

Friends of Warrandyte State Park

November/December 1993

Newsletter



Editorial.

As 1993 is drawing rapidly to a close it seems appropriate to view the changes that have occurred to our Friends group in what has been a crowded year of activity. Some of the changes are quite obvious while others are less visible. The central focus of F.O.W.S.P. is of course the nursery, that is undergoing extensive renovation (and some spontaneous demolition!) The area known as "Frogland" has undergone considerable revegetation and soon will be part of a large fenced section to exclude that ever present pest - the rabbit. Some members have been involved with Street and property improvement schemes in areas adjacent to the State Park. It is satisfying to see the success of direct seeding and plantings in the orchard area. There have been many opportunities for members to increase their knowledge through seminars and Parkcare activities. We should not forget the people who have been marketing "Discover Warrandyte". It has been selling well since the Warrandyte Festival.

The less visible changes deserve some comment. Due to a change in government policy all major departments in the state are having cost reduction programs and probably will need to use more contract workers to cope with their work load. Soon to become visible is the news that Head Ranger Ian Roche will not be with us next year. We all wish him well in his new appointment although Margaret thinks it's such a pity since we nearly had him fully trained!!

The reason for the success of F.O.W.S.P. would not be obvious to the great majority of members or other people in the community. We have hundreds of family members, but the groups of people (less than ten per cent) who come to the Park every week form the central core of the Friends group. Without their interest and dedication, we would simply not exist. Big organizations can trim their operations, but Fowspians cannot enjoy this option.

Editors are often accused of being too serious, too flippant, too academic, too political or too inaccurate. So I would like to submit the following: -

THE JOY OF BEING AN EDITOR.

Clematis aristata

Getting out this publication is no picnic.

If we print jokes, people say we are silly. If we don't they say we are too serious.

If we clip things from other sources, we are too lazy to write them ourselves. If we don't we are too fond of our own stuff.

If we don't print contributions, we are also too fond of our own stuff.

If we make a change in the other person's writing, we are too critical. If we don't, we are asleep.

Now, likely as not, someone will say we swiped this from some other publication. We did!

Acknowledgment: We swiped it from A Fair Chance, Equity in Higher Edn. Winter issue '92 #5, who swiped it from UWA's Uni News vol 11 #4, who swiped it from Intuition 6 March 1992, who swiped it from Cite 17 Feb 1992, who swiped it from The Cape Librarian 35, 7 August 1991, who swiped it from US Public Relations Quarterly, who swiped it from.....

Sunday Family Meeting 28th Nov.

Networking at the Nursery. Workshop and information exchange day.

This year we have moved our Workshop Nursery Day to the warmer months and we invite lots of groups to join us. Pat, Flora, Cathy and the Wildflower Study Group will give people who attend, a share in the wealth of their experience. We are delighted to have the Friends of Morwell Nat. Park (Ian Roche was also their Head Ranger!) back after years of association. They are 'launching' into the Nursery side of plants and wish to see how we manage. We have invited as many local Friends groups as possible to come along as we wish us all to be 'friends' indeed. Several local groups are also starting Nurseries and we are keen to offer any assistance or training facilities. Elizabeth's experiences in the Coupe can be tried out, and activities inside 'the long fence' that Marg, Bill and Steve built will be supervised by Frogland's manager Ron Taylor. Note that 'the long fence' area is of course part of the Nursery. The day is our A.G.M. which will take place at 1.00 - 2.00pm.

We will have a big Barbeque, shared smorgasbord 'table' and lots of activities for children will include damper on sticks, face painting, Yabby round-up and race back to the dam. We plan that this shall also be our "Farewell" to Ian "Mick" Roche as he leaves us to take up an appointment as one of the new "Chief Ranger" positions. (Our loss, but of course a wise choice for the position.) So B.Y.O. food and drinks, wear your 'best working gear' and come prepared for a great day!

Farewell Celebration on Ian "Mick" Roche's New CHIEF RANGER Appointment

Fascinating Facts From Flora.....October 25th 1993

At last I have found sources for a few articles on the scientific names of birds. These are

- Neville Cayley's "What bird is that?" (1955 ed)
- "The R.A.O.U. Official Checklist of Birds of Australia" by H. Wolstenholme.
and
- Appendix 1 of Warrandyte State Park Management Plan.

I am not planning to work methodically through the Bird List, but will choose birds more common seen in the park.

But first, a reminder about names and the rules of scientific nomenclature. If by some chance a name was not spelt correctly by some early ornithologist, no alterations are allowed. The name, after all, is merely a label and remains in its original form. Here is a nice paradox for example. There are two Frigate birds called Greater and Lesser Frigate Birds. The scientific name of the Greater Frigate is *Fregata minor*. This is because it was once classed as a pelican and of course smaller than that great bird!

And so to our first bird: Cuckoos are calling now, having arrived from northern regions to mate and raise their families or to have their families raised by unsuspecting foster parents as the case may be.

Cuculus pallidus -

Pallid Cuckoo

from Latin *cuculus*, cuckoo Latin *pallidus*, pallid (pale)

Other common names are 'Storm - bird', 'Brain - fever Bird', 'Harbinger - of - Spring'.

Cuculus variolus -

Brush Cuckoo

from Latin *cuculus*, cuckoo Latin *variolus*, different.

Cuculus pyrrhophanus -

Fan - tailed Cuckoo

from Latin *cuculus*, cuckoo Greek *pyrrhos*, fire - coloured,
phanos, bright.

Also called Storm - bird. Former scientific name was

Cacomantis flabelliformis meaning a bad prophet with a fan shaped tail. Perhaps so many storms did not eventuate on the calling of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo, that the prophet was renamed! Distinguished from the Brush Cuckoo by the wedge-shaped tail and the brighter underparts.

Chrysococcyx basalis -

Horsefield's Bronze - Cuckoo

from Greek *chrysos*, golden Latin *basilis*, based
coccys, cuckoo

Thomas Horsefield (1773 - 1859) was an ornithologist who contributed a 'most valuable paper' on Australian birds to the Transactions of the Linnaean Society, London, 1827.

Chrysococcyx lucidus -

Shining Bronze Cuckoo

from Greek *chrysos*, golden Latin *lucidus* - shining
coccys, cuckoo

Distinguish between Horsefield's Bronze - Cuckoo and the Shining Cuckoo by noting the bronze bars across the under-parts (chest and tail). Bars incomplete in Horsefield's
Bars complete in Shining Bronze.

Cheers - Flora Anderson. (Next month some Honeyeaters.)



Hot House Gossip.

Pelargonium australe.

The building of Nest boxes is something which Debby's workers have become very clever at. She tells me that her Dad is one of the worlds best! He has developed a few designs of his own and the proof of course is in occupation by 'nesters'. His new style Pardelote box had a family (of Pardelotes) move in within a short space of time but ah...His Rosella box.Would you believe that on Day One, Debby noted the arrival of a Crimson Rosella to inspect. He went off to get the feminine opinion. No sooner had he flown out of sight (with Debby just managing to photograph his final checking of the door size) when along came an Eastern Rosella competitor..... very high occupancy rates for 'Parker Homes'.

TED ROTHERHAM has promised us an 'ORCHIDS 'N THINGS' SLIDE NIGHT during the January holiday period. We have not as yet worked out all the details (like dates etc!) but it will probably be a Friday Evening, and will be at the Folly. Ted is a world renowned photographer and has many books to his name. So look for details during visits to the Nursery or enquire of a Committee member or Park Office 844 2659.

We have a special notice this month. Member Rod Safstrom and family are going to Perth a year or more whilst Rod does his PhD. His home (which is actually IN the W.S.P., near the Depot, at Pound Bend) needs some environmentalist tenants. Rod would like to negotiate a special deal for a Fowspan, especially one prepared to look after revegetation of the site. Enq. A.H. 844 4285.

Hot House Gossip.

This is the final Newsletter for 1993. The next will be a Jan/Feb one. This will contain the 1994 Programme. If you have any suggestions for Sunday activities we would welcome these at the Nov 28th meeting or in writing A.S.A.P. We try to vary the programme whilst also seeking to have a balance of areas and activities.

We are all very saddened to say farewell to Rohey as Boss. Somehow things will never be the same. (But oh, how well we must have trained him, to have him appointed as one of the new Chief Rangers!) Lines of communication were his high priority, and no matter how complex the problem, we managed to solve them together. Lots of informal meetings in 'Mick's' office saw so many amazing plans develop, new pathways devolve, difficulties disappear and solutions emerge. And we never knew quite who worked out what! Because in turn he trained us well (and of course, we are good at getting on with people!) we eagerly await appointment of his successor with confidence, albeit with a touch of melancholy.

And so DON'T miss the chance to say farewell at our November 28th meeting. With the Friends from his previous park present, goodness knows WHAT, we will get up to. Certainly everyone will have a chance to say the nice things they wish to pass on.

Oh....and as if losing Ian isn't bad enough. How can we do without Gail? Gail has even been prepared, able, willing to do all those things which MUST be done, the sorting out, the rising to the occasion in a crisis. When Festival time is here - who does the most work?..... organising carting stuff around, putting the float on the road, a hyperactive whirling dervish called Gail.

Lots and lots more can be said.....we'll miss her very much. (And Carly and Danny!)

We must apologise to Elizabeth Sevier for the very poor standard of publication of her marvellous article on 'The Coupe'. To save paper this environmentally careful Editor and Asst. once used unused sides of photocopied pages to stick our final copy to. Unfortunately Marg used an unused copy of Elizabeth's and merely crossed it with an HB pencil to indicate it was backing. (If you look at last month's Newsletter the line is faintly visible.) Another article was tucked under the final - printed herein. We have some 'Proper Copy' if you would like one. Despite it's pale, forlorn appearance however many people have commented on 'The Coupe' and you are most welcome to come and have a guided tour with the author!

David and Pat had a number of the Wildflower Study Group climbing down the riverbank below Nth Warrandyte Kinder/Yarra View Court....surely the steepest bank in Warrandyte. Object of the descent was to see occurrences of two extremely precious plants. Weeds flourish as well down there, and threaten both species with local extinction. We are actually growing *Banksia marginata*, (which is one species - almost wiped out by the '91 fire) and plan to climb down and replant thirty plants, thus reestablishing a viable population. The other plant, a *Brachycome*, does not exist anywhere else in the park and is regionally significant. It is being out competed by weed species. What we need is a group of people who would take on this area as a Friends sub group. Saving these species would be a very exciting project. Do we have a couple of 'Mountain-goats' (mind you ordinary goats have already been a problem here) to get this going? Interested parties contact Marg B (844 1060), David V.B. or Fay Valcanis. (844 2659)

David Van Bockel will not be publishing a planned program for his walks in this Newsletter as the holiday season makes it more difficult to plan ahead. A list will be up in the Folly and if you wish to know our destinations a phone call to the Park Office (844 2659) will catch you up. Priorities will be survey work, rare species and their protection, seed monitoring and collection, and plant identification.

Nursery activities will continue over the December/January period. If you are not able to take part normally, perhaps the holiday season will allow you to visit and try. Children supervised by an adult are welcome to come. Remember to pack lunch and be aware that David's afternoon activities will continue with a mini project and an educational walk.

Had a nice little thank you note in the box last week....thought I'd print it. "Dear Margaret, Just a note to let you know I was wandering along the river at Warrandyte yesterday then went up Whipstick Gully Road (have visited several times of late) and would like to compliment your happy group on a job well done. It looks great! How do you feel about new shops? Aren't the ducks friendly - saw mother and eight ducklings. Further along two came right up to me - felt mean as I didn't have anything for them. Bye for now, Vee." Original, on pretty notelet is pinned up in the Folly. Vee, from Ringwood, is not a member but attended several Parkcare courses. Says she will join "when I retire".....we look forward to it!

Most Sub-groups will continue activities over the summer months. If you are not certain give the leader (see Calendar), or Fay Valcanis a call (Office 844 2659).

Pelargonium australe.

Fern Spot

- Calochlaena dubia* False Bracken
- Histiopteris incisa* Bats-wing Fern
- Hypolepis rugosula* Ruddy Ground-fern
- Pteridium esculentum* Austral Bracken

These four ferns have much in common. All spread quickly by means of an underground rhizome and will often form large colonies. They are capable of regenerating quickly after bushfires and thrive in deep loamy soils, particularly if recently disturbed. Three of these (*H. rugosula* excepted) rarely form spore when growing in colonies, and these same three have only one member in the genus in Victoria.

False Bracken *Calochlaena dubia* - Formerly known as *Calcita dubia*, this fern has soft, pale green, tripinnatifid fronds to about 2m high, with dark, hairy stipes becoming lighter further up. Sori, when present, are marginal. This is almost as common as Bracken in Eastern Australia and prefers loamy soils on sheltered slopes.

Bats-wing Fern *Histiopteris incisa* - This has large, pale green, waxy fronds to about 2m which are fleshy and tender when young. The pinnae are in opposite pairs and sori, when present, occur in marginal bands protected by membranes when young. It prefers to grow in cool, moist gullies.

Ruddy Ground-fern *Hypolepis rugosula* - This fern has finely divided, dull green fronds to 80 cm and dark reddish brown stipe clothed with red hairs. The fronds are often eaten by the caterpillar of the White Cabbage butterfly. The members belonging to this genus are difficult to distinguish from each other because of the minor differences between them. One local form of this fern has some characteristics of *H. punctata*, the stipe being densely clothed with glandular hairs, and may be a hybrid.

Austral Bracken *Pteridium esculentum* - This aggressive fern is well known and has tall, dark, leathery fronds to about 2m high. The fronds are tripinnate to quadripinnate and glabrous on top. Sori are rarely found, but occur in long bands set in a little from the margin and protected by a membrane (indusium). Bracken fronds may cause cancerous growths if eaten, for example, by stock, in spite of the name which means 'edible'.

Planting ferns in natural bush areas

It is always a delight, when walking through the bush, to find a colony of healthy ferns growing amongst natural mosses, lichens and other native plants. Ferns tend to grow in nature where there is a constant supply of moisture seeping slowly through the soil. In these areas, other plants also thrive and build up a supply of humus which provides food for later generations of plants. Such an area is usually indicated by the presence of healthy moss, particularly in summer.

It is possible to create such an area. For example, to prevent natural rainfall from running away down a slope, a pond may be created in a suitable shaded area. This will also serve the purpose of providing a habitat for frogs, and will look attractive if well planted and landscaped.

The slope below the pond can then be covered with a deep layer of straw which will quickly provide humus, and if desired, this can be covered with a layer of compost, bark, etc., with rocks and further landscaping to prevent water run-off. This area will then receive seepage from the pond, creating an ideal situation for ferns to grow.

Ferns will look attractive in such an area if planted with other varieties of indigenous plants, which will provide shelter for them.

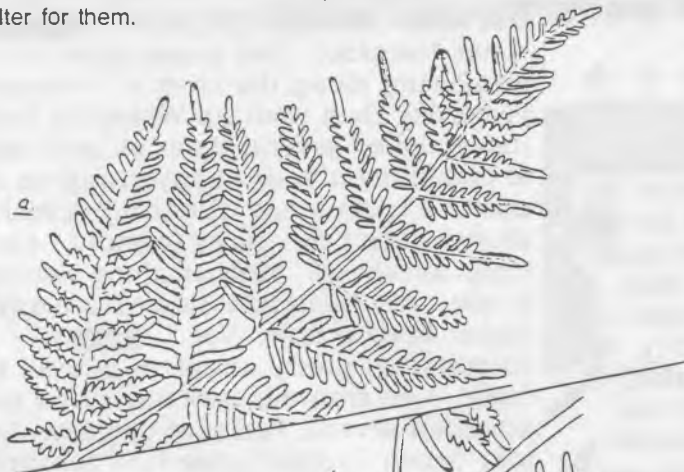
5. Four spreading ferns

by: Keith Vagg



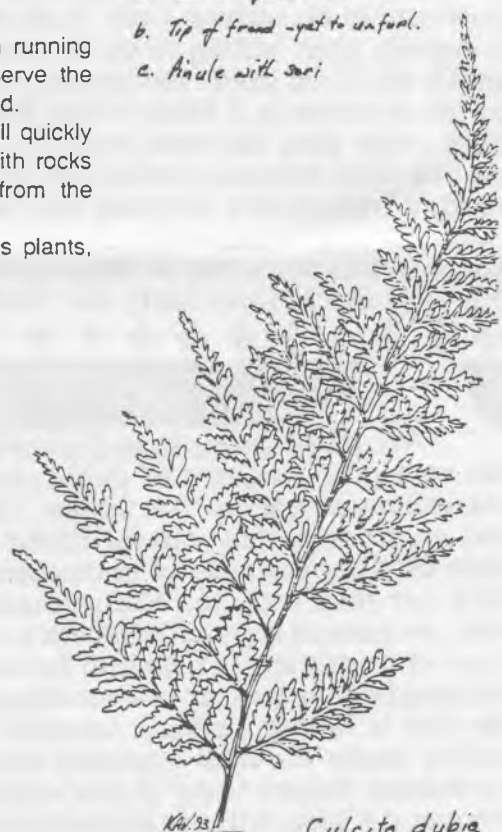
Hypolepis rugosula
Ruddy Ground Fern

- a. Section of mature frond
- b. Tip of frond - yet to unfurl.
- c. Angle with sori



Pteridium esculentum
Common Bracken

- a - apex of frond.
- b - lower primary and secondary rachis junction



Calcita dubia
False Bracken

Tip of frond.

Koala Fest. Number Five.....31st October 93.

What a great day! The sun was shining providing a warm day for this fifth Koala Count. A huge team of Fowspians (well in excess of 30) was augmented by a few newcomers from Parkcare activities. We divided into three teams to follow the trails (and this year we managed that extremely efficiently) with each group having tried and tested leaders. Long grass (and snakes - a brown being 'counted' by Elizabeth and Ian) and steep terrain were not a handicap. When the sheets were handed in our tally was a total of 22 adults, mostly female, seven of them carrying young. This could have been an under estimate of young as blustery weather made it hard to get the animals to move and show young in 'laps', still next year.....

Habitat was healthy, as were all animals. One tagged animal was seen, no doubt we shall not see her for too much longer as she is at the end of her life expectancy. Most were in Manna Gums (*Euc. viminalis*) along the river banks, however several were noted in Red Box (*Euc. polyanthemos*) up along the ridges and a female with joey were enjoying life in a Yellow Box sapling (*Euc. melliodora*).

Steve Anderson was the days ranger and organised the day wonderfully, winning many young hearts with a special Caramello Koala hunt. Imagine the youngsters surprise when the beasts within the wrappers turned out to be "Freddos" instead! We all had a splendid afternoon tea with most youngsters turning their attention to the first "Yabby Count" of this season. Yabbies were all lined up for a race back to the dam, then it was our turn to go home.

Koala Foundation Pins were for sale, project sheets for the children were handed around, with news sheets, and other information for adults. All of our census details will provide invaluable data for the Foundation and the Department. Pins will be available at our next meeting if you would like one.

PARKCARE NEWS

The latest update

The ParkCare Working Group met last month to discuss the Middle Yarra Region ParkCare Strategy, discussion paper. Areas to be addressed for 93/94 were discussed and prioritised. I hope to have the paper completed before the end of the year (it has been quite a lengthy process I admit). ParkCare will be working closely with Yarra Valley Park (Parks & Waterways) in the coming year as well as the ongoing projects around Warrandyte. One outcome of the Working Group meeting was that ParkCare will position itself at the Yarra Valley Park office in Westerfolds on a part-time basis to work on some ParkCare activities more closely with the neighbours of the park, beginning this December.

The ParkCare Spring Workshops have been quite successful this year having added several new workshops to the program. *Regenerating your garden bush block* was particularly popular and I hope this is a reflection in the increasing interest of action in our community to restore their gardens to wildlife havens. Those FOWSPians who were unable to attend and would like a copy of the notes please let me know. I am also interested in any suggestions you may have for future workshops. One suggestion made was for a session on "planning a planting day" for friends, Parkcare and other groups in this region, and together with Virginia (from Land for Wildlife) we hope to run one next year.

ParkCare is also boasting the production of two issues of the ParkCare Newsletter this financial year. As well as keeping the community informed of local issues, the

newsletter has a quarterly calendar of all the friends, ParkCare and conservation groups' events. If you have some news that you think people living in the Middle Yarra Region should know, please let us know. (P.O.Box 61).

Middle Yarra Region Action Group

In an effort to co-ordinate the activities of public land managers with private land owners, the Rabbit Action Group has developed with representatives from the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, Eltham Shire, Yarra Valley Park and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The group is looking at developing education material to assist land owners with rabbits in an urbanised area. This will include a rabbit control brochure for people living in an urban area and practical workshops on controlling rabbits. Contact Fay or Ray on 844 2659, or Mairianne Henderson on 439 9352 with your ideas and suggestions.

Some new friends at Pigeon Bank Creek

The Friends of Pigeon Bank Creek had their first "hands on" weeding day this month. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of Linda and Des (not to forget Glen Terry from the Shire of Eltham), the eager group met to remove Smilax and Thistle from a small section along the creek. It was truly amazing to turn around after about 45mins of work to see the area converted and hopefully give the native grasses there a chance. The next meeting will be on Sunday the 12th at 2 o'clock and no, not more weeding, but this time tree guarding the native Poa's that are being mowed down by the rabbits! Yes we welcome weeders too and lots of enthusiastic folk happy to save this small gem in north Warrandyte.

AN ELUSIVE FLORA RESERVE.....OLIVE WALTERS

This sometime Fowspian has made many trips to Queensland in recent years via the Newell Highway. North of Dubbo the Highway travels through State Forest and the roadside begins to look like a natural flower garden, then the countryside opens out again into farmland, but just north of Gilgandra there is a finger post pointing to the 'Gilgandra Flora Reserve'. The reserve is described thus in the Newell Highway booklet - "the Flora Reserve, just north of Gilgandra, is a must for nature lovers, giving a beautiful display of native flora in spring". So naturally, this nature lover has longed to visit it but has usually driven through the area (fast) at quite inappropriate times of day!

Last October, coming south, the sign was seen only dimly through the pouring rain at 4am. but this year the trip south was carefully planned so that a visit could be made to the Reserve in the middle of the day. Rain again marred the trip south from Goondiwindi but driving through the State Forests of the Pilliga, the drive was enlivened by glimpses of an array of beautiful flowering shrubs, daisies and other herbaceous plants and when the fingerpost appeared we turned off the highway to drive the 6K to the Reserve.

The road was severely corrugated and the sandy surface had been churned up by earlier traffic - it looked like a Four Wheel Drive track. About 2K in, the vehicle went into a series of severe skids - fortunately righted by expert handling on the part of the driver, but it was sufficient to give both driver and passenger a severe fright. The thought of crashing a Tarago Van towing a trailer on a remote country road caused the party to abandon the intended visit. A call made to the Tourist Information Centre in Gilgandra yielded more information on the flora of the area and on the history of the reserve - photos on the wall showed that this was indeed a springtime wonderland.

After a quick cup of tea to soothe the shattered nerves, the trip south was resumed but this Fowspian was allowed a brief stop to examine the roadside vegetation and to wonder at the richness and diversity of the flora. This whole area of New South Wales must have been a veritable floral paradise when the first settlers arrived. One day I will visit that Flora Reserve on a warm dry spring day in a suitable vehicle and with plenty of time to spare. What is that quote, "Better to travel hopefully"

Olearia lirata.

FRIENDS OF ONE TREE HILL.....DIANE SILVERI

The October meeting was interesting as we walked the Reserve to discover the history of the area. The group also decided on the aims for direction of Friends of O.T.H. These are as follows.

- Practical nature conservation for One Tree Hill Reserve.
- Community education through practical involvement.
- Research to enhance the flora, fauna and cultural heritage to add to the State and National significance of the area.

There are copies of the Model Rules available for circulation.

The first work day(which was advertised in F.O.W.S.P. News- Oct Ed.) involved removal of Pittosporum from the reserve, under Ranger Ray Jasper's guidance. All activities will be advertised by F.O.W.S.P. but those interested are now able to join and receive our own Newsletter. There are better things to do in 1994. Let's exchange some ideas for future activities. There will not be a planned activity in December.

In January Friends of One Tree Hill will combine with Smiths Gully Landcare for an extended evening on BATS. Fowspians are welcome to join us.

The guest speaker will be LINDY LUMSDEN who has studied Bats both overseas and around Australia and is well known for her knowledge and dedication towards others to understand Bat habits.

This will be held on SUNDAY, JANUARY 9th. AT 3.00 PM.

Format of the event:

- Register at St. Andrews Hall 3pm. SLIDE SHOW.
- Enjoy a B.Y.O. B.B.Q Tea.
- At dusk, travel to an, as yet unchosen, local site with Lindy.
- Learn lots, Finish late.

This is a Shire of Eltham Environment workshop so a booking is required (it is however free) so Phone Marianne Henderson at 430 1122.

Other Enq. Diane Silveri 710 1331

Margaret requests offers from Market Stall Volunteers. October, NO VOLUNTEERS arrived(with the exception of Neal Tessier - who gallantly comes every month - but who had an appointment and was not able to stay for long!) Fainting from exhaustion, she was fortunate indeed to have local member for Wonga Park, Lorraine Elliott, rush off and buy a cup of tea to revive her. (Eight-thirty until one o'clock at every enquirers beck and call is no joke at all!) Thankfully, Cathy Willis, unrostered and herself horrendously busy, happened by, and took a shift so Marg was able to rush around and purchase some of those goods for which the Market it deservedly famous, AND look for a new hat to keep the sun off her drooping head. Oh it was a harrowing experience!

OFFERS???? 844 1060

THE MYSTERY REPORTER.

Raymond Geoffrey JASPER first came to my attention when he received a mention in the August 1993 F.O.W.S.P. newsletter.

He is in the 'protection racket', a suspicious activity at any time. Using the official cover of LAND PROTECTION OFFICER he works beneath the 'umbrella' of Bob McGrath (Who will also be interviewed- in the future).

When questioned about a typical day, the succinct answer from Ray was "Hectic".

Ray is responsible for One Tree Hill which is located between Christmas Hills and St. Andrews, he is also responsible for the Warrandyte - Kinglake link, liaison with Melbourne Water and other D. C & N.R. Land Reserves.

As a child he attended Primary School at Rutherglen, then on to Rutherglen High, and thence to the Canberra College of Advanced Education (now Canberra University). He has qualified with an Applied Science Degree in the Natural Resources/Park Management Stream.

Ray is married. He says he was 'dragged' to Melbourne from the Snowy River National Park.

Your reporter found Ray in his office on the 7th October making a telephone enquiry about "four wheel drive - bar threads", but was only able to interview him on Thursday 21st. October. In the intervening period he was on holidays, "Northern Territory, started at Alice, finished in Darwin (drove) then flew back to Melbourne (by 'plane!)" Between Alice and Darwin he used a hired Subaru and on the way visited Kakadu, Katherine Gorge, Uluru, but not in that order.

Vital Statistics - Height 186cm. Weight approximately 71kg. Hair Colour - Brown, curly (Has been known to grow a beard and moustache when at Wilsons Promontory). Eyes - brown, no hearing aids, all his own teeth.

Criminal activities - Fined for jay walking while doing a "Fireline Boss" course at Bairnsdale.

Favourites

Food - likes fish and chips (grilled trout) and pavlova (not both at once).

Drink - Sambuka and water, I suppose".

Actor/s - Clint Eastwood (in Westerns), John Wayne as well.

Music - Aboriginal - Yathu Yindi. Guitar, -not electric.

Books - Australian, "We of the Never Never".

Australian historical novels. Favourite - "For the Term of His Natural Life".

Favourite Mental Activity - Golf, social - "good relief from the stress of work in playing golf."

Other Hobbies, Sports and Activities - "Camping - bush camping, camped in the middle of the Snowy River National Park (as part of work), camped at isolated spots at Kosciusko National Park, doing enforcement work, related to illegal horse activities - taking horses where they shouldn't. Ray is a "reasonable" horse rider, started when he was a "kid".

☛ Surfing (most of the beaches along the coast of Victoria.)

☛ "Done abseiling (Mt. Buffalo etc) snorkelling, canoeing - the Mitchell, Snowy Rivers.

☛ Used to play football wherever he was based.

Ray is married to Kellie, who teaches mathematics, science and Physical Education at Billinook College.

Question What would you like to be?

Answer "A co-ordinator or involved in the co-ordination of Alpine Parks in Victoria." He is interested in brumby running - brumby control.

Question "Have you done any courses?"

Answer "Helicopter rapelling with the Victoria Police Force, Chainsaw, Bulldozer and Grader driving, Four Wheel Drive accreditation, 'interps' training and various other courses." Ray was overheard saying to another Ranger "I'm doing an introduction to 'Windows' on the ninth of November.)

Miscellaneous Ray drives a red '88 two litre Camira with a bull bar and a wombat bar underneath. His favourite Pub "the Delegate River Tavern: I helped build it and was involved in its application for a liquor licence. It has accommodation, about 12 cabins. Its three kilometres from the most Eastern section of the Alpine National Park.

Question "What irritates you the most?"

Answer "Irresponsible drivers in Melbourne."

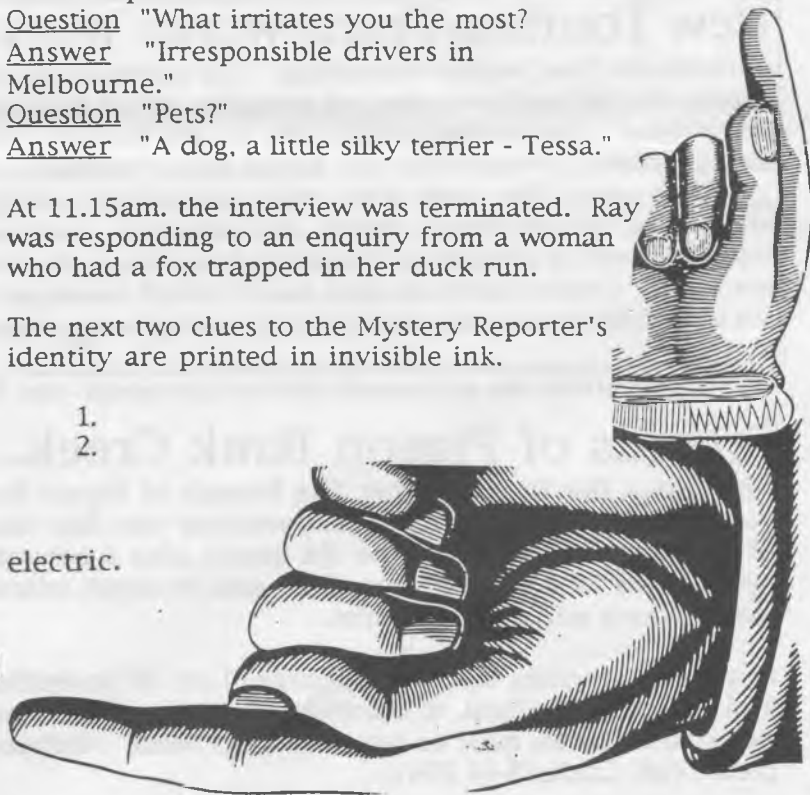
Question "Pets?"

Answer "A dog, a little silky terrier - Tessa."

At 11.15am. the interview was terminated. Ray was responding to an enquiry from a woman who had a fox trapped in her duck run.

The next two clues to the Mystery Reporter's identity are printed in invisible ink.

- 1.
- 2.



JOIN THE DOTS & COLOR ME



WATER ANIMALS.

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

REDFIN

TORTOISE

MUDEYE

TURTLE

TADPOLE

COD

PLATYPUS

YABBY

DUCK

WATER RAT

FISH

CARP

MUSSEL

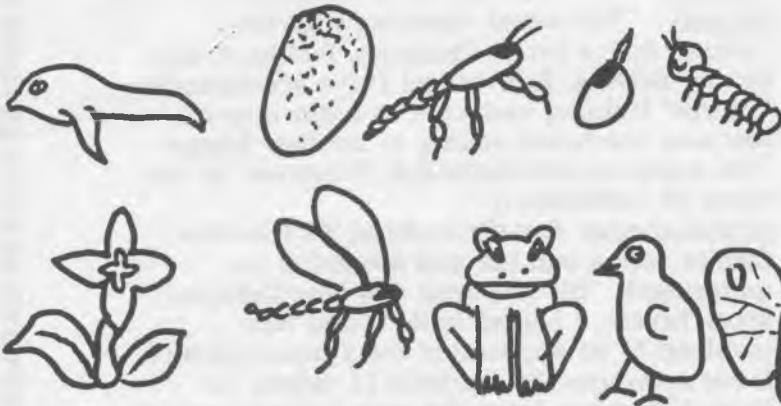
FROG

CRAYFISH

EEL

WORM

WHAT WILL I BE?



If you have a picture or joke write to Ross C/o P.O. Box 220 Warrandyte 3113.

New Tourism Frameworks Workshop. On Saturday 9th October I attended a workshop on 'New Tourism Frameworks'. This had been organised by Peter Staples M.H.R., and was an opportunity for local businesses and groups to start to think of tourism from a community generated organisation. Local tourism based on the existing themes of the area between Hume Hwy. and Yarra Valley will identify existing infrastructure and format sites of interest so that this community can generate the kind of tourism it wants. The assets of the region will include heritage sites and buildings, major Parks and bushland, arts centres, cultural venues, objects, and memorials. Local people can express an interest in tourism that the community will be involved in with regional importance, **involvement** and development to be maintained to reflect our values. I find it hard to imagine how F.O.W.S.P. would **get** involved. I did bring up the point that some sites are too significant and was told that 're-inventing' ~~some~~ plants, photos, objects into other less sensitive places is better.

Diane Silveri - 710 1331.

This article was accidentally left out last month - see Hot House Gossip.....Ed.

Friends of Pigeon Bank Creek.....by Linda Bromilow

On Sunday the 7th November The Friends of Pigeon Bank Creek held their second 'Getting to Know your Neighbourhood Walk'. The weather was fine this time around, and though there were fewer of us, there were many of the old hands, plus a new one. The smaller gathering gave us an opportunity of a more personalised and in depth educational walk, as we learnt how to identify many plants and their features.

Our next gathering will be on Sunday 12th of December at 2pm at the corner of Yarra River Court and Pigeon Bank Road, to discover more about the area. After our walk we welcome anyone who can spare half an hour to stay and help weed. Morning tea will be provided. For more information please call: Linda (844 2541).