

banksia

bulletin

winter 2019



**Help protect our
Grey-headed
Flying-fox**



Bayside
CITY COUNCIL

From the Mayor

Welcome to the winter edition of *Banksia Bulletin*.

Last year, Council completed an Open Space Management Service Review, which is part of a rolling program of internal service reviews that started in 2015.

To ensure we are delivering public value through effective and efficient service delivery, this particular service review looked at a range of activities from regular maintenance of open spaces to supporting our 'Friends of' groups and managing the Bayside Community Nursery.

Through the review we recognised that Council's spend on open space management is comparable to other councils and the community highly rates the importance and satisfaction of the services we manage, and therefore no change was recommended.

We will further support the growing number of 'Friends of' groups with a dedicated full-time Friends of Bayside Support Officer. Council will also

continue to support volunteer events and community programs like Gardens for Wildlife and Spring Walks, and we thank everyone involved in making these a success.

Where we are planning a change is with the production of *Banksia Bulletin* to reach a wider audience and save costs that can be returned to other environmental programs.

From the first edition in 2020 (Autumn), we will be going digital – a much more environmental solution for newsletters and magazines.

Banksia Bulletin will receive a new fresh look and feel, and we welcome comments and suggestions from our readers about regular columns to be sent in to banksia@bayside.vic.gov.au

Our digital version will still require stories and photographs from our wonderful volunteers who put in many hours at working bees and other events.

Being digital we are also inviting volunteers to submit videos, further enhancing the readers' experience.



A small number of print copies will be available at the nursery, Council offices and in libraries.

We encourage you all to get behind this change, and be part of a new *Banksia Bulletin* for 2020.

Cr Michael Heffernan
Mayor
Bayside City Council

In this issue

Special features



6

PROTECTING THE GREY-HEADED FLYING-FOX



10

HOLY MOLA



13

ECOLOGICAL BURNS



Other articles

PLANTS OF BAYSIDE	4
BEFN LIKED FOR A DECADE	4
THE BLINK OF AN EYE	5
WORKING BEE AT GEORGE STREET RESERVE	12
FRIENDS OF BAYSIDE ROADS NEED HELP	14
PHONE APP CAPTURING LITTER DATA	14
WILDLIFE WALK WITH FRIENDS	15
KIDS' CORNER	16
THE LITTLE BEE KEEPING FESTIVAL	17
VOLUNTEER GROUPS	18



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Cover image: Grey-headed Flying-fox
Photo: Doug Gimesy



Plants of Bayside

With Aaron Hurrell of Citywide Parks and Gardens

Cranberry Heath

Astroloma humifusum or Cranberry Heath is a dense spreading mat-like plant that grows between 10 and 50cm tall and 1-1.5m wide.

Its narrow, stiff and prickly leaves are blue-green in colour, and measure between 5-18mm long and up to 3mm wide.

Flowering in a bright red tubular shape of between 7 and 12mm long, they are often hidden by foliage.

They can be sighted all year round, but are most prolific between March and September.

The edible fruit is globular, pale green in colour and grows up to 10mm in size.

Cranberry Heath requires well-drained soils capable of handling dry periods once established and thrives in full sun to semi-shade. It is propagated via cuttings and responds well to pruning.

Cranberry Heath was used as an Aboriginal food plant and is very suitable for growing in rockeries, under trees, embankments and hanging baskets.

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

BEFN liked for a decade



The Bayside Environmental Friends Network has been on Facebook for 10 years and has grown over that decade, now reaching more than 700 people who 'like' the page.

The Facebook page keeps followers entertained, engaged and informed, allowing photos, experiences, observations and opinions to be shared and questions asked of the group.

Over the past decade, the group has posted hundreds of interesting photos, capturing local pictures of Rakali, Egrets, Gang-gang Cockatoos, Horse-dropping fungi, Moon Snail egg sacs, and most recently a gigantic Sunfish (*Mola mola*) that washed up on the beach at Black Rock.

We support Bayside's Friends groups by promoting working bee times and dates and share Council news, particularly on environmental issues that call for community comments or feedback such as waste collections, the Biodiversity Action Plan and various masterplans.

We also publicise events including the Bayside Community Nursery Gala Day, the Bayside Fossil Fundraiser, Bayside Climate Change Action Group events, Friends of Native Wildlife talks and walks, Summer by the Sea events, Marine Care Ricketts Point events and many more.

To make our Facebook page work we need people to not only look at it but also for people to contribute photos and comments to keep it current and vibrant.

Join our page at Facebook/BEFN

The blink of an eye

By Dr Rob Saunders

Convenor Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

What is 60 years? For some of us it's a lifetime, for others perhaps a milestone. Having grown up in Sandringham in the 1950s, I clearly recall large areas of bushland nearby, the low heathy vegetation and dirt tracks that were the scourge of my bicycle tyres, and wetland areas full of tadpoles. But the indigenous vegetation of Bayside has been around for tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of years. It goes back well before the Bay was first formed by rising sea levels at the end of the last Ice Age.

And then most of it disappeared in the blink of an eye.

I was reflecting on my own perspective on time recently, while reading Daintry Fletcher's wonderful book *The Bushlands of Sandringham* (1988). Daintry's records indicate that May 2019 was the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Winifred Waddell Wildflower Sanctuary. This tiny patch of Bayside's original vegetation measures around 24 x 24 metres, and is located in the south-east corner of what is now Long Hollow Heathland in Beaumaris.

Winifred Waddell (1884-1972) was a noted field naturalist and author. She established Victoria's first Wildflower Sanctuary at Tallarook in 1949. She went on to create similar sanctuaries throughout Victoria during the 1950s. Winifred was particularly concerned about the rapid loss of local bushland during the housing boom that followed the Second World War. With the Native Plant Preservation Society of Victoria, she sought the reservation of an area with the best wildflowers remaining in Beaumaris.

At the time, surrounding land (now Long Hollow Heathland) was being considered as a site for a future primary school. When Beaumaris North Primary School opened in 1959, this land was no longer needed, and the Wildflower Sanctuary eventuated. Winifred also wrote regularly in *The Age* newspaper, particularly for children. She raised



Members of Friends of Long Hollow Heathland.



Original fence posts at Winifred Waddell Wildflower Sanctuary.



awareness of the natural world among a generation that was starting to become locked in suburbia filled with houses, paved roads and mowed lawns. Winifred was appointed to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1964 for her work on the preservation of natural flora.

The Friends of Long Hollow Heathland has donated papers about the establishment of the Winifred Waddell Wildflower Sanctuary to the Bayside Community Nursery library. Notes include a costing for a rabbit-proof fence, as well as records of working bees they held. Interestingly, the concrete posts of the rabbit-proof fence are still evident today, but a foxhole nearby tells the tale of the rabbits.

Long Hollow Heathland has many other stories, and there have been further battles over the years. Importantly, through the persistent actions of the current Friends, Council, local members of parliament and key State Government ministers of both political persuasions, the whole of Long Hollow Heathland became a Crown Land Flora Reserve in 1993.

But it was Winifred Waddell whose foresight and enthusiasm laid the foundation for this legacy. She recognised the value of preserving a small remnant of the original Beaumaris, and did something about it. Her small sanctuary remains a remarkably rich and diverse area of our increasingly rare wildflowers today. Long may it remain.

Protecting the Grey-headed Flying-fox

Award winning conservation and wildlife photojournalist Doug Gimesy is calling on Bayside residents to make small adjustments around their homes to help protect the vulnerable Grey-headed Flying-fox.

All photographs in this feature by Douglas Gimesy



About the Grey-headed Flying-fox

- Commonly known as the 'Fruit Bat'
- It is one of the largest bats in the world, and one of four endemic flying-fox species – the others being the Black Flying-fox, Spectacled Flying-fox and Little Red Flying-fox
- They are highly intelligent and very social
- Their wingspan can be up to 1m
- They are vital to our ecosystem, dispersing pollen and seeds, flying up to 40km a night. One was recorded flying up to 720km across two nights (the distance from Melbourne to Sydney)
- These vegetarians love nectar, seeds and fruit
- Sleeping upside down is possible by a locking mechanism in each toe that keeps their claws flexed without using muscle energy
- In January 2019 alone, 51 Grey-headed Flying-foxes were rescued around Melbourne. Most of the rescues were due to netting entanglement.

The species is under threat from all angles including habitat destruction, heat stress events and reduction in food availability, which all point to possible extinction in the next 100 years.

Entanglement in backyard fruit tree netting and barbed wire is also a major animal welfare issue, maiming and even killing the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

In 2018, 422 incidents of Grey-headed Flying-fox entanglement were reported in Victoria, and only 60 per cent of these could be saved. The actual number of

incidents is expected to be double those actually reported.

Bayside residents can play a part to reduce the number of incidents that hurt the Grey-headed Flying-fox by losing the netting on fruit trees altogether, or at the very least using a product that won't damage them.

"Many nets cause the Flying-fox to get caught, causing injury or death," Mr Gimesy said.

"Ideally, residents wouldn't use any netting at all and share their fruit with

wildlife like the precious Grey-headed Flying-fox.

"However, if you must use fruit tree netting please ensure that it is wildlife-friendly, which contains gaps that are less than 5 millimetres and are not black colour or monofilament materials.

"You should also make sure the netting is pegged or tied down tautly, and preferably over a frame rather than loosely thrown over a tree."

Barbed wire should be avoided

entirely to help protect bats, birds and other wildlife.

"You can cover wire with bags or plastic pipes near trees so they can see them, and remove wire you don't need," Mr Gimesy said.

"Instead of placing obstacles to Grey-headed Flying-foxes, encourage them into your garden by planting flowering gums and nectar-bearing trees in small gardens, or for larger properties, a Moreton Bay Fig Tree or River Red Gum is the perfect gift for wildlife."



If fruit netting is required, use a wildlife-friendly product that has:

- Mesh aperture (hole size) of 5mm x 5mm or less when fully stretched (if you can poke your little finger through the net it is likely to trap and injure a hungry flying fox)
- Individual strand diameter of 500 microns or more (ie > 0.5mm)
- Is brightly coloured; do not use black, dark green or grey

Seasons of Melbourne's Grey-headed Flying-fox



Summer is when Melbourne's Grey-headed Flying-fox population is at its largest. Early in summer new mums carry their young out at night to feed. Later, pups will be left in 'crèche' trees as mums heads out, giving young ones time to learn to fly. In late summer, there may be over 50,000 individuals roosting along the Yarra River. Bats are also vulnerable to overheating. On exceptionally hot days you may see them 'dipping' their bellies in water while in full flight to cool down and grab a drink.



Autumn is mating season. Last year's pups are weaned, and females are ready to become pregnant again. In late autumn, thousands of nomads will start to migrate northwards, looking for anything flowering.



Winter is when the colony is at its smallest. Most females have left, and colony numbers drop to between 2,000 and 5,000 (less than 10% of the colony's peak size).



Spring sees the return of nomadic bats and the colony size swells. Most adult females come back to give birth to a single pup, which they breastfeed for 3-5 months over summer. Around 80 per cent of births occur in October.



What you can do

Now that your fruit tree netting has been removed or replaced with a wildlife-friendly product, and barbed wire is no longer a threat, here are a few more things you can do to help protect the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

Admire from a distance – do not try to touch a Flying-fox. If it is hurt or on the ground, get help (see contact list). Email: michele@sows.org.au

Protect their homes – raise awareness about Flying-fox habitats ahead of developments that may disturb their homes, and protect native forests

Watch out for fishing tackle – safely remove any fishing line or hooks you may find in waterways as the Flying-fox can become tangled

Get involved – join a volunteer or community group that supports wildlife and native forest conservation

Find help – If you come across a bat alone in daylight it is most likely in trouble. If you see one in fruit tree netting, on power lines or on barbed wire, it is definitely in trouble and in need of urgent care.

Contacts

Wildlife Victoria
03 8400 7300
www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/contact-us

Grey-headed Flying-fox carer
Bev Brown
0402 347 557

Wildlife carer Michele Phillips
9503 9872 or 0411 600 591

South Oakleigh Animal Shelter
www.sows.org.au

Caring for bats



For almost 20 years, Bayside wildlife carer Bev Brown has specialised in helping injured Grey-headed Flying-foxes.

In 2018, Bev's work was acknowledged with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for 'service to animal welfare'.

In her early years as a wildlife carer, no one was focusing on the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

"I learnt all I could about these amazing, beautiful, trusting animals from Melbourne and Healesville zoos," she said.

"I just fell in love with them; they are so intelligent that they can actually tell you if they are hurting, and they know you are fixing them."

Bev explains that every animal is on earth for a reason, especially the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

"These bats play an important role in our ecosystem, spreading up to 60,000 seeds a night – no bats, no trees, no trees, no clean air – it is that simple," she said.

Bev believes the reason the general population knows little about the Grey-headed Flying-fox is because they are not considered 'furry and fluffy'.

"They are very misunderstood," she said. "These bats are the cleanest animals I have cared for," she said.

"Enjoy them, look up and witness them flying at dusk, spreading seeds and helping our native eucalypts."

Each week, Bev receives up to 10 call-outs to help save a Grey-headed

Flying-fox, mostly those injured from being stuck in netting.

"Please, plant more native and feeder trees to help them survive, and only use wildlife-friendly netting if you need the fruit for yourself," she said.

If you find an injured Grey-headed Flying-fox in Bayside, please do not try to touch it – call Bev on 0402 347 557.

Information for this feature was compiled by Douglas Gimesy with information provided by Parks Victoria Officer Stephen Brend and the Friends of Bats & Bushcare Inc.

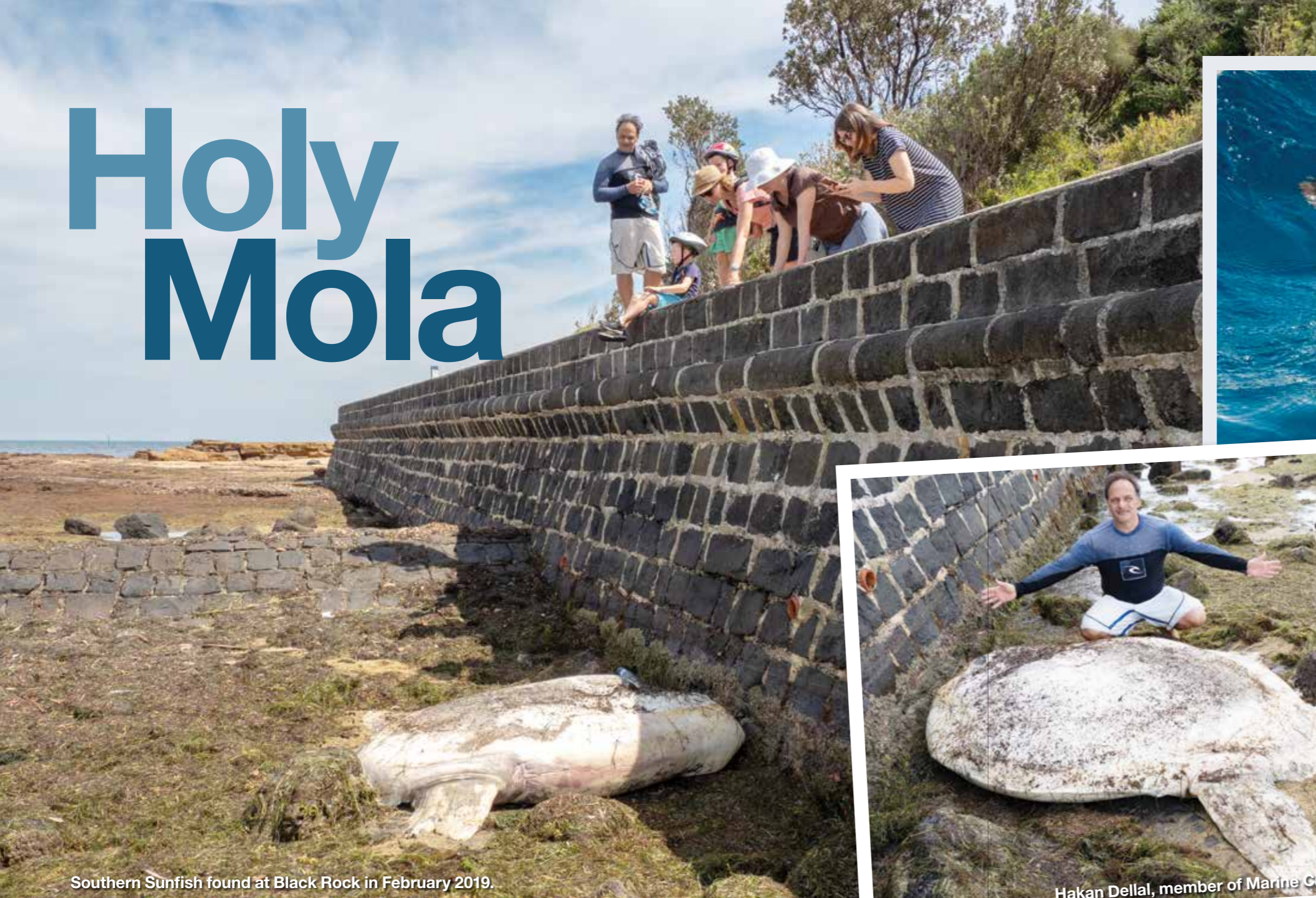
Check out Doug's amazing work and learn more about his passion for wildlife and conservation at gimesy.com or on Facebook and Instagram.

doug gimesy
CONSERVATION AND
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER

gimesy.com [DougGimesyPhotography](https://www.facebook.com/DougGimesyPhotography)

[doug_gimesy](https://www.instagram.com/doug_gimesy) [DougGimesy](https://twitter.com/DougGimesy)

Holy Mola



Southern Sunfish found at Black Rock in February 2019.



Hakan Dellal, member of Marine Care Ricketts Point.

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By David Reinhard and Hakan Dellal
 Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc.

The Southern Sunfish (*Mola ramsayi*) is not a common visitor to the Bay so when one washed ashore at Black Rock on Tuesday 5 February this year, it created quite a lot of local interest. One of three distinct species of Sunfish, this large oblong creature caught the eye of many people walking along the beach and word of its presence soon passed around the community. Many locals made a trip down to Quiet Corner, situated at the northern end of Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, to have a look, and those with cameras captured this unusual sight.

The size and shape of the Sunfish is striking. They can reach proportions exceeding three metres in length, four metres in height and weigh over two tonnes. The individual at Quiet Corner measured around two metres in both length and width (including fins), suggesting it may not have been fully grown. It is difficult to determine the actual species of this Sunfish, but it is likely to be a Southern Ocean Sunfish (*Mola ramsayi*), sometimes called the Short Sunfish rather than an Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*), which is its scientific name. Sunfish are the largest bony fish in the oceans, though its skeletal structure is mostly cartilaginous. They don't have a swim bladder or a rear (or caudal) fin.

Instead, a feature called a clavus guides its huge body, as would a ship's rudder. People tend to think of them as a tropical species, and often scuba divers visit a location in Bali where these fish are frequently sighted. However, Sunfish are found in both tropical and temperate waters, and resident populations span the globe. While they're probably less well known in the temperate zones of Australia, they are present and are not that uncommon in ocean areas. It is thought that Sunfish sometimes cause damage to keels when accidentally hit by passing yachts. Other than such mishaps these giants are harmless to humans, cruising the oceans in search of sea jellies and siphonophores (true jellyfish) that

make up a large part of their diet. It is hard to estimate how often they find their way into our Bay; despite a number of reports over the years, sightings are not frequent. Their enormous range may make them appear seemingly plentiful, however they are not impervious to the impacts of human activity in the oceans. The IUCN Red List of endangered species classification recognises them as vulnerable and populations are reported to be declining. They are at the mercy of harvesting activities in our seas, often as bycatch. Only one country, Morocco, has taken action to limit the impact of fishing on these magnificent marine species since 2007. There are no other conservation efforts in place.

Sunfish are related to species of fish that have altered their scales to spines, such as porcupine and pufferfish. Their skin has tooth-like structures called denticles, similar to the skin of sharks. These can be quite sharp as one visitor to Quiet Corner discovered, receiving cuts to two fingers as a result of a good intentioned but overly curious scientific spirit. Victoria possesses unique marine life, much of which can be found in the Bay, right on Melbourne's doorstep. Still, its marine life remains unknown to many Melburnians. Naturally you can best explore this local wonderland beneath the water.

By becoming a member of Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc., you can join one of their regular snorkelling activities over the summer period. However, there are many ways to appreciate and even contribute to the welfare of Victoria's marine life. Just by walking the shores you can discover many wonders, like our Sunfish. Keep in mind most of what we know about Sunfish has come from the investigation of washed up individuals such as at Quiet Corner. By reporting such finds to local authorities like Bayside City Council or Parks Victoria, we can all make a potentially valuable contribution to our understanding and perhaps protection of this magnificent marine habitat.



Working bee at George Street Reserve

Story by Valerie Tarrant
 Photos by Pauline Reynolds
 Co-Conveners Friends of George Street Reserve

Pauline Reynolds and Citywide Bushland Assistant Tiffany Fiddymnt took two groups of four-year-olds from St John's Kindergarten through the Reserve, keeping to the paths, during April and May. They looked at the plants and birds, and liked Tiffany's truck. They have called themselves a 'nature kinder'.

A plan has been made to have further plantings by these young enthusiasts in July and August on the edge of the Tulip Street oval.

We were pleased to see one family from St John's Kindergarten at our May working bee – Gida and James, with daughters Lucy and Eve. We also welcomed new volunteers Rowena and Peter. They have made a fine contribution and we hope to see them all again.

When Pauline and I walked through the Reserve, we again found that most plants had survived the recent heat and



it is reassuring to find them managing weather changes.

We are grateful to John Barrett, who is a stalwart of the Bayside Community Nursery, for alerting us to the efforts in South Australia to inform people about the benefits to health and wellbeing of green space in urban and suburban environments. Both public places and private gardens have ecological value in ensuring that native flora and fauna manage to survive.

Bayside City Council has made an

important contribution through its commitment to our bushland, parks and foreshore.

With predictions of the probability of continuing climate warming it is good to know that local trees and plants contribute to cooling as well as to biodiversity.

The new plants are settling in and we are continually grateful to Council's nursery staff and volunteers for all their persistent work in the propagation that ensures the survival of precious local trees, ground covers and larger plants.



Ecological burns

The Citywide Bushland Crew conducted two ecological burns in April. The first was the northern half of Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary on Tuesday 2 April and the second was at Long Hollow Heathland Sanctuary on Thursday 11 April.

Fire is an important tool in managing Bayside's seven bushland reserves as the plant communities found in these areas are highly adapted to fire. The heat of the fire and chemicals released in both smoke and ash all act to stimulate the germination of seeds indigenous to the area, which are adapted to surviving in a smoke-prone environment (even those seeds that have been lying dormant for 60-80 years).

The vegetation type in Gramatan Avenue Heathland is Sand Heathland and Long Hollow Heathland contains Damp Sands Herb-Rich Woodland.

Both plant communities are dependent on fire to stimulate recruitment.

The main objective at Gramatan Avenue Heathland was to control the Dodder Laurel and burn the long unburnt heath.

Long Hollow was markedly different with the objective being to burn an area dominated by Coast Tea-tree adjacent to high quality indigenous vegetation. This style of mosaic burning aims to improve the overall health of our inland bushland reserves.

Historically the annual burn size limit was 1000m²; it has now increased to 4000m². This recommendation was an outcome of the Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2018 and will allow the bushland reserves to return to the diverse plant communities that they are in a more manageable and foreseeable future.



Jo Hurse from Citywide.



Ecological burn tees off

The Royal Melbourne Golf Club also conducted ecological burns in April this year. Horticulture Manager Stuart Moodie managed several burn areas adjacent to fairways and greens, taking care to protect surrounding vegetation.

Ecological burns at the golf club are held each year to maintain the roughs for members. This rejuvenates these areas that are rich in diversity of remnant indigenous plants. Royal Melbourne is rightly proud of the biodiversity of its heathlands, which have survived because of the recognition of club members and the expertise of successive horticulturalists and course superintendents. It will be exciting to see what treasures regenerate this year and we hope for rain to continue to support the plants' growth.



Beautiful wildflowers appear after the ecological burn.

Friends of Bayside Roads need help

By Derek Jones

Convenor Friends of Bayside Roads

The Friends of Bayside Roads is calling for more volunteers to help collect litter from local streets to reduce environmental harm and improve the amenity of the area.

The Litter Patrol program covers the City of Bayside from its boundary on Charman Road to Glen Huntly Road and from the Nepean Highway to St Kilda Street and Beach Road.

Most litter patrols are centred around public open spaces such as parks and gardens, bushland reserves, sports grounds, golf and bowling clubs and public infrastructure, including car parks, community centres, schools, libraries, railway stations, etc.

Removal of open space roadside litter is the main task with bottles, cans, coffee cups, fast food packaging, sweets wrappers, cigarette packets and butts the main targets for collection, but the list of items left by litterers is endless.

Currently, there are 40 designated roadside litter patrol routes covering Bayside. Each litter patrol is two to three



Friends of Bayside Roads collect litter.



Socialising after their shift.

kilometres in length and is usually patrolled at least twice each month.

Of these, 23 routes are patrolled, plus another 12 short routes around the Royal Melbourne and Sandringham Golf course side road frontages – equating to around 50 kilometres being regularly cleared of litter every week.

Not all routes have volunteers, and the Litter Patrol is seeking more people to assist. These include Beaumaris Reserve, Hampton Bowling Club and Elsternwick Park, as well as other areas

in Sandringham, Brighton, Cheltenham, Highett and Hampton.

Friends of Bayside Roads is a registered volunteer group and every litter patroller is covered by health and accident insurance. There are other benefits as well including newsletters on community events and activities associated with the Bayside Environmental Friends Network.

For more information about how you can help keep rubbish from going down stormwater drains and into the Bay, call Derek on 0417 360 747.

Phone App capturing litter data

Litter Stopper is a phone app designed by Beach Patrol for recording the results of litter collections. By capturing the various types of litter, valuable information can be obtained about the source of it.

Addressing the source of litter is one of the best ways it can be prevented in the first place. Collecting information across various groups onto a common platform is the most powerful way to obtain an accurate understanding of the litter problem.

The app is designed to get all Victorian

collectors to record their litter and store it on a public state-based website. After collecting and auditing about 400,000 items of litter from the beach litter surveys, Beach Patrol has a good understanding of the main types of litter found in Victoria, which lists 24 common categories on the app. People can choose from just one category to all 24. Users can record the collection in real time, or enter the time taken and the collection data at the end of each session.

On the final page there is an option to select a check box that sends a copy

of the data to Australian Marine Debris Database Initiative.

Once submitted, the user will get a copy of their data by email. A copy will be stored on Litterstopper.com/emaildata and potentially sent to the national marine database.

The web server is intended to become the database for Victorian litter to be recorded.

On the app front page there is an About Litter Stopper button. Clicking that takes you to an instruction sheet on how to use the app.



Wildlife walk with Friends



(L-R) Margaret Thorburn, Phoebe Willcock, Alison Davies and Rosemary Curtis.

By Elizabeth Walsh and Adam Burrows
Co-Convenors Friends of Native Wildlife

The Friends of Native Wildlife Inc. walking group visited three reserves recently, including two during their respective working bee times, giving us a chance to learn from volunteers about their special patch.

At Beaumaris Reserve, local volunteer Chris showed us an amazing photo of what the area was like before it was cleared for new tennis courts, a library, senior citizens hall and sports oval.

Local support for the area encouraged plantings and some trees are now 40 years old. More recently, the newly formed volunteer group has planted indigenous undergrowth to bring back the small wildlife that is missing from our altered landscape. Hopefully the additional in-fill habitat will add to the present population of Pied Currawongs, Little Ravens, Noisy Miners, Butcher Birds, Red Wattlebirds, Crested Pigeons and Rainbow Lorikeets that we saw.

Our next reserve, Long Hollow Heathland, was saved in the early 1960s as a wildflower reserve by Winifred Waddell (see article on page 5), for which we are eternally thankful. Such legacies are needed to join other reserves throughout Melbourne to encourage our lost wildlife corridors that keep temperatures cooler and

promote wildlife biodiversity within a healthy ecosystem. Visitors watched as the endoscope was set up to check for microbats in boxes located about four metres high on tree trunks. Watching from the boardwalk, it was difficult to imagine how damp this area used to be a few decades ago. How long before we see such moisture again is in the lap of the gods as nature has been sorely tested by human interference.

Our final visit was to Balcombe Park. Local volunteer and Convenor Ian O'Loughlin took time off from cutting out excess Dodder Laurel (*Cassytha filiformis*) at their working bee to tell us about an old wildfire that burned much of the reserve which had a wonderful outcome – the indigenous Wedding Bush (*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*) – a magnificent late autumn/early summer bush of large white and perfumed flowers that is difficult to propagate – replacing the Coast Tea-tree. Coast Tea-tree can be invasive as it moves further inland, and not much grows beneath its boughs due to a residue that is dropped from its leaves.

Some visitors came from outside Bayside, and we hope they take away some knowledge gained from our volunteers. We sighted around 23 species of birds on a cool 15 degree morning with a slight breeze, which was preceded by a strong misty squall for the first half hour before clearing to mostly overcast.



Dodder Laurel (*Cassytha sp*) is a parasitic twining vine which grows over bushes or trees in a tangled mass. They can overtake complete plants which opens up room for smaller plants to grow. They contribute to biodiversity through provision of habitat and food. They are a safe haven for Ringtail Possums to build dreys (nests) and provide fruit for Gang-gang Cockatoos and Currawongs to feed.



Wedding Bush (*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*) has masses of medium-large flowers during spring. Found in coastal heath and woodland communities, it is difficult to germinate by seed and cuttings can be slow and difficult to strike. They have unisex flowers, usually one female to each three to six males. Although not at risk in the wild, it is not a plant we are likely to see in the nursery any time soon. Hence, springtime at Balcombe Park is where you will see this plant's amazing beauty.

Kids' Corner



Spotlight on:

Australian Pelican

Pelecanua conspicillatus
Pelecandiae

The Australian Pelican is a regular sight along the Bay, often roosting on sandbars or resting on rack platforms and reefs. That is if they're not swimming or dipping their heads into the water looking for fish to feed on.



Facts about Pelican's appearance

- Mostly white in colour
- Males are larger than females
- They have an elongated bill with a massive throat pouch
- The bill is 40-50cm long
- They have large wings and a wingspan of 2.3-2.5m

Where they are found?

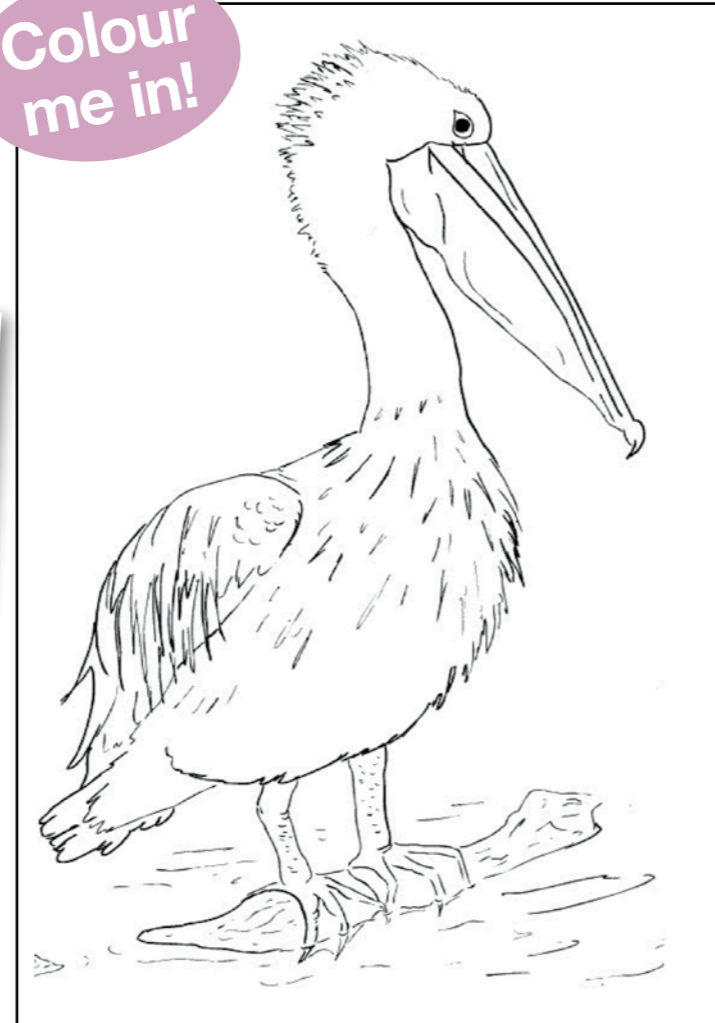
There are seven species of Pelican in the world. They are found throughout Australia, Papua New Guinea and western Indonesia, and sometimes in New Zealand and western Pacific islands.



Feeding habits

- Pelicans plunge their bills into the water using their pouches as nets
- The bill helps locate fish in murky water and has a hook to grip food
- The bill can hold up to 13 litres
- Pelicans like to feed as a group; one of the largest sightings was 1,900 working together to find dinner!

Colour me in!



Facts and colouring-in sourced from birdlife.org.au – visit this excellent site for more about Pelicans and other birds.



The Little Bee Keeping Festival



Thinking of becoming a hobby backyard beekeeper? Would you like to know how to get started?

Join Jane Dyer from Backyard Honey and Greg Somers from Ben's Bees for an afternoon of all things bees.

Local conservation expert Sean Dooley will MC this event – so look forward to an entertaining and practical afternoon where all your questions about beekeeping will be answered.


Come along for honey tastings, local environmental groups showcasing and learn more about what's going on in your local bee community.

Sunday 28 July, 2-5pm
Beaumaris Library
96 Reserve Road, Beaumaris
Cost \$6. Bookings essential.
www.trybooking.com/516485




Friends Groups

Friends of Balcombe Park

Convenor: Ian O'Loughlin
Mobile: 0412 432 618 **Email:** ianoloughlin@optusnet.com.au
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

Convenor: Michael Norris
Phone: (03) 9521 6879 **Email:** menorris@ozemail.com.au
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 13, Aug 10, Sep 14 **Time:** 10am-12pm


Friends of Bayside Roads

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


Bayside Environmental Friends Network

Convenor: Teneille Mahoney
Phone: 9583 8408 **Email:** friends@bayside.vic.gov.au


Friends of Beaumaris Reserve

Convenor: Chris Sutton
Phone: 0438 327 924 **Email:** sutc@bigpond.com
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 21, Aug 25, Sep 22


Friends of Brighton Dunes

Convenor: Jenny Talbot
Phone: (03) 9592 2109
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, Aug 6, 13, 20 & 27, Sep 3, 10, 17 & 24
Time: 8-10am


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: Kim Croker
Phone: (03) 9589 2443 **Email:** kcroker@bigpond.net.au
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 4 **Time:** 9-11am


Friends of George Street Reserve

Convenors: Val Tarrant, Pauline Reynolds
Phone: (03) 9598 0554 **Email:** vtarrant@ozemail.com.au
Phone: (03) 9598 6368 **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: Ken Rendell
Phone: (03) 9589 4452
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 7, Aug 4, Sep 1 **Time:** 1-3pm


Friends of Long Hollow Heathland

Convenor: Rob Saunders
Phone: (03) 9515 3383 **Email:** srednuas@hotmail.com
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29 **Time:** 1-3pm

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 14 **Time:** 9-11am & 10am-12pm

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
 **Upcoming events:**
 For event dates please contact the convenor


Friends of Native Wildlife

Convenors: Anne Jessel, Elizabeth Walsh
Phone: (03) 9585 6788 **Phone:** (03) 9598 9009
Email: info@bayfonw.org.au
Website: www.bayfonw.org.au
 **Upcoming working bees:**
 Please check the website www.bayfonw.org.au/events


Friends 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:** 9.30-11.30am


Friends of Ricketts Point Landside

Convenor: Sue Raverty
Phone: (03) 9589 2103 **Email:** sraverty@westnet.com.au
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 23, Aug 20, Sep 17 **Time:** 1-3pm

Friends of Table Rock

Convenor: Ken Rendell
Phone: (03) 9589 4452
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 30, Aug 27, Sep 24 **Time:** 10am-12pm

Friends of Elster Creek

Convenor: Gio Fitzpatrick
Phone: 0432 045 303 **Email:** gio@ecocentre.com
Meeting point: Elwood Canal, Glen Huntly Road Bridge
 **Upcoming events:**
 Please check www.facebook.com/friendsofelstercreek/



PLANETARK TOYOTA

Sunday 28 July, 10am-12pm
 Sandringham foreshore
 (car park B12)

Join us in revegetating a section of Sandringham foreshore with locally grown indigenous plants.

Gloves, tools and equipment for planting, watering cans and buckets provided.

treeday.planetark.org

Environment Groups

Bayside Bushwalking Club (Charman to Cromer Roads, Beaumaris)

Contact: Jo Hurse **Phone:** (Citywide Park Care) 9283 2052


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
 **Upcoming working bees:**
Dates: Jul 2 & 16, Aug 6 & 20, Sep 3 & 17
Time: 10am-12pm

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
Melway Ref: 86 C9

Sandringham Foreshore Association

President: Dr Vicki Karalis
Contact: PO Box 52, Sandringham, 3191
Email: sandyforeshore@optusnet.com.au
Website: sandringhamforeshore.tumblr.com

School Groups

Firbank Girls Grammar

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

St Leonard's College Conservation Group

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

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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.

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.

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 (except public holidays)





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about Bayside and the
Banksia Bulletin?

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



Sticky Long Heads
(*Podotheca angustifolia*)
Photo by Pauline Reynolds