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SBA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021

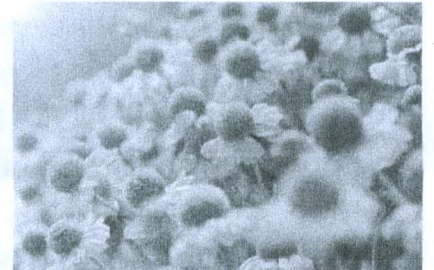
Once more our living with the Covid year has fled. It's time for the sunscreen and mangoes. There;s no more zoomings so let's have a lo-stress summer of BBQ's and mosquitos. We can look forward to the year ahead with confidence and maybe for a time of achievement as well.

That Lovely Gorse

The Shand's bought their Waikiki Crescent property in 1982. Our access to the beach was an extremely narrow track created by neighbour John Nelson. It found its way through the 2 to 3 metre tall dense, spiky, woody shrubbery of ***Gorse Bush***. It is one of Victoria's most invasive and destructive weeds and was introduced as a hedge plant in the 1800s. It grows in impenetrable thickets. With its spiny stems, it is next to impossible to grub it out and there were acres and acres of this horrible plant for us to try and minimise..

In our previous SBA Newsletter, we wrote of the passing of the late Professor Peter Fensham and how he and his son Rod were to construct their Beachcomber Avenue house. Roderick Fensham was also later to become a professor of botany. His recent title was Principal Botanist and Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Geographical Science and Planning in the University of Queensland. His research related to the ecology and conservation of native vegetation.

Back in those early 1980's in his Smiths Beach days, Rod would lead teams of SBA members and friends to attack the noxious plants along our coastline. One warm, sunny day in January, he and a working bee set out with their secateurs, brushes for poisoning with herbicide and gardening tools. They managed to successfully remove some dreaded gorse and blackberries along the coastline to Express Point. At other times, Rod's working bees were at the YCW beach where they once again filled trailers to gratefully take their loads of gorse to the tip.



Despite the unpleasing nature of our gorse, in the spring time they produce crops of large areas of bright yellow flowers. The author was walking along YCW beach with a friend who was visiting from England. He was to look up and comment on the spectacularly beautiful and gorgeous yellow fields along the shoreline. "If only he knew!". Life's like that—it's a mixture the good and the bad..

The Smiths Beachcomber Association Committee take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, joyful and relaxing time for your Christmas season and a healthy and prosperous (2022) new year.

Ian Shand SBA Newsletter Editor

