0	0	0		
214	ROBIN, PINK										1																									#	1	0	1		
214	ROBIN, RED-CAPPED																																			#	0	0	0		
214	ROBIN, ROSE													1					1				1														2	1	3		
214	ROBIN, SCARLET		1			1			1		3	2		2	5	2	4			3		2	1		1	3				3		1				11	24	35			
172	ROSELLA, CRIMSON	4	2	1	5	1		3	2	1	3	1	1	2	5	3	4		2	3	1	3	2	1	2	3	3	2	1	2	3	2	5	1		37	29	74			

PAGE	AREA	MONTH			JAN			FEB			MAR			APR			MAY			JUN			JUL			AUG			SEP			OCT			NOV			DEC			TOTAL					
		A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	ELZ					
	No OF WALKS IN AREA	4	3	3	5	3	4	3	1	4	4	1	5	5	4	5	3	4	1	4	4	1	4	4	5	3	1	4	4	2	6	3	2	52	45	12	109									
172	ROSELLA, EASTERN			1	2		1		1	2	1	1	2												1	1	1	1	1					2	1	1	2	2	1	1		2	14	6	8	28
254	SCRUB-WREN, WH. BROWED	1	2	3	4	1	1	2	1			2		1	2	1	2		1	1					4	1	1	2						2	1	1	2	3	1	5	1	1	24	18	8	50
60	SHELDUCK, AUSTRALIAN																																	1									3	0	0	3
226	SHRIKE-THRUSH, GREY	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	1	4	4	1	4	5	4	4		3	4	1	4	4	1	4	4	5	3	1	4	4	1	6	3	1	49	44	10	103								
222	SHRIKE-TIT, CRESTED	2		1	1													2	1		1	1				1	1	1	1	1					4	6	4	14								
300	SILVEREYE	2		1	2		3			1	1	1		1				1	1						1			2	1		3	2		15	6	2	23									
270	SITELLA, VARIED	1					1			2			1	2	1						1				2	2		1			2	1		11	8	0	19									
208	SONGLARK, BROWN																																	o	0	0	0									
312	SPARROW, HOUSE				1																													o	1	0	0									
72	SPARROW-HAWK, COLLARED			1								1																						o	1	1	2									
294	SPINEBILL, EASTERN		1				1			1		1	4		3	3		2	4	1	3	3		1	2	1	1	1	2		4	1	1	16	22	3	41									
58	SPOONBILL, ROYAL																																	o	0	0	0									
58	SPOONBILL, YELL. BILLED																																	o	0	0	0									
314	STARLING, COMMON			2	1				1	1					1					1		1	1	2										o	8	2	7									
200	SWALLOW, WELCOME			3	2		1	1	1	3		1	4	1	2			1	1	2	0	1	2											o	23	6	11									
96	SWAMPHEN, PURPLE									1																								o	2	0	0									
60	SWAN, BLACK									1																								o	1	0	0									
198	SWIFT, FORKTAILED																																	?	0	0	0									
66	TEAL, CHESTNUT																																	#	0	0	0									
66	TEAL, GREY																																	#	0	0	0									
268	THORNBILL, BROWN	3	3	2	3	3	4	2	1	2	3		4	5	3	4		1	3	1	3	4	1	4	4	5	2		3	4	1	4	3	1	39	40	7	86								
266	THORNBILL, BUFF-RUMPED		2			1		1	1	1			1	3		2		2		2	1													o	7	18	0									
264	THORNBILL, STRIATED		1		1		1	2					1	4	1	2		2	3	3				3										o	19	15	1									
264	THORNBILL, YELLOW				2	1							1	1				1			1		2									1		o	6	4	0									
266	THORNBILL, YELL. RUMPED			1	1					1			1																					o	3	0	1									
272	T'CREEPER, RED-BROWED							1																										o	1	0	0									
272	T'CREEPER, WH. THROATED	4	3	1	5	3	3	3	1	4	3		5	4	4	5		3	4	1	4	3	1	4	3	4	2		4	4		4	3	1	48	40	5	93								
154	TURTLE-DOVE, SPOTTED	2		3	1				1						1			1			1	1	1	1								1	1	o	9	2	6									
234	WAGTAIL, WILLIE		1	3	2																		1											o	6	1	7									
274	WATTLEBIRD, BRUSH																																	o	0	0	1									
274	WATTLEBIRD, RED	4	2	3	4	2	4	2	1	3	4		5	5	4	4		2	4	1	3	4	1	3	3	5	3		4	2	2	6	2	2	o	47	37	10								
264	WEEBILL		2							2			1		1	1					1			1										o	5	4	0									
236	WHIPBIRD, EASTERN																																	o	0	0	0									
222	WHISTLER, GOLDEN	4	1	1	2		2	1	1	2	3		4	5	2	4		1	3	1	3	3	1	3	2	2	3		2	3		6	1	1	o	33	29	5								
222	WHISTLER, OLIVE												1																					o	1	1	0									
224	WHISTLER, RUFOUS	4	3	1	1	2	2	1		1	1												0	2										o	21	14	2									
318	WOODSWALLOW, DUSKY	1		3				1					1																					o	1	1	7									

ELZ BIRD RECORDER

elzbr-3

DATE: TIME: to

WEATHER:

LOCATION:

PAGE	OBSERVERS:
188	BEE-EATER, RAINBOW
162	BLACKBIRD
210	BLACK COCKATOO Y-TAILED
182	BRONZE-CUCKOO, H'FIELD'S
182	BRONZE-CUCKOO, SHINING
152	BRONZEWING, BRUSH
152	BRONZEWING, COMMON
320	BUTCHER-BIRD, GREY
90	BUTTON-QUAIL, LITTLE
88	BUTTON-QUAIL, PAINTED
316	CHOUGH, WHITE-WINGED
212	CICADA BIRD
244	CISTICOLA, GLDN.-HEADED
160	COCKATOO, GANG-GANG
160	COCKATOO, SULF. CRESTED
96	COOT, EURASIAN
160	CORELLA, LONGBILLED
48	CORMORANT, GREAT
48	CORMORANT, LITTLE BLACK
48	CORMORANT, LITTLE PIED
48	CORMORANT, PIED
92	CRAKE, AUSTRALIAN
92	CRAKE, BAILLON'S
92	CRAKE, SPOTLESS
180	CUCKOO, BRUSH
180	CUCKOO, FAN-TAILED
180	CUCKOO, PALLID
210	CUCKOO SHRIKE, B'FACED
322	CURRAWONG, GREY
322	CURRAWONG, PIED
48	DARTER, AUSTRALIAN
188	DOLLAR BIRD
154	DOVE, PEACEFUL
64	DUCK, PACIFIC BLACK
62	DUCK, WOOD (MANED)
78	EAGLE, WEDGE-TAILED
52	EGRET, CATTLE
52	EGRET, GREAT
246	FAIRYWREN, SUPERB
80	FALCON, BROWN
82	FALCON, PEREGRINE
243	FANTAIL, GREY
243	FANTAIL, RUFOUS

306	FIRETAIL, RED-BROWED
232	FLYCATCHER, LEADEN
232	FLYCATCHER, RESTLESS
232	FLYCATCHER, SATIN
196	FROGMOUTH, TAWNY
160	GALAH
262	GERYGONE, WHITE THROATED
72	GOSHAWK, BROWN
12	GREBE, AUSTRALASIAN
202	GROUND-THRUSH, AUSTRALIAN
62	HARDHEAD
258	HEATH WREN, CHEST.RUMP
54	HERON, PACIFIC
54	HERON, WHITE-FACED
280	HONEYEATER, BLCK CHINNED
280	HONEYEATER, BROWN-HEADED
290	HONEYEATER, CRESCENT
288	HONEYEATER, FUSCOUS
290	HONEYEATER, NEW HOLLAND
290	HONEYEATER, REGENT
274	HONEYEATER, SP.-CHEEKED
284	HONEYEATER, WHITE-EARED
280	HONEYEATER, WHITE-NAPED
288	HONEYEATER, WHITE-PLUMED
284	HONEYEATER, YELLOW FACED
284	HONEYEATER, YELLOW TUFTED
58	IBIS, SACRED
58	IBIS, STRAW-NECKED
220	JACKY WINTER
82	KESTREL, AUSTRALIAN
188	KINGFISHER, AZURE
186	KINGFISHER, SACRED
80	KITE, BLACK-SHOULDERED
76	KITE, WHISTLING
184	KOOKABURRA, LAUGHING
98	LAPWING, MASKED
164	LORIKEET, RAINBOW
324	MAGPIE, AUSTRALIAN
316	MAGPIE-LARK
64	MALLARD
200	MARTIN, FAIRY
200	MARTIN, TREE
278	MINER, BELL
278	MINER, NOISY
300	MISTLETOE BIRD
96	MOORHEN, DUSKY
316	MYNAH, COMMON

96	NATIVE-HERON, BLACKTAILED
194	N'JAR, WHITE-THROATED
198	NEEDLETAIL, WH.-THROATED
54	NIGHT HERON, RUFOUS
314	ORIOLE, OLIVE-BACKED
192	OWL, BARKING
190	OWL, MASKED
192	OWL, POWERFUL
192	OWL, SOUTHERN BOOBOOK
194	OWLET-N'JAR, AUSTRALIAN
304	PARDALOTE, SPOTIED
304	PARDALOTE, STRIATED
176	PARROT, BLUE-WINGED
168	PARROT, KING
	PEA FOWL
50	PELICAN
152	PIGEON, DOMESTIC
88	QUAIL, BROWN
88	QUAIL, STUBBLE
238	QUAIL-THRUSH, SPOTTED
94	RAIL, BUFF-BANDED
92	RAIL, LEWIN'S
334	RAVEN, AUSTRALIAN
334	RAVEN, LITTLE
218	ROBIN, EASTERN YELLOW
214	ROBIN, FLAME
214	ROBIN, PINK
214	ROBIN, RED-CAPPED
214	ROBIN, ROSE
214	ROBIN, SCARLET
172	ROSELLA, CRIMSON
172	ROSELLA, EASTERN
254	SCRUB-WREN, WH. BROWED
60	SHELDUCK, AUSTRALIAN
226	SHRIKE-THRUSH, GREY
222	SHRIKE-TIT, CRESTED
300	SILVEREYE
270	SITELLA, VARIED
208	SONGLARK, BROWN
312	SPARROW, HOUSE
72	SPARROW-HAWK, COLLARED
294	SPINEBILL, EASTERN
58	SPOONBILL, ROYAL
58	SPOONBILL, YELL. BILLED
314	STARLING, COMMON
200	SWALLOW, WELCOME
96	SWAMPHEN, PURPLE

60	SWAN, BLACK
198	SWIFT, FORKTAILED
66	TEAL, CHESTNUT
66	TEAL, GREY
268	THORNBILL, BROWN
266	THORNBILL, BUFF-RUMPED
264	THORNBILL, STRIATED
264	THORNBILL, YELLOW
266	THORNBILL, YELL. RUMPED
272	T'CREEPER, RED-BROWED
272	T'CREEPER, WH. THROATED
154	TURTLE-DOVE, SPOTTED
234	WAGTAIL, WILLIE
274	WATTLEBIRD, BRUSH
274	WATTLEBIRD, RED
264	WEEBILL
236	WHIPBIRD, EASTERN
222	WHISTLER, GOLDEN
222	WHISTLER, OLIVE
224	WHISTLER, RUFOUS
318	WOODSWALLOW, DUSKY



Vertical text or markings on the right side of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.