

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1993

EDITORIAL

There are many people who were born and grew up around the turn of this century and lived a very different life from the one we know today. Severe economic depression in the 1930's was followed by more austerity in World War II with its tragic loss of life and destruction of many cities and towns. After 1945 there was a determined effort in most developed countries to improve the quality of life and forget things like food and clothing rationing. This was the start of an unprecedented era of technology. Quite suddenly we had T.V., satellites, plastics, computers, nuclear energy, xerography, and a host of new cars and other gadgets. Communications were greatly improved by jet air travel and we saw the news of the world instantly on T.V. screens in nearly every home.

It is quite amazing that all these things were developed in the span of a single lifetime. There were problems such as the 'cold war' and increased amounts of time and money were spent on defence. But until 20 years ago little thought was given to the strain on our natural resources, and none to the huge escalation in the world's population. We were quite happy to live with the delusion that science can provide the knowledge to control and manage the entire planet. We perhaps should remember that we do not have the opportunity to consider all these new technologies or have a say in whether or even how they will be used. The reason is quite simple, most scientists work for the military or private industry.

The modern day fortune tellers today never stop providing us with their predictions and how we should be managing the economy. These are called economic rationalists. The part they ignore is our nonrenewable resources. They believe that if there are any problems science will find the answers. They receive great support from the multi-nationals, governments, and many academics. Beside such powerful forces it is little wonder environmentalists have little impact on the general public. There is a natural suspicion of minority groups and a tendency to denigrate their work. The media delight in showing them chained to trees or lying down in the path of bulldozers. It is often suggested these people are paid actors and not 'greenies' at all. We are so conditioned by economic factors that if you listen to people talk sooner or later someone will say..."after all they are only volunteers". As our long term amphibian friend Kermit puts it; "It is not easy being green."

"What people need and what they want may be very different."

"Power knows no evil but the threatened destruction of itself."

Elbert Hubbard.(1898)

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Propagation Workshop

The first two Thursdays after the school holidays....22 & 29th July....Cathy Willis will lead INFORMAL WORKSHOPS to train members in some propagation techniques.

- * The first will concentrate on cuttings - how to make, treatments, etc.
- * The second will cover seed sowing and pricking out both seedlings and cutting grown plants.

Please be at the Nursery at 10am SHARP so we will still have time to get some work done afterwards. This will enable members to approach tasks with confidence...even become "mentors" of newcomers to our workforce.....SEE YOU THERE!

IVY ACTION JUNE 27.

English Ivy

We hope to see you all at this annual and absolutely essential event. Remember that we do have fun and definitely warm up as we uncover all those suffocating indigidytes. A mountain of ivy was carted away last year.....remember? And the feeling of accomplishment over the afternoon tea....marvellous!

Melway 35 E 2.....1.00pm.

PARKCARE NEWS

Workshops. The ParkCare Winter Workshops proved to be very successful with nearly all workshops fully booked. don't be surprised to find people 'triangulating' for frogs, fossicking for fungi or investigating nooks and crannies for mosses, lichen and liverworts.

Thirteen people qualified to use herbicide in their bush regeneration works through the one day workshop. The Volunteer Herbicide Box is now located in the Park Office. Participants wishing to use the equipment explained on the day can do so by contacting either ParkCare or a liaison ranger on 844 2659.

I hope to run these Workshops again next year, or earlier in there is sufficient demand.



ParkCare has been working with the grade 3 students and teachers of Warrandyte Primary School who have chosen to adopt a section of Warrandyte State Park.

Students have been enthusiastically removing Japanese Honeysuckle with David Van Bockel and Joan McMahon (FOWSPian) at Whipstick Gully over the past 6 weeks. Teachers, parents and students meet every Friday morning and along with regenerating the area have also been learning about the natural history of the park through walks and environmental activities. Many thanks to Joan for her time and effort in steering the grade 3's each Friday.

ParkCare has also been working with Red Cross Volunteers and family groups from the Uniting Church on various activities over the month in efforts to restore the degraded section of Pound Bend. There has been some signs of a 'friends' group forming to assist us with the Pound Bend Project. If you are interested, please call Fay on 844 2659.

What is communication?

I am pleased that we receive the F.O.W.S.P. newsletter at Greening Australia Victoria (GAV) along with many other information sheets and newsletters from around the State. This material keeps us informed and up-to-date with what is happening and current thinking. As a result of this networking the fact that some people are concerned about the cost of training and courses being currently offered has come to the fore.

Even though GAV is a non-profit making, non-government organisation, we assume that the issues raised in the "Food for Thought" editorial of the May F.O.W.S.P. newsletter are applicable to us, as well as local and state government departments. We value comment and criticism which are aimed to guide us in our program delivery and invite response from all sectors. I was however disappointed that the comments lumped together all training being offered without looking at what was being provided, for what cost and under what level of subsidy.

GAV has developed a Training Program in response to a need identified by community groups at the "Community Caretakers Workshop" held in May 1992. GAV now provides training at a variety of levels and in a variety of ways (or packages) to meet the needs of different community sectors. The sessions have been delivered all over Melbourne and are partially supported by the Melbourne Parks and Waterways Program. Over the last 3 months, with at least one session being run each week, evaluation from participants has been particularly supportive and positive.

I would also however, like to hear from those people not attending the sessions if it is because of the way our Program is being offered or designed. We cannot evaluate ourselves effectively or use our flexibility to its best advantage without thorough feedback from all the relevant people. In improving the quality of the services that GAV provides I am keen to hear quickly and precisely the concerns of any individuals or groups. A phone call or letter are the most effective ways to communicate your ideas rather than rumour of discontent. I would encourage any one to call me on 654 1800 if you have any suggestions or comments.

Sandra Dickinson
Urban Program Manager
Greening Australia Victoria Inc.

This article is a response to my "Food for Thought" last month. Greening Australia feel that they need to put their view to you. F.O.W.S.P. have written to the Minister asking him to make it possible for active members of groups to be able to attend training sessions etc. free.

We are in no way critical of quality of courses - they sound wonderful. It is simply the cost.

Food for Thought ?



HOT HOUSE GOSSIP

Lovely to report this news. Kim Robinson, she who once said to the Burkes and Olive W. that "You can run a nursery!" now has a nursery of her own to "run". Kim and husband Tony have a beautiful son named Dylan. Dylan was born at ¼ to Midnight on Anzac Day weighing in at 9lb. Kim promises to bring the occupant of her nursery over to visit the nursery she encouraged into being....as soon as it is warm enough. Many newcomers to our nursery will be delighted to meet the almost "legendary" Kim....someone they hear of regularly!..

Our "Bushrangers" have become quite indispensable. (Al's Garden Guys have a new name)

The program of their activities is very varied and includes, planting, reveg, building, nursery activities, learning, learning, learning and we will have them central to the plan for surveying, registration and safeguarding of all our rare and threatened flora. They will be training for skills in fencing techniques so coops will be erected around such plants or around "hot spots" of special vegetation.

The project as above has been made possible with a special grant from the Minister Mark Birrell. We are able to buy tools and fencing materials to go ahead in a proper professional way....instead of tacking together old rabbit guards, or lamenting the horrible losses of plants grazed into near local extinction by this feral disaster. The Thursday walkers will assist and survey the differences rabbit-proof coops will make. Members who would like to be involved in these projects contact Margaret or David Van Bockel.

Thursday afternoon walks are very interesting and well organised these days. When it is really too wet to go out on special walks and projects, David has organised slide/talks to increase knowledge. Last week we had a session on local orchids....these will be the ones we will be seeking to map out, survey, and perhaps one day even propagate. Osborne Rd. plantings were indeed a great success. With a narrow strip of Park around the peninsula it forms, the possible flora which it has...and the fauna it harbours, needs to be investigated. So many residents are interested, enthusiastically supporting surveys of the strip and protection of special species found. A group of resident Fowspians have begun "looking" and registering and the Thursday walkers will do follow-up surveys. We plan a guided walk in Spring with another roadside planting....with S.E.C. and Eltham Shire involvement. "Street for Wildlife" status is sought and we assure you all a wonderful spirit exists in Osborne Road. Any other streets, after A.B.Cable is able to follow suit...all you need is a core group with time and motivation....contact Marg, Marg or Ian.

Wattles are in flower.....time to learn all the local ones. Have you checked "Discover Warrandyte". How about this year being the one when YOU learn all the Wattles indigenous to Warrandyte. Really it is easy. We also have good old "Indigidytes" still in publication to help. See Marg Humphreys at the office, or get a copy at the market stall.

OH...TALKING ABOUT THE MARKET....WE NEED YOU. We do need to have a few more helpers to man the stall. Please phone Marg Burke 844 1060 to volunteer. You will meet such nice people!

We also need volunteer builders at the Nursery, a Co-Librarian (regular), and more people to service businesses which are selling our book "Discover Warrandyte"....just visiting checking stocks and delivering books as required.

friend of Cathy's reports that at the Midnight Oil concert recently, Peter Garrett commenting as he is wont about "green activities" sent a greeting and message of support to all of those Friends working hard to keep wonderful Warrandyte a splendid habitat. Cathy reports that her friend NEARLY shouted that she knows us all well!

Next Newsletter we will have an article from David V.B. to explain the ideas he has for expanding YOUR horizons as Fowspians, working with him as survey teams, quadrat minders and census takers, explorers for the elusive....lots of VERY exciting tasks for those so inclined. He has been inspirational of a Thursday and our directions are up to those members able to accept a challenge. Enquiries David 8442659.

urgently require for use by the Wildflower Study Group, 3" Herb Pots. Lots of them are in YOUR garden shed or corner. If you would like to tidy up and donate them to a wonderful cause.....deliver them to the Nursery, Market, or the closest Committee member.

Speaking of pots....C.O.D.A.T. have been kindly providing pot supplies to us ever since the bushfire when all supplies were MELTED. Jane Marriott organises these from Plastamatic and we are very grateful to the council for these very expensive recurring requirements.

Does anyone have an old cement-mixer or something that does the same job? We have a need for one in the Nursery for mixing media.

Another thing we could use is a garden shed.....!

MELBOURNE WILDFLOWER SHOW 1993

At the RINGWOOD CONVENTION CENTRE, Mines Road Ringwood East 3134

If you are interested in manning a display at the S.G.A.P.s MELBOURNE WILDFLOWER SHOW at the Ringwood Convention Centre...August 14-15th please let us know. We will be having a presence there for the very first time this year.

A MUSICAL SOIREE to support CODAT Counsellor, Vern Denford who will be standing for re-election at the elections on the first Saturday in August will be held on **Saturday July 10 at 8pm in the Mechanics Hall.**

A mere \$10 will get you a ticket - BYO drinks, glasses and nibbles, to a great night out of variety entertainment, Warrandyte style! Ring Gay on 844 1448 after hours or let Margaret know for bookings on our own FOWSP table.



Nocturnal Hunters

Reflections on the Bush

by

Pat Coupar

The watery winter sun slips below the horizon, leaving a pale incandescent glow in the western sky. With slow purposeful bounds, a group of Eastern Grey Kangaroos appear from the shadowy column of trees that mark the edge of the forest. Overhead, snow-white against the darkening sky, a belligerent flock of cockatoos search for roosting sites.

Meanwhile, down by the river, a sturdy wombat trundles from its burrow deep in the soft alluvial soil. And, from a burrow in the river bank, a water rat emerges and pauses briefly, twitching its long sensitive whiskers. Then, slipping into the water with a gentle splash, it disappears into the inky blackness in search of aquatic insects, mussels or perhaps a fish.

From a nearby swamp the chorus of Southern Brown Tree Frogs and Common Froglets provide a pleasant mix of shrills and chirps reminiscent of insects on a warm summer night. As darkness descends, cackling kookaburras render an evening wake-up call for the nocturnal marsupials. A Ringtail Possum peeps cautiously from its globular nest of twigs amongst the dense Burgan foliage.

Deeper in the forest all seems quiet, but something is stirring in the undergrowth. A gentle rustle announces the presence of a Brown Antechinus, more rustling and another emerges - this one is bigger, a male, and August is their breeding season.

The Brown Antechinus is a small carnivorous marsupial mouse belonging to a group known as the 'dasyurids' which also includes the Eastern Quoll and Tasmanian Devil. Although similar in appearance to an introduced mouse, the antechinus is no rodent. It has sharp, dog-like teeth and is a ferocious hunter of insects and spiders. But it is for their remarkable sex life that these animals are best known. The mating season lasts only two weeks and during this time the males frantically compete for females.

Their aggressive encounters with other males and the vigorous mating which can last for up to six hours at a time, causes stress hormones to rise alarmingly. The males hardly eat, hair and teeth fall out and eventually their immune system fails completely. As a consequence they suffer from stomach ulcers, bacterial infections and parasites. By September, after a life span of just eleven months, all the males are dead. Females, being less aggressive, usually survive to breed again next season.

Antechinus were once common in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, but they have been displaced and replaced by the incessant sprawl of urbanisation. Now these little animals are restricted to small pockets of forest with thick undergrowth and plenty of fallen timber for shelter.

Although not common, the Brown Antechinus can still be found in the local bushland around Warrandyte, but for how much longer. Introduced predators such as foxes, dogs and particularly domestic cats are a major threat to its continued existence here.

On these cold winter nights, when most of us are safely tucked up in bed, the antechinus are literally fighting for their survival. In a desperate urge to pass on their genes, the males pay the ultimate price. But hopefully they will leave behind enough pregnant females to ensure the future of these vulnerable little animals in Warrandyte.

This article was first published in the Warrandyte Diary.

Fern Spot

Fern Spot

1. Three "water ferns"

by: Keith Vagg

Blechnum cartilagineum Gristle Fern
Blechnum minus Soft Water Fern
Blechnum nudum Fishbone Water Fern

Ferns belonging to the genus *Blechnum* are easily recognised. They have pinnate fronds, which means that each frond is divided into lobes (often called pinnae) on each side of the main stem (called the rachis). These lobes are usually long and broad in mature plants.

There are about 18 species in Australia and the above three occur naturally in Warrandyte, although only in isolated patches, probably due to bushfires, gold-mining and competition with garden weeds. In other locations in the state these ferns, particularly the Soft Water Fern, can form large, almost impenetrable colonies.

All three ferns prefer damp situations such as shaded gullies and creek banks, where there is a permanent supply of moisture to the roots. The Gristle Fern and the Fishbone Water Fern, however, are more hardy and will tolerate full sun and periods with little moisture. These ferns all have similar light green colouring and, at first glance, may be confused with each other. Fronds of healthy mature plants grow to about 1.2 metres (the Gristle fern can grow to 1.5 metres).

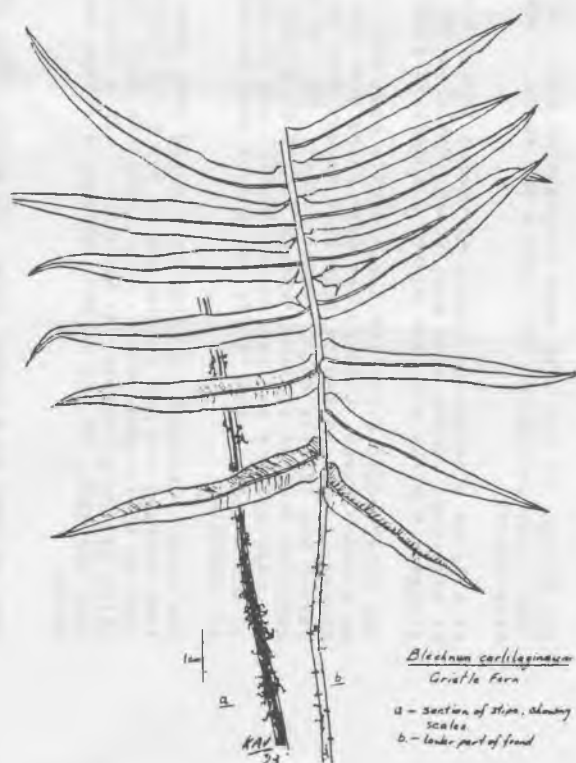
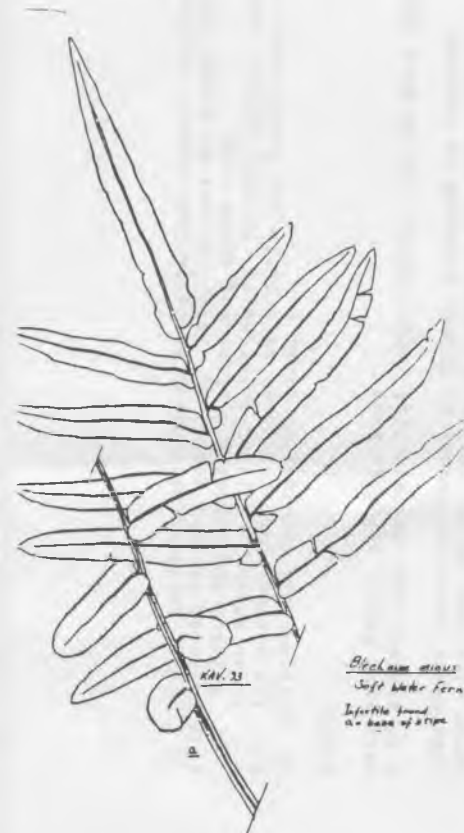
Gristle Fern - young fronds often have an attractive bronze colouring, becoming broad and light green as they mature. The fronds are pinnate, which means they are divided into lobes on either side of the rachis. The lobes on mature fronds have a rippled margin. Fertile fronds are similar to infertile ones and bear spore on the underside in long continuous lines of sporangia, either side of the midvein. This plant thrives in moist, open gullies or hillsides, and propagates by spore or from secondary crowns that grow near the base of the mature plant.

Soft Water Fern - the young fronds of this fern sometimes have an attractive pinkish tinge. The lobes, or pinnae, are attached by stalks towards the base of the rachis. The fertile fronds are distinctly different from the sterile ones and bear long, narrow pinnae with rolled margins to protect the rows of sporangia on the underside. This fern readily propagates from spore or by forming offshoots, and may form large colonies in cool, moist conditions.

Fishbone Water Fern - fronds are broad, light green and pinnatifid, and taper at the base and the tip. Fertile fronds rise from the centre of the fern in autumn, and are markedly different from the sterile ones. The lobes of the fertile frond appear rounded because the margins are rolled over to protect the long rows of sporangia. This fern will form large colonies in sheltered gullies and creeks, and spreads readily by spore or by forming secondary plants. It may form a trunk to about 1 metre high.

Some Fern Terms

frond	the leafy structure of a fern.
pinnae	the lobes or leaflets into which a frond is divided.
pinnate	fronds are divided into lobes on either side of the rachis. Each lobe forms a discrete leaflet.
pinnatifid	fronds are divided into lobes on either side of the rachis. The divisions do not extend fully to the rachis.
rachis	part of the stem of a frond extending from where the stem first divides, to the tip.
spore	a reproductive cell by which a fern can propagate.
sporangia	small enclosures, usually in clusters or rows, on the underside of a fertile frond. These become brittle when mature and burst, releasing spore.
stipe	the part of the stem of a frond below where it first divides.



Prologue: Four wheel drive clubs: what other words, can induce such deep horror, loathing, aversion and criticism in the hearts and minds of such as we - dedicated Park Lovers - members of FOWSP.

The Story: It was with some trepidation that, on Sunday 16th May 1993 I was inveigled into such a 4WD event, - what a learning experience!

At 8.30 am a dedicated convoy of varied 4WDs (10 to 12) assembled at Gembrook. There were men, women, children and babies - the youngest 8 weeks old, the oldest a modest 58 years young.

The first vehicle (called the "POINT") took off, first driving on bitumen roads, then forest dirt roads near the Beenok State Forest (I was shocked to find that no-one sped or broke the road laws!) and finally onto 'rough tracks'. Even at slow speeds the vehicles boureed (called 'whoopy doos') on ground irregularities. The last vehicle was called the 'BLUNT' and it was the responsibility of the people in the 'BLUNT' to ensure that no-one dropped behind in trouble.

The first 'incident' of the day occurred when some of the new first-time drivers did not follow one of the basic rules - 'when you come to an 'intersection', wait until the next vehicle's driver can see which way to go before you move off.' As a result at least half an hour was spent on the 'C.Bs', talking everyone back to the main group.

Then we came to a slope, about 100 metres long, an old shortcut road straight up the hill with ruts described as 'b....y' deep (I estimate about 70 cm) and granite rocks projecting out, often 25 cm, above the ground surface.

Note: vehicle tyre pressures had been reduced to about half. At this point drivers were given two choices, to the left a negotiable road curving around to the top of the hill, or on the right 'straight up' the incline. About a third of the drivers chose 'straight up'. Of these, those with skill, and/or luck and/or technological advantages (such as 'diff-lock') were up to the top in about sixty seconds to two minutes. Others became trapped. Incidentally, only one vehicle at a time was allowed to attempt the climb, whilst the others watched and gave advice and directions, helped, releasing and securing winch cables, or made jocular comments, drank tea or snacked.

Our vehicle, driven by the wily and intrepid Ian took about 20 - 25 minutes to arrive at the top - so it seemed! At one point yours truly was lying to the left about 50 degrees from the vertical?! and looking sideways could see a large granite rock a handsbreadth from my face. However, when we arrived at the top it was our turn to watch others attempt the climb. I was then I heard highly suspect terms being used which are not even to be found in the latest Oxford, 'Spyology'.

'Snatchem straps, winch solenoid, battery terminals need cleaning, long wheel base, short wheel base and even swamptrackers' were phrases thrown around with gay abandon!

After all vehicles were up and a short drive we settled to morning tea, whilst drivers inspected their 'frayed cables', damaged new front mudguards, 'stuffed' gearbox and so on.

It appeared that the vehicles had suffered quite a range of damage (eventually clutches and overheating) whilst the surrounding bush - eucalypts, hop goodenis, myrtle wattles, dusty millers (all regrowth after a bushfire) was relatively undamaged. However, it is with deep guilt that I confess that I did not closely examine the trees occasionally used to winch vehicles, but I did note that the steel cables and hooks only made a single eye shaped loop, around the truck (but at one time a chainsaw was heard).

After a varied lunch of tea, sandwiches, a random bottled drink and prepared foods (heated on gas bottles) we were about to move off when two 4WDs driven privately (not with a club) came over for advice as to where they were. When they had left one of our group said to another "They're the sort of 4WD drivers who give us a bad name".

As the Club moved along another road, over the CBs came the message "this road reduces to what looks like a motor bike track, what should we do?" After some CB discussion all the vehicles turned and came back the way they had come in (as with many walks in the bush there are a lot of un-named and 'not map-shown' vehicle tracks).

When finally two of the vehicles stopped because of mechanical problems, both were examined by other members of the Club, but they finally notified us that they were pulling out and returning (limping?) home.

Much of the time vehicles were stopped, and people stood talking or drinking or snacking. Incidentally, about the only beer I saw was as a result of breaking in the vehicle refrigerator due to the early shaking climb.

By 5 pm we arrived at Mortimers Reserve for the final stop, cuppa, family chit-chat, bite and then all the vehicles separately headed into the falling dusk, headlights pointing their direction.

Epilogue: Following this 'revelation with the DANDENONG RANGES FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB: I thought, ultimately, as with bushwalkers (remember the old burn, bash and bury which had to be changed to 'carry your rubbish out' due to the sheer volume of walkers) it will be the growth in population numbers, whether people or vehicles which will have to be limited to preserve our environment. Already some parks limit the number of people entering or staying.

I do suspect that uncontrolled 'development' can do more permanent harm than people using an area.

FINIS

PS This month's fascinating clues -

- (I) The mystery reporter lived as a child and young adult in an inner suburb - full of brick walls, terrace houses, bluestone gutters and opposite a 'fish and chips shop'.
- (II) Attended primary school No. 1252?, a central school and a high school followed by studies at other educational institutions.

RABBITS!

Rabbits! Rabbits! Rabbits!

The word is enough to send Friends of Warrandyte State Park off around the nursery fences to check for signs of burrowings and nibblings of precious plants. On Sunday, 30th of June I represented the Friends of Warrandyte State Park at a Rabbit Management Workshop/Field Day organized by Melbourne Parks and Waterways (the new name for Melbourne Water or MMBW)

The setting for the workshop was Glynn's Conservation Area which as some but not all will know is across the river from Pound Bend Picnic Area. Fellow Fowspan Don Cameron told me that Ted Glynn farmed there after World War 2 and built the house where we gathered for the afternoon. The area is now owned by MPandW and has been recommended on the Middle Yarra Concept Plan as a conservation area which means it is not generally open to the public without permission. It is being revegetated with suitable indigenous plants and is a lovely place to be.

Among those present on 30th June were local residents and landowners, Park staff, Friends of Yarra Valley Park and representatives of Yarra Bend Trust (Fairfield area).

Now on to the furry little beasts....

Brian Cornan and Ian Nolan from Vernox Pest Management were very experienced at rabbit management techniques and made the following points.

- *Rabbits are the worst pest threatening Australia. Foxes and feral cats can't hold a candle to them because of the devastation they cause by eating out vegetation everywhere..

- *Australian rabbits have expanded their population and range of territory more than any other mammal anywhere and in the shortest time.

- *A female rabbit can have a litter every two months as long as there is green food available.

- *All control techniques should be used if possible.

- *Consistent effort is required to control their numbers. For instance, if you eradicated as many as 80%, you would have to keep working on the remaining 20% or you would soon be back where you started.

- *They apparently don't like long grass. (This was queried by a manager from Yarra Park who found they love to burrow under the Poas there.)

- *The best time for attack is in the dry season.

So to details of the afternoon program. After an introduction by MP W horticulturalist Glen Jamieson, Brian and Ian showed us horror slides of land eaten bare and exposed to erosion, masses of rabbits both dead and alive to give us some idea of the numbers and even one view of a tree stripped of its bark. Then we moved on to management techniques. Drastic measures for a drastic problem are needed. These were poisoning, fumigation of rabbits in burrows and burrow ripping after killing the rabbits to prevent the next generation moving in. A lot of time was spent on poisoning. Brian and Ian recommended it as a first hit to be followed by other methods afterwards. We were all given a 22 page booklet of notes which answers all the questions people usually ask about poisons. I will put my notes in the Friend's library. The poisons used are 1080 and Pindone. The notes give a lot of factual information about the effectiveness, humaneness, dangers to

other animals including humans and safety measures. The Lands Officer at Warrandyte State Park Depot is authorized to approve the use of poisoning under certain very stringent conditions.

Fumigation of burrows involves the pumping of gas into burrows. The chemicals used come either in pellet or liquid form. A machine is needed to do this and again strict safety precautions are needed.

Following this the burrows should be ripped apart. Along the river this could prove environmentally difficult.

At discussion time I heard talk of a rabbit proof clip-on fence. I found out that this is simply a roll of chicken wire, 105 cm high and clips. It can be clipped on to an existing fence and rolled at the bottom which deters the little creatures from burrowing underneath. Thanks to Glen Jamieson for this clarification.

Finally there are two promising diseases. One wiped out farmed rabbits in China and Eastern Europe a few years ago. It is being investigated at a laboratory in South Australia. Then CSIRO are working on a further development of Myxomatosis. It will be several years before the research on these is complete.

That covers the information disseminated during the talk and discussion. The afternoon concluded with demonstrations of how to chop up carrots for bait in a metal drum with a shovel and the uses of fumigation machines.

I found it an interesting and informative if rather sober afternoon. Thanks to Melbourne Parks and Waterways for organizing it, Vernox Pest Control for the information and the clearly written notes and Warrandyte State Park Friends for paying my fee.

Elizabeth Senior

Dichondra repens

..... from the marketplace

Discover Warrandyte Book Sales

There are still a lot of local outlets around Warrandyte and surrounding areas to be covered. We need people to approach any likely shop, nursery, school etc., show them a copy of the book and leave, if necessary, with an order form with your name and phone number for contact and re-orders. Most will give you an order on the spot, so it's a good idea to have some books in the car to leave with them. We are getting \$12 a copy locally and they will either give you cash or ask for an invoice and send a cheque. Money goes to our Treasurer, Alec Manson at 27 Houghton Street, Warrandyte and you may need to follow up when passing by the outlet and ask if they need any more books! Some people will ask to have books left on commission. That's O.K. but you need to take a note so you can get back to them to collect money or unsold books. There are plenty of books and order forms at the depot.

- Gay and Linda



Athol and Jill at the Newsagency continue to sell lots of books HOWEVER Glen Martin and John Spencer at Spencers Real Estate have had several reorders. Iris tells of one customer who rushed in and bought eleven copies! Both Warranglen and Beasleys Nurseries stock the book and Ron at the Village Milkbar takes a steady flow. The Pines Newsagent (ex Warrandyte) is also a local outlet. Melbourne Uni and Latrobe Uni bookshops have it and Latrobe are on their second order. The article in the Doncaster Templestowe News should promote sales in the wider local district. Neal Tessier and Betty Oke are doing a wonderful job servicing the local shopkeepers....we missed them when they were off on their trip to Western Australia.

WHERE NEXT ?

First the State Park, then local reserves and nature stripsnow traffic islands! What will The Friends get up to next?

Joy Hildebrand provided initial inspiration while Glen Terry from Eltham Shire organised weed spraying and a lovely thick layer of mulch. Then early one Sunday morn in May Joy, Shirley Mandemaker, Joan MacMahon and Elma Angus transformed the small traffic island at the intersection of Bradleys Lane and Research-Warrandyte Rd.

So as not to interfere with motorists' sight-lines we planted lots of low stuff including Kennedia prostrata, Dianella revoluta, Lomandra longifolia, Acacia aculeatissima, A. brownii, Poa morrisii, P. ensiformis and Helichrysum scorpioides. It will be a beautiful sight in Spring and a great advertisement for some of our less well-known "locals".

Friends of One Tree Hill

Fowspians will remember our bus trip to One Tree Hill Reserve last year. Now we are branching out to help in nurturing this significant area. The seeds of FRIENDS OF ONE TREE HILL are planted (under the auspices of FOWSP) and now we need the dedicated core group necessary to achieve all the goals in the One Tree Hill Interim Management Plan. This will involve opportunities for involvement in practical nature conservation.

The area is abundant with many different species of breeding mammals and birds. There is a most diverse complement of plant species. The 143 Hectares of mostly intact forest represents four different vegetation types from dry to wet habitat and is virtually weed-free. The area requires little manual work to return it to pristine intact habitat for existing fauna.

Diane Silveri (co-ordinator) and Ray Jasper (ranger) need input from members and locals to develop a program of activities and projects. A guided tour similar to last years is however being planned and all FOWSP members are invited. More in future Newsletters.

All you need to do to be involved in this group is to write to Friends of One Tree Hill C/- FOWSP, PO Box 220 Warrandyte or Phone Diane Silveri on 710 1331.....Join us.

Adiantum aethiopicum