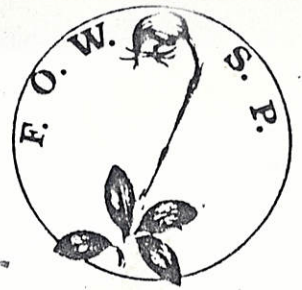


FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

NEWSLETTER

JULY

1989



EDITORIAL

It is very pleasing to see that the Committee of FOWSP continues working with enthusiasm and dedication to improve the quality of our environment in Warrandyte. To make the most of their efforts, we do need to see an active involvement of the membership as a whole. Even if you do not have a lot of spare time we would like to hear of any ideas, projects, or changes to the format of the group. It only involves a phone call, or write us a letter. Our achievements and range of activities are directly proportional to the number of members prepared to be involved.

A lot of work 'behind the scenes' is at present being done to update our propagation system, with changes to the hot houses, shade house, and germination techniques. An updated directory of local plants is also being collated. The development of the multi-purpose building and picnic area near the dam continues in consultation with the Ministry for Environmental Planning and the C.F.& L. We hope to have more news of this one in late September or October.

These and other activities should provide everyone with opportunities to be involved. After all "That's what Friends are For".

Thought for the Month.....

"Don't sit down in the meadow and wait for the cow to back up and be milked--go after the cow ! "

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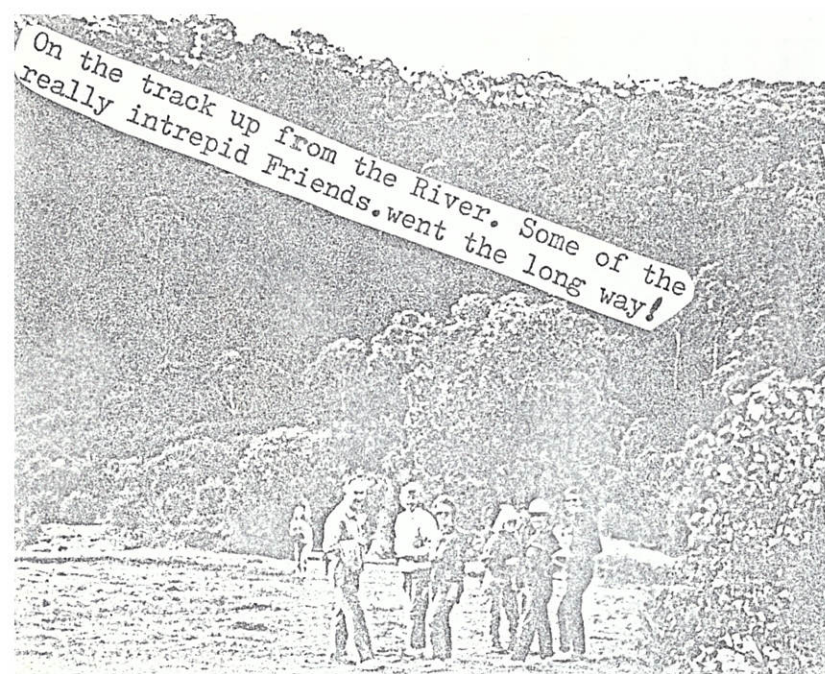
Sunday Propagation Meeting.

The next Sunday Meeting is what LOTS of members have been waiting for. It is the Propagation Sunday Meeting....And what a treat in store! Keith McDougall "Grass Regeneration Project Officer" (Hope we got that correctly) is to give us a talk, from soon after 12, for about an hour. Then we break for a slice of Vals damper etc. Next we plan to spend the afternoon working on a variety of propagation activities..... Pricking out some of our seedling Plants. Sowing some seed, and trying our hand at some cuttings. We hope to have as wide a variety of tasks as possible so those who are unfamiliar with this most exciting area of regeneration can become "experts"????????? It is a year since Val organised a similar Sunday. And look how far we've come. Last year we actually really "mucked" it--we pricked all the plants out into seed raising mix! That was one of the catalysts which set the Thurs. propagators off. We went back to redo it and GO! HOOKED. So beware, the activities are habit forming.

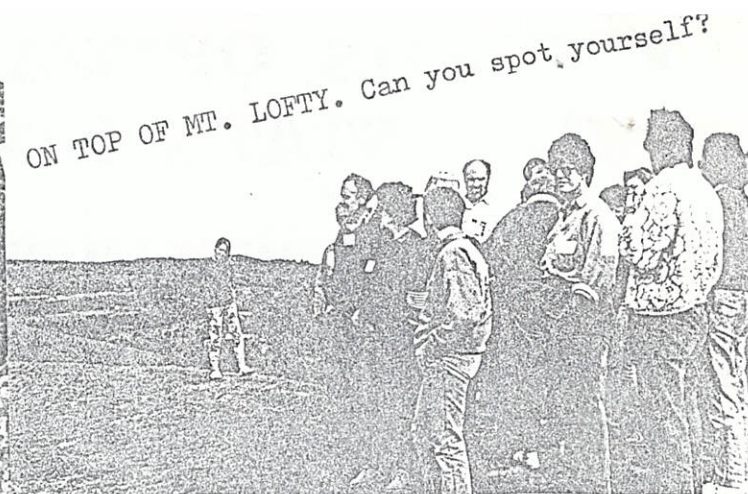
And afterwards we have another treat. Anna Schurmann has organised a "Gourmet Damper Cook-In". We will have the B.B.Q going down in the "Arboretum" and you can join in either a High-Tea Arvo Tea or an Early dinner. We do hope you can try some of our exotic taste treats. B.Y.O. "Extras" but we do have some Snags to thaw (Env. Day Relics) SO....See you all there at 12noon Sunday 30th. July. FOWSPIANMITE activities.....The Second Great Yabby Survey. See how many you can catch and count. All yabbies will be released into the Dam for the Third Survey.....Later this year! Last count....8.

Small Leaf
Clematis

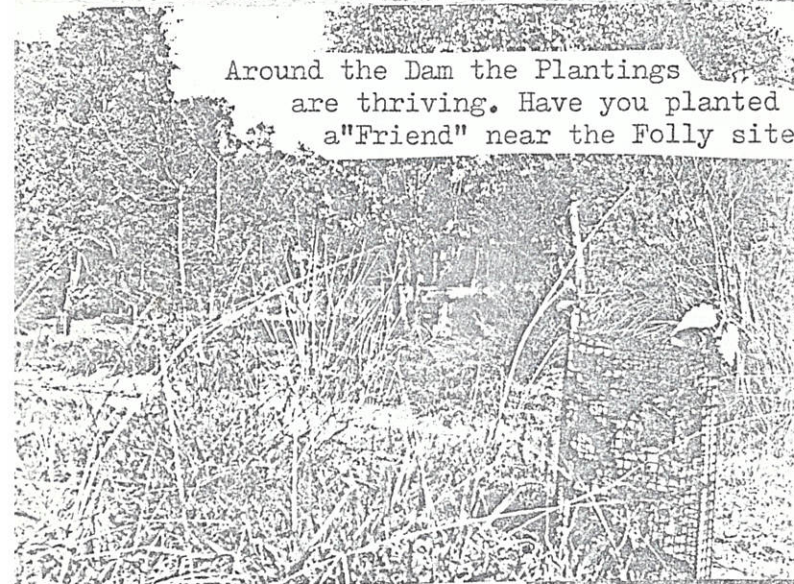




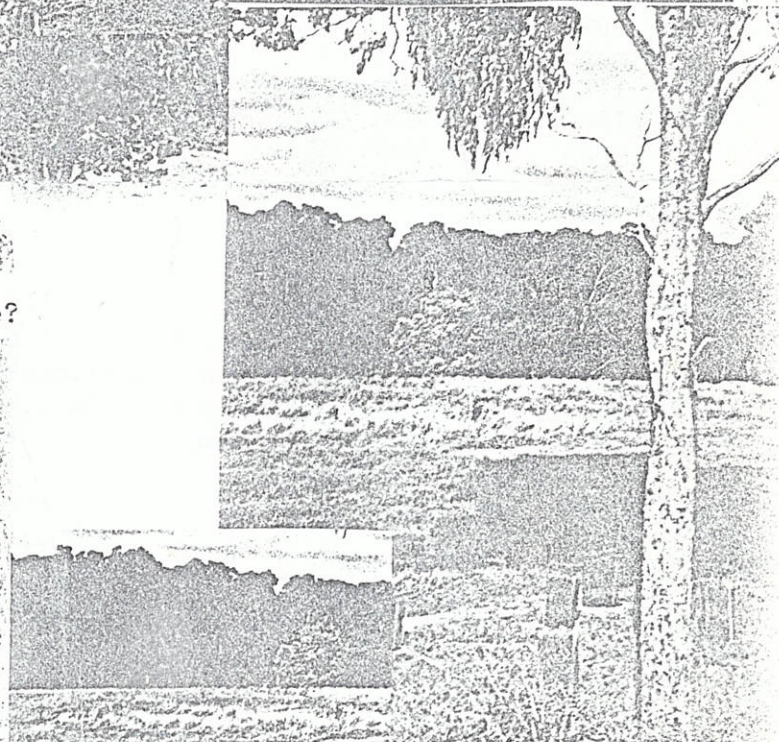
On the track up from the River. Some of the really intrepid Friends went the long way!



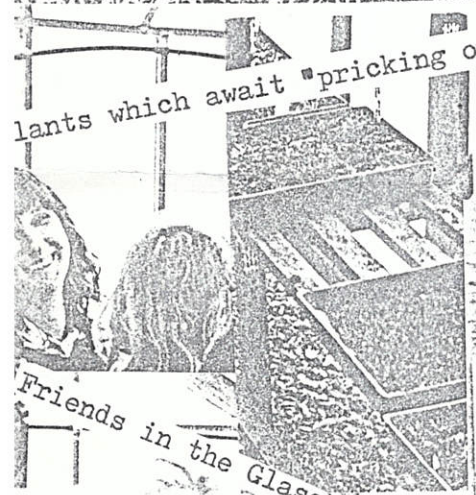
ON TOP OF MT. LOFTY. Can you spot yourself?



Around the Dam the Plantings are thriving. Have you planted a "Friend" near the Folly site?



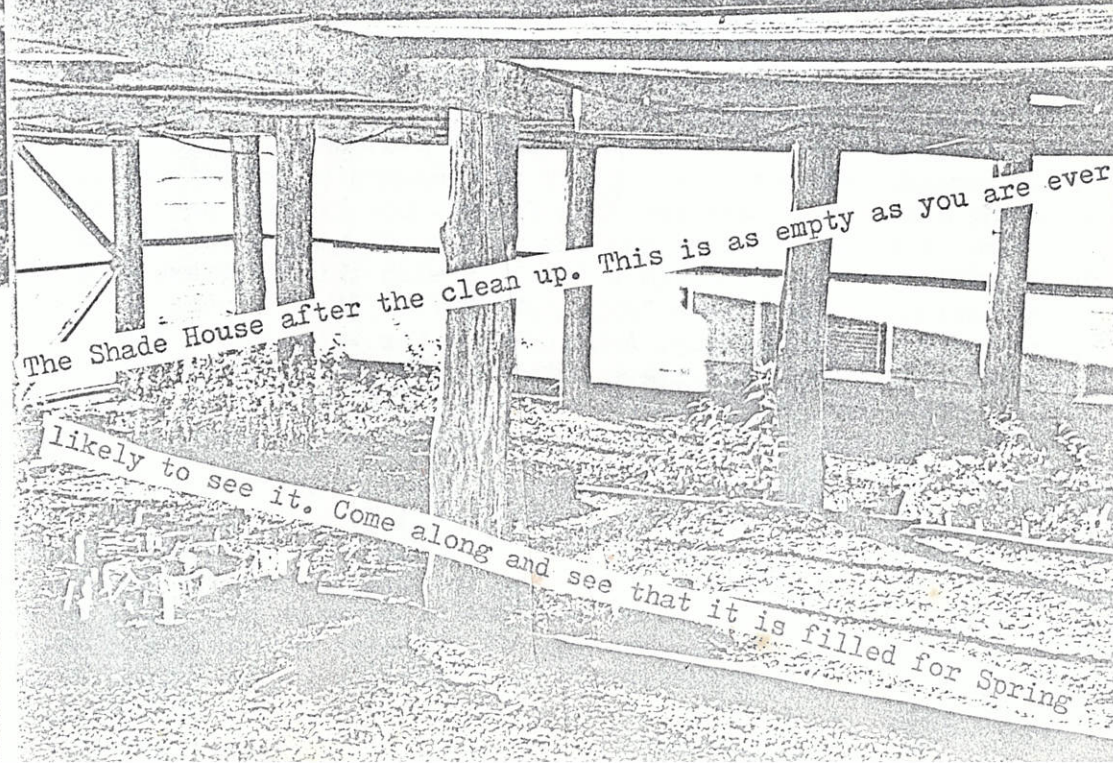
This is the special Revegetation Project area. These 'Before' photos of the orchard area fail to show just how really bleak and weedy it really is! Our plants really require T.L.C. to survive.....



Plants which await "pricking out".



Friends in the Glasshouse.



The Shade House after the clean up. This is as empty as you are ever

likely to see it. Come along and see that it is filled for Spring

KOALA COUNT FOR SURVIVAL

SAT 17 JUNE

YARRA BRIDE



Due to the previous Saturday being postponed because of wet weather and a wet week that followed, my daughter and I agreed that no matter what, we would continue with the count. Luckily

the weather cleared and we set off with Ranger Lyndal.

On the first count we learned from Lyndal why, how where to find these elusive animals. The second count which was along the River took us uphill and down dale. Besides the flora and breathing in the fresh bush air we eventually found signs of a Koala. With the aid of our observation sheets we established that it was probably a young adolescent male. He was perched high amongst the eucalypt branches. The scarcity of Koalas can be attributed to many possibilities. However it will take a number of counts before a pattern emerges. Then we will be better able to care for our Koalas.



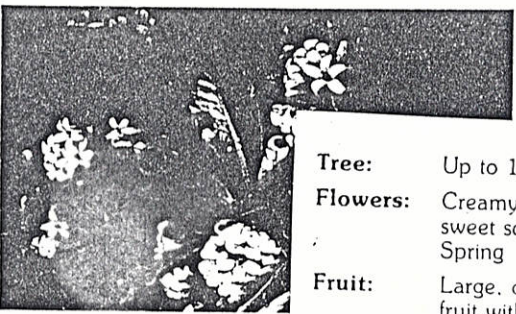
Brenda intends to organise the next Sat. Group Activity on Aug. 12th. BRENDA + JOCELYN If your family is interested in joining in. contact Brenda Hunter 379 737

Pittosporum Pull

On June 25th. a keen band of Friends met at the Timber Reserve and removed "MILLIONS" (to quote the Carter boys!) of these clever colonisers. We also found some Spanish Heath. After an arduous "PULL". we enjoyed billy tea and a really sumptuous Arvo Tea. Tired but having had a very successful day we reflected that the days would begin again to lengthen.

Sweet Pittosporum

Pittosporum undulatum

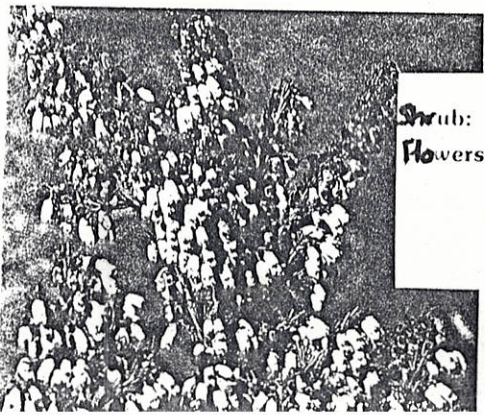


- Tree: Up to 14 m.
- Flowers: Creamy white, sweet scent, Spring
- Fruit: Large, orange fruit with sticky red seeds.



Spanish Heath

Erica lusitanica



- Shrub: 0.5 - 3m
- Flowers: Small, white, may be tinged with pink. Winter.



Some people may be surprised to find that **sweet pittosporum**, a native to East Gippsland, is problem plant in the region. This evergreen tree whose dispersal has been hastened by blackbirds, rapidly invading the forests of the southern and eastern parts of the region. It is particularly be around Sherbrooke Forest.

Blackbirds feeding on the fruit, disperse its sticky seeds. **Sweet pittosporum** is sensitive to fire and has dark green leaves with paler undersides.

Mechanical control

Pull out seedlings and young trees, causing minimal disturbance to the soil. Cut and poison stumps of established trees.



WINTER IN WARRANDYTE

The Winter so far has been wet but the temperatures relatively mild; in fact, perfect growing conditions for fungi. Warrandyte which is a recognized dry area with shallow stony soils, has an array of fungi to match any wet mountain forest. Most numerous are the gilled fungi (Agarics) commonly known as toadstools. These vary in size from tiny (less than 1 cm across the cap) to very large (up to 20 cm) and in colour from a deep red or purple, through all shades of brown and yellow to white.

Then there are those that look like the Agarics from on top, but instead of having gills, they have a spongy appearance underneath the cap. Most are stout with noticeably thickened stems; these are the Boletes.

The coral fungi generally, are more subtle in colour, often a very pale yellow, pink or purple; these are sometimes called fairy castles. On dead or dying wood polypores or bracket fungi are plentiful. Several different species of puff balls can be found on the ground amongst the leaf litter, the most beautiful of them, I think, being the Earth Star (*Geastrum spp.*), a greyish-brown fungus which opens up like the petals of a flower to reveal the puff ball in the middle.

Probably the most fascinating of all fungi, however, is the one which is called the 'Vegetable Caterpillar' (*Cordyceps spp.*). The spores of this fungus are eaten by a caterpillar of the Swift moth family (*Hepialidae*) which feed deep in the soil on the roots of trees (usually wattles). The fungus grows within the body of the caterpillar and gradually consumes all its body tissues, leaving only the shell, and after rain, pushes its fruiting body up through the soil still attached to the body of the caterpillar which remains buried at some depth.

This amazing variety of fungi can be seen in the Warrandyte State Park, the best areas being the Blue-tongue Bend track and the Black Flat nature walk. One point of interest is that while walking on Mount Lofty we discovered one specimen of a rare Stinkhorn (*Anthurus sp.*) fungus. It looked a little like a star-fish with four bright red arms; these were covered in a brown slime which smelt revolting. Hence the name of Stinkhorn. The substance attracts flies which eat it and in this way disperse the spores.

Briefly on to other things. Of the flowering plants, Pink Heath (*Epacris impressa*), mostly the white variety, dominates areas on 4th Hill. The green bell-like flowers of *Correa reflexa* can still be seen around the park, and many of the wattles are now in bud. The leaves of several species of orchids (notably the Greenhoods) can be seen amongst the leaf litter and native grasses which, incidentally, are looking very green at the moment.

The colder temperatures have slowed down insect activity considerably. Butterflies stopped flying many weeks ago but some caterpillars of moths and butterflies can still be found often sheltering in leaves. In some species the body of the caterpillar is covered in dense hairs which not only keep it warm, but offers protection from predators such as hungry birds. Speaking of birds, the Pied Currawongs have come down from the mountains for the Winter. Parrots are plentiful and we have been lucky enough to have a small group of King Parrots visit our balcony for seed.

So don't let the Winter rains put you off. Walking in the bush at any time is a rewarding and exhilarating experience. But just remember to keep your eyes on the ground or you might miss some of our magnificent fungi.

Pat Coupar

Penny Possum's Page

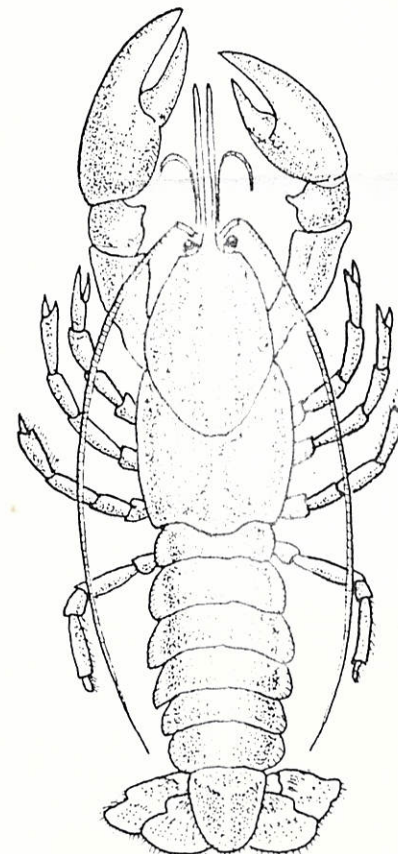
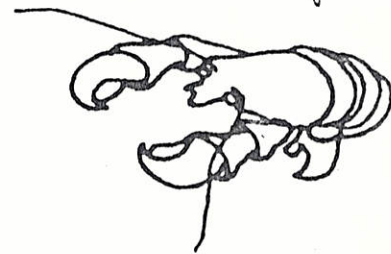
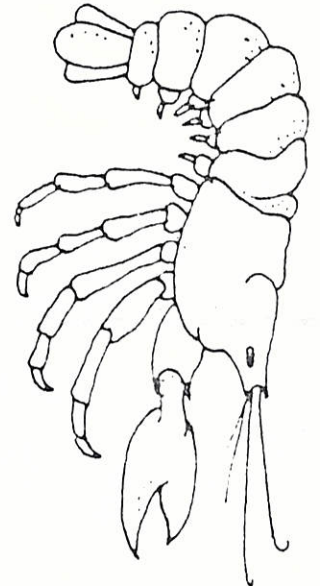
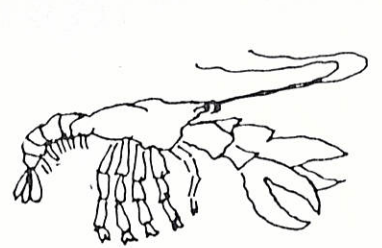
Hello Friends,
How are you?

I have noticed that there seems to be some interest in the Yabbies in the dam near the Park Depot, so I have decided to devote the July Penny Possum Page, to YABBIES!

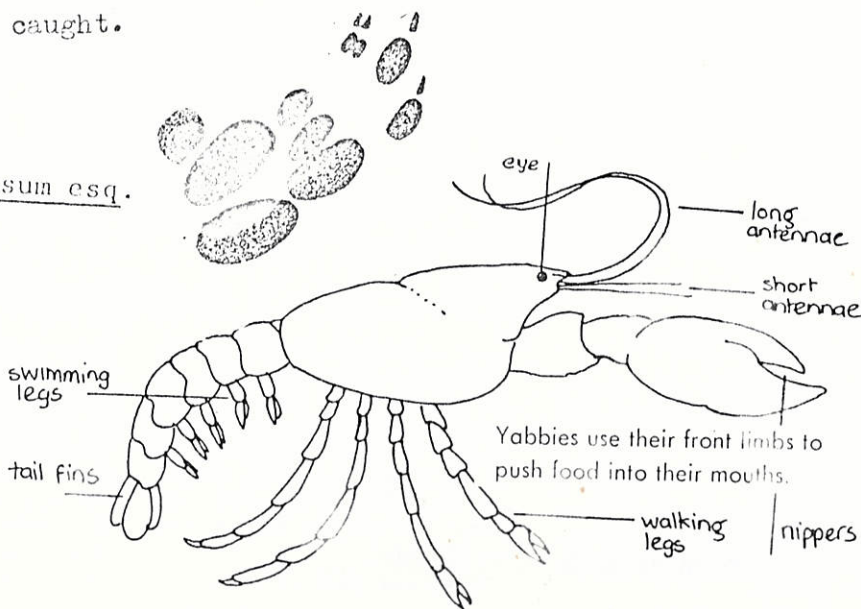
The Yabbie is common throughout Australia, every piece of fresh water that is fairly permanent, seems to hold them. Their colour varies, according to where they live, some are nearly black, others can be dark blue, or a greeny-sludge colour (like the ones in the dam near the Depot) and some can be a reddish colour.

In mid-summer their eggs can be found on the swimmerets of their mothers. These hatch into little Yabbies which still cling on to the swimmerets with their legs. Their shells are covered in egg yolk which they absorb as they grow. As they continue to grow they moult their shells and replace them with bigger ones until they reach a length of 23cm or more. Before each moult they collect lime in their stomachs to be used to make the new shell. They don't eat during the time between the moult and when the new shell has developed. They are very vulnerable for this period so they hide until the new shells harden.

Yabbies fall prey to quite a number of parasites, creatures can be found living in the gills which are concealed under the main bit of the shell. The commonest is a small leech which can be seen looping over the surface of the Yabbies that are caught.



Penny Possum esq.



Did you read about the long handled pruner
Photos to go with her article of last month!

Lyndall Ash -
our 'Friend' Ranger.

Living Green: 101 Green things you can do.

Green values are not just guidelines you use once every few years in deciding how to vote; they are things you can live by every day. This list is for those who want to incorporate the "Green spirit" further into their lives.

1. Recycle newspaper, aluminium, glass and tin.
2. Reuse motor oil.
3. Use cloth nappies.
4. Reuse egg cartons and paper bags.
5. Avoid styrofoam - it can't be recycled.
6. Avoid disposable plates, cups and utensils.
7. Use rags instead of paper towels.
8. Use paper bags not paper towels, to drain grease.
9. Recycle items you don't need.
10. Use the back of discardable paper for scrap paper.
11. Be responsible and creative with leftover food.
12. Use the water from cooking vegetables to make soup.
13. Mend and repair, rather than discard and replace.
14. Invest in well-made, functional clothing.
15. Buy bulk and unpackaged, rather than packaged goods.
16. Purchase goods in re-usable or recyclable containers.
17. Buy foods without additives and preservatives.
18. Use non-toxic pest control.
19. Compost your food scraps.
20. Grow your own food (even small kitchen gardens).
21. Volunteer to start or help with a community garden.
22. Eat foods low on the food chain, not meat.
23. Avoid highly processed foods.
24. Support food co-ops.
25. Discover where the food and goods you buy come from.
26. Buy locally grown produce and other foods.
27. Volunteer to maintain local parks and wilderness.
28. Buy living Christmas trees.
29. Plant trees in your community.
30. Learn about the plants and animals in your region.
31. Learn about the cultural diversity of your area.
32. Explore and learn about your community.
33. Discover your water table and work to protect it.
34. Oppose the use of roadside defoliant in your area.
35. Use non-toxic, biodegradable soaps and detergents.
36. Put in a water conserving showerhead.
37. Learn where your waste and sewage goes.
38. Avoid using hazardous chemicals.
39. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth.
40. Put a water conservation device in your toilet tank.
41. Use public transport.
42. Learn where the energy for your home comes from.
43. Support your local services and conservation programs.
44. Hang your clothes out to dry.
45. Be sure your home is well insulated.
46. Weather-seal your home thoroughly.
47. Heat your home responsibly, with renewable energy.
48. Don't burn green wood.
49. Put a catalytic converter on your wood stove.
50. Turn off lights when not in use.
51. Turn down your hot water heater.
52. Lower your thermostat and wear warmer clothes.
53. Take shorter showers.
54. Buy energy efficient appliances.
55. Drive a fuel efficient car.
56. Conserve petrol by walking, cycling and car-sharing.
57. Use re-chargable batteries.
58. Research socially responsible investments.
59. Support local credit unions.
60. Support local shops and restaurants, not chains.
61. Adopt a local grandparent.
62. Be active in Friends of the Earth.
63. Hold a community event and meet your neighbours.
64. Share child-care.
65. Take your litter home.
66. Sponsor a clothes swap.
67. Become involved with community projects and events.
68. Organise or participate in community sports.
69. Speak out about your values in community groups.
70. Participate in sister city and cultural exchanges.
71. Educate yourself on global issues.
72. Support politically active groups.
73. Spend time visualising global peace.
74. Learn how Federal and State politicians vote.
75. Lobby council meetings.
76. Check out candidates' Green values.
77. Support petitions and write letters.
78. Become involved with your child's school.
79. Utilise the community role of schools.
80. Organise or join a local toy co-op.
81. Reduce the use of toxic substances.
82. Teach ecological wisdom through your actions.
83. Support environmental education.
84. Communicate openly with friends and co-workers.
85. Acknowledge someone who provides quality service.
86. Work to understand people with different views.
87. Learn about others oppression.
88. Work to unlearn racism and sexism.
89. Acknowledge spirituality in yourself and others.
90. Donate blood if your health permits.
91. Explore ways to reduce stress in your life.
92. Practice preventive health care.
93. Exercise regularly and eat nutritious foods.
94. Skill-share.
95. Learn about any medications you use.
96. Explore alternative medicine.
97. Learn first aid and emergency procedures.
98. Know your rights.
99. Get out of the city when you can.
100. Have fun!

102 Become a 'Friend'!

This list has been adapted from the original compiled by THE EUGENE GREENS, Eugene, Oregon USA. + Our thanks to them.

Pollution, insects threaten a quarter of UK trees

Geneva, Sunday

Air pollution and insect attacks threaten to destroy a quarter of Britain's forests and nearly two-thirds of its mature oak trees. Forest damage in Britain is greater than in any other European country except Czechoslovakia, according to a 20-nation survey.

The survey, carried out last

year, shows that 25 per cent of all Britain's trees had moderate to severe leaf loss. Czechoslovakia had more than 27 per cent of trees suffering damage. In the Netherlands and Poland, just more than a fifth of all trees show moderate or severe defoliation.

In Europe generally, the outlook for forest health, especially

in the more vulnerable mountain areas, looks grim. The report, carried out under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, predicts that West Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland will lose thousands of hectares of forest in mountain regions in the next five to ten years.

— Independent

HOT HOUSE GOSSIP...

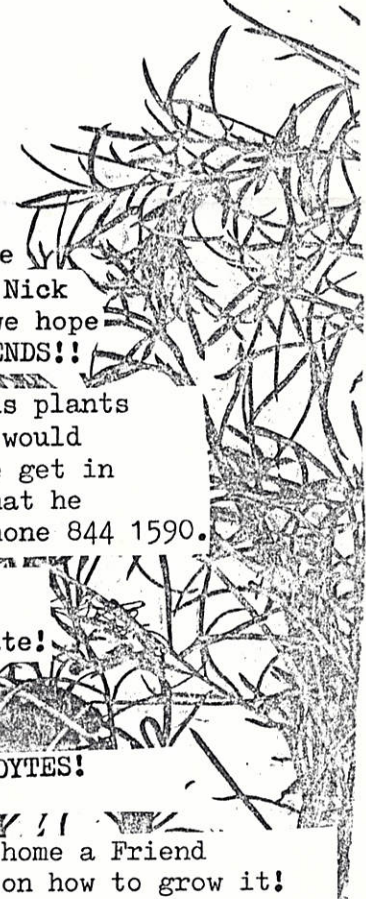
Please Note: Mark Gardiner, Friends Committee Member, "Horticulturalist Extraordinaire" has joined the Park staff. He is now on the Construction/Maintenance Staff. We are sure he will be a "Pearl without price" so to speak! Mark is also studying at Burnley. The Friends congratulate the C.F. and L.....

Val Polley, long time Fowspian, Committee member and Community Activist, our member of the Planning Committee (determining the future of the Park) has at last bowed to pressure and nominated for election to the Municipal Council.... Hopefully to determine Warrantdyte's future as a part (very special!) of Doncaster/Templestowe. We wish Val the VERY best and know that she has lots of Friends. No doubt more to come!



THE SAGA OF "SKIDS".....

Great excitement at our June Meeting when Ranger Nick arrived to seek a rope! What for....? To bind his "prisoner" a wet, muddy, enthusiastic/repentant truant DOG. Obediently Skids (his name was on his collar) had "Come" to Nick and really was trying to please (Paw prints all over Nick's uniform testified how happy Skids was with his new "Friend") Marg produced a rope, Nick tied him to one of the vehicles and darkly muttered at sight of his once pristine uniform. Fowspianmites predicted "DREADFUL" and "DIRE" ends to Skids career as a Friend. Ah but the good news is that Skids fate was in truly forgiving hands and we have it on good authority that Nick actually drove that wicked lad home. Skids promises to be good and we hope his family will come to a Friends Working Bee to meet Skids new FRIENDS!!



Keith Thomson is building up his "Dosier" on the Indigenous plants on the list the experts seem to agree on. Any members who would like to help him with some of the cross-referencing please get in touch with Keith - perhaps at a meeting so he can explain what he requires. Patience seems to be the main requirement... or phone 844 1590.

At the Market..... Jill Harvey is "Gearing up for Spring....." Barry and Jenny have Ferns, including the tiniest local Tree-ferns. They are keen to help us propagate!

Mark Gardiner has a wonderfully hale and interesting collection Mark offers lots of tips (and "how to" de-tips) AND.... GLEN JAMESON is sporting a lovely lot of the latest... INDIGYDYES! Glen has his stall well and truly back in action.

BUT... Don't forget to bring back your empty pots and take home a Friend - a plant to Befriend! We also have seed and advice on how to grow it!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	IAN BURKE	8441060	GAIL ROCHE	722 1926
	MARGARET BURKE		VAL POLLEY	8443086
	MARGARET FISHLEY	844 3476	DOUG SEYMOUR	8442740
	OLIVE WALTERS	846 4729	ANNE BEDFORD	438 3216
	TERRY OAKLEY	876 4768	ELIMA ANGUS	844 2230
	KEITH THOMSON	8441590	MARK GARDNER	844 3799

We like to respond to the ideas of our membership. If you have any suggestions or ideas to contribute feel free to contact us. The Market at Warrantdyte is a good place to contact the Committee personally, or write to P.O. Box 220.

FRIENDS OF THE WARRANTDYTE STATE PARK.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES 8441060
00000-1989-00000

NAME..... ADDRESS.....
..... P/C

Subscription : \$10.00 PHONE NUMBER.....

Every THURSDAY 10am. PROPAGATION . . . Meet at the Depot. Bring lunch. Learn how to grow, plant, regenerate our bush. Seed Collection. Flora/Fauna Surveys. Lots of fun all age groups...and it is a way to "Act Local"

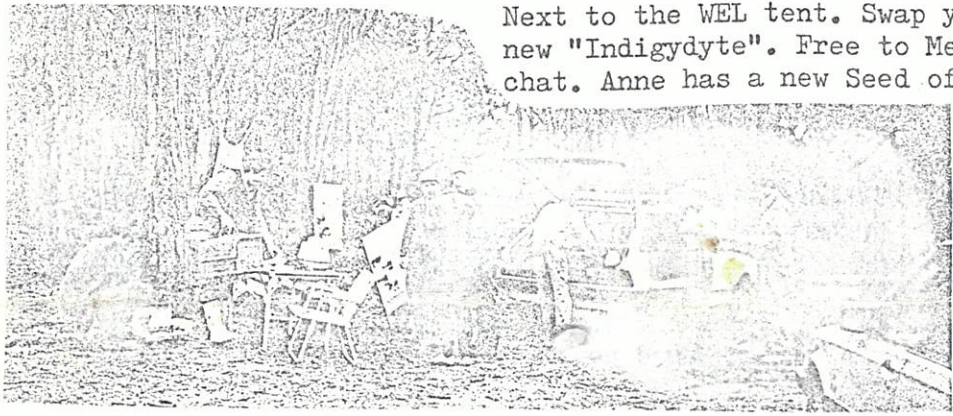
BRADLEY BRIGADE.....Saturday Weeding Group Phone Ellma Angus 844 2230 Next Family Sunday Meeting. JULY 30th. 12noon.

At the Depot...Propagation Work...Organiser VAL POLLEY 844 3086 AUGUST 26th. Visit to Morwell National Park/Alternative Onion Weeding. SEPTEMBER. Wildflower Walk..Learn to identify from the Master..ArthurWilliamson

*****PLANT PROPAGATION SEMINARS*****COMING UP*****SOON*****

MONTHLY MARKET STALL. First Sat. of each Month. See us at Stiggants Res. Next to the WEL tent. Swap your empty pot for a new "Indigydyte". Free to Members. Join us for a chat. Anne has a new Seed offer every Month.

Coming Up



As you drive into the park look along the roadside at the Clematis Microphylla just beginning to flower.

Those families who join our propagation activities on the 30th will all take home a Clematis for their garden.

See you soon. Anna Sch. was to ring you regarding damper etc. The July 30th tip should be great. Thanks for the tipping offer - will take you up on that
Marg

P.O. Box 220.
WARRANDYTE. 3113

Clematis Microphylla

