



Tjuringa

Frankston City's Environment News
Spring Edition 2003

Pretty Flowers

Since European Settlement, Frankston's natural vegetation has been significantly reduced. Natural vegetation remnants are now scattered throughout Frankston City.

Paratea Flora and Fauna Reserve is one of these high quality remnant bushland reserves remaining.

'Paratea' is an Aboriginal word meaning 'pretty flowers'. Paratea Flora and Fauna Reserve, consisting of a complex open woodland community with a diverse native understorey, is at its most colourful from late winter to early summer. The many flowering plants attract a wide variety of native birds, making the reserve an excellent venue for bird watching.

The 7.6 hectare reserve contains both regionally and locally significant plant species. There is a diverse range of trees, shrubs and grasses within Paratea. The presence of Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) is of scientific interest as the species has a disjunct distribution extending to the Mornington Peninsula. It is assumed that the species is a relic of the last ice age.

Other plant species include Eucalyptus, Acacia, Themeda and a variety of Orchids, which over the years have successfully established themselves.

The reserve, being located in an urban setting, encounters constant pressures such as; weed invasion, feral animal predation and rubbish dumping. These ongoing pressures are a continual

management concern for Frankston City Council. Ongoing works include general park management, implementation of weed control strategies, upgrade of facilities, litter removal and fire reduction works, whilst emphasising the conservation and preservation of native flora and fauna within the reserve.

Spring is upon us, so now is a great time to get out and enjoy our native flowers in bloom. **Why not visit the Paratea Flora and Fauna Reserve** and see for yourself, the wonders of this local asset. Access is via Paratea Avenue in South Frankston (Mel Ref 106 E3).



Paratea Flora and Fauna Reserve

Environmental Seminar Series

Bookings essential on 9784 1888.

Water Efficient Gardening and Greywater Use

Date: Tuesday
21 October

Time: 7.00 - 8.30pm

Venue: Frankston International,
389 Nepean Hwy,
Frankston

Learn how to save water and money in the garden.

Breakfast With the Birds

Date: Sunday
26 October

Time: 7.30 - 8.30am

Venue: Austin Road Viewing Platform,
Austin Road, Seaford

See and learn about the amazing water birds that inhabit the Seaford-Edithvale wetlands.

Summer Bushfire Preparation

Date: Thursday
13 November

Time: 7.00 - 8.30pm

Venue: Frankston International, 389
Nepean Hwy, Frankston

Find out how to protect your property this summer. Topics include personal safety and fire behaviour.

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Smart Water Fund

Frankston City Council was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Smart Water Fund to implement a range of water saving initiatives at Council's two Aquatic Facilities.

The Smart Water Fund was established in 2002 by Melbourne's three retail water authorities and Melbourne Water, with the support of the Victorian Government, to encourage and support innovative development of water, biosolids recycling and water saving projects within the community.

Frankston City will receive a \$50,000 grant from the Smart Water Fund to implement a range of sustainable water practices in both Jubilee Park Aquatic Centre and Pines Forest Aquatic Centre.

Water saving measures to be implemented include:

- the collection of rainwater for the flushing of toilets
- installation of pool blankets for the minimisation of water evaporation
- push button timers on showers and taps
- flow regulators on showers and taps
- retrofit of existing single flush toilets to dual flush systems
- timer and rain sensor control on irrigation sprinklers

- feasibility study into collecting and treating backwash water for future reuse

Estimated annual water savings for both centres is 16 ML (million litres) or an 80 per cent reduction per year. This will generate a cost saving of \$18,200 per year.

Frankston City encourages individuals, community groups and local business to apply to the Smart Water Fund for the funding of their innovative water use ideas for next year. The Smart Water

Fund provides real incentives to businesses, local government, sporting and industry organisations and individuals to implement water saving initiatives.

It is expected that applications for Round Two Smart Water funds will open in early September and close in November 2003.

For more information go to the Smart Water Fund web site at www.smartwater.com.au or phone the Smart Water Fund on 1800 882 432.

Local Plants

Chocolote Lily *Arthropodium strictum*

Chocolate Lily is a native grass-like dwarf perennial herb, which grows to approximately 40 centimetres. The plant has attractive chocolate-scented, purple to white pendular flowers high above the foliage, which can be seen in Frankston City from around September through to January. Chocolate Lily is an attractive and very adaptable plant that prefers well drained soils. It can be used to add colour to your garden around rockeries and along paths.



Stop Press!

Stage 2 Water Restrictions

In response to below-average rainfall for the 7th consecutive year in Victoria, Stage Two Water Restrictions came into effect on Friday 1 August 2003 for the Melbourne and metropolitan area.

Please contact your local water authority for information on water restrictions and how they may affect you. In Frankston City, this is South East Water. Contact them on 131 867 or visit their web site at www.southeastwater.com.au

Your local water authority can provide information on water restrictions, the current state of our water supply, rainfall and current water rebates available to Victorians.

For water conservation advice contact your local water authority or Frankston City Council's Environment Section on 9784 1888.

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 Email: environment@frankston.vic.gov.au Ph: 03 9784 1888 Fax: 03 9781 3117 Contributions for the Summer Edition of *Tjuringa* must be received by Friday 7 November 2003.

The newsletter is also available on Council's web site in PDF format. Visit 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.

Did you know?

By planting vegetation that is indigenous to your local area, you can help provide habitat for the local wildlife. Local vegetation is also best suited to the weather and soil conditions and has a better chance of surviving.



Eco-Buy™ Program

Every product we purchase affects our environment. At every stage of the life-cycle of every product we buy, there is an environmental impact.

Frankston City Council is a member of Eco-Buy™, Victoria's local government green purchasing program.

This program works to increase the purchasing of green products or services in Victorian Councils, in order to reduce the environmental impact of our purchasing decisions.

What is green purchasing?

Eco-Buy™ defines green products as

...products or services that have a lesser or reduced affect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider the source of raw materials, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, potential for reuse and recycling, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product. Such products or services may include, but are not limited to, those which contain recycled content, minimise waste, conserve energy or water, and reduce the amount of toxics disposed or consumed.

Frankston City Council has purchased recycled products for office stationery, road construction, parks and gardens, and waste management services. Recycled products are durable, long lasting, resistant to vandalism and cost effective. In most cases, recycled products also use less energy and water to produce than products derived from virgin material, and result in less greenhouse gas emissions.

What can I do?

For more information on green purchasing, visit one of the following web sites, alternatively, contact Frankston City Council's Environment Section on 9784 1888 for more information.

Shop Smart Buy Green

A consumer's guide to saving money and reducing environmental impacts. Go to www.ea.gov.au or phone (02) 6274 1111.

Green Office Guide

A guide to buying environmentally friendly office equipment. Go to www.energystar.gov.au or phone (02) 9249 6100.

Ecospecifier

A guide to sourcing environmentally preferable materials. Go to ecospecifier.rmit.edu.au or phone (03) 9925 3485.

Waste Wise Shopping Guide

A guide to purchasing recycled products. Go to www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au or phone 1800 353 233.

Biodiversity Month in September



Rainbow Lorikeet

Biodiversity encompasses the variety of all life, the different plants, animals, micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems which they inhabit. The Convention on Biological Diversity (UN 2000), an international agreement signed by 120 nations, including Australia, has defined biodiversity as:

...the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species [genetic], between species and of ecosystems.

This September is National Biodiversity Month, to promote the unique variety of all living things found in Australia.

To celebrate this, Frankston City Council will host a variety of events and information sessions to help protect and conserve the environment.

There will be community working bees, guided foreshore and heathland walks, plant giveaways and biodiversity displays at local shopping centres.

For further information regarding Biodiversity Month activities, contact Council's Coastal and Vegetation Officer on 9784 1882.



Recycled plastic signage

Kananook Primary School Environment Group

Eight students from Kananook Primary School are participating in a project to clean up and plant out the Buna Avenue entrance to Kananook Creek Reserve. They are working with Council's Bushland Crew who are responsible for the weed eradication, fencing of the area and putting in a new bollard. The students are



already growing grasses, sedges and ground covers to

plant in the area and will be doing some more 'cloning' of other native plants.

The students joined the project in the hope that they would learn about plants and have fun...they all agree that they want to help the environment, save the animals and fish, and provide little insects with a home.

The Overport Primary School Nursery

Article contributed by Neville Fisher, teacher and member of the Enterprise Committee

In 2002, Overport Primary School became part of a Commonwealth Government Enterprise project.

Throughout this year as part of developing enterprise skills, the children have constructed a nursery in a reclaimed part of the school grounds.

The school is now at the stage of focusing on the interior of the nursery, which will include a hot house, seed and plant beds, potting areas, a pond and aquarium.

The whole school community has been involved in this project, which began with a monster working bee where about 90 people attended.

Most of the plants propagated will be used in the school's large attractive grounds, with the rest being sold to help fund the project.

We are also planning to install a rainwater tank to collect water off an adjoining shed.



A fantastic start has been made and the project continues to evolve with enormous enthusiasm from the kids.

Well done!

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
Baden Powell Park Project	Every second Sunday between March 16 and October 26	Anne Scholes 9787 7228
Frankston Beach Association	10am - 12.30pm, every Wednesday, Frankston Foreshore Kiosk	Kathleen Hassell 9783 1391
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
Frankston Indigenous Nursery	10am - 12 noon, every Thursday, Plant Propagation, Community Nursery	Kaye Proudley 9580 3341
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

National Tree Day



Monterey Secondary College students

A big thank you goes out to all the schools and community groups that participated in this year's National Tree Day. On Friday 25 July, 22 schools planted over 2,500 indigenous plants, which were donated by Frankston City Council.

On Sunday 27 July, over 90 residents, as well as staff from Frankston Toyota, Jenny Lindell MP and members of the Friends of Seaford Foreshore, planted over 3,000 plants in three local reserves, Overport Park, Keast Park and Carder Avenue.

Environmental Events Calendar

September	Biodiversity Month*
October	
3	Walk to Work Day
5	Respect the Beach Day
8	Ride to Work Day*
12 - 19	Weedbuster Week
19 - 25	National Water Week*
21	Water Efficient Gardening and Greywater Use Environmental Seminar*
26	Breakfast With the Birds Environmental Seminar*
26 - 1st	National Bird Week
November	
1-9	Frog Week
2	National Hold on to your Butt Day
13	Summer Bushfire Preparation Environmental Seminar*

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

