



# FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK Inc.

OCTOBER 1995  
NEWSLETTER



## THE NEW COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the new committee was held on 26th. September at Pound Bend. At that meeting committee members were nominated to the following positions;—

### CONTACT/LIASON PERSONS

Mike Coupar — 9903 9567  
Ron Taylor — 9844 4285  
Cecilia le Duc — 9725 3959

### SECRETARY

Kim Dowcra — 9876 3807 (assisted by Cathy Willis)

### TREASURER and MEMBERSHIP

Joy Hildebrand — 9844 2638

### NEWS LETTER

Joan McMahon and Pat Coupar — 9844 3213 and 9844 1650

### PUBLIC OFFICER

Louis Joy

The NURSERY and PROPAGATION will still be run by Pat Coupar and Cathy Willis as before.

SOCIAL EVENTS will be looked after by Cecilia le Duc along with anyone who would like to give her a hand.

Other minor committee positions will be allocated at the next committee meeting to be held on 24th. October.

The new committee will make itself available to all members of the Friends Group for any discussion, ideas, etc. Remember that your committee is there to serve you, the members.

The invitations to the party for Margaret & Ian Burke have been sent. It is to be held on Sat 11th Nov. If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend, please contact Margaret Dimech on 9844 3812.

## WORKING BEE

The annual working bee at Professors Hill be held on

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER

Those who would like to help should meet at the Research Road gate at 10AM. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Contact Joy Hildebrand on 9844 2638 for more information.

## NEWS FROM THE NEW COMMITTEE

First of all apologies must be made for the quality of this hastily put together newsletter. Rest assured it is not the shape of things to come. The new committee felt that its first and most important duty was to update all members on recent developments and to assure them that despite some changes FOWSP will continue to be a strong and active conservation group. Recent good attendances on thursdays, Alan Websters slide night and the annual general meeting have already proved this to be the case.

Following Margaret Burke's resignation as co-ordinator, an annual general meeting was held on Sunday September 24th. At the meeting Louise Joy was nominated and accepted the position of public officer for the group. A new committee was then elected unopposed. Six members from the previous committee were re-elected, these are: Joy Hildebrand, Cathy Willis, Pat Coupar, Ron Taylor, Cecilia Le Duc and Kym Docwra. The three new members are Mike Coupar, Flora Anderson and Joan MacMahon.

The new committee held its first meeting on Tuesday September 26th. A summary of the meeting is included in this newsletter and the minutes will be pinned up on the notice board in the Folly.

The unanimous feeling at that first meeting was that, rather than acting as individuals with separate defined roles, the committee will work together to form a co-operative committee of management. Having said that it was agreed that certain duties such as treasurer and secretary would be undertaken by one or two people. The role of co-ordinator, as such, has been abandoned. Instead three committee members will be available as contact people for the group. They are:

Mike Coupar 9903 9567

Ron Taylor 9844 4285

Cecilia Le Duc 9725 3951

Any business arising will be discussed by the committee of management who intend to hold regular meetings at least once a month.

We are entering a new and exciting era for FOWSP. Many of the committee have already been working closely with the Ranger in Charge Matt Le Duc and his staff, either as sub-group leaders or in flora management. The committee as a whole would like to offer Matt and his staff their ongoing and total support for the future and thank them for their patience and understanding over the last couple of months.

## THANK YOU

A very big thanks is extended to those members of the previous committee who have, for whatever reason, decided to resign. A special thanks goes to the ex-co-ordinator Margaret Burke. She held the position for over eight years and worked tirelessly for the FOWSP cause. Margaret organised the very successful monthly Sunday programme and additional excursions and slide talks. For many years she ran the FOWSP market stall and was always present at the "Friends" festival display.

Together with her husband Ian, Margaret produced a most informative and popular monthly newsletter. Ian headed the building committee which over the years achieved many fantastic improvements to the nursery and constructed the now invaluable "Folly" building. Alec Manson, another resignation, also worked on these building projects along with other FOWSP members. Thanks also go to Alec for his time as treasurer.

Shirley Mandemaker is another person whose talents will be sadly missed. Shirley looked after our precious library collection, painstakingly cataloguing all the books.

Another long-term committee member who has resigned is Gay Harris, she had the unenviable task of secretary which in recent times she shared with Margaret Dimech who took on the role of membership secretary. A big thank you goes out to Gay and Margaret.

Finally after many years of threatening resignation, Judy Thomson has done so. Judy took over the job of treasurer after her husband Keith died and has looked after FOWSP funds in a most professional manner. Judy has also become a kind of Guru to whom we turn for advice. Thank you Judy for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

## SUGGESTION BOX

To give all members an opportunity to voice their opinions to the committee, it has been decided to have a suggestion box. This will be located in the Folly at Pound Bend depot.

Letters to the editor will be welcome but please keep them short (less than 100 words) as space may be limited. If there are a lot of letters they may not all be published immediately.

The committee would also value suggestions for activities and outings for the following year.

## THE POWER OF OWLS

Between forty and fifty members were privileged witnesses to the private life of the Powerful Owl in a special slide presentation given by Alan Webster. Alan has been the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Officer for our region for the last six years. He has the awesome responsibility of ensuring that threatened and endangered species such as the Striped Legless Lizard, Swift Parrot and Elthem Copper Butterfly do not succumb to extinction. The Powerful Owl is one of these species and is classified as 'endangered' in Victoria and 'possibly endangered' Nationally.

In one of those once in a lifetime coincidences a pair of Powerful Owls and their fledglings were roosting a short walk away from the Folly. As the light was fading the rangers took the group to see the owls by the river. Alan located the birds almost immediately up in lofty Manna Gum trees. When the spotlights were aimed and binoculars focused, there were the majestic birds with wide yellow eyes staring back in astonishment. One of the fledglings was seeking reassurance from its parent by emitting a high-pitched trill which sounded like, to the uninitiated, a 'katydid' grass hopper. We respected the privacy of the family by returning to the Folly for a barbeque tea.

By the time Alan started his slide talk the kids were in a state of excitement expecting to see close ups of the owls that they had not been able to spot down by the river. They were not disappointed. Alan's slides were superb. One of many that impressed me was a close up of a male staring yellow-eyed at the camera clasping a dead Ring-tailed Possum in his talons. Alan told us that the birds have a voracious appetite for possums particularly when rearing their young. We were shown the very private scenes of chicks in a massive tree hollow, adults perched in trees and evidence of their presence by unfinished meals left scattered over the ground.

Finally Alan showed us how the Department monitor the movements of the birds. This research has revealed that the Warrandyte pair has had nesting/roosting sites in Bradleys Lane, Jumping Ck, The Island, Fourth Hill and Pound Bend.

By the end of the evening everyone left feeling privileged that a breeding pair of Australia's largest owl has chosen Warrandyte as its home range. Although these birds are endangered, we can rest assured that there is a dedicated and talented man working hard to ensure they have a future with us for years to come.

REPORT FROM MIKE COUPAR

## SUNDAY ACTIVITY

Ten FREE plants and a sausage sizzle can be yours. All you have to do is turn up at the nursery on SUNDAY OCTOBER 29th from 10.am onwards and put in a little time and effort and be prepared to get your hands dirty. Jobs will include cleaning, mulching, weeding, shifting stock and planting. Activities will centre around the nursery, Frogland and the Coop (depending on how many people turn up).

Work will stop at lunch time when a sausage sizzle will be provided. Those that wish to stay for the afternoon will be taken on a guided walk around the area to see, hear, smell, touch and talk to some of the local flora and fauna as well as learn their names.

All workers will be invited to take home a selection of ten plants from the community section of the nursery.

Hope to see you there.

## THE NEWSLETTER

Before she went on holiday to Western Australia, newly elected committee member Joan MacMahon offered her services as co-editor of the newsletter. Joan does not want to take on sole responsibility for the newsletter so Pat Coupar has agreed to help out. This partnership is nothing new as Joan and Pat worked together as editors on FOWSP's most successful publication "Discover Warandyte". There have been several other offers of help for the newsletter including one from Fowspian Jan Tindale of "The Diary" fame.

The committee thought it would be a good idea to choose a name for the newsletter - one that would reflect the interests of the group.

Some examples of other conservation groups newsletters are:

"Indigenotes" Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association

"Monitor" Victorian Herpetological Society

"In the Spotlight" Victorian Frog Group

"Ripples" Project Platypus

"Potoroo" Concerned Residents of East Gippsland

So get your thinking caps on, any ideas can be posted in the suggestion in the Folly.

## Thursday Nursery Activities.

10am onwards. Lunch, soup roster. Come and learn how to propagate our indigenous plants. Walk in the afternoon. Learn your way around the Park, identification skills, seed collection, have a marvellous time.



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### FRIENDS GROUP CHRISTMAS BREAK UP

We will be holding a Bush Dance for the Christmas Break up on FRIDAY 17th. NOVEMBER in the Warrandyte Hall. The cost will be approx. \$5 per person and \$10 for a family ticket. We will be raffelling off a Christmas Hamper on the night.

For further information on the Bush Dance and for donations to the Hamper please contact Cecilia on 9725 3959.

We need plenty of support to make this a good fun night for the end of the year!!



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