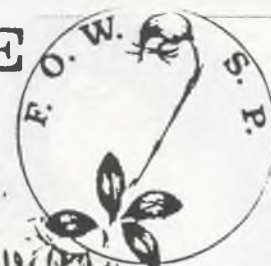


# FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE

## STATE PARK *Inc.* NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1993



There is no doubt that we are living in an increasingly complex society. It has developing with an ever greater reliance on technology. Along with the obvious benefits that we enjoy many unwanted problems and threatening situations have arisen. They are local as well as global and range from nuclear war and population explosion to the pollution of water and soil and waste disposal. Sometimes the immediate benefits of technology result in long term damage to the environment that were not predicted.

During this period of election fever we are hearing very little of conservation, with business men, economists, politicians all extolling the virtues of Australia becoming 'the clever country'. We could assume that would mean supporting the funding of scientific research and development to a level that at least equals that of other developed nations. It is traditional that places such as universities and the CSIRO are funded by the federal government. It is a sad fact that we spend about half (in relation to GNP) that countries such as Germany, Japan, and U.S.A. allot to their scientists.

An interview with the director of CSIRO was recently asked the question concerning her relationship she had developed with politicians- she had the impression that it was as if she was speaking to them in an obscure foreign language. They appeared to have little grasp of science and the value of research. It could well explain the fact that 75% of all funding applications are rejected each year.

Apart from this difficulty we need to realise that politics demand payoffs on their investments before the next election. This is a short time frame for science where important discoveries and achievements usually occur after about 10-20 years. We should not be surprised when a senior federal minister announced, "Productivity and jobs are paramount, -we should leave environmental problems to those who can afford it."

It is quite apparent that we need to have more scientifically trained members in the federal parliament. I am sure that all conservationists will be pleased if Dr. Bob Brown is successful in the coming elections.

At least we know that FOWSPIANS have a good understanding of the areas in which they work. Those who attend our regular meetings come to know the problems that are associated with plant propagation, revegetation, pollution, erosion and many other aspects of ecology. They have an immediate and beneficial effect at a local level. So much more than if their energies were directed to national or global concerns.

" It does not take much strength to do things, but it requires great strength to decide what to do."

E. Hubbard.

" We are what we do, not what we say."

Anon

## NEW: PIN UP CALENDAR SHEET.

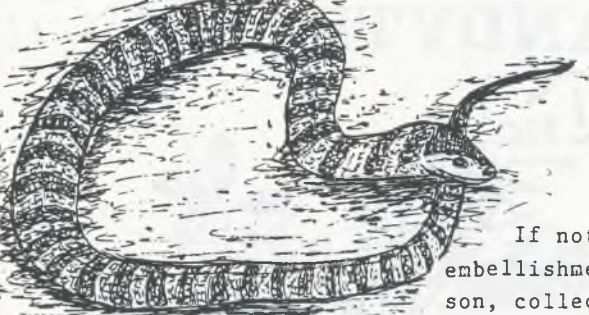
Well here you have a change in format for the Newsletter! This year, in response to folk losing track of what is on and when, we have a lift out CALENDAR. This will come as a separate sheet each month for you to pin up or hang on the fridge door. Hope you find this a better way of keeping track of meetings/activities. Kym Docwra will be doing it and would love feedback from you our members. She will try to fit in all events, contacts etc. Deadline for Kym will be the last week of every month.

### CAN YOU HELP?

*Bursaria spinosa*

Several things F.O.W.S.P./Park require...Pat hopes people may save seedling trays and punnets of which we are very short. Also all POTS should be returned A.S.A.P. Work on Fourth Hill is about to commence and Ian Roche would be very pleased to hear that members and friends/family would show him any old photos of the area. So if you have any - including any up to the early 1960's please contact Ian at the Park Office 844 2659. (Special Whipstick Gully meeting in May-not to be missed.

## SNAKES IN THE GRASS by Pat Coupar



If nothing else it made a good story to tell. No exaggeration or embellishment was necessary. The truth was that Ross, our 14 year old son, collected a metre long snake in his bike wheel while riding along a track beside the Warrandyte Rd. Somehow a brown snake had managed to become entangled in the spokes of the back wheel and was flapping against Ross's ankle. Fortunately the snake appeared far too dizzy to bite. It was a remarkable, even comical, situation.

Not so the second encounter Ross had with a snake, this time in Wyperfeld National Park. As we were walking along a track to the Information centre, a fully grown brown snake suddenly emerged from the grass and lunged aggressively with mouth open. If Ross hadn't leapt out of the way he would almost certainly have been bitten.

Another member of FOWSP, Helga Hagen, was not so lucky. While mowing long grass a tiger snake, flung up by the blades of the mower, bit her on the leg. Her quick action & calm approach resulted in only a brief stay in hospital and a rapid recovery.

Five species of snakes are known to occur in Warrandyte and all are venomous. Brown and tiger snakes are the most commonly encountered followed red-bellied blacks and copperheads. The eastern small-eyed snake is rarely seen.

Unprovoked attacks by snakes are a rare occurrence. Snakes usually only bite in defense if startled or when defending their young. (The near miss Ross had at Wyperfeld may have been the result of his coming between the snake and its hole possibly containing young). Helga's bite was a freak accident.

Here are some pointers to help prevent being bitten by a snake.

- \* wear stout shoes (not thongs or sandals) and socks when walking in the bush.
- \* wear long flappy trousers or slacks not tucked into socks, so that snakes cannot get a grip. (I always knew those 'flares' would come in handy again.)
- \* Avoid walking in long grass.
- \* Never put your hand in a hollow log or down a hole.
- \* If you see a snake - leave it alone.

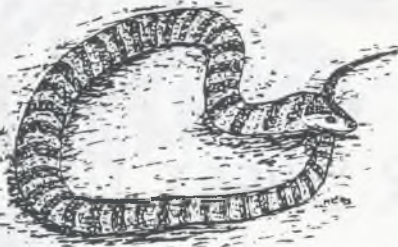
If bitten, the best first aid treatment is the pressure/immobilisation method as follows.

- \* Stay calm, give constant reassurance.
- \* As soon as possible, apply a bandage firmly over the bite extending it above and below the bite site. If you don't have a bandage tear strips of material from a shirt or other article of clothing.
- \* Apply a splint (a piece of wood) to the bandaged limb. It is essential to keep the bitten area as still as possible as movement allows the venom to spread.
- \* Do not suck or wash the bite.
- \* Get assistance.

### NOTE

It is no longer necessary to kill the snake for identification. Venom on clothing, in the wound, in blood or urine can be analysed to detect the species of snake from which it came.

## TIGER SNAKE



# Clean up

Sunday March 7, 1993



# Day

To Register - Telephone

Fay Valcanis  
ParkCare Officer.  
844 2659

## MYSTERY REPORTER

THURSDAY 28th JANUARY 1993

**SUBJECT: Donald Arthur CAMERON-Born 1926**

Following the recent raid on "THE AGE" it can now be revealed that "Don", (aided and abetted by Ian, Andy, Jim, Neal, Alec, Bill, Ben and other incorrigibles) has been seen quietly supervising, working, piping, posting, gate-ing, fencing, digging etc in the newly built "hardening off" area at the depot.

Don claims he picked up all he knows from experience. He attended school at Ciunes, Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo School of Mines and Corowa High School, finishing at Year 9.

Starting work at age 14 as an office boy at CHARLES TIMMS (Blackboard maker) he graduated to collecting mail, sweeping floors, maintaining and cleaning out cheque writing machines and then worked in the factory at South Melbourne. After a year he joined Amalgamated Wireless Australia (AWA) - later called Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC); and worked as a cadet telegraphist. After studying at night school for several years, AWA Marconi School of Wireless, he qualified with the Certificate of Broadcast Operators.

After working in the operating room for Beam Wireless, Don went to New Guinea for 3 years, establishing the Internal Civil Communicationh system after World War 2. He was in charge of one of the five ZONE STATIONS - at SAMARAI. (He can speak Pidgin English).

Don then went to sea as a wireless operator for 9 months hoping to get to Europe. However, he ended up in Sydney and paid his own way to Europe. He stayed for 3 years studying at Hull Technical College and London, and finished travelling the United Kingdom and Europe doing maintenance on Radar systems.

"A cobbler and I set out to tour the Meditteranean on a tandem push bike, reached Southern France and left the bike at a Youth Hostel - too hard". Hitch hiking they reached Tangiers, worked at communication stations and "where the most important thing of my life happened - I met my future wife, Barbara, a Swiss national who had worked in Casablanca as a transiator".

They were married in Australia and have 5 children - one boy and four girls. They settled in Croydon, then moved to Warrandyte in 1962. After working for Arthur Warner, Don and 3 others started an engineering (communications) business which had a difficult life for 20 years (lack of capital) and became a company of 100 people, now called KABEL - METAL after being bought out.

Don retired in 1986 and this is his current employment status.

### VITAL STATISTICS

**BORN** - in Mildura  
**HEIGHT** - :up to the 3rd step on the ladder of his 1972 Landrover"  
**EYES** - "wincey" brown  
**SHOE SIZE** - 8 & 1/2 (on the left foot)  
**PETS** - "chooks"  
**FAVOURITE FOOD** - "good vegies and Italian Style cooking"  
**FAVOURITE DRINK** - red wine - now diminishing - then water  
**FILM** - "Les Enfants Du Paradis"  
**FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL** - the wombat  
**FOOTBALL** - "NO" (If he can't be a hitter, then Don wont be a sitter - in sport M.R.)  
**LIKES GARDENING**  
**KEEPS FIT** - by walking down to the pump. (The old Ronaldson - Tippett motor is now to be used for the fire-fighting water supply.)

**OTHER INTERESTS** - Geology, Astronomy

His/their favourite hobby is "going around the bush of Australia looking at the rocks and stars and the clear skies of Central Australia.

**FAVOURITE COUNTRY** - "the Mallee - the beauty of the Mallee trees is unsurpassed."

**BITZAS** - lost the top of his digil finger when renovating an old boat

- did some instructing in New Guinea -local people and Australians.

**CAME TO FOWSP** - "because of a call from Margaret Burke who rang to ask for help on Arbor Day".

**BEARD COLOUR** - salt and pepper

**ADDENDUM** - Don is now working with Ian, digging up the pipes in the old hardening off area and part raising the roof of the shade house.

## Hot House Gossip

Well here we are once again at the beginning of the year with a new programme ahead and lets hope we achieve many of the goals which we've set. Some changes and development are noticeable at once...Nursery, Newsletter, Parkcare....Park. Join us and see.

Our involvment in the Clean-up Australia day on March 7th will be through all of the local sub-groups. So do get in touch if you wish to help. Parkcare Officer Fay Valcanis will co-ordinate with Lynley of C.O.D.A.T.s Health Dept.

F.O.W.S.P. hardly missed a beat over the holidays..despite Newsletter break...Thursdays were incredibly busy with the pressure of seed collection deadlines, watering system problem weather, training of new regulars and keeping all the school age helpers happily and gainfully employed. So much work was done...even with many of our stalwarts off on hols etc. Thankyou all...what a marvellous group of people Fowspians are!

Another pressure, particularly on Pat and Mike Coupar has been getting our book off to press. Member Fritz Uhl is the actual printer...Super Hope you are all preparing to celebrate the launch...an important part of the WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL. Once launched we plan a big celebration at the Folly. Book "Discover Warrandyte" will retail for \$14.9 by the way and next Newsletter will have a "flyer" all about it.

The Wildflower Study Group, a sort of "post grad.group", has begun on Mondays. This group will deal with small plants, difficult to grow ones. If you have skills which would help here do contact Marg B. We have a dream of one day growing at least a few specimens of every species indigenous to Warrandyte.

....Next Page....

Hot  
House  
Gossip

Nursery changes are very obvious with the new hardening off area already filled with our "offspring". The new large winter Polyhouse is pegged out and will begin as this goes to press...the poor old ones, stuck together with little more than a few nails and in a most disreputable state will become a long narrow greenhouse with sturdy frame and new cladding- (the signs of bushfire damage of 2 years ago no longer obvious!) Drainage lines to Frogland have kept the water levels up so plantings are lush and the denizens of our Nursery swamp sing praises to the workers. The new benches have proved comfortable and the workers have much to say about design of all the improvements.

We had a problem with shortage of our pots over January...Do you have any at home by the way?.....and they are a costly item indeed. Grizzled about it to our good friend Jane Marriot of C.O.D.A.T. staff and she proved a fairy godmother! Waved her wand or whatever and organised the Council to purchase several thousand new ones. Many thanks Jane and Doncaster/Templestowe Council.

Another body with a keen interest in the Nursery...the S.E.C....has been supplying mulch for the production of our optting compost. We are gradually changing over to follow Colin Arnold of Box Hill Nursery as closely as possible. We plan a visit to his Nursery in the next month or so...watch the Calendar for details.

Speaking of the S.E.C....they are supporting the reinstatement, revegetation of roadside verges after the installation of the new A.B.Cable. Watch for working bees in Osborne Hamilton Rds. and Koornong. Enquiries Marg Burke or Cathy Willis.

Roadsides will provide areas where many "seed orchards" will be able to be set up...thus enabling less dependance on collection in the Park. Another new project will be the setting up of seed orchards in properly trained and monitored members gardens. Pat is making up list of species we wish to safeguard in this way and if you would like your garden to become a Park propagation resource, and learn more yourself contact Marg or Pat.

Fascinating Facts From Flora

W...X...Y...Z

Solenogyne dominii (pronounced so-len-ODJ-in-ee)

Greek solen, channel, a pipe; gyne, woman, female; because the female parts are hollow. This inconspicuous little plant is a daisy.

Velleia  
paradoxa

Spyridium parvifolium ... Australian Dusty Miller

Greek spyridion, little basket (spyris, a basket) because of the form of the calyx. The flower heads are surrounded by leafy bracts. parvus, small; folia, leaf;

Tetradthea ciliata .....Black-eyed Susan, Pink Bells

Greek tetra, four; theke, box, seed-box; because the anthers are often four-lobed. ciliata, fringed with fine, soft hairs, referring to the leaf margins and calyx.

Thysanotus patersonii.....Twining Fringe-lily

Greek thysanotos, fringed (from thysanos, a fringe, a tassel) alluding to the fringed three inner perianth segments. patersonii, after Lieut.-Col. William Paterson, an early plant collector. Lt-Gov. of N.S.W. 1800. Fought a duel with John Macarthur.

Velleia paradoxa .....Spur Velleia

After Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Velley 1748-1806, an algologist of Bath, Somerset. Published 'Coloured Figures of Marine Plants' Gilbert & Sullivan fans will know that a paradox is a thing conflicting with preconceived notions of what is possible. In the case of the Velleia it probably has something to do with the fact that it looks like a Goodenia.

Viola betonicifolia.....Mountain Violet

Latin name of various sweet-scented flowers, especially Violets. Greek, ion, violet. (By the way, an early name of the Ivy-leaf Violet was Erpetion reniform, Kidney-leaved New Holland Violet)

The specific name refers to the <sup>leaves</sup> which are likened to those of a Betonica plant, now known as the Stachys or Woolly Lamb's Ear. Related to Wood Betony, Mint and Sage

Wurmbea dioica .....Early Nancy

After F. van Wurmb a Dutch merchant in Batavia (Jakarta) Java, an amateur botanist. di, away; oicos, a house; refers to male and female sex organs in separate individual plants.

Xanthorrhoea minor .....Small Grass Tree

Greek, xanthos, yellow; rheo, to flow; alluding to the resin that flows from the stem. minor, lesser.

PS In case you were wondering, algology is the science of the algae.



Tetradthea  
ciliata

Viola  
betonicifolia



## Living with and Understanding Fire

Soaring summer temperatures, when they finally do arrive, bring with it the threat of bushfires. Bushfires however are a natural part of our bushland and our forests have evolved over a long time with fire. While trees and shrubs are great survivors, there is a need to manage fire to protect people and their property.

Aborigines used burning to promote fresh growth for game and hunting, burning in mosaic patterns. Although European settlement has increased frequency of fires, the establishment of roads, towns and agricultural settlements has dissected available fuel for fires, which previously gave rise to long burning fires.

### Fire for Survival

Forest types respond differently to fire. Eucalypts have evolved with fire and have developed adaptations to survive bushfires as well as support them. The cambium (growth tissue) of eucalypts is shielded by bark. The thicker the bark the greater the insulation offered to the cambium. Older trees with thicker bark and greater cambium protection, are generally not effected by low intensity fires. Where fire intensity is greater and the tree is either young or badly damaged, other survival mechanisms exist.

When foliage is destroyed by fire, some trees can produce shoots from their trunk. These shoots enable the tree to continue to photosynthesis and so produce food to the tree. Once new foliage is established the epicormic shoots are shed. In circumstances where the trunk is completely destroyed, lignotubers (shoots from the upper part of the tree's roots) emerge and sprout into new stems.

Trees lacking these features rely on other mechanisms, such as seeds, to survive. Plants with hard coated seeds such as peas and wattles, are very common in areas of recent bushfires. The heat of the fire is sufficient to crack the seed stored in the soil to initiate germination.

Although fire can (and does) kill animals and birds, it doesn't necessarily result in local extinction. Many animals can escape and take refuge in adjoining unburnt bushland or underground. Animals recolonize burnt areas as the appropriate understorey vegetation and other habitat returns. Kangaroos and wallabies are attracted to the new growth that follows fire, as are some birds.

### Fuel Reduction Burns

The Department of Conservation & Natural Resources conduct fuel reduction burns through out the State park. Such prescribed burns markedly reduce the quantity of fine fuels (those less than 6mm diameter). By reducing fuel load, the intensity and speed of spread of any accidental fire will be reduced.

Fuel reduction burns are carefully planned well in advance and are carried out in accordance with a Regional Fire Management Plan. Considerations of fuel type, arrangement, and moisture content as well as wind, temperature, topography, relative humidity, and neighbouring land uses are all carefully considered before any work is carried out. All neighbours, Country Fire Authorities (CFA) and other relevant individuals are notified prior to burning.

### Safety Around the Home

There are several precautions residents can take to reduce the chance of fire on their property. This by no means is a comprehensive account of the do's and don'ts, but a guide to some preventative measures, the CFA produce extensive literature on this topic.

1. **Around your house.** Prevent fire embers spreading to your house by covering your eaves, roof vents with wire mesh not nylon. Keep gaps in roof sealed and doors & windows fitted with screens. Ensure your woodpile is kept away from your house and have water available to fight small outbreaks. Provide tanker access to your property, including a turning circle.

2. **Your garden.** All plants are flammable, some less so than others. Choose less flammable species near your "living Zone" (All plants burn, but some are more resistant to fires (FOWSP can provide a list of such local species). Establish native grasses to replace exotic varieties. They generally produce lower fuel loads and are summer growing remaining green through the fire danger period (in contrast to exotics). Smooth-barked trees are less easily ignited by burning fuels. When selecting trees avoid those which shed bark in long streamers. Prune lower branches as they grow to allow a vertical firebreak which prevents small fires spreading into tree crowns. Plant trees a distance from the home sufficient to ensure mature branches don't overhang the eaves of the home.

3. **Fire breaks.** Plan areas of land that contain non-flammable or minimal flammable materials. Smaller properties may devise "green breaks" (vegetable gardens, strategically located paths and mown areas) to protect adjacent residences and sheds. Where properties abut the park, neighbours are reminded to clear vegetation on their property only as all plants in the park are protected.

For fire to exist, oxygen, heat and fuel must be present (the fire triangle). Remove one factor and you remove the ability for fire to occur. Our environment has already adapted itself to cope with bushfires, we too must take preventative measures to not only reduce the impact of bushfires but also to save lives. For more information contact Warrandyte State Park on 844 2659 or your local CFA office.

Fay Valcanis  
ParkCare Officer.

Those people who were present at the slide evening at the Scout Chapel and had the privilege of enjoying the marvellous photographic record of Arthur Williamson's years of discovering the secrets of our Park.

The other major meeting over the holiday period was the Spotlight Walk with Ian Roche. After a day in the high 30's the picnic/b.b.q. was very pleasant on the bank of the Folly dam. Still very humid the walk along the riverbank was delightful but not very many of our local fauna deigned to appear. A female koala and several possums said "Good evening", we enjoyed the webs built by many spiders, learned how to identify Eucalypts by torchlight and had an enjoyable walk. But....no Powerful Owl like last time....never mind. Thankyou all who helped

## Summer Treats

## ANY ENERGY SAVING IDEAS?

FOWSP members were represented in December at the official launch of the Local Conservation Strategy Plan for CODAT at historic Schramm's Cottage. A copy of the plan is in our library and council asked that the community keep them 'on track' on the recommendations contained therein. One is the encouragement of the community to 'think globally and act locally' so if you have any suggestions contact their new Conservation Officer Steven Ray, alias Vox Bandicoot on 840 9333 who would be delighted to hear of any recycling, conservation or energy saving ideas you may have.



1. Match up the feet to the body

# Fossicking Ross

PUZZLE PAGE.



Dotterel



Heron



Harrier



Duck



Wading feet



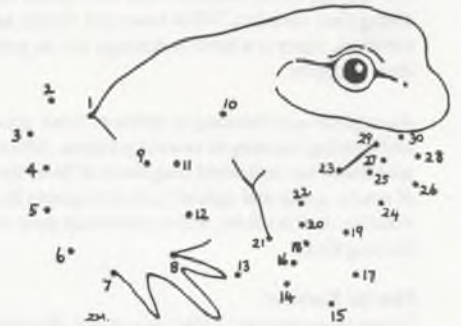
Talons



Webbed

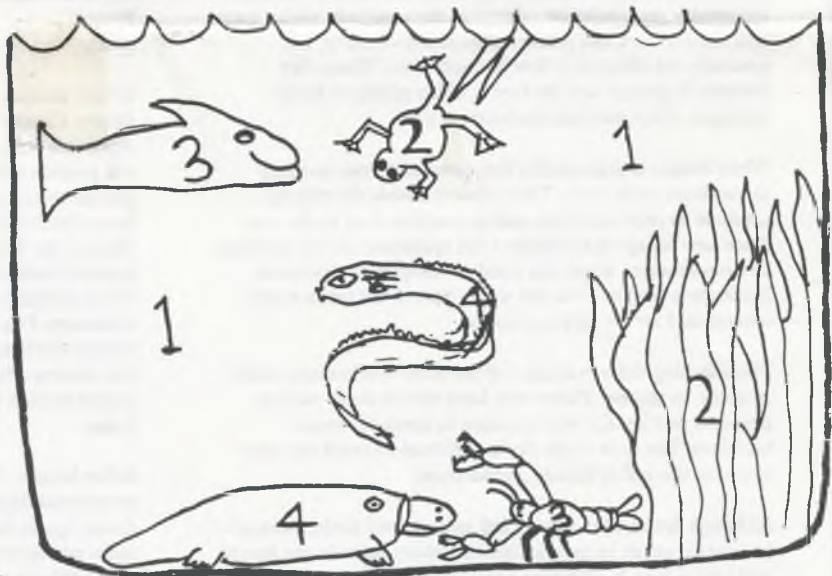


Small thin feet



2. Color me

Percy Pass



P.O. Box 220, Warrandyte, 3113

- 1. BLUE
- 2. GREEN
- 3. ORANGE
- 4. BROWN

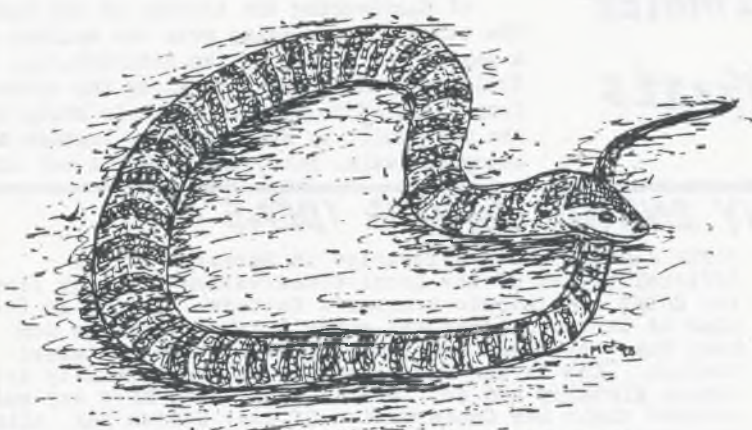
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR....If you would like to share any ideas, comments, opinions, suggestions with the Editor or with the Newsletter readership please send your letters to the above address. (Please make your letters "Access Age" style - 50 words or less.)



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TIGER SNAKE