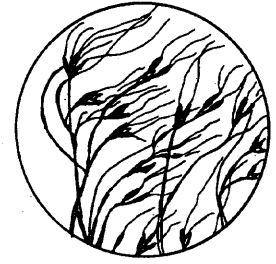




# BUSH NEWS

from the Natural Areas of Kedron Brook & Environs



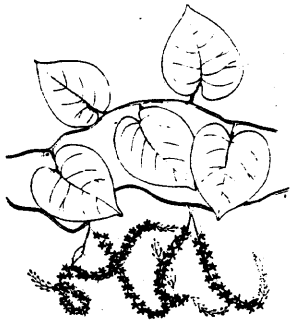
No 14 Spring 1992

GreenBrook Association

## EDITORIAL

Some of the plants that have been introduced to Australia find a total absence of pests and diseases to hinder growth and subsequently have become rampant weeds.

Madeira vine is one such weed. It has taken a foothold in some sections of Grange Forest Park, and seems to be spreading rapidly throughout Brisbane.



This is a particularly prolific weed. In the warmer months it can grow at the rate of a metre a week! Each plant also produces thousands of tubers along each stem - all capable of sprouting. It kills even the tallest trees by smothering them.

Brisbane City Council recently commenced an experiment to determine the best method for controlling this weed. This is an important initiative by council and is to be applauded.

On the other hand, GreenBrook Association has been experimenting with madeira vine control in Grange Forest Park for

the past three years. Consequently it is disappointing that council officers, in designing their experiment, have not sought any of the community knowledge that exists on this topic. It often seems council officers simply have no interest in genuine input from the local community on matters affecting the park.

Nevertheless Council experimentation on weed control is vital work that will have major benefits for Brisbane.

Colleen Crosthwaite

## CAN YOU HELP US

Volunteer workers are always needed and are made welcome at our working bees. Our final three working bees for 1992 are on -

11 October  
8 November  
6 December

Meet at 8.30am at the Blandford St entrance to Grange Forest Park.

Bob Devine

## BANDICOOTS THREATENED BY DOGS AND CATS

Because bandicoots are nocturnal many people in the neighbourhood possibly have not observed them.



They are incredible little animals and I have watched them, under torchlight, rear up on their hind legs fighting - in a similar manner to that of kangaroos.

Though they can defend themselves or their territory, they are no match for a dog or cat.

Again this week I noticed another dead bandicoot in the Grange Forest Park. These nocturnal marsupials are very effectively being exterminated by free-roaming dogs and cats.

It would be a shame to lose a local species and I ask cat and dog owners to please confine their pets to their yards - especially at night.

Greg Smith

## BANDICOOTS

It is known that Brisbane is home to two varieties of bandicoot; the Brindled Bandicoot and the Long-nosed Bandicoot. The species found along Kedron Brook is the Long-nosed bandicoot.

Forest bandicoots are quick-moving little animals with sensitive pointed noses and alert bright eyes. The body is dark brownish-grey but the feet are usually white.



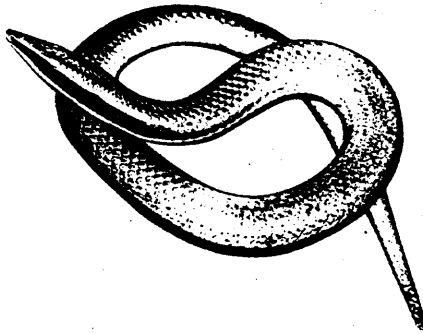
During the day bandicoots sleep in grass nests or tunnels. Often they make quite long, well-concealed tunnels through the grass. Interestingly these tunnels have no entrances and the bandicoot burrows in or out of it wherever it wishes.

At night they feed on small animals found on or under the soil. Insects worms and spiders are important items in their diet. However they also eat seeds and berries.

Bandicoots are an unique Australian marsupial and like many other Australian animals are a zoological curiosity. They are the only marsupial in the world known to have the distinguishing features of both the carnivorous and herbivorous marsupials.

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

A Stafford family recently enjoyed a visit to their backyard of a **Burton's Snake-lizard**.



Burton's snake-lizard is one of the 'legless lizards'. Unfortunately they are often killed in the mistaken belief that they are snakes and therefore dangerous. However, snake-lizards are non-venomous and lack fangs.

Perhaps the most distinctive of the 'legless lizards' this snake-lizard

Sponsored by -

**Ramware  
Educational Computer  
Specialists  
Blandford St, Grange**

can be identified by its long pointed snout. The ear opening (absent in snakes) and eye are quite conspicuous.

In the Brisbane area snake-lizards are fairly common and they have been recorded in nearly all suburbs.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE ENERGY ACTION GROUP**  
10 Jane Street West End (ACF Office)

meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 7.30pm. Aims: To promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. All welcome to attend.

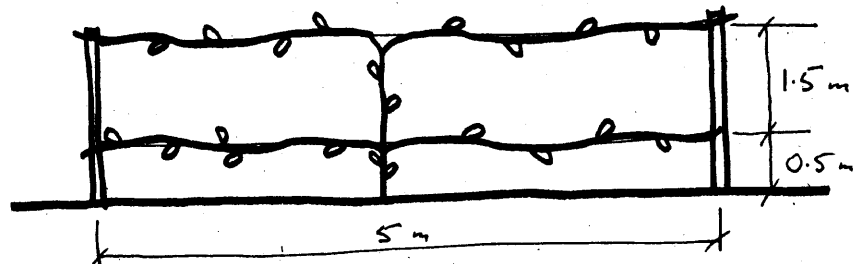
## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### Passionfruit

Another in the series on edible, environmentally-friendly plants.

While it is stretching things somewhat to suggest that passionfruit are pest-free, they are so easy to grow, and so prolific in their cropping, that one can afford to loose fruit to insects.

Plant where it is protected from wind, and provide good drainage. Passionfruit can handle most soil types. Use a grafted plant to prevent problems with wilt, and fertilise with Tropic every 3 months during the growing season.



Available from Perrotts Nursery

Elkhorn St, Enoggera