



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 220,
Warrandyte 3113

MARCH 1988



Nineteen Friends opened up the new year with an afternoons work on the beach at Stane Brae. We did an impressive amount of work considering the heat & managed to rid the area of all the dead blackberry canes. Every time we have met down there, I have felt hemmed in by the blackberrys & visually they do very little for an area, now we have a great area for the Annual General B.B.Q. & walkers will be able to rest there in peace.

We also planted some Silver Wattles along the River bank as it has been denuded in some spots. The biggest problem remaining on the banks is the Penny Royal Mint, which was in flower & getting ready to produce seed. The Rangers put some tree guards around the Trees we planted & promised to slash the mint. There still remains large areas of blackberry that need to be sprayed in the future.

Since the cattle have been excluded from the River bank it has improved markedly. No longer is there pock marked, churned up mud & cow dung by the waters edge. There is still a long way to go, but the healing process has begun.

Chris West, the speaker for the meeting, failed to show, I've rung the V.A.S. to find out that Chris is no longer with them. They were very embarrassed & within two hours had found another speaker for the August meeting, Gary Presland. Gary is author of 'The Land of the Kulin', a book on the Aborigines of the Melbourne area. He is a wealth of information on the archeology of the Melbourne area so must not be missed. He will be bringing his latest book to the meeting so that people may purchase it.



Afternoon tea carried on regardless & Harold Taskis brought along two stone axes that his family had found & a small round, green stone that his father thought must have been an Aboriginal child's toy. It was such a perfect circle that the toy /stone had an almost mesmerizing affect. To complete the Show & Tell section, Glen passed around the stone axe head that was found in Warrandyte in Mopoke Court.



On the Ranger front, the Friends said Goodbye to Scott Coutts, who will be leaving at the end of the Warrandyte Festival. Scott spoke of his time in W.S.P. & his disappointment with the events of the past few months in regards to the treatment of Ken Gurney, something which has left a sour taste in the mouths of the Friends. However, Scott has been of great value to the Fowspians.

We welcomed Iain Marshall, the new Ranger who has been working in the Northern Territory. Originally from Melbourne, Iain spent 14 years up north working at Uluru Park & some time at Kakadu. W.S.P. will be



quite a change, although Warrandyte would not get anywhere near the visitors that Uluru gets every year, it presents a very different set of management problems for the staff. Welcome Iain.

To cap off a lovely day in the bush, later in the day the Stane Brae Wedge-tail Eagle could be seen on the wing looking for tea.



Next Meeting

STIGGANTS RESERVE Warrandyte Festival 19-20 MARCH

Once again the mighty Warrandyte Festival is on, The Friends this year will be putting on a static display in the big C.F.L. Tent plus we will be planting & rehabilitating a wetland area at the bottom of Stiggants Reserve. This will be part of the Festival display. Doncaster & Templestowe Council will be supporting the Friends in this area. Many other groups will be putting on displays in the tent so it should be well worth a look.

Furthermore we will be putting in a float for the procession which will be on the Saturday morning. There will be prize money given to the best floats so here is a chance to help the treasury box. Regardless of the prizes, we still need to put on a good show & so need a few volunteers to be on the float. We have the masks made for the Street Theatre we did several Festivals ago, & a few costumes to go with them, so how about dialing 8442395 & offering your services for a mere two hours on the morning.

Friends will be most welcome during the weekend to participate in the rehabilitation work of the Wetlands, a project we hope to continue for future festivals. We hope to get people interested in our type of contribution to conservation, that is, practical work in the bush, with the hope that more & more people will contribute to the local ecology. Wetlands are an interesting feature which can be put into many even small areas & need much less maintenance than other sorts of gardens. Be There.....

Future Meetings

APRIL 24 - PINE TREE PULL... TUNNEL ST. ,FOURTH HILL... JUNIOR RANGER DAY...TALK BY F.N.C.V. MAMMAL SURVEY GROUP.

MAY 29 - ASPARAGUS WEEDING... TILLS DRIVE ,BLACK FLAT... TALK FROM KOORI ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMMER, NORM HUNTER

JUNE 5 - WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY...TREEPLANTING... CORNER TAROONA AVE.& EVERARD DRIVE.

LEADERSHIP

We have leaders for every work day this year & a news letter team. Things should go pretty well for programme that we have designed. We want to see as many Friends as possible this year get behind our leaders & give them support on Work Days, so that they may bask in glory for their week.....

EYESHINE



..... by John Reid.

In 1988, with the cultural heritage of human beings pushed at us by everybody with something to sell, lets take time to reflect upon the natural heritage of the country we call home.

Wherever we live in this vast & diverse land, we share our distinctive collection of flora & fauna, mouldered over time by the demands of their surroundings.

For example, in Warrandyte we share the dry rolling hills of the middle Yarra with communities of plants & animals whose ancestors 'celebrated' their 200th. anniversary many millions of years ago.

The Warrandyte-Wonga Park area is a unique & special part of the Yarra Valley. Only 2% of the Yarra River's journey from its source in the eastern ranges to its mouth in Port Phillip Bay, is vegetated with the dry forests of Red Box, Red Stringybark & Long-leaved Box so familiar to Warrandyte residents.

This distinctive forest with its associated mammals, birds, reptiles, insects etc. , is the natural heritage of the Warrandyte area. There are natural treasures in every corner of the Warrandyte bush, under every rock & piece of bark.

As summer draws to a close, keep a eye out for the 'Cauliflower' bushes- the Cassinias & Tree Everlastings. Their flowers are fading & full of road dust, but should still be conspicuous on Warrandyte roadsides.

Sweet Bursaria is also adding to this show of creamy flowers. Over in Eltham this plant is the food plant for the caterpillars of the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Watch the skies for Spine-tailed Swifts, especially on hot humid days. These streamlined aerial-magicians, are in our southern skies on their regular southern migration from Asia.

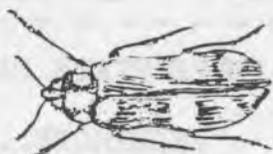
Also in the air, flying somewhere near the tree-tops, will be the next brood of Imperial White Butterflies. About the first week of February they hatch from chrysalids in the Mistletoe clumps that their caterpillars have been chewing, & fly through to Autumn when the next batch of caterpillars will hatch & start the cycle again.

These are just a few of the treasures of the Warrandyte bush. Let's all make 1988 a year for looking closely at the natural wonders with which we are privillaged to share our corner of the earth.

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Apologies to John who sent in this article for the February Newsletter & it arrived on time but I forgot to look in the Post Box.

Did you see John's article in the Herald of 10-3-88, on weeds invading the natural bushlands. A monumental step forward for the daily papers to print such relevant stuff. Good work John!! John is the Environmental Educational Officer for the Dandenong Region, a job he has just begun.



Warrandyte State Park Planning News



February 1988

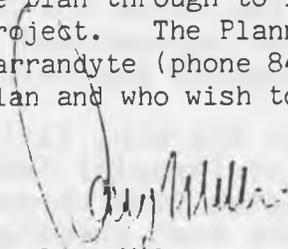
Message from the Region

Work on the park plan is progressing satisfactorily with additional staff resources now being applied to writing the draft plan which is now scheduled for public exhibition and comment in June 1988.

Ken Gurney and Tony Varcoe (National Parks and Wildlife Service) will each commit 50% of their time to the plan over the next four months in support of Val Polley and Sue Masterson who have been holding the fort for the past few months while finalising Phase 1 of the Community Consultation Program and the Park Resource Inventory respectively. Gary Niewand is no longer full time on the project but will provide advice to the team. The plan's consultative working group which comprises representatives from local, regional and state government agencies will now be supplemented by community representation.

The next few months will be very busy for the planning team, they will however be well supported by other regional and departmental staff, in particular the park staff who eventually will be responsible for implementing the provisions of the plan.

I firmly believe the community's desire to see the plan through to fruition is reflected in the Region's commitment to the project. The Planning Team is currently working at 3 Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (phone 844 1515) and welcome visitors to discuss aspects of the plan and who wish to make suggestions or submissions.


Doug Miller
Assistant Regional Manager
Melbourne Region
February 1988

MEMBERSHIP

So far we have 12 paid members. After April
no newsletters will go to those who haven't paid.
We drained the coffers sending out to people
who didn't pay last year. So be WARNED!!!

I/WI WISH TO BECOME A FRIEND OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK & ENCLOSE \$8.00
MEMBERSHIP FEE.

NAME..... TELEPHONE..... CO-ORDINATOR
ADDRESS..... POST TO BOX 220 GLEN JAMESON
..... POSTCODE..... WARRANDYTE 3113



Australian Conservation Foundation

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

A

PUBLIC MEETING

ON

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1988 - 7:30 PM

AT

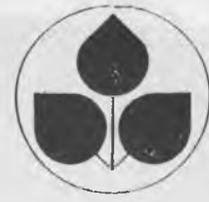
ELTHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

CNR MAIN ROAD & PITT STREET

ELTHAM

* * * * *

Chairman - Rob Gell



The purpose of the meeting is to promote the formation of an active branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation in the Diamond Valley region.

The need to become involved in all major conservation issues, both locally and nationally, requires positive action now.

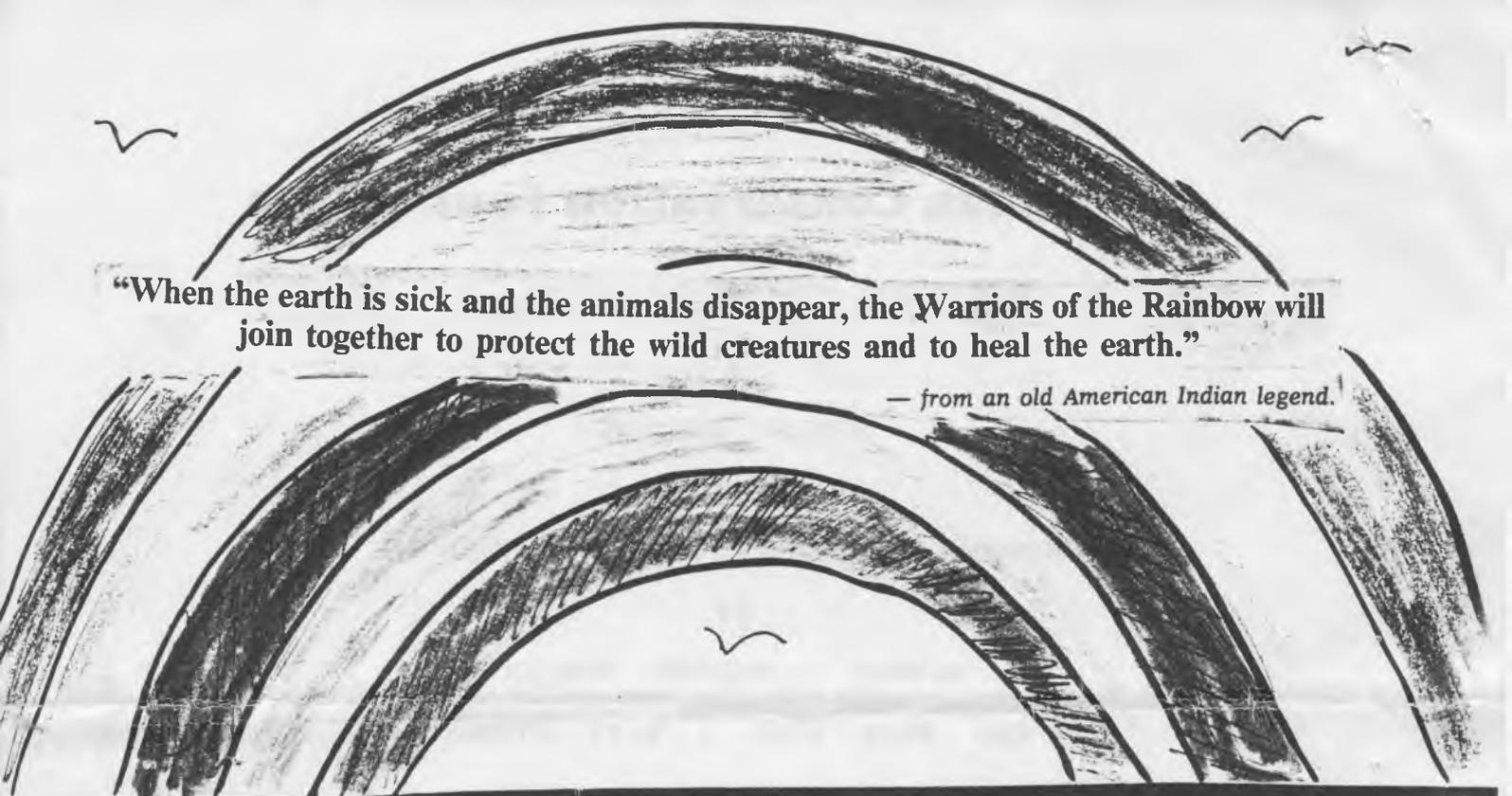
There will be a keynote address on "The Greenhouse Effect."

Come along and find out about the A.C.F. and how you can help.

**'Do
something
positive'**

See you there.

For further information, ring Lynne Griffiths on 434 7978.



“When the earth is sick and the animals disappear, the Warriors of the Rainbow will join together to protect the wild creatures and to heal the earth.”

— from an old American Indian legend.



BLACKBURN
3 30PM
15 MAR
1988
VIC-3130

