



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

MAY 1991.

NEWSLETTER

Editorial

It is quite fascinating how situations and ideas from different generations at first appear to have no connection or relevance to one another. Yet on closer examination some interesting comparisons can be found.

I was reminded of this when Arbour Week started at the Park. Many hundreds of children attended from surrounding schools in the district. They had come to each plant a tree. But it was much more than that. They were shown over the Nursery and propagating areas, and we had a chance to show them the effects of the recent bushfire, and the ways in which the damage was being repaired. We were fortunate to have the assistance of many Friends, some of them who had lived in the district for many years and had a wealth of knowledge of the history of Warrandyte. The Ranger staff gave demonstration talks on tree planting. They could show how trees do not just exist in isolation. It would be a pity if children failed to see in the nesting bird and hunting animal an intelligence as well as a dignity that belongs to the line of evolutionary advance from which their own mind emerges.

There are many methods of imparting knowledge, but for learning about the environment this involved approach cannot be equalled.

In another time and place a young boy was growing up on a farm in Bloomington Illinois, and was to become an author, journalist, educator, and lecturer. It was a time of quite severe economic depression (1873) and he was instrumental in educating a huge number of young unemployed people so they could have a lifestyle of self sufficiency. Many of his epigrams have survived along with those of his contemporary Mark Twain. His teaching methods were well ahead of his time, and a lot of his philosophy relevant today. Oh, and by the way his name was Elbert Hubbard.... but more about him another time. In case you did miss some of the quotes ;

"I expect to see the day when the conversational method will be supreme, and teaching will be done practically without books, by object lessons, by thinking things out and doing things."

"The teacher is one who makes two ideas grow where only one grew before."

"If you can make people kind, not merely respectable the problem can be solved."

ELBERT HUBBARD (1856-1915)

*Cassinia
longifolia*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW

- * What is the difference between a mushroom and a toadstool?
- * Where do butterflies go in Autumn and Winter?
- * How many species of frogs are found in Warrandyte?
Do you know their calls?
- * Is a stinkhorn a rare breed of cattle?
- * What is a honeypot?
- * Why are ants often seen on wattles?
- * Where does the rare Eltham Copper butterfly lay her eggs?
- * What has 3 different varieties--crustose, filamentose & foliose?
- * Is an earth star something from outer space?
- * How are indigenous seeds dispersed?
- * What do sundews eat?
- * Which came first the psyllid or the lerp?

SECRETS OF AUTUMN

SECRETS OF AUTUMN

Revealed by Mike and Pat Coupar

A slide night

Skip Moyle Hut Fri 24th May 7.30pm

THEN

SUNDAY FAMILY MEETING

....TO FOLLOW ON SUNDAY

WALK, TALK AND GAWK

at BLACK FLAT.

1.00pm.

Pat and Mike will guide us all.

INDONESIAN BANQUET (Satay, Gado Gado etc.) - after the May meeting Sunday 26 May, partake of En-En Clarke's wonderful Asian cooking, back at the Skip Moyle Hut at Black Flat. Cost is a mere \$4 and bookings will be taken at the slide night on Friday 24 May or ring Gay Harris on 344 4438 (w). Please bring a plate to share, for supper, after the Coupar's slides on Friday.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - HELP! - we have an outline of the activities for monthly meetings for the rest of '91 but need someone to co-ordinate the social get-together each month. This is usually billy tea and sometimes a barbeque but because we tend to wind-down and wind-up the day in different spots, supplies need to be on hand (the rangers are very helpful here) and cups taken home and washed ready for the Thursday nursery. Check-lists are available and we need to draw-up a roster of interested members who'll take responsibility for just one day a year (or swap with another person on the list if you can't do it). Any one of the committee members would love to hear from you!

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

IS THIS RUDDY ERODED GASH, THIS GAPING GUTTER, THE CREEK OF MY CHILDHOOD?

EROSION, POLLUTION, WEEDS

Be kind to your local creek.

CREEKS, THE FORGOTTEN POOR FELLOW OF MY COUNTRY!

STARTS

CREEK WEEK

Creeks are very special habitats. They are biological generators & protective nurseries for many plants & animals (including ourselves). At the moment they function as suburban gutters. It is time to reverse the degradation. Let us reverse the damage & spend time on WED on your local creek. Learn & Heal. Environmental survival starts with you.

The Shires of Doncaster-Templestowe, Eltham & Heidelberg, Yarra Valley Metro Park & Wandandyte State Park will focus their attention on Creeks on WED. Come to one of the locations, the nearest to your home & get some Creek Experience. PTO

SUNDAY JUNE 2 1991

CREEK WEEK/WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - JUNE 2

Friends activities will centre on Stoney Creek (Melway Ref: 23 E6) at 10 am. Mark Gardner, who leads Gad's Gang at Stoney Creek as well as his normal Ranger duties, will take us for a **WALK TALK AND GAWK** of one of our local creeks. Mark will lead us from the new Estate development at "The Chase" along Stoney Creek, discussing features of the Creek including vegetation types, habitat, wildlife and problems affecting the continuity of this critical corridor including drainage, grazing, dumping and weeds. We will proceed to the site of Gad's regeneration project and he will explain techniques adopted and goals then finish off at the creek mouth where you can participate in some plantings for the planet (and Stoney Creek!) Those who wish will be able to return on the 9 June to help the Gang to continue their transformation. Visit this creek twice during **CREEK WEEK**. Become a regular! - enquiries Mark Gardner 844 3799 or Park Office.

OR....

Go along to the Tree Planting at the Orchard. Fay Rice is bringing her Guides to continue the revegetation of the Wagner's Orchard site near the Depot. If you would like to help you will be most welcome. Enquiries Margaret Humphreys 844 2659 or David Van Bockel.

FOR EVERYTHING THERE'S A SEASON, TURN, TURN, TURN



The schools' plantings over Arbour Week have really transformed the orchard - so recently a charred bushfire plain. Many small hands with friendly helpers as a result of our FOWSP ring around have almost emptied the hardening off area and greatly depleted the shade house stock. Mark Gardner's idea of coups was adopted and later Warrandyte Primary, the Warrandyte South Primary and many other schools wishing to adopt a plot will come back to add grasses, wildflowers and more understory to the initial Autumn eucalypts, acacias and larger understorey. Rangers, staff and friends gave much time for a really memorable experience for all, and many children were also able to have some hands-on fun in the nursery. Each coup will be a 'mini-environment' and over the Summer all long weeds, grasses will be kept shorn. As the coups become self-sufficient and regrowth is established, new coups will be set up. These are enclosed in portable, giant rabbit guards, made up of chicken wire and star stakes. Regulars to the nursery watched with great pleasure as we reflected on the love which went in with each of the little plants and the sense of community as our relationship with the local future generation of both humans and environment are cemented in such a way. Those FOWSPIANS who helped all the fire affected stock can be pleased to know that these GREAT SURVIVORS are all thriving and now in the ground. Many, many thanks to all concerned - now we need to set to work replenishing stocks over Winter for the Spring planting. All members welcome every Thursday 10 am - bring lunch.

FRIENDS OF

COUNCILLOR

LOUISE JOY

CONCERT



A musical soiree, not to be missed,
at the Mechanic's Institute followed by a
party at the new Community Centre.

You've planted the trees, come and partake of the fruits!
FOWSP have booked 2 tables for this promising evening -
pay on the night but let Butterfly know on 844 1448
so we have chairs for everyone!

29 JUNE 1991 8PM

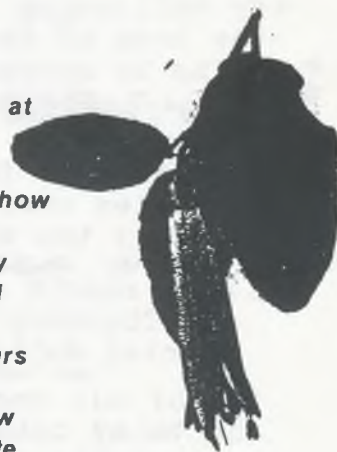
CLASSICAL AND COMIC GEMS FROM WARRANDYTE
\$10 TICKET CABARET STYLE BYO DRINK & NIBBLES
WMI HALL,FOLLOWED BY A PARTY IN THE NEW
COMMUNITY CENTRE...AND THERE WILL BE A PARTY
ON ELECTION NIGHT AUGUST 3 RD. IN THE NEW
WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Correa glabra



SPECIAL JUNE TREAT, NOTE THIS FOR YOUR
CALENDAR!

June 23 from 10am to about 4pm - a magical
exploration tour of the Environmental Living Zone at
Bend of Isles. (Melway ref: 24, K1). FOWSP
members all become the guests of Bend of Isles
Conservation Association, several of whom will show
us through their homes. MIKE WOIWOOD & MARIE
KRAUS have organised our day. Meet at 32 Henley
Road/1 Katani Blvde. where we leave the cars and
our picnic packs. (You may wish to carry a
drink/snack as we will be walking for about 2 hours
before lunch). Picnic lunch (BYO) at the Krauses
where we can swap koala yarns looking at the view
of our own Mt. Lofty. Any who wish to join us late
can meet us there - 32 Henley Road. Then we are off
via the Co-op. to Mike Woiwoods for afternoon tea.
We will go off home with firm friendships sealed at
about 4 p.m. Wear your good walking shoes.
Enquiries Marg. Burke or Marie Kraus.



HOT HOUSE GOSSIP

Cassinia arcuata

A big welcome to our newest member, David Ellis who is doing a wonderful job in what was once the 'arboretum', replacing dead trees and charred rabbit guards.

For those interested and needing plants yet feeling they are not active enough members to take them, large assorted boxes of trees are available. We suggest that a £20 donation would be appropriate. This money will go towards publication costs of our book. Non-members will also be able to have excess stock. Of course, all members are still entitled to plant a month from the market staff. We are producing both lists and stock of the plants which are considered fire retardant - apply at the market.

The agreement for the next grant to finish the folly is about to be signed. Whew, all of the original grant has gone and the builders were really scratching heads and wondering just how resourceful they would have to be when Fay Gibson sent us the good news. We will be able to have walls, cupboards and plumb our tank (Judy Thomson's gift). We may (???) even manage an electric light and powerpoint to make boiling the billy so much more efficient. We look forward to inviting Kay and Roger Holloway from the Ministry of Planning and Urban affairs out to have a cuppa with us!

Lilydale Council is donating all the black-net rabbit guards they had at their depot. Gail is arranging the pick up and we will purchase new canes. The GO-GREEN money has arrived and will cover costs of the heavier duty guards and the "coup" materials.

Although for a long time a feature of our hardening off area, the Eucalyptus Nicholii has finally met its end. Seeds were dropping into our pots and the danger of proliferation into the parks was too great, so it had to go! Nicky did a really dead on job of dropping it with a damp eyed group of mourners in attendance.

A Friends of Yarra Valley Metropolitan Parks has been formed, and Marg Burke and the Coupars attended the inaugural meeting chaired by the V.N.P.A Geoff Durham - a special friend of FOWSP. Bruce Plain of Eltham developed the idea with Pat Fricker and Glen Jameson. The Committee has been formed and FOWSP wishes them every success. We hope to offer all the help we can and will exchange ideas, visits. Perhaps some of our members may like to join as membership in common makes for good communication.

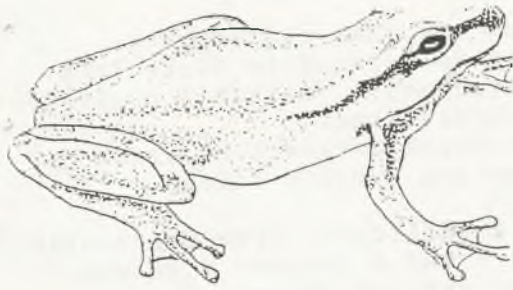
Work is progressing well on the Skip Moyle Hut, thanks to those hard workers at the last meeting. The same day we planted out the area devastated by bulldozing last year at Black Flat. More plants were put to good use in the back of the Community Centre, the following week. Yet more plants are going in around the folly and the dam.

Two koalas are fighting a duel for places in vacant territory which has emerged after the bushfire. One old fellow and a young buck seem to be doing many miles everyday as the available fodder is pretty sparse but much could be won by the most "manly".

As a result of our now depleted stocks, seed collection is a big feature of our Thursday walks from whence will come in the fullness of time some very special delights!

Two of our regulars will be missed in June - Ben Gotlib who is off to savour the balmy clime of Cairns and Bill Roxburgh for a stay in hospital to have the sparkle put back in his eyes!

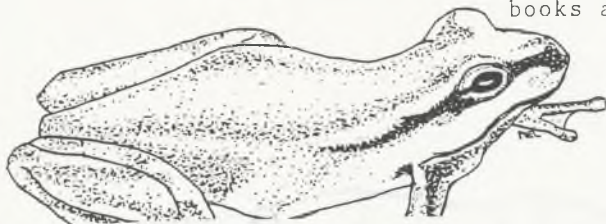
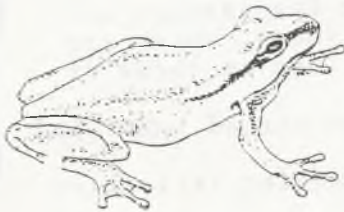
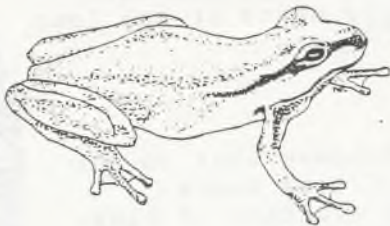
On the subject of books, our library is slowly growing with Australian Orchids, being added recently. Have you borrowed any of our tomes lately? Iris Davies, our Librarian, has re-catalogued them all and will explain her system and just what may be taken away home (for ONE week only).



Pat-y-Pus

Page

by Pat Coupar



How quickly the seasons change; was it only a few short months ago that the earth was parched and cracked, baked by the scorching sun? Now shallow depressions have become squelchy bogs filled with water and contain a myriad of new life. It is from these intermittent, often murky swamps and from the permanent marshes, that the music of the bush emanates in a chorus of croaks, creaks and bonks.

Frogs - those amicable amphibians that are so frequently heard and yet rarely seen. It is frustratingly difficult to locate a calling frog, even if you approach the sound as stealthily as a tiger stalking its prey, you can advance just so close and then silence as the frogs are alerted to your presence. They are experts at detecting the slightest sound or movement. I have had more success in finding frogs by simply turning over logs and stones around the edges of swampy areas, but always being very careful to return the frogs and replace the logs to their position with as little disturbance as possible. It is in fact illegal to collect frogs without first obtaining a special permit from the Fisheries and Wildlife Department.

Frogs play an extremely important role in ecological food-chains. Their diet consists of insects, spiders, leeches and countless invertebrates and they in turn are a food source for fish, crustaceans, birds, reptiles and small mammals. They are a particular favoured meal of Red-bellied Black snakes, Copperhead, Brown and Tiger snakes, all of which are found in the Warrandyte area.

Many frogs breed during the cooler months of the year, hence the urgent mating calls of the males that reverberate in the air during winter. They have a fascinating life cycle which has engrossed children for many years. There is something rather magical about the way a young aquatic tadpole transforms into an air-breathing adult frog. The hind legs sprout first from tiny swellings or buds followed in the same way by the forelegs. The long fish-like tail shrinks and finally disappears altogether and the development of the characteristic head with its large bulging eyes, completes the metamorphosis.

Warrandyte has ten species of frogs, the Brown Toadlet which has been found at Whipstick Gully is locally significant. You might not encounter many of these secretive creatures face to face but it is likely you will hear their throaty croaks at sometime or another over the next few months.

If, like me, you are fascinated by these appealing animals and would like to know more about them, there are several excellent books available in your local library.



Learn more about frogs at a slide night entitled

SECRETS OF AUTUMN

By Mike & Pat Coupar
at

Skip Moyle Hut Fri 24th May 7.30pm

Fascinating

Facts

From

Flora

All I wanted to do this month was point out some differences between three "look-alike" plants found in Warrandyte State Park which belong to the Daisy Family (Asteraceae)... *Cassinia aculeata*, *Cassinia longifolia*, and *Helichrysum dendroideum*. But, I soon found myself involved with Greek derivations which lured me on and on and on.... A fascinating subject indeed.

The principle culprit was *Helichrysum dendroideum* (Tree Everlasting) whose generic name, derived from *helios* = sun & *chrysos* = golden, is beautifully descriptive of the first species described. The specific name, *dendroideum*, is derived from *dendron*, a tree. Ah! I day-dreamed, *Dendrobium* (an orchid epiphytic on trees) dendrology (the study of trees), dendrochronology (the study of annual rings of trees to date past events), dendrogram..... Goodness me! Better stop! I'd landed in the branches of a family tree.

So, returning to the subject, the oideum bit at the end comes from *o(e)ides* meaning like... thus dendroid, like a tree. Incidentally, my reference, *The language of Botany*, rocked me with the announcement that "oi" is not a diphthong. How then, to pronounce *dendroideum* if we are not permitted to say oi as in oil? If you want to be pedantic therefore, you will say *dendroideum*. Well!! ?

The second of the look-alikes is *Cassinia aculeata* (Common Cassinia or Dogwood)

Cassinias were named after an early French botanist who specialized in Asteraceae, Alexandre Henri Gabriel Cassini, and *aculeata* means prickly. Just exactly what is prickly I'm not too sure. The third is *Cassinia longifolia* which simply means it has long leaves. Its common name, Shiny Cassinia.

How to tell them apart?

Cassinia flowers do not look like daisies because they do not open flat, but remain instead in clusters of tiny heads.

The Tree Everlasting on the other hand, has clusters of tiny flowers which open flat into minute everlastings.

The Shiny Cassinia is not as tall as the Tree Everlasting and has brighter, sticky leaves, especially when young, which are white underneath. The leaves can be twice as long as those of Common Cassinia.

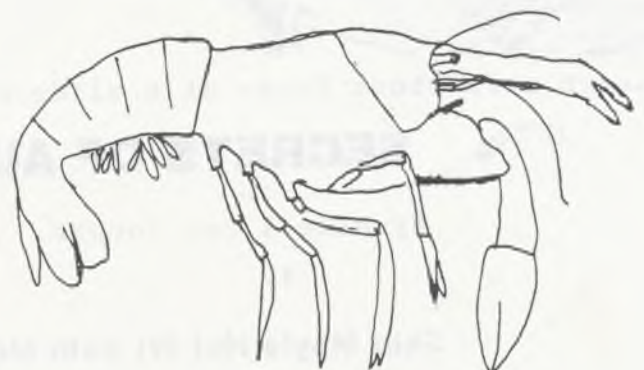
The edges of the leaves of Common Cassinia are curled under and are curry scented.

Dogwoods, by the way, have a reputation for causing irritation to sensitive skins.

Rambling Ross Kanga-Roo

Well FOWSPIANmites, we have a new children's page Editor... Rambling Ross Roo. He tells me he needs your help to make this part of our newsletter Tippy-Top and Fabulous. Send him lots of your pictures, stories and jokes. He made this to whet your appetites. Post anything you wish to P.O. Box 220 or give it to Marg Burke or Ross Coupar.

Can you spot the ten differences?



The Mystery Reporter Kides Again!



Despite car scraping, hidden reading glasses, hospitalisation and ageing processes your intrepid raving mystery reporter is back in action again, this time to interview one of the "goodies" of the Park (11.50 am, 11 April 1991 A.C.)despite incoming phone calls, radio activity etc.

Margaret Humphreys, Clerical Officer Grade 1 is also a secretary extraordinaire, fire fighter, mother of three, wife of Derek (consulting Engineer), swimmer, embroiderer and currently a student of Bavarian-Bauernmalerei folk art.

Margaret arrived at the Park, September 1986 and has seen improvements to the depot, alteration in attitudes of the public to the Park - generally for the better, and quite a bit of staff movement. She enjoys working with the people at the Park and in her work is partially responsible to the Senior Ranger and the Services Manager of the C.F.L. at Spring Street.

Margaret was born in Surrey Hills (Melbourne) and has lived in Ringwood most of her life until she married and finally settled in Warrandyte. Educated at Fintona Girls School Margaret went on to study Diatetics at the Emily McPherson College and successfully completed a Diploma.

She worked at the Jessie McPherson Hospital and then at Box Hill Hospital. Her career was happily interrupted by the arrival of her first daughter, then after a short period of other work her other two children arrived on the scene. Margaret has quite a range of interesting activities and experience to report on .. however, onto the nitty-gritty.

The fire fighting - Monday 25 of February 1991, the Depot area was threatened and partly burnt out. Fortunately, the actual office complex of the park was protected by Margaret with knapsack spray on her back putting out small spot fires around the building, ably assisted by the Operations Area Supervisor, Bob McGrath. Between the two, the area was secured until the C.F.L. crews could return and assist. So don't underrate any of the staff. Margaret and Derek have been through at least four previous fires in the area.

Apart from such extra occupations, Margaret is responsible for telephone enquiries and switching, interpretation bookings (for things like possum prowls), orders, asset stock taking, necessary typing, multifarious clerical duties, photocopying, filing, accounting system and records .. in fact the basics on which the rest of the staff rely and without which the system could not operate efficiently.

Her eye colour is blue, she is five foot five tall and has an aversion to ants on her lunch. Favourite food: scallops with garlic, favourite drink - brandy, lime and soda, likes detective series, films and documentaries. (Interview was interrupted whilst Margaret explains possible walking areas to two members of the public who came to the Office.)

Hobbies and interests - bonsai, swimming, horse riding, reading (including lives of classic musicians). She used to play the piano, does folk painting - a stylised form of painting, native flora and fauna, is considering doing a course in Botany at the University, likes walking with her husband, real bird-watching and is currently studying a language. Well, that is all for the moment, the interview had to be finalised as one of the rangers came in to inform Margaret of his whereabouts during the afternoon.

Family Subscription \$10

Donation to help cover costs.....

Please fill in the membership details and send with a cheque to P.O. Box 220
Warrandyte

Membership entitles you to a Free Indigenous plant at each
Market and to also be able to join in all of our activities

DETAILS OF MEMBERS....

Names of all family members.....

Please include children's
ages and special interests

Address.....

.....p.c.....

Telephone.....

Suggestions you may have.....

HAVE
YOU
PAID
FOR
1991

EVERY THURSDAY...Running of the Nursery/Tree planting/Afternoon Walk.
Bring your lunch Enquiries Olive Pat or Marg.

Margaret Burke.....Co-ordinator...	844 1060	Ian Burke.....Editor.....	844 1060
Doug Seymour.....Secretary.....	844 2740	Judy Thomson..Treasurer...	844 1590
Anne Bedford.....Assistant Sec....	438 3216	Mark Gardner.....Groups Adviser...	844 3799
Gail Roche.....Craft Groups.....	722 1926	Gay Harris.....Social Secretary....	844 1448
Olive Walters.....Propagation Asst..	846-4729		
Alec Manson...Works & Equipment Manager....	844 2557		
Pat Coupar...Propagation & Publications....	844 1650		

The Friends of the Eltham Copper Butterfly's next meeting will be on Sunday 26 May at 10 am at the Diosma Road, west colony. Proposed activities are planting and weeding.

Brachycome

multifida

P.O. Box 220, Warrandyte.



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