

# banksia

bulletin

winter 2024

## Ghost funghi sightings

Yalukit Willam updates  
Upcoming events



Bayside  
CITY COUNCIL

# From the Mayor

**Welcome to the** Winter edition of *Banksia Bulletin*.

It is definitely winter, but our dedicated volunteers remain committed to their work at the Bayside Community Nursery and maintaining and preserving our reserves, heathlands, and foreshore.

The volunteers within our Friends groups also continue to help shape Council plans through their knowledge and feedback.

We're beginning works at the Highett Grassy Woodland in the coming weeks and months to start to get the weeds under control while we begin the detailed design to implement the vision from the Masterplan.

At our most recent Council Meeting, held on Tuesday 18 June, we proudly endorsed three key plans that will continue to increase Bayside's biodiversity and enhance our natural habitat.

These included the *Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan*, *Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan*, and the *Bayside Fresh Waterbodies Management Plans*.

The five-year revised *Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2024-29* retains a similar structure to the 2018 BAP with actions listed under four key goals:

- Understanding Bayside's biodiversity values for conservation, protection and management
- Managing biodiversity and threatening processes
- Improving our biodiversity knowledge
- Traditional owner inclusion in biodiversity management (new section).

The BAP highlights several local species that we will use as biological indicators to monitor for improvements to habitat and local ecology. These include iconic Bayside species such as the Superb Fairy Wren, Blue-banded Bee, Bronzewing Pigeons, a range of micro bats and our Silver and Coast Banksias.

By recording observations of these species across Bayside, we can track the success or otherwise of additional planting for habitat and monitor for the impacts of climate change on local species.

The highly anticipated endorsement of *Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024* proposes a high-level layout of what the future site could look like. Highett Grassy Woodland will also be a dog prohibited conservation reserve, which is a significant gain for the ecological and conservation significance of the site.

The *Bayside Fresh Waterbodies Management Plans 2024* provide recommendations for six waterbodies throughout the municipality – Elsternwick Park South Lake, Landcox Park Lane, Basterfield Lake, Tulip Street Pond, Pobblebonk Pond and the Cheltenham Golf Course Reservoir.

The plans acknowledge the important recreational and aesthetic benefits each of these ornamental lakes deliver to our community as well as their biodiversity value including providing habitat for iconic species such as the Pobblebonk or Eastern Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*).

Copies of the plans and the associated minutes from the Council Meeting are available at: <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/council/council-meetings-agendas-and-minutes>



On behalf of Council and our community, thank you to our Friends groups and volunteers who continue to make Bayside a better place to live.

**Councillor Fiona Stitfold**

Mayor



**Cover photo:** Honey Pot (*Acrotriche serrulata*) by Pauline Reynolds. This pretty little plant is a special variety available from the Bayside Community Nursery. The tiny flowers are full of sweet nectar and have a strong honey scent hence its name, Honey Pots. It is quite rare in Bayside although it does grow at Long Hollow Heathland and the Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

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Passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*)



## Weeds of Bayside

By Aaron Hurrell, Citywide Bushland Crew

### ***Passiflora edulis***

Passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*) is a member of the passionflower species, which grows as a vine. Native to South America, the Passion fruit's native range is from the south of Brazil to Northern Argentina. Missionaries used the flowers as a method of teaching Christianity to the indigenous peoples of South America, with the flower used to demonstrate the crucifixion of Christ.

Passion fruit is a perennial vine and is broken up into two different varieties. *P. edulis* f. *edulis* is the commonly eaten most recognisable purple fruit and *P. edulis* f. *flavicarpa* is a yellow fruited Passion fruit often used as rootstock for the purple fruited vine. The flower is usually grown as a single flower at each node of the vine. The flower has five green oblong sepals with five white petals.

The fruit is botanically a berry and is spherical to ovoid shaped. The colour of the berries varies from dark purple to a light yellow. The purple fruit tend to be smaller, weighing approximately 35 grams and similar in size to a lemon, while the yellow ones weigh closer to 85 grams and grow to a comparable size of a grapefruit.

The best way to deal with Passion fruit is to cut the base root of the plant and apply herbicide to effectively kill the plant. Physically removing any fruit and vines that are smothering other plants is also an effective form of control.

Source: Wikipedia *Passiflora edulis*



# Gardens for Wildlife

**Creating a wonderful place for local wildlife in your garden.**

Gardens for Wildlife is a free program is designed to inspire and encourage our residents, community groups, schools and businesses to create habitat in their gardens and open spaces, nature strips, patios or balconies to support local native wildlife.

As our urban environment continues to grow, so do the pressures on many of our fragile native fauna species when seeking out suitable habitat, shelter and natural food sources.

Whether your backyard is large or small, there are plenty of ways you can help our local wildlife, many of which require no money at all.

**Subscribe to the Gardens for Wildlife monthly eNewsletter to keep up-to-date with information sessions and workshops throughout the year.**

*Gardens for Wildlife is a joint initiative between the community, Council and Bayside Community Nursery.*

# Planting starts at Donald MacDonald

Words and photos by Belinda Raymond  
Citywide Bushland Crew



Planting season has begun in Bayside's reserves, kicking off with planting at Donald MacDonald Reserve on the first Sunday in May.

We added an array of native plants behind the statue on Haydens Road including Showy Bossiaea (*Bossiaea cinerea*), Golden Pea (*Aotis ericoides*), Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*), Soft Speargrass (*Austrostipa mollis*) and Pale Flax Lily (*Dianella* sp.)

Thank you to our volunteers for all their hard work in getting the tube stock into the ground.

Planting will continue over the winter months to give the plants their best chance of survival before the summer months hit.

The Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve meet on the first Sunday of the month at 10am near the statue on Haydens Road. Details are available on page 22.

For more information about volunteer working bees please contact Anna Malone at [AMalone@bayside.vic.gov.au](mailto:AMalone@bayside.vic.gov.au)



# Community planting bee

By Anna Malone

Bayside City Council Environmental Volunteer Support Officer

**As part of Bayside's Gardens for Wildlife (G4W) program, an area of public land containing several well-established trees and adjacent 50m-long nature strip was selected to showcase habitat gardening with indigenous plants.**

**The site was** chosen due to its proximity to Bayside Community Nursery, along the corner of Reserve and Talinga roads in Cheltenham.

It is hoped that the planting will provide examples of what can be achieved by residents in their home gardens and on their nature strips to see how different indigenous plants fare under the sometimes-harsh conditions of nature strips and the variable light/shade and moisture in the garden area.

The site was prepared by Citywide with the team clearing, hedging, weeding and mulching the area in February 2024.

A tired public bench was also refurbished and placed in the garden area – creating a lovely, quiet spot perfect for wildlife observation.

As part of Bayside's Gardens for Wildlife program, a two-hour community planting bee was held on Saturday 11 May to undertake planting of the garden and nature strip and other tasks.

There was a great volunteer response with weeding, planting of 835 indigenous tube stock, the laying of a tree round pathway (thanks to Citywide Tree Crew and Bayside City Council Open Space Arborist, Adrian) and construction of a lizard lounge all completed in a short time frame.

A huge thank you to the fantastic work of the volunteers, supported by Nathan and Paul (Citywide) and the many other volunteers, Council and Citywide staff involved along the way.

While the demonstration area will continue to be maintained by volunteers and staff, it will also be

regularly assessed for its benefits to local wildlife. The best early indicators of successful planting will be the number and diversity of insects found.

There is an alarming rate of insect decline globally – around 30 per cent decline. A large proportion of this decline is attributed to habitat loss. While insect decline may not appear to be critical, insects perform many roles within ecosystems including pollination, nutrient cycling and as a food source, particularly for small insectivorous birds like the Superb Fairy Wren, our Gardens for Wildlife emblem.

Our first fieldwork observations at the G4W demonstration garden and nature strip will be undertaken in September, four months after the first planting, by local ecologist Luis Mata.

If you would like to know more about this workshop or other events in Bayside's Gardens for Wildlife program please subscribe to our [e-newsletter](#).





# Sandy Street Art Project

By David Perry

**Sandy Street Art Project (SSAP) is a group of local volunteers focused on art and the general amenity of the Sandringham Village and foreshore.**

SSAP was incorporated in 2019 and its focus has extended from the visual arts to music and community gardening.

The fruits of our work are evident in the art, murals and sculptures around Sandringham Village, the iconic Dog Wall behind Coles, two community libraries, the 'Delicate Balance' sculpture in the Village Square, buskers and roving performers at Sandringham festivals, community gardens in Sandringham, our ANZAC Day poppy commemoration, a mosaic in front of Sandringham Station and more.

SSAP works co-operatively with artists and performers, many Sandringham community groups, Bayside Council, the Sandringham Traders Association and Community Bank of Sandringham and private businesses.

Last December, the group assisted with the largest festival to date in Sandringham. While the very wet conditions did not help, a similar festival is planned for late 2024.

A garden group has been established aimed at developing and maintaining community garden assets around the Sandringham Village Square.

The Sandringham Community Bank has been a major sponsor and Bayside Council has provided great support.

Our first project was the development of a small garden called the Peoples Patch, behind 32 Waltham Street and off Blue Lady Lane. Contained within this are several herb garden beds maintained by Adam the Flowerman.

Next, we gained approval to work on the Sandringham Station gardens where more than 40 shrubs were planted in the garden beds to the left (south) of the station entrance.

Earlier this year we replenished and replanted the seven bluestone planters on the Sandringham Station platform with native trees and groundcover.



We have worked co-operatively with numerous stakeholders on all SSAP projects including our community garden projects. We make use of considerable volunteer labour, enhancing the community at minimal cost.

One idea that we have discussed over recent months has been the possible rejuvenation of the Village Square Garden.

For more information or to join SSAP visit [sandystreetartproject.com.au](http://sandystreetartproject.com.au), 'Like' us on Facebook or email [sandystreetartproject@outlook.com](mailto:sandystreetartproject@outlook.com)



Habitat for local wildlife -

# Environmental learning



**Words by Anna Malone**

Bayside City Council Environmental Volunteer Support Officer

**Photos courtesy of Haileybury ELC**

**Students from Haileybury Early Learning Centre (ELC) have been regularly visiting their local park, Hampton High Reserve, which is a short walk from the Castlefield Campus in Brighton.**





**The visits have** been part of the students' environmental learning focus on indigenous plants and animals, and connections with the traditional owners and custodians of the land, the Bunurong people.

The students are also exploring the importance of increasing the diversity of indigenous plantings in open spaces as well as strengthening connections between natural areas to create additional habitat, or improve existing habitat, for native fauna.

Environmental Learning Educator Vicki Edwards approached Bayside City Council to see how the children could contribute to indigenous planting at Hampton High Reserve and gain some practical skills and hands-on learning.

Vicki also spent time at Bayside Community Nursery investigating the range of indigenous plants and getting advice on appropriate plant selection for the reserve.

This resulted in three sessions with the children, teachers and parents, facilitated by Citywide and Council, which covered site preparation and mulching along with planting for each class.

Students planted 220 tube stock of seven different plant species and finished by giving all the plants a big water.

The children also created beautiful signs to remind park users not to step on the new plants.

This is a great initiative from Haileybury ELC, and we look forward to watching your plants grow.

The planting was made possible through Bayside's Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan, designed to increase indigenous planting in Bayside's open spaces and create green corridors for local wildlife across Bayside.



# The Peregrine:

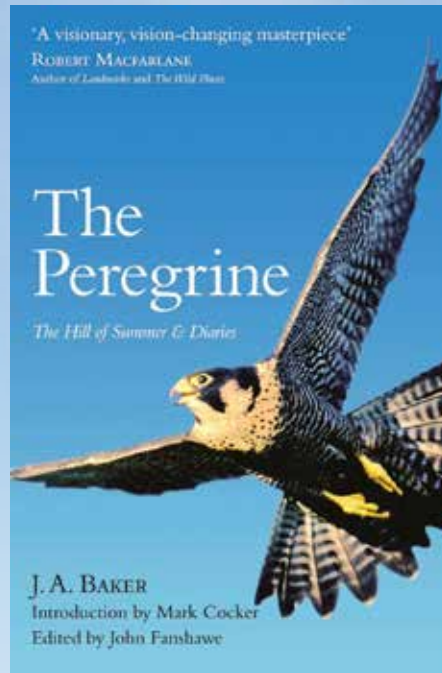
## Book Discussion

By Matthew Grover  
Citywide Bushland Crew

J. A. Baker's *The Peregrine* puts on a production of nature distinct from anything else I've ever read. Unbound from established language convention, his transformed and piercing prose bears an environment that is vivid, flaring, and dazzlingly beautiful; and is made more potent by a spirited repetition that drives an enchanting intimacy between reader and subject. But this is no imagined pandora, it is one man's lived experience of a living landscape, fiercely and honestly transcribed. Through Baker's words, the whole ecology is "made absolute"; nature through his eyes is "pure", and, dare I say, "unflawed". *The Peregrine* is the product of over 10 years of meticulous observation, his notes, condensed down, read as a journal of one full and gripping season following the lives of two peregrine pairs wintering on the Essex coast in England's south-east. Urgent yet erratic, intense yet bizarre, and elegant but nonetheless prickly; Baker's unique style may not be for everyone and to follow the flinty trail cut by his words will require focus and resolve. But this only serves to make the process even more rewarding, and the view from its peak even more breathtaking.

### "The hardest thing of all to see is what is really there."

As a result of being a sharing of experience so personal and remarkable, there is an abundance of exciting elements possible to dissect. I am consistently fascinated by how different people interpret the oddity of human existence and by extension how that concerns one's relationship with the natural world. And Baker's story I found especially compelling. To see "what is really there", this is the core tenet that compels Baker's birdwatching and underpins the ecological vision he means to capture in his writing. He endeavours to bathe in the true essence of nature, to wade free of his anthropogenic body and mind, meeting with the wilderness on its own terms.



As a hopeful child who dreams of witnessing their toys sprung to life – absorbed in their own *Toy Story* adventure – Baker too craves to behold all the elements of his wild Essex backyard alive in their utmost vibrancy, more than just a puppet show of human invention. As the book's narrator, rarely does Baker manifest physically, his movements are not described and he doesn't stop to eat or rest, he exists only through his eyes and their relation to the birds and the world that contains them. From the cover of scrub or the sea wall, he waits in stillness until his presence is dissolved, watching as nature takes to the stage, unaware of the lone man in the audience. And his patience is unequivocally rewarded; "pattering" sparrows, "gluttonous" wood pigeons, "scolding" blackbirds, "clacking" fieldfares – the clouds, the sunlight, the ocean – and the supernal peregrine... All dances majestically before him. Even when the scene is still, his words seem to capture the very breath of the earth; life blazes in everything. Learning how Baker came to see nature in such radiance only amplifies the feeling of elation his writing invokes.

### "Terror seeks out the odd, and the sick, and the lost."

Ostensibly this brief line makes for a powerful conclusion to Baker's observation of a hunting tiercel (male) peregrine as it shamelessly picks off a lone moorhen that has wandered into the open while searching for food. Isolated and hopelessly far from cover, it is an easy kill. Undoubtedly a captivating little passage, it is that final line specifically that grabbed me; startlingly direct, a concise psychodrama, it alludes to greater meaning than is initially perceived.

In no work of writing is it possible for the author to completely conceal their own affections, nor do I think they should wish to. Memorable writing is most often unreserved and intimate.

On the surface, Baker does seek to avoid personal narrative in his words and to speak for nature only, but he is perhaps too successful in doing so. Nature is writ with absolute precision, clarified of all impurities such that we cannot help but observe Baker's reflection in its irradiated surface. With the help of further context regarding Baker's life, his reflection can be illuminated, magnifying *The Peregrine's* melancholy demeanour.

Paraphrasing the words of Robert Macfarlane in his book *Landmarks*, Baker made an unlikely birdwatcher, he wore thick glasses from an early age and was excused from serving in the army on account of his myopia. The only child of an unhappy marriage, at age eight he contracted rheumatic fever which led to the diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis at seventeen, a debilitating inflammatory arthritis where muscle, bone and ligaments fuse together in the joints and spine. Codeine could provide only modest relief and slowly his body would succumb.

Knowing this it's inconceivable not to assume some level of empathy between Baker and the moorhen; that he too identified as the odd, and the sick, and the lost. Baker finds a beauty in the innocent violence of nature's predator-prey relationships, but no such beauty exists for societies downtrodden, his own suffering is bleak and empty. Birdwatching offers him an invigorating escape, one which quickly bleeds into obsession, specifically an obsession with the peregrine. Love and admiration are underscored by a sad envy. The hawk enjoys everything he cannot: flawless seeking eyesight, masterfully graceful movement, true freedom of being; Baker would give anything to escape his failing body and to become the peregrine.

**“We are the killers.  
We stink of death.  
We carry it with us.  
It sticks to us like frost.  
We cannot tear it away.”**

**In the frigid** depths of winter comes a disquieting encounter with a dying heron. Its wings frozen to the ground, the creature panics as Baker approaches, in a futile struggle its brain begs the body to fly but is met with no response; “all was dead but the fear of man”. Such a visceral confrontation, the dying bird's body overwhelmed with dread, it forces Baker to realise himself through the heron's eyes. He feels his human form made vile and grotesque. It is a stark reminder of his being – that his devotion to the peregrine can only bring him so close – and this intense anguish erupts onto the page in one of the few lines that speaks to humanity directly. As Baker sees it, I think, there is no longer any kinship between us, and the wilderness from which we came.

**“This was a day  
made absolute,  
the sun unflawed,  
the blue sky pure.  
Slate roofs and  
crows' wings  
burned white  
like magnesium.  
The shining mauve  
and silver woods,  
snow-rooted, bit  
sharply black into  
the solid blueness  
of the sky.”**

Nature is pure in the traditional sense, is without sin, the ultimate and beautiful actualisation of life on earth. Humanity has forsaken its origins, self-serving above all, our goals vehemently at odds with the planet's well-being. Baker's understanding finds no moral justification for this self-importance and thus he carries a bitterly misanthropic world view, a rejection of society on a fundamental level. Distasteful and hopeless, this is a challenging interpretation of our existence, but I hope we can resist the urge to be dismissive based on that alone. We have made people the priority, and whilst I see no reason to feel shame in that, we can't ignore the by-product that is unprecedented environmental destruction and extinction. Humanity, at its best, is beautiful and sincere, full of love, compassion, and community, and yet Baker makes me wonder if it may be hypocritical to love both humanity and nature when they are so at odds.

Maybe it doesn't matter, what choice do we have but to try and rationalise this hypocrisy; to hate ourselves is an awful way to be I think, unproductive at best and self-defeating at worst.

**“Few peregrines are left,  
there will be fewer, they  
may not survive.”**

**Published in 1967**, the outlook for peregrines at the time was dire. Ruthlessly hunted in the war years to protect allied carrier pigeons and suffering a massive decline in egg viability due to the use of DDT, population numbers had nosedived. No doubt Baker's physical suffering and resulting mental distress and isolation would have also predisposed him to his misanthropic point of view; I think he deserves sympathy in our judgement. His love for the peregrines is fiercely genuine and as such it spawns a commensurate hate for the society that so callously threatens their extinction, a society that he was born a part of, and is powerless to change. The peregrines' violent relationship to their environment is survival instinct, our killing is not – as Macfarlane neatly states in his afterword, “in our consciousness lies our culpability”.

How we choose to onboard this culpability and how we let it influence our beliefs and actions, I think is for everyone to weigh on a personal level. No longer on the Endangered Species list (as of 1999) the recovery of peregrine populations since the 1960s has been remarkable. I would like to believe that in the peregrines' restored glory, justice has been done, that this was somehow earned by Baker and the legacy his work left behind; perhaps he wasn't powerless after all. My 1500 words only scratch the surface, go and see for yourself, especially if you like birds.

# Ghost fungi

By **Belinda Raymond**  
Citywide Bushland Crew





**The cooler months, and a turn of the season, bring about the fruiting of many fungi species.**

A recent walk through George Street Reserve piqued my curiosity as I noticed Ghost fungi (*Omphalotus nidiformis*), start to pop up on some of the Coast Tea tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*).

Primarily found in southern Australia, this species of fungi has an amazing bioluminescence at night.

If the bioluminescence is strong enough and the surrounding environment dark enough, you can see a white glow with the naked eye. If, however, you take a long exposure photograph of it you will be able to capture the incredible green bioluminescence as seen in this picture.



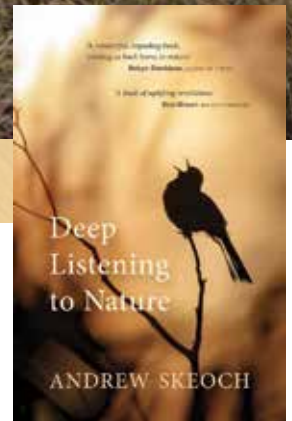
# Book Review

By Sue Forster

Convenor, Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

## *Deep Listening to Nature* by Andrew Skeoch

**Andrew Skeoch is a musician, sound recordist and passionate birder who lives on a bush block in Central Victoria. After three decades of recording around the world, he wrote this engrossing book to reflect on what we can learn from natural soundscapes.**



Accompanied by three hundred bird and fauna recordings, it provides a unique, sensory reading experience that forces readers to slow down and listen deeply. The audio files can be found on the author's website and are best listened to through headphones or earbuds.

*Deep Listening to Nature* discusses both the role of animal (mostly bird) communications and their form. Most birders know something about feeding and alarm calls, and how song is used in defining territory and in mating display. But, unlike field guide recordists, Skeoch is also interested in cross-species communication and the aesthetics of song. Although some recordings necessarily focus on the timbre and rhythm of individual calls, many dawn chorus and feeding flock recordings approach orchestral complexity. Skeoch argues that, particularly in Australia, dawn choruses have evolved among passerines as a form of avian diplomacy, manifesting a cooperative form of evolution. With his finely tuned ear, he identifies calling patterns, mimicry (from a surprising number of species)

and regional dialects. These are among the loveliest recordings and well worth revisiting any time.

Some of Skeoch's most interesting observations relate to the sonic properties of different landscapes and the way that habitat may influence the pitch, range and strength of animal sounds. For instance, loud, clear bell-like calls and whistles are designed to penetrate dense vegetation among thick forest canopies. He also discusses how sound is produced, for example, in the syrinx of songbirds, in the closed-mouth mechanism that enables pigeons to call at exceptionally low frequencies, and the non-vocal stridulation of katydids, crickets, water beetles.

According to Skeoch, the health of ecosystems can be identified by synchronicity and clearly defined temporal cycles of sound. In thriving, self-regulating acoustic systems every living creature has a role and timeslot to perform, counter-call and fall silent: think of the way that the song of cicadas prompts nocturnal insect chimes, buzzes and clicks and then dies away. Such sequencing also occurs among birds at dawn.

***Deep Listening to Nature* by Andrew Skeoch was published by Listening Earth (Victoria) in 2023.**

ISBN (paperback) 9780645756302  
ISBN (e-book) 9780645756319

Hear the recordings and Andrew Skeoch's TEDx talk, and order the book (\$30) at: <https://listeningearth.com>

To find our own place in nature, Skeoch recalls Indigenous advice that tuning-in is a two-way process: we must first be still enough and of the right character to encourage the bush to welcome us in. Many of his interesting stories about the rigours of outdoor recording involve a 3am set-up in highly uncomfortable remote locations... I suspect my evening reading and listening experiences, from the comfort of my couch, were of a very different quality to his. It's easy to enjoy Skeoch's fine recordings. Hopefully, they will be the catalyst for readers and listeners to follow him into the wild.

# YWNR Community Edge, **Wildflower** Meadow

By Jarrod Fleming  
Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve Project Lead

We are excited to provide an update on the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve Wildflower Meadow Project within the larger Community Edge precinct.

It's a **been** a long journey involving many months of site preparation works, including soil testing, weed control, concept designs, earthworks and finally the landscape installation undertaken by SP Worx, a registered business through Bayside's Social Procurement Initiative.

This journey would not have been possible without our wonderful Yalukit Willam Association volunteers, spending hours harvesting seed from the wildflowers located in the onsite Seed Production Area, collecting native grass seed from site and finally processing and cleaning seed ready to be sown.

We also are honoured to work closely with the leading industry experts The University of Melbourne, in particular Professor Nick Williams and Sophia Blosfelds from the School of Agriculture and Ecosystems Science.

We look forward to giving an update in the months ahead, as we start the final step of sowing seed in the hope that nature responds accordingly – fingers crossed!



Front entrance



Barbecue area



*Microlaena stipoides* lawn picnic area

# Keeping Bayside beautiful

## Derek Jones

Convenor, Friends of Bayside Litter Patrol

**Friends of Bayside** Litter Patrol has a keen interest in 'keeping Bayside beautiful' and making sure that roadsides around sportsgrounds, parks and gardens, and major activity centres like railway stations, shopping and business precincts are kept clear of unsightly litter.

We are asking business owners to join our crusade and help keep Bayside beautiful. This can be achieved by ensuring that the footpath in front of your business is regularly cleared of litter, which accumulates during each day.

Please take five minutes to check your nature strip and the gutter now and then to collect any litter. If you run a business in shopping precincts, especially food outlets, it would great if you could do a litter sweep or pick-up when you open and close your door each day.

Since 2017, picking up litter such as fast-food packaging, confectionary wrappers, coffee cups, cans and bottles is our main task as well as reporting illegally dumped rubbish and overflowing road rubbish bins.

The litter patrol is sponsored by Bayside City Council and Neighbourhood Watch. Each volunteer has their own 'patch', which is normally about two kilometres, two or three times a month.

Please report large dumped hard waste to Council by calling 9555 4444.



Bayside Litter Patrol volunteer Dave Kelly

## Fossil Roadshow

### Have you found a fossil in Bayside?

**Ben Francischelli, palaeontologist and curator of prehistoric Bayside, wants to hear from you.**

Bring along your fossil discoveries to our Fossil Roadshow where Ben Francischelli and Ruairidh Duncan will be on hand to identify and age your specimens. In addition, our citizen scientists will have items from their collections for you to get up close to.

If you can't come along to our Fossil Roadshow, you can also register your fossil on our website [here](#).

Free event, booking essential.

Suitable for all ages.

**Book now**

*Please protect our fragile fossil sites by not disturbing or digging rock, sand or soil. It is an offence to cause damage to our natural environment or to remove fossils from the National Parks Act protected Rickett's Point Marine Sanctuary. Excavating for fossils in any way – on land or in the water – is prohibited.*



**When:** 17 August 2024

**Time:** 11:00am-12:00pm

**Location:**

Brighton Town Hall,  
Corner of Carpenter St and Wilson St, Brighton

**Suitable for:** All ages

**Contact:** 9261 7111



# Local artist works displayed

By Paula Judson  
Guest contributor

**My sisters and I grew up with paintings by our great grandfather, Frederick Martin Straw (1858-1938), on the walls of our family home in Black Rock.**

**We loved his** paintings of bush and coastal scenes and the stories told to us of his life by our grandpa, Eric Straw.

So it was with great delight that we recently discovered that Bayside Council owns one of his paintings of Bay Road, Sandringham, donated by descendants of the Hand family who originally commissioned the work.

The Hands ran an orchard opposite the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary and described, "the beautiful orchids and other wildflowers growing in abundance". The painting depicts the bush, their house and Mr Hand on his wagon driving along Bay Road, which was then unmade.

When not running the local family business, Straw's Drapery Stores, Fred loved to spend time in the bush exploring and painting. As a young man he explored the forested gullies and towering Victorian Ash forests of the Otway Ranges along with his friends, the Mountjoy brothers, discovering and naming Erskine Falls and downstream the Straw Falls.

Fred travelled widely in Victoria and Tasmania, painting wherever he went. His later years were spent in Sandringham and with his daughter in Poowong where he worked on many beautiful paintings, particularly of the large ageing Eucalypts standing silently as sentinels of the now long-gone forests.



Red Bluff



Bay Road

## Help our Bronzewings



Free community event  
Wangara Road, Sandringham  
(former golf driving range)  
Sunday 4 August  
10am-11.30am

Common Bronzewings are beautiful native pigeons that are under pressure in our area. You can help our local Bronzewings by improving their habitat in one of the places in Bayside they are most commonly seen.

With the help of Citywide and the Bayside Community Nursery, members of Friends of

Native Wildlife Inc have been planting indigenous food species at this site including the Ruby Saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa*) for many years.

Bayside Council has published a masterplan for the Wangara Road site to be transformed into passive open space for the community, native vegetation and wildlife. Help us ensure the Bronzewings can thrive in a better environment in future!

**Book** to let us know you're coming

**Meet** at George Street near Wangara Road

**Look** for the wire fenced double gate on the west side of the former golf driving range

**Bring** sturdy shoes, working gloves, warm clothes, cup/mug and water.

# Cranbourne Botanical Gardens

## prescribed burn





**Words by Ollie Sherlock**

Conservation Officer, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria & Prescribed Burn Supervisor/  
Incident Controller

**Photos by Belinda Raymond and Ollie Sherlock**

**On Thursday 16 May, Citywide Bushland & Nursery Ops Supervisor Jo Hurse and five team members attended a 0.4 hectare Heathy Woodland prescribed burn at Cranbourne Botanical Gardens.**

**The primary objective** of this burn was fuel reduction with the goal of creating defensible space around the Visitor Centre and Australian Garden assets, however there will no doubt be positive ecological outcomes also with the site being long unburnt.

The operation was a great multi-agency undertaking with 24 firefighters from City of Casey, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV), Citywide, Metro Trains and Frankston City Council all attending.

In addition to meeting fuel reduction objectives on the day, a total of 13 general firefighters, including five from Citywide, were signed off on the practical component of the accreditation they started last November, which is a fantastic outcome.

Thank you to all involved, the RBGV values its ongoing relationship with Citywide and Bayside City Council and looks forward to future opportunities to work and learn together.



# Regeneration post-ecological burn

## Cheltenham Park Flora & Fauna Reserve

**Words by Jo Hurse**

Citywide Bushland and Nursery  
Operational Supervisor

**Photos by Pauline Reynolds**

**On 21 March, an ecological burn at Cheltenham Park Flora & Fauna Reserve was successfully undertaken for the first time in 14 years.**

**This reserve, located** on Park Road in Cheltenham, covers an area of about 11 hectares.

Over the past 25 years, the area of indigenous vegetation has grown due to the 2005 and 2010 controlled ecological burns, which covered an area of around 1000 square metres each time.

The north-eastern section of the reserve recognised approximately 0.88 hectares as significant remnant bushland in the Native Vegetation Works Program 2012.





In recent years, the Friends of Cheltenham Park and Citywide Bushland crew have successfully restored a one-hectare patch of Coastal Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) to its original vegetation type, Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland, after a wildfire in 2018 affected this area.

The March controlled ecological burn took place north-west of the 2018 wildfire and was a collaboration between the Citywide Bushland and Nursery team and 15 other Citywide staff who service Bayside City Council.

Commencing at 10.05am, the ecological controlled burn covered an area of about 4,500 square metres on a slight slope.

The moderate fire intensity ranged between 1,000 and 2,300 Kw/m, which is the appropriate intensity to stimulate the ecological processes within heathland ecosystems.

By 10.38am, all flames were gone but there was plenty of smoke and fire to germinate the soil stored seed.

*Leptospermum laevigatum*, which is classified as a weed, had overtaken the site and was removed. The objective is to restore the vegetation type to 'Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland' which has far greater plant and animal diversity.

The natural ecological processes required to regenerate indigenous heath was also stimulated. To monitor this success, three 4m x 4m quadrats were established across the site. The vegetation within these quadrats was first surveyed one month prior to the ecological burn and will be surveyed six months and 30 months post-burn.

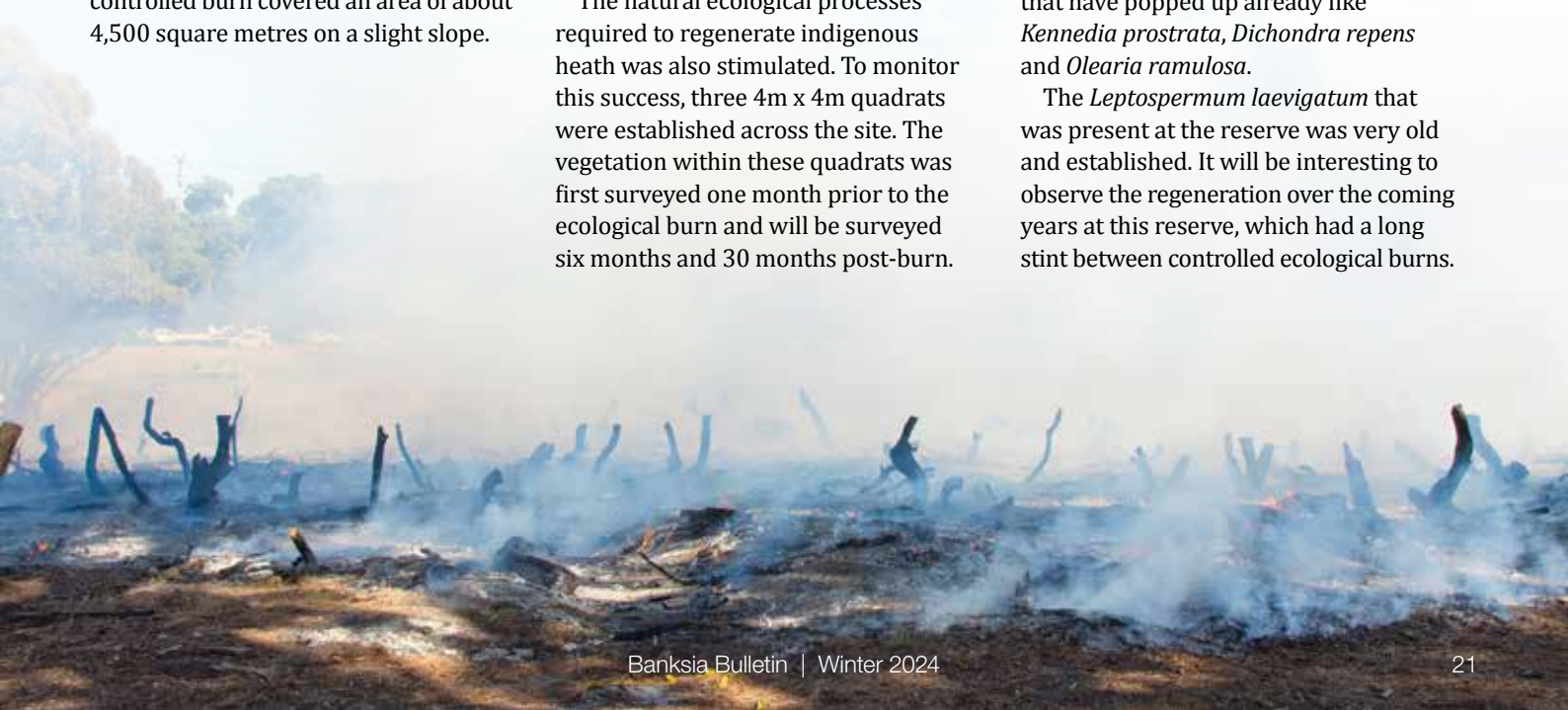
All indigenous and exotic species present are recorded, along with their cover abundance, using the Braun-Blanquet Scale.

The preparation for this burn required significant amounts of labour. The Citywide Bushland team spent weeks felling and dragging to ensure the fuel load was suitable for the desired intensity and have been targeting weed germination.

Site monitoring continues and some pioneer plants are still noticeably germinating.


The ecological burn can be described as successful due to some small recognisable indigenous plant species that have popped up already like *Kennedia prostrata*, *Dichondra repens* and *Olearia ramulosa*.

The *Leptospermum laevigatum* that was present at the reserve was very old and established. It will be interesting to observe the regeneration over the coming years at this reserve, which had a long stint between controlled ecological burns.




## Friends Groups

### Friends of Balcombe Park

**Convenor:** Ian O'Loughlin  
**Mobile:** 0412 432 618 **Email:** ianolou2@gmail.com  
 **Upcoming working bees:**  
**Dates:** Jun 30, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29 **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:** Jul 13, Aug 10, Sep 14 **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  
 **Upcoming working bees:**  
**Dates:** Jun 30, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29 **Time:** 10am-12pm (TBC)


### 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:** Jul 2, 16, Aug 6, 20, Sep 3, 17 **Time:** 10am-12pm


### Friends of Brighton Dunes

**Convenor:** George Leighfield  
**Phone:** 0432 465 707 **Email:** gleighfi@gmail.com  
 **Upcoming working bees:**  
**Dates:** Jul 2, 16, Aug 6, 20, Sep 3, 17 **Time:** 8am-9.30am

### Friends of Cheltenham Park

**Convenor:** Valerie Tyers  
**Phone:** (03) 9588 0107 **Email:** valerietyers@hotmail.com  
 **Upcoming working bees:**  
**Dates:** Jul 7, Aug 4, Sep 1 **Time:** 10am-12pm


### Friends of Donald MacDonald Reserve

**Convenor:** Anna Rabinov  
**Phone:** 0434 236 177 **Email:** anna.rab22@gmail.com  
 **Upcoming working bees:**  
**Dates:** Jul 7, Aug 4, Sep 1 **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:** Jul 21, Aug 18, Sep 15 **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:** Jul 13, Aug 10, Sep 14 **Time:** 1pm-3pm

### Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

**Convenor:** Rob Saunders  
**Phone:** 0417 357 345 **Email:** robsaunders357@gmail.com  
 **Upcoming working bees:**  
**Dates:** Jun 30, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29 **Time:** 1pm-3pm

### Friends of Merindah Park & Urban Forest

**Convenor:** John de Cruz Douglas  
**Phone:** 0417 386 408 **Email:** jdecdouglas@internode.on.net  
 **Upcoming working bees:**  
**Dates:** Jul 14, Aug 11, Sep 8 **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:** robsaunders357@gmail.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:** Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11 **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:** Jul 16, Aug 20, Sep 17 **Time:** 1pm-3pm

### Friends of Table Rock

**Convenor:** Jo Hurse  
**Phone:** (03) 9283 2052 **Email:** jo.hurse@citywide.com.au  
 **Upcoming working bees:**  
**Dates:** Jul 30, Aug 27, Sep 30 **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](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au)



# Save the dates

Bayside Community Nursery Gala Days 2024 will be held from 9am-1pm on these dates:

- Saturday 3 August
- Saturday 12 October

Bayside Community Nursery is open for retail sales until Saturday 12 October. Visit at 315–317 Reserve Road in Cheltenham.



### 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

Tom Vercoe  
Manager  
Open Space and Recreation

### Content Coordinator

Amy Weir  
Biodiversity and Conservation  
Planning Officer  
Please send articles and photos to  
[banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au](mailto:banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au)

### Copy deadlines

**Spring 2024**  
Friday 16 August, 2024

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](mailto:banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au) Please indicate whether you would prefer to receive your Banksia Bulletin by email.

### Corporate Centre

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

## Environment Groups

### Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc.

**President:** Murray Orr  
**Email:** [baysidefossils@gmail.com](mailto:baysidefossils@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.beaumarisfossils.org](http://www.beaumarisfossils.org)

### Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

**President:** Caroline Lawton  
**Contact:** PO Box 7016, Beaumaris 3193  
**Email:** [pre@bcs.asn.au](mailto:pre@bcs.asn.au)  
**Website:** [www.bcs.asn.au](http://www.bcs.asn.au)

### Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association Inc

**Secretary:** John Neve  
**Phone:** 0479 196 260 **Email:** [jneve@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jneve@ozemail.com.au)

### Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc

**President:** Elizabeth Jensen  
**Phone:** 0419 354 998 **Email:** [elizabethjensen@outlook.com](mailto:elizabethjensen@outlook.com)  
**Website:** [www.marinecare.org.au](http://www.marinecare.org.au)

### Yalukit Willam Nature Association

**President:** Natalie Davey  
**Email:** [elsternwickparkassociation@gmail.com](mailto:elsternwickparkassociation@gmail.com)

Do you want to know more  
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Please refer to our website

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



**Ghost Fungi (*Omphalotus nidiformis*)**  
by Belinda Raymond