

July 1997

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

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

Things are Looking Up on Scotchman's Hill

By Joan MacMahon

Another good news story for our front page. You may remember last month Mike provided us with the background to the incorporation of Mt. Lofty into Warrandyte State Park. Scotchman's Hill was included in the same bill, so it too is now safeguarded.

This is a wonderful result for the small group of committed local residents who worked so hard to stop the hill being subdivided for housing lots. Thanks also to local member Phil Honeywood.

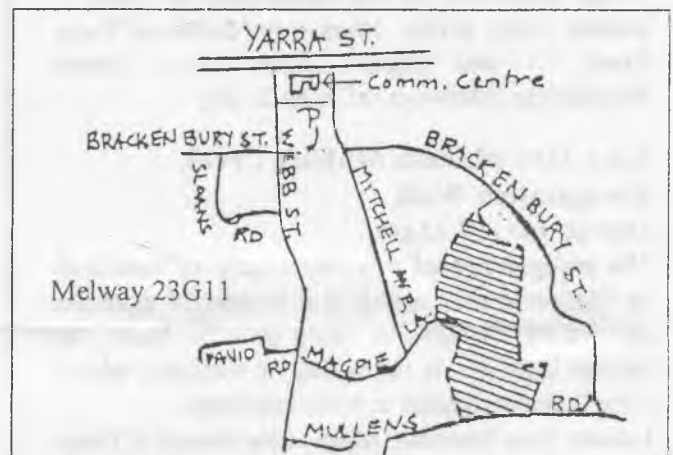
Instead of the canopy of Red Box disappearing forever we can now work towards adding even more trees and increasing the habitat value of this tiny (2.1 hectares) gem of remnant bush.

Hidden as it is from public view, seldom visited by other than local residents, neglected by its former management authority - the Dept. of Crown Lands - it would be no surprise if some neighbours viewed it as 'theirs.' Ant Owen had an interesting letter on this aspect of the changes happening on the hill in our April newsletter. He finished with these words "I think it would be worth Parks Victoria and FOWSP focusing on the neighbours' concerns and doing all we can to alleviate problems caused by the changes, creating genuine support for rehabilitation of Scotchman's Hill."

It is only a few months since weed removal work began and already great progress has been made. Lots of substantial pine trees have been removed. These darkened the hill and impeded the growth of nearby indigenous plants. They also obscured the views which are now some of the best in Warrandyte.

So far only a few of the other woody weeds have been removed (by the 'cut and paint' technique). Hopefully next year's budget will allow the rest to be done. These woody plants include Cotoneaster,

Prunus, Cootamundra, Sallow and Flinders Ranges Wattle, Irish Strawberry Tree, Boneseed, Hawthorn, Montpellier (Cape) Broom, Privet, Sweet Pittosporum, Nepal Firethorn, Sweet Briar, and a Photinia-type shrub. While the list looks formidable it's actually a relatively easy matter (given sufficient \$\$\$) to remove them. It is not such an easy matter to control the myriad Broom seedlings which have been allowed to flourish over many years. Much persistence will be needed to control this plant!



Other activities have included a fuel reduction burn. This was mainly a safety precaution to minimise problems in future fire seasons. The fire didn't burn as hot as was hoped so was only marginally useful in reducing the Broom infestation.

It's pleasing to report that one section of the hill contains some good quality bush in which Cathy and Pat recently found some of Warrandyte's most vulnerable plants. It's this area we shall concentrate on when the Friends have their first Thursday activity on the hill - scheduled for August the 28th. Do join us as we explore this newly saved patch of bush and continue the work of enhancing its biodiversity.

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

JULY 10TH Park Planting Day MORNING ACTIVITY

Meet at the depot 10.00 am

There is still plenty of room for planting in the coupe. This time all plants chosen will be those that grow in the vicinity and will be suitable to the site.

Leader David Van Bockel. Meet at the WSP depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 C10)

JULY 17TH Yarra Valley Billabongs Tour DAY ACTIVITY

Meet at the depot 10.00 am

This tour along the Yarra Valley promises some special highlights - Melbourne's remnant River Red Gum bush, billabongs and some surprising artwork. Bring lunch, we will pool cars and leave from the depot promptly at 10.00am so don't be late or you may miss out!

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

JULY 24TH Pigeon Bank Creek Wander

Meet on site at 1.15 pm

A chance to visit this delightful ferny creek with its attractive Tassel Sedges. We will follow the gully, checking on some rare Blanket Leaf trees along the way, ending up at the bottom of Cathy's block. Afternoon tea will be provided by Cathy.

Leader Cathy Willis. Meet at the corner of Yarra River Ct and Pigeon Bank Lane, North Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 J6)

JULY 31ST-Mullum Mullum Creek Revegetation Walk

Meet on site at 1.15 pm

The revegetation of this linear strip of bushland by Manningham Council is a wonderful example of what can be done to 'bring back the bush'. A special highlight is the series of wetlands which offer fantastic habitat to birds and frogs.

Leader Jane Pammer. Meet at the corner of Deep Ck Dve and Warrandyte Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 34 F3)

AUGUST 7TH Normans Reserve Fern Gully MORNING ACTIVITY

Meet on site at 10.00 am

Once this area was choked by Ivy, Pittosporum and Cotoneaster. After several 'Friends' and Green Task Force working days almost all weeds have been removed. We will do a check for any regrowth and plant some of our rare ferns and other plants into the site.

Leader Joan MacMahon. Meet at the car park at the end of Bradleys Lane, North Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 B12)

AUGUST 14TH Community Centre Planting

Meet on site at 1.15 pm

Joan MacMahon has worked wonders on the gardens around the Warrandyte Community Centre. Come and inspect this wonderful indigenous garden and put in a few more local plants.

Leader Joan MacMahon. Meet at the Warrandyte Community Centre car park in Webb St, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 F11)

AUGUST 21ST Fourth Hill Ramble

Meet on site at 1.15 pm

A walk on Fourth Hill in the vicinity of Betton Track which will be full of late winter surprises. A little hand pulling of Cootamundra Wattle's along the way.

Leader Pat Coupar. Meet at the at the end of Betton Crescent, Warrandyte, to pool cars and drive in. (Melways ref. map 35 D2)

AUGUST 28TH Discover Scotchman's Hill MORNING ACTIVITY

Meet on site at 10.00 am

Come and visit one of Warrandyte State Park's newest additions. Over the last few months there has been much weed work and also a fuel reduction burn. First we will have a wander over the reserve and then try to remove a concentrated patch of broom from the best orchid area on the hill.

Leader Joan MacMahon. Meet at the top of Scotchman's Hill off Magpie Lane, Warrandyte. (Melways ref. map 23 G11)

FOR SALE

Rod Safstrom and Anne Dunlop are reluctantly selling their 3 BR cottage at the end of Pound Bend Rd. Warrandyte. They are happily settled in W.A. and have found a small cottage on 10 cleared acres surrounded by forested water catchment in the hills behind Perth. They would love their house to go to a caring FOWSPIAN who would help take care of the State Park and the resident koalas and wrens. Price \$140,000. Please call Rod or Anne on (08) 94705455.

Following in their Footsteps



By Pat Coupar

It was the first Sunday in June, normally an excellent time of the year for Warrandyte's fungi, but this is not a normal year. About 50 of us had gathered at Sandy Bay in Jumping Creek Reserve for the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) fungi excursion with two of the country's leading experts - Tom May and Bruce Fuhrer.

Due to the large number of people and the general narrowness of the tracks, we split into two groups. In the morning I followed in the footsteps of Tom and after lunch joined Bruce's group. As on most Field Nats. excursions, the expertise of the people within the two groups varied from very little to a great deal. With patience and enthusiasm Tom and Bruce catered for us all.

The dry weather meant that fungi were down in diversity and number. Although most of the large ground-dwelling toadstools were absent, the leaders were undaunted. On fallen logs, branches, sticks and stems we were shown the delicacies of tiny parasols, rounded jelly-like discs and a rather greasy, grey patch adhering closely to the wood which was appropriately called paint fungus.

Despite the lack of colourfully-capped toadstools, it was an informative day. Both Tom and Bruce have an extensive knowledge of bryophytes - mosses, lichens and liverworts and along the way we were introduced to a number of these primitive plants. Most intriguing to me was a small pale orange toadstool with an inverted cap growing amongst moss on otherwise bare ground. It looked like your standard gilled toadstool, but no-it was the fruiting body of a lichen, itself an association of an alga and a fungus. Remarkable.

The FNCV was formed way back in 1880 by a small group of amateur naturalists. One of its early members and later Patron of the Club was

none other than Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. Keeping with tradition, today the Club is well-endowed with amateur and professional experts from almost every field of natural history.

Apart from the general club meetings, there are a number of special interest groups which meet regularly. They are: Botany, Fauna Survey, Geology, Marine Research, Microscopical and a Day group.

The calendar of events is astounding, with activities ranging from talks, training workshops and day excursions to weekend camps. There is something for everyone. The speakers and leaders, like Tom May and Bruce Fuhrer, are all highly regarded leading experts in their field who share their knowledge willingly and give their time for free (usually an evening or weekend).

Mike and I have been members of the Club for over 10 years and as well as the activities we also enjoy the monthly Field Nats. news and the journal of the Club - *The Victorian Naturalist* - which comes out six times a year. The journal in particular is an excellent publication containing original scientific papers, reports, observations, survey results and bibliographies.

FNCV meetings are held regularly at the Club rooms in Blackburn and visitors are welcome. A recent innovation is the sale of natural history books, some of which are otherwise only available at specialist bookshops. I urge anyone with an interest in any aspect of natural history to join the Club. You won't regret it



Objectives of FNCV are to stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian flora and fauna. To join send your details and a cheque to Subscription Secretary FNCV, Locked Bag 3, Blackburn 3131. Membership rates: Metropolitan \$40. Country \$30. Concession \$30. Junior \$18.



Book of the Month

Field Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales and Victoria

By Tony Bishop
(University of NSW Press)

Review by Angelique Stefanatos

This book instantly attracted my attention because of the beautiful photographs of orchids on the cover showing their subtle shades of pink, purple and yellow. It reminded me of the subtle beauty of many indigenous plants that people miss even in their own back yards and in our National Parks. Hopefully books like this will encourage people to take a closer look and be rewarded by the treasures that nature conceals for those that take the time to look more careful.

This book is a true field guide and is small enough to be comfortably carried. All the photographic plates have been put into a single section of the book, where species are arranged according to similarity of appearance. This makes it very easy to see the slight differences between some species, for example while comparing the 18 colour plates that are arranged side by side showing some of the greenhood orchids. At the back of the book there are also keys provided for each genus containing more than one species.

The author, Tony Bishop, said that he tried to use as much everyday language for the non-



botanist. However, he realised later that this could have cumbersome imprecise results so a glossary is provided at the back of the book. A helpful addition here would have been the inclusion of some floral diagrams showing the different parts of particular orchid flowers. The book says that the first

important step is to recognise if your specimen is an orchid, so how do you tell? In Victoria and NSW, orchids can be distinguished by the fact that rather than having separate **pistil** (female parts: ovary, style and stigma) and **stamens** (male parts: anther in orchids), they have a single structure - the **column** - that combines both. They have three sepals and three petals; one of the petals is generally very different from the others (except in sun orchids) and is known as the **labellum** (lip) and can be elaborately developed.

A good diagrammatic comparison of three different groups of common orchids (*Caladenia*, *Thelymitra* and *Pterostylis*) can be found in the Flora of Melbourne (page 210).

Happy orchid hunting!

Sunday Family Day 'Frogland'

Date and Time: Sunday July 27th 1.00pm to 4.00pm

Place: 'Frogland' WSP depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 C10)

'Frogland' is an exciting ongoing project involving the creation of a wetland habitat for aquatic flora and fauna. The project has been going for several years now and the results so far have been fantastic. The rabbit proof fenced area is also a haven for rare and endangered plants. There will be a variety of activities including pruning and planting, weeding and mulching. We



will also do some dip netting in the pond and have a hunt for frogs.

We will be joined by members of 'Save Albert Park' for the afternoon who are looking forward to meeting our group and seeing around 'Frogland' and the nursery.

Bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.



Rats and mice are in plague proportions in some local farming areas and farmers

have resorted to bait laying to minimise losses of horse and stock feed. An unfortunate side effect is that some native mammals will be poisoned. Two young girls found and rescued a Bush Rat (not easy to tell from Black Rats) that had eaten a bait. It died.

The distressingly high rate of damage to local macropods continued in June.

Julie was called to rescue a wallaby seen injured in Crossman Dve. Croydon Hills. This is a built up area just north of the Yarra Valley School. Arriving on dusk she could see no sign of it. Returning next morning she searched nearby bush but couldn't locate it. She hopes it recovered quickly and moved on.

At the time of writing an Eastern Grey Kangaroo had been in a paddock near Jumping Creek Rd. for several days. It had cuts and grazes to its legs, either from being caught in a fence or grazed by a car. It is possibly carrying a joey. Our local vet, Derek Fairley, in an attempt to examine it, tried to get a bag over its head. No luck, so an expert with dart gun equipment has been called to sedate it so its injuries can be

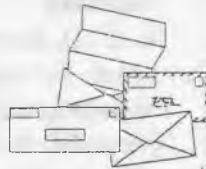
assessed and treatment begun. (Thank goodness some people care.) Julie is hopeful it will recover well.

Four Eastern Grey Kangaroos have died as a result of car injury this month. And these are just the ones Julie has details of. Two were in Jumping Creek Rd., one in Brysons Rd. and one in Johannsons Rd. Three had to be put down and one died as the vet arrived.

Finally, a good news story. Another kangaroo was seen lying in a paddock near Jumping Creek Rd. A number of people contacted the police, Julie, and other wildlife agencies requesting them to put it down. Also it had several lucky escapes from being shot by people wanting to put it out of its misery. Fortunately it was in a paddock owned by a sympathetic farmer, with good feed, a dam and a shed. Although shaky on its feet it was eating well and managed to hop into the shed every night to sleep. After several weeks it was visited by three other kangaroos and soon after disappeared.

Our initial reaction when we see an animal in pain or unwell is often a desire to 'put it out of its misery.' This story reminds us that, as with unwell humans, animals may just need a safe haven and regular care by experts to recover.

Letters



What a thrill it was for me to see a three poled metal structure pictured in the latest Friends May Newsletter. I read of your adventures to reach this point and your excitement at the views and things you found there. I thought I must inform you more about this structure.

In the old days (10 years ago) I would set up my theodolite and wooden tripod carefully and accurately below these survey trigonometric beacons. We would then turn angles and measure distances to other beacons or survey points on other hilltops. We would sight beacons maybe fifty kilometres away and therefore sometimes spend days waiting for good observing conditions (ie. no rain, fog or haze).

Rough access tracks to a trig beacon as you discovered is not unusual. We would look forward to the challenge of these tracks not knowing their condition around the next bend or what we might find at the other end.

These days the surveys are undertaken using GPS (Global Positioning Systems) units which pick up satellite transmissions to accurately fix a survey point for East and North co-ordinates on AMG (Australian Map Grid) to an accuracy of 5mm if required. These surveys are completed in a fraction of the time of old methods.

Did You Know ?

- Your beacon is known as **Stirling Trig**
- The AMG co-ordinates are:
East 455 298.185m
North 5800 786.426m
- The Aust. Height Datum level is 1746.6m (above sea level)
- Stirling Trig is located 131.18 km on a compass bearing of 58 deg 42 minutes from the Warrandyte Tanks.
- A penalty of \$100 is enforced and reinstatement expenses payable for any damage or position change made to a registered survey point.

Three poled metal structures stir in a Geodetic Surveyor romantic notions of old time surveyors and explorers and gave me cause to reminisce the scenic beauty seen from different trig beacons and the time spent in peaceful hill top contemplation waiting for the early morning mist to lift before we took our survey observations. I hope this information is of interest to you.

Tim Bedford

Tim also sent additional information on **Stirling Trig** including a sketch plan, survey co-ordination act and an interesting article on C.Twisdan Bedford (?a relative) who worked as a surveyor in the 1880's. Anyone interested in seeing this information can contact Pat or Mike Coupar 9844 1650.

by B.G

Wishes

Best wishes to Joy Hildebrand (in situ Minhamite) from the Friends. Hope all is going well. We hear it is.

Jogging along

Have you seen the latest jogger in the Park depot area? Clad in green - looking at his watch as he runs - timing himself or doesn't want to be late back to work? Good upon you Acting Ranger - in - Charge Frankie. (Later seen walking back.)

13 unlucky?

Thirteen helpers turned up on Thursday am June 12th for a rapid and thorough planting of over 350 seedlings at Pound Bend Reserve - led by Justin Wellander (C & M).

Prize Coupar

Which M. Coupar really won the A.C.F. third prize- a short stay at Binna Burra - Lamington National Park?

Scoria Score

Incredible frenzied activity early morning, Thursday 19th June. Fog all around, Folly smoke hung low - and a band of dedicated people led by Colin Bromley (C & M) measured, cut, rolled out and pegged down industrial black plastic underlay (0.2 mm NOM) over the entire shadehouse area. All the seedling-filled plastic boxes had been previously removed, as had the 30 five metre lengths of 45 mm diameter plastic pipes (which had kept the seedling boxes clear of the under mulch). Several cubic metres of scoria were then handled and wheelbarrowed into the shadehouse - to a depth of 10 cm or more. Jenny H. was at times photographing, Justin W. was wheelbarrowing (a whole load of water!), Cathy W. and Pat C. were working as usual, Liesl K., a work experience student,

was getting plenty of work experience, Ross C. was helping as ever, Colin B. was working and supervising, Don. C. was involved in timber structural matters, Alison T. held the fort and continued pricking out *Hardenbergia violacea*, Kim D. visited with baby Zoe and yours truly stood around, folio in hand, recording. Finally, with the aid of Colin and Justin a quantity of rubbish was cleared away from the side of the large poly-house. NOTE: The scoria allows good drainage, discourages weed growth and is easy to weed. All in all a low maintenance situation.

Soup and Doughnuts

Jan Tindale's soup on 'scoria' day was as delicious as it's predecessors - and an orgy of doughnuts was provided by a young adult who wishes to remain anonymous. As usual Neal T. and Bill R. stoked the fire and sorted seed, whilst Elizabeth S. and Betty supervised other matters

Rabbits

R. C. D, Rabbit Calicivirus Disease has not had the hoped for impact on the rabbit population in the Warrandyte area. However, the disease is proving to be useful in lowering rabbit numbers sufficiently to allow traditional methods to become more effective.

Immuno-contraception

Research is currently under way with genetic engineering to use the 'myxo' virus to target the fecundity of the European rabbit specifically. (C. R. C. B. C. V.P.P.)

Report Book

Did you know there is a special Report Book at the depot office? More next month.

STOP PRESS:

Reduction of Animal Road Deaths

Seen in the winter edition of **Wilderness News** :

An article about an ultrasonic warning device designed to keep animals **out of the path** of moving vehicles.

More information next month.

Worth Repeating

Environment Day Brings Little Joy

from Jill Redwood, coordinator, Concerned Residents of East Gippsland

Today is World Environment Day. In the lead up to this international event, Victoria's Minister for the Environment, Mrs Marie Tehan, has over the past month:

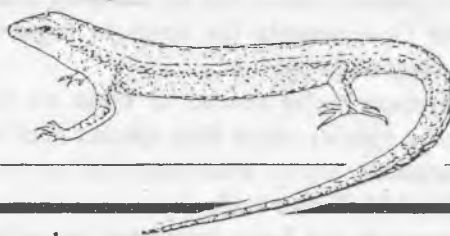
- Presided over the first deliberate extinguishment of a species in Victoria, the golden moth orchid at Altona in favor of a transport terminal.
- Disbanded the Land Conservation Council which has effectively thrown out the Marine and Coastal Management Plan and the Box-Ironbark report.
- Been negotiating the export of almost a million tonnes of East Gippsland's forests as woodchips for as low as 20 cents a tonne.
- Abolished the Recycling and Resource Recovery Council.
- Kept as mum as a mouse in cheese while the Amcor land clearing and Wilson's Prom issues were raging.

Yesterday, her final gesture for World Environment Day, she sent the bulldozers in to destroy a nationally significant rainforest area in East Gippsland.

This latest atrocity against our forests is a small example of what is happening across the entire state. The Goolengook old growth forest is a "museum piece" of pre-European forest ecology, it has National Estate values, rare rainforest types, threatened species and its total ecological values are unknown in any park or reserve in SE Australia. It is one of the few forests which have had the privilege of a scientific survey to determine its values, yet Mrs Tehan's department has totally ignored the recommendations. Recently, the threatened tiger quoll and sooty owl were identified in the forest, which is now being clearfelled, yet there has been a deathly silence on this matter from Mrs Tehan's department.

It is now clear that Mrs Tehan cares little for critically ill environments or critically endangered species.

Source: The Age June 5th 1997



You are invited to

CELEBRATE

the safeguarding of
Mt. Lofty

with a free BBQ lunch and champagne

WHEN: Sunday August 17th at 12.30 pm

WHERE: At Mt. Lofty

(Melway 172 B4 - west of Lwr Homestead Rd.)

R.S.V.P. August 1st

Joan MacMahon 9844 3213(ah)

Mike Coupar 9903 9567(bh)

Pat Coupar 9844 1650(ah)

Cathy Willis 9844 1841(ah)

BYO: other drinks, glasses, plates, etc

Worth Repeating

Conservationists call for action to save native fish

By TIM WINKLER, environment reporter

Riverbank improvement needed to be combined with more floods throughout the Murray-Darling River system to stop the decline in native fish, conservationists said yesterday.

Environmental degradation of the Murray-Darling basin, farming practices and regulation of water flows had disturbed the breeding patterns of many of the 29 species of native fish found in the area, the natural resources campaign coordinator of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Mr Tim Fisher, said yesterday.

The foundation yesterday joined an angling group, Native Fish Australia, to launch a campaign to protect native fish by lobbying State and Federal Governments for funds to improve the river system's ecology.

"As a country we've tended to focus on the cute and furry species rather than species such as fish, but nationally native freshwater fish are in a lot of trouble," Mr Fisher said.

Little research had been conducted on native fish so the exact status of a number of species was not known, Mr Fisher said. However, a recent survey of New South Wales inland rivers found only half of the rivers' known fish species.

Mr Nick Thorne, of Native Fish Australia, said anglers had noticed the decline in native fish. Trout cod were endangered, Murray cod were vulnerable and other species were rarely seen. Only introduced fish seemed to be doing well.

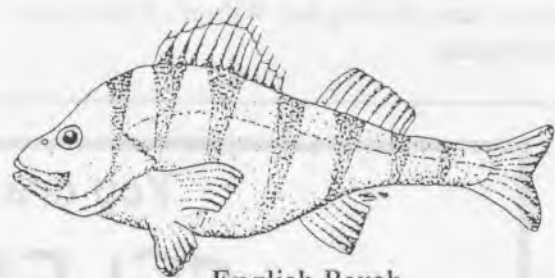
Mr Fisher said Federal Government resources going into the Murray-Darling 2001 project should be directed towards restoring the ecological balance of the river. Farmers should use water more efficiently and the water saved from efficiencies should be used to flood the system, to provide a better breeding habitat for fish.

About 80 per cent of the Murray's natural flow was extracted from the river and 95 per cent of that was used for irrigation, he said. This had altered the natural flow of the river, preventing fish from breeding effectively.

He said the foundation would try to work with farmers to reduce the use of pesticides and chemicals near the river.

The chief executive of the Victorian Farmers Federation, Mr Ken Badenoch, said chemical and pesticide use was minimised by market forces and government regulation, but some chemicals were required to produce the volume of food required in the global market.

Source: *The Age* October 16th 1996



English Perch

Green Wedge Environment Seminar Series

Wildlife

7th August	Melody Serena or Geoff Williams	Platypus
4th September	Lindy Lumsden	Bats
2nd October	George Paras	Native Fish of the Yarra
6th November	Andrew Bennet	Wildlife Corridors
4th December	Linton Staples	Foxes



Held at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month at the Warrandyte Community Centre, Yarra St Warrandyte

Enquiries: Bill Mallinson 9840 9338

Ranger's Reports.



Here is an update on Park happenings in the last month or so.

1) Andy Nixon is on a well-earned break until mid-July. Frankie is acting Ranger-in-Charge while

Andy is away, and I have come across from Yarra Valley Parklands on a temporary secondment to make up the numbers (amongst other things). You'll probably read a little about me in I Spy! Frankie has had a week off to visit his family and while he was away the Ranger-in-Charge at Sugarloaf Reservoir Park, Andreas Seyffer, came over from time to time to make sure all things ran smoothly in Frankie's absence.

2) For those of you who haven't met Jane Dyke, she is working on a five year strategy for the control of bunnies-incorporating a rabbit management plan for Warrandyte State Park. Her on-ground works to date include a rabbit exclusion fence in the 25 acre paddock at Yarra Brae.

3) There has been some extra activity (other than kangaroos) at Stane Brae recently. TV crews were filming part of an episode for 'Ocean Girl' (screened on pay TV). The scenes included a shot of 'Ocean Girl' in the river and another of some people riding horses and apparently falling off! It truly was amazing to see all of the 'behind the scenes' activities that go into making a TV show; there were buses, tents, chefs and teachers. They even had a portable spa!

4) The Platypus Conservancy undertook some platypus trapping at a number of locations with some exciting results. A large (16cm) *Galaxias maculatus*, (native fish) was located at the Jumping Creek bridge. A Water-rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) was found in Andersons Creek (near telephone pole number 9 in Gold Memorial Road). Four platypus were found in Andersons Creek (2 adult males, 1 adult female and 1 juvenile male).

5) Many of the fire access tracks have been graded. These include Yarra Brae, Koornong and

Black Flat.Tracks that are still to be completed are Fourth Hill/Whipstick Gully, Timber Reserve and the Common.

6) On a final note, I am happy to let you know that .David Van Bockel has received an 'Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement.' This is in recognition of his enormous contribution, (with The Friends), in establishing a system to identify and protect significant plant species in the Park. We are all very proud of David. Well Done!

Mitzi Davison

Response and Thankyou from DVB

I was honoured to receive the award. It was recognition for the work I have been involved in over the 7 years I've been at Warrandyte State Park. This project has been a team effort, made up of many players. FOWSP members have played a large part on many fronts, especially Pat Coupar, who has been involved in all aspects, right from the conceptual stage through to the on-ground work. Thanks to all those people who have been involved. I have not only thoroughly enjoyed the process but also enjoyed the team-work along the way.

David Van Bockel.

A Thank you from the Ranger-in-Charge.

Thank you to Brenda Hunter and all of The Friends involved in the annual FOWSP Koala count. It's really great to see this type of work continuing. It is invaluable to the Park and of course to the Koalas!

David Farrar
A/Ranger in Charge



Wanted

Someone who would love to take care of the small garden bed on the carpark side of the 'community' hardening-off area. Not at all an onerous task it involves keeping an eye out for weeds, as some of these plants are in the rare\significant\special category. We hope to produce some weather-proof labels and so transform this mini-garden into a place of learning

Coming Soon

Discover Scotchman's Hill. A walk around one of the newest additions to Warrandyte State Park. Orchids are already emerging in this remnant bushland block.

Worth Repeating

Go native to halt extinction, say scientists

By TIM WINKLER, environment reporter, Newcastle

Australians need to grow native grasses in their yards, plant native trees along city streets, and replace their dogs and cats with native animals as pets, if a wave of extinctions is to be avoided, scientists said yesterday.

Devotion to imported lawn, trees and pets reduced biodiversity and lessened the survival chances of wildlife, the Australian Museum's principal research scientist, Dr Tim Flannery, said yesterday.

While bringing the bush into the city was important, population control was crucial to easing the pressure urban sprawl placed on the environment, Dr Flannery told "Pathways to Sustainability", a United Nations endorsed conference in Newcastle.

"We need to work out what is the carrying capacity of the country. Then we can set a population plan for all the cities and towns in Australia."

Dr Flannery said immigration levels could be altered to control population size and no birth control policy would be required.

The director of educational and environmental programs at the New South Wales zoo, Dr Dedee Woodside, said most small marsupials, frogs, birds of prey, big lizards and snakes would be extinct around urban areas within two decades, on current trends. One reason for declining biodiversity was population mobility, Dr Woodside said. At least 25 per cent of people moved each year, and were therefore not around to notice long-term change and felt less committed to their local community.

Dr Flannery said urban biodiversity could be increased cheaply and easily.

Lawn was expensive in water and fertiliser, but replacing it with native grasses would encourage some native animals to return to cities.

Cats and dogs killed small marsupials, but replacing these traditional pets with native animals, such as quoll, sugar gliders, or hopping mice, would increase biodiversity.

"In New York you can buy sugar gliders over the counter. They are an enormously popular pet. I would like to see laws changed to actively encourage keeping native animals," Dr Flannery said.

Native trees should replace foreign trees across whole cities, in a coordinated plan to create bird and butterfly habitats, he said.

Source: *The Age* June 5th 1997



A problem shared.....

from Stephen Clendinnen

The environment that we live in does not recognise political boundaries. Radioactive isotopes from French and Chinese nuclear testing enter the living fabric of things in Australia. The greenhouse gases we generate in our country causes problems for our neighbours living in the Pacific Islands.

Our current and past practices have brought the planet to the brink of collapse. We can no longer afford to make war on nature; old ways of thinking and acting must be abandoned if life is to continue.

World Environmental Day only comes once a year. Yet the urgency and supreme importance of these issues are with us every minute. Governments in Australia are still building freeways, still allowing massive clearance of vegetation, still letting record amounts of woodchips be exported; their attitude is "business as usual" and they are, with certainty, leading us to disaster.

It is up to the people of Victoria, the people of Australia, the people of the world to unite our efforts and protect the Earth that gives us life.

Stephen Clendinnen, Warrandyte.

Editor's Note: This letter appeared in the Age on Thursday June 5th - World Environment Day. Congratulations to Stephen, who is a FOWSP member, for his excellent letter voicing concerns for the environment we all share.

Calendar of Sunday Events

JULY 27TH Frog Day

Time:- 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Come to learn about our local frogs in 'Frogland' We will listen and look for frogs, dip net for tadpoles and other aquatic invertebrates. Plus general 'Frogland' maintenance. Followed by afternoon tea. Bring a plate to share.

Leader: Jenny Hoskin

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

OCTOBER 25TH - 26TH Spring Camp at Anglesea

It's the perfect time to see one of the best wildflower heathlands in the State. Come for the day or stay for two. Camp site yet to be decided.



Hearty Congratulations to Manningham City Council

By Joan MacMahon

For their farsighted adoption of the Natural Step system as "a guide to creating its new municipal strategic statement and planning scheme review.....The Natural Steps were developed in Sweden by an international group of scientists.

It is based on solid scientific principles which provide a mechanism for monitoring progress towards environmental sustainability. Simply stated, it is a set of basic environmental rules against which all aspects of the planning scheme can be tested." This quote is from a two page spread in the June edition of the Warrandyte Diary. Do read it. Apparently Manningham is the first government body to adopt this radical approach in Australia.

A series of planning issues eg sub-division pressure in non-urban areas (a perennial problem in Warrandyte), tourism, transport and traffic,

conservation, is showcased by means of cartoons. For each of these, the contrast between sustainable and non-sustainable responses is highlighted. **The emphasis on protecting the natural environment and on ensuring future generations are not disadvantaged is almost too good to be true.** The whole concept is stunning in its logical and ethical approach to the way human societies should operate. At last, a system which operates in the **real world**. I suspect most (?all) economists will dismiss it as **unrealistic**. It will take time but their approach must be dramatically modified since it is the unnaturally based economic system we currently labour under which is placing such strain upon our Earth.

Do let the Council know if you support this initiative. Write to the Chief Executive Officer at 699 Doncaster Rd. Doncaster, 3108. If you'd like to read the complete document phone 9 840 9428 and ask for the briefing paper "Manningham - Steps to Sustainability." If you live in another municipality (many Friends do) consider pressuring your council to adopt the same system. As Stephen says in the article 'A problem shared...' , "It is up to the people of Victoria.....to unite our efforts and protect the Earth that gives us life."





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