



The Greater
Dandenong
Environment
Group Inc.

Ao030369s

October 2000

Happenings

Well that was another busy month. The planting at Tirhatuan Park was a great success. We planted many of the plants that we had grown and half the participants were from our group - that was without any pressganging in my house!

The planting at Alex Wilkie Reserve was similar with most of the planters either in our group or joining soon afterwards. We planted several hundred plants, had a good look around the reserve and consumed a reasonable quantity of sausages, bread and cordial.

Nursery Days

Our nursery is coming along in leaps and bounds. Our nursery crew has been augmented by Amanda and Nicola , which has just about doubled our production. We spent some time in Alex Wilkie Reserve taking cuttings and scrounging seeds from Daryl the Ranger. This Sunday I hope to investigate the idiosyncrasies of Greg's smoky water contraption so that we will be ready for the seed-sowing season. Some of our natives germinate far better if they are exposed to smoke, and smoked water is probably the most convenient method of application. Following a Greening Australia training session Greg invented his own production facility, which is best used weekends when there are fewer people around.

Around the Place

The Friends of the Prom weekend was a bit of a mixture. It was too wet to work on the track so we tidied up the revege sites in Tidal River and picked up litter. We were near the café and decided to partake of its hospitality whilst in the vicinity. While we were in there it rained quite heavily and someone said I'm glad we're in here. I looked at our companions who were dressed in several thousand dollars worth of goretex and commented that if any one was equipped for it we were, but was told that goretex is for if you have to be out in the weather.

After lunch the weather improved although the wind was still quite strong. We finished our tasks and went to less organized pastimes. Throwing Frisbees and flying radio-controlled gliders were high on the list. Its amazing what some people take camping!

After dinner things settled into their usual routine of Tony tuning his guitar, then being joined by Andrew on the drums and this time a new addition, Peter, added his contribution, all of which made a very pleasant evening.

In the morning we packed and weighed up the options - various walks were being planned. We opted for a slow ramble to Windy Saddle from the Mt. Oberon car park

searching for orchids. We found several orchids, mainly types of greenhoods and some bird orchids. There were other plants in flower so it was quite a pleasant walk. Windy Saddle, our lunch spot, lived up to its name. We then retraced our steps. We returned home after detouring to Tidal River to deliver an exhausted bushwalker to his car.

Kooyoora State Park

The Field Nats trip to Kooyoora State Park was special. We had Grace, one of our nursery customers, Amanda and Nicola and myself there as well as the usual field nats crew. Grace and I captured the only mammal. It was a female Yellow-footed Antichinus with eleven young attached, which is a rarely seen sight. We also found a sugar glider, which was about three mtrs high in an acacia bush. It then leapt onto a rock and posed on the top before leaping into another bush. We found a variety of reptiles, mainly geckos and skinks with the occasional lizard. The weather was superb and the company fantastic. You should try it sometime.

At the next meeting we should have Ben Smith, who works for Environment Victoria as a public transport advocate. Some of us will probably have some contact with him before the meeting to organize some lobbying of local pollies. Ben will talk to us about public transport and transport strategies.

The next meeting of the Australian Plant Society Heathland Group Inc will be on the 28th Sept at 8 pm. The speaker will be John Delpratt who is a lecturer at Burnley. The subject of the talk will be Understorey Indigenous Revegetation, which should be right up our alley as they used to say. The meetings are held in the Springvale Civic Centre Meeting Room. It is located at the eastern end of the Springvale Town Hall complex next to the SES facility.

Diary Dates

Our usual nursery working bees will continue this month, 10 am – 1 pm Thursday each week and the last Sunday in the month, at Greaves St.

28th Sept APS meeting as above

3rd Oct Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Fauna Survey meeting at Blackburn

4th Oct GDEG monthly meeting at 7-30 pm, 64 Fillmore Road Dnong Nth

7th Oct GDEG Spring Planting Festival at The Basketball Stadium, Stud Road
from 10-00am to 12-00pm. Please support this or I'll have to plant them myself.

14th Oct Planting Coomoorra Reserve K'borough. Meet Serpentine Ave 11am.

My newsletters have been borrowed so for extra info ask at the next meeting.

Thanks for all your help this month. Couldn't have made it without you. Ian