

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE

STATE PARK NEWSLETTER

JULY 1993

Correa glabra

EDITORIAL

From the early days of a penal colony, Australia has passed through many phases of development. As late as 1960 much of the early history of white settlement and the indigenous people was suppressed and ignored - much emphasis was placed on providing Britain with primary produce, and a source of men to fight with in their wars. Patriotism was promoted in all walks of life.

But change is subtle and insidious, lost on many people over a period of 1 - 2 generations - having not experienced this past, young people do not often perceive or consider the effect on their lives. Things that are relatively new are taken for granted as if they had existed forever.

With its geographical isolation Australia has developed from a mainly rural economy to one that has centred on the major capital cities. Almost 7 million people live in Sydney and Melbourne. Less than 2% are left in country areas. Jobs, housing, education are the reasons for the drift. Cities can become too large as seen in Mexico City [22 million], Calcutta, Rio, Manila and New York all with more than 10 million. These large cities nurture ghetto areas, where crime, poverty, substandard housing and unemployment abound. Children grow up without hope or jobs and not even enough education to amuse themselves. A listless, semi literate underclass becomes established.

During the depression of the 1930's, Melbourne had a much closer community life and a small population - People were inclined to share resources with neighbours, despite the fact that deprivation was more severe than the current recession.

In Warrandyte we have many residents who offer their services to the community on a voluntary basis. This is seen by the presence of many active organisations. Some are dedicated to environmental protection, and are involved in the workings of the State Park. There is an active Community Centre that provides assistance in many areas, particularly for young and more senior members of the population. We are very fortunate to have our own Newspaper to provide excellent coverage of local events. Church groups, the Arts and Crafts and many others organisations contribute to our quality of life.

In other suburban developments on the outskirts of Sydney and Melbourne, such as Blacktown, Liverpool, Broadmeadows and Doveton the police are losing control of the streets. Housing is dense, built around factories and there is little community spirit. Crime, violence, and vandalism have increased alarmingly.....

Perhaps we should not ignore the present as we have the past.

"Degeneracy always begins in the cities:
and the failure of civilization has come
when the cities succeed, and the urbanities
decline."

"The mintage of wisdom is to know that past
is rust and that real life lies in Love, Laughter
and Work.

"He who lives but to enjoy never enjoys anything."

"Men are only as great as they have sympathy. Imagination is sympathy in motion. We
have purists by the score, stylists by the dozen, advocates by the hundred, but they are
not men of allround sympathy."

Elbert Hubbard (1898)

HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY VISIT....1pm JULY 25th

We will be meeting Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Co-ordinator Gaye Gadsden and members 'in common' Pat and Graham Madeley outside the main gate at the Sanctuary. We will be exploring the Corranderrk bushland - not open to the general public - with a special Sanctuary Guide. Pat and Gaye will show us their groups new nursery. Bring arvo tea to share. Wear your walking shoes and pop in binocs/hand lens.

PROPAGATION WORKSHOPS....With Cathy Willis

These will take place on July 22nd and 29th at the Depot. They will begin 10am sharp. First workshop will be on cutting techniques, the second will deal with seed and pricking out procedures. SEE YOU THERE.

HOTHOUSE GOSSIP.

Clematis microphylla

We wonder what Bill Roxburgh is up to lately! He has been wandering around the Folly with a rather beautiful old flintlock rifle in hand. Now we feel that Bill has little desire to commit any deeds of disaster....at least upon those present of a Thursday, AND, the weapon does seem to lack a few essential items for its operation BUT!!!!!!!

Well it seems that H.H.G has another new arrival to announce. Greg Stroot and Jo Thodis of W.E.L. fame, are the proud parents of a daughter, Rhyanna Jade. We await the next market when Greg promises to bring the family for an introductory stroll. Congratulations to them all.

The rate of building at the Nursery has slowed as winter sets in and many of the building crew follow the sun. At present Ian and Alec are about IT. If any members with building skills ARE around you would get a very warm welcome of any Thursday. The Propagators are all grizzling about things like "How can we get to grow if we haven't enough green house space."

The S.E.C.'s Richard Jansenn is planning to work with C.O.D.A.T.'s Stephen Ray and F.O.W.S.P. to minimise calamity when Warrandyte, SOUTH of the BRIDGE, it given its seasonal 'shave'. We hope to actually have the contractors visit the Nursery to learn about precious indigenous habitat.

David's program for Thursday afternoon has meant development for those who participate AND significant changes to plant lists. We have an important role in providing an army of eyes to find the rare, the tiny, the fleeting. Additions to the ranges of species has been interesting, and with the flowering season about to start who knows what we will turn up, With the Ministers special grant we will then be able to begin our rabbit exclusions from these precious discoveries.....not having to see rabbits wipe out a special find overnight.

Greg and Joy Hildebrand are off to the U.S.A. this month. It is a return home after 30 years for Greg and Joy will meet his family for the first time. Goodness knows how Brogil Creek will get on as Debbie - Joy's co-worker is bowed down with an expected wee one. So all those living in the area - do go down and keep it all happening whilst Joy is away.

The Bushrangers will begin training in fencing techniques for rabbit exclusion plots. These young people have a great time, learn the skills our members have to share and Rocky, Greg, and Ian are the happiest workers we could hope to have join us. If you would like to share your skills around why not pop along any Thursday.

The Osborne Rd. revegetation is looking splendid. We are sure springtime will see both a spurt of growth for the May planting. And with the SPRING plantings as well the roadside will be a habitat corridor indeed. Eltham Council support has encouraged the setting up of a "Street For Wildlife" Landcare Group. Margaret Dimech is co-ordinating and YES true to Warrandyte form.....we see a committee has been formed. With help from our Parkcare's Fay Valcanis, Marion Henderson and Glen Terry from the Shire of Eltham hope to set up a network of Park/Landcare groups.

The book is continuing to sell - despite our inexpertness at marketing. But the success seems to have gone to our heads and we have a collection of other related items for sale or on the drawing board. What we need is a collection of Fowspians with entrepreneurial skills. Ring Gay Marg, or Pat if you have such skill.

Kym Docwra is once again doing a course about Conservation. She has recently been working with Stephen Ray at C.O.D.A.T. and will be back with him for some work experience related to her course. She does even fit some Fowspian activities in - in her spare time!

The Evening with Vern Denford was lots of fun with a mixed bag of talent. Marg was delighted to win the "door" prize.....six of those wine glasses we who visited the Kangaroo Ground C.F.A. last July, all admired. It was a fun evening and we had to vote Dereck Humphreys "Spaniard" song a great hit.... we must book him up for the next Fowspian "event".

from Pullman's Post.....

Members - Pam and Brian Pullman have recently moved into their new home, far from Warrandyte, in Shoreham. Here are a few extracts for old 'friends' to enjoy. [We all hope to see them occasionally!]

Dear F.O.W.S.P.....We meant to be in touch with 'The Friends' but building our new house at Shoreham has been very demanding of time. Certainly we are tired of constantly looking at taps, tiles and other necessary fittings!

We love Shoreham.....so like Warrandyte - bushy but with the sea instead of the river! The people seem interested in keeping the character of 'Old Shoreham' and there are active conservation groups. It was a painful experience selling to people who seemed to really like 'our' place and to watch by helplessly [we rented it whilst our new home was constructed] as they cleared and planted exotics despite neighbours concern.maybe they will learn from the 'groups' of Warrandyte.

We are truly grateful for all we have learnt from Fowspians and wish you all the best. We hope especially that Joan MacMahon and her Friends of Bradleys Lane Bush will be successful in protecting the area around our former home.....love Pam and Brian.

CARDS FOR SALE. \$1 each. Melanie Coupar Prints.

Four of Mel's beautiful line drawings have been reproduced on these high quality cards. We will have them for sale at the Park, the Market and selected outlets. A set of four makes a lovely gift. If you have any ideas about marketing please contact a committee member.



The cards are cream with matching envelopes.

ParkCare News

The **Middle Yarra Weed Kit** is finally here. ParkCare has been working with CODAT, Eltham Shire, City of Heidelberg and Melbourne Parks & Waterways towards an Environmental Weed Kit for the Middle Yarra Region. The kit consists of an identification posters, a brochure on native plants for gardens, a weed checklist and 39 weed control sheets. We hope that with this in arm, residents will now be able to learn more about the weeds of our area and how to control them.

Local residents will be receiving a brochure explaining the kit in the mail. Those wishing to receive a kit can collect one at the Park Office or by writing to ParkCare . P.O.Box 61, Warrandyte 3113.

The **Cat Kit** is a resource kit produced by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (previously Conservation and Environment) last year to assist in the education campaign Protect your cat, protect your wildlife. The kit is divided in two parts. Part A describes the issues and Part B contains essential resources-selected research papers, media articles and cartoons. Anyone wishing to use the kit or would like to browse through the information can do so by contacting Fay on 844 2659.

The ParkCare Working Group met on July 7th to discuss the progress of ParkCare and the future direction of the program. Many issues were raised, but unfortunately we needed more time to adequately discuss all matters. The Working Group recommended that a draft report be produced before the next meeting so that all issues can be reviewed. The next ParkCare Working Group meeting will be on the 5th of October. This is later than the attentive date set on the night but given the constraints in preparing a draft report the date was ammended. If you would like to be on the ParkCare Working Group or would like to receive a draft please contact me on 844 2659.

Fay Valcanis
ParkCare Officer



MELBOURNE PARKS AND WATERWAYS ADVISORY COUNCIL

F.O.W.S.P. Co-ordinator, Margaret Burke has been appointed as a member of the new Melbourne Parks and Waterways Advisory Council for a period of two years. The Council will advise the Minister for Conservation and Environment Mark Birrell on policies, expenditure of funds under the Parks and Waterways program, and function as a forum for recommending major directions and priorities. Conservation, improvements to the system and fostering community awareness and establishment of Friends groups will be some of the tasks of the council. Chairman will be Phil Honeywood - Member for Warrandyte who is also Chairman of the Government Conservation and Environment Committee. Melbourne Water, Dept. Conservation & Natural Resources, local government will all be represented with Marg one of six community representatives.

the MYSTERY REPORTER.....

PART ONE Cathy who? Catherine Janet Willis (nee Berg). that's who!

1.7.1993...The "target" kept working /walking hoping to conceal the truth.

Cathy, alias NURSERY ASSISTANT MANAGER, alias "Leader" of Friends of the Koornong, a.k.a. as "Mum" to daughters Jenni [12] and Megan [9], was born 36 years ago in the last week of June at St. Andrews Hospital, lived in Kew and attended Ruyton Girls School until Form Five, then moved on to Taylors" in the city for two years.

About that time she left home, lived in a flat at South Yarra then in several shared households...mainly in Prahran.

At one stage she worked as a silversmith, "made lots of ear-rings bracelets, then made leather belts and hats, and after that worked at a Metung Pub for a while, working in the kitchen, then at the bar and as a waitress.

During her childhood Cathy often went to Metung with her parents, spending a lot of time in the bush..."loved it"...(ultimately moved to Warrandyte to be close to the bush)

Cathy at one stage helped [and watched] her Father build most of a 23"foot" wooden boat in the front yard. She got her first yacht when she was 12 years old, an I International Cadet, ["we bought the kids one last year!"] and still goes to Metung regularly.

The interview was suspended as Cathy and the M.R. rushed off toward Tunnel St. in order to remove invasive 'Cootamundras' from part of the Park.

PART TWO

Vital Statistics Height : "Five feet one and a half....when I stand up!"

Weight : Too much...two stone more than I ought!"

Husband : Graeme, called "Willy", works on a computer.

Eyes/Hair : Brown.

Favourite food : Crayfish, "like macadamias".

Favourite drink : "expensive champagne, but I'll still drink the cheap stuff.

Television : Mr. Bean.

Question. What bugs you the most ? - "I dunno" [repeated three times....] "People leaving their dirty socks and undies on the floor."

Cathy has lived in Warrandyte eight years after shifting here from a five year sojourn in Hawthorn.

This part of the interview was abruptly ended as Cathy escaped in a red Mazda. She always has something to do!

PART THREE

Disguised as a hobyah the M.R. struck early on the morning of 5.7.93 at a near deserted Pound Bend Depot, braving the frost in the air and the mist on the ground in order to continue this expose'

Finally as the weak and wrinkly rays of the sun fell through the surrounding cloud, Cathy was ambushed near the hot house carrying plastic boxes full of seedlings.

Q. What is your favourite indigenous tree/shrub/plant/animal?

A. "I really like Manna Gums, Kangaroo Apples, olearias, brunonias, not snakes - but I respect them and don't like getting too close".

Best Holiday : -Sailing at Metung. [enjoys this]

- A five week trip to Thailand.

- Apart from N.S.W. and Victoria has visited very few places in Australia.

Pets ?A goldfish called "Goldie", an old dog called Fred, and a pup called Bobby.

Your Ambition : I need time to think about that."

Cathy is presently studying Horticulture at Parkville Campus of the Northern Metropolitan T.A.F.E. College.

[Advanced Certificate]

She is in the Warrandyte Arts Association, has played a Magic Tree, baby Dragon and an alley-cat when she was in the Magic Tree Travelling Theatre.

She likes camping - ".....last place at Mt. Beauty at Easter."

She has been a committee member at the Hawthorn Community House, then worked there as a child carer. Cathy used to play the piano, reads all the time [?], can't go to sleep without reading."

She worked for several years at Sportsgirl...was trimmings buyer, manufacturer liaison and general worker in the design room, left ten days before she had Jenni.

On the first Wednesday of every month, ten a.m., Cathy meets with the Friends of the Koornong, and is suspected to have run...or is intending to run [?] a series of workshops on Propagation/ Nursery Proficiency.

And finally, in which room is the "Leadlight Possum" which she has made herself?Ask Cathy yourself, if you dare!

N.B.

As may be the case with Cabinet I have returned from my trek to the far North and am able to release two more clues to the to the M.R.'s exciting life story.

1. Completes a three month full-time course to qualify as an 'equipment examiner'!.....ponder on that one.

2. Held a school bank account with the now defunct State Bank of Victoria from the time I was eight years old.

More tantalising clues next month.

POST SCRIPT; It will be a shock to readers to Know that Cathy Willis is a Cricket follower[usually Australia] and has been known to play tennis on Fridays. Also used to play hockey, netball and go swimming.

MELBOURNE WILDFLOWER SHOW 1993 - FOWSP STALL

We will have a presence at the show in the Ringwood Convention Centre this year. Debbie Parker has been making beautiful display boards which look really professional. We will have a plant display and we will sell copies of 'Discover Warrandyte'. Please let Marg or Pat know if you are able to spend some time manning the stall. It is a two day event, AUGUST 14-15. See you there.

Reflections Vegetation

By
Pat Coupar

THE STORY OF A CREEK CALLED BROGIL

On all maps it is simply marked as a drain. But locals have named this tiny waterway Brogil Creek after the road which runs alongside it. Over the years the creek has become infested with weeds of all description, they choke the flow and have obliterated almost all the native vegetation except the large Swamp Gums.

In the past an attempt was made by local residents to clean up the creek. They successfully removed most of the blackberries, a commendable effort, but unfortunately once the blackberries were gone other weed species became established.

Two years ago Joy Hilderbrand came on the scene. She and husband Greg moved from Lilydale to a little house on the corner of Brogil and Research Roads. Our own Margaret Burke encouraged this move and pointed out to Joy that the creekside vegetation was desperately in need of restoration. Joy took up the challenge. She discovered from the Eltham Shire Council that the land was in fact a roadside reserve. Immediately she sought out Glen Terry, the environmental officer for the Shire, who was extremely receptive to Joy's idea of revegetating the area. Since that time Glen has continued to offer support and encouragement for the project and has supplied mulch and plants when required.

Inspiration was also provided by Mark Gardener who, for several years, had been working with a small group of people restoring the vegetation of nearby Stony Creek. (Brogil Creek actually joins Stony Creek before it flows into the Yarra River).

Joy began her work on Brogil Creek in January 1992. She was joined by Debbie Howse and husband Rob, their young son and several other small children from down the road. Around that time at the State Park Nursery we were about to throw out a few boxes of plants that were in very poor condition - old stock left over from the previous years planting. Joy eagerly offered to take them off our hands. One and a half years later these once pitiful pot-bound individuals are now thriving alongside Brogil Creek together with more plant rejects donated by Jenny Drummond of Bimbadeen Nursery in Warrandyte.

About a year later I had a different proposition for Joy. I had been propagating some eucalypts, wattles and sedges by sowing the seed directly into a polystyrene box of potting mix. Germination and growth was rapid, too rapid for they were ready for planting out at the hottest time of the year. The technique of lifting seedlings directly from the box to plant into the ground is known as 'Bare Root Planting (B.R.P)'. As nobody at the Park

was interested in using the plants at that time, I offered them to Joy who needless to say accepted gratefully. Although only a few of those early plantings survived, we have had considerable success from subsequent B.R.P' during autumn and winter. The benefits of this method are numerous. Time is saved because there is no pricking out stage and planting is much quicker because only a small slit needs to be dug in the ground; no pots are required and very little potting mix is used. However, in Warrandyte B.R.P is probably only suitable for the wetter areas.

One point of interest is that despite the obvious presence of rabbits in the area, none of the plants were guarded only staked, yet none of the plants have been eaten by rabbits.

Joy has succeeded in gaining support (albeit mostly verbal) from all local residents with the exception of one who has actively opposed her by deliberately mowing down a number of plants.

I know for Joy and Debbie the two hours spent each Saturday morning on the restoration of Brogil Creek is a labour of love. Rewards are plenty, none more so than a comment to Joy from a resident of a nearby street who said "Thank you for making the world a little more beautiful".

The following plants have been used in the revegetation of Brogil Creek:-

Eucalyptus ovata (Swamp Gum)B.R.P
E.viminalis (Manna Gum)tube stock
E.radiata (Narrow-leaved Peppermint)tube stock
E.polyanthemos (Red Box)tube stock
Acacia dealbata (Silver Wattle)B.R.P and tube stock
A.verticillata (Prickly Moses)tube stock
A.mearnsii (Black Wattle)tube stock
A.melanoxylon (Blackwood)tube stock and seeding naturally
Kunzea ericoides (Burgan)tube stock
Leptospermum lanigerum (Woolly Tea-tree)tube stock and future B.R.P
L.juniperinum (Prickly Tea-tree).....tube stock and future B.R.P
Melaleuca ericifolia (Swamp Paperbark)tube stock and future B.R.P
Pomadeerris aspera (Hazel Pomaderris)tube stock
Lomatia myricoides (River Lomatia)tube stock
Callistemon sieberi (River Bottlebrush)tube stock
Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria)tube stock and seeding naturally
Allocasuarina littoralis (Black She-oak)tube stock
Olearia lirata (Snowy Daisy-bush)tube stock
Goodenia ovata (Hop Goodenia)tube stock and B.R.P
Hymenanthera dentata (Tree Violet)tube stock
Lobelia alata (Angled Lobelia)tube stock
Lomandra longifolia (Spiny-headed Mat-rush)tube stock
Carex appressa (Tall Sedge)tube stock and B.R.P
Poa labillardieri (Common Tussock Grass)tube stock and B.R.P
Poa enciformis (Purple-sheath Tussock Grass)future B.R.P

Fern Spot

2. Three "mother ferns"

by. Keith Vagg

Asplenium flabellifolium

Necklace Fern

- a. Juvenile frond
- b. Mature frond
- c. underside showing sori.

Asplenium flabellifolium Necklace Fern
Polystichum proliferum Mother Shield-fern
Asplenium bulbiferum Mother Spleenwort

These three ferns are easily recognised and very different from each other in appearance. Two of these - Necklace Fern and Mother Shield-fern, occur naturally in the Warrandyte area and are fairly common. The third, Mother Spleenwort, is very popular in gardens. All three propagate either from spore or by producing small plantlets on the fronds, which initially depend on the mother plant for nutrients, but will take root and grow into separate plants if conditions are suitable.

Necklace Fern *Asplenium flabellifolium* - This is a delicate fern with fine, tapering fronds up to 30 cm long. The dark green fronds have fan-shaped pinnae with toothed margins, and either lie flat along the ground or hang down, depending on the aspect of the plant. Fertile fronds have fan-like rows of sporangia but otherwise appear similar to the sterile ones. The tip of the rachis extends past the smallest pinules and will grow into a plantlet if it touches a suitable moist patch of soil. This fern grows readily on moist, sheltered slopes if there is little competition by larger plants.

Mother Shield-fern *Polystichum proliferum* - This well known fern has dark green fronds up to 1 metre long. A mature frond may have both tripinnate (the rachis divides to form a secondary and a tertiary rachis) and bipinnate divisions. The base of the stipe is densely covered with dark brown scales. This fern often grows plantlets near the tip of the main rachis, which will take root when they touch the ground, to form separate plants. This is fairly common in Warrandyte, growing in moist shaded or open situations, and is a popular garden fern.

Mother Spleenwort *Asplenium bulbiferum* - a fine, lacy fern with tripinnate fronds up to 1 metre. Sori (clusters of sporangia) are oval and rusty brown, and are protected when young by a membrane (an indusium). The fern has small bulbils on the fronds which may develop into new ferns. This attractive fern is not indigenous to the Warrandyte area but occurs nearby and is a popular garden specimen.

Some Fern Terms

bulbil	a small bulb on a frond from which a plantlet may develop
indusium	a fine membrane which protects the sori when young.
tripinnate	the rachis is divided to form a secondary and a tertiary rachis. Fronds are divided into lobes on either side of the tertiary rachis. Each lobe forms a discreet leaflet.
tripinnatifid	the rachis is divided to form a secondary and a tertiary rachis. Fronds are divided into lobes on either side of the tertiary 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.
scales	papery, usually brown, structures attached to parts of the fern, particularly the base of the stipe and the rhizome.
sori	groups or clusters of sporangia.
sporangia	small enclosures, usually in clusters or rows, on the underside of a fertile frond. These become brittle when mature and burst, releasing spore.



Asplenium bulbiferum
 Mother Spleenwort.



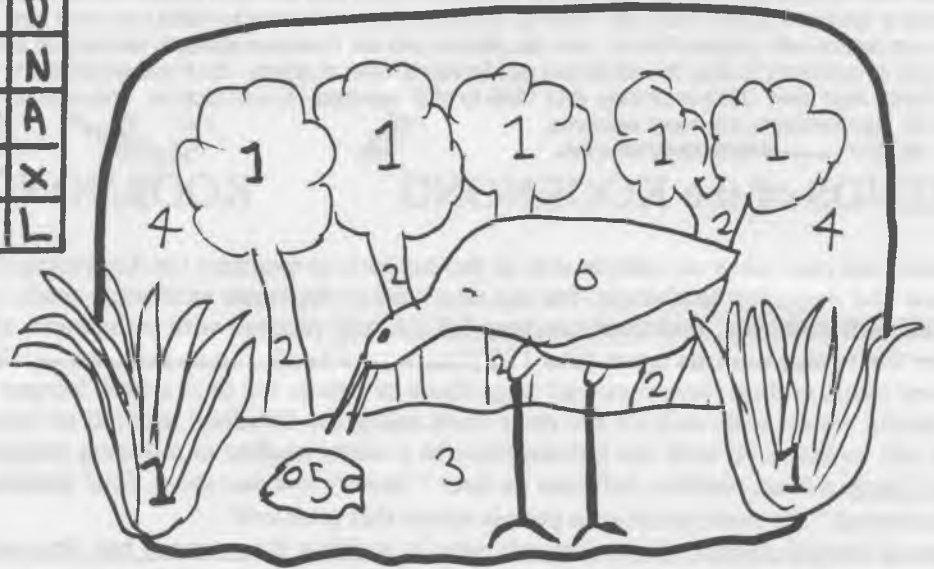
Polystichum proliferum
 Mother Shield Fern

- a. tip of frond with developing bud.
- b. stipe showing papery scales.

H	B	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O
T	P	Q	O	W	L	F	R	O	G
O	L	S	N	A	K	E	E	L	E
M	A	R	Y	E	L	E	N	A	K
T	T	A	A	S	I	A	H	Y	I
A	Y	B	B	U	Z	G	S	B	O
B	P	B	B	O	A	L	I	A	N
M	U	I	Y	M	R	E	F	T	A
O	S	T	A	R	D	U	C	K	X
W	O	P	O	S	S	U	M	P	L

Fossicking Ross & Percy Foss

Ross would love to have a letter or picture from some of his fans. Perhaps you have a story or a joke. Send it to P.O. Box 220 Warrandyte 3113.



1-Green
2-Brown

3-Dark Blue 5-Orange
4-Light Blue White

Kangaroo	Snake	Possum
Koala	Eel	Fish
Lizard	Frog	Bat
Duck	Eagle	Rat
Ant	Platypus	Wombat
Ekidna	Rabbit	Moth
Owl	Yabby	



"Every member of the Brogil Creek community helped. Even two year old Chris was prepared to have a 'foot' in things. Above you can see the boxes of plants ready for 'bare root planting'. Spring should see big changes to these and we will all watch with interest as the corridor develops as wildlife habitat indeed.

WATTLE DAY

Warrandyte's Wattle Day

August Market

At the Community Market at Stiggants Res. on Saturday August 7th. we will be having the first 'Wattle Day' celebration. The idea is one that was suggested by local resident Cath Watts, and the Warrandyte Lions Club have adopted the idea enthusiastically. Fowspians saw that this also was a way to involve the community in our project to increase Sugar Glider habitat. Joan MacMahon....friend of Sugar Gliders... has been looking for a way of making suitable Acacia species available for every block in Warrandyte! Lions will provide the pots etc. FOWSP will provide the seedling plants and EVERYONE will be able to prick out trees/shrubs for their gardens. Shirley Mandemaker will be decorating faces etc with her wattle paintings. FOWSP will have a display of plants and will have special leaflets about local wattles. AND we will have a special Possum Nest Box making demonstration, with 'How to make your own box' leaflets and 'hands on' workshop nearby with Debbie Parker, Ken MacMahon and our Fowspian builders teaming up with our local Lions. We need lots of members to man the stalls and join Shirley's team of artists. So if you would like to take part phone Marg -844 1060, Joan -844 3213 or Shirley -844 1895 to offer services OR just drop in. This is to become an annual event and ideas for improvements are most welcome.

FRIENDS of the KOORNONG

KOORNONG NEWS.

It is now one year since six people met at the carpark to evaluate the Koornong carpark area with its weed infested and degraded landscape. We can now survey the scene with some pride, as large areas have been covered with underlay, mulched(courtesy S.E.C.), and planted with indigenous shrubs, grasses and wildflowers.

Over the twelve months more than 150 plants have been put in near the Car Park(Periwinkle Mountain), and the river bank, and we have removed huge loads of weeds. We have a Park Ranger working with us each month and during winter will work on the river track using the 'Bradley' method of weed control.

We will be involved with the Eltham Shire in a water quality monitoring program in the area
Fauna Count: a local resident informs us that- " there's two wombats, four possums, and four hundred cats in the Koornong." We need to educate people about this problem!

Inaugural Annual Award ...Keith Dimech, who is pushing three years, has dragged his mum or dad out nearly every month. He has worked cheerfully despite falling in the mud, losing his dummy in the drain, teething and colds. We dread losing you to kinder Keith.

We welcome the attendance of ANY other Fowspians or Warrandytians or Koornongians (phew!) at our meetings - first Wednesday of the month, 10am. Cathy (844 1841) and Fay (844 2659) have just produced their first Newsletter and the next is due in September. They welcome news, stories and comments- deadline August.

Friends of Bradleys Lane Bush.

Please note the change of name from 'Bradley Brigade' - a sign that the group has come of age [?] New members are welcome-just give Joan a ring - 844 3213. The Thursday group recently received a guided tour and planted up a section of 'at risk' riverbank. (If you would like to inspect stop your car in the parking bay near 56 Everard Drive on your way to the Nursery and look across the river.] Next month Joan is giving news of the Antechinus swamp.....fascinated ?

Members of other groups join in the big plantings along Brogil Creek bank. Here Joan MacMahon and Pat Coupar spread mulch to protect and keep moisture up to tiny Bare Root plantings -marked with the white stakes.

Acacia acinacea
and leprosa

