

banksia

bulletin

summer 2023-24

YWNR's beautiful birds

Wildflower Wanders'
HIGHLIGHTS

MEET

**Donald MacDonald
Reserve's new
Convenor**



Bayside
CITY COUNCIL

From the Mayor

Welcome to the summer edition of the *Banksia Bulletin*. As with all editions, the last one for 2023 shows the magic of being curious about flora and fauna.

The Citywide Volunteer End of Year Celebration, held on Thursday 14 December, was attended by many of our Friends group volunteers. I continue to be in admiration of their enthusiasm, care and knowledge. Council could not maintain and enhance our reserves, heathlands and foreshore without the dedicated work of our Friends.

The partnership between Council officers and volunteers is critical to the health and preservation of our environment. Many thanks to our Council officers for their support.

The Wildflower Walks were one of the highlights of 2023.



Mayor Cr Fiona Stitfold attended the Friends' Christmas barbecue at Ricketts Point foreshore on Thursday 14 December.

Through August, September and into October 20 volunteers led 200 participants on 13 wildflower walks, observing the colour and diversity within our nature reserves and heathlands.

The Bayside Community Nursery also enjoyed another successful season with almost all stock sold. Many volunteers were involved, learning how to propagate and look after indigenous plants under the guidance of Citywide experts, for sale and to plant within our own gardens, reserves, foreshore and golf courses.

The Nursery reopens in April 2024 and I look forward to the Gala Open Day. Please visit our website for opening dates and other details.

Our weather continues to change: intense rains and storm cells, strong winds and an anticipated very hot summer. One way Council is working hard to keep the community protected is through the delivery of our [Urban Forest Strategy](#).

Council recently published its first annual report since the strategy was adopted. Impressively, throughout 2022-23 we planted 2,847 trees across public parks and within road reserves. Of the trees planted there were 1,588 indigenous, 841 native and 418 exotic species.

Findings from the Urban Forest Strategy Annual Report also show that tree canopy coverage around Bayside is on the up with municipal-wide tree canopy cover now estimated at 20.86%, which has increased from 16.51% in 2018. We need to continue to work together, planting in our gardens – both understory and canopy plants – to reach a minimum of 30% cover.

This magazine could not come to life without a core group of contributors, submission writers and photographers.



Thank you for your invaluable time, care, knowledge and vibrant images that create each edition of the *Banksia Bulletin*. Another fruitful collaboration!

On behalf of Bayside City Council, may you enjoy a wonderful happy and gentle holiday season and I look forward to seeing you throughout 2024.

Councillor Fiona Stitfold

Mayor



Cover photo: Common Flat-pea (*Platylobium obtusangulum*) pictured at Gramatan Avenue Heathland during the 2023 Wildflower Wanders. Photograph by Sue Forster

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Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)



Weeds of Bayside

By Aaron Hurrell, Citywide Bushland Crew

Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)

The Nasturtium is a soft, succulent annual herb, which originates from Central and South America. It grows quickly, sprawling over large areas in no time at all, preferring areas of full sun.

The flowers of the Nasturtium are funnel-like, made by five large petals. The colouration is found in various shades of yellow, orange and red and appears from spring to autumn. The leaves are soft, fleshy, are broad, circular and arranged in a spiral from the centre of the leaf where the stem joins the leaf. The fruit of the Nasturtium are 10mm long and are green in colour. The Nasturtium is spread by cuttings and by seed, either carried away by water, contaminated soil, people's shoes, birds or illegal dumping of rubbish. All these modes of transportation allow the Nasturtium to colonise new areas easily, particularly areas of recently disturbed soil.

The best way in dealing with Nasturtium is with manual hand weeding, taking particular care of bagging and removing all of the plant to ensure no further resprouts. Applying herbicide is another option, requiring follow up spraying to ensure newer leaves are affected by the herbicide.

These plants are common in nurseries and readily available for purchase.

Source: Website, Sydney Weed Network, Nasturtium
Website, Wikipedia, *Tropaeolum*
Website, Wikipedia, *Tropaeolum majus*

Bayside Community Nursery

Nursery Steering Committee Community member position vacant

Expression of Interest

The Nursery Steering Committee provides a mechanism for stakeholders to come together at regular intervals to discuss operations and to plan future strategies for Bayside Community Nursery. The committee consists of members from the Bayside community, Bayside City Council and Citywide (nursery contractor.)

Members contribute by:

- ✿ Providing input on nursery retail and propagation operations and current issues,
- ✿ Representing ideas from the Friends of Bayside
- ✿ Providing input into target planting and retail species, volunteer training and advocating for the Nursery within the community.

Community members are appointed to the committee for a three-year term. At the end of their term the position becomes vacant, and a standing member may re-nominate for appointment.

Expressions of Interest close Friday 1 March 2024.

Applications can be submitted to Environmental Volunteer Support Officer Anna Malone via amalone@bayside.vic.gov.au or call 9599 4815 for more information.

Lightwood wattle (*Acacia implexa*)





On Rakali watch

Words by Helen Graham Photo by Andrew McCutcheon

It was a blustery evening when a group of curious locals joined the intrepid members of the Friends of Native Wildlife (FoNW) in the Jetty Road car park.

We all were equipped with torches or head lamps, most of them with an infrared facility. The welcome suggestion to clamber down the large rocks on the lee side of the groyne, to escape the wind and waves, initially revealed our lack of nimbleness. Like SAS soldiers we took up sentinel positions. Unlike the aforementioned professional military men, our nocturnal navigation down the large boulders, each one abutted by chasms of varying sizes and depths, a hidden misstep threat to any foot or ankle on their owner's perilous descent, was not executed with finesse.

Eventually we each found a comfortable rock and sat quietly waiting for the Rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*), the Australian Native Water Rat, to appear.

A faint fanning of the calm water heralded the arrival of the first of the Rakalis. Amazement at its size and its long, distinctive white tail quietly rippled through our group. This one was about the size of a ringtail possum. It is claimed that some will grow to almost as big as a platypus. Over to the shore it swam and clambered up on the rocks, seemingly blissfully unaware of our presence, or perhaps, choosing to ignore us interlopers.

It must have been a tasty smorgasbord because soon others appeared, their diving interspersed with periods of swimming over to the rocks and preening. Obviously, there was a narcissist amongst them, as it preened for quite a long time just below us. Its golden hued underbelly contrasted beautifully with its

chocolate-coloured fur coat. A gorgeous specimen. Another pair seemed to wish to dine in more intimate surroundings, so they swam over to the boat jetty and disappeared from view. Gradually other Rakali joined in the performance of diving and preening, to the delight of their human audience.

There was much celebration from our FoNW excursion leaders. Fears that the Rakali had abandoned this place when the recent refurbishing of the groyne took place appeared to be unfounded. On this night, there were quite a number of healthy native rodents doing what Rakali do.

How clever of this shy amphibious mammal to have the ability to reconcile with the invasion of their habitat and make it their own.



Bats thriving thanks to nest boxes

Photos by William Terry

Council's wonderful nest boxes are creating a safe and welcoming environment for Bayside's native microbats.

Nest boxes and natural hollows play an essential role in allowing our native birds and mammals to nest and breed.

As part of their spring monitoring of nest boxes, ecological consultants from Arcadis Australia found a large colony of Gould's Wattle Bat inside a nest box at Long Hollow Heathland in Beaumaris.

Representatives from both Friends of Native Wildlife Inc. and Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve have been accompanying the Arcadis ecologists and using this opportunity to share respective knowledge regarding nest box designs while learning from each other.

Gould's Wattle Bats are one of the most common microbat species found in Bayside and are often the first species of microbat to emerge at dusk.

Bats are one of nature's natural pest controllers, consuming at least half their body weight in insects per night when feeding.

These little bats are around 100mm long and weigh around 15 grams. While the males may roost alone, colonies of females may number up to 30 or more.

Monitoring of the nest boxes and natural hollows will continue over the coming months, with the hope of finding many more of our flying friends enjoying their new homes.



A nest box at Long Hollow Heathland, Beaumaris.

A large colony of Gould's Wattle Bats inside a nest box at Long Hollow Heathland, Beaumaris.





In the absence of nest boxes or suitable natural hollows, nature still finds a way to 'make do'. This Ringtail Possum has been coming and going from Council's Corporate Centre in Sandringham over the past couple of months. She now has two babies and her drey is more leafy for her babies.

Photograph by Emily Petrie, BCC

Vale, Ron Morris

Bayside City Council, along with our Friends groups and volunteers, extends its condolences to the family and friends of former President of Beaumaris Conservation Society (BCS) Ron Morris, who sadly passed away in November. Ron was an avid conservationist. He was President of BCS from 2011-2014 and a member for over 50 years. In 2009 he became a Life Member. We thank Ron for all his hard work in protecting the natural environment he cared for and passing his knowledge on to others.



Left: (L-R) Joan McCrae, Patricia Sinclair and Ron Morris. Above: 60th Anniversary Celebration of Beaumaris Conservation Society in 2013. Ron pictured far right.

Nature's most unloved plants: Book discussion

A large part of my job working for the Citywide Bushland Management crew in Bayside involves employing a range of methods to control, and hopefully eliminate, as many weeds we can within the heathland reserves.

By Matthew Grover

Citywide Bushland Crew team member

So, when I recently encountered a book titled *Weeds: In Defence of Nature's Most Unloved Plants* I was instantly intrigued to hear another side to the story, a defence of the weed's persecution.

Arguing the case for the weeds, English nature writer Richard Mabey contends that our contemporary philosophy on understanding weeds is too dogmatic, that a too-rigid division between local and invasive is leading us to ignore the value of many weedy plants.

The crux of his grievance is perfectly summarised in the statement "*their [weeds'] appearance now sparks reflexes not reasoning.*"

Working in outer London in his mid-20s, Mabey noticed and enjoyed the glimpse of nature that the weeds outside his office window provided. He described this as a "*pulsation of raw, cosmopolitan life*".

Drawing on the development of his personal appreciation for weeds, the book launches into a unique assortment of topics regarding the history of weeds and their relationship to us as a species and culture.

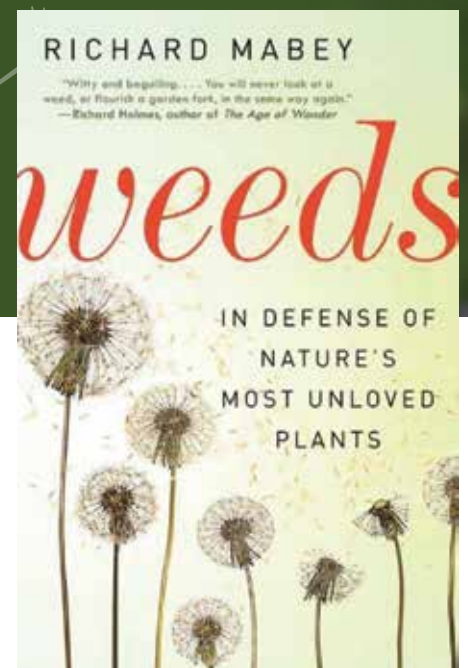
This includes both a scientific understanding of weeds (first from an agricultural, and later, an ecological perspective) as well as a recount of their broader cultural presence in works of theology, literature and early medicine.

It is the societal value in combination with the weeds' archetypal resilience and vigour that has culminated in such a blooming of Mabey's admiration for them.

Mabey presents numerous compelling examples of the ways weeds have helped to contribute value to society, and one such example that I found particularly endearing was the story of Britain's Wild Pansy (*Viola tricolor*). Initially confined to sandy and acidic soils, the Wild Pansy began to thrive as a cornfield weed across northern Europe. Its strikingly beautiful yellow and violet flowers have been enjoyed for their enchanting appearance and romantic connotations since as far back as the Middle Ages.

Such was the captivating nature of the weed that the plot of Shakespeare's famous comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* hinged on the magical love-making powers of the juice of the wild pansy; referred to in the play by its common name from where Shakespeare grew up in Warwickshire, the melancholy 'Love-in-idleness'.

In a more sombre account of the weeds' importance, Mabey takes us to the battlefields of France during the First World War. 'Trench gardening' offered soldiers a fleeting escape from the horrors of war. People recognised the colourful wildflowers of the weeds as the



same as those from their home fields and they took to transplanting them into plots and baskets throughout the trenches.

Of course, no other flower from those fields became as powerfully symbolic as the Flanders Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), a weed of arable land all across Europe and the Mediterranean; the vivid resurgence of its blazing red flowers 'most deeply touched those who saw them' and its legacy endures to this day. It was "*like an enchanted land*" wrote war artist William Orpen following his visit to the Somme battlefields, just three months after some 415,000 men had been killed there.

Through the sharing of these anecdotes, Mabey encourages readers to explore beneath the surface of the one-size-fits-all classification of weeds, and to see the full context of the weed's existence both past and present.

This context, he suggests, is not just grounded in the physical reality of



Britain's Wild Pansy (*Viola tricolour*)

these plants but is also a reflection of our own thoughts and feelings with the implication being that without humans present to dictate where a given plant doesn't belong, the concept of a weed would not exist.

There are many questions we can ask which muddy the waters of utilising the label of weed. For example, can an indigenous plant be a weed or are certain weeds beneficial?

Whilst we endeavour to be as scientific as possible, on some level a judgment call must still be made.

Mabey implores us to be measured in this judgement, to consider our biases, and not to condemn all weeds for "the behaviour of their most aggressive members".

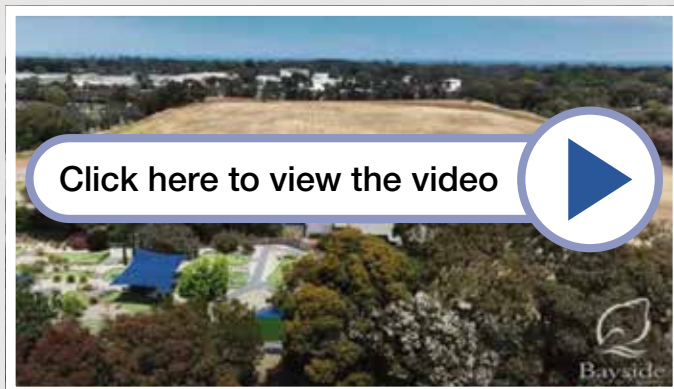
Unfortunately, to fully indulge in this romantic interpretation, I think you have to look past some of the more damning ecological truths about weeds. The history of Britain is such that the ecological and cultural influence of its weeds now spans vast periods of time; this I suspect has led to a relative stability which supports Mabey's sympathetic perspective.

From an Australian point of view, it's hard to paint as pretty a picture. European colonisation has introduced countless weeds which have caused widespread and likely irreparable damage to once-vibrant ecosystems, and it is currently as important as it has ever been to manage these weeds with the aim of preserving and hopefully restoring our indigenous diversity.

That is, of course, not to take away from what I found to be a fascinating and quirky book about plants, which I would absolutely recommend.

Planning for parklands

How do you imagine enjoying the new six-hectares of open space at 20 Wangara Road?



Previously used as landfill quarry and a golf driving range, we're cleaning up the six-hectare site so it can be transformed into an interactive passive open space with an environmental focus for the whole community to enjoy in the years to come.

Council is drafting the site's Masterplan and gathering ideas to understand community aspirations for the renewal of the site. There are some limits on what can be achieved because of the site's history, so visit the project's *Have Your Say* page for more information.

Join the conversation and share your ideas on the digital ideas board.

Community consultation is open until 28 February 2024. [Find out more.](#)



Highett Grassy Woodland update

By Pauline Reynolds and Amy Weir

We were very pleased to welcome Zoe Daniel MP to the Highett Grassy Woodland recently, where we dodged the rain by walking under the trees.

Despite the cold, wet day, Zoe saw the magic of the trees and why we had fought so hard to protect them. We will need all levels of government support once the Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan are developed.

Michael Norris and Pauline Reynolds visited Gresswell Conservation Park at Latrobe University recently, along with Bayside Volunteer Support Officer Anna Malone, to learn how Parks Victoria cares for a woodland like Highett.

Abzeco Consulting has been appointed to undertake the

Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan for Highett Grassy Woodland and have been onsite for preliminary flora and fauna surveys and tree inspections.

The community will have a chance to provide feedback on the draft plan before it is presented to Council for approval at its June 2024 meeting.

In conjunction with the Conservation Management Plan development, Citywide has also been onsite undertaking much-needed vegetation works in the interim like

mowing, woody weed removal and tree pruning.

Bayside City Council invited submissions regarding the rezoning of the Highett Grassy Woodland and Yalukit Willam to PCRZ Public Conservation and Resource Zone which requires an amendment to the Bayside Planning Scheme. Michael Norris and Pauline Reynolds lodged a submission on 9 November. Council has consistently supported the rezoning for many years and now that it has the title to the land at last, the application has been able to proceed.

Now propagating

Words and photos by Pauline Reynolds

Common Wedge Pea (*Gompholobium huegelii*) is found in Bayside only at Long Hollow Heathland and George Street Reserve as single plants. It has been located at Balcombe Park and Royal Melbourne Golf Club but is not visible at either of those locations now.

Julie Valentine has managed to propagate one healthy plant from a cutting from Long Hollow. Its lovely yellow pea flowers bloomed last year but didn't produce any seed so Julie has tried hand pollinating the flowers recently to see if it can be persuaded to reproduce. We hope this beautiful little plant can be relocated back into the reserves to boost the tiny population.

Anglesea Grevillea (*Grevillea infecunda*) is considered an endangered plant under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and vulnerable under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*. It is known to survive in a very small area in the hills behind Anglesea but was sighted in the mid-19th century in Brighton.



(L-R) Anglesea grevillea (*Grevillea infecunda*) and the Common Wedge Pea (*Gompholobium huegelii*) flower profusely at the Bayside Community Nursery.

It has since been extinct in Bayside and there are no other known Grevilleas endemic to Bayside.

It is an unusual plant in that it is infertile and grows only from root stock in the wild and from cuttings in the nursery. Its name, *infecunda*, means unfruitful. It is nearly impossible to find any plants for limited sale, even at Anglesea, because it is so difficult to propagate and, of course, to access plant material. Rob Saunders and I luckily found a couple of plants in forestry tubes some years ago at Billie Nursery, or SKINC as it was then. We both found

it difficult to grow but Julie Valentine at the nursery has encouraged one plant to grow large enough in its pot to try planting in the nursery garden. With a couple of wobbles, which Julie and Jim treated with some good deep watering, it is now doing well and flowered this spring for the first time. If they are successful with more cuttings over time, perhaps the Grevillea could be planted into some Bayside public gardens.

References: *Vic Flora* by Val Stajsic and *Flora of Melbourne* by Marilyn Bull.



The Bayside Community Nursery now closed for sales

Thank you to everyone who attended our last Gala Day for 2023.

We look forward to welcoming our community back to purchase plants on 6 April 2024.

In the meantime, we are busy propagating over the summer to ensure a full stock and diversity of plants are ready to plant in winter.





Seeds capsule with colourful Metallic Shield Bugs



First flush of male flowers



Seed capsule

Wedding Bush a highlight at

Wildflower wanders

Words and photos by Pauline Reynolds

During the Wildflower Wanders this year, held across Bayside reserves and the Royal Melbourne Golf Club, people showed the usual admiration of the beautiful Wedding Bush (*Ricinocarpos pinifolius*).

It is a fascinating plant for many reasons, not least of which is the difficulty of its propagation. It regenerates readily from soil stored seed after a burn or if smothering plants are cleared to give it some light.

In a nursery however, even if seedlings

from cuttings or scarified seed survive, it is very rare for them to thrive under any conditions after planting. There is also a wasp which attacks and consumes some seed in the reserves.

Its common name, Wedding Bush, comes from early colonisers using it for bridal bouquets.

The plant is monoecious, meaning it produces both male and female flowers on the same plant.

My observation is that the males bloom first in profusion and then the

females and then some males again.

Some of the literature states that the ratio is of one female to six males but, strangely, in Bayside it is more common to see either all males or all females in alternate flowerings.

However, a quantity of seed is produced each year so there must be some simultaneous blooming! Each seed capsule or pod ripens and produces three to five brown seeds.



Female flowers



Seeds capsule with colourful Metallic Shield Bugs



Male flowers in profusion



Male flower



Fertilised female seed capsule forming

More wildflower wanderings

Dwarf She-oak or Green She-oak (*Allocasuarina paradoxa*) is a dioecious small shrub which is endemic to Victoria. Its flowers are either male or female on separate plants but very occasionally on the one plant. They propagate easily from seed but are usually around two years old and starting to produce flowers before it's possible to tell whether they are male or female plants.

Allocasuarina paradoxa grows in several Bayside inland reserves and is beautiful when blooming in spring.



Female flower



Female plant in flower at Gramatan Avenue Reserve



Mature seed pods with developing seed pods after flowering



Male flower



Female flower

Male flower

Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) is another dioecious plant. It is a small lily or perennial herb, which is dormant in summer and one of the first plants to bloom in late Autumn, hence the common name. In this case, the flowers are usually either male or female on separate plants but sometimes bisexual on the same plant.

The origin of the species name is interesting. *Dioica* is derived from Greek origin and means 'of two houses', hence the word *Dioecious* indicates that the male and female flowers are found on separate plants.

Wurmbea dioica grows at Royal Melbourne Golf Club where these photographs were taken and at Long Hollow where they appear after a burn.

References: *Flora of Melbourne* by Marilyn Bull and *Foothills to Foreshore* by Kathie and Peter Strickland. Both of these publications provide excellent further reading.

YWNR Beauties

Buff-banded rail
(*Gallirallus philippensis*)
with a little chick in tow.

Thank you to Danny Fog for sharing his latest sightings of two magnificent resident birds from Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve. Follow all the wonderful sightings from this reserve at:

[f Yalukit Willam Nature Association](#)



Baillon's crake (*Zapornia pusilla*)





It begins ...

with beetles and a Blue Ant

By Anna Rabinov
Donald MacDonald Reserve

Hello and thank you to the community for welcoming me to the Convenor role for Donald MacDonald Reserve, and what a beautiful reserve it is.

The team and I have spent quite a bit of time thoroughly weeding *Ehrharta longiflora/erecta*, which never rests!

In my early visits to the reserve, I was lucky to sight a beautiful insect or two. In my first session I found a deceased iridescent beetle, and on the third session, Belinda Raymond found and photographed a Blue Ant (*Diamma bicolor*), which is actually a species of wasp.

The females are a bright, iridescent blue-green with red legs, and grow up to 25mm in length. I'd say the one we saw was definitely that size.

This is the first recorded sighting of a Blue Ant in the reserve, and only one of three ever in the entire area. The last sighting was in Beaumaris in 2022 by John Eichler, and the one before that was in 1948 in Black Rock by Byrne. Needless to say, we were all ecstatic at this shiny find. Furthermore, the Blue Ant's presence indicates the existence of mole crickets in the reserve, as they are often used as egg incubators for the wasps' progeny.

As this is my first submission to *Banksia Bulletin* in my new role as Convenor, Donald MacDonald Reserve, I thought I would tell you all a little about me.

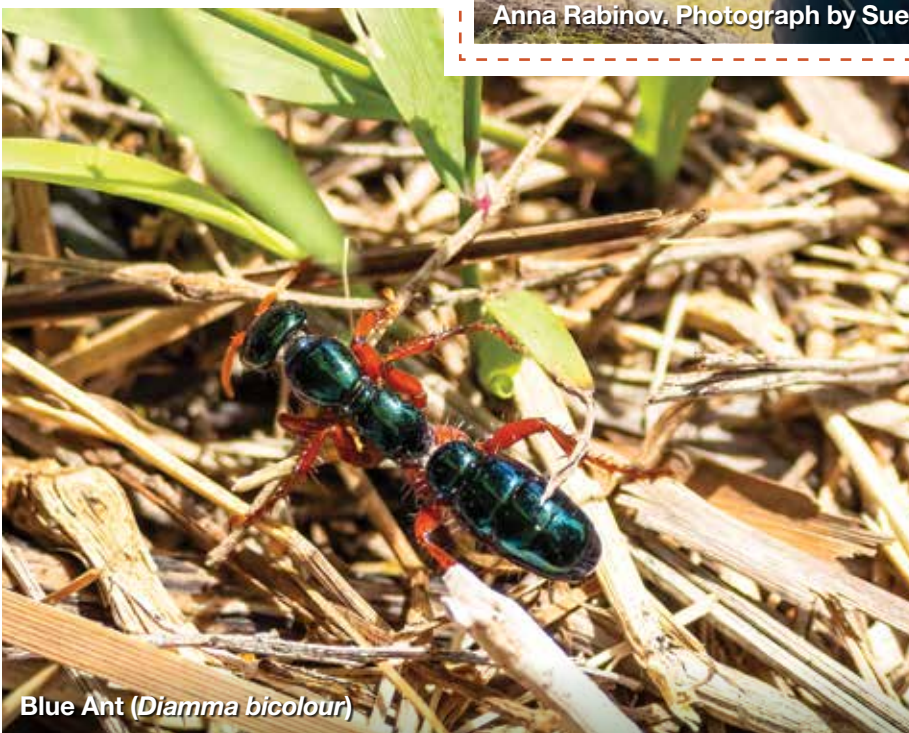
I have recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Monash University with a major in microbiology. I have always been fascinated by this Earth we call home, and it is a lifelong goal of mine to understand and explore as many facets of it as possible.

Doing environmental work allows me to do this while helping the plants and animals I care about (which is all of them, really).

Becoming Convenor of this beautiful reserve has allowed me to continue my environmental journey in this way. It is my goal to help continue the growth



Anna Rabinov. Photograph by Sue Forster.



Blue Ant (*Diamma bicolour*)



Blue Ant (*Diamma bicolour*)

and preservation of Donald MacDonald Reserve, as well as increase volunteer participation and community knowledge and understanding.

My hope is that involving and educating more members of the community will reduce rubbish pollution in the reserve. It is so disappointing to see so many dog poop bags thrown over the priority areas. I am looking forward to generating excitement around what a fantastic resource this reserve is for learning and increasing biodiversity.

Alongside this role, I have recently been appointed Vice President of Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve (YWNR). It is an honour to return to this committee where I was an ordinary member in 2019-2021.

During my time there I organised monthly litter cleanups in the reserve to help de-pollute it for our wonderful wildlife.

The clean-ups were a big success, and we removed a couple hundred kilos of litter over those few years.

Meanwhile, the Masterplan for YWNR has been underway and the

first stage, the chain of ponds, is already completed. To have seen the transformation of these 14 hectares from polluted golf course to thriving reserve has been a privilege, and I look forward to contributing further to its development.

I would like to thank Anna Malone and Belinda Raymond for accepting me in this role and providing ongoing guidance as I learn about the reserve and all it has to offer.

Please join us on Sunday 4 February 2024 for our next working bee.

Citywide Bushland Crew update

Jo Hurse, Bushland & Nursery Ops Supervisor

There has been a change in our Citywide team recently with the departure of Andy Ross and arrival of Cris Cochrane and Mungo Harris.

Many locals who have frequented Bayside's foreshore over the years would have met Citywide Bushland Coast Crew member Andy, who was part of the team for more than a decade.

Andy recently left our team to return to his homeland of Scotland.

I recall Andy taking photos of the foreshore and sending them home to his family and friends in Scotland – he was very happy with his new 'office'.

Any day with a temperature greater than 26 degrees Celsius and Andy would be melting from the heat.

When I caught up with him just before he left Australia, he remarked that one of the things he was looking forward to was not enduring another Melbourne summer.

I met Andy when he joined Citywide with the task to control the weeds in Emerald Lake Park in Emerald, early October 2011.

I would regularly visit the team of three working at this park to see the progress. It was hardcore weed control, which included felling *Pittosporum undulatum*s, removing large infestations of Blackberry, Holly and Cordylines.

The nature of our work often means you learn the weeds before the indigenous plants, so it wasn't surprising that Andy caught the plant identification bug.

His enthusiasm and work ethic led him to the fulltime role on the Coast Crew in Bayside where he worked with, and assisted, many of Bayside's Friends groups like Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association, St Leonard's College, Table Rock and Ricketts Point (formerly Watkins Bay).

Andy managed vast expanses of the foreshore including the stretch of promenade between the Brighton Baths and Brighton Life Saving Club, which is bordered by a slope where he worked with conservation volunteers planting hundreds of indigenous plants.

Other areas he looked after were Hampton slopes, (the Hampton Life Saving Club south to the end of the promenade), Picnic Point where he prepared numerous National Tree Day sites, Sandringham foreshore, Red Bluff Cliffs, Half Moon Bay, Black Rock foreshore, Ricketts Point, Table Rock and Beaumaris foreshore south.

The focus of Andy's work was weed control and as his knowledge of control methods grew, he was always willing to share this with his colleagues. We all wish Andy every success in his future endeavours back home in Scotland. He will be sorely missed by many.



(L-R) Cris Cochrane and Mungo Harris



Andy Ross

In saying farewell to Andy, we are pleased to welcome Cris and Mungo to the team.

Cris is a keen environmentalist with an infectious enthusiasm for conservation. He worked with Andy for several months to learn the ropes.

Working alongside Cris is Mungo, who is also a keen conservationist who has been part of Citywide's inland crew and is now based on the coast.

Please make Cris and Mungo feel welcome when you see them on the foreshore.

The inland crew are tirelessly trying to keep up with all the weed growth prior to seeding. It can be a lonely day on your hands and knees weeding around the remnant vegetation. If you're passing by, please say g'day to the team – Will, Tyler, Belinda, Vanessa and Matthew as they work through the season's weed growth.



'Tis the season for snakes

There have been several snake sightings down on the foreshore this summer so please look where you're walking and have your dogs on-leash to keep them safe. When left alone, snakes present little or no danger to people.

Here, we'll share some common myths and misconceptions about snakes published by Museums Victoria, provide some tips on what to do if you see a snake and how to administer first aid if you or someone you know is bitten.

Mythbusting

Blue-tongue Lizards and Shinglebacks will discourage snakes in your garden

Snakes eat frogs, lizards and even other snakes. Newly-hatched snakes of various species may fall prey to Blue-tongue Lizards, but as the snakes grow the reverse is usually true.

If a snake's head is cut off it will stay alive until sundown

This myth seems to be particularly popular in rural Australia and may be based on the fact that a snake's body will continue to writhe for some time after decapitation, but this story is not even remotely true.

Snakes always travel in pairs

In general, the only time two snakes are in the same place is during courtship and mating. Otherwise the larger snake will usually kill and eat the smaller one.

Treating a snake bite

Do

- ✓ Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage
- ✓ Splint the bandaged limb
Ensure the patient remains still
- ✓ Call triple zero (000) for medical assistance

Don't

- ✗ Wash or cut around the bitten area
- ✗ Use an arterial tourniquet
- ✗ Try to capture the snake

Clearing up misconceptions

Snakes are cold and slimy

No, in fact, snake skin is dry and, depending on the surrounding temperature, can be quite warm and soft.

All snakes are poisonous

Technically snakes are venomous, not poisonous. Australia has the highest proportion of venomous native snakes in the world (100 out of the 140 species of land snakes), although only a handful can give a fatal bite to humans.

Snakes are out to get you

Humans are larger, generally faster and stronger than Australian snakes. When you encounter a snake it is usually caught off guard (as you are), but the vast majority of encounters are avoided by a snake vanishing as soon as it hears you coming.

A surprised snake will pick the nearest escape route and aim to disappear as quickly as possible.

Snake behaviour can also become more erratic in spring during the breeding season, and females become more defensive if eggs or young are nearby. However, the vast majority of bites to humans in Australia occur because someone decided not to leave a snake alone.

What to do if you see a snake

If you see a snake, keep calm and move yourself and anyone with you (including pets) away from the area. Don't attempt to capture or harm snakes. All snakes are protected fauna under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. If you see a snake in Bayside, please call Council on 9599 4444 to install warning signs in the area to alert others. Council does not generally remove snakes unless they are persistently appearing around highly visited areas like foreshore playgrounds.

How to keep snakes out of your yard

- Keep your property rodent-free
- Remove shelters such as sheets of tin on the ground and piles of rocks or firewood
- Keep a clear area around your house, cut grass low, remove fallen branches, and prune overgrown bushes
- Patch up holes in buildings

[Learn more from Museums Victoria.](#)

[Learn more about administering first aid for a snake bite.](#)

Controlling Common Myna Birds



By Jenny Solomon

Bayside Indian Myna Action Group coordinator

Bayside City Council supports and sponsors a trapping program to control the numbers of Common Myna birds, also known as Indian Mynas.


This volunteer-run initiative is an important environmental program. Common Myna birds actively kill local smaller native birds such as Wrens, Pardalotes, Silvereyes, Willie Wagtails, Robins and Eastern Spinebills. They are particularly cruel to Eastern Rosellas and stop these birds from breeding. They kill and drive these birds out of what they consider to be their territory and they breed profusely.

Planting the right native trees and shrubs in your garden to attract beautiful native birds is only effective if Common Mynas are not driving them away.

The traps are designed to trap Common Mynas and are available to Bayside residents free of charge.

Fill in a form and the volunteers will provide instructions, hints and tips on trapping these feral pests. Bring the trap back to the shed when you catch some Mynas, and the birds will be humanely euthanised by a volunteer.

Volunteers are needed at the Birdshed, located in Cheltenham Park every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday between 4-5pm.

 [Bayside Indian Myna Action Group.](#)

Disabled snorkelling

This activity is part of Coastcare Victoria's Summer By The Sea 2024 program, proudly delivered by the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) and supported by Bayside City Council.

Follow Summer by the Sea on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date and visit the [What's On](#) page to sign up for events!



Description:

Snorkeling event run by Disabled Divers Association.

When:

6 January 2024
09:30 am – 11:00 am
01:00 pm – 02:00 pm

21 January 2024
10:00 am – 11:00 am
01:00 pm – 02:00 pm

Where:

Beaumaris

Cost:

Free

Booking Information:

Booking essential. [Please book online.](#)

Invertebrates

Conservation's forgotten critters

Courtesy of Arthur Rylah Institute



Ancient Greenling (*Hemiphysalis mirabilis*)
Photograph by Reiner Richter

Invertebrates are important

Invertebrates make up approximately 97% of all animal species on earth yet are often ignored or neglected in conservation efforts. Invertebrates are vital to functioning ecosystems. They are key pollinators of native and agricultural plants, they are decomposers, they are predators of pests and they have their own intrinsic value. At ARI we are investigating ways to overcome the barriers that prevent regular inclusion of invertebrates in conservation planning.

Our knowledge of invertebrates is poor

Terrestrial invertebrates are a particularly neglected group. This is largely due to lack of public support, knowledge, ecological expertise and research funding compared to other groups, particularly vertebrate animals and vascular plants. Our knowledge about the diversity and distribution of invertebrates is poor. It is estimated that only about 30% of Australia's invertebrates have been described compared to 87-99% of vertebrates (numbers for Victoria are unavailable, Figure 1).

This translates to a lack of information about the number of threatened invertebrates and consequently what threats may be impacting on these species without our knowledge. In Victoria only 2% of invertebrates are listed as threatened, compared with around 21% of vertebrates. Conservation planning and action requires an understanding of the diversity and distribution of species. Therefore, there is a clear need to enhance our understanding of invertebrates in Victoria.

ARI has a long history in invertebrate conservation

ARI has led many invertebrate conservation projects since its inception in 1970. The institute has particular expertise in aquatic invertebrates such as freshwater crayfish and mussels.

Recently ARI researchers were involved in projects investigating the response of native bees to the 2019/20 bushfires in East Gippsland. Related work explored the vulnerability of invertebrates to disturbances, cost-effective management options for threatened invertebrates

and the addition of over 300,000 new invertebrate records to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.

Current ARI research includes investigating the relationship between spider diversity and vegetation condition in endangered grasslands and monitoring the threatened Golden Sun Moth in reserves to the west of Melbourne. Our work is strengthened through collaborations with leading invertebrate researchers across the sector.

Everyone can help

There are many things that community members can do to contribute to invertebrate conservation:

- **Collect records** – We need to know more about the diversity and distribution of invertebrates in Victoria, contributing to databases like iNaturalist is a great way to do this, you don't even have to know what you are looking at, there are people who can help with identifications.
- **Create an invertebrate friendly garden** – Plant a variety of native plants (grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees) that flower at different times of the year and create micro-habitats within your garden. This will benefit other native animals too.
- **Stop using pesticides** – Pesticides kill beneficial invertebrates as well as the pesky ones, try alternatives such as fly screens.
- **Get involved** – Join a local conservation group.
- **Be an advocate** – Let your family and friends know how great invertebrates are.

Only about 30% of Australian invertebrate species have been described

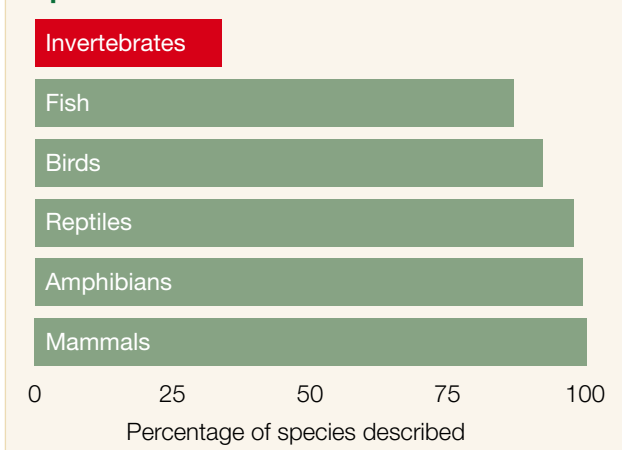


Figure 1. Estimated percentage of described species.

Source: Chapman (2009) *Numbers of living species in Australia and the world*. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra, ACT.

Further reading

DELWP (2021). *Biodiversity Response and Recovery Supplementary Report: An assessment to prioritise medium term conservation actions and identify knowledge gaps*. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, Victoria.

Bruce, M. & Bryant, D. (2022). *Terrestrial invertebrates*. In Biodiversity response and recovery supplementary report: bushfire impacts on species in Victoria. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Melbourne, Victoria.

For further information contact Matt Bruce (matthew.bruce@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Back from the dead:

New hope for resurrecting extinct plants

By Janet Marinelli
Courtesy of Yale 360

Part 2

Continued from Part 1 in the Spring 2023 issue of *Banksia Bulletin*

Streblorrhiza speciosa, a spectacular member of the pea family, was another marvel of evolution, so unique that it is considered the only member of its genus, or closely related group of plants. The species' striking cascades of pink blossoms clambered exuberantly over trees on Phillip Island in the Pacific Ocean east of Brisbane, Australia. Collected in 1804 by Austrian botanist Ferdinand Bauer, the Phillip Island glory pea was an instant hit in Europe, coveted by every wealthy family with a conservatory. Meanwhile, however, Phillip Island was being overrun by pigs, goats, and rabbits introduced by British officers overseeing a nearby penal settlement, leaving barely a scrap of the remote island's unique vegetation,

and the glory pea was never seen in the wild again. But the plant, which proved difficult to grow in pots without its native rich volcanic soil, appears to have died out in cultivation before 1850 in Europe. The glory pea is now presumed extinct, but at number three is near the top of the list of recommended de-extinction candidates.

Nicole Tarnowsky removes the folder containing Mangarevan chaff flower, *Achyranthes mangarevica*, from a steel cabinet in NYBG's temperature- and humidity-controlled herbarium. As assistant director of the largest herbarium in the Western Hemisphere, she may handle dozens of specimens a day. But this one is different. "It's sad. So sad," Tarnowsky says. When it was

found in 1934, the small tree with pointed oblong leaves and small, straw-colored blooms crowded on its multi-branched inflorescences was confined to a small fragment of moist forest on the precipitous southern slope of Mount Mokoto on the French Polynesian island of Mangareva. By then, the island's native vegetation already had been decimated by continuous burning and grazing by goats.

Chaff flower seeds on the herbarium specimens, which may or may not be alive, are the only hope for the plant's future. The prognosis is iffy. Old seeds from herbaria have been successfully germinated, but there are as yet no documented examples of plant de-extinction using seeds from herbarium specimens. One major complication is that little is known about the habits and preferences of such rare and often genetically unique creatures. In most cases, the only clues about the conditions where they grew are found on each specimen's label. Occasionally, a few notes were scrawled on an attached piece of paper by the botanist who collected the plant. This information will be critical for the long, painstaking process of devising protocols for coaxing them to sprout.

"These are such rare commodities that you can't just throw them in the soil," says Wesley Knapp, chief botanist of NatureServe. For the past couple of years, he has been working with Valerie Pence, director of plant research at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, to attempt to germinate herbarium seeds of a few extinct species,



Barbara Thiers, director of the New York Botanical Garden Herbarium, looks over plant specimens. Image from New York Botanical Garden



Specimens of an extinct Mangarevan chaff flower (left) from French Polynesia and an extinct Degener's peperomia (right) from Hawaii. Images from New York Botanical Garden

including the blunt-flower rush, *Juncus pervetus*, which has not been seen in its sole recorded site, a Massachusetts saltmarsh, since 1928. So far, they have not had much luck.

Another challenge of plant de-extinction is the lack of financial support for pursuing it. But on the bright side, plant de-extinction has not kicked up the controversy surrounding attempts to resurrect, say, the wooly mammoth or passenger pigeon. “For whatever reason, the human brain doesn’t seem to be as concerned about plants as about animals,” Knapp says. “But in this case, we’re literally just germinating seed. We’re not reconstructing a genome. And that’s way less intimidating. Everyone can understand that.”

Yet some scientists have reservations about potential damage that could be caused by extracting seeds from precious herbarium specimens. In a 2021 paper in the journal *Taxon*, Albani Rochetti and colleagues’ reported on a survey of the botanical community in which most survey respondents said they would permit the collection of a small number of seeds, preferably from duplicate specimens of the candidate species, but would favor

stricter controls of others, such as so-called “type specimens” on which the description and name of a plant species is based.

A short walk from the herbarium in the New York Botanical Garden is *Brugmansia suaveolens*, a shrub or small tree native to Brazil commonly known as angel’s trumpet or angel’s tears. It is named after its dazzling foot-long, yellow or white, pendulous, and sweetly fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers. The species is extinct in the wild and is one of at least 39 plants worldwide that endure only in cultivation, one short step from extinction. “Genetic bottleneck is one of the largest obstacles for long-term survival of these plants,” says Meyer of Botanic Gardens Conservation International. De-extinction has the potential to not only resurrect species long gone but offer much-needed genetic variation for extinct-in-the-wild species, most of which cling precariously to life in extremely small numbers.

According to the current best estimate, almost 600 plants have gone extinct globally in the past 250 years — a rate about 500 times greater than the “baseline” rate at which plants would disappear without human influence.

An analysis of plants in North America north of Mexico since European settlement found nearly twice as many had gone extinct, over a larger area, than previously estimated. “The actual extinction rate is undoubtedly much higher,” the researchers write, since some plants probably disappeared when European settlers moved into new areas, particularly the American West, before botanists could document the species that lived there.

The increasing number of scanned and easily accessible herbarium specimens have allowed scientists to better document plant losses. But according to a 2020 study, only about 38 percent of the vascular or higher plant specimens in herbaria are available in digital form; much of the rest remains “dark data” confined to smaller, regional herbaria.

As global efforts to digitise specimens continue, and more herbaria enter the world of big data, the number de-extinction candidates will inevitably increase. If researchers prove able to unlock the secrets of long-dormant embryos in herbarium collections, it may truly be possible not only to halt but reverse the rising tide of plant extinction.



Early heat and insect strike are **stressing** urban trees – even as canopy cover drops

By Gregory Moore

Courtesy of [The Conversation](#)

Have you noticed street trees looking oddly sad? You're not alone. Normally, spring means fresh green leaves and flowers. But this year, the heat has come early, stressing some trees.

But there's more going on – insects are on the march. Many eucalypts are showing signs of lerp or [psyllid](#) attack. These insects hide underneath leaves and build little waxy houses for themselves. But as they feed on the sap, they can give the leaves a stressed, pinkish look. When they appear in numbers – as they are this year – they can defoliate a whole tree with a serious infestation.

How did we get here? Milder, wetter summers during three successive La Niña years mean boomtime for insects. This year, we've had a warm winter and a warm spring, meaning insects are up and about early and in large numbers.

This summer [will be an El Niño](#), which usually means drier and hotter weather for most of Australia. For those of us interested in urban trees, these conditions are troubling.

But it's more than that. The fact our urban trees are in danger should tell us something – we need to value and protect them better. As the world heats up, our urban forests will be [even more at risk](#).

What's different this year?

In most years, insect infestations arrive later. That gives trees time to produce a flush of new growth. As a result, they're rarely lethal. Trees can put out more leaves and recover.

But this year, they're attacking early and in numbers. It also makes it more likely we'll see more and more infestations over a long summer. End result: stressed trees, and even deaths from sap-sucking and other insect damage.

That's not ideal for us either. In an El Niño summer, we'll likely face hotter days. This year is unusually hot, due to unchecked climate change. The heatwaves to come could make us sick, hospitalise us, or even kill.

Urban trees are [one of our best methods](#) of protecting ourselves. Suburbs with greater tree canopy cover are significantly cooler. Trees shade the ground and their foliage emits water, which cools the air. Good canopy cover can cut temperatures by up to 6°C.

So, it's not good news for us that our urban trees are looking stressed. Worse is the fact that our urban tree canopy is actually declining, due to bad urban planning of new suburbs with no space for canopy trees coupled with tree loss from subdivisions or apartment builds. Our state governments [talk about this](#) in their planning documents, but efforts to correct the problem don't seem to be working.

What happens in hot summers with fewer trees? More air conditioner use, sending energy demand and electricity bills soaring.

We can hope this summer [acts as a wake up call](#) about the importance of healthy urban trees as we head into ever-hotter years.

What can you do for your trees?

It is worth [looking after your own trees](#) in anticipation of the tough summer ahead.



Suburbs and towns with good canopy cover feel far more pleasant in hot summers. Photograph: AAP

As soils are already drying out, keep up the moisture and add quality mulch under trees to a good depth.

The longer you can keep them healthy and stress-free, the more likely trees are to be able to cope with the summer stress and insect attacks.

If water restrictions are imposed in your town or city, it's likely irrigating trees and gardens will be the first activity restricted.

If your plants have been kept stress-free as long as possible, they are more likely to survive.

An irony here is that if trees are water-stressed, many species will start to defoliate by shedding leaves. That means we lose both shade and transpirational cooling when we could use them most.

Councils, state governments and water authorities face a dilemma in these situations. Save the water for human use? Or keep urban trees alive and reduce the risk of heat illness and death?



Lerps and psyllid sap-sucking insects can stress or even kill a tree. Photograph: Shutterstock

Time to value our urban trees

What this summer will show is the need for local and state governments to place greater value on their urban forests and canopy cover.

In many places, urban canopy cover is dropping by about 1-1.5% per year. Many tree removals are thoughtless and unnecessary.

Sometimes, these losses provoke outcry. Adelaide, for instance, has been losing

an estimated 75,000 trees a year in recent years. That prompted a parliamentary inquiry into how to better protect urban forests.

For things to change for the better, our local governments need the ability to protect mature trees in the front and back yards of developed sites and to set out minimum areas of green space and numbers of canopy trees for new developments.

In most states, giving councils these powers would require changes to state planning laws. But without them, the urban forest and canopy


cover of most major cities, regional centres and country towns will continue to decline.

With proper planning, we can have both new housing and canopy trees. If we simply aim to maximise housing, our towns and suburbs will be economically and environmentally unsustainable.


So when you see sick trees on our streets this spring, see them as a symptom. We need to value them. We would most certainly notice if they were gone.

Friends Groups

Friends of Balcombe Park

Convenor: Ian O'Loughlin
Mobile: 0412 432 618 **Email:** ianolou2@gmail.com
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jan 28, Feb 25 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

Convenor: Sue Forster
Phone: 0431 688 606 **Email:** sue.forster@optusnet.com.au
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jan 13, Feb 10 **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Bayside Roads

Contact: Derek Jones
Phone: 0417 364 747 **Email:** derekhjones36@gmail.com

Friends of Beaumaris Reserve

Convenor: Chris Sutton
Phone: 0438 327 924 **Email:** sutc@bigpond.com


Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association Inc.

Contact Jo Hurse for further working bee information
Phone: (03) 9283 2052 **Email:** jo.hurse@citywide.com.au
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jan 2, 16, Feb 6, 20 **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Brighton Dunes

Convenor: George Leighfield
Phone: 0432 465 707 **Email:** gleighfi@gmail.com

Friends of Cheltenham Park

Convenor: Valerie Tyers
Phone: (03) 9588 0107 **Email:** valerietyers@hotmail.com
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Feb 4 **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

Convenor: Anna Rabinov
Phone: 0434 236 177 **Email:** anna.rab22@gmail.com
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Feb 4 **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Elster Creek

President: Thijs Honningh
Secretary: Anubhooti Jaiswal
Website: www.facebook.com/friendsofelstercreek
Meeting point: Elwood Canal, Glen Huntly Road Bridge


Friends of George Street Reserve

Convenors: Pauline Reynolds & Val Tarrant
Phone: 0417 319 768 **Email:** pauline.reynolds.au@gmail.com
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jan 21, Feb 20 **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Gramatan Avenue Heathland

Convenor: Jo Hurse
Phone: (03) 9283 2052 **Email:** jo.hurse@citywide.com.au
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Feb 4 **Time:** 1pm-3pm

Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

Convenor: Rob Saunders
Phone: 0417 357 345 **Email:** robsaunders357@gmail.com
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jan 28, Feb 25 **Time:** 8am-10am

Friends of Merindah Park & Urban Forest

Convenor: John de Cruz Douglas
Phone: 0417 386 408 **Email:** jdecdouglas@internode.on.net
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jan 14, Feb 11 **Time:** 9am-11am

Friends of Mother Stock Areas

Convenors: Pauline Reynolds and Rob Saunders
Phone: (03) 9598 6368 **Email:** pauline.reynolds.au@gmail.com
Phone: (03) 9515 3383 **Email:** srednuas@hotmail.com


Friends of Native Wildlife

Convenors: Anne Jessel & Elizabeth Walsh
Phone: 0412 545 441 **Email:** info@bayfonw.org.au
Website: www.bayfonw.org.au


Friend of Picnic Point Sandringham

Convenor: Terry Reynolds
Phone: (03) 9598 2978 **Email:** reynolds_family@hotmail.com


Friends of Ricketts Point

Convenor: Diana Pearce
Phone: 0448 573 256 **Email:** dipearce39@icloud.com
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jan 10, Feb 14 **Time:** 9.30am-11.30am

Friends of Ricketts Point Landside

Convenor: Sue Raverty
Phone: (03) 9589 2103 **Email:** sueraverty@gmail.com
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jan 16, Feb 20 **Time:** 1pm-3pm

Friends of Table Rock

Convenor: Jo Hurse
Phone: (03) 9283 2052 **Email:** jo.hurse@citywide.com.au
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jan 30, Feb 27 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Do you want to know
more about Bayside and
the Banksia Bulletin?

Please refer to our website
www.bayside.vic.gov.au





Dog's Breakfast

Our annual Dog's Breakfast event is coming up!

Date: Saturday 20 January

Time: 9am to 12pm

Location: On the beach, north of Sandown St Brighton

What's on: Free BBQ, meet the team, hear about how keeping your dog on a leash protects sensitive vegetation.

Environment Groups

Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc.

President: Murray Orr
Email: baysidefossils@gmail.com
Website: www.beaumarisfossils.org

Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

President: Caroline Lawton
Contact: PO Box 7016, Beaumaris 3193
Email: pre@bcs.asn.au
Website: www.bcs.asn.au

Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association Inc

Secretary: John Neve
Phone: 0479 196 260 **Email:** jneve@ozemail.com.au

Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc

President: Elizabeth Jensen
Phone: 0419 354 998 **Email:** elizabethjensen@outlook.com
Website: www.marinecare.org.au

Yalukit Willam Nature Association

President: Natalie Davey
Email: elsternwickparkassociation@gmail.com



Editorial Policy

The purpose of publishing the Banksia Bulletin is to circulate information, report on events, and to profile relevant environmental issues important to our community. The Bulletin is also published to support the network of people involved in enjoying and protecting our local environment.

Bayside City Council encourages people from our local community groups to submit articles of interest, share experiences and news about any upcoming events. All articles are reviewed prior to publication and Council reserves the right to omit or edit submissions.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the people who have contributed to this issue of Banksia Bulletin.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in the Banksia Bulletin are not necessarily those of Bayside City Council nor its representatives.

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 Please send articles and photos to
banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au

Copy deadlines

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Banksia Bulletin is published quarterly by Bayside City Council to service people interested in enjoying and protecting the local environment.

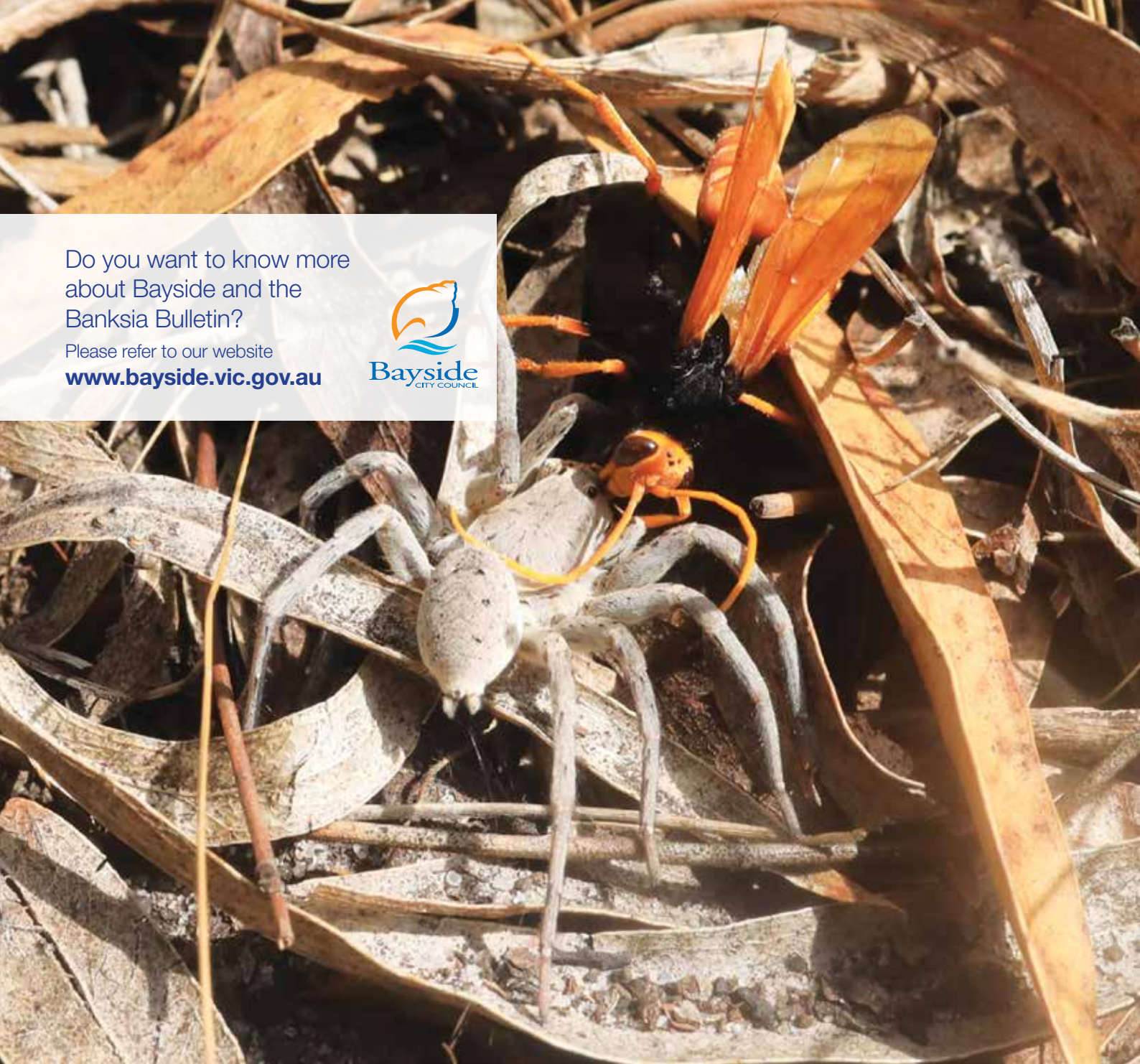
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 Monday–Friday
 (except public holidays)

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Please refer to our website
www.bayside.vic.gov.au



Wasp v Spider
Photograph by
Sam Driyanto

Volunteers at the George Street Working Bee on Sunday 19 November were fascinated to witness an extraordinary game of cat and mouse between a Two Coloured Orange Spider Wasp (*Cryptocheilus bicolour*) and a Wolf Spider, a member of the Lycosidae family.

