



Earthcare News

November
December
2007

We do what we can, where we are

BBQ

at
the
Ecocentre

31st

Jan.

7.pm-ish

Come and
meet other
Earthcare
members
and enjoy
excellent
food
BBQed
by your
president.

Mark this
in your
new diary
now

DARWIN IN THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

PHILLIP WIERZBOWSKI

WILL PRESENT IMAGES AND VIDEO FROM HIS RECENT VIST TO THE ISLANDS

AND TALK ABOUT DARWIN AND THE VOYAGE OF THE BEAGLE

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER

7.45 PM

PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE CORNER BLESSINGTON AND HERBERT STS. ST KILDA



St Kilda

Walk on the Wild Side

The Beach Buddies coast activities for families kicks off in St Kilda this summer.

Highly qualified Beach Buddies tour guides will take your family on a tour to enjoy and learn about the delights of St Kilda's coastal environment at night.

The tour starts at St Kilda's West Beach and ends at the penguin colony.

see page 2 for details.

BEACH BUDDIES

Enjoy some great games and activities while learning all about:

- Local wildlife and plants
- Conservation and management issues
- What you can do to care for the coast

Tour price is \$18 adults. \$12 Children under 16 and concession
Each Family group will receive a Beach Buddies bag containing:

- Penguin Panic board game
- DVD of amazing underwater Port Phillip Bay
- 'Alfreda the City Penguin' (children book)
- Coast Care Coast Action activities book
- Earthcare booklets and activities

Tours are run on Saturday evenings during summer and run for 2 hours.

Time changes monthly, please confirm when making booking.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs are not permitted.
A non-refundable booking fee of \$5 per group is applicable. Additional Beach Buddies bags are available to buy @ \$15 each, please advise how many are required when booking.

For more information see www.ecocentre.com or www.stkildapenguins.com.au

Bookings:
Port Phillip EcoCentre
info@ecocentre.com or Phone 9534 0670

'Beach Buddies' is an eco-tour run by Port Phillip EcoCentre with support from Reichstein Foundation, Melbourne Community Foundation's Ballandry Fund and Coast Action/Coastcare.

All profits go towards further community education and protection of Port Phillip Bay.



Grey Teal at the pond in St Kilda Botanic Gardens

Port Phillip
Nature Watch
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In the last Earthcare News I gave a rather pessimistic update on the Tawny Frogmouths in the St Kilda Botanic Gardens reporting that the pair of birds roosting over the frog pond in St Kilda Botanic Gardens had disappeared. The birds have since been found nesting at the top of a pine tree over the lawn near the south west corner of the gardens. Unfortunately only one parent is constantly seen on the nest, but no sign of chicks which should be apparent by now.

While things have not been looking good in the St Kilda Botanic Gardens over the last two to three months they have been much better in Elwood. On 12 September I received a report from Jill Sokol of a sighting of a Tawny frogmouth in the Mitford Street area near Clarke Reserve in late August/early September. I asked Jill to keep a look out for this bird and to confirm whether it had a partner, as at the time of her report the two birds had disappeared from the Botanic Gardens, possibly to a new location for a nesting site.

Jill sent me a message last Thursday to say there was plenty of Tawny Frogmouth activity on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and on Saturday (17 November) to say she had found two adults with at least one chick in Clarke Reserve in a group of ash trees on the Mitford Street edge of the park. I went to the park in the early evening to see them for myself. The chick was very well developed and not far from being ready to fledge and look after itself.

Zoe recently sent me a photograph of an interesting caterpillar found on her grevillea shrub wanting to know what butterfly or moth species it belongs to. After checking my only reference on Australian moths 'Flying Colours -Common caterpillars, butterflies and moths of SE Australia' I was able to identify the caterpillar as that of the Hakea Moth (or Grevillea Moth) *Oenochroma vinaria*. I took this picture of an adult moth in my back yard last year.



And now to my interesting sightings, again not too many over the last two months:

- A pair of Eastern Rosellas in Addison Street Elwood on 15 September.
- A pair of Grey Teal on the St Kilda Botanic Gardens pond on 17 October.
- Single Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike in the St Kilda Botanic Gardens on 19 October.
- Two Nankeen Night-herons in separate locations along Elwood Canal on the evening of 14 November.

If you see any interesting wildlife please send me a report. I can be contacted on 9531 2270, or email awmccutcheon@optusnet.com.au

Andrew McCutcheon