

# NEWS & NOTES

JULY 1992

Published by the Wonga Park & District Residents' Association

Chairman:	Philip Glenister	722 1539
Secretary:	Barry Box	722 1423
Treasurer:	Glenda Ballinger	722 1624

Next Meeting: 8.00 p.m. Friday 10th July 1992 at the Community Cottage

DEADLINE FOR NEWS & NOTES is the last Friday of the month and the August deadline will be the 31st July 1992

Contributions for News & Notes are always welcome and may be left at Goodfellows Store in Launderers Avenue and any individual or company may sponsor an edition of News and Notes for only \$20.00.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by:

## WONGA PARK CHIROPRACTIC CENTRE

72 Jumping Creek Road Wonga Park Tel: 722 1747

For the month of July we are offering a half hour special therapeutic massage for \$20.00

Also, in case you have wondered about the "For Sale" sign outside the building, please note we are not moving but the freehold only is for sale.

## S.E.C. PRUNING

At the request of the Residents Association, the S.E.C. has agreed to set up a Wonga Park consultative committee to advise on the pruning of roadside trees (within the strict guidelines as set down by the S.E.C. and the priorities for the installation (within the limited budget of the S.E.C.) of bundled cables to limit the future requirements for heavy pruning of roadside trees. The Residents Committee has nominated three members to sit on this committee and representatives will also come from the Parks and Gardens Department of the Shire of Lillydale and the S.E.C. itself.

## FIRE BRIGADE SUPPORT

We noted with some concern, comments made by J. McKee in the previous News and Notes.

We in Wonga Park are very fortunate to have the Fire Brigade so close by. We enjoy a sleep-in, but would prefer the siren to be in good

working order should our property or house be in danger.

To those who complain about the testing of the siren on Sunday mornings, the "chook" farm, the Blue Cross or mooing cows, we say "move on". They were here before us!

To Jim and the volunteers, thank you from the majority of residents, for a job well done.

Lam Family  
Wonga Park

#### NATIVE GARDENS contributed by Flora Anderson

"Each year increasing numbers of people become interested in growing Australian plants in their gardens."

I am quoting from "Growing Australian Native Plants" written in 1971 by Fred Rogers, foundation president of Maroondah group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP).

Well, it seems that that "increasing interest" has finally reached the last stronghold of conifers and agapanthus - Wonga Park. Thank you Glenda for this opportunity to talk about the advantages, as I have found them, of Australian plants in my garden. I am hoping this will become a regular feature of articles.

First, let's dispel some myths.

1. "If it's a native, it will grow anywhere."  
You only have to consider Australia's size and its immense variation in climatic and geological conditions to realise that plants growing in a rock crevice on Mt. Kosciusko or withstanding salt-laden winds on a cliff top at Anglesea need not necessarily take to the shallow dry soils of Wonga Park. Of course there are Australian plants which are adaptable and tolerant of many different conditions and it will be these I will recommend to you.
2. "Native gardens are maintenance free."  
Australian plants are no different from any garden species in their need for soil preparation, mulching and judicious pruning. Another way of assuring success is to grow the plants which grow or used to grow in wonga Park (indigenous plants). These are the plants which will enjoy your garden and thrive because they have learned over thousands of years to adapt to our local conditions. More of that in future articles.

The advantages of Australian plants in your gardens I will briefly summarise in three words... birds, birds, birds!

I recommend Rodger Elliot's articles in gardening magazines and, in particular, a current series in the Bird Observer, "So You Want Birds In Your Garden".

Other advantages are "all the year round flowering", variation in leaf shape and colour and aromatic foliage.

For me, growing Australian plants has gradually brought a realisation of the enormous diversity of our very own "bush", and to me a plant I have garden growing in its own habitat, be it the Grampians, Portland or Warrandyte State Park, is indeed a great joy.

In the meantime perhaps you would like to plant a Banksia or Sweet Bursaria or just visit an Australian plant nursery like Kuranga, Bimbadeen or Austrafllora, or give me a ring...phone 722 1776.

Happy gardening and birding. And please do keep your pussy cat away from the native birds in your garden.

#### MONTHLY RAINFALL

In June there were 73.00mm (2.92 inches) of rain, bringing the total for the first six months of the year to 361.50mm (14.46 inches). Our average annual rainfall is 800-825mm (32-33 inches).