

... an advocate of greening the inner-city, Mr Carter shares some thoughts on urban wilderness in this special EHT feature

# FOUNDING A WILDERNESS

Wilderness or unspoilt bush is the key to the survival of humanity. Without dense forests producing clean oxygen in the city as well as the country landscape, toxic gases produced by man will finally lead to our destruction.

Over the years we have restricted our gardens and parks to limited areas, trimmed edges, lots of formal colour, clipped and staked plants.

When travelling on the weekend it is not uncommon to see man made environments with badly broken or manufactured second class ecosystems.

You the humble home gardener can assist by putting in your few trees.

It is essential that many evergreen varieties are planted, as the leaves carry out the function of photosynthesis. Deciduous varieties are inactive in winter so have little effect on toxic gases produced by technology.

The more plants, the easier the job is. It isn't beyond anyone to create a tiny wilderness in their own yard.

Define where you personally would like to create a pathway or dispense with the pathway.

Most important put in many plants; natural selection, will cull your wilderness.

Place heaps of old logs to encourage bugs and small animals, apart from being interesting to discover, they are another important part of the wilderness chain.

Insects lurk under bark or in hollow logs.

Honey producing plants bring back native birds.

The trick is to plant to give your yard an adventurous atmosphere but not to reduce light to nil.

After the plants have developed, pathways can be defined, leading to the most interesting vistas.

Rocks can be placed in piles to allow skinks to establish themselves and if unstaked plants fall over, leave them there as they will create a new dimension to the garden.

Mulch the ground with wood chips, old carpet covered with woodshavings, or just let the grass grow till it gets a bit tall then cut it down a little at the start of summer with a hand slasher till the overhead vegetated canopy finally reduces grass growth because of lack of light.

Wilderness areas, whether in your own yard or a national park, are not a fire hazard.

It is just that man wishes to compete and fight nature rather than share the earth, much to humanity's continuous undoing.

Assist nature and nature will produce for you your needs for survival.

Wilderness gardens can produce food if a selection of fruiting varieties are planted within the wilderness. The native bush reserve on the corner of Sturt Street and King's Way has a sprinkling of *fejoa sellowiana* (salad fruit) — as you stroll through the park you can pick some fresh fruit.

You could put some bird boxes in the trees to encourage many of the birds to make you garden their home.

A man made bush landscape that is worth a visit, is the Canterbury Road, Albert Park Nature Trail, an extremely pleasant walk.

For your own ideas: look at Sturt Street Reserve, Canterbury Road Nature Trail or go into the bush and get all the ideas you need, but you must put your stubby down, turn off the tranny, kennel the dog and have a good look.

Wilderness is probably our major environmental asset. Let's ensure

from, it is therefore necessary to preserve the bush in its living glory to give humanity inspiration as well as solitude; in the wilderness environment humanity will come closer to life itself.

Millions of people in the cities will never experience the peace and serenity of the bush wilderness.

Not because they don't wish to but because most are unaware of its visual, spiritual advantages.

All of us must be equal in spirit and have the opportunity to experience the bush, its wilderness landscape and dreams. Because of the advertised lure of the city, or those who can't leave, most of humanity has lost its earthly contact with nature. This must be restored. Not only with verbal education, but with a local visual experience.

Referring to the aboriginals burning off thousands of years ago does not justify making further mistakes; in Tasmania not very long ago our forefathers wiped out a whole nation in the name of progress.

We should not create more farmland, just because Sidney Kidman got a Knighthood for developing the centre or in real terms, running more sheep to the acre than the land could carry.

Victoria alone has one of the worst salting and erosion problems in the modern world because of progress. Baron Von Mueller in his wisdom gave us blackberries, some other fool gave us European Carp.

Modern technology in farming and mining if continued in an irresponsible manner, will most certainly be as catastrophic as our previous historical mistakes.

The following philosophy is something to think about:

As humans, we are born genetically,  
We are influenced by environment,

Then vanity sends us in a singular motivated direction,

Whereby we selfishly consider our own rights,

Which in many cases adversely affect others,

But what is most disturbing, impedes the right of nature itself.

So therefore, it is our responsibility to become compatible with nature,

That has no lesser right to this earth,

Than we, as mere humans.

It seems sad that this earth has existed for millions of years, modern man will probably destroy it in some 100 years.

The town and cities are where most of the death pollution is, so let's reduce its impact on urban/rural landscapes. Give us, including our children many more years of hope.

Let us not send thousands of people to the bush in their \$15,000 'roughing it' vans to further pollute and congest the bush.

With the possible energy crisis, however, it is now becoming increasingly difficult for many people to reach the outer rural sector.

Life is very important to most of us. There is no question that we require planning, which means in real terms, planning for the survival of all life.

This can be achieved: bush plots, streets planted as bush, restoration of humble ecosystems, traffic islands that breathe, return of native birds. In the cities and towns the no-trees-all concrete-and-asphalt syndrome is again proving another blunder.

Our most important, immediate objective should be planting and restoration of the greatest existing oxygen-mechanics, plus the correction of blasphemous technology. I give you this philosophy:

Land and plants, animals and I, work



Trees and their planters start young... one way of ensuring urban greenness. If our children learn the value of vegetation, the South Port area will grow in beauty.



Or else... this option on the banks of the Yarra. The tradition of bluestone trapped in the concrete jungle. Perhaps remnants of a campaign... Give the Yarra a po?

And the need for mutually desired help.

I serve nature, for nature has unrestricted compulsory needs; So to work, for me, is to also serve nature, her plants and animals.

Any criticism of my methods and enthusiasm,

Is in ignorance of the part which I am privileged to play.

For to work with the earth is a blessing Humanity seem owed to

I am a servant of the land — To not serve the land, with her many desires,

Is to not work for or with me, As I wish to share a common bond. Visual as well as verbal education in the cities and towns is essential for bush/wilderness survival.

"How many of you still think the spider was a real threat to little Miss Muffet?"

Build yourself a wilderness this.

ARTICLE ABC NOVEMBER 1979

# LET'S DO IT OUR WAY Landscape city with natives



Weakland landscape expert BRIAN CARTER today hits out at the declining Australian identity in our leisure areas.

ISN'T it about time we started putting a little of Australia back into Melbourne — particularly in our leisure areas?

How often when overseas horticultural and landscape experts arrive in Australia do they ridicule our landscape: principally our man created landscape? It never ceases to amaze me how many of our City Fathers, or responsible authorities, upon returning from an overseas trip, immediately suggest that we should landscape like Europe, America, England or Asia.

One of Melbourne's former mayors, on returning from overseas wanted flag poles to line St. Kilda Road.

Now that's really original. Just about every capital city in the world has a line of flag poles somewhere. Even Morwell in Victoria has them.

**Realise**  
What we should realise is that there is only 27 per cent of reasonably vegetated land in Australia. Many rainforest countries have only six per cent of forest left, and around the world we lose 50 acres of rainforest every minute. It is quite possible that we

### Reply

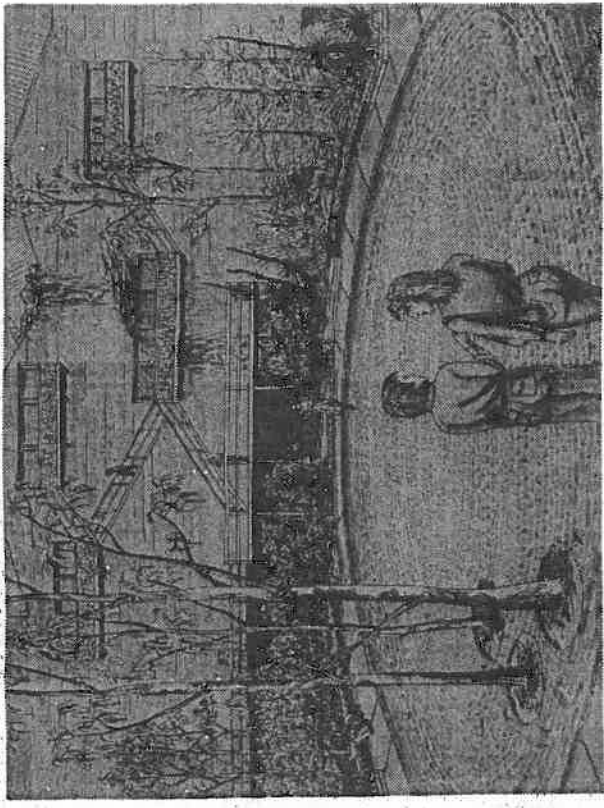
When I am asked what will grow well here, I reply: "What was there in the first place?" Indigenous natives should be planted although the previously indigenous environment has been ruined. Yet many of our universities and colleges teach us that we overseas, especially they do overseas, especially in public open space.

So this has become the practice of many years. Example: when Footscray Park of some 28 hectares (70 acres) was developed, less than 0.2 hectares (half an acre) was set aside as native garden. Native sections have

become a subdued novelty consisting of two or three half a dozen wattles, gum, a dozen or so other miscellaneous plants. If they don't lose their leaves in autumn and can't be cut like a grape vine, they have no place in the garden seems to be a current philosophy. Many authorities still con-

may have very little bush landscape left within 50 years. So it is imperative we take steps now to retain this identity. Native fauna is retreating to confined areas because of man's encroachment upon its domain. I believe we must plant natives now.

# IT OUR WAY



How Brian Carter envisages a city square.

complement Australian landscape. Their autumn colors contrast with Australian plants. A taste of other countries' cultures is certainly exciting and educational.

But should this be at the cost of losing our own identity?

### Heritage

All man made landscape is temporary. It is our bushland that is our national heritage. So why are we spending almost \$1 1/2 million on our City Square for an almost totally synthetic European style hectare or two of hard paving surface and European trees?

I will apologise if it turns out otherwise horticulturally. But I will not for the cost. It seems that authorities don't look for the best possible designers for our Australian square. Only those

who can afford expensive submissions are considered. Albert Park Lake complex has served its purpose over the past 50 years and should now be redeveloped to suit the needs of Melbourne's people — people who are seeking more and more diverse and peaceful forms of recreation.

With the energy problems as they are, urban areas will become more condensed, requiring more regional and local facilities. Albert Park Lake complex could be developed to complement the existing facilities, giving rise to one of the greatest inner urban parks in the world.

It would then serve the needs of many thousands of Victorians, without the need to travel a hundred miles to find such spacious horticultural and recreation facilities.

COUPON  
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SWEENEY'S

# WINNERS

282

# CAN THAT CAN! VFL FAN GIVEN THE DRUM

THE Victorian Football League has dropped its opposition to a project aimed at raising money for community work.

The VFL last month refused permission for groups of schoolchildren and Keep Australia Beautiful Council organisers to go to League grounds and collect aluminium cans for sale to Comalco Ltd.

The money was to be used for special community projects, but the plan was axed after the VFL's

Properties Division said it wanted a share of the revenue.

Now, after a conference between the council's special projects officer, Mr. Brian Carter, and the VFL's administrative director, Mr. Eric McCutchan, the idea has been given the green light.

Soon, all League grounds will be patrolled on Saturdays by groups of

schoolchildren and Scouts. They will collect the cans and take them to a central point for pick-up by Comalco contractors.

Hundreds of large drums will be placed at each League ground.

Mr. Carter said the campaign would solve the League's litter problems and help the community in a practical way.

He expects the children will collect between \$250 and \$300 each from the six League grounds.

Mr. McCutchan will act as managers of all grounds to co-ordinate with the organisers.

The scheme has been in operation on a trial basis at the Melbourne ground for four weeks and has proved a success.



\* LESS litter at the footy — and money for charity ... a boy collects aluminium cans at the Lake Oval, South Melbourne.

## Freda meets her match



FREDA Fasoulakis, 18, met her match today ... Melbourne player Laurie Fowler.

But it was all in fun. They met in the City Square today to promote the Keep Australia Beautiful campaign.

Tomorrow it's back to the serious side in football when Melbourne play South Melbourne as season

1976

# SOUTH MOVES TO CLEAN UP

South Melbourne will launch an all-out fight to control the city's litter problems.

The last South Melbourne Council meeting approved the anti-litter campaign.

## COUNCIL TIPS BUCKET OVER LITTERERS

WARNING! Beware the traveller who dares litter the streets of South Melbourne.

LITTER maid Jane Bowskill keeps an eye on Frank Taylor and Glen Kernick to make sure they help keep the South Melbourne ground free of trash.

South Melbourne start 'swan' song for litterbugs

By BARRY WATTS

THERE'S nothing so dirty about Australian Football that a pretty girl can't fix.

## Litter Report

COLLATED &

PRESENTED

ON THE

10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1975

### RHYMING RUBBISH

South Melbourne's Gardens and Reserves Administrator Mr. B. A. Carter resorted to poetry to stress his point about litter in a report to council on the problem. His report ended:

"What pity, poor the plants and animals, as they view these pigs of humans so numerous and vain and thanking the Almighty that they are confined to cages of cities, where they squag or in their own garbage, rotting with rain.

Litter must go

Brian Carter, the man who wants an all-out war on litterbugs.

Call for dirty suburb award



• Brian Carter, anti-litter man of South Melbourne.

Let's keep South clean and tidy

South Melbourne's gardens and reserves administrator, Mr. Brian Carter, has asked us to pass on a new year's message to all ratepayers.

Our indefatigable anti-litter campaign wants to make sure that this year South is cleaner, tidier and more beautiful.

He said: "A happy New Year to the South householders who enjoyed their Christmas cheer,

Lots of Christmas pud, wine, headaches and beer, oys for the kids and happiness of thought,

The joy just to give of he presents we've bought, seven feet of tree shining in sheer delight,

For children to dream, and glow in the night, To remove after a while,

The home clean and neat, Keeping with the South Melbourne Christmas spirit. Now throwing the tree into the street.

So for the sake of our parks, ourselves, our lanes and our streets,

For '75' let's keep our South City, CLEAN, BEAUTIFUL and NEAT.

South  
faces  
litter  
blitz

1978



★ GREEN foliage instead of concrete is the aim and locals help in the change-over.

# The city that went BUSH...!

★ LEFT: A corner bushland on two major roads that lead to Melbourne, 1 km. away.

★ BELOW: Residents have permission to dig up the footpath to plant trees.



## ★ An ecology-conscious community sets an example for all Australians who live in inner suburbs . . .

By BILL MOORHEAD

★ BRIAN CARTER, a 35-year-old garden expert, is living for the day when some mother complains to his council employers that her young son has been lost in bushland not more than 1 km from the heart of Melbourne.

His other ambition is to be blamed directly for changing the suburb where he works from semi-industrial to bush, complete with all the birds and insects that abound in natural settings.

And, if the trees and shrubs already planted continue to grow as well as they are, it will not be long before Brian's dreams come true.

When Brian joined the South Melbourne Council as gardens and reserves administrator nearly three years ago the city that reaches to the outskirts of Melbourne's central business district was a sad and tired looking area of 15 sq. km.

It had the run-down appearance of a municipality that had celebrated its centenary 20 years earlier.

The streets were almost bare of trees, footpaths were strictly for walking on, and planted nature strips were few and far between.

continued overleaf

★ RIGHT: Stone and tree trunk seats are part of South Melbourne's natural look, and the local council approves.





**NATURE SHELTERS FOR EDUCATION**



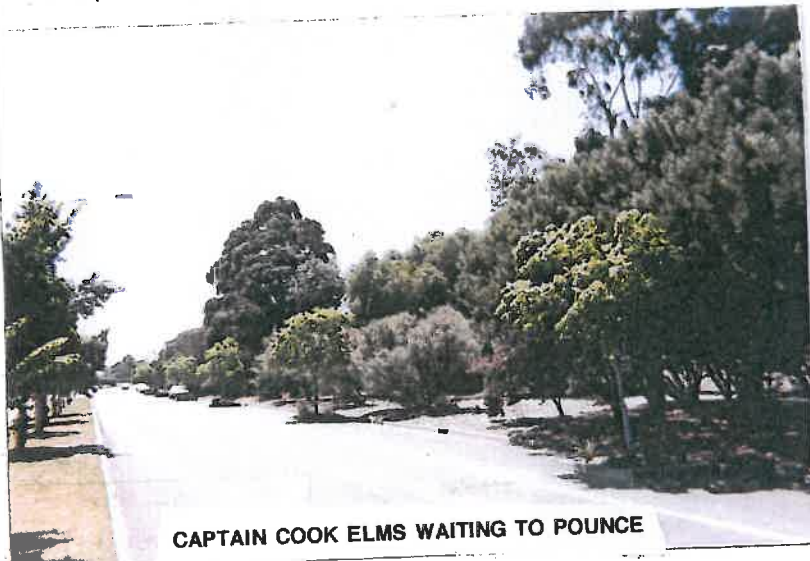
**PATH WHEN FIRST INDICATED**



**PATH 3 YEARS LATER**



**INDIGENOUS WETLAND SIMULATION**



**CAPTAIN COOK ELMS WAITING TO PONCE**





**THE "GOING NOWHERE" ENGINEERED STRAIGHT PATH, WITH THE OVERLAY DESIGN. EARLY STAGES. SHORT ST. RESERVE. PROGRESSING THROUGH TIME.**



DEPENDS !!  
ARE YOU GOING BACKWARD?  
REMAINING STATIC?  
OR FORWARD FOR THE  
HEALTH OF THE EARTH AND?  
ALL LIFE -

# "THE COMMUNITY AND ITS AIR"

REVOLUTION !!!

A DISCUSSION PAPER  
PRESENTED BY:  
BRIAN A CARTER,  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT,  
CITY OF CASEY

26 PAGES.

BRIAN CARTER  
~~PH # 59756428~~  
~~PH 97055453~~

DEC. 99



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## THE ALBERT PARK SAGA GOES ON

Historically a few more incidents or interest in the quality of the Albert Park over the last 30 years would have been welcome.

The sad part is that it has taken a motor racing track to create enough interest, plus an offer of 93 million dollars or more to upgrade the park, for some people to become vocal for whatever reason.

The basic rationale and facts are:

1. That a small quantity of trees existed in Albert Park, two thirds of which would have not been enough to keep a blow-fly alive for more than a few days and only a few hours in winter, with little or no oxygen produced at all.
2. The Park with too few trees, central sludge pond most of the time and grass cow paddock with an assembly of dilapidated pig pens, for all my life anyway, is a 10th rate landscape for any metropolis and wouldn't compare with some small country town commons.
3. I am sure John Diedrich would not accept a 10th rate theatrical performance in a stage production. As a landscape designer neither will I accept a 10th rate landscape or entertain the idea.
4. For 30 years or more, locals, the Council and Albert Park management committee have raised and spent peanuts on the park, with the government of the day.
5. The park requires at least 200,000 plants to provide some reasonable lungs for Melbourne and the neighbourhood.
6. Some Third World countries or Melbourne winos would not accept some of the dilapidated buildings there now, even to live in, that are promoted by some as buildings with historic character.
7. In South Melbourne they have a reputation for being nonchalant or forgetful. The RSL trees were removed without any outcry, with the replacement of another "Captain Cook" park. Reduced oxygen the criteria. Elms have been planted along Canterbury Road and the whisper is that all other trees will be removed when they grow a little more. So it can look like good old England, a tradition the boofheads seem intent on continuing to the detriment of the Australian character and the health of the environment, my children and all of us. Surely 157 years of errors is enough?
8. Albert Park is often described by the "Captain Cook, let's change Australia supporters" as a lovely English or European common. Something I can do without.
9. I can remember that 30 years ago, if it had not been for our ethnic friends, the beauty of the residential architecture of Albert Park, South Melbourne etc. would have been lost.
10. There will be no more additional traffic in the area than when St.Kilda and South Melbourne Football Clubs used to play home games. People still went for a stroll with the dogs and the kids. In fact, on Grand Prix days 20 or 30 cars would be in the park for these few days. Probably 35,000 less than went through it daily before works proceeded. Less pressure on the trees, less carbon dioxide to break down on race day, but more methane gas. So 200,000 plants are the answer? Getting rid of all petrol driven vehicles all year from Albert Park would be a more worthy campaign by protesters.
11. Probably some of the current protesters have already sought compensation for damage to their South Melbourne houses from trees in the street. A common complaint in South Melbourne, but it is trees that help them breathe, although deciduous trees only perform this function 6 months of the year. So a 95% foundation of evergreen trees and shrubs is not a consideration but a necessity for replenishment of oxygen and pollution filtration all the year.
12. Albert Park should become a park for all, not for selected privileged use. A car race for a few days of the year is not privileged, though expensive, and the park is still available to all, with a possible "ear muff" industry to blossom for that time. I will buy one.
13. I believe 6 times more people will use the park than before if properly presented, even with a car race track included.
14. As I work with long term unemployed, building parks, it is necessary to provide change with environmental "long term targets" to create jobs.
15. Previous innovations in the park had to be provided by basically a working bee and a "beg" for a few thousand dollars to build a worthy adventure playground. Now we have an offer of 93 million dollars or so to do up the whole park at the cost of the Grand Prix event. The equation that is concluded by protesters is rather hard to follow, especially as I know that "Time takes care of everything, even money if given enough time".  
As virtually nothing creative has been spent on the park in the last 30 years, it seems odd that we should bicker too much when 90 odd million is offered and a bite of the tongue for a few years is all that is required.
16. Given time, 10 to 15 years, the "petrol event" Grand Prix will probably be gone and we will race solar vehicles around the park and commuter cycles. The track will also become the world's grandest and largest pedestrian promenade, landscaped in a fashion unseen or even dreamed of before. (Let me do it.)  
It will be set in a multipurpose park without any vehicles of a toxic nature and placed in amongst oxygen-producing and toxin-filtering trees and shrubs, with a greater adventure playground than a Captain Cook cow paddock could offer.

### Conclusion:

Every environmental achievement or successful campaign has always come at a cost. Revitalisation of Albert Park is no different. I do not see a Grand Prix as a big sacrifice, not with 93 million dollars or more input, especially as it will be gone in its current noisy, petrol-driven form in probably 10 to 15 years time.

This is the challenge, to ensure the surroundings of the track are provided, ready for the final changeover in 10 to 15 years' time.

I am not a petrol-head, but they have rights and recreational needs also. The fact is it will be the petrol-heads, I believe, who will revolutionise transport for the ordinary, to a more silent, environmentally friendly stage but with a lot of speed. And why not !!

Brian Carter  
Newtown, Victoria

Z61

Awareness of the Australian flora gathered momentum sufficiently during the fifties to lead to the formation in 1957 in the Horticultural Hall in Melbourne of the Society for Growing Australian Plants. This group aims to conserve plants through cultivation. As a body it has largely been concerned with raising horticultural understanding of our flora, yet individual early members of this and allied groups were more particular in their views, some becoming active in conservation issues such as Western Port Bay, the Mornington Peninsula and the Little Desert campaign in the sixties when major Government policy were made as a result of powerful public advocacy. Keith Hately, the legendary ranger of the Little Desert National Park in the sixties worked hard on the preservation and extension of local roadside vegetation in preference to the showy displays of Western Australian plants along the Western Highway and other places instigated by Alf Gray. Keith Hately's vision was an ecological one, always concerned about the total habitat preservation. How right he was.

Grace Frazers' plan pre-empted the splendid large vision of the Laceworks Collaborative for the whole of Royal Park in the early eighties. This garden although it is not as was ideally imagined by Grace is a most important garden for it's time, it points up as to how difficult it often is for people of vision to express their idea in an undiluted form.

The Patterson Lakes Project (commenced in 1973) was to establish a range of native trees throughout the built areas of the project, yet sit them in a frame of the indigenous vegetation. This was the work of Glen Wilson who stayed with the project long enough to see the first three stages and the Red Gum forest boundary come to fruition. Here was a blend of the horticultural interest in the variety presented with a powerful frame of the indigenous. Here, for the first time in Victoria, every new tree on the site was planned and protected by covenant.

What I believe was the first park specifically designed to present local flora was master planned in December 1973 by myself. This is Yarran Deheran, an 8 hectare park in the Mullum Creek in Nunawading. The original vision the committee of management had for this park was that it be an area to display Australian plants that could be grown in the region. Together we turned this into an idea that was intended to primarily house examples of the Flora of Mitcham according to the census by Audas. A secondary objective was to display Victorian wattles. Today, whilst the park has many positive elements, the ideal is not there.

This chronology of sorts would not be complete without mentioning the evangelic work in South Melbourne of Brian Carter, where he wanted to bring the bush into the city. Brian's approach was not strictly indigenous but it had some of that content as grasses and sedges and locally occurring trees began appearing. Brian was concerned about creating habitat where bush creatures would become city dwellers. Wild it was, radical it was, yet it captured the imagination and in 1976 the Institute of Architects award a citation under the Robin Boyd Environmental Award to Brian for his work. This same year saw Randall Champion and myself equally awarded for a Forestway concept using indigenous plants for the total length of the Mullum and Koonung Creeks. The indigenous movement had begun.

The clearest indication of there being a commitment, a grand swell towards indigenous plants came in 1982 when Latrobe University was the venue for a series of lectures organised by Geo

members of Federal have been im- converted by the communication from Mr. Petersen's public rela- tions quarters.

page, glossy, colored The Queensland size and quality that ce it above \$10 on the counter. Postage 40.

prestige issue." a pub- ns officer told ND by "for embassies, top and Ministers to tell going on up here." ing on up there is blissful euphoria, judg- text which, while sim- plect, hardly poses a intellect.

's people are still ntly British, it proudly Queenslanders lead a and leisurely life. me is a basic desire nslanders.

Queensland homes have a carport. Queensland has holly Christian com- e Queensland poets overseas. Each week ge Queenslander con- to 2.3 kg of meat and 2 kg of fruit and vege-

's people have been an inheritance of sunshine and opportu-

art to get the picture like-Petersen man? ce said 10,000 books ted but he could not ost. Only the head PR do that and he was emergency meeting crisis.

Queenslanders are inconvenienced by the tricity.



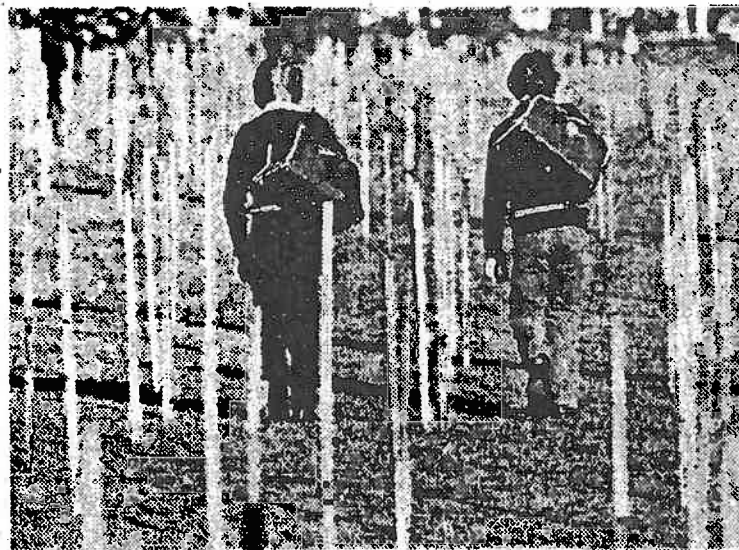
Bjelke-Petersen

# st skip the nalities

Public Service carrying in- too far?

the sheaf of formal cor- ce tabled with the Commission on Public Ad- tion is a letter from the of the Industries As- ommission (Mr. Ratti- le permanent head of ment of Labor and Im- (Dr. Wilenski) last May "Dear Peter".

le upstaged. Dr. Wilen- begins "Dear Alf".



Forward through tomorrow's forest.

# Bush is taking over the South <sup>AUG</sup> <sup>1975</sup> PROSH goes Minus <sub>Age</sub>

One day, Dr. John French hopes, any near-city dweller will be able to pop out of his front door and go for a stroll in a forest, spotting native animals and, perhaps, picking a few nuts or a piece of fruit on the way.

Dr. French, a senior research scientist with the Division of Building Research, CSIRO, sees urban forests filling a practical and aesthetic future need.

He would like to see public open space, freeway and drainage easements, dormitory streets and even quarter-acre housing blocks planted out with trees that can be enjoyed, then harvested against any future timber famine.

Fanciful? A scientist's impractical dream?

South Melbourne Council does not think so. It is creating, with the help of school children, Melbourne's first urban forest.

Between 3000 and 4000 native trees, shrubs and creepers will be planted in the kilometre of grass verge between Canterbury Road and the railway line.

The vegetation will be so thick that, according to the Gardens and Reserves Administrator (Mr. Brian Carter), you will need a machete to walk through it.

The council is also considering a proposal by Dr. French for a forest strip down either side of a residential street. If they approve, half the pavement will be taken up. Intersections would also be planted out.

Dr. French got bitten by the urban forest bug last summer while corresponding with scientists in other parts of the world about the problem of Dutch Elm disease after the disease-carrying beetle was found in Melbourne.

The problem, in his terms, is that foresters tend to replace natural eco-systems with monocultures, communities dominated by a single species, and when that species is attacked, forests are denuded.

Forest planting restores a balance of natural interaction and spreads the risk.

Besides, Dr. French points out, 88 per cent. of Australians live



in towns that are eating up an extra 26,000 acres of arable land each year and it is time our over-paved cities were put to some productivity.

Since he expressed his views, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects has invited a number of experts to comment.

They raise several doubts, the most common being the economic viability of harvesting small urban forests.

Big forest trees, it is also pointed out, are house-crunchers and, as to creating wildlife habitats, urban-dwelling fauna would be prey to dogs, cats and cars.

These, Dr. French concedes, are matters for discussion but he is wryly amused at the accusation by one landscape architect of adopting the "Pommy approach" of planning for rapid population and urban growth.

"Me in favor of development?", asks the 39-year-old English-born scientist in horror. "Why, I am secretary of the Zero Population Growth movement."

Whatever the outcome of the debate, South Melbourne is firmly launched on its native tree planting programme, restoring the balance, as Mr. Carter puts it bringing back to the area native birds, predatory insects and spiders and, they believe, a more natural and symbolic beauty and symbolic beauty.

In the next five years, they will put in 50,000 plants.

"We are moving Frankston up to South Melbourne," said Mr. Carter.

If possible, the Federal Government's \$4000 million petrodollar quest is looking even more unlikely. The Arabs themselves are trying to borrow a few billion from the West.

Algeria wants to borrow up to \$U.S.1000 million this year, according to the U.S. publication, Business Week.

Iraq wants to borrow \$500 million and has already borrowed \$U.S.200 million from Saudi Arabia and \$U.S.1000 million from Japan.

Iran is expected to be seeking \$U.S.100 million early next year. Oman is borrowing \$U.S.50 million.

Even Saudi Arabia is expected to go into hock, being just as keen as our own Government to spend now and pay later.

The City Square had its quietest demo yesterday. Twenty students squatted for breakfast but the only incident was when two policemen bought badges saying "Minus Makes PROSH Plus".

PROSH, Melbourne University's fun-fund-raising, this week is giving all its proceeds to the Minus Children's Appeal.

There will be concerts, eating, a scavenger hunt, a city collection and a trike race to Melbourne starting from Portsea Post Office at 7 a.m. tomorrow.

Sponsors are still needed for the trike race. Those interested should telephone 347 3811, ext. 60.

# Rank way to cut car pool

Bonn is axing its ministerial car pool.

A German news agency release received yesterday says that 70 of the pool's 420 saloons — mainly sleek Mercedes — are to be phased out by the end of next year as an economising example to all sectors.

Only the Chancellor, Cabinet Ministers and State secretaries will have cars entirely at their disposal. Senior civil servants, including Bundeswehr generals at the Ministry of Defence, will have to take pot luck.

The initial saving will be \$13 million a year.

Are you listening, Canberra?

Another first for Sydney. Royal North Shore Hospital has just held a one-day bereavement seminar.

20 16; *blatantly ironic!*

# CITY TREES

*2016*

## Sick planes to be felled as part of sustainable replacement policy

*ABOUT TIME BUT*

MELBOURNE is set to eventually lose most of its traditional plane trees under a city council plan to diversify its green canopy.

Sixteen London plane trees have just been removed from Flinders St above the rail yards after the council said they had been damaged by vehicles and posed a safety risk.

They will be replaced by 20 lemon-scented gums as part of streetscape works that will include a new tram super stop between Russell and Exhibition streets.

Melbourne City Council environment portfolio chairman Arron Wood said the council had taken advantage of the need for the tram stop to bring forward works under its urban forest strategy.

"Even though it's always sad to lose big mature trees like that, those 16 trees will be replaced with 20 so we'll actually get a better outcome in the long term," he said.

About 75 per cent of the inner city's trees are planes, but the urban forest long-term plan aims for one species to have no more than 5 per cent coverage.

Almost half of the city's tree population will be lost over the next 20 years due mainly to extreme heat, damage and ageing, providing the opportunity to diversify the stock.

Cr Wood said the council had added 15 new species over the past four years, with a total of 12,000 trees planted.

"When you've got too much of one species, it leaves it

**JOHN MASANAUSKAS**  
**CITY EDITOR**

susceptible to disease, and also leaves (the city susceptible) to the urban heat island effect," he said. "The more diversity you can get, the more resilient are your trees."

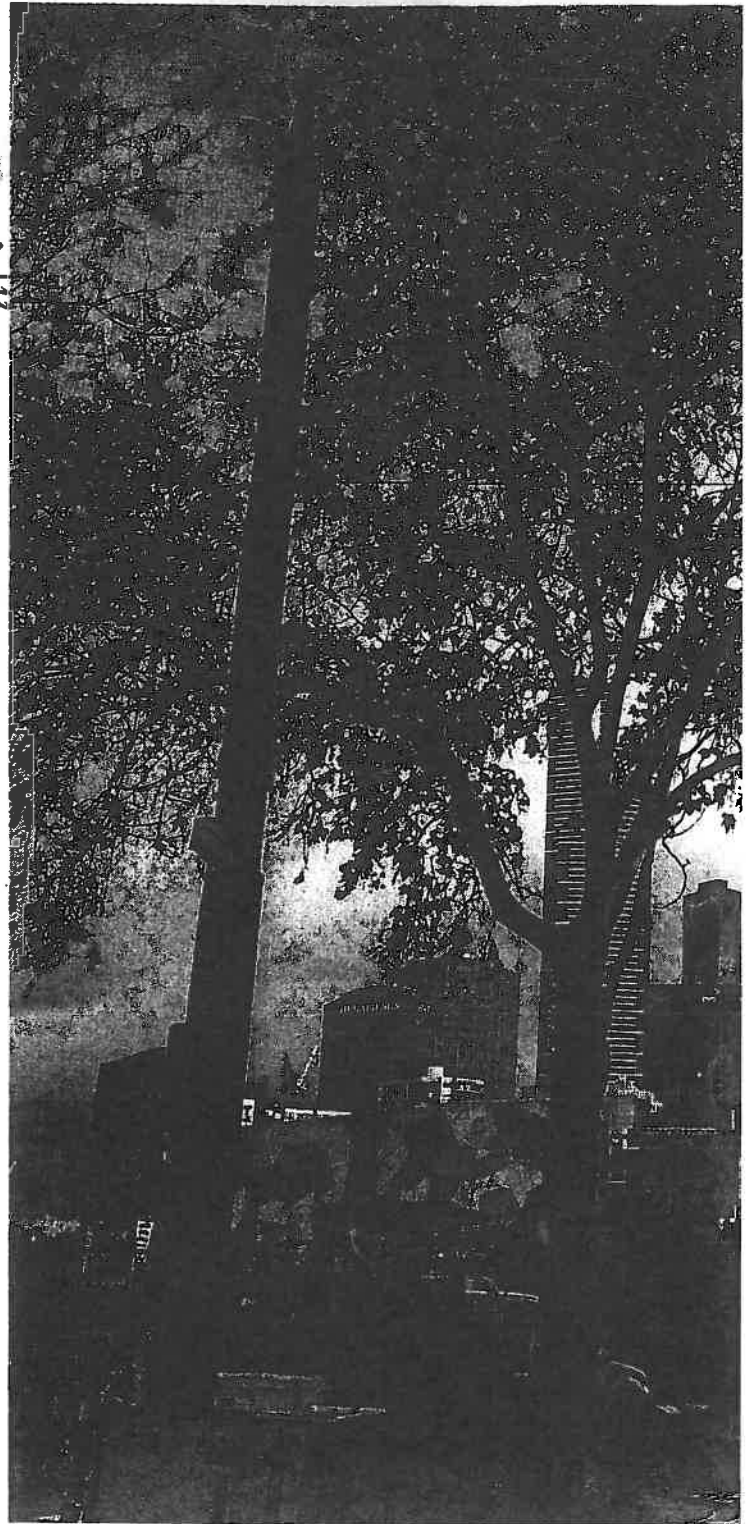
It was revealed last year that the council injects its plane trees with hormones in a bid to make them less irritating for allergy sufferers.

The city's tree canopy would be increased from 22 per cent now to 40 per cent by 2040 under the urban forest strategy, while trees removed from heritage parks and spaces would be replaced with similar species.

Cr Wood said that the strategy had been picked up by other councils around Australia, and later this month the council would launch a special template that municipalities could use to develop their own urban forest plans.

The council owns about 70,000 trees, which are worth an estimated \$650 million.

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## ASPARAGUS TIP GAFFE

POLICE in rural Germany rushed out to track down a reported mob of up to 15 people armed with knives and sticks. Instead, they found a group of asparagus harvesters.

Police in the town of

## Accused killers 'under a spell'

**PADRAIC MURPHY**

A FEMME fatale convinced two men under her spell to murder her former partner, the Supreme Court has heard.

The trial of Torsten Trabert and John Anthony Ryan began yesterday over the murder of Hawthorn gym owner Wayne Amey, an alleged con-

controlled man and had been involved in an intense drug-fuelled sexual relationship with Mr Trabert.

"Mr Trabert was infatuated with her. He left his wife and children," Mr Silbert said.

a farm in Bittern they owned. The dispute was the driving force behind the murder, Mr Silbert said.

Neither Mr Ryan nor Mr Trabert knew Mr Amey well but agreed to get involved in the "contract killing" because they were under the influence

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