

Victoria's once vast grassland regions were quickly displaced by cropping and grazing on the fertile volcanic soils on which they grew. While they contained many different grass species, they also featured numerous orchids, lilies, daisies and other small herbs that turned a grassy patch into a riot of colour in the right time of year. Malmesbury District Landcare has invited local grassland ecologist Paul Foreman to lead a field day focussing on these vanishing landscapes. The mostly treeless grassy plains that were



*Dianella amoena* – nationally endangered species

so attractive to the first squatters such as Ebdon and Mollison are now nationally endangered and only tiny pockets remain in the Malmesbury district. The field day will visit one of the best local remnant sites where Paul will discuss the importance of the grasslands to local Aborigines. He will also examine the importance of the Aborigines to the survival of the grasslands and go on to discuss the impacts of European settlement and methods of conservation and restoration.

The field day is open to all and commences at 1.00pm on Sunday 6 November. Meet at the Coliban River Bridge on the old highway in Malmesbury. Contact John Walter on 5423 9383 for more details.



Blue Devil - *Eryngium ovinum* is a common species on one local site