

BEND OF ISLANDS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSLETTER

President: Robyn Duff 9712 0507 G/- Post Office, Kangaroo Ground, Vic, 3097 - Editor, John McCallum 9712 0319

Inc. No. A11100A

Number 49 November 2000

WHAT INDIGENOUS PLANT IS FLOWERING?



Botanical name: *Microseris scapigera*, sp. agg.
Common name: Yam Daisy, Murnong,
Family: Asteraceae
Flowering period: August to December

Microseris scapigera is a tufted perennial herb, 30cm high and 15-25 cm wide, which regenerates annually from the fleshy tuberous root. The leaves are shiny, thin and strap-shaped, 20 cm long, with a few pointed uneven teeth along the edge of the leaf. The single erect bright yellow daisy flower is up to 3 cm across and is held on an erect slender, unbranched stalk, 20-50 cm. tall. Be sure not to confuse the flower with the introduced weed, the dandelion or flatweed. The stalk of Murnong is distinctively drooping over when the flower is in bud and becomes erect when in flower. The yellow petals are strap-shaped with the central petals shorter. Fluffy white seed heads follow the flowers.

The plant dies down to the tuber in summer and reshoots new leaves in Autumn and produces new tubers in Winter.

M. scapigera prefers a sunny or partly shaded position in dry or moist well drained soils. The flower is a source of nectar for butterflies.

(For more information about *M. scapigera* see page 2)

YAM DAISY

Further notes from Cric Henry

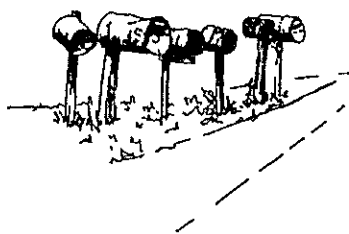
The Yam Daisy was an important source of food for aboriginal people. In particular it was probably the most relied upon staple food for the Victorian aborigines, due to its abundance and its high nutritional value. The food from the Murnong was the tuberous rootstock, which is not unlike a small parsnip growing just below the ground, which was dug up with digging sticks by the aboriginal women and children in their search for their family's daily food.

The ecology of the plant was well understood by the aboriginal people to ensure a sustainable and constant supply of food for future generations. With European settlement and the introduction of the grazing of sheep and cattle and with the spread of rabbits, the Yam daisy was significantly reduced and an important food source for the aboriginal people was becoming scarce, with disastrous consequences to their culture and health. The introduced animals could easily dig up and eat the delectable tuberous roots, forage the leaves and trample the ground so making it impossible for the plant to regenerate. Consequently the Murnong is now only occasionally found in Victoria and is widespread in NSW, South Australia and Tasmania.

3097 IS OFFICIAL: POST OFFICE APPROVED

Australia Post has confirmed that 3097 is applicable for Bend of Islands. After pursuing the issue for a few weeks we finally got to the person responsible within the bureaucracy who could give us the good news. If you ring the Australia Post help line the customer service officer they may tell you that Bend of Islands does not exist but if you go to the Australia Post web page there it is - "Bend of Islands 3097". There may still be some resolution for the boundary definition of the Bend but regardless of the dotted line on the ground we will all be under the 3097 postcode. We need to get the proper address out into the big world so now, if you reside in the Bend, your address should be:

Local Resident
850 Henley Rd
Bend of Islands
Victoria 3097



from Alan Bonny

THE BEND OF ISLANDS EVENT

The October Newsheet first advised members of the EVENT to celebrate the official acceptance of the "BEND OF ISLANDS" and also the new planning scheme Environmental Living Zone, Nillumbik Special Use Zone 2 (SUZ2). Similar to our 20th Anniversary celebrations four years ago we will start at 3.00 pm at the bridge then retire to the fire shed for dinner. Reserve Sunday 3rd December to be part of this community event. Check your invitation for full details and please respond to the RSVP to assist the organizers with catering requirements etc. The special commemorative wine will be available to drink and/or cellar as a reminder of The Event and all profits will support our Fire Brigade.

WHAT'LL BE IN FLOWER NEXT MONTH?

Steve Craig: BICA Flora and Fauna Convenor

Wattles are one of the most easily recognised native plants in the Australian bush because of their prominent yellow flowers and contrasting green foliage. Wattles belong to the genus *Acacia* and early settlers originally applied the name "wattle" to those species with branches that were suitable for building "wattle and daub" huts. "Wattle" is generally applied to any species of *Acacia* as a general name, but is usually added to a common name like Silver Wattle for *Acacia dealbata* or Golden Wattle for *Acacia pycnantha*. We have also borrowed aboriginal words for the names of some wattles such as Wirilda for *A. retinoides*. More than 600 species have been recorded in Australia to date and of these about 90 species occur in Victoria. I'm personally aware of 19 species in the ELZ, of which 9 species are introduced environmental weeds.

The earliest wattle to flower in the ELZ is the introduced Winter Wattle *Acacia iteaphylla*, followed soon after by another weed the Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia baileyana* (refer table). The peak flowering period for wattles in the ELZ is during the months of August and September when 8 indigenous and 7 introduced species may be seen flowering. All of the introduced wattles are known to invade surrounding bushland and so if they are present on your property I recommend they be removed and replaced with local species. Contact a member of the BICA Committee if you require assistance or replacement plants.

Suggested reading:

Rogers F.J.C. (1978). A Field Guide to Victorian Wattles
S.G.A.P. (Maroondah). (1993). Flora of Melbourne
Wattles and Wildlife. *Land for Wildlife* Note No. 17

WATTLES IN THE BEND OF ISLANDS

Common Name	Scientific Name	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Winter Wattle*	<i>Acacia iteaphylla</i>	X	X	X									
Cootamundra Wattle	<i>Acacia baileyana</i>			X	X								
Early Black Wattle*	<i>Acacia decurrens</i>			X	X								
Spreading Wattle	<i>Acacia genistifolia</i>			X	X	X	X						
Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>				X	X							
Narrow-leaf Wattle	<i>Acacia mucronata</i>				X	X							
Sallow Wattle*	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>				X	X							
Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>				X	X							
Gosford Wattle*	<i>Acacia prominens</i>				X	X							
Sticky Wattle*	<i>Acacia howittii</i>				X	X							
White-Sallow Wattle*	<i>Acacia floribunda</i>				X	X	X						
Golden Wattle	<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>				X	X	X						
Ovens Wattle*	<i>Acacia pravissima</i>				X	X	X						
Prickly Moses	<i>Acacia verticillata</i>				X	X	X						
Hedge Wattle	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>				X	X	X	X					
Gold-dust Wattle	<i>Acacia acenacia</i>				X	X	X	X					
Late Black Wattle	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>						X	X	X				
Lightwood	<i>Acacia implexa</i>								X	X	X	X	
Cedar Wattle*	<i>Acacia elata</i>								X	X	X	X	

*Environmental Weed

FINDING BICA

John McCallum

A number of people seem to have had a bit of trouble finding the BICA homepage on the web. Here are some general notes on finding web pages.

URLs and Browsers

Each web page has its own unique 'address' more correctly known as its URL or Universal Resource Locator. The URL for the BICA web site is

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~bica/index.html>

To get your computer to display a web page you need to open a web browser. This will be either Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. Which one you use is a matter of personal preference but some sites work better on one or the other.

To open a web page type the URL into the long box at the top of your browser's page. If you are using Internet Explorer this box is called 'Address' and if you use Netscape it is called 'Location'. Press Return or Enter and the page will eventually be displayed. Note that you don't need to type in "http://"; so, for BICA typing "home.vicnet.net.au/~bica/index.html" will do the trick.

Search Engines

If you don't know the URL of a site or if you wish to find out what sites are available for a particular subject you can use a search engine. Here are the names and URLs of a number of useful search engines. I have left out the "http://" bit in each case.

AltaVista (www.altavista.com)

AltaVista Australia (au.altavista.com)

Yahoo (www.yahoo.com)

Yahoo Australia (au.yahoo.com)

Lycos (www.lycos.com)

Answers (www.answers.com.au)

Smarter Searching

The above are all good sound search engines. There are some tricks to using them that can make your search easier and more specific. If you were looking for information about the comic strip hero of yester-year, Flash Gordon, you might try different approaches but each would get you a different result.

If you type the two words flash gordon into the search box and press return your search engine will find every web site that it can containing the word flash AND every site containing the word gordon. Lots and lots of sites!

If however you type in "flash gordon" with the inverted commas, only sites with the phrase that is enclosed by the inverted commas will be offered, ie, all sites in which the actual term flash gordon appears.

If, however, you wanted to view all sites that contained the both word flash and the word gordon you would need to type into the search box +flash +gordon. Note the space before the "+" but not after it.

Another quick, simple search engine is Google (www.google.com)

Google doesn't offer the kind of sophisticated searching described above but it does offer an advanced search option which allows you to enter a phrase that you require to appear in the site. In the above example it would simply be the two words flash gordon. I like Google. It is quick to load (no ads), clean in appearance, easy to use, and you have the advanced search option if you need it

Dogpile (www.dogpile.com) is a multiple search engine, it brings up the results of your search from a number of search engines for you to choose from.

Note that only lower case letters were used in the search boxes. It speeds things up.

So, if you didn't know BICA's URL you could type in the phrase "bend of islands", including the inverted commas, and expect to find the BICA home page close to the top of the list in the major search engines. If you type "bend of islands conservation association" nothing is found and typing bica gets you nowhere. Whatever you do, don't just type bend of islands conservation association and hope for the best.. You will probably get several million pages!

HOUSE BUILDING IN THE BEND

Carol Bonny

Some residents prefer the organic look and feel of mud but others the rustic beauty of natural timbers. I'm not talking about the human residents but our feathered co-inhabitants of the Bend of Islands. We are presently enjoying watching the progress of the birds around us in their busy tasks of construction. The Welcome Swallows are taking advantage of the mud puddle from our mud brick making activities to harvest the raw material for their construction under the carport. The Choughs also collected from the same area for their newly completed adobe home in a stringybark just up the hill. The Tree Creepers have opted for the finely crafted Wolfgang Krause design nestbox located in a tree just out front while the Crimson Rosellas have moved into a small hollow in a tree halfway up the driveway. It's enough to inspire one to get out and do some building.

WATTLE BLOSSOM DAY

Steve Craig

Across Australia there are many celebrations and festivals including Tulip Festivals, Rose Festivals and Daffodil Festivals.

Seasons such as winter and spring are based on the old English calendar. Many of Melbourne's more established suburbs and street plantings are dominated by deciduous trees native to Europe and Autumn is celebrated by sweeping up fallen leaves.

Euro-centric terms still dominate our way of looking at the Australian landscape established by homesick settlers two hundred years ago.

In contrast to Europe, late winter and early spring in southern Australia are times of activity for a wide variety of Australian species. Food resources are becoming more abundant and resident birds are preparing to nest. It's a time when our native wattles burst into flower, covering the countryside with their striking golden-yellow flowers.

The Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) was officially proclaimed Australia's national floral emblem on 1st September 1988. It was first proposed in 1913 but World War I led to a delay in implementation. It lay forgotten for many years until Maria Hitchcock took up the cause in 1985. In June 1986 she sent a submission to then prime Minister Bob Hawke asking for Wattle Day to be revived as a national celebration. It took a great deal of effort by many people to have it proclaimed but, unfortunately, it's rarely celebrated now.

In 1999 Earth Sanctuaries decided to establish their own celebration, focusing on the Golden Wattle as a symbol of Australia's unique environment and "Wattle Blossom Day was duly registered on 1st August. It's a day to celebrate the diversity of flora and fauna and conditions found in Australia and to raise awareness of their rightful place in the landscape. Perhaps Bend of Islanders could also celebrate "Wattle Blossom Day". What do readers think?

ADAPTED FROM: "RESTORING THE BALANCE" 2/00 NEWSLETTER OF THE EARTH SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

GREENCORPS GRADUATION

You may have seen in the local papers an item on the graduation of a Greencorps crew. These were the young enthusiasts that put time in and around the Bend of Islands as part of the Watsons Creek corridor project. It was heartening to see the expertise and confidence develop in the group over their six months spent in the crew. Spend some of your time to visit the Wurundjeri Trail, 400 meters past the Watsons Creek bridge on the Eltham/Yarra Glen Road. The crew played a major role in designing the trail as well as the actual work. Council will be providing some signage and explanatory notes for schools etc. All done by hand, the trail will be a permanent reminder of the Greencorps crew 2000.

SPRING BIRDS

Sheila Dixon

Yes folks it's all happening at 414 Henley Rd. The first sign was quite a few weeks ago when the Fan-tailed Cuckoo turned up. You know, I do wonder how he gets all the important things done aside from eating for his call is completely incessant, and seems to last from morning to night. A tragedy happened here though. One morning last week I found him dead on my back steps. He had gone into the window of my new room on the back and I was quite upset. However he had a decent burial in the vegie garden and I'll grow something special on top of him.

Then there was the arrival of the oodle bird as I call the oriole, oodling away in a stringy bark nearby. Gosh they are hard to see in amongst the leaves. The cuckoos like the bare branches and the orioles the leaves. The dear swallows are back and sit on the top of my house singing their wonderful songs all day. They'll nest on my front veranda under the eaves if the butcher bird doesn't frighten them off.

The Yellow Robin, though, I think stays here for the Winter. It is chuck-chucking in the morning and evening and I think there are more of them than last year. Then only last week did I hear the Pallid Cuckoo. He was a bit late round here.

My favourite has to be that Willie Wagtail though. It's not Spring until he starts up and started up he did a couple of weeks ago. Practically fluttering in my face until one evening last week an attractive female joined in the mating game. It was a bit indecorous though for no sooner were they engaged, the next day they got married. I know because I saw them! I mean they hardly know each other. I'm trying to find out where their nest is. They come for a drink at my bird-bath each day and pity help any other bird who tries to sneak in first.

The other day I had 4 Corellas; I think they had missed the 4th. silo on the side of the road at Charlton. The other people round here didn't seem to care. Perhaps they knew they were just country-cousins. Then there are always little surprises round here.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS REGISTER

Steve Craig

Inspired by Alan Reid from the Gould League, I have previously reported on the timelines that are based on the six "natural seasons" for the middle Yarra (see Newsletter 38, 43, and 45) and as mentioned in Newsletter No. 46 we would like to continue doing this but including more of your local observations.

Many residents are aware of and will have purchased the Middle Yarra Timelines Calendar developed by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, Gould League and Yarra Valley Parklands. The BICA Committee recently agreed to examine the feasibility of producing our own Timelines calendar for the ELZ. However, we need your input if this project is to succeed. Please take the time to complete the attached significant events form and either post to BICA C/O Kangaroo Ground PO, 3097 or email to stevecraigaus@netscape.net or rosseric@ozemail.com.au. We'll email or post you a new form each time you send one in. The Middle Yarra Timelines Calendar will give you some clues about what to expect at different times of the year or check out the Gould League Timelines web page at www.gould.edu.au/index1.htm.

Significant Events Report Form: SAMPLE RECORDS (please forward to BICA PO Kangaroo Ground, 3097)

The Timelines Australia Project aims to recover and discover natural history event formation held in diaries and notebooks, analyse them and seek patterns that will allow

local calendars to be established. It also aims to set up monitoring programs for public input, so that the growing resource of time lines information can be used by all Australians for environmental management.

Significant events include:

- When something happens for the first time each year e.g. first bloom of bush peas; mutton birds leave
- When the number of something common reach a peak trough e.g. large hatch of mayflies; only 2 swallows by house
- Effects of a human-caused natural catastrophe e.g. regrowth after fire; storm impact; casualties through freeway clearing
- Distribution changes in plant or animal populations e.g. weed spread; bird migration; tree planting program
- Effects of a major weather change e.g. after a series of frosts; torrential rains or persistent strong winds
- Major behavioral changes seen in animals e.g. flocking, nesting, hibernation; territory defense
- Interesting plant and animal associations e.g. pollinating an orchid; Rosella attacking galls on wattle.

DATE TIME	WEATHER	OBSERVATION	SIGNIFICANCE TO YOU	PRECISE LOCALITY	NEAREST TOWN
4/8/00	Fine	3 Echidnas seen trailing one another around	First time I've seen this	RBCC 'B' Trk	Kangaroo Ground 3097
4-5/9/00	Fine	Resident Powerful Owls fledged 2 young	Did not breed last year	Btw Catani Blvd & Henley Road.	
23/9/00	Fine	Sacred Kingfisher calling	First time this year	RBCC 'B' Trk	
4/10/00	Fine	Olive-backed Oriole calling	First time this year	RBCC 'B' Trk	
REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION FROM GOULD LEAGUE TIMELINES NEWSLETTER					

'WOMIN JI-KA WYENONDBUL' WELCOME TO THE BEND OF ISLANDS

Mick Woivod

In the light of the recent restoration of the name 'Nillumik' as that of the Shire, might it not be worth the Bend of Islands community considering the use of the name 'Wyenondabul' (the original Wurundjeri name for this district) alongside its own as a gesture towards reconciliation?

The name is recorded on a sketch map captioned 'View from Mr Riery's Upper Yarra' drawn by William Thomas in the 1840s. The sketch is currently held in the Australian Manuscripts Collection of the State Library of Victoria (ms 8781, Box 176/7/C). It's a simple pencil sketch on a quarto sheet with, centrally upon it, a sketch of the Ryrie homestead and a nearby water feature marked 'large water hole'. There is a cross marked on the sketch, presumably indicating the position from which it was drawn. The Yarra is sketched flowing longitudinally across the page with around it fourteen hills, each with its original Wurundjeri name above. Under three hills lie the words 'all gone dead'. The compass drawn in has its east-west axis drawn in opposite order, suggesting that the information should be read turning full circle.

On the obverse side of the sheet Thomas has written: *These are the mountains as seen in my district taken commencing at mythe(?) south of the Yarra as seen (indistinct). You stand at Mr Ryrie's X going cautiously to the Koranwarrabin X from there to Anderson's X*

As such, the sketch ought to be read standing in the northern car park of present day Chateau Yering. Looking west from the car park a wide gap is visible in the otherwise continuous line of hills marking the course of the Yarra as it flows towards the Warrandyte Gorge. North of the gap is a hill top that is close to or within the Bend of Islands marked Wyenondable. I believe, in the light of Thomas's propensity for using the ending -able on indigenous words, that it ought to be rendered as *Wyenondabul*.

No exact date can be ascertained for the sketch but general agreement is that it derives from the 1840s. Dr Marie Fels, author of *Good Men and True*, describes it as follows.

Another drawing, which may be an actual Aboriginal artifact, is the View from Mr Riery's Upper Yarra. This drawing is done too with short pen strokes and is not European in style. Thomas writes that it was one by 'an old wandering black Kurburra, alias Ruffy'. It depicts a panoramic view of fourteen mountains starting on

(1) Marie Hansen Fels, *La Trobe Library Journal*, 'The La Trobe Library Collection of the papers of William Thomas,' Vol 11, no 43, p. 15.

the left to the west to the viewer. All peaks are named and in some cases the owner of the country is named; 'all gone dead' doubtless refers to the owners(1).

How then is the term 'Wyenondabul' to be interpreted? There can be little debate about the prefix 'wyen'. It means 'fire'. There is good reason to believe too that the suffix 'bul' means ridge or hill as in *Corhanwarrabul* (Mt Dandenong). The thing to remember is that in one way or another all Wurundjeri place names are descriptive. The likely meaning of 'Wyenondabul' is therefore 'Fiery Hills, consistent with the region's known fire history.

The Nillumbik Shire over the next few months will be placing signs with the words *Womin ji-ka* (Wurundjeri for 'welcome') at the entrances to each town within its boundaries, together with the Wurundjeri logo of the eagle (*Bunjil*). Perhaps a way forward for our community might be to seek the approval of the Wurrundjeri elders and have the Shire locate a sign at the entrance to the Bend of Islands reading 'Womin ji-ka Wyenondbul'

BIRD NOTES

Frank Pierce

Some significant events have occurred recently.

1. I saw a male Lyrebird off Skyline Road near the co-op on 6 July 2000. Steve Craig saw it about a week later in a gully north of the Co-op. This is a significant sighting as it is a demonstration of the importance of the Kinglake National Park-Warrandyte State Park habitat link. Lyrebirds have not been recorded in the Warrandyte SP or the ELZ for about thirty years. The bird evidently ventured down to the ELZ from Kinglake NP as part of the pre-breeding season dispersal. There have not been any further sightings of the bird in the ELZ

2. A pair of Peregrine Falcons have nested on a electrical transmission line tower near Henley Road. They are raising a single chick which is looking healthy. The female has a band on each leg and we are keeping Vic Hurley of DNRE informed of progress.. Vic co-ordinates the Victorian Peregrine Project.

3. A pair of Powerful Owls successfully raised two chicks in the ELZ again this year.

4. I recently heard an oriole mimicking a Cat Bird between its normal call, evidence of its recent arrival back from its winter holiday up north!

FISH FOREVER?-YOUR CHOICE

Steve Craig

Help conserve fish by using the sustainable fish guide.

Eat fish from a good fishery. A good fishery is ecologically sustainable because it:

- is not overfished
- does not use destructive methods
- has good research and management
- does not take fish faster than they can breed

Frightening Facts

- 70% of the worlds commercially important fish stocks are either over-fished, fully fished or rebuilding
- Only 9 out of 10 Australian fisheries are capable of sustaining increased catches, a figure based on our very limited knowledge of most commercial species.
- Overfishing of gemfish in eastern Australia has led to closure of this fishery
- The slow growing Swordfish is under great pressure from fishing. Over half of the breeding females in the north Atlantic have been wiped out in under 20 years.
- Each year, trawlers across the globe scour an area of seabed twice the size of the worlds continental shelves, decimating seafloor communities.
- Australain orange roughy populations are now thought to be less than 30% of their original levels. These fish live up to 150 years and may take decades to recover from the heavy fishing they have endured since the 1980's.

As an incentive to renew BICA membership all members who are financial for 2001 at the AGM will be eligible to be in the draw for two bottles of the event commemorative wine. Take advantage of the membership renewal form attached to this newsletter or throw your subscription to Michael Pelling before the AGM.

Name	Also sold as	Scale
Calamari – Southern	Squid, Calamari	–
Tuna - Albacore	Tuna	–
King George Whiting	Southern Australian Whiting	–
Blue Grenadier	Hoki	–
Flounder - Greenback	Flounder	–
Flathead - Sand	Flathead, Bay Flathead	–
Shark - Gummy	Flake * Many different types of shark are sold as 'flake' – ask what you are eating	–
Silver Trevally	Silver Bream	?
Ling - Pink	Ling, Rock Ling	?
Flathead - Tiger	Trawl Flathead	?
John Dory	Silver Dory	?
Southern Rock Lobster	Crayfish, Lobster	?
Swordfish - Broadbill	Swordfish, Marlin	X
Southern Bluefin Tuna	Tuna, Sashimi	X
Shark - School	Flake	X
Gemfish	Hake	X
Blue Warehou	Trevally, Trevalla	X
Ling - Rock	Ling	X
Scallop - Commercial	Scallop, King Scallop	X
Orange Roughy	Sea Perch	X

Key: _ = Best choice ? = Think again X = Last resort

SOURCE: VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION. CONTACT THE VNPA IF YOUR WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES CAMPAIGN 03 9650 8296 OR VISIT THEIR WEB SITE.

www.vnpa.org.au

BICA Newsletter November 2000

FIRE BRIGADE

Dianne Simmons: Captain, Christmas Hills Fire Brigade

We are now in to the lead up to the fire season. We know it has been wet, but it is time to think about the clean up for summer !!!

Brigade members are now well into training for Wildfire Firefighter accreditation. It's great to see that most of our current firefighters are working toward this recognition. We are all discovering some new things but it is also nice to realize that we have a very good start to the program from our previous training efforts.

Have you heard about the "new" Wildfire Management Overlay (WMO) planning requirements? Not all areas are covered by the Overlay, but where it is in place (some parts of the Bend of Islands), new planning conditions will apply. Basically new dwellings and extensions which require a planning permit will need to incorporate a Building Protection Zone (BPZ) which is clear of vegetation for about 30m around the house, and in some high risk vegetation types (such as medium height forest, heath, tall forests for example), a further Fuel Modified Buffer Zone (FMBZ) is required. This will add about another 60m or so, where fuels (vegetation) are modified and kept low.

There are two basic choices to comply with the requirements of the WMO and get a planning permit. Most people will accept the recommendations set out in the WMO, and opt to simply comply with them. If landowners don't want to comply with the WMO requirements, a fire-safe alternative needs to be provided by the landowner. Options may include adding sprinkler systems, variations in housing design and materials etc. Any suggested plan will be assessed for fire safety by CFA Regional personnel.

The WMO planning requirements have the potential to have a significant impact on high conservation areas, so it would be useful for people to make some suggestions about how to comply with the WMO, and at the same time maintain vegetation and habitat quality.

You might also be interested in reading the proceedings of a recent conference run by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW called "Red Trucks-.Green Futures" (Sound familiar? It should, they nicked it off us !) where our Fire Brigade gets a guernsey !

Don't forget that the Christmas Hills Fire Brigade web site is chock full of good information about fire safety and other matters. URL ('internet address') is
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~chfb/welcome.html>

A LOCAL FERN

John McCallum

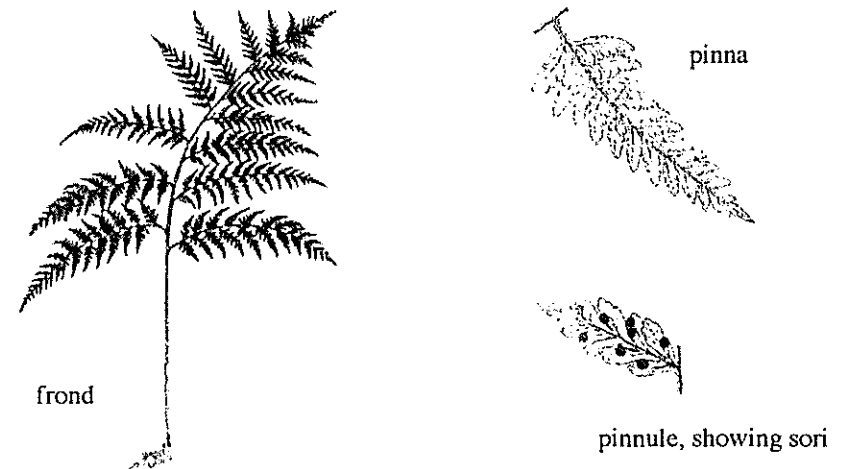
We are coming to the end of our list of ferns that have been recorded for the ELZ. There are a couple more to go and a list will be published at the end of the series. Each species will have a reference to the issue of BICA News in which it appeared.

Rainbow Fern (*Culcita dubia*) is a species commonly found throughout the state. It can cover large areas at forest edges and on disturbed ground. It is one of several species that have been referred to as 'False Bracken'.

Like Bracken and *Hypolepis punctata*, the ground fern that we have covered already, the fronds of *C. dubia* are tripinnate. This means that the frond is divided three times to form a broadly triangular structure. *Culcita*, as a member of the ground fern family Dennstaedtiaceae, also has an extensive creeping rhizome covered with hairs. The fronds are numerous, large and strong. The fronds bear round sori (bundles of sporecases) on their margins.

In the Bend of Islands *C. dubia* is found along water courses such as Stevenson's Creek where it forms mixed stands with Austral Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) against which it stands out because of its yellowish green colour. Bracken tends to be a much darker green and closer inspection reveals a much more leathery texture than Rainbow Fern.

Rainbow fern is easy to grown but does take up a lot of space.



Bend of Islands Conservation Association Inc A11100A

If undeliverable, return to

BICA Inc

C/- PO Bend of Islands

Vic., 3097

The next major events are:

Annual General Meeting on November 26 at 2.00 pm

The Bend of Islands Event on December 3 at 3.00 pm

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

1.3.96

Membership Renewal or Application (Full \$10.00, Concession \$6.00, Family \$20.00

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email