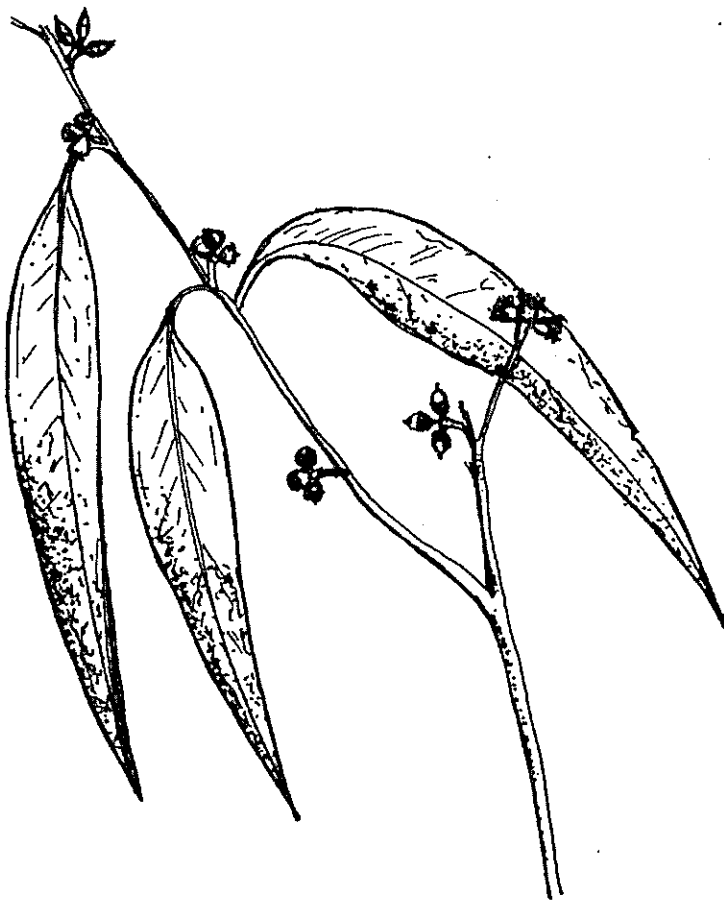


BEND OF ISLANDS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSLETTER

President: Carol Bonay 9712 0648, C/- Post Office, Kangaroo Ground, Vic, 3097 - Editor, John McCallum 9712 0319
website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~bica/index.html>
email: bica@rabbit.com.au

Inc. No. A11100A

Number 53 April 2002



WHAT LOCAL PLANT IS FLOWERING?

Botanical name: *Eucalyptus viminalis*

Common name: Manna Gum

Family: Myrtaceae

Flowering period: Summer to Autumn

A large tree, 15-30 m. high x 10 m. wide canopy, found growing by rivers and creeks of wet and valley eucalypt forests. Prefers a protected sunny position in deep moist well drained soils.

The bark is rough and grey on the lower part of the trunk and shed in long ribbons from the upper part of the trunk and branches, leaving a smooth white trunk often shaded with greys and tans. The bark is shed in summer often leaving long strips of the shredded bark hanging from the branches or clustered under the tree.

The adult leaves are 10 - 20 cm long, narrow, lanceolate (i.e. tapering at both ends particularly at the apex) and drooping. The leaves are alternate, i.e. a regular arrangement of leaves along the stem in which adjacent leaves are never opposite one another. The juvenile leaves are smaller, opposite, stalkless, narrow and bright green. The leaves are the favoured food of koalas.

The eucalypt buds are egg shaped and in clusters of threes on a flattened stem, usually growing in the one plane and at right angles to each other. The flowers are white and good honey producers. The fruit capsules are round with three or four projecting valves.

The common name "manna" was derived from the white sugary sap which is exuded from the leaves via tiny bore holes produced by sap-sucking insects. The Koories (the Aboriginal people of Victoria) scraped the manna from the fallen stems and leaves or collected the dried flakes from the ground underneath the tree. The manna was a highly valued food of the Koorie people.

CRIC HENRY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Autumn, how sweet it is, especially in the Bend of Islands. I'm sure this is the warmest autumn I have experienced since moving down south. (if you didn't know I'm an import from NSW). The bush is looking suitably refreshed after the recent welcome rains and it's probably a good time to pop a few indigenous plants into the ground before it gets too cold.

Speaking of cold it's time to think about fuel for your fire. If you have wood heating I ask that you consider buying plantation sugargum instead of redgum or other timber that has been removed from our Australian forests. Removal of timber from our area is not allowed and it is hypocritical of us to remove it from other areas. Another option is to burn the pine removed from the Parfitt property by the B of I landcare group. If it is a suitable fuel for your fire device give us a hand in removing it from the pile. As the sign says, it's free for the taking

Since our last Newsletter we have a newly elected Council and Alan and I attended the special meeting of council for the swearing in ceremony. Lex de Mann is our new Mayor and Bob Stubbings, our Yanakie representative, was elected deputy Mayor. An invitation was extended to them both, along with other councilors who may be interested, to visit our area and both were very keen to have the now famous tour of the Bend of Islands!

Still no word from Minister Garbutt on the surplus Melbourne Water Land in our area and we wait not so patiently!

See you round.

CAROL BONNY

MORE HONOURS

Our very own and much loved Mick Woiwod has done it again. You may have seen in the Diamond Valley News that Mick was recently named a Seniors Achiever in the Victorian Senior of the Year awards. Premier Steve Bracks and Senior Victorians Minister Christine Campbell presented Mick with the award at Government house.

The award honours older people who care about and help others, and made a difference to their community. Congratulations Mick, they say we always get what we deserve but I thought you should have won. Maybe next time it will be Senior COUPLE of the Year then I'm sure the combination of you and Marg would be truly unbeatable. Good on both of you!!

NIGHT EVENT 2002

A beautifully warm autumn's day led into a mild weathered evening for this year's night event.

The dam on Jo Douglas and Gerard Banner's property formed the central focus for a night of varied entertainment by the many talented and enthusiastic Bend of Islanders.

The revue opened as previous years have done, with the children of the area entertaining us early in the evening with singing, comedy and musical performances. The artistic future of the E.L.Z. appears to be in good hands. There then followed a wide range of local talent - singing, playing instruments, reciting. The whole cast was ably introduced by the very dapper M.C. of the evening, Chris Carson.

From the riveting story telling of Donna Bradshaw and the slap stick of Dustin Flannagan and Rory Kamminga to the Gypsy Band's toe-tapping folk tunes, the audience experienced a vast array of acts. Audience participation was guaranteed with the performance of Chris Tabecki, Gerard Banner and choir on piano accordion, tuba and voice respectively. One of the night's highlights, not easily forgotten, involved all Benders singing from Cue Cards the totally incomprehensible chorus of "Ranzo Ranzo - Way Hay"! Thanks to all the performers, too numerous to mention, who created a unique event.

Proceedings proceeded into the wee hours (apparently) with the "non-official" entertainment transforming into the stalwarts performing renditions of musicals around the camp-fire.

Thanks to the organising efforts of Karyn Kamminga and Ross Henry, Alan James for sound equipment, Jeph Neale and Hilary Jackman for lighting, the CFA for power, the Playgroup for decorations and all the helpers who made the night a success. Special thanks to Jo and Gerard who kindly allowed the event to occur on their future house site.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY, THE ANNUAL EVENT

Along with the usual collection of roadside rubbish the group targeted removal of old fencing. A full skip load of rubbish and old fencing wire was achieved by the 19 people who participated. Good work by all involved.

LOCAL HEROES

Sheila Dixon

Following the first in this series in the last BICA Newsletter, here is more from Sheila about the people who make things happen in the Bend of Islands

ALAN BONNY, BICA'S LITTLE HELPER

In 1992, to put it in Christopher Robin's terms, A Good Thing happened. Alan and Carol Bonney came to live up here. They came from Montmorency and through various means had discovered BICA which came very close to what they had been wanting for their lifestyle.

One bright day they received from Janet Mattiske a package which explained and illustrated all the positives for this area and what it stood for and they were to look no further. They went to a Field Day and then onto the afternoon tea. Now as anyone knows the afternoon teas up here are disgusting. Everybody is a great cook, and I mean that, on that tea alone the Bonneys looked for land around here. They missed their first choice but eventually bought the piece they are on now.

Of course Alan was on the BICA Committee immediately and before you could drink a glass of red he was vice president. From there things just followed. The Planning sub-committee was next. This covers all our planning issues. To do with power, water and council matters. Of course all these entail written submissions about trees, roads and their verge clearing, attending council meetings and a myriad of phone calls. Attending council meetings is not a joy and I congratulate Alan for his forbearance.

Now and again the council has groups of people they like to show our area to and Alan does the talks and tours round our place. I'm sure we have had a few new residents from this arrangement.

Then we have our lovely Landcare group and if you don't see the beard and the woolly hat there you know he is in Madagascar. Though what he is doing there I don't know. But the thing he does best is to be the Coffee Lady at Café Benders. Never mind all this rubbish about trees and the environment it's that coffee that really matters. He's there early with Krauses, putting up the tables and chairs and setting up the kitchen to receive all that lovely food.

Just to finish off for this dear man, he and Carol are in the throes of building their own house and also find time to do small kindly things for me and others I'm sure when needed. When he finally gets to those pearly gates there will be 2000 pots of indigenous plants to grow and 10,000 mud bricks to go. And I know they will definitely have a committee ready for him. Though I don't think they use the word Vice up there.

THIS ONE IS FOR PAMELA GUERNEY

Quite a few summers ago Pamela and Peter Guerney were living up here, in 1977 to be exact. Like a lot of us up here the early days were spent working and Pamela was a nurse at Diamond Valley Hospital which I now know intimately. Of course the little people came along and things began to change.

This area already had the feeling to it that the neighbourhood was not just neighbours but a sort of extended family as well. And this is where Pamela started to come into the picture with her ideas and energy. Little kids needed to be socialised and so she came up with the organisation of a play group. A bit different up here to the suburbs I suppose, distance seemed a problem, for there wasn't a kindergarten round the corner. But there were plenty of growing little ones and so a local play group it was.

Other helpful arrangements were around like the baby sitting club. You know the old one, you look after our kids and we owe you the hours and no money changes hands. That worked well until the night the baby sitters who were supposed to be home at 12.00 didn't get home until 4.00. Well.....!

Anyway, Peter and Pamela then spent a number of years overseas and arrived back here in Paradise around 1990 and settled into a renovated house for the duration. Then came the first important idea from Pamela that I was around to be a part of. We had a busy little group to raise money for our fire brigade and Pamela thought up this intriguing title of The Night Event. This was to take place in a nearby paddock and dam and was to be about whatever people would want to do. Pamela did a lot of organising and a gorgeous motley crew brought their many talents along.

I remember the first night was a brilliant success. She had organised little paper bags with candles in them all round the dam. I wish I had the program but I know people drank wine, ate good picnic food, blew and plucked instruments, sang and one famous person walked slowly down the hill playing his bagpipes. Now, how was that for a shiver up the spine. The Night Event has grown into a regular occasion but none will take the place for me of that first one. Thanks Pamela.

Next was Cafe Benders. Pam thought this up as an earner for "the Friends of" too and that now takes in quite a considerable amount of money. It started as a Saturday morning market and has really finished up being the wine and chattering classes.. Always decent coffee and wonderful cakes that people bring to sell. Gossip is passed around and some mornings breakfast is served. Newcomers turn up not quite sure what to expect and finish up getting to know more people than they can throw a stick at.

I'll have to finish now for this is getting a bit long but what Pamela has achieved with

her bringing people together has been more than just social gatherings. This wouldn't work in the city but up here the feeling is extended family and, above all, support for each other. This is something that Pam has caused to happen even though she is so busy with the other side to her life, her embroidery and teaching. May all her stitches come out on the right side.

BURNING THEIR HOMES TO HEAT OURS

Steve Craig

The continued net loss of native hollow-bearing trees and coarse woody debris due to firewood harvesting practice is currently being considered for listing as a Key Threatening Process under the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

People who burn firewood to heat their homes are often unaware of the ecological effects of burning dead trees and fallen logs which make up the bulk of firewood supplied by local fuel merchants.

Dead standing and fallen timber provides critical habitat for numerous species of birds, mammals and reptiles. It's now recognised that the removal of this wood is contributing to a significant loss of wildlife, particularly in the woodlands of south-east Australia.

For more information on how to reduce the impacts of firewood use, visit Environment Australia's website on the impact of firewood collection and use www.ea.gov.au/firewood

SOURCE: THE WEB. THREATENED SPECIES NETWORK NATIONAL NEWSLETTER. AUTUMN 2002

THE HELMETED HONEYEATER NEEDS YOU!

Steve Craig

The withdrawal of funding for the Helmeted Honeyeater Recovery Program and the resulting loss of two State Government funded positions could result in the extinction of the State's avifaunal emblem in the wild.

Conservation and Environment Minister Sherryl Garbutt has stated publicly that Federal Government cuts risked the birds future but that the State Government and the Healesville Sanctuary would do everything possible to maintain the program, but the ornithologist employed to monitor the wild population was funded by the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust.

Helmeted Honeyeaters once occurred along rivers and streams in the Yarra Valley through to the Western Port drainage basin but the total wild population of about 100 birds is now restricted to Yellingbo State Nature Reserve and Bunyip State Park near Tonimbuk.

Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater have requested that concerned individuals and conservation groups write to both Sherryl Garbutt, State Minister for Conservation and Environment, and David Kemp, Federal Minister for the Environment, urging them to restore adequate funding for the program.

Contact Kieran Martin, Co-ordinator, Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater on 5964 8341 or ro.martin@bigpond.com if you would like further information or assistance with writing your letter.

BELIEVE IT AND YOU MIGHT SEE IT

Costanza Maffi

Has it ever happened to you that you've missed noticing something just because you didn't actually know it was there and therefore didn't consciously set out to look for it? You might've walked right past it for weeks without it ever catching even a smidgin of your attention. Like bush flowers in spring - as you go about your daily Benders business you might walk past dozens of those intricate little Spider Orchids or Chocolate Lillies and only notice patches of dry-looking earth with a scant covering of bush litter. And yet if you step out into the bush with the purpose of seeing tiny flowers, you might find them everywhere about your feet. Of course they've been there all along, it's just that your mind hasn't been thinking "orchid" or "lily" and so your eyes just haven't seen them.

So it happened to me, one warm day early last summer. I'd wandered up the slope above the house intent on raking sticks as part of my pre-bush-fire-season fuel reduction activities. It's hot and dusty work on a warm, still day, and as always I had my water bottle close to hand. I'd balanced it on a flattish rock alongside the driveway where I wasn't likely to lose track of it as I progressed along the slope.

Earlier in the year I'd lined up a few of these rocks alongside the upper reaches of the driveway. The house site is strewn with such rocks, I presume from the digging and filling of the house foundations. I had lined up a hopefully conspicuous row of football-sized rocks between "driveway" and "non-driveway", aiming to give non-bush visitors an idea of where not to drive and park their non-bush-friendly vehicles. And it sort of works.

So there I was - rake in one hand, March-fly-swat in t'other, feeling parched, hot and bothered and needing a drink and a rest. I bent down to pick up my water bottle and lingered in that bent position, savouring the relief of strain in my lower back and the stretch in my hamstrings. And there, looking up at me from the face of the rock upon which I'd rested my bottle was the most exquisitely formed shape. In fact there were three - little starfish fossils, about 4cm wide, intricately detailed and plain as day!!!

How many times a week had I walked past that rock since I'd lined it up carefully with its mates? What possessed me to pick that rock from tens of others on the site, to be placed alongside my driveway? And then place it fossil-side up? Without ever noticing the regularity of the pattern on its surface? If, at that moment, I'd heard a Pan-like chuckle emanating from the surrounding bush I'd have been less surprised!

The Melbourne Museum InfoZone offers a courtesy fossil identification service to the public and their in-house palaeontologists guarantee a three-week turn-around of material. So in I trotted with my treasured specimen and submitted it to the young lady at the InfoZone desk. She placed my bundle on her spotless paper-strewn desk and carefully unravelled the worn T-shirt cradling my rock. A few agitated black ants scrambled for freedom and disappeared across her paper-work. She gazed at the rock, I held my breath, she looked at me quizzically and then proclaimed she couldn't see a thing. Feeling not a little peeved and just a tad disillusioned, I traced the outline of each starfish with my finger. "Oh, OK." She pulled out a form, took my rock's and my details, gave me a number and said she'd call. It was April 2001.

The weeks, then months rolled by and no call was forthcoming from the InfoZone. Periodically I rang them, quoted my number, and was assured that the fossil was "still being processed" By year's end I presumed my rock would remain sitting forever on the InfoZone shelves, perhaps catalogued and shoved out of the way in an archive cabinet. I missed it.

With impeccable timing, a day before leaving on my annual 10-day December bushwalking pilgrimage to the mountains, the InfoZone was on the phone clamouring for me to come and collect my now-identified fossil and threatening to otherwise dispose of it. They begrudgingly agreed to store it on my behalf for up to three weeks, on account of Christmas.

When I retrieved the rock in January 2002, a Melbourne Museum envelope containing a plain A4 sheet with a single paragraph of large text accompanied it. "Crinoids" was the title. "The fossils are crinoid impressions. Crinoids (or sea-lillies) are marine relatives of sea stars, which they resemble, but attach themselves to the sea floor on stalks, giving them a superficially plant-like appearance. Crinoids were echinoderms which flourished during the Cambrian period, 500-540 million years ago. This is probably the age of the rock.

To get a picture of the geological time scale go to an encyclopaedia or check either of these two web sites:

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/help/timeform.html>

<http://www.geo.ucalgary.ca/~macrae/timescale/timescale.html>

According to the University of California at Berkeley, Museum of Palaeontology website, crinoids were the most abundant group of echinoderms (the phylum of marine

animals including sea-urchins, sea-cucumbers and starfish) from the late Cambrian or early Ordovician (approximately 500 million years ago), to the late Palaeozoic era.

A glance at a geological map of the area encompassing the ELZ indicates that the local rock bed is predominantly sandstone (specifically, laminated and current bedded sandstone with interbedded siltstone and shale) from the later stages of the Silurian period, a mere 440 to 410 or so million years ago and well within the period in which crinoids were about.

Referring back to the UCB website, we're informed that the earlier stages of the Silurian period (the Llandovery period, 428-438 million years ago) preserves its fossils in shale, sandstone and grey mudstone sediment. So in addition giving us modern humanoids an excellent mud-brick-making material in the form of mudstone, our 440 or so million year old land plot can also reveal something of the creatures that preceded us when the area formed part of an ancient seabed. Keep an eye out - there may be more!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Alan Bonny

At the BICA General Meeting the guest speaker topic was Weeds. John Weiss from the Keith Turnbull Research Institute addressed the group on the history of weed introduction and spread.

The majority of weeds introduced into Victoria in the last 25 years has occurred by deliberate importation as decorative garden species. Daunting news but some optimism for the future with the change in policy introduced in 1996. Prior to that plants could be imported provided they were not on the prohibited list. The new policy only allows permitted plants to be imported and if a non permitted plant is desired it must be fully assessed to ensure it will not have a detrimental impact. John also described the current approach of rapid response and early intervention for newly identified weed species. It is now accepted that an intensive approach as soon as a new weed plant is identified is the most successful and economical action plan. Literature and some samples of weed species were displayed which prompted Peter Gurney to suspect Serrated Tussock was present at his place. A subsequent visit by John confirmed that it was the South American noxious weed which was probably introduced with gravel delivered for the driveway. Peter has eradicated the grass and is monitoring for further outbreaks. Another informative and entertaining speaker.

RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES:

13 MAY,	10 JUNE,	8 JULY,	5 AUGUST,	2 SEPTEMBER,
30 SEPTEMBER,	28 OCTOBER,	25 NOVEMBER,	23 DECEMBER	

DORMANT SEEDS

Carol Bonny

It has been amazing to watch the species popping up since the removal of the pines in Henley Rd. To compliment the planting by the Landcare group the areas that have been fenced for revegetation have regenerated with an amazing diversity of plants. The seed has probably been lying dormant for up to thirty years from when the bush was cleared to plant the pines. The large eucalypts that were on the site that have now been liberated are displaying great epicormic growth on their trunks and new seedlings are emerging all over the site. The results so far make this Landcare initiative an outstanding success. Thank you to all those who have worked so hard on this project.

Pine removal helps to halt the spread of an environmental weed and with pines a very volatile species also makes the area around a house safer in the fire season. On a property close to the Landcare site Chris and Gela have removed many pines and intend to eradicate the remainder. Next property on the Landcare group list to be cleared of pines is Jo and Gerards block, the site of our annual night event.

Do you have pines? Would you like them removed? We can help! Please ring Landcare coordinator Peter Gurney 9712 0408.

WARRANTYTE STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Steve Craig

After more than 10 years it is generally acknowledged that the existing plan is in need of review, particularly because there have been additions to the Park, increased visitor pressure plus increased pressure from surrounding residential areas.

Robin Crocker & Associates have been contracted by Parks Victoria to review the existing plan, but apparently community consultation will not be as extensive as before.

Parks Victoria are however inviting public comment, so if you are concerned about proposed future uses of the Warrandyte State Park and particularly what is proposed for the Mt Lofty area then write to Garry French, Planning/Program Manager Parks Victoria, P.O Box 568, Templestowe 3106 to register your interest and to have your say.

SOURCE: FRIENDS OF WARRANTYTE STATE PARK NEWSLETTER. MARCH 2002

BIRD NOTES

Frank Pierce

Lyrebirds

The lyrebirds, seen in the area for the first time in forty years during July 2000, seem to have established themselves on the northern edge of the ELZ. The following sightings have been reported:-

6/01	Marie Krause	heard near Sugarloaf
6/01	Trish Millington	saw 1 bird on Skyline Rd
8/01	Wolfgang Krause	saw 2 birds together on Skyline Rd on 2 occasions
12/01	Michael Skews	saw 1 bird on Skyline Rd
2/02	Chris Carson	saw 2 birds together on Skyline Rd on 2 occasions

New Sightings

- Forktailed Swifts have been seen by Marie Krause, near her house, and by Robyn Duff, at Market Garden Bend, while on one of the monthly BICA Bird Survey walks
- Little Lorikeets were seen by Micheal Skewes at his house some time ago, and small flocks have recently been seen by Frank Pierce on the Co-op and at Market Garden Bend
- A Common Koel was seen by Frank Pierce at Ashmore Rd in 12/01 (at dawn, while looking for the lyrebird).
- A pair of Black Shouldered Kites successfully bred and raised one offspring at the Heritage golf property, in a tall eucalypt just over the ELZ fence, at the end of Henley Rd in Autumn '01.
- Painted Button Quail were seen consistently on a ridge north of the Coop last Autumn/winter. They have recently been seen several times on 'B' Track on the Coop.

Could you please record the details of any unusual sightings you make, especially lyrebirds, and pass them on to Frank Pierce (97120237),.

TIMELINES IN THE BEND OF ISLANDS

Steve Craig

Autumn (4th week of March to 4th week of May)

Nights are getting chilly and early morning mists form in the Yarra Valley as Late Summer moves into Autumn after the equinox in late March. This is the season of "smog alerts" with temperature inversions creating ideal conditions for "prescribed burning" in the forests surrounding the Yarra Valley. Introduced house mice are "moving in doors" as summer migrants including White-throated Nightjars, Leaden and Satin Flycatchers move back north. White-throated Needletails begin their long journey back to the northern hemisphere to breed while Pied Currawongs, Flame Robins and Gang Gang Cockatoos move down from the high country. Resident birds are moulting, Magpie bachelor groups form and juvenile White-winged Choughs are still begging food from their relatives. Powerful Owls are heard calling more regularly now as they re-establish their territories prior to the breeding season in Deep Winter. Swift Moths emerge following the first heavy showers and the fruiting bodies of assorted fungi are a feature of wet gullies as rainfall becomes more regular. The normally solitary Black Wallaby gives birth and the Brush-tailed Phascogale breeding season begins as Wedge-tailed Eagles commence nest building.

Deep Winter (1st week of June to 2nd week of July)

Female Powerful Owls are sitting on eggs laid in early June. 100% of male Brush-tailed Phascogales die following their breeding season. Wedge-tailed Eagles mate within a few days of the Winter solstice and small groups of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos can be seen extracting Wood Moth larvae from the branches and trunks of Silver Wattles. The first flowers of Early Nancy, Common Beard Heath and Spreading Wattle are out and Maroonhood, Tiny Greenhood and Nodding Greenhood can also be found. The introduced Cootamundra Wattle and Early Black Wattle are in flower and Southern Brown Tree frogs, Common and Smooth Froglets call regularly from ponds and wet soaks.

More detailed information on what to look out for each month is available from the Gould League Timelines web site www.gould.edu.au/timeline.htm and please email your observations to me at stevecraigaus@hotmail.com to add to our data base for use in Bend of Islands Timelines calendar.

BICA PLANT OFFER

BICA is offering advice to the residents of the Bend of Islands on the removal of non-local plants on their property and the replacement with local plants of the Bend of Islands.

BICA's offer includes:-

1. A consultation on site with the tagging and identification of the non local plants
 2. The resident is responsible for the removal of the identified non local plants.
 3. Upon removal of the plants, free replacement plants from BICA. The plant species and the number of free plants is dependent on the availability of the propagated local plants and the appropriate number of plants for regeneration purposes, as per the discretion of BICA. As a guide a minimum of 2 free plants for every one plant removed up to a maximum of 50 plants per property.
 4. A copy of the BICA plant schedule, "The Local Plants of the Bend Islands", will also be supplied. This schedule provides information on the local plants including plant types, botanical and common names, mature height and width, flower colour and flowering season, preferred soil and aspect.
 5. Information pamphlets on planting procedure, methods of protecting plants from grazing animals and the maintenance of plants will also be supplied to ensure maximum survival rates of the replacement plants.
 6. Empty plant tubes are to be returned to BICA for re-use.
- Contact Carol Bonny 9712 0648 or Cric Henry 9712 0547 if you are interested.

THE BICA COMMITTEE FOR 2002

President: Carol Bonny 9712 0648

Vice President:: Janet Mattiske 9712 0237

Treasurer: Peter Gurney 9712 0408

Secretary: Alan Bonny 9712 0648

Other Members:

Steve Craig	9712 0029	Colin Devenish	9712 0882
Robyn Duff	9712 0390	Tom Fisher	97120451
Cric Henry	9712 0547	Val Himmelreich	059647849
Michael Pelling	9712 0286	Jenny Taylor	9712 0614

AT THE BRIDGE Harold Heald

Wattle and grasses crowd the banks,
Manna Gums stand in serried ranks,
All drawing food through hungry roots
To nurture tender, growing shoots.

The water in the creek is clear,
Unusual for this time of year;
Caused by the long El Nino drought
The neighbourhood still talks about.

The gravel shoals are easily seen
And rotting logs soak - slate grey-green.
The languid, lean reeds, ruffled, drift

As subtle currents swirl and shift.
Amid this liveliness lies death,
The silver form lost quick'ning breath -
The trout lies firmly caught and snagged;
Writhing, dying; lithe body sagged.

No more to swim, roll, twist and peck
Then burst the surface of the creek;

Nor lie in shelt'ring boulder's lee,
Nor catch the sun shaft through the tree,
Nor feel Spring's breeding, urgent flush,
Nor fight the Winter current's rush.

Lie limpid there, still clear of eye.
Accident, log trapped, so to die.
Supple, slippery still; life spent,
Washed from watery firmament.

The flowing stream continues on
Where speckled silver once had shone.
Dry leaves and bark fall from a tree.
But who, bright trout, will grieve for thee?



HENLEY ROAD ACCIDENT

Two comments on traffic conditions on Henley Road

from Alan Bonny

You will have seen those green signs pasted along Henley Rd notifying of an accident allegedly caused by an oncoming car on the wrong side of the road with lights on high beam. Our roads are only dangerous if we don't drive with consideration and at a speed that allows us to slow or stop to avoid other road users or wildlife. Slow down and enjoy the trip. Henley Rd is approximately 8 Kilometers long and the difference between driving safely or dangerously is only a few minutes of your time.

Add this to your Bend of Islands Directory:

24 hour Police: contact Eltham Police 9431 1377

from Michael Pelling

Watch out, you could be next!

Recently I was cut off, while driving my car around the sharp corner in Henley Rd, east of Menzies Rd. by a very large Chook pellet delivery truck. It was like a petrol tanker but higher, white and had at least one trailer. Not wishing to share the fate of the broilers at the trucks destination I fired a letter to Nillumbik council. A prompt reply informed me that if I came across a vehicle longer than 19 metres and 50 tonnes in total mass I should report my sighting to the police, along with registration detail, and a check could be made of whether it had special permission to use the road. In addition I was interested in the clearance criteria for Henley Rd and the minimum apparently is as stated in the Councils roadside strategy plan, being a box clearance 6.5 metre in width and 5 metre in height from the edge of seal. The source of all wisdom on this is Sally Crew 9433 3193. All this happened prior to the recent incident, I think at the same corner, which has been described on very emotional green pamphlets on our trees. I think we must keep our eyes open and communicate any concerns to Nillumbik, also BICA, so that a source of data is created for infringements to be addressed.

Calendar Update

FIELD DAY 27 APRIL

Frogs by Peter Robertson from Wildlife Profile.
Meet at Ern Mainka's place, 119 Skyline Road at 6.30 pm. Bring a torch.

GENERAL MEETING MAY 12

2.00 pm at a venue to be announced. (Watch the sign tree at Oxley Bridge)
Guest speaker on Frogs .

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY JUNE 9

Keep this date free.....

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Please detach and return to:
Treasurer, BICA
c/o Post office
Kangaroo Ground
Vic. 3097

cut here -----

Please find enclosed my subscriptions for BICA membership for year.

2002 BICA SUBSCRIPTION

Full \$10 Concession \$6 Family \$20

Name.....

Phone.....

Address.....

.....
.....

THE NEXT GLITTERING OCCASION WILL BE.....

FIELD DAY 27 APRIL

Frogs by Peter Robertson from Wildlife Profil.
Meet at Ern Mainka's place, 119 Skyline Road at
6.30 pm. Bring a torch.

Robertson from Wildlife Profil.

**Sender: Bend of Islands Conservation Association Inc.
c/o Post Office. Kangaroo Ground 3097**

BICA

