

March 1997

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. P O Box 220 Warrandyte 3113

'Friends' Support HOOP

By Cathy Willis

"From Wilsons Promontory to Royal Park, from the Nobbies to the Carlton Gardens, from Port Campbell to Albert Park, the assaults upon our parks are building up to a crescendo of alienation, degradation and commercialisation. The State Government has formed Parks Victoria as a single organisation which can be expected to continue these assaults in both rural and metropolitan Victoria. Only a coordinated response will have any effect."

These were the words that called over 20 FOWSPians to join a crowd of around 2000 in the Carlton Gardens on Sunday February 23rd, for the Hands Off Our Parks rally. 'HOOP' is a coalition of seven major organisations:- Town and Country Planning Association; Victorian National Parks Association; Australian Conservation Foundation; Environment Victoria; National Trust of Australia (Victoria); Victorian Local Governance Association; and the Wilderness Society. These are just the big names, altogether nearly 100 groups were represented at the rally.

Over the last year, FOWSP newsletters and the Warrandyte Diary have reported on various issues of concern to 'Friends' at a local level, such as funding, staffing cuts, loss of Ranger housing, commercialisation of interpretation programs, and the formation of Parks Victoria. We are not alone. HOOP gives a voice to all smaller groups such as ours, struggling in relative isolation to be heard by the policy planners and decision makers. It was very supportive to be part of a large crowd facing similar issues.

Angela Munro, Councillor for the Australian Conservation Foundation chaired the rally and introduced five speakers. While all spoke well on related aspects of the one issue, it was Doug Humann (Director of the Victorian National Park's

Association) who really highlighted our immediate concerns. His talk was entitled "National Parks - Commercial Asset or Public Heritage" and in it he made the following points:

There is more to park management than increasing the reserve system. Parks Victoria was created seemingly overnight with no public consultation, and has a board almost identical to the old Melbourne Parks and Waterways. It is not covered by the National Parks Act 1975 as was the National Parks Service and at present has no stated objectives. The major purpose of the National Park's Act was conservation. Huge salaries are being paid to managers while Rangers beg for funds. If profit is a motive for development, incremental development will occur. While Mt. Stirling has had a reprieve, the fight is not over for the Prom. The Nobbies, Mallee Parks, Alpine National Park, Chiltern, Mornington Peninsula and others are all facing similar threats. In parks all over the state, we must try to ensure that management is for nature conservation, not profit or tourism.

The meeting concluded with two motions being carried. The first was to call on the State Government to preserve and protect all parklands. The second resolved that HOOP become a continuing liaison group to ensure that this happens. Individual groups were then given an opportunity to briefly raise their own concerns.

In response to the rally Mrs. Tehan made some rather cynical and derogatory comments. Don't believe her. The speeches were intelligent and well reasoned, the atmosphere was positive and supportive. Hands off our Parks is a broad based and well organised group. We came away with the impression that the people who attended the rally are committed to a positive future for Victoria's parks, and like us, will not give up.

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

MARCH 13TH Bradleys Lane Renovation

Leave the Depot at 1.15pm or meet on site at 1.30pm

Let's see how the ferns we planted a few years ago have coped with this hot hot summer. Afterwards we can explore downstream and then retire to our leader's home for afternoon tea.

Leader Joan MacMahon. Meet at the end of Bradley's Lane, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 B12)

MARCH 20TH Gardening Spree MORNING ACTIVITY

Meet at the depot at 10.00am

A chance to do a bit of real gardening as we tidy up the beds around the depot and 'folly'.

Leader Ben Gotlib. Meet at the depot Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 C10)

MARCH 27TH Rediscover the 'coupe'

Meet at the depot at 1.30 pm

Check out the progress and learn what we hope to achieve. We may see a koala or two.

Leader Neal Tessier. Meet at the depot Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 C10)

APRIL 3RD Stane Brae Willow Work and Walk ALL DAY ACTIVITY BRING LUNCH

Meet on site at 10.00am

In the morning we will be drilling and filling some willows and removing yellow iris. Lunch on the river bank will be followed by a short walk. **Leader** Cathy Willis & Pat Coupar. Drive to the end of Stane Brae Crt, through the gate and continue down the track. Meet at the end of the grassy area down by the river. (Melways ref. map 24 C6)

APRIL 10TH Frogland MORNING ACTIVITY

Meet on site at 10.00am

Work continues on this dynamic area. We now have a new large pond to establish.

Leader Jenny Hoskin. Meet at the WSP depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 C10)

APRIL 17TH Black Flat Walk

Leave the Depot at 1.15pm or meet on site at 1.30pm

It's a long time since we've been to this area. Come and check out the river bank and see how things have changed since the willows have died.

Leader Ant Owen. Meet at the car park, Tills Drive, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 H11)



FOWSP members flying the banner at the Hands Off Our Parks (HOOP) rally

(See front page article)

Attention Scotchman's

We are still waiting for the final word that Scotchman's Hill is officially part of the Warrandyte State Park. As mentioned in our last newsletter, the bill formalising its incorporation, as well as that of Mt Lofty, into the Park should go before parliament this month. In anticipation of this inclusion the State Government has allocated some money for the restoration of Scotchman's Hill and weed eradication work has already begun.

For those who are not familiar with this 2.1 hectare block of unreserved Crown Land, it is bounded by Mullens Road, Magpie Lane and Brackenbury Street and is one of the highest points in Warrandyte with extensive views to the north and east. The reserve has a good cover of eucalypts, mainly Red Box, but the understorey is mostly degraded. Despite this, a number of lilies and orchids still survive on one section of the Hill.

Scotchman's Hill will be getting some much needed attention. The weed management

SCOTCHMAN'S
HILL BUSHLAND
RESERVE
(MELWAY 23 G 11)



program, to be carried out over the next four months, will include: hand removal of wandering jew, blue periwinkle, agapanthus and ivy; spraying of blackberries and broom; felling and removal of pine trees. In addition, a fuel reduction burn is planned for the site. This will only take place when and if the conditions are suitable and all residents in streets adjoining the reserve will be notified prior to the burn.

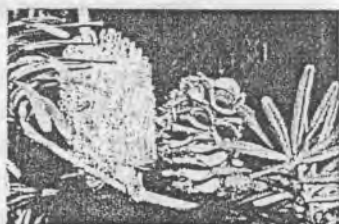
Flora of Warrandyte Update

In the last month another 50 species have been added to the 'Flora of Warrandyte', the photographic album of Warrandyte's indigenous flora. This brings the total number of species completed to 327 - only another 145 to go!

Flora of Warrandyte

Volume one

A Pictorial Record of Warrandyte's
Indigenous Flora



Pat Coupar and David Van Bockel

Sponsored by
Department of Natural Resources & Environment and Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Of particular interest among the latest batch are the Annual Fern

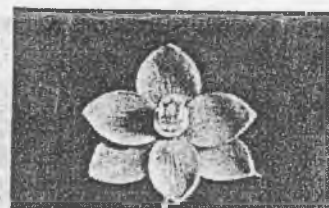
(*Anogramma leptophylla*) rediscovered in Warrandyte only last year; Moss Sunray (*Hyalosperma demissum*) and Grass Cushion (*Isoetopsis graminifolia*) both exquisite tiny annuals discovered in the Park last spring, plus several more stunning orchids.

If you would like to have a look at the albums which are available for loan on a short term (eg. over a weekend) either contact Pat Coupar on 9844 1650 or Ranger David Van Bockel at the Park on 9844 2659.

Flora of Warrandyte

Volume two

A Pictorial Record of Warrandyte's
Indigenous Flora



Pat Coupar and David Van Bockel

Sponsored by
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Golf Course - Friend or Foe?

By Flora Anderson

Earth works have begun on the heritage golf and country club resort, a 350 hectare major tourist development directly upstream of Mount Lofty.

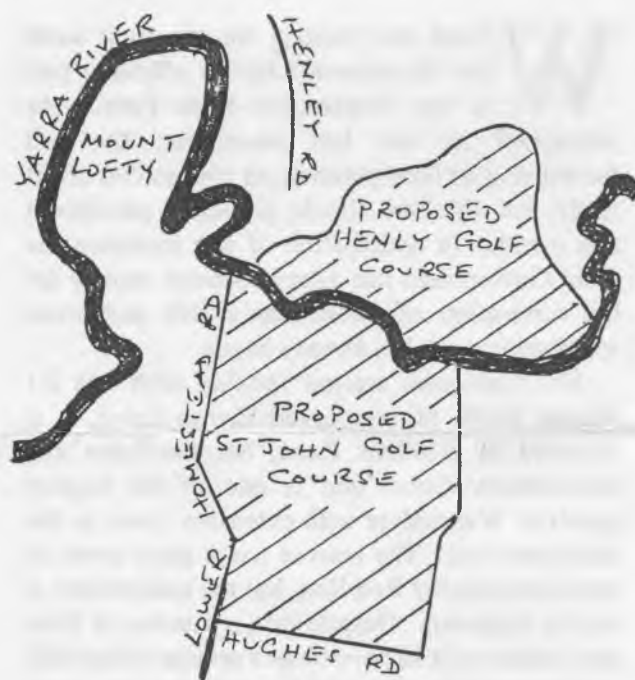
Development plans have been approved for:

- two eighteen hole golf courses
- a clubhouse /conference complex
- 185 condominiums plus 120 cluster housing units in 5 separate nodes.
- parking for 300 cars
- maintenance and service compound
- a bridge over the Yarra
- bushland area
- network of natural and artificial wetland

An Independent Panel was appointed to hear submissions. A total of 49 submissions were received, including ones from the Upper Yarra & Dandenongs Authority, Shire of Yarra Ranges, Shire of Nillumbik, Department of Natural Resources & Environment (DNRE), Melbourne Water, Energy & Minerals, Environment Protection Authority (E.P.A), 10 Conservation groups and individual members of the community. Of these, the owners of two local wineries supported the proposal with some reservations regarding height of buildings and sewerage lines. Concerns included environmental impact on flood plains, billabongs and oxbows, the legal right of carriageway by Henley Farm and kangaroo access to feeding grounds. An Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S). was called for.

The Panel published its findings on March 8th 1995 with the following recommendations:

- At least one golf course and a significant component of the Country Club to be completed before condominiums or St John villas are developed.
- The formation of an Environment Monitoring Committee (EMC), comprised of representatives from the Shires of Yarra Ranges and Nillumbik, DNRE and E.P.A.
- Provision for public access along the Yarra River.
- Flora & fauna Management Plan.
- Schedule of weed species not to be planted
- Input from canoeists concerning bridge location and design.



The Minister for Planning approved the amendments, endorsing the proposal to establish an E.M.C. He suggested "the effectiveness of the committee would be enhanced by the inclusion of a community representative."

The Shire called for nominations for a community representative. Five well qualified people, all of whom had followed the progress of the golf course/tourist resort issue from the beginning, were nominated by the Upper Yarra & Dandenongs Environment Council. The Minister, however, appointed Mrs Mary Mooney, McMeikans Road, Yering who had been nominated by a local MP. When contacted Mrs Mooney admitted she had very little knowledge of the development but was learning fast. She was attracted to the position because she lives on a flood plain of the Yarra River and thought she would have something to offer.

A meeting of interested parties from the neighbouring conservation groups (including FOWSP) was convened on February 24th to meet Mary. She listened carefully to our concerns and lines of communication have been established. As yet the EMC has not met.

This fact and the wording of the Terms of Reference are of great concern to us. In

Continued on next page

Calendar of Sunday Events

APRIL 27TH Koala Count

Time:- 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Lots of sharp eyes needed for our Annual Koala Count. Bring the kids and a pair of binoculars for a close up view of koalas. Followed by afternoon tea. Bring a plate to share.

Leader: Brenda Hunter

MAY 25TH Common boundaries

Time:- 12:30 - 4:00 PM.

Help the rangers construct two fences on The Common. One to protect some special orchids from rabbits and kangaroos. The other to prevent access and damage by vehicles and horses. Followed by afternoon tea. Bring a plate to share. Tea, Coffee, milk and hot water supplied.

Leader: David Van Bockel

JUNE 29TH 4th Hill Extravaganza

Time:- 9:30 - 12:30 PM.

Rediscover Whipstick Gully! See how well our plants have grown and add a few more. Come to the Air-shaft to see one of Warrandyte's most successful revegetation fences. A little handweeding should keep the site in check. Followed by a nature walk. BBQ provided, with meat, bread and BBQ supplied, BYO salads and drinks.

Leader: David Van Bockel

JULY 27TH

To be advised

AUGUST 31ST Koornong Riverwalk

Time:- 1:30 - 4:00 PM

Follow up on the previous weed control along the River Track. Admire the highlights of the year's work. Small digging tools will be useful. Followed by afternoon tea. Bring a plate to share.

Leader: Cathy Willis

SEPTEMBER 21ST Timber Reserve

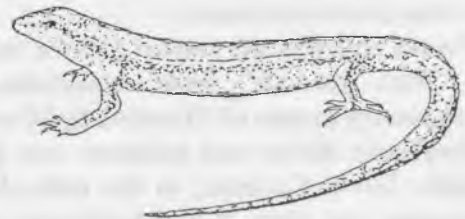
Treasures

Time:- 10:00 - 1:00 PM

A wildflower walk through the reserve to look for orchids, some of which will be flowering. Followed by an inspection of Pittosporum Gully Fence for some maintenance weeding. BBQ provided, with meat, bread and BBQ supplied, BYO salads and drinks.

Leader: Brian Phefley

Note: this is not the last Sunday in the month



Golf Course? - Friend or Foe continued

particular it states that the EMC will only act in an advisory capacity and not have the power to change decisions.

Meanwhile earth moving machinery is working on preliminary site works.'

A brochure has been produced which gives details of progress so far, including weed eradication completed last year along Chirnside Drain; a development plan approved by the responsible authorities; completion of a flora and fauna plan and a billabong & river management strategy.

However, until the EMC meets, we will not know if the promises made to preserve the integrity of at least some of the billabongs are to be adhered to and if so, exactly how it will be done. We know that there are several regionally significant plant species in the

billabongs which have not been listed in the management plans.

If you are concerned about what is happening at Heritage Golf & Country Club you can contact Mary on 9739 1488, Monique Reiner and Ian Gibb at Yarra Ranges Shire office can also give advice.

Regarding the bridge, Glenise Karanikich Conservation Officer of Kirinari Kayak Club told me that their organisation has not been approached for input regarding bridge location and design.

Is the Environment Monitoring Committee going to be a big white elephant? We hope not.

Editors Note : particular concerns conveyed by the 'Friends' to Mary at the meeting were the potential damaging effect to the State Park of nutrient-enriched run off, spread of weeds etc

Monitoring the Ecological Effects of Fire on Vegetation

By Jenny Hoskin

For those who do not know me, let me introduce myself. My name is Jenny Hoskin and I am presently the custodian of 'Frogland' and a committee member of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. I am also a student studying for a diploma in Natural Resource Management at the Outer Institute of TAFE, Wantirna.

Last year I approached ranger David Van Bockel at the Warrandyte State Park about some volunteer work experience. He suggested that I might be interested in the fire monitoring program that was about to commence in the Park.

Apparently the Fire Research Department of the Department of Natural Resource and Environment has made a commitment to researching and monitoring the effects of both wildfires and prescribed burns on our environment.

Basically my work involved setting up permanently marked areas known as 'quadrats' or 'plots' in the Park. The vegetation of these quadrats was then surveyed and the information recorded. Monitoring programs allow for recording changes over time in our ecosystems.

Fourth Hill was the chosen site for the survey and five quadrats were established, each encompassing an area of 30 metres by 30 metres.

Invaluable advice and guidance was given by botanist, David Cameron, in the methodology of monitoring the plots and identification of plant species recorded in each plot.

I soon discovered that monitoring plots is a very lengthy process and time is needed for accurate results. Starting in October 1996, the first part of

this project has only recently been completed in January 1997, in the form of a Report.

Some of the achievements associated with this project are:

1. The quadrat data collected in this study provides, for the first time, a comprehensive and detailed picture of the composition of the most widespread plant community in our district. As well as the recording of the higher plants (vascular flora), mosses, liverworts, lichens and even the fungi were also included in the monitoring.
2. A field recording sheet for flora specifically designed for WSP was created.
3. The information will be permanently stored in the 'Flora Information System' at the Arthur Rylah Institute based in Heideberg.
4. For future monitoring a 'model' will be created for the effects of fire on vegetation and will help give answers to the many questions arising from this project.

A valuable by-product of this study was that new species records for WSP were discovered. For example, *Dichelachne hirtella* (Hairy Plume-grass) and an orchid, *Caladenia prolata* (the Fertile Caladenia). Also the rediscovery of one of the most threatened plants known in the park, *Caladenia lindleyana* (Wine-lip Spider Orchid).

This project has been a very enriching and learning experience for me and I would like to acknowledge the great assistance of all Park staff and for the friendly and professional work atmosphere they provided.

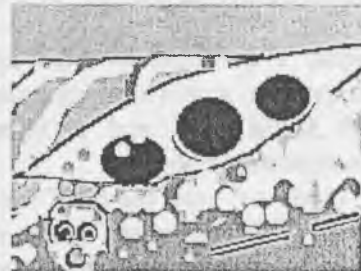
River Clean Up

As part of Clean Up Australia Day, eight Fowspians in four canoes (including FOWSP's own canoe) took part in the annual River Clean Up. A large amount of rubbish was collected including five car tyres (two



with wheels attached), a huge old battered metal sign, a broken paddle, a helmet and numerous plastic bottles and cans.

There were drop off points for the rubbish at Stane Brae beach and Mullens Orchard. The river level was not as low as anticipated, so the trip from Bouchiers Rd to Black Flat was easy and enjoyable with no portages,



although there were a couple of dunkings!

Reminder: The 'Friends' canoe is available for use by any member over 18 years. Just contact Ron Taylor to arrange details.



The hot weather has really taken its toll on some of our wildlife. Over the last month Julie has taken in

a total of 18 ringtail possums suffering from dehydration, most of these were mothers with young babies. Sadly, only five survived and so far only one of these has been released back into the wild. Julie recommends putting out a saucer of water for the possums during the hot weather, but make sure it is up high and away from cats.

Julie has also received two brushtail possums which were found abandoned and one bent-wing bat which had been attacked by a cat and unfortunately had to be put down, so too a galah which, in a freak accident, was hit by a golf ball. In addition one peaceful dove was brought in which has subsequently been released.

Remember Ron the young wombat with the habit of biting? He has now left home and gone to the 'Big Worm' at Bass. By all reports he is having a great time, behaving well and not biting anyone. He will probably stay there until he is fully mature.

Profile on Julie

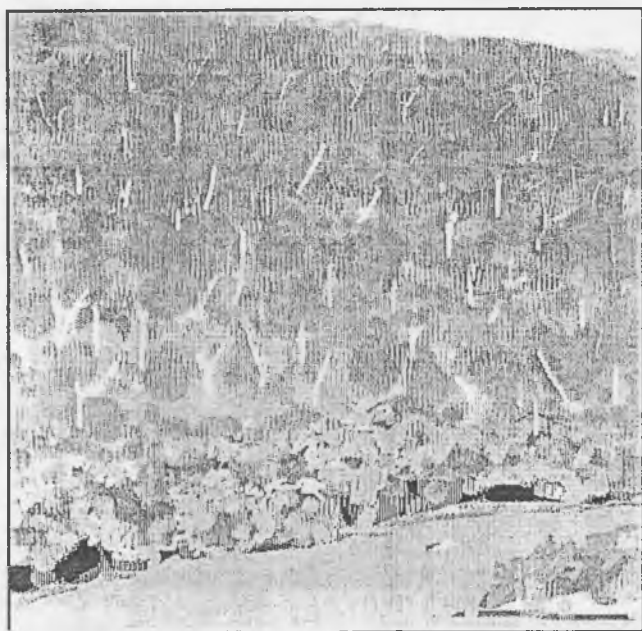
Julie Pryor runs the wildlife shelter at Wonga Park. She has been working as a wildlife foster parent for about six years. She says "local vet Derek Fairley got me into it". To be a foster parent Julie had to apply for a permit to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (now Parks Victoria). First she had to become a wildlife foster carer for a few years under the supervision of a wildlife foster parent who taught her how to look after the various animals as they came in.

While it may sound a glamorous job it is not. With regular nightly feeds of young animals to contend with, it takes a dedication and patience to take on the role of caring for our sick and injured wildlife. The endings are not always happy ones.

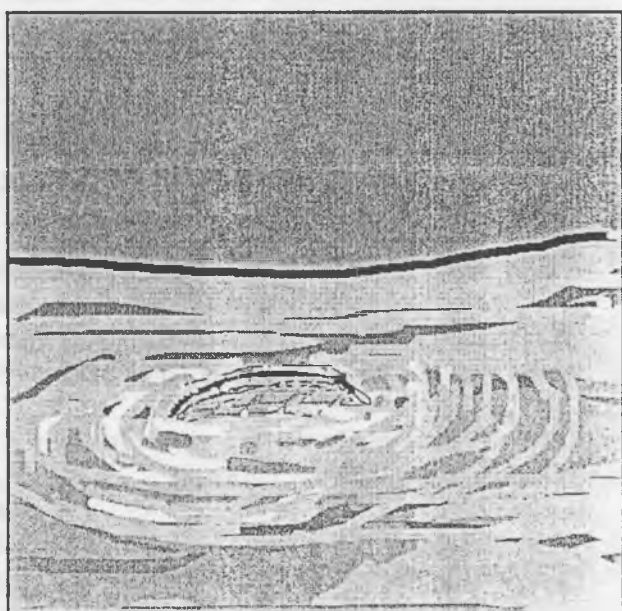
If anyone finds a sick or injured animal they can either ring Julie direct on 9722 1117 or contact the Wildlife Care Network on 016 373 931

Views from Canoes

By Ant Owen



The Gorge



The Loch Yarra Monster

Worrying About the Weather

By Mike Coupar

No prizes for knowing that Melbourne has suffered its hottest, driest summer for a very long time. The summer maximum was 1.6°C above average and February was the hottest this century with a maximum average 30.1°C.

In Warrandyte there were more bushfires than average, but no lightning strikes - strange that! Thankfully the fires were extinguished before disaster ensued. So, are we in the grips of global warming? When it comes to the weather nothing is certain. This is because climate is such a dynamic feature of this wet and dry planet of ours. The irregular distribution of landmasses set in ocean and uneven temperature gradient caused by the planet's continual rotation in the face of the sun, guarantee interesting weather.

In Australia we experience some of the most extreme fluctuations in weather. All but the newest arrivals to this great island continent know it as a land of droughts and flooding rains. Today meteorologists are actively researching the continent's large climate variability from season to season, and from year to year in order to find better ways to predict its vagaries. So, when worrying about the weather it helps to be non-parochial, because if we are suffering, the chances are that others are not. Let me illustrate this by looking at how Victoria has fared over the summer.

Whereas Melbourne's summer rainfall was very much below average, the south-west of the State and south of the Divide to the N.S.W border was below average and surprisingly, the rest of

the State received the average quota of rain. Going further afield, Hobart had average rainfall in February, while again surprisingly, Sydney and Adelaide rainfalls for the month were above average. Going even further, a much larger regional difference was recorded in February. This was in Cape York, where the rainfall in the north was very much above average, but very much below average in the south.

But returning to Warrandyte, when will the rains return - because our local animals and plants cannot survive indefinitely without rain. It has been noticed, for instance, that trees planted up to four years ago are dying. So, to answer the question, it is necessary to make use of a climate phenomenon that predicts rain. Luckily meteorologists have identified such a crystal ball called 'the Southern Oscillation Index' (SOI). This is a major shift of air pressure between the Asian and east Pacific regions whose best-known extremes are El Nino and La Nina events. The SOI is calculated each month from the difference in the air pressure between Tahiti and Darwin. Positive values of the SOI are associated with stronger Pacific trade winds and warmer sea temperatures to the north of Australia. Together these give a high probability that eastern and northern Australia will be wetter than normal.

So what is the SOI now? The very good news is that it is positive, and as such, the National Climate Centre Seasonal Climate Outlook for the next two months is for average rainfall.

Feel better?

Eltham Copper Butterfly Update

A new pictorial stamp featuring the Eltham Copper Butterfly is to be produced. The launch of the stamp will take place at the Eltham Post Office on April 10th at 11 00am. Anyone interested in attending the launch should contact Joan or Trish on 9439 9071.

Results of the latest butterfly and larva count are:

Reserve	Adult	Larva
Pauline Toner	12	86
Western Colony	44	201
Eastern Colony	18	56



Cicada Serenade Silent

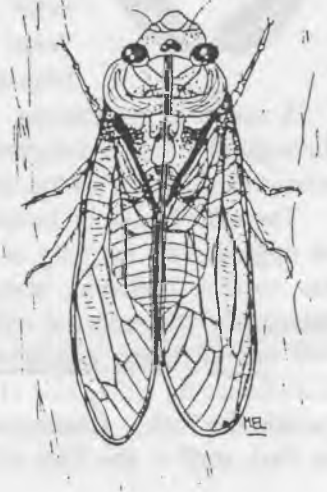
Did you notice something missing this spring and summer? Did you find it rather quiet in the bush during November and December? What happened to the deafening ear-splitting shrill of the cicadas? According to Dr David Young of Melbourne University, this summer there were low populations of one of the most common cicadas in Melbourne, *Cyclochila australasiae* commonly known as the green grocer or yellow Monday. Reduced numbers are blamed on the early cool weather and heavy rains and the very hot weather which followed.

Cicada expert, Max Moulds, has a different theory. He suggests it was the dry conditions six or seven years ago when the young cicada nymphs hatched that was the problem.

Adult female cicadas lay their eggs in slits cut into bark. When they hatch the nymphs burrow underground where they may live for several years feeding on the sap of tree roots. When

mature the cicadas claw their way up a vertical tunnel to emerge as fully winged adults. They leave behind, attached to the trunk of a tree, their papery brown shed skin.

Could it be that there was a shortage of sap for the growing cicada nymphs six or seven years ago? Perhaps they simply desiccated. Will it be that the recent long hot, dry spell of weather will result in a similar lack of cicadas in seven years time? Only time will tell.



"I SPY" by B.G

"All hands on deck"(27nd of Feb.)

Karen, Jenny, Margaret W. and Ben were seen digging a wide, shallow, new pond in Frogland. Mattocks, shovels and wheelbarrows moved in a blur of activity. Ray and Gwen were busy pruning goodenias on the perimeter. Some preliminary weeding had been done by Elizabeth and Betty. Wonderful effort!

Returning to the Boomerang Saga

Another artefact has been found in the Park.

*Coup? Coop? Coup@?
Coupe? Koop? etc*

For those who don't know what's being alluded to, the ?word is that fenced regeneration plot below the Park Depot which many local school children have contributed to and a small band of Friends have slaved in for years. Recently Elizabeth, Neal and Betty did a survey of the area, much weeding and spent some time admiring the resident koala.

PLEASE! WOULD SOMEONE OFFER , IN WRITING, THE CORRECT SPELLING OF THAT WORD , WHICH REFERS TO A GROUP OF TREES-often used by loggers-AND IT'S ETYMOLOGY.

Goddess of Flowers OR Busy Public Officer

Flora Anderson arrived mid-morning one recent Thursday having just written four different articles for four different newsletters. Wow! The newsletters were for FOWSP, SGAP(Maroondah Group), a Wonga Park publication and "The Understorey" (for Upper Yarra and Dandenong Environmental Council).

Friendly Faces

Good to see Helga, Ross and Joan down at the Folly one recent Thursday lunchtime. Pat, who had recently returned from three wonderful weeks in northern N.S.W., and Cathy were busy around the nursery area. The year is starting to swing along .

Rangers Report

By Andy Nixon



First of all an update on Parks Victoria. The position of Chief Ranger is to be settled next week. WSP is in the Melbourne West area and our Area Manager is Neil McCarthy.

A series of workshops has been undertaken throughout Victoria designed to share the 'vision, mission and values' of the new organisation.

The road bridge at Jumping Creek Road is to be upgraded by the City of Manningham. WSP has serious concerns about the option being presented. The proposal includes the loss of over 100 mature trees, significant soil removal and disturbance on either side of the re-aligned bridge (within the Park). Concerns have been expressed by Park staff to the City of Manningham asking

for alternative options to be addressed before approval by the Director of the National Parks Service.

A report on the fire ecology study carried out by Jenny Hoskin (see article this month) has been received. Jenny's study, assisted by Ranger David Van Bockel and botanist David Cameron, will add considerable value to the long-term fire management practises of the Park.

A new camping brochure has been produced for Black Flat to resolve some ongoing problems regarding access and availability.

There have been a number of joint responses (with the CFA) to attend wildfires this summer. Most have been deliberate lightings.

A contentious issue regarding the fuel management of the Stony Creek Reserve is well on the way to being resolved with valuable input from David Cameron who, along the way, has discovered *Lepidosperma elatius* (Tall Sword-sedge). This is a new species record for Warrandyte and shows just what an important wet gully environment Stony Creek is.

FESTIVAL REMINDER

The Great Warrandyte Festival Weekend (22nd and 23rd of March) is fast approaching.

We are going to have a display of potted plants and accompanying photos. Do have a look, it's a pleasant way to learn about a few more of our marvellous plants.

Our stall organiser Betty Oke (98443763) would like to hear from more people willing to boil the billy, pummel the damper dough, help with setting up and the roping in of new members (!) It's a guaranteed fun weekend.

The following notice was placed in the latest Victorian National Parks Association newsletter (Vol.16 No.1 February 1997). A copy of the newsletter containing a full account of the abolition of the National Parks Service can be found on the folly noticeboard.

Demise of the National Parks Service

Suddenly on 12 December 1997

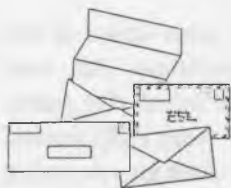
Thanks to Jeff Floyd, Marie Tehan and Mark Stone

No wildflowers by request

Progeny of Len Smith, John Brookes, Don Saunders and Ian Harris.

Condolences to the dedicated National Parks Service head office staff, Area Park Managers, Rangers and others who, without consultation unexpectedly find themselves working for a corporation, and particular sympathy to those who have lost their appointment.

Letters to the Editor



We enjoyed reading Joan MacMahon's book of the month review (February) on 'Victorian Koorie Plants'. We bought a copy of 'Koorie Plants Koorie People' in January from Greens bookshop in Flinders Lane, Melbourne. It is subtitled 'Traditional Aboriginal Food, Fibre and Healing Plants of Victoria'. This attractive hard-back book is by Nelly Zola and Beth Gott and includes 150 colour photographs of Victorian plants. It is obviously an update or reworking of the other book. This one however is currently available and is \$19.96.

Lee and Geoff Speedy

NEW THURSDAY IDEAS SOUGHT-----PLEASE!

We would love an infusion of new ideas for Thursday activities.

You might like to show us **your own** place. It **doesn't** have to be large and jam-packed with heaps of flourishing indigenous flora. Other people's gardens are always a source of and inspiration. Every garden has a different combination of views, landscaping ideas, ornaments and plants.

On the other hand, you may know of a patch of bush you feel The Friends would enjoy seeing. It doesn't have to be in a nature reserve: all our bush remnants have interesting aspects.

Activities can be morning or afternoon - whatever suits you best. Please give Joan, Pat or Cathy a ring -the sooner the better, as we're fast running out of fresh ideas.

'Friends' Autumn Camp

Date: Friday April 11th to Sunday April 13th (or longer)

Place: Sheeppark Flat

This flat spacious camping area is situated beside the Howqua River and surrounded by forested mountains (nights may be cold). Camping is free.

Facilities include pit toilets (no showers), barbeques, tables and benches.

Things to do: bushwalks and drives in local area and day trips to sub-alpine vegetation at Mount Stirling and Mount Buller.

Directions: Take the Melba Highway to Yea, then follow the Maroondah Highway to Mansfield. Turn right onto the Merrijig road, a couple of kilometres after Merrijig (approximately 20 kilometres from Mansfield) turn right to Sheeppark Flat.

Coming Soon

The Annual Koala Count

Sunday 27th April at 1.00 pm. Meet in the Folly, at the depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 C10)

How has encroaching urbanisation impacted on Warrandyte's koala population? There is one way to find out - come to our annual Koala Count. Everyone in the family can join in and help count the koalas at Pound Bend. Short and medium walks will be available. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring binoculars. Don't forget the sunblock if its warm.

There will be activities for children. Bring a plate to share for afternoon tea and celebrate the survival of the koalas of Warrandyte State Park.

For enquiries contact Brenda Hunter on 9379 7373 or ring the Park on 9844 2659

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Tel. no.

Single \$15
Family \$20

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Cathy Willis	9844 1841
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