

# banksia

bulletin

spring 2020

**Enjoy our special  
spring gardens  
feature**





Masked Bee, *Hylaeus euxanthus*  
Photo by John Eichler



# In this issue

## Special features

---



INDIGENOUS GARDEN



SPRING WILDFLOWERS  
IN BAYSIDE



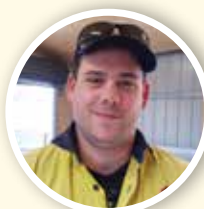
OUR EASTERN  
SPINEBILL

## Other articles

---

PLANTS OF BAYSIDE	4
AUSSIE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT	4
A NEW RESERVE FOR A LOST VEGETATION	18
THE YELLOW BOX, AND A LOST VEGETATION	19
VOLUNTEER GROUPS	22





## Plants of Bayside

With Aaron Hurrell of  
Citywide Parks and Gardens

### Coast Pomaderris

Coast Pomaderris (*Pomaderris paniculosa* ssp. *Paralia*) is a compact attractive shrub growing about 1-2m high and wide with ovate to elliptic leaves growing between 1.5-5cm long by 10-25mm wide that's shiny green above and densely hairy underneath the leaf. New growth has a reddish coloured tinge to it. Between October and November, this shrub flowers in many cream and green tones of around 1.5-5cm long. Seedcases are densely hairy and are grey to rusty coloured with petals absent. The Coast Pomaderris likes well-drained sandy soils in full sun, semi-shade and tolerant of limestone, and its preferred habitats are Coastal Dune Scrub and Coastal Headland Shrub.

**Source Bull, Marilyn (1991)** *Flora of Melbourne: A guide to the indigenous plants of the greater Melbourne area* Carlton Vic: Hyland House Publishing

## In Memory of Mr Ron Leech Mr Peter Watson

Our Friends groups, volunteers, Council and the Citywide Bushland Crew pay respect to Mr Ron Leech and Mr Peter Watson and extend gratitude for all the work these gentlemen did for our local environment.



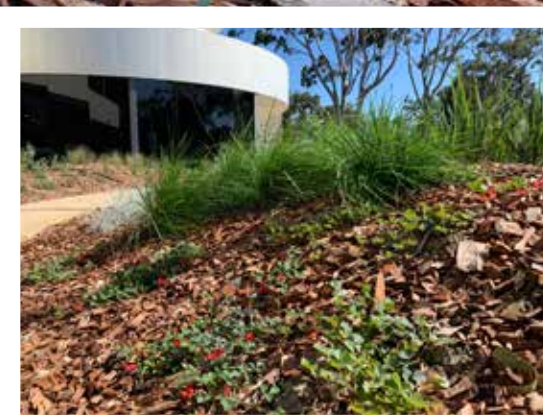
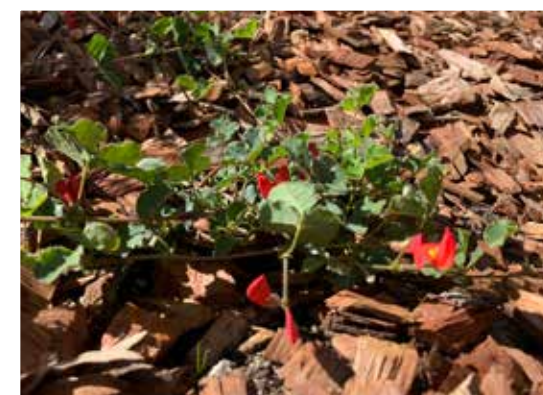
The community garden in Sandringham created by Peter and Jean Watson.

**Ron** dedicated many years of hard work maintaining the ecological health of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary. We are grateful to his estate, which has donated a cage to help protect indigenous fauna and flora within this reserve. Ron's legacy will facilitate protection of this precious bushland area well into the future.

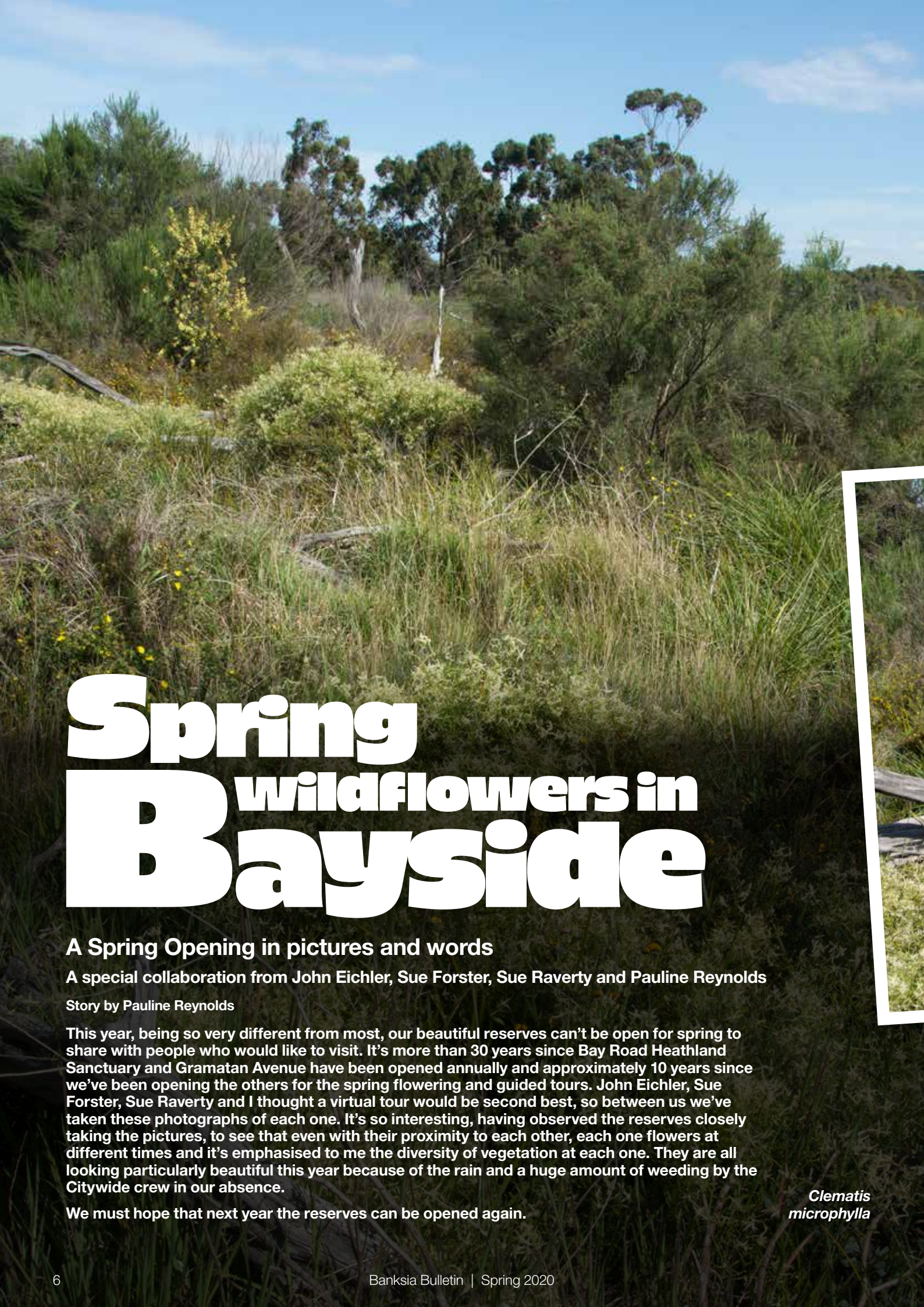
In Bamfield Street, Sandringham, right on the curve opposite the local primary school sits a small and obscure park that exists because of **Peter** and his wife Jean. The couple cleared the block next to their family home and turned it into a mostly native garden for the community. With help from Council, Peter cared for this lovely oasis that lies in quite a busy suburban street until age caught up with him. For many years, this garden was the site for the Bamfield Street Christmas party, among other celebrations.

Peter loved Sandringham, swam nearly every day, picked up rubbish on the foreshore and quietly kept his eye on community affairs. He and Jean were almost self sufficient on their large property, growing vegetables and fruit trees and keeping chooks while their family was growing up in the 1960s. Jean sadly passed away in 2019 and Peter recently succumbed to COVID-19, aged 93.

Check out Council's  
new indigenous garden  
in spring bloom!  
**Magnificent!**







# Spring Wildflowers in Bayside

**A Spring Opening in pictures and words**  
A special collaboration from John Eichler, Sue Forster, Sue Raverty and Pauline Reynolds  
Story by Pauline Reynolds

This year, being so very different from most, our beautiful reserves can't be open for spring to share with people who would like to visit. It's more than 30 years since Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary and Gramatan Avenue have been opened annually and approximately 10 years since we've been opening the others for the spring flowering and guided tours. John Eichler, Sue Forster, Sue Raverty and I thought a virtual tour would be second best, so between us we've taken these photographs of each one. It's so interesting, having observed the reserves closely taking the pictures, to see that even with their proximity to each other, each one flowers at different times and it's emphasised to me the diversity of vegetation at each one. They are all looking particularly beautiful this year because of the rain and a huge amount of weeding by the Citywide crew in our absence.

We must hope that next year the reserves can be opened again.

*Clematis microphylla*



*Bossiaea cinerea* and *Hardenbergia violacea*



*Clematis*, *Bossiaea* and *Acacia oxycedrus*



*Hibbertia sericea* and *Bossiaea cinerea*



*Allocasaurina paradoxa*

**George Street Reserve**  
George Street Reserve was scheduled for an environmental burn in autumn this year but, because of COVID, that was postponed and will now take place next year. George Street Reserve has not had a burn since the wildfire in 2006 and we were really looking forward to the renewal of the plant species. Instead, with all the rain, we have weeds. But some seedlings have appeared because of simply having more light. Perhaps we'll see some orchids later on. The Correas and Bossiaea bloomed beautifully in the smaller old burn sites.



*Thelymitra pauciflora*





*Platylobium obtusangulum*

## Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary

The north end of Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary was burnt in April 2019, although it seems like a long time ago now. The regeneration is good. It is possible to see some of the wild flowers from the exterior paths so a weekly inspection will show something else flowering. The Soft Spear Grass (*Austrostipa mollis*), was in flower early this year looking lovely waving gracefully in the wind.



*Austrostipa mollis* and *Bossiaea cinerea*



*Leucopogon virgatus*



*Burchardia umbellata* and *Diuris orientis*



*Burchardia umbellata*



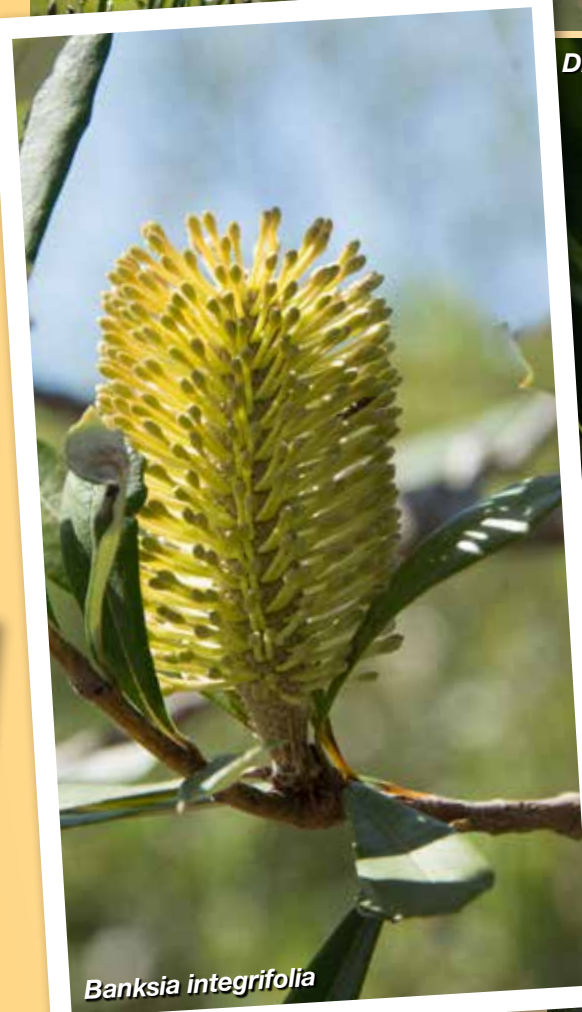
*Burchardia umbellata*



*Dianella admixta*



*Dianella admixta/revoluta*



*Banksia integrifolia*



*Dillwynia cinerascens*



*Acacia mearnsii*



*Dianella brevicaulis*

## Donald MacDonald Reserve

Donald MacDonald Reserve is the closest of our inland reserves to the sea and there is some thought that it may be in fact a second sand dune so the vegetation here, which has regenerated after controlled burns, is more coastal and quite different to the reserves further from the sea. It also has pressures from the playing field, scout hall, skateboarders and, of course, people and dogs exercising. Nevertheless there are some rare plant species present and it's looking beautiful for spring.



*Acacia paradoxa*





*Austral bracken and Acacia oxycedrus*



*Ryidosperma geniculata*



*Kennedia prostrata*



*Kennedia and Acacia paradoxa*



*Pterostylis curta*



*Kennedia and Acacia paradoxa*

## Cheltenham Park

Until 1994, Cheltenham Park was part of the City of Moorabbin and could be on a secondary dune too. When it came into Bayside's care, Moorabbin had already recognised and protected two small areas of remnant vegetation. However, much of the site was Coastal Tea-tree and Wattle wildernesses. Bayside conducted environmental burns in 2005, 2010, and the last big wildfire was in 2017. All have produced beautiful heathland vegetation regeneration including some locally rare species. Well worth a visit while carefully avoiding the bike riders present during this time.



*Drosera macrantha*



*Pimelea octaphylla*

## Long Hollow Heathland

Long Hollow has the richest diversity of species in Bayside's reserves. It is always rewarding to visit, particularly in spring. The regeneration after the 2019 controlled burn is perhaps better than expected and by next spring will be flowering beautifully. Plants of the locally rare Woolly Rice Flower (*Pimelea octaphylla*) and Parrot Pea (*Dillwynia glaberrima*) have appeared and of course, masses of *Kennedia prostrata*. The Mistletoe that was planted on the *Acacia mearnsii* continues to grow, and flowered for the first time this year.



*Burchardia umbellata*



*Chamaescilla corymbosa*



*Thysanotus pattersonii and Drosera macrantha*



*Ricinocarpos pinifolius*



*Hibbertia*

## Balcombe Park Reserve

Balcombe Park Reserve is just starting its magnificent flowering of Wedding Bush (*Ricinocarpos pinifolia*) and soon the Love Creeper (*Comesperma volubile*) will be flowering among the white blossoms. This reserve has the best display of Wedding Bush of all our heathlands and all of it appeared unexpectedly after a burn. Wander through and enjoy. There may be Sun Orchids (*Thelymitra spp*) visible on a warm sunny day close to the fence along the firebreak soon.



*Ricinocarpos pinifolia*



*Comesperma volubile*





Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*)

## Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

Story and photos by Sue Forster

The annual Spring Opening guided tours have had a long tradition in Bayside reserves, but that all changed this year.

Sadly, due to COVID restrictions, Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary's gates remain closed. Many people are missing access to locked reserves, so let me take you on a short virtual tour.

We'll visit wildflowers in bloom and some of our smaller fauna. The viewing platform near the south-west corner of the Sanctuary provides great vistas over the heathland if you wish to return in person.

This year, your tour falls during early September. As you approach the Bay Road entrance you see swathes of purple Dianella (spp. *brevicaulis* and *revoluta*). A soft shawl of Small-leaved Clematis (*Clematis microphylla*) drapes elegantly over the fence as you pass through the gate. To the left and in front, bursts of brilliant yellow prickly Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*) create a brilliant



Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*)

understorey beneath mature Coast Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis* ssp. *pyroriana*).

Walking east along the firebreak you see the first buds of Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) breaking into bloom. Turn right and right again and the vegetation thickens. You find a narrow path that penetrates deeper into the older heart of the heathland and suddenly, by your feet, are carpets of soft Nodding Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*)

growing profusely in banks of bright green moss. They have been flowering for nearly two months and some are exceptionally tall, due perhaps to this year's good autumn rain or their quest to find light. A few Trim Greenhood (*Pterostylis concinna*) leaf rosettes remain, but these rarer orchids flowered earlier, during July/August.

Leaving the orchids behind, the fringes of the path become dotted with bright lemon Bundled Guinea Flowers



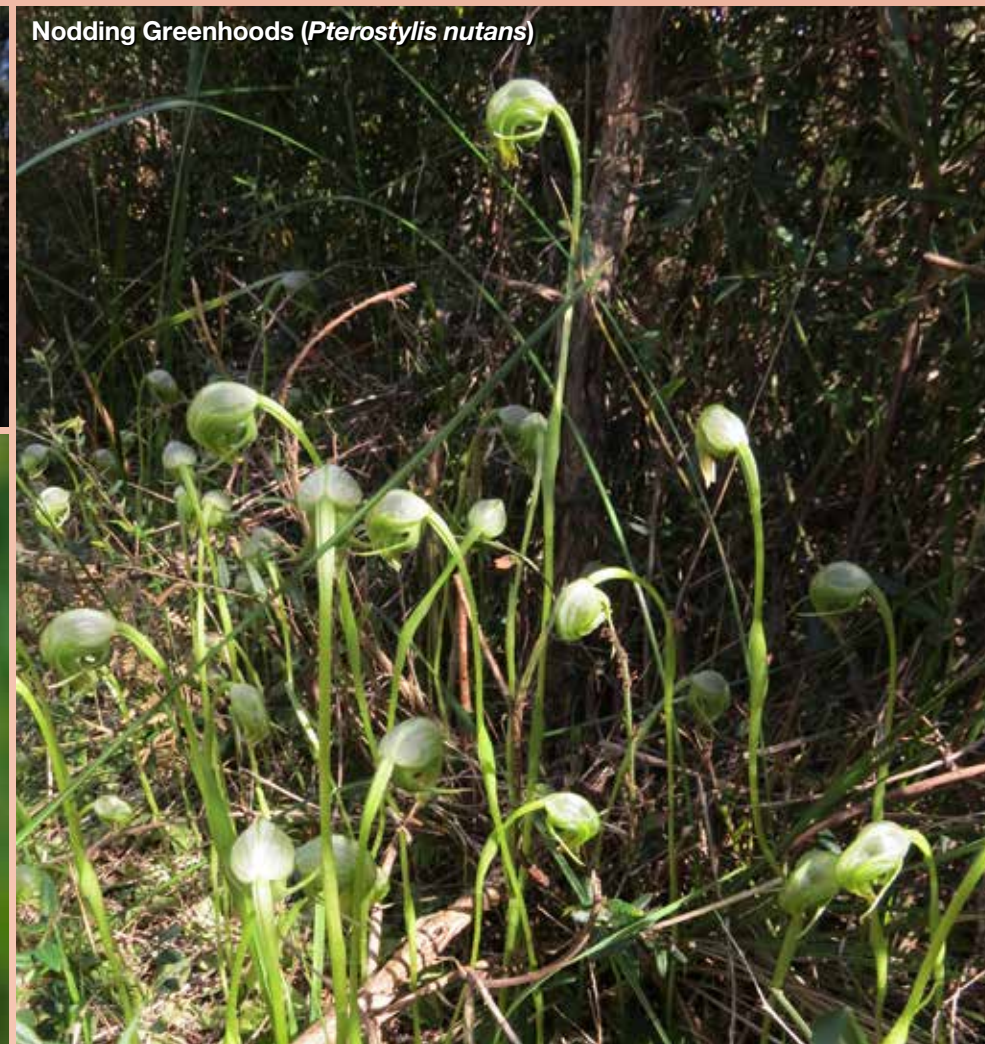
Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*)



Showy Bossiaea (*Bossiaea cinerea*)



Showy Bossiaea (*Bossiaea cinerea*)



Nodding Greenhoods (*Pterostylis nutans*)



Showy Bossiaea (*Bossiaea cinerea*)





Sweet Wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*)



Sweet Wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*)



Blue Stars (*Chamaescilla corymbosa*)  
Photo by John Eichler



Pink Fingers (*Caladenia carnea*)  
Photo by John Eichler



Trim Greenhood (*Pterostylis concinna*)



Bee Fly (Subfamily Lomatiinae)



Matchstick Grasshopper (*Vandiemena viatica*)



Weasel Skink (*Saproscincus mustelinus*)



Soldier Beetle (*Chauliognathus tricolor*)



Leafhopper (Family Cicadellidae)



Mite (*Rainbowia* sp.)



Garden Orb-weaver (*Eriophora transmarina*)



Geometrid Moth (*Dichromodes mesogonia*)

Photos on this page by John Eichler

(*Hibbertia fasciculata* var. *prostrata*) and delicate white Beard Heath (*Leucopogon virgatus* var. *virgatus*).

Now we have reached the open ground of the 2018 burn site and the Showy Bossiaea (*Bossiaea cinerea*) is magnificent this year – great sweeps of yellow, orange, red and brown flowers dominate the new heathland growth. To the south, pale lemon globes and long narrow leaves indicate the presence

of Sweet Wattle (*Acacia suaveolens* ssp. *suaveolens*) fringing the burn site. The air is buzzing with honey bees and native bee flies.

Every week is subtly different, and so too every year. In a few weeks, the heathland will be bright with Common Aotus (*Aotus ericoides*), Wedding Bush (*Rinocarpus pinifolius*), Grass Trigger-plants (*Stylidium graminifolium*) and, (pink) fingers crossed, perhaps a few

of the rarest orchids that occasionally grace the Sanctuary: the aforesaid Pink Fingers (*Caladenia carnea*) and Wax-lip Orchids (*Glossodia major*). Chocolate Lilies (*Arthropodium strictum*), Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*) and Blue Stars (*Chamaescilla corymbosa*) were abundant in the first spring after the burn, but are now hard to spot between taller shrubs and sedges. Silver Banksias (*Banksia marginata*), Twiggy Daisy-bushes

(*Olearia ramulosa*) and Common Correas (*Correa reflexa*) that flowered profusely over winter are now setting seed.

With the sunnier weather, you may see a flash as a skink scuttles past. Weasel Skinks (*Saproscincus mustelinus*) can be identified by a small white mark behind their eyes, or you may catch the distinctive stripes of an Eastern Three-lined Skink (*Bassiana duperreyi*). Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary boasts four

species of skink plus Marbled Geckos (*Christinus marmoratus*) often found resting under loose bark.

As you pass the Manna Gums look out for Soldier Beetles (*Chauliognathus tricolor*) and Leafhoppers (family Cicadellidae) on the foliage, Flat Bark Beetles (*Platysus* sp.) and tiny red Mites (*Rainbowia* sp.) around their trunks, and Garden Orb-weaver spiders (*Eriophora transmarina*) anywhere in between.

In the heathland, you may be lucky to catch the sudden jump of a Wingless Grasshopper (*Phaulacridium vittatum*) or the well-camouflaged Matchstick Grasshopper (*Vandiemena viatica*).

In September, the Sanctuary is full of colour and life. Some of it may be tiny and fast moving, but put on your spectacles and dig out your high-powered binoculars and feast your eyes – COVID begone!





# Our Eastern Spinebill



**Story and photos by Denis Young**  
Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife inc.

**A solitary male** Eastern Spinebill, with a distinctive glossy black crown, arrives in our garden from the mountains around mid-autumn and then stays locally making regular fleeting appearances until early spring.

Usually we only hear him: a unique, loud, high-pitched, very fast, repetitive song that vibrates around our garden for many seconds.

This beautiful call always entices us to stop and rush to the rear house windows expectantly seeking out a vibrant flash of colour in one of the Grevilleas or Correas.

The late Barbara Salter noted many Eastern Spinebills in her Tulip Street garden during the 1960s. She writes of watching a pair teaching their third family of the season to drink and bathe

in a water bowl and learn to take nectar from blossoms.

What a birdlife treasure trove she experienced.

Other small Honeyeaters and little birds (with the exception of Brown Thornbills), no longer appear in our Sandringham neighbourhood, a probable flow-on effect from climate change impacts and habitat loss.

We have been fortunate to watch 'our' Spinebill gracefully feeding on 'Peaches and Cream' or 'Red Ochre' – two profusely flowering hybrid Grevilleas – on at least four occasions.

Once he barely alighted on a branch before the resident Little Wattlebird aggressively chased him out at high speed. However, the other sightings have been fascinating as this Honeyeater seems to have modified the timing of his appearance and has been able to search and feed free from unwanted harassment.

A favourite position is to hang upside down and gracefully insert his long, curved bill into a Grevillea flower, then jump to the next, working around and through the entire bush.

Spinebills spend a longer time at each flower than the Wattlebirds and Noisy Miners and are more gracious feeders.

My wish is to see a pair of these birds outside the back windows, although just hearing that annual song of arrival next autumn will suffice. It is getting late this year, but keep a lookout if you have indigenous plants in blossom at the moment, or perhaps you can identify the sound of an Eastern Spinebill nearby.

**Reference:** Barbara Salter.  
*Australian Native Gardens and Birds*. Jacaranda Pocket Guides.  
1969 and reprinted.





# A new reserve for a lost vegetation

*Eucalyptus melliodora*

By Michael Norris

The CSIRO finally sold its Highett site at the end of June. The purchaser, Sunken Highett, will be passing three hectares to Council for conserving vegetation along with another hectare of public open space as part of the contract of sale. Five hectares will be developed, mainly for housing.

The future conservation reserve, known as the Highett Grassy Woodland, exists mainly because of one individual – Thomas Stephen Hart (1871-1960).

You can read about him in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. His very full life included lecturing

in geology, mineralogy, mining, mathematics and botany, while also being an active Christian, cyclist and walker.

Nature was clearly a passion. Hart joined the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria aged around 16 years, and his many writings include at least one paper a year in the club's journal, *The Victorian Naturalist*. One paper titled *The Yellow Box, and a Lost Vegetation* (May 1939) is reproduced in this issue of *Banksia Bulletin*.

Covering most of Bayside, I love the way it takes us back to when the valleys and ridges were not obliterated by development, tells us where we can

still see the 'red beds' and shows how the presence and absence of plants, including trees, varies with the geology.

Without Hart's discovery of that 'small timbered area at Highett' with Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) as the chief tree, the species might have vanished from the sandbelt and a far wider area. As it is, we are about to see it and other plants conserved in the dedicated Highett Grassy Woodland Reserve.

A mystery remains. How did the timbered area survive in a 'class of country which soon went under cultivation?' – TS Hart. We have people other than Hart to thank for the woodland remaining.

## The Victorian Naturalist

THE JOURNAL AND MAGAZINE of the FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA VOL. LVI

MAY, 1939 TO APRIL, 1940

Hon. Editor: A. H. CHISHOLM, F.R.Z.S.

The Author of each Article is responsible for the facts and opinions recorded  
MELBOURNE:

BROWN, PRIOR, ANDERSON PTY. LTD., 430 LITTLE BOURKE STREET  
1940

## The Yellow Box, and a Lost Vegetation

By T.S. Hart, M.A., B.C.E.

**The Yellow Box**, *Eucalyptus melliodora*, is not recorded in the F.N.C. Census, 1928, for the sandy country of the southern suburbs of Melbourne. There remains, however, a small timbered area at Highett, in which it is the chief tree, and search has revealed scattered examples over a considerable area. There is valuable information also, in old plans kindly shown to me at the Lands and Railway Departments. It may once be mentioned that all the Yellow Box remaining is in places which were away from usual routes of botanical excursions even fifty years ago, being in a class of country which soon went under cultivation.

Apart from the coastal strip and the valleys, the sandy soils of the district occur under two very different conditions. First, in a great part of this district the subsoil rests directly on the so called "red beds," weak sandstones containing some clay and variously coloured by iron oxides. Ferruginous nodules and clay usually occur in the subsoil. Second, in other places there is a considerable thickness of loose or feebly coherent sands, no doubt old dune sands. On these the conditions are less favourable. These sands are well seen in the numerous sand pits about Cheltenham and elsewhere.

The original plan of the Brighton Estate, Henry Dendy's purchase, 1841, gives a general description, "Open forest land, timbered with Gum, Oak, Cherry, Honeysuckle, etc. Soil sandy. Country gently undulating." This lies between the North Road and South Road, extending four miles inland. There is very little of the poorer class of country within this



*Acacia implexa*



*Bursaria spinosa*

area. But the original plan of Moorabbin (H. B. Foot, surveyor, 1852), marks a strip of country east of Sandringham and Black Rock "Heath with occasional patches of Gum scrub." This area and the vicinity of Cheltenham Park, which is partly dune, were the chief excursion localities, and hence our general idea of the district is largely influenced by the poorer land. Parts of the old dunes carry trees and these have become more noticeable, as there was little

inducement to clear this land early.

The timbered patch at Highett, as the last of its kind remaining in these parts, seems worth description. It is about half a mile directly south of Highett station, and a little north of the junction of Bay Road and Reserve Road. The land is nearly level and relatively high (120 feet), the valleys on each side being distinct but not deep. An old ditch and the post-holes show the ferruginous nodules which occur over the red beds,



and these beds are indicated also on Bay Road on the same ridge, to the south-east, and in recent works to the north-west. Four Eucalypts are present, Yellow Box, *E. melliodora* (most numerous), Red Gum, *E. rostrata*, Manna Gum, *E. viminalis*, and even a few Swamp Gum, *E. ovata*. The other trees are Lightwood, *Acacia implexa*, Black Wattle, *A. mollissima*; abundant *Bursaria*, and a few *Casuarina stricta* and Cherry Ballart, *Exocarpus cupressiformis*. One Boobialla, *Myoporum insulare* remains in the hedge row. The Hedge Acacia, *A. armata*, is, of course, introduced.

The ground is mostly grassy, but the smaller plants noticed include the smooth Flax Lily, *Dianella laevis*, a Mat rush, *Lomandra filiformis*, Sheep's Burr, *Acaena ovina*, the common Flat Pea, *Platylobium obtusangulum*, Creeping Bossiaea, *Bossiaea prostrata*, two Pimeleas, *P. humilis* and *P. curviflora*, Ground Berry, *Acroriche serrulata*, Kidney Weed, *Dichondra repens*, Sweet Houndstongue, *Cynoglossum suaveolens*, and a few plants of a Sword sedge, *Lepidosperma* sp.

The woodland extends in a narrow strip beside a house to Bay Road, where the *Cynoglossum* is appreciated as a choice plant in a garden. Eastward at the railway is clearly old dune with different shape and vegetation. In fact most of the hill has been removed for building sand. But beyond this at Point Nepean Road the red beds are again indicated in the telephone trench, and the land is high and fairly level. Foot records a Box as a marked tree at the corner. None remain now, but there is Lightwood in a hedgerow, plenty of *Bursaria* and some Wattles, and both Flax Lilies and the Houndstongue. Yellow Box seems to have been present also some distance north-west of the present timber.

The other examples of Yellow Box in this district occur under very similar conditions, all on the rises between the valleys, most of them with the red beds clearly indicated and practically certainly present in every case. On the Moorabbin ridge are four poor trees near the Moorabbin station, two of them on railway land, about four in the grounds of a house and nursery (beyond some planted trees) on what was originally the same block, and a couple near a house on Point Nepean

Road, about half a mile north west. On the next parallel ridge at Dane's Road a few remain. (I was told the place was once called Box Hill.) One was recently cut down north-east from Highett station, and in the other direction there are several in a small paddock at South Road. From here the higher land spreads out towards the south-west round the head of a valley. A Yellow Box remains near Bluff Road.

Rounding the head of the valley, another ridge runs to the north-west and carries Yellow Box in a paddock near the municipal golf links, and small second growth on vacant land opposite. Even on the next ridge there were a couple of Yellow Box in the grounds of



*Lomandra filiformis*

the house (now Haileybury College) east of Hampton Street. They were possibly planted, but Foot records Box within half a mile of the same ridge, near Hampton High School. All these ridges extend into Brighton, but the land was cleared early.

The railway plans record a Yellow Box at Glenhuntly station. Further north-west there were formerly several in a paddock at the south-east corner of Glen Eira and Bambra Roads. The original plan, again one of Foot's, has box here and extends it northerly a short distance. Near here also, there are still some Red Gums on relatively high land. Another plan has Box at the corner of Wattletree and Burke Roads. The position is fairly level and high (150 feet). There are still two old Red Gums at this corner of Central Park and one

to the west. Easterly along Wattletree Road the grounds round a house have Yellow Box, Red Gum and Manna Gum. A post hole seems to indicate red beds but their occurrence is practically certain otherwise. The same three Eucalypts occur at Hedgley Dene Gardens, a little to the south, and are skilfully worked into the design.

Box is often mentioned on plans from near Oakleigh to South Yarra, but many of these are near the edge of the red beds and may be on the Silurian area. A few Yellow Box remain in Alma Park, Windsor, west of the railway. The land is relatively high and fairly level. There is Silurian rock in St. Kilda Hill, but the deep railway cutting alongside these



*Pimelea humilis*

trees is in the red beds. I knew it well before the slopes were trimmed and soiled, and the Silurian rock only occurs at the north end of the cutting.

An old plan of 1849 of the area from High Street, St. Kilda, to East Prahran records many Box trees as marked trees, but the list is damaged and the numbers of the allotments lost. Plans also record Box near Balaclava Road, at the corners of Hawthorn Road and of Hotham Street, East St. Kilda. Another plan by Foot, 1850, has two marked Box trees on what is now Cochrane Street, north-west of Gardenvale station. This occurrence is not on the ridge, but is south of the narrow strip of swampy land, where the "creek" developed later. Foot only uses the name "Box," but I find Yellow Box at the many places where I have been able to repeat his observation.

It seems not unlikely that the Yellow Box on the flat-topped ridges may be favoured by slow run-off of water rather than elevation, especially in view of the frequent occurrence of Red Gum on high land near them, and the exceptional Swamp Gums at Highett. A slow run-off on these soils does not involve serious swampiness. Red Gums also occur on rising land between the two main branches of the creek west of Bentleigh. The occurrence of the Red Gums outside the valleys means that the Red Gum is a real constituent of the flora, not merely extending into the valleys. I would here amend some information I gave to Dr. C. S. Sutton, used in his second article (*Victorian Naturalist*, Vol. XXIX, October,



*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

1912). I was in error as to the supplier of certain old Red Gum posts, but omitted to say that they were obtained quite near; about half a mile south-east of Caulfield Town Hall. Also the absence of Red Gums on the main road began at Balcombe's block "near Cheltenham Cemetery," not Brighton, Balcombe's well-known block at Mentone being near enough considering the early date. There is Red Gum still on the main road just north of Balcombe's Road.

Besides the trees at Highett, the red beds carry at other places *Casuarina suberosa* and the Silver Banksia (*B. marginata*). A peppermint occurred near Caulfield Town Hall, but I do not remember it in Moorabbin. The Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) belongs partly to the valleys, but,

rather strangely, on the dune area of Cheltenham both Blackwood and Lightwood run high up the hill.

The wooded parts on the dune sand have quite a different character from those of the red beds though Manna Gums occur on both. Among the smaller plants it is possible to name some which seem to prefer one type of country, and we may incidentally notice some other red beds localities.

As to *Bursaria*, Dr. Sutton recorded it from the coastal scrub and I had it as "Woodlands, Hampton." Neither of us seems to have noticed it on the heath. It occurs, however, in the wooded dune at Cheltenham Park, but not so abundantly. The Curved Riceflower (*Pimelea*

*curviflora*) was not in Dr. Sutton's first list, but was added from the hill north of Brighton Beach station typical "red beds." It may have disappeared there, but is abundant on the railway at Elsternwick station, and on the next hill near Ripponlea. An Acacia on the Elsternwick cutting is apparently Lightwood by its flowering season in summer.

The narrow-leaved Bitter Pea (*Daviesia corymbosa*) occurs on the red beds at the west side of the Victoria Golf Links, Cheltenham. It is of limited occurrence in this district. It is natural that plants common in the forest lands of the eastern suburbs should appear here in the better and more timbered areas.

The Sheep's Burr (*Acaena ovina*) occurs on the red beds at many places.

The Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum suaveolens*) found also in grassy land elsewhere, is probably a plant of the red beds in this district. It is flowering this autumn as I have never seen it before, not only in the timber at Highett, but on roadsides near and even on the headlands of a market garden. The Smooth Flax Lily (*Dianella laevis*) seems to favour the red beds. *Dianella revoluta* is on both classes of country, sometimes abundant on the poorer sands.

*Podolepis acuminata* occurred on the red beds at Brighton Beach hill, but I was unable to locate its position on the Victoria Golf Links, though kindly allowed to explore that area. Among the plants of the poorer sands is the Hill Sword Sedge (*Lepidosperma concavum*). It rarely occurs on the red beds at their boundary. On the other hand it flourishes on nearly bare sands on broken ground. On the red beds we often find another *Lepidosperma* on the higher flat land as well as valleys.

In a general way the country direct on the red beds seems to run easily to grass under occupation; the dune sands run easily to bracken, but this point should perhaps not be pressed too rigidly. Certainly many paddocks at Brighton as I knew them first (say 1886) were grass with scattered trees, mainly Manna Gums on the rises and Red Gum in the valleys and, at places Black Wattle, but the treatment they had received would be involved. There are, of course, transitions from one kind of country to the other; and the limiting conditions may differ for each species. A foot of dune sand might affect some; tree roots might penetrate many feet if they could start in the poorer sand.

It was noticed that the Mound Ant (*Iridomyrmex detectus*) avoids the lighter and looser dune sand.

The last extensive timbered area was a block of 155 acres at Hampton along the whole length of the south side of what is now Ludstone Street, a mile and a quarter, starting at Hampton Street near the school. The east end, besides the Box tree at Bluff Road already mentioned, had recently both *Casuarinas*, *Bursaria*, the Houndstongue and the same *Lepidosperma*, as elsewhere on the red beds. This area was cleared about 1890 and later.



## Friends Groups

### Friends of Balcombe Park

**Convenor:** Ian O'Loughlin  
**Mobile:** 0412 432 618 **Email:** ianoloughlin@optusnet.com.au

### Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

**Convenor:** Sue Forster  
**Phone:** 0431 688 606 **Email:** sue.forster@optusnet.com.au

### Friends of Bayside Roads

**Contact:** Derek Jones  
**Phone:** 0417 360 747 **Email:** derekhjones36@gmail.com

### Bayside Environmental Friends Network

**Convenor:** Erica Breedon  
**Phone:** 9583 8408 **Email:** friends@bayside.vic.gov.au

### Friends of Beaumaris Reserve

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

### Friends of Brighton Dunes

**Convenor:** Jenny Talbot  
**Phone:** 0499 592 233

### Friends of Cheltenham Park

**Convenor:** Valerie Tyers  
**Phone:** (03) 9588 0107 **Email:** valerietyers@hotmail.com

### Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

**Convenor:** Kim Croker  
**Phone:** (03) 9589 2443 **Email:** kcroker@bigpond.net.au

### Friends of George Street Reserve

**Convenors:** Pauline Reynolds & Val Tarrant  
**Phone:** (03) 9598 6368 **Email:** pauline.reynolds.au@gmail.com

### Friends of Gramatan Avenue Heathland

**Convenor:** Ken Rendell  
**Phone:** (03) 9589 4452

### Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

**Convenor:** Rob Saunders  
**Phone:** (03) 9515 3383 **Email:** srednuas@hotmail.com

### Friends of Merindah Park & Urban Forest

**Convenor:** John de Cruz Douglas  
**Phone:** 0417 386 408 **Email:** mainbrace36@gmail.com

### 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

### Friends of Ricketts Point Landside

**Convenor:** Sue Raverty  
**Phone:** (03) 9589 2103 **Email:** sraverty@westnet.com.au

### Friends of Table Rock

**Convenor:** Ken Rendell  
**Phone:** (03) 9589 4452

### Friends of Elster Creek

**Convenor:** Karen Jone  
**Phone:** 9525 3102 **Email:** karen@ecocentre.com  
**Meeting point:** Elwood Canal, Glen Huntly Road Bridge

## Environment Groups

### Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc.

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

### Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc

**President:** Greg Mier  
**Contact:** PO Box 7016, Beaumaris 3193 **Email:** info@bcs.asn.au  
**Website:** www.bcs.asn.au

### Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association Inc

**President:** Craig Brunnen  
**Phone:** 0488 303 887 **Email:** brunnencc@gmail.com  
**Secretary:** John Neve  
**Phone:** 0479 196 260 **Email:** jneve@ozemail.com.au

### Elsternwick Park Association

**Email:** ElsternwickParkAssociation@gmail.com

### Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc

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

### Sandringham Foreshore Association

**President:** Dr Vicki Karalis  
**Email:** sandyforeshore@optusnet.com.au  
**Website:** sandringhamforeshore.tumblr.com

## School Groups

### Firbank Girls Grammar

**Contact:** Mary-Ellen Johnson  
**Phone:** (03) 9591 5188 **Email:** mjohnson@firbank.vic.edu.au

### St Leonard's College Conservation Group

**Contact:** Simon Daniels  
**Phone:** (03) 9909 9300 **Email:** simon.daniels@stleonards.vic.edu.au



**Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, all working bees and events have been temporarily suspended or postponed until further notice.**

**Please visit [bayside.vic.gov.au](http://bayside.vic.gov.au) or your Friends group Facebook page for updates.**

**For updates on the Bayside Nursery visit [bayside.vic.gov.au](http://bayside.vic.gov.au)**



**banksia** bulletin

### 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.

### Editor

Damien Van Trier  
Manager Open Space,  
Recreation and Wellbeing

### Content Coordinator

Amy Weir  
Biodiversity and Conservation  
Planning Officer  
Please send articles and photos to  
banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au

### Copy deadlines

**Summer 2020**  
Friday, 20 November, 2020

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

If you would like to be added to the Banksia Bulletin mailing list, please contact Bayside City Council on 9599 4444 or email: banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au Please indicate whether you would prefer to receive your Banksia Bulletin by email or via post.

### Corporate Centre

PO Box 27 Royal Avenue  
Sandringham VIC 3191  
Telephone: 9599 4444  
www.bayside.vic.gov.au  
banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au  
Hours of business  
8.30am–5pm  
Monday–Friday  
(except public holidays)





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

Please refer to our website

[www.bayside.vic.gov.au](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au)



Flat Bark Beetle, *Platysus* sp.  
Photo by John Eichler