

NEWS & NOTES

AUGUST 1992

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

Next Meeting: 8.00 p.m. Friday 14th August 1992 at the Community Cottage

DEADLINE FOR NEWS & NOTES is the last Friday of the month and the September deadline will be the 28th August 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.

DAMS ON UPTON RESERVE

The Council has obtained a geotechnical report on the three dams on the reserve on the Upton subdivision which recommends, that the lower dam be demolished and reconstructed if it is desired to keep it but that it is feasible to repair and retain the middle and upper dams. The Committee of Council staff and interested residents, appointed by Council, has had its first meeting and has discussed various aspects of the dams. This committee has no power to make decisions of its own but will be able to make recommendations to Council which may or may not be adopted (probably depending on cost and availability of funds).

THEFT FROM CARS

It was reported to the last meeting of the Residents' Association that at least three handbags have been stolen from cars parked in Wonga Park in recent months, the thieves breaking windows to gain access to the locked cars. In at least one case the car had only been left unattended for a few minutes. It is suggested that valuables not be left in parked cars and if they must be then they be placed out of sight of passing thieves.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN WONGA PARK

The proposals for the rezoning of land to allow substantial extensions to the commercial areas at the corner of Jumping Creek and Dudley Roads and the Village Shopping Centre have been heard by the planning panels appointed by the council. This Association opposed both proposals on the basis that it believes that Wonga Park already has sufficient retail development and that any extension of this could lead to unsightly vacant shops. Our Chairman attended the panel hearings as was able to give the panel valuable advice on the history of both developments as well as put forward the views of the Association. The panel has now

recommended that the proposed development of the site on the corner of Jumping Creek and Dudley Roads not proceed and that the proposed extra retail floor space in the Village Shopping Centre in Launderers Avenue be cut in half. It is still up to the Council to accept or not accept the Panel's findings and it is open to either or both of the affected landowners to appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal against the decision. Although it would be presumptuous to claim that the decision was as direct result of the Association's opposition, it is one way in which local residents opinions on the subject can be heard and taken into account in decisions which affect the suburb in which we live. Although the decision was not a complete win for the Association it was a very acceptable compromise.

COMMUNITY COTTAGE CO-ORDINATOR

The Shire of Lillydale has approved the funding of a Co-Ordinator for the Community Cottage for the next three years conditional upon the Community Cottage becoming an incorporated association by the end of the year.

BEING MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT BANKSIAS

You can't be vague about Banksias (I apologise for being so in the July edition of News & Notes). Sixty of the seventy banksias of Australia (they grow nowhere else in the world) grow in Western Australia. As you know Western Australia is an enormous "gravel heap" and the plants have adapted to these conditions.

Therefore, in general, it is unwise to expect Western Australian banksias to survive in heavy poorly drained soils. A special effort is needed to build up gravel beds if you wish to succeed with Western Australian banksias such as *Banksia Coccinea* (Scarlet Banksia)/

That leaves us with the banksias of Victoria and New South Wales, the best known of which is *Banksia Ericofolia* (Heath Banksia) from the central coast of New South Wales. This plant has been an enormous success in Melbourne Gardens for many years. The one surviving at the front gate of the Wonga Park Primary School is an example.

In my garden it is a favourite food source for Regular Wattle Birds, Little Wattle Birds, New Holland Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills. If you plant one near a window, you will be able to enjoy both flowers and birds. You can lightly prune most banksias. Regular pruning will keep your *Banksia Ericofolia* the size and shape you require. Left alone it might grow to 5 metres by 3 metres. So give it room.

The Victorian banksias are *Banksia Marginata*, *Banksia Integrifolia* (Coast Banksia), *Banksia Serrata* (Silver Banksia), *Banksia Spinulosa* (Hairpin Banksia), *Banksia Ornata* (Desert Banksia) and *Banksia Canei* (Mountain Banksia). The last two I would not recommend for Wonga Park but the other four - most certainly.

Banksia Marginata, *Banksia Integrifolia* and *Banksia Spinulosa* var. *Cunninghamii* are all natives of the Melbourne area.

I think my favourite would have to be Banksia Spinulosa and the fact that it can vary from prostrate to tall shrubs makes it even more desirable. The large erect candle-like spikes are usually honey to golden in colour with black to reddish or golden hooked styles (like hairpins - thus its common name). You will see it growing in its natural habitat in Kinglake National Park, in flora reserves in Croydon and on the west face of Mount Dandenong.

P.S. Have you just received your water rates? Mulch your garden well to cut down on water consumption.

Happy gardening!

Flora Anderson

TREASURES IN LAUNDERS AVENUE

If you can spare the time, walk along Launders Avenue and you will see Nodding Greenhoods and lovely white heath in flower. also Spreading Wattle and Myrtle Wattle with delicate pale gold blossoms. Working parties under the leadership of Dennis Easterby are still producing results every three weeks. Pittosporum, Cootamundra wattles, Blue Periwinkle and most recently Smilax or Bridal Creeper are going going gone to leave room for the "local lovelies".

THE MELBOURNE WILDFLOWER SHOW

For those gardening aficionados and simple lovers of the bush the Society for Growing Australian Plants is holding its annual "Melbourne Wildflower Show" at the Ringwood Convention Centre Mines Road Ringwood on Saturday and Sunday 15th-16th August 1992 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. This is Victoria's largest display of Australian wildflowers. Entrance fee \$4.00 adults, \$2.00 pensioners and children under 12 free.

MONTHLY RAINFALL

In July 41.50mm (1.66 inches) of rain were recorded bringing the total for the first seven months of the year to 391.50mm (15.66 inches).

WONGA PARK COMMUNITY COTTAGE Old Yarra Road, 3115



Enrolment day at the Cottage was a colourful affair, with tutors having stalls with displays and demonstrations of arts and crafts. Once again Term 3 promises to keep us all busy and we are excited about the many activities being held. If you haven't managed to enrol in anything as yet come and see some examples of what is offered and have a chat.

Some vacancies exist, including in the following:-

* Children & Youth:

DRAWING & PAINTING FOR TEENAGERS. Starts Mon 10th Aug. 7pm - 8.30pm

CALLIGRAPHY FOR CHILDREN. Starts Mon 10th Aug. 4pm - 6pm for 4 weeks

* Cooking:

CHINESE DELIGHTS. Tues. 11th Aug. 1pm - 3pm for 1 session.

BREADMAKING. Wed. 12th & 26th Aug. 9.30am - 12.30pm for 2 weeks.

* Personal Development & Health:

READING THE TAROT. Mon night 10th Aug. 7.30pm - 9.30pm for 2 weeks.

BASIC MASSAGE. Starts Wed night 12th Aug. 7.30pm - 9.30pm for 4 weeks

HEAL YOUR LIFE. Now starts Thurs. 13th Aug. 1pm - 3pm for 6 weeks.

NATUROPATHIC TREATMENT OF PMT. Tues night 1st Sept. 7pm - 9pm 1 session

NATUROPATHIC TREATMENT FOR MENOPAUSE. Friday 28th Aug. 9.30am-11.30am

FIRST AID IN THE WORKPLACE LEVEL 1. Thurs night starts 20th Aug 3 weeks

* Craft:

APPLIQUED BUNNY BLANKET. Now starts Tues. 25th Aug 9.30am - 11.30 2 weeks

EMBROIDERED HEIRLOOM TEDDY BEAR. Mon 31st Aug. 9.30am - 11.30 for 3 weeks

VICTORIAN FAN PHOTO FRAME. Tues night 18th Aug 7pm - 9.30pm for 1 session

MAKE YOUR OWN WINDCHEATERS. Tues 8th Sept 1pm - 3pm 1 session

NO SEW APPLIQUE. Tues 15th Sept 9.30am - 11.30am for 1 session

DRIED FLOWER BASKET & DRIED FLOWER TOPIARY TREE.

Department of Further Education has funded us to run a course on **BOOKKEEPING**, so all those who would like to get a better understanding of bank reconciliations etc. please register now.

MEN IN THE COMMUNITY meeting was held on Wed. thanks to those who came and shared their ideas. Some of these we need tutors for ie: Chainsaw/lawnmower maintenance. House maintenance. Basic woodwork. Anyone to join in playing cards. Interests in animal breeding. All those forced into early retirement please register your skills with us and they won't be lost.

Finally an invitation to attend our next Committee meeting at the Cottage at 8pm on Wed. 19th August. Everyone welcome.