



The Greater  
Dandenong  
Environment  
Group Inc.

December 2000

This is the last newsletter of the year. It's gone so fast I must be getting old. This month was a busy one for me, from hacking weeds at Earth Sanctuaries Little River site to cooking sausages in the back of my car in Greens Road Dandenong for the Lendlease staff members who volunteered to help weed the reserve there.

This has also been a reptile month for me. I've seen more and varied reptiles this month than ever. A bearded dragon, a brown snake and a red bellied black snake were the highlights. The red bellied black almost hitting my boot was a real highlight!

It is an interesting experience being involved with the Earth Sanctuaries site at Little River. From what is a usual sort of sheep and cattle farm, it is projected to grow into a tourist site that will generate a profit of five million dollars a year. It will be interesting to watch the plans unfold and to be there when the animals are introduced to their new homes, which is supposed to be in March but I suspect that it will be delayed. We sat at the top of a hill and had the plans explained to us. Between those two groups of trees, there will be plantings to establish a koala grove. These two valleys will house the accommodation for tourists and backpackers. The mound with the rocks will be the site of the restaurant. It all sounds great - it will be fantastic to watch it happen.

The nursery is coming on great. We were asked to pot on our old stock to provide larger plants for the wetlands behind the basketball stadium in Stud Road. I've had a couple of visitors to the nursery who have complimented me on how tidy it looks. This is down to our Thursday crew and all the good work that they have done. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped in the nursery this year. You've really made a difference.

The recent inter group barbeque was a disaster as far as numbers were concerned but the quality was fantastic. We had a whale of a time. Our honorary auditor phoned me the next day to tell me what a great time they had had.

Last year we held a function for people associated with our group, the Kiwanis, the mailbox staff and a few others. The Kiwanis Action Club usually helps with tree planting and Clean Up Australia Day and they were looking for a different project. We suggested they make some nestboxes for sugar gliders. This idea has reached fruition and early in December we are going to present the boxes to a ranger in Dandenong Metropolitan Park,

lay on a barbeque for the Action Club and take them on a spotlight walk in the hope of showing them some sugar gliders. What a fantastic bunch of people we are!!

I hope that you can come to our next meeting on the 6th Dec, as it is our last meeting of the year.

On behalf of the committee and the members of the Greater Dandenong Environment Group I wish you and yours a merry Christmas and an Environmentally Sustainable New Year

What's on

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Dec Field Nats Members night 8pm Blackburn  
Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Dec Meeting 7-30pm at 64 Fillmore Rd.  
Thur 7<sup>th</sup> Dec Nursery working bee Greaves Rd 10 am to 1pm  
Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Dec Stag watch Field Naturalists Club Evening  
Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec Little River, leave 64 Fillmore Rd at 9am.  
Thur 14<sup>th</sup> Dec Nursery working bee Greaves Rd 10am to 1pm  
Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Dec Nursery working bee Greaves Rd 10am to 1pm  
Thur 28<sup>th</sup> Dec Nursery working bee Greaves Rd 10am to 1pm  
Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Dec Nursery 9am to 12pm

As always, for further information contact Ian on 9795 7423.