



# Tjuringa

Frankston City's Environment News  
Summer Edition 2003 - 2004

## Major Sustainability Seminar

**World Authority – David Suzuki**  
**Tuesday 2 March 2004**

*Sustainability: Are we making genuine progress?  
is the topic for a Community Seminar at Frankston  
Arts Centre.*

The Chair of the David Suzuki Foundation, David T. Suzuki PhD, is an award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

Dr Suzuki has received consistently high acclaim for his 30 years of award-winning work in explaining the complexities of science in a simple and compelling way.

He has received numerous awards for his work, including a UNESCO prize for science, a United Nations Environment Program medal, and the Order of Canada as well as 15 honorary doctorates from universities in Canada, the United States and Australia.



The author of more than 30 books, Dr Suzuki is recognised as a world leader in sustainable ecology.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet Dr Suzuki at his only Melbourne engagement.

*Book now through the Frankston Arts Centre on 9784 1060. For further information please e-mail [sustainable@frankston.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainable@frankston.vic.gov.au)*

## Environmental Seminar Series

*Bookings essential on 9784 1888*

### Coastcare /Coastaction

**Date: Saturday  
6 December 2003**

**Time: 10.30am - 12noon**

**Venue: Seaford  
Community Hall,  
Cnr Station and  
Broughton Streets,  
Seaford**

Hear what simple things can be done as a community to care for our coast.

### Saving Water in the Home

**Date: Wednesday  
11 February 2004**

**Time: 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

**Venue: Mahogany  
Community Centre,  
Mahogany Avenue,  
Frankston North**

Discuss a range of water saving measures to save on your water bills.

## Corridors of Green Project Update

For the past eight months, works have been underway as part of the *Corridors of Green Project*; a partnership project between Kananook Creek Association, Melbourne Water and Frankston City Council aimed at improving Kananook Creek Reserve.

The works so far have involved removing a large amount of environmental weeds and rubbish along the creek side from Fiocchi Avenue to Beach Street in Frankston.



Once the site was cleared, volunteers from the Kananook Creek Association planted approximately 800 indigenous plants at the site. These plants are now doing well and have appeared to have established themselves.

Future works will involve mulching, weeding, and during the dryer months, watering using recycled water.

**Why not visit the site today and see for yourself what a difference it makes?**

## EcoSMART Grant for Schools

Frankston City Council has recently developed the **EcoSMART Grant for Schools**, an environmental grants program for 2003 - 2004. The grants program will support initiatives that contribute to the long-term environmental sustainability of Frankston City.

Local schools within Frankston municipality could receive funding of up to \$1,500 to support a range of innovative environmental projects or programs, potentially with the following themes; biodiversity, water, greenhouse and waste.

If you have any questions in relation to the **EcoSMART Grant for Schools**, please contact Council's Environment Section on 9784 1888 or visit the Web site at [www.frankston.vic.gov.au](http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au)

## Inside

<i>Fire Preparation</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>War on Weeds</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>Energy Wise Workshops</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>Calling for Volunteers</i>	<i>p4</i>
<i>Events Calendar</i>	<i>p4</i>



## Preparation – Your Best Protection Against Fire

*Residents are urged to clean up around their homes and properties as Melbourne's weather gets warmer.*

Bushfires are most common during the warmer months of summer, and they bring with them extreme heat, strong winds and thick smoke.

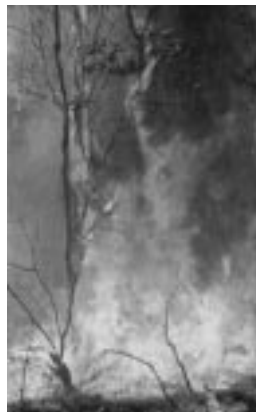
Preparation is your best protection against bushfire. This includes having a plan of action for you and your family of what to do in the event of a bushfire. An effective management plan is essential for those residents living in semi-rural or rural areas or near natural reserves.

It is important for residents to maintain their properties by cleaning up regularly around the garden and clearing away fire fuels such as leaves, twigs and grass, as well as relocating other fuels such as paint tins and petrol cans away from homes.

A checklist of precautions in preparation of bushfire includes:

### Safety Preparation

- Develop a plan or checklist for your family of what to do in the event of a bushfire.
- Put together a 'safety kit' and include drinking water, a first aid kit, torch and batteries, radio, wool



blankets, towels, and appropriate clothing.

- Stay alert during Total Fire Ban days. Listen to local radio reports and call authorities if smoke is sighted or smelt.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers handy.

Preparing your house and property means reducing the amount of fire 'fuel' around your home:

- Keep lawns mowed
- Clean up twigs, leaves and grass
- Relocate woodpiles away from your home
- Cut back/prune branches or trees that over hang the roof
- Keep shrubs and bushes trimmed so not to touch

walls of the house

- Keep garden and lawns well watered around the house
- Clean out leaves from gutters, spouting and down pipes
- Relocate and store gas bottles, fuel cans, petrol, diesel and paints away from the house.

*For more information on how to best protect your property and still live in the bush, contact Council's Fire Safety Officer 9784 1917 or visit the Web site [www.frankston.vic.gov.au](http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au)*

*More information is also available at CFA's web site [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)*

## War on Weeds

### *Dolichos Dipogon lignosus*

*Dolichos*, native to South Africa, is a rampant, twining perennial climber that spreads by seed and rhizomes. This climber has white or pink flowers which occur during the spring and summer months.

It is a garden escapee that often invades coastal areas and bushland reserves smothering native vegetation.

**Control Measures:** Hand pull small plants, including the roots, preferably before seeding. Cut large plants at ground level and carefully dig out all sections of the roots.

*For more information on identifying and controlling weeds on your property, contact Council's Coastal and Vegetation Officer on 9784 1882.*



## Out With the Old, in With the New!

When strolling through one of Frankston City's natural reserves over the coming months, be sure to look out for the new and improved visitor information boards.

A fresh new face within council, Open Space Intern Danielle Butler from Victoria University, has developed a new system to ensure that the information boards are regularly updated and provide useful facts that will enlighten the many park visitors.

The 'new look' information boards include sections on Flora, Fauna, Council Works, Local Laws, Fact Sheets, information on WHOMP (Wildlife Help on the Mornington Peninsula), Fire Prevention and an aerial photograph walking track map.

So next time you visit one of Frankston City's natural reserves, be sure to take a couple of minutes to check out the new information boards.

## Subscriptions/Further Information

If you would like more information on an article, or would like to include an article, promote an event, or subscribe to *Tjuringa*, Council's Environment News please contact: Frankston City Council, Environment Team, PO Box 490, Frankston Vic 3199 [environment@frankston.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@frankston.vic.gov.au)  
Ph: 03 9784 1888 Fax: 03 9781 3117  
Contributions for the Autumn Edition of *Tjuringa* must be received by Friday 6 February 2004.

The newsletter is also available on Council's Web site in PDF format. Visit [www.frankston.vic.gov.au](http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au) for more information.

Frankston City Council reserves the right to amend, edit or exclude any contributions to *Tjuringa*.

*If you subscribe to Tjuringa the personal information collected will only be used by Council solely for this subscription in accordance with the Privacy Act.*

## Energy Wise Workshops

Woodleigh School, senior campus has just completed a series of workshops with students titled the Energy Wise Workshops.

Bruce Rowse, a local resident and owner of small business – Energy Doctor, recently volunteered his time to present a series of four interesting lectures to the Year 11 Biology students at Woodleigh School on climate change and the greenhouse effect.

The information provided to the class was relative to the last half of Unit One – Human Induced Environmental Changes and their Effects within Ecosystems.

The Energy Wise Workshops included a number of PowerPoint presentations, individual and group tasks as well as a research project where groups of students investigated an aspect of the topic.

Students were asked to monitor their energy usage at home and develop a number of energy saving ideas. They

also investigated the school's energy use, developing a greenhouse 'speedometer' to provide information on the consumption patterns and potential savings.

During the last session, the students presented their findings for the research projects, which included; internet research into evidence of global climate change, ways of reducing energy use at home, renewable energy technologies, a critical review of the Victorian Greenhouse Strategy, energy use in developing countries and a discussion on how much energy we need to be happy.

*Helen Geyer, B. Ed Environmental Studies, VCE Biology Teacher*

*If you are a local school interested in participating in the Energy Wise Workshops, please contact Council's Sustainable Resource Officer on 9784 1006.*

## New Look Web site!

The Environment Section has recently updated its section of the Council Web site to provide more information on environmental projects, news and events in your local area. Go to [www.frankston.vic.gov.au](http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au) and check it out today!

## Frankston Sea Festival on the Bay

**Saturday 17 to Sunday 18 January 2004**

### Frankston Pier Foreshore

Be sure to visit the Frankston foreshore to enjoy the fine weather and fantastic entertainment on offer at the annual Frankston Sea Festival held on the 17 and 18 January.

The Frankston Sea Festival includes free entertainment, environmental displays, beach activities, food and wine stalls and music from around the world.

The Frankston Beach Association and Kananook Creek Association will be conducting canoeing tours along Kananook Creek as well as beach and creek walks.

*Please contact Council's Events/Tourism Co-ordinator on 9784 1988 for more information.*

## Water Restrictions Update

Melbourne and surrounding metropolitan areas are continuing to experience Stage 2 Water Restrictions. As at 1 December 2003, Melbourne's Water Storages were 57.5% full.

It could still take five or six years for all our storages to fully recover from the drought.

It's important that we continue to save water and conserve our precious drinking water supplies for the long-term.

Please contact your local water authority for information on water restrictions, water rebates and tips for saving water. In Frankston City, this is South East Water. Contact them on 131 694.

Frankston City Council can also provide information on saving water and welcomes suggestions from the community.

*If you identify any opportunities to conserve additional water resources, or you would like further information, please contact Council's Environment Section on 9784 1888 or visit the Web site at [www.frankston.vic.gov.au](http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au)*

## Stormwater Management Program

Frankston City Council's Stormwater Management Plan identifies the building and construction industry as a major source of stormwater pollutants entering our waterways.

Frankston City Council is now working with local builders to improve current practices on building sites. Council is aiming to achieve this through an environmental education and enforcement program.

With funding from the Victorian Stormwater Action Program, Council is currently developing an education program aimed at increasing knowledge and practices of environmental management processes within the building and construction industry.

The education program will focus on all members of the building and construction industry ranging from architects, builders, contractors and suppliers to associated groups within the industry.

*If you would like further information, or to participate, please contact Council's Environmental Protection Officer on 9784 1984.*



## Keeping Fit and Helping our Environment

### TravelSMART

Frankston City staff are keeping fit and helping our environment by taking part in the Workplace Pedometer Project. The project, funded by the State Government Department of Infrastructure, involves 80 Council staff and other local employees who are required to wear a pedometer five days a week for 12 months.

### What is a pedometer?

A pedometer is a device that senses body motion and counts the number of steps taken by the wearer. The count is converted to distance and provides feedback to the user acting as a great motivating tool.

The aim of the Workplace Pedometer Project is to encourage people to be healthier by walking more and to consider using more sustainable forms of transport, for example, public transport and car pooling in an attempt to reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

Participants are required to record their number of steps daily electronically on the TravelSMART Pedometer Web site. This allows the data to be recorded and participants can trace their progress graphically.

Other Frankston businesses participating in the project are Peninsula Health, Monash University, Wilson Parking and Bayside Security. Altogether there are more than 200 participants.

For more information on the Workplace Pedometer Project, contact Nicola Cuthbertson or Megan Szirom on 9784 1888.

## Friends of Frankston Natural Reserves Working Bees

Friends Group	Time/Date/Place	Contact
Action Sweetwater Creek	10am, every Tuesday and Wednesday	Warwick Exton 9783 7735
Frankston Beach Association	10am - 12.30pm, every Wednesday, Frankston Foreshore Kiosk	Kathleen Hassell 9783 1391
Frankston Indigenous Nursery	10am - 12 noon, every Thursday, Plant Propagation, Community Nursery	Kaye Proudley 9580 3341
Friends of Belvedere Bushland Reserve	Every second Sunday of each month 9.30 - 11.30am	Dianne Durrant 9785 1762
Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands	10am - 12 noon, first Sunday of each month	Barry Ross 9786 6687
Friends of Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve	1pm, first Sunday of each month, Main Entrance	Leon Costermans 9783 5015
Friends of Seaford Foreshore	10am, third Sunday of each month, Pier Carpark	Glenn Firth 9773 5555
Kananook Creek Association Inc.	9am, first Sunday of each month, Working Bee 9am, every Wednesday, Plant Propagation, Council Depot	Minio Rossetto 9783 9948

### Calling for Volunteers!

Frankston Community Nursery is located on McCulloch Avenue in Seaford (behind the SES building).

Currently there are a number of Environmental Friends groups that work tirelessly collecting seed to propagate indigenous species for our natural reserves.

If you are able to assist a few hours a week, please contact Errin Ellis on 9786 7120.

### Grant – Land Management

Landowners will now have the opportunity to apply for funding from Frankston City Council to improve the biodiversity on their land.

### Environmental Events Calendar

#### December

1 - 7 Coastcare Week\*

6 Coastcare / Coastaction Environmental Seminar\*

#### January 2004

17 - 18 Frankston Sea Festival on the Bay\*

#### February

11 Saving Water in the Home Environmental Seminar\*

15 Mayor's Family Picnic\*

#### March

2 Business Clean Up Day\*

5 Schools Clean Up Day\*

\*Indicates a Council Community Event or planned activity on the day

The Land Management Grant will provide assistance to landowners to help maintain and improve the quality of their land, address environmental problems, and to encourage integrated catchment management throughout the community.

The grant will open early December 2003. Eligible properties must be over 1.5ha in size.

For more information please contact the Environment Section on 9784 1882.

