



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK Inc.

May/June 1995
NEWSLETTER

Editorial

The human brain is indeed a remarkable organ. In one sense it is under rigid genetic control and at the same time capable of incredible plasticity of thought and behaviour. It is this flexibility to adapt that offers hope for the future. Another function it has developed is the ability to have a memory of events that is short lived and that is apparent in many facets of human behaviour. It is used to great advantage by a large group of economists (the ones who have to take off their shoes to count to more than ten) as they bravely predict the future of the world. If they are wrong, nobody remembers the errors a few years on. It is as though the brain had an inbuilt white board. The whole process is complicated for people who live in cities of large populations. The amount of information that is presented to us far exceeds our ability to absorb and a great amount of material is not retained by memory. When global environmental conferences such as those in Brazil (1992) or Egypt more recently, very few people can even recall the main topics discussed.

Large cities require many levels of government with multiple departments that are not always in touch with the areas they control. There is a tendency these days to reduce the role of small local government. It gives citizens a sense of isolation to be controlled by strangers at a distance. Another facet to this is often seen by Fowspians occurs when they meet owners of properties around Warrandyte. It is quickly realised that many people do not have the slightest knowledge concerning the ownership of their land. Some have the attitude "if I own it then I can do anything to it". Others are confused about revegetation, weed control and council regulations. Due to many sub groups and Landcare projects it is possible to allay their anxiety and help them to protect the indigenous flora and fauna.

As a final comment one could ask how many people knew that May 15 was the start of Volunteer Week? The Premier announced it at the end of a regular radio broadcast. We received no information from government departments and nothing appeared on T.V. or radio programs. Strange that we were overlooked seeing FOWSP is one of the most active in the State. It was not strange that the media ignored the event. How could it compare with their usual sensational fare ??

"The purpose of newspapers is not
to educate _ but to startle".

James Bennett 1835 Newspaper owner

"Power of government is greatest
when they distance themselves from the people."
Anon.

"A retentive memory is a good thing, but the
ability to forget is the true token of greatness."

Elbert Hubbard.

SUNDAY FAMILY DAY AT THE KOORNONG May 28th 1.00pm

Cathy Willis and the other Friends of Koornong invite you all along to see just what has happened around at the Koornong. They have worked a few minor and major miracles in this beautiful and rather forgotten section of the Park. A work activity setting up rabbit exclusion plots and planting up reclaimed riverbank (once lost under periwinkle but now wall to wall carpet under mulch) has been planned. After this, Cathy and her trusty lieutenants, will lead you on a fascinating walk through this historic area. Come and see what has happened to the old nudist colony's badminton court, many years on! Find the other historic sites. This very successful sub-group will enjoy your encouragement and also enjoy playing host to visiting Fowspians. Cathy will tell you of future plans and show her 'scrap books'. Afternoon tea around the fire will be even better if you all bring some goodies to share. Bring gloves and planting tools. Enq Cathy Willis 9844 1841 or Park 9844 2659. See you there.

HOTHOUSE GOSSIP

Amazing things have been achieved by the Green Task Forces who have worked so well with the various sub-groups of FOWSP. Ivy removal in Osborne Peninsula and Koornong has been so well done and already germination of plants is occurring, particularly maiden-hair fern. Rabbit proof fences around 'coups' or as small couplets will also aid the revegetation. Plantings have really emptied the Nursery though we are all working there at full speed. Never have I seen so many thumb pots of *Dichondra repens*, (Kidney-weed) pass through our hands.

Matt and David have suggested we think of slotting in a special day of making up wire coups, couplets and readying ourselves for a big plant in Spring and next autumn. This seems a good idea as the rabbit is always such a problem. Watch out for news in coming Newsletters.

Lots of Fowspians going down with a variety of bugs. Hope they do all survive it. I guess winter really has arrived!

Those people still well enough to attend Thursday Nursery are really enjoying the soup which arrives as per the 'roster'. Certainly after a morning with cold moist plants and pots and carrying boxes, plodding through squelch at times a hot lunch goes down very well.

We seem to have a huge number of visitors to the nursery in the last month or so. All need the guided tour and some extra 'looking after'. This is important in the long term scheme of things but Marg Burke declares herself longing to simply do a bit of pricking out!

Pat brought along the first 50 of her photographic representations of local plants. The volumes of the complete 425 on our list will be amazingly valuable to both FOWSP and Staff. Pat's photo's are very beautiful and we urge you to see them.

Any people fancying total revegetation of 10.5 acres of pasture in Osborne Rd might be daunted. Don't be, simply buy it and FOWSP and Osborne Peninsula

Landcare will help with advice, labour, plants etc.

Don & Barbara Cameron have gone off on their winter time hols. We miss them for themselves of course, but oh golly, what a mess Don's absence makes of the building brigade. and..... Martin Vanetti is off working in Portland so the remaining team hopes a few builders might pop along to help with Nursery construction. Enquiries Ian Burke 9844 1060.

Angie Stefanotis has taken on the revegetation organiser role for Frogland. This area is looking really lush and beautiful now and as you walk along the boardwalk you are serenaded by choruses of at least 4 species of frog. (7 species have actually been identified there over the last 3 years!) Angie is working hard on her frog ID skills after her two weeks handling Sugar-gliders at Organ Pipes. Thursday she will welcome you calling by to help her managing this exquisite place. Enq 9844 2848.

Hope you all enjoy Angie's article about her two weeks catching and 'processing' sugar-gliders at Organ Pipes in this newsletter. Tries to use her photographic record but colours and sizes made it all rather difficult. Angie will show them to all interested parties however. See her in Frogland.

Lots of people inviting us to be involved in the 'Enviro-fest' activities for World Environment Day. Calls for volunteers to act as marshals and general helpers at the Enviro-Transport Show at Westerfolds Park. Interested Fowspians phone Steve Ray 9840 9461. More information was brought to the Folly by Nell White last Thursday.

Another invitation is for Fowspians interested in the Arts to attend the 'opening' of the 120 foot long Transport Mural which has been painted at Warrandyte Community Centre under the creative direction of Edward Car from the Bend of Isles. Our good friend Louise Joy and Director Joan Blakley is specially inviting you to the Manningham Arts Space (Which is behind the City of Manningham Offices in Doncaster). There this art happening will be 'launched' at 10am.

(Official invitations are at the Folly) Those of you who ride bikes can then ride on to the Enviro-Transport-fest at Westerfolds.

Joan Blakely is going to include us on her mailing list for Gallery activities at Manningham Art Gallery. She tells me that the next show is a collection of Nadia Maffei's flower paintings. They are raising funds for Breast Cancer research.

Louise Joy is coming to see progress at the Nursery and she invites you all to the First Manningham Film Festival at the Doncaster Playhouse. It will be over the Queen's Birthday Weekend from Friday to Sunday and is a compilation of famous favourite films 'Australia Remembers'.

We had a terrible day at the last market. Some of you found us very hard to find. Next market we will be over on the grass near the wetland area. Hopefully the committee (who have been very happy to listen to our anxieties about affects on the wetland plantings and help).

David Cameron was horrified, when he joined us for lunch each Thursday. "How could an environmental group like you continue with only two types of rubbish (bottles and 'other')- where is the compost bin?" These days Dave is seen coming down for soup and whatever carrying the worlds biggest ice-cream container to collect everybodies scraps. Yes even to fishing them out of the 'other' bin, to have us properly trained. Now what does David do with all his collected compost? We must investigate this properly.

We have given you a photo of Elbert Hubbard in this Newsletter. Ian feels you must all see what a nice looking man this legend who went down with the S.S. Lusitania. He still gets lots of enquiries about Elbert and feels highly shocked when he hears those rumours that Elbert is *his* 'pen-name. Maybe one month we will repeat the biography Ian wrote a number of years ago.

Ian has offered Fowspians the opportunity to try their hand at an Editorial. If you would like to have a try at this most important article please contact Ian Burke, 9844 1060.

Certainly the Facts from Flora are more than fascinating this month! With great relief we tell you that the extremely nasty accident on Brysons Rd Wonga Park did not finish off our Flora. Rolling poor 'Little Pumpkin' over on a skid, into a bank where oil had been spilled across and along the road.... Flora survived. Actually, not only did she survive, but the only visible mark was a cut across the back of her hand. This she received as she climbed through the passenger side window. This, like all the others was smashed. Pumpkin was not so lucky..... though Flora says she'd write an endorsement for Holden as a safe car.

Flora declares that she has been spared to go on fighting for all those causes so close to her heart.

So come to the special planting day (June 25th) Mount Lofty and check her story out.

Koala Count April 1995

We had a most exciting, if somewhat rainy, muddy day - counting Koalas. Every Koala count is exciting, both for first timers and seasoned spotters. The expectations before this April Count were varied because we did not know what to expect in comparison to our October counts. It is too early to make any significant interpretations of the data collected but as we continue with counts the data will be invaluable.

Each year our intrepid Koala Spotters, ranging from pre-schoolers upwards, take three specific routes around Pound Bend. These were a little revised this year. This year a total of 32 Koalas were counted.

	Track		M	F	Immature
A	The Orchard Common	=	6	8	5
B	Tunnel Walk	=	2		
C	Fire Track	=	8	3	

In the main the Koalas were in *Eucalyptus viminalis* (Manna Gum) but they were found in a wide variety of other species of tree. *E. melliodora* (Yellow Box), a *E. radiata* (Narrow Leaf Peppermint) sapling, *E. macrorhyncha* (Red Stringy-bark), *E. polyanthemos* (Red Box), *E. ovata* (Swamp Gum) and even an *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle) on track A. In addition along track C Koala were found in *Eucalyptus rubida* (Candlebark).

There was another Koala Count done during School vacation by Park staff with the community (as an 'interps' activity) when 22 animals were counted on a sunnier day. The Koala Population will again be counted in October as a Thursday activity.

FOWSP urge you to contact the Park Staff if you spot Koala ANYWHERE in Warrandyte, at any time. Just ring the Office or there is a report book near Margaret Humphreys' desk - Marg will help you. This information is establishing some important data which will help and protect our Koala residents.

Enquiries Brenda Hunter 9379 7375 Park 9844 2659

Job Descriptions.

WANTED

JOB 1. People with typing or word processing skills to 'transform' articles for newsletter etc. (Marg is a very slow typist!) Please contact Margaret Burke 844 1060.

JOB 2. Works Organisers for 'Dogs body jobs' for Sunday Family Meetings.

Description - Work out with Marg all the items which need to be transported to the site. Fill in and deliver to David Van Bockel the pro forma sheet with said items, destinations, dates etc. listed. Contact David for arranging collections, delivery etc. See that all items after meeting are returned either to Depot, Nursery or Folly. (These items will include tools, afternoon tea or BBQ items, plants, pick-up of weeds...Persons would be advantaged by transport able to carry loads, but this can be done by staff if well organised in lots of time! This job will mean lots of work, NO PAY, people grizzling if you forget anything, running around all over Warrandyte. Positives are that David and Marg are sure to be very grateful and no doubt your name will appear in this famous journal. Ian Burke and Kym Docwra have almost worn out! There are about five Sunday meetings which need such 'organising. Call Margaret Burke (844 1060) to discuss.

Please don't weep for the willow by Pat Coupar

I grew up in the south-east of England amidst a landscape of undulating chalk hills, patchwork fields and meadows.

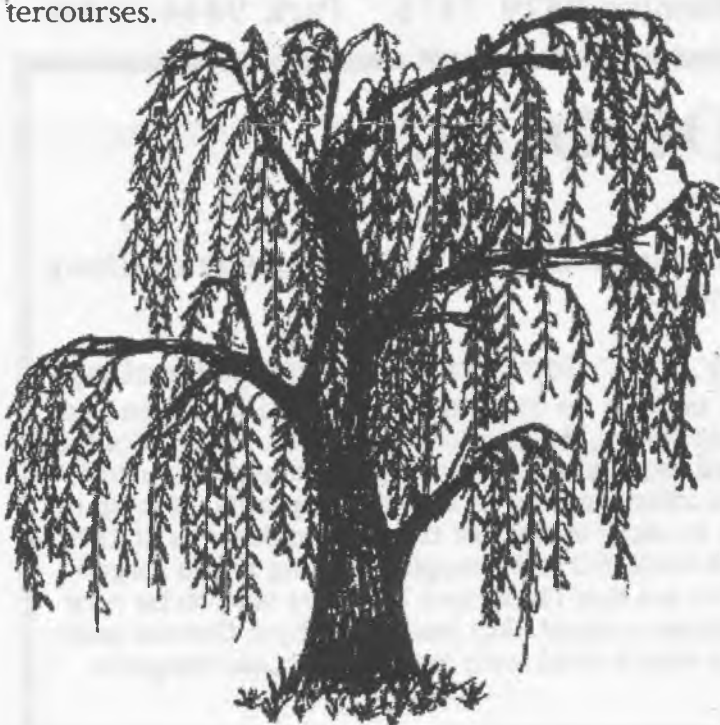
There were oak and beech woods too, where in Spring, I gathered bluebells by the armful. Willows lined the rivers and streams - a shady place to lie on those all too few hot summer days. Autumn was a time for finding mahogany polished conkers amongst ankle deep fallen leaves. In winter despite piercing frosts, I walked the narrow country lanes collecting sprigs of red-berried holly for Christmas decorations.

I watched the trees through all their seasonal transformations. I knew most of their names and I never questioned their origins - that is till I came to Australia. To my surprise many of the trees I had thought native to England were, in fact, not. The weeping willow is native of China, the horse chestnut comes from the Balkan Peninsular. The larch is from Central Europe and the beautiful copper beech is a hybrid cultivar.

Yet none of these trees look out of place in the softly coloured landscape of Southern England. Their anonymity is perhaps due to the fact that the 'old country' has suffered centuries of exploitation by man, resulting in modification of the original vegetation.

When exotic escapees infiltrate uniquely Australian vegetation however it is a different matter. In this country, introduced trees cannot be accepted as part of the landscape as they are in Britain.

In Australia, exotics are planted in gardens and streets for their ornamental value. Pines are planted for timber and willows have been used extensively for years to control and prevent erosion along watercourses.



In many ways the willow is to the river systems what the rabbit is to the land - a major environmental disaster. Willows out compete most indigenous riverbank vegetation, displacing wattles, tea-trees, reeds and sedges, thereby reducing habitat for native animals. Their massive fibrous root system inhibits stream flow and accumulates large amounts of silt, often resulting in narrowing of the river. Nowhere is this better illustrated in Warrandyte than a stretch of the Yarra below Kangaroo Ground Road near an area called the 100 Steps. Here the river is choked with willows so immense that there is barely room for a canoe to pass between their overhanging branches. Probably the most familiar willow is the weeping variety - an elegant tree with cascading leafy branches that hang like a pale green curtain to the ground. However, it is the Crack or Basket willow that dominates the banks of the Yarra.

This hybrid from England is named for the fragility of its twigs which break readily with a distinct snap at the junction of the main stem. These broken twigs are subsequently carried downstream where they lodge in silt and take root, proliferating what has become one of the river's worst enemies.

Battles against the willows have been fought in the past. Several years ago the then Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works removed a large number of trees from the riverbank below the township. This year a full-scale war against Warrandyte's unwanted willows has just begun. There will be a number of assaults planned by various authorities and volunteers, to be carried out from land and from water.

In England, the onset of autumn signals an explosion of colour around the countryside. Any dramatic change of colour in Warrandyte's bushland is entirely due to the presence of introduced trees. This autumn, many of the willows along the river will turn yellow for the last time. Death will come with the final leaf fall, but so too will birth.

The passing of the willows will create space and light for wattles to germinate and allow reeds and sedges to reclaim their rightful place along Warrandyte's own scenic stretch of the Yarra River.

This article printed in the Warrandyte Diary has elicited three letters to the editor. These replies are all quite unreasonable and ill-informed. The three respondents are all reacting in a quite hysterical way. Very few Weeping Willows are actually involved in this program as Pat points out. Other letters indicate total confusion in a quite racist vein. Platypus have been dwindling in the Yarra and if their habitat is not restored we will not see them in Warrandyte in the very near future. We have recently had Gordon Davies from Melbourne Water out and he has pronounced our work to be soundly based on conservation principals and Melbourne Water will assist us in the future.

ORGAN PIPES 1995 SUGAR GLIDER COUNT

By Angelique Stefanatos

In February 1989, thirteen sugar gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) were released at Organ Pipes National Park in the hopes of establishing a new breeding colony in the successfully revegetated park. Since Organ Pipes was declared a national park, tens of thousands of indigenous plants have been planted, and much of this work has been carried out by the Friends of Organ Pipes who were the first "Friends" group in Victoria.

In the first week of May 1995 approximately 200 traps were placed in trees over a period of four nights to monitor the hopefully growing or stable sugar glider population. This process sounds very simple but it actually involved a lot of thought and physical effort.

Firstly all the wire traps had to be covered in plastic to keep the sugar gliders dry during the inevitable Victorian downpours, and the traps numbered so we could release the animals back into familiar territory. We also had to make up huge batches of sticky sugar glider bait which consisted of rolled oats, lots of honey and dried apple. This was supposed to be stuffed into surgical cotton gauze but usually ended up all over our hands, hair and faces. The gauze held the ingredients together but still allowed the sweet aroma to entice hungry sugar gliders—and, unfortunately, brushtails, rats and European wasps — into the traps. When the animals tugged on the bait, the trap closed behind them. Another pest the sweet bait attracted was hungry Park rangers who hadn't eaten their breakfast!

An unusual addition to the traps were socks which were kindly donated by "Holeproof" (who must have wondered why sugar gliders needed socks) - The socks were actually very important in keeping the sugar gliders warm on those frosty nights, not to mention the fact that they were much easier to catch when they were snugly curled up in a sock.

A backpack-type sprayer filled with a honey/water mixture was used to spray the trees containing traps, in order to attract the sugar gliders. Of course as you were spraying up into the trees you would be completely showered with the sticky liquid, and I had nightmares of being carried off by ants attracted to my honey-coated body!

However, I survived for that exciting day when we first checked the traps, and I was not disappointed. Even though you know what to expect from seeing photos, sugar gliders are so much more beautiful in the flesh with their big ears, big eyes and big pink noses! But one thing

the photos don't tell you is they're smelly. But you don't worry about such things when you have to put one of these warm balls of fluff up your jumper to keep it warm! Even though the sugar gliders were extremely cute, they make a horrendously loud noise for such a small animal, as I discovered while stuck up a ladder face to face with one.

Next the sugar gliders were "processed" by having their details recorded such as weight, colour and sex. The process is very "high-tech" these days and one of the first things done is to "scan" the animals with a machine like the ones in supermarkets that scan groceries. Although the inserting of a microchip into a new animal is not the most pleasant procedure for it, once inserted, the animal can be scanned in the field and released immediately (if previously trapped) with minimal handling. It can even be scanned through a bag so it doesn't have to see us.

Other forms of identification used are tattoos and ear tags, but unfortunately both procedures are also not particularly pleasant for the animal. But in most cases animals had to have backup ID in case one method failed, or extra ID because of confusion concerning identification used by past researchers. In these situations I think we need to remember that we are doing the research for the benefit of the animals, and their welfare should be given first priority.

However, nothing is wasted and the tiny pieces of skin removed for the ear tags are going to be used for genetic identification of individuals and to try to establish genetic relationships within the colony.

In total, 31 individuals were trapped, including six that were previously unrecorded or that were new young - this indicated that the population is stable - Numbers may have been down due to the cold wet weather which could have discouraged the sugar gliders from foraging far. Another reason may be that black wattles (*Acacia mearnsii*), one of their major feed trees, are showing signs of senescence- therefore a revegetation program will soon need to be carried out to continue supporting the sugar glider population.

The best part of all was releasing the sugar gliders at dusk and watching their agile movements from branch to branch, and seeing them glide with such accuracy to their nest-boxes. I felt privileged to be there but sad that so few Australians have seen this wonderful part of our forests. However, with programs like this one at Organ Pipes, maybe more people will get the opportunity to see these wonderful animals in the wild.

MYSTERY REPORTER

After a virus 'autumnis' and a bout of gout and a foot-is- sore-is' the Mystery Reporter returns to present two baffling questions.

1. What do Rheola, Arnold West, Wehla, Kurting, Hope Creek, Kooyoora State Park and the Passing Clouds Vineyard have to do with Neal Joseph Tessier?
2. Who is Neal Joseph Tessier anyway?

Cornered between the potting shed and the folly, Neal was forced to give the following full-frontal expos'e! "I'm a Libra. I was born (at an early age) on 3rd October 1926 (was a good year) at Ascot Vale - according to my birth certificate. My parents lived at Newmarket, my father was an electrical mechanic and an elevator engineer, my mother had four children - I was the third.

Neal spent three years at St Brendans, then went to St Monicas, Essendon reaching Merit level then on to St Joseph's Tech, Sth Melbourne where he reached Junior Technical level. "I left school at 14 and a bit. The first job I had was working in a manufacturing stationers (with 26 girls working in the basement) where I learnt the facts of life. (Which ones? - MR). Then I was apprenticed as an electrical mechanic at Edmonstan & O'Neill, lift engineers."

"At age 18 I joined the Air Force (latter end of WWII), 35 Squadron based at Townsville for about 12 months. (MR note - Here in follows a 'Nealism') I was a pilot, I piled it here and I piled it there. We were decommissioning DC#s which were used to create TAA. I was seconded to the RAAF station at Garbutt Powerhouse, Townsville in 1945, then discharged from the RAAF and completed my apprenticeship as an electrical mechanic."

Neal worked for an electrical contractor "all over the place, anywhere - a lot for the Motor Car Industry, wired up the Volkswagen factory at Clayton, before that I wired up a couple of brown-coal dredges and overburden spreaders at Morwell...lived in Morwell."

Neal has five children, "the eldest 44, the youngest 34" at last count 10 grandchildren, don't ask me names and birthdays."

Eye Colour "blood shot - light hazel... wearing glasses because my arms are too short.

Hair colour White

Hearing "selective"

Teeth "my own!"

Height 5'7"

Weight "over. Just under 13 stone."

"I'm also modest, handsome and unassuming - Ask Betty."

Neal's main interests in FOWSP so far have been the Revegetation area commonly called 'The Coupes', spreading mulch, planting, weeding, flood control etc and general work around the Nursery area.

Neal likes Australian Folk Music - plays the Lagerphone.

Favourite Actor, Actress, Films. "The Man Who Came to Dinner" (B&W) Monty Woolly, Bette Davis - "I saw the film in pouring rain".

Favourite Authors Henry Lawson, C.J. Dennis

Favourite TV English comedies. "The English do two things extremely well - comedies and sex scandals, but they can't play cricket!"

Favourite Saying "Its better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick."

Favourite Food and Drink. "I hate pumpkin soup. I like drinking O.P.'s, Richmond beer, don't drink spirits, drink champagne, water-tea, proper black tea." Likes bananas and crayfish, Betty's cooking.

Historical and Travel.

Neal's mother's 'side' arrived here in the 1790's, on his father's side Tessier was originally a French-Canadian name and we go back as far as 1840 (here?) Neal has never grown a beard "I have no wish to look like a rat peering through a broom - actually did grow one once and looked like Ben Gunn."

Neal's travels have been up and down the coast of Western Australia, from Kalbarri to Albany, Atherton Tablelands, Cairns, Charters Towers (MR ask about the 'bloke in the bar who knew Neal's grandfather!) Brisbane, all up the coast, right down the Murray in NSW, along the Darling, Flinders Ranges "did two weeks tour of Tasmania). Mallacoota and Wyperfeld National Park are two favourite places.

Neal drives a little 'Mitsa-bushi' Colt.

Favourite Clothes "...from Dimmeys"

Footy Team North Melbourne. "I used to play a bit of football/cricket. Knew Chief Little Wolf. Did amateur wrestling when I was young, a bit of golf.

"I was a Senior Scout Leader and one of our big activities was rock climbing: Cathedral, Arapiles, Hanging Rock and in the Grampians.

Favourite Plants and Animals Acacias, colourful, quick growing, good for around the house. The Mallee Hen is an intriguing bird which builds a mound. Pee-wees - the Magpie lark.

Q. What annoy's you most? A. "English Cricketers, and the lack of Public Transport"

Q. How would you like to see W.S.P. in the future?

A. "All connected and clearly defined, ongoing revegetation and reintroduction of native animals, most of all the Native Cat, the Quoll, to replace the domestic cat as a pet. The Quoll is extinct in this area." The park should be freely available to the general public, like it is now, at no cost, and not be opened to commercial sponsorship."

Q. What about other aspects of your life? A. "

"Worked in underground mines, bull-dozer driver and plant-operator at Upper Yarra Dam when they were just starting the tunnel. Worked for the Warracknabeal Electric Co., Outfall Sewer from Morwell to Longford, the State Electricity Commission, Ford and 15 years at Dunlop, Bayswater."

Q. You mention Kingower, (west of Inglewood)? A. "I kept bees on a 9 acre block with a store shed on it, camped there. The honey came from Yellow Box, Grey Box, Redgum and various Mallee species.

Q. Ever bitten? A. "Badly, by an imported European Wasp."

Q. Why do rangers and non-native bees not see eye to eye? A. "Hybridisation (of trees or bees! MR) of Eucalypts. And occupying hollows in trees, keeping out nesting birds and indigenous bees."

Final Comments.

Neal was married to Ethel May (from Big Pats Creek) for 35 years. "She was a wonderful lady. She had an aneurism in 1984 and died suddenly"

Neals favourite occupation is ballroom dancing Favourite dance is a 'set dance' - The Alberts'. Betty and I go dancing regularly, Sth Warrandyte, Wandin, Blackburn etc.

Glossary B&W - Black and white DC3 - Douglas Commercial type Plane. No 3 in the series - first mass produced all metal stressed skin aircraft. Two propellor engines (Military version referred to as Dakotas) 21 seater.

RAAF - Royal Australian Air Force

Stone - (Weight) = 14 pounds or 6+ kilograms.

TAA - Trans Australia Airline.

O.P.'s - Other Peoples!

Since the dawn of time, the moon has cast a shimmering glow over the Earth. Few can resist a stroll by the light of the silvery moon. Writers, astrologists, scientists and poets each have a story to tell about the moon. The vast oceans are no match to the gravitational pull of the moon.

Ancient observers believe that the dark regions on the surface were oceans, giving rise to the latin name *mare* (sea), which is still used today. While the brighter regions were likewise held to be continents. Several of these features are visible to the naked eye. See if you can identify these features shown in figure 1.

Distance from the sun. Average 384,400kilometres.

Size 3475.6 kilometres in diameter.

Length of the Lunar Day Equals 27.2 Earth Days

The temperature varies between -163°C (dark side) and 117°C (sunlit side).

The moon has a synchronous orbit which means that one lunar day equals one sidereal month or lunar year. This accounts for the fact that virtually the same portion of the moon is always turned towards the Earth. (One sidereal month occurs when the moon completes one revolution in an elliptical orbit about the Earth with reference to the stars.) While the synodic month is the time taken to complete four phases of the lunar cycle - 29.5 Earth days.



We have great walks, activities, mini -projects, plant and fauna surveying, seed collection.

This is a time to pick up all kinds of skills. All welcome. Enquiries Marg & David VB.

On Tuesday, Lawrie and I met with the Green Task Force group of unemployed teenagers, girls and boys, who had been doing the course initiated by the government to help young people gain a variety of skills at the same time as helping voluntary groups working for the environment.

These young people had been working with the various FOWSP groups and Warrandyte State Park Rangers. They had made seats and tables for the State Park, pulled out rampant ivy, and in the Park nursery had pricked out native seedlings from trays into pots. Today was scheduled for Lawrie to help them make nest boxes. We arrived at 9.15 am. with the Kombi filled with made up samples of nest boxes, and piles of sides, backs, fronts, bases and lids of recycled timber, mainly flooring boards, for the group to put together of various types of nest box. So, from 9.30 to 2.30, they were trained in the use of hand and power tools in putting together boxes for ring tail and brush tail possums, crimson and eastern rosellas, and bats. These young people worked very well together, were very supportive of each other, and enthusiastic. They had to be dragged away from their projects to stop for morning tea!

Craig Hollins, our support ranger, spent the morning with his ear muffs on, sawing up planks on his big power saw into smaller pieces for nest boxes for sugar gliders, from a sketch in a pamphlet Lawrie brought. After lunch - a lunch that our young friends ate quickly so they could get back to the workshop and get on with their work - there was plenty to go on with. As each nest box was nailed together, the right sized bole cut, the little ladder on the inside for the young ones to reach the hole, and the mesh metal on the outside for a grip before entering, it was then taken outside and painted - a dull departmental forest green.

There were 22 grand looking dull departmental forest green nest boxes, small, middling and large, proudly set out on the trestle at 2.30 when the dull departmental forest green hands of the Green Task Force waved to us as their bus pulled out. And there is no doubt many birds and animals will be as happy as we were with the day's work and those wonderful young people.

Peggie Safstrom.

Fossicking Ross & friends

To Fossicking Ross and Percy Poss,

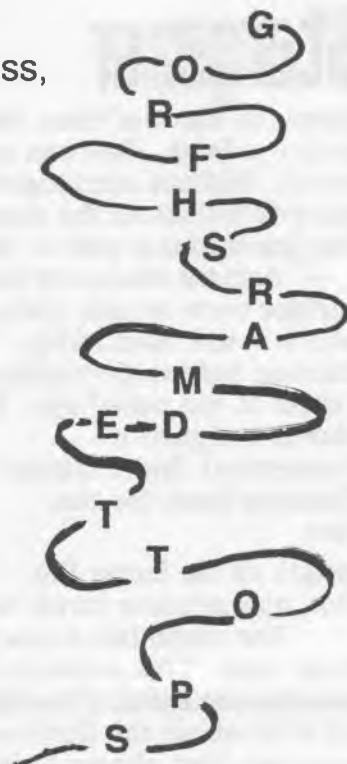
K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	W
S	U	P	Y	T	A	L	P	O
U	D	I	P	O	S	S	U	M
G	K	H	O	T	A	B	P	B
A	P	I	N	O	M	I	R	A
R	O	P	K	O	A	L	A	T
G	R	T	U	C	O	B	R	P
L	N	A	G	I	E	Y	F	E
I	M	P	K	D	I	N	G	O
D	A	N	B	N	G	A	S	T
E	M	U	O	A	D	U	C	K
R	U	H	S	B	A	T	K	L

Here is a Word Find of
Australian Animals which I made.
Hope you like it.

from Tom King. 8 years

Australian Animals

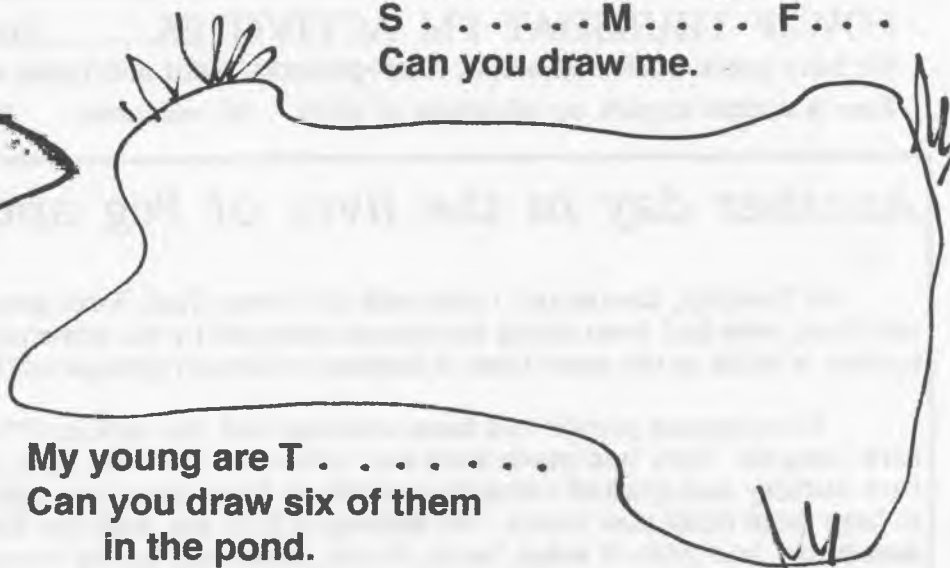
BAT	PLATYPUS
KOALA	DINGO
BILBY	BANDICOOT
WOMBAT	POSSUM
TUAN	KANGAROO
EMU	DUCK
SUGAR-GLIDER	



Follow the line. I am a
S M F . . .
Can you draw me.



Tacky is a Penguin. Lily King
made this picture of him.
Lily is 4 years old.



My young are T
Can you draw six of them
in the pond.

JOIN THE DOTS,
THEN COLOR ME.



Send me your pictures, puzzles
riddles and jokes.
Send them to Fossicking Ross
P.O. Box 220,
WARRANDYTE 3113