

No. 5/84  
July,  
1984

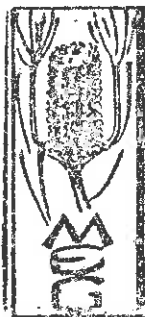
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This issue of SPINULOSA contains:

- \* NEW regular features
- \* NEW not-so-regular features
- \* your annual subscription form
- \* a **FASCINATING** treasurer's report
- \* a **FUN** questionnaire for the whole family
- \* absolutely **NO** artificial colouring,  
flavouring or preservatives added.

Our Next Meeting will be at 7:45 pm on  
Friday, 27th. July at Montrose Tennis Club's  
pavillion.

Please attend and help the Group to respond to your  
wishes. The protection of our environment relies on  
public awareness; so come, learn and contribute!



# SPINULOSA

MONTROSE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 7, MONTROSE, 3765

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, July 27

MEG GENERAL MEETING, 7:45pm:

GEORGE CREIGHTON will speak on Fungi. George has a wealth of knowledge on this interesting subject. His long-awaited talk will begin the meeting.

We are also hoping that Jean Richards will talk about the long-running legal battle concerning the ruination of the Montrose reserve.

Other topics to be discussed in the "Local News" column below.

Sat., Aug. 4 (10am - 6pm) & Sun., Aug. 5 (10am - 5pm)

MELBOURNE WILDFLOWER SHOW, Ringwood Cultural Centre

MEG will have a large, walk-through display which needs manning (or personning). This is our ONLY show this year, so please participate.

Tuesday, August 7 at 7:30pm

MEG committee meeting at the Venn's abode: Laura House, View Rd., Montrose.

Sat. Aug. 11 & Sun. Aug. 12

Victorian National Parks Assoc. walking weekend. Base camp at Brisbane Ranges Natl. Park. Easy day walks through the undeveloped northern parts. Leader: Elizabeth Docry (859 3738 AH).

Sunday evening, August 12

Deadline for SPINULOSA contributions.

Monday, August 20

People for Nuclear Disarmament's new Mt. Evelyn group meets at Morrison House.

Friday, September 28

Next MEG meeting after July's...

**There is no August General Meeting!**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was dinner by candlelight to precede MEG's AGM on Friday, 22nd June. It was a bring-&-share affair where many fine morsels were consumed and stories swapped (environmental ones, of course!).

The meeting was initially chaired by the outgoing president, Bill Hardess. Prior to the election of the new committee for 84-85, the president announced that it had been decided to award Ian Blencowe life membership for his herculean effort in producing Spinulosa. Each month, Ian has spent many hours collecting articles for our informative newsletter, as well as editing and printing. Each issue takes about a whole weekend.

Cr. Len Cox conducted the meeting during the election of office bearers for 84-85. All were elected unopposed:

President	: Bill Hardess	(Ph. 728 5364)
Vice President:	Johan Kruize	(728 4240)
Secretary	: John Venn	(728 3950)
Treasurer	: Tom Gruzca	(728 1779)
Committee	: Dave Edwards	(736 2641) &
	Ian Blencowe	(728 4431).

[Don't be concerned if you have a feeling of deja vu. Clearly, our AGM is better organised than a Labor Conference or a Democrat Convention. But wouldn't it be nice to have just a little competition for those jobs which have to be done? - Ed.]

## MEG'S AFFILIATIONS

Whilst MEG's first responsibility is to take an active part in local environmental issues, we also support wider campaigns. MEG is affiliated with groups such as the Conservation Council of Victoria, the Native Forests Action Council, The Wilderness Society, People for Nuclear Disarmament, and (of course) the Australian Conservation Foundation.

This year MEG has financially supported the NFAC for its Errinundra (E. Gippsland) campaign, and the ACF (\$200) towards the preservation of the Daintree rainforest.

You may contribute to the Daintree campaign through MEG. Any support, financial or otherwise, will be gratefully received.

Please contact us if you would like information on any of the groups listed above, or on the issues which concern them (particularly Daintree).

## LOCAL NEWS

### Town Centre

You have no doubt seen the article and sketch in the "Post" of the proposed new "Town Centre" for Montrose.

The centre will feature a library and community centre, and will incorporate the Historic Cottage. It will also provide an ideal site for the community market.

MEG contacted Cr. Len Cox about the development, and he will make the plans available for viewing at our next General Meeting on Friday, 27th. July.

### Montrose Roundabout

After some delay, the Montrose roundabout has been topdressed and planted out; however we notice that the planting scheme is very different from that endorsed by MEG last year.

Cr. Cox is making moves to have the area replanted -- according to plan.

### Roadsides

MEG has received wide recognition for our "Roadsides" pamphlet, and we intend to have another 10,000 printed.

The Minister for Conservation, Mr. McKenzie, has supported our initiative on roadside conservation by making available a grant of \$750. This will go toward the reprinting costs.

Readers interested in obtaining copies of the pamphlet should contact any of the MEG committee.

Whilst on the subject of roadsides, Council workers recently erected treated-pine barriers near the entrance of Stradbroke Road. This is presumably to keep cars from damaging the "nature strip". Cars now park alongside these barriers and dangerously straddle the road verge.

A few nonlocal trees have been planted to soften the effect. What a pity MEG wasn't approached about a more effective roadside plan!

### Vandalism

..thats the only way to describe the unlawful felling of our local trees. A drive down Glasgow Rd. will show where trees have been illegally removed from the roadside, presumably for firewood. Trees have also been removed from Montrose reserve in recent weeks.

Readers who witness these acts of vandalism should contact the Council or MEG.

### Officially Sanctioned Vandalism?

MEG understands that a private contractor has asked for permission to rid the Shire of its dead trees, free of charge. The contractor would make money by the sale of firewood.

The proposal is endorsed by Mr. David Joshua, Shire Manager for Operations, who is soon to put the proposal to Council.

It appears there is need for an education campaign on the importance of dead trees to our local animals and birds. There is an excellent article on this topic in "Habitat" (pp.6-9, vol.12, Feb. 1984) by Roy Dunn, who points out the following facts:

All our local arboreal animals use the hollows of dead trees. In fact, many possums, gliders and bats seem to depend almost entirely on tree hollows for permanent daytime shelter.

The extremely adaptable brushtail possums are not so dependent, but provide another reason for retaining dead trees: If evicted, brushtails are likely to move into roofs and walls of houses.

Other possums are not so adaptable - some species have been found to die within weeks after their habitat trees were felled.

And of course, parrots & cockatoos rely on tree hollows for nesting - as do owls, falcons and many other birds.

There appears to be grounds for concern that the commercial motivation of the proposed felling will result in the removal of trees other than those presenting a genuine hazard. How can one ensure that this does not happen?

Don't wait until the next General Meeting to air your feelings - write to Council NOW.

MONTROSE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP  
Financial Statement Year Ending 30.6.84

RECEIPTS

MEG show	1493.65
Subscriptions	245.00
Donations :	
Lilydale Sewerage Auth.	200.00
VNPA	250.00
Ministry for Conservation	750.00
SGAP	50.00
Community Market	50.00
Shire Lilydale	50.00
Private	20.00
Roadside pamphlet	64.15
T-shirt sales	60.00
Tap-tap sales	8.00
Bank Interest	141.33
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Total receipts	3382.13

PAYMENTS

Subscriptions	
ACF	43.00
CCV	30.00
NFAC	20.00
Wilderness Society	80.00
VNPA	30.00
PND	50.00
Donations	
NFAC	54.00
ACF (Daintree Acct)	200.00
Spinulosa Postage	128.50
Spinulosa Printing	96.33
P.O. Box Hire	29.00
Spinulosa Registration	30.00
Hall Hire	50.00
T-shirts	550.00
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Sub total	1390.83

PAYMENTS CONT.

MEG Show	
S.A. Plants	25.00
Hand bills / Posters	93.75
Herbs	78.00
School Hire	100.00
Plant Sales	516.20
Stall holders	132.95
Publicity	10.53
Refreshments	42.66
Sundries	110.39
Govt / Bank charges	8.49
Refreshments	5.34
Other expences	11.00
Save Dandenongs League	6.00
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Total Payments	2531.14

Financial Statement

Current Acct 30.6.83	776.16	
State Bank Stock Dep.	1000.00	
Close Port Philip B.Soc.	22.96	
Petty cash	5.84	
Total receipts	3382.13	5187.09
Total payments	2531.14	2655.95
Less unrepresented cheque	200.00	2855.95
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Cash Balance		\$ 2855.95

MEMBERSHIP

Family subscriptions	34
Single subscriptions	19
Concession	4
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Total	57

(Subject to official audit)

BIRDS, BEASTS & BUSH

... a new regular SPINULOSA feature.

THE YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO SURVEY

The Bird Observers Club is helping with the above survey, and as the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo is a regular visitor in Montrose, some of our members may be able to help.

The survey is trying to find out the DESTINATIONS and COMPOSITION of flocks. A survey record sheet is available for any member who would like to help ... just ask at the next meeting.

To help with identification of the birds, the following information may be useful.

Males, females and juveniles can be distinguished by three things:

1. Bill Colour

MALE - Black                      FEMALE - Whitish

JUVENILE MALE - The beak starts to darken in the second year, starting at the base of the upper mandible.

JUVENILE FEMALE - Almost indistinguishable from the adult.

VERY YOUNG BIRDS - squawk almost continuously with "insistent" rasping, begging calls.

2. Size of the yellow cheek patch

Females have a brighter and larger cheek patch than males.

3. Eye ring colour

MALES - pink                      FEMALES - darkest grey.

Some tips for long-range recognition

1. They are usually heard before they are seen. Once heard, the high-pitched, wailing call is unmistakable. They call to each other constantly in flight and often when feeding.

2. The flock appears "untidy" and usually comprises 2, 3, 4 or even up to 7 birds. If you're lucky, you'll see some indulging in aerobatics between the groups.

3. They are large, predominantly black birds, about twice the size of the Common Raven. The tail is distinctively LONG - about the length of the body.

The wing beats are slow and strong, giving the flight a cruising, buoyant appearance.

The survey is being conducted until the end of August, and further information can be obtained from YTBC, P.O. Box 236, Falls Creek 3699.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership subscriptions are due at the start of each financial year. MEG has already received subscriptions from Jim and Molly Knewstubb, Christine Morgan, Lance and Judy Lewis, Tanya Meadows and family, The Nicholson family of NSW, and John Kinnersley.

John has expressed a concern about local building design and the use of colour for greater harmony with our surroundings. We couldn't agree more - and perhaps we can launch a project to promote better architecture if anyone else has relevant expertise. In any case, we'll be looking critically at the plans for the new "Town Centre".

To renew your membership, please fill in the details overleaf and complete the questionnaire below, which is aimed at making MEG more responsive to your wishes. Bring this page to the next meeting, or post to PO Box 7, Montrose 3765.

QUESTIONNAIRE (Please tick appropriate boxes)

1. Which of the following are you particularly interested in?

(MEG is willing to provide information and assistance in any of these areas).

- learning about native plants
- learning how to find and identify local species
- landscaping
- local walks
- local birds
- family outings to places of interest
- other (please specify)

2. Have you found it difficult to get to monthly meetings?

— If so, is it due to:

- short notice of meetings
- Friday being unsuitable
- choice of meeting topics
- other (please specify)

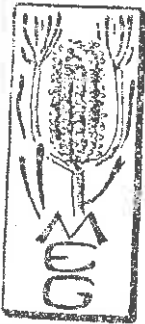
3. Would you consider helping at working bees from time to time? \_\_\_

4. Please list topics which you would like to feature in future meetings.

5. MEG won't be holding a Spring flower show this year.  
Have you normally attended our shows in the past? \_\_\_  
Do you want to see more in the future? \_\_\_

6. What ideas do you have for SPINULOSA?

7. Are you an ACF member? \_\_\_



MONTROSE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP, P.O. BOX 7, MONTROSE, 3765.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER ANNUM :-

- FAMILY \$5  
 SINGLE \$3  
 STUDENT/PENSIONER \$2

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. : \_\_\_\_\_

DATE : \_\_\_\_\_





MONTROSE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

... is about promoting the understanding of all environmental issues - particularly those directly relevant to Montrose.

Our General Meetings are held on the fourth Friday of each month from February to November, EXCEPT this August.

New members are requested to complete the enclosed membership form.

SPINULOSA is usually released monthly. This issue begins a new production system, and we desperately want contributions from members - so please try to help. If you can, then contact Graeme Lorimer on 728 5841 (AH).