



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST

Ian's Action

Next!

We are all looking forward with great interest to our next monthly meeting at Gold Memorial Drive. Here we intend to have an onion weed pull and give you a demonstration of the Bradley Method of weeding and bush regeneration. Our Rangers will provide valuable assistance in this work. You only need to bring some gloves, small gardening tools and a willing pair of hands.

This interest packed 'event' will be held in conjunction with a gourmet barbeque when we will have an interesting talk by Gary Presland, of the Victorian Archaeological Survey, on the aboriginal tribal inhabitants of the area. Gary has written some interesting books on the subject and has promised to bring some of them with him. All in all it should be a terrific day, so don't forget to mark it on your calendar.

Propagation Work Groups

Keen interest in propagating from seed collected locally has been expressed by many members. Our Rangers are eager to show us how us how to collect, germinate and care for young plants. We have the opportunity to learn from our own Park Ranger staff- a chance that inspires and fills many FOWSPIans with excited anticipation. Additional to our usual meetings, one group is planned for Saturday afternoons and several members have shown interest in a mid-week group. Our staff are so enthusiastic that we could get that shade house filled before Christmas.

Many Park species are endangered - if you would like to join this endeavour which could help to heal some of the wounds of Warrandyte (and environs), enquire on Sunday 28th., or phone Ian or Marg on 8441060. Some people have experience of this work and we all hope to share. *DO YOU HAVE ANY LOCAL SEED ?? We hope to have our first Propagation Sub-group in action promptly.

Next Year

Next year's programme- Suggestions for our 1989 work plan are being canvassed. Let us have a chat about it at the onionweed extraction over a sausage 'n sauce. We can discuss your ideas for the 'last Sunday' and get important help from the Rangers at the same time. If you wish you can phone Ian Burke on 8441060 or Val Polley on 844 3086

Market Stall

A low key event, not helped by terrible weather on the day. Hopefully next month we hope to have a good display of native plants for identification. Some of our Rangers will be there too, providing their expert advice to the public.

INDIGYDYTES

Concern over where to buy Indigidytes led us to check sources and Graeme and Cheryl Bastow at Squire Garden Nursery, (the old Parson's) have a wonderful supply. Their stocks are often used by the Eltham shire and other councils so amount and variety vary from time to time. Graeme is very helpful and pleased to advise, so if you want plants give him a call on 457 1942. When we last visited the nursery was expanding and Cheryl assured us that they take great pride in the indigenous plants they supply. The address is Warrandyte-Research Rd., Research.



FOOD




Catering arrangements seem to have been most satisfactory of late. We have the experience of the launching of the Warrandyte State Park Plan, with it's lavish Devonshire Teas. In a more mundane vein our successes with afternoon teas and lunchtime BYO'S. Many people seem to like the idea of sharing a simple picnic/sandwich or whatever with the opportunity at that time to have a chat and plan our day's aims and objectives. Those people who travel quite a distance like this 'breather' (which inspires great effort to do an even better 'Bradley' or replant the Park!) Of course Afternoon Tea comes with our guest speaker each time and we are all learning so much together.

Junior Fowspandytes

The children who have been coming regularly and work so well are now to be dubbed JUNIOR FOWSPIANDYTES. We wonder which of them will gain the WONDERFUL WOMBAT WORKER WAND. Last month Karly Roche showed an amazing skill with the spade- and she is only five! The MacMahon boys and Daniel Roche collected hundreds of empty pots and Megan 'Magicked' the mud. All Junior Fowspandytes who are fantastic will get a special stamp next month. Who will be the fantastic lovely FOWSPIANDYTES NEXT MONTH.





Visit from F.O.M.N.P.

On Sunday, 14th August, a day of warm sunny weather, 20 Friends of Morwell National Park made their way, with great navigational difficulty, to the Rangers Depot at Pound Bend, for a visit to Warrandyte State Park. FOWSPIANS and Park Rangers were there to greet them and provide a welcome morning tea (40 adults and children in all).

After our cuppa, Ian Roche gave a short description of our Park and then took the group for a walk along the river to Pound Bend. Much interest was shown in the track for the disabled and the tunnel, and its history.

A B.B.Q. was lit for lunch and Ian Marshall, obviously feeling more than wood was needed for same, dealt a blow to his left-hand thumb, which required 3 stitches. Was back at work later with a very prominent thumb in view.

After lunch, we set off for Gold Memorial and the mine close by. Pleased as people were to burrow into the mine and hear about its history, they were very happy to once more come out into the fresh air. A short walk was also taken by some around the nearby bush on Fourth Hill.


The inevitable cuppa was once again brewed, farewells made and long-term plans mooted of a reciprocal visit in 1989.

A great day enjoyed by both Friends groups, and friends of Friends!! - thanks to the Rangers for the use of their facilities and leadership on the day.

Vals' Report

Friend's last meeting was once again highly successful. The potting up was soon underway and with the twenty or so people present organised into two production lines work went on very quickly. Several hundred trees were potted up and are now flourishing in the greenhouses. Red box, wattle and kangaroo apple were among the varieties potted and there are still several more trays of other species waiting to be done. Work came to an end when we ran out of potting mix and we adjourned for afternoon tea where Ranger Ian Roche, wife Gail and children were introduced. Then it was off the Tarroona Avenue where several dozen trees were planted out along the river bank

All together it was a very fruitful exercise, thank you to everyone who came. I would like to say thank you to the Rangers who worked hard to make the day a success and to commend Margaret and Ian Burke for the wonderful job they are doing organising Friends. I think everyone appreciates their hard work;





Narandjeri

In Remembrance of
Winnifred Evelyn Quagliotti
Passed Away 4th August, 1988.
Aged 56 Years

Last week I, along with Ken Gurney and Pat Fricker, attended the funeral of Winnie Quagliotti. That her death and funeral became front page news and was featured on every TV news that night pays tribute to the work of this forceful, hardworking woman. As Elder of the Wurundjeri tribe she raised their profile and standing in the community, working on projects to benefit her people

My first contact with Winnie came about a year ago when I first started work on the management plan for the State Park. Visits to the Park by various groups followed and contact made with Friends and WEL. Winnie visited Warrandyte once, last Christmas for Friend's end of year meeting. We sat on the river bank watching the children play in the river and she told me how she remembered playing in the river while the older women watched them. She talked of her work and dreams for the Wurundjeri and how, when younger, she never dreamed that she would meet the Queen, talk with politicians and meet important dignitaries, all of which she had since done. We spoke of tribal custom and lore and it was evident she regretted the loss of the tribal language and lack of knowledge of many of the customs. However Winnie was never one to waste time on regrets and instead talked enthusiastically of coming back again to catch eels in the Yarra and cook them like in the old days. Alas that was not to be, and her untimely death will be mourned by many. As the article by Rosemary West says, the sadness will be felt far beyond the Aboriginal community and this includes us here in Warrandyte.

Vae Polley

Death of a leader

The Age

Mrs Quagliotti, 57, died of a brain haemorrhage last Thursday after a meeting with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Gerry Hand, about land issues of her Wurundjeri people. She collapsed at Worawa College, on the site of the old Corranderrk Reserve near Healesville where her parents grew up before the reserve was closed and the tribe shifted to Lake Tyers.

TO MEET Winnie Quagliotti was for most people to admire and love her. She had the warmth, strength and vision of the classic Aboriginal matriarch, rearing a number of foster children after her own two, providing a stable, comforting base to a generation of young urban Aboriginal people, and taking a leading role in founding and running a number of the organisations that have led the renaissance of Aboriginal culture in Victoria over the past decade.

She would envelope you with affection, quickly summing you up and then taking you into her confidence. Her quotes were direct and colorful. Hers was not the manipulative guarded style with the media that mars the effectiveness of many community organisations, including Aboriginal ones which have more reason than most to be cynical. That was why she received such a wonderful press.

She was an elder of the Wurundjeri tribe, which once owned all of Melbourne and as far as Healesville. Her great-great-uncle, William Barak, had watched his father and grandfather sign the treaty with Batman. Mrs Quagliotti recalled this last year when, as chairwoman of the Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria, she received the title to its Gertrude Street office: the first Victorian property title to be handed to an Aboriginal organisation. She also chaired the Dandenong Aboriginal Cooperative and was vice-president of Worawa College for Aboriginal children.

She will be buried at the Corranderrk cemetery today in the first burial there since 1944. The State Government is working on legislation to hand Corranderrk back to the traditional owners.

Gene Blow, administrator of the Dandenong cooperative, first came into Mrs Quagliotti's care when she worked as a cook at Gunal Lodge, a hostel for Aboriginal boys in Dandenong. She and others had to battle to establish the lodge against white neighbors, including a local councillor who had argued that having Aborigines living there would depress property values.

As a boy at Gunal Lodge, Mr Blow said he had learnt from Mrs Quagliotti that "we have to open up our culture and show the wider society that Australia has an Aboriginal history and that we can live together". Mr Blow said he believes her death will unite the Wurundjeri people, and bring together the tribal councils throughout Victoria so they can develop a united front on issues of culture and economic independence, land rights and compensation.

"Everybody I knew called her Auntie Winnie," Mr Blow said. She once said in an interview: "I'm so proud to look at the little kids I nursed and see them in Aboriginal politics."

An image that will stay with many of us is of Winnie Quagliotti in the traditional mourning dress of her tribe, a possum-skin cloak, her face daubed with ash, casting a wreath of wattle into the bay in a peaceful protest against the tall ships' arrival early this year.

Now the mourning will be for Winnie Quagliotti, and the sadness and loss will be felt far beyond the Aboriginal community.

— Rosemary West

The wattle that vanished with the Wurundjeri

THE show is called 'The Sallow Wattle', not 'The Shallow Wattle' or 'The Swallow Wattle', as some publicity has misnamed it. Perhaps the authors should have gone the whole botanical hog and dubbed it 'Acacia Longifolia', so stopping all arguments. The screenwriter Cliff Green ('Picnic at Hanging Rock') joined up with Barry McKimm of the

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the journalist Lee Tindale for the words, music and lyrics of 'Wattle'. Carol-Ann Gill, who trod the boards in London's West End, is directing the musical for Warrandyte High School, which has earned a reputation for professional productions using amateurs and which has modestly slotted a "world premiere" for Thursday night.

Cliff Green dipped into Warrandyte history for the theme. Back in 1886 a traveller, Francis Vautier, wrote of a legend that when the last of the Wurundjeri, the local Aboriginal tribe, died the sallow wattle would cease to bloom in the area. Even then, *Acacia longifolia* was disappearing even faster than the district's alluvial gold miners.

"As far as I know," says Cliff Green, "there's no spot now west of the Grampians where sallow wattle grows naturally. The rangers have been trying to reintroduce it in the state park here, but some zealots go around ripping out what they take to be foreign plants, which goes to show how much they know about the original vegetation of their town."

IAN ROCHE ~ Profile of a Ranger.

FOWSPIANS welcome new Senior Ranger Ian Roche, wife Gail, 5 year old Karly (A Wonga Park primary school girl) and 4 year old Daniel. The Roche's are living at Stane Brae.

Ian's career in conservation began as a clerk at Head Office (National Parks Service) in 1974. In 1978 he obtained a Park Assistant position at Warrandyte, then a Ranger Grade 1 position, living happily in Warrandyte for the next 6 years. 1984 saw him shifted to Cann River as Ranger Grade II. 1985 a transfer to Morwell National Park, where the family spent three terrific years sharing this area with the wildlife.

Ian is now on a 6 month secondment to Warrandyte, at the end of which the position will be advertised for permanent occupancy and he will have to compete equally with others who may seek this position.

Over his career Ian has acted as Ranger-in-Charge Warrandyte S.P., Croajingolong N.P. and Tarra/Bulga N.P., worked for 3 months at Kinglake N.P., and completed the Certificate of Applied Science course.

Gail (who was joint co-ordinator of the Morwell N.P. friends group) and the children have been keen participants in the two days' activities that have been held since their arrival.

WELCOME TO YOU ALL FROM F.O.W.S.P.

A Word From Our New Boss'

I had forgotten how cold the mornings can be when you live by the river in Warrandyte, or how the fog doesn't lift until lunch time whilst there is brilliant sunshine at most other places. I suppose that's the price to pay for having such a magnificent "backyard" along the river.

Its amazing how little things have changed in my 4 years absence (vegetatively). Some areas are showing distinct signs of improvement (Pount Bend), whilst others (Fourth Hill) have not changed one little bit. However, over my 10 year association with Warrandyte, the character of the area has changed little, the management problems are much the same but the emphasis and public awareness is much more acute in the way the community relates to its surroundings.

There are still many old faces I've been enjoying catching up with and many more old and new residents I am looking forward to meeting. At present my future here is uncertain, however I will be doing my best to create an approachable public profile for Rangers and to enhance the past high standards of park management.

I am extremely pleased that the Friends group has gone from strength to strength out here; comments from the other Rangers indicate an incredible degree of dedication and enthusiasm from the group. I hope we can maintain and build upon this tremendous relationship.

Ian Roche.

Where have all the W.W.'s gone

..... Long time Posting!



[Why have all the S.A.E.'s disappeared?]

State of Treasury

So far we have managed to keep our heads above water! Increasing costs will force an increase in membership fees next year. We hope that it will be possible to increase our membership and urge you to continue to seek out people amongst your friends relatives and others who would be interested in the aims of our group. We hope to have a project later this year to advertise the benefits of 'The Friends' in the local papers and retail shops in our area.

We have been very pleased to note there has been an increase in commitment on the part of our current members. If we have an increase in our funds either from membership or other projects and events, it looks almost certain we can proceed with some very interesting items, eg. The Stane Brae Beach Project, and enlarging and revision of our printed materials for members.

New Members

We wish to welcome the following new members:

- Bill and Trudy Roxburgh
- Joan Mac Mahon and Family
- Ian and Gail Roche
- Xanthe Harris.

Membership Badges.

We have purchased and created our own Name badges which will allow us to identify ourselves and other FOWSPIANS of the species. If you'd like to donate \$1.00 to cover costs, it would be wonderful. However we will expect all to return to the FOWSPIAN BADGE BOX after each meeting as the little devils like to sneak off and hide. At the moment one of the Margarets will have them. Val and Ian made the labels, and Ian will make sure your name is calligraphically clear! N.B. We have the pin/clip type so you can 'skite' about them.

I/WE WISH TO BECOME A FRIEND OF WARRANTYTE STATE PARK & ENCLOSE \$5.00 for 1988
 MEMBERSHIP FEE. (Renewable 89)
 NAME..... TELEPHONE.....
 ADDRESS..... POST TO BOX 220 844 1060
POSTCODE..... WARRANTYTE 3113

Coming Up

AUGUST 28 - ONION WEED PULL... GOLD MEMORIAL DRIVE CAR PARK... FREE B.B.Q. LUNCH.

SEPTEMBER 25 - BROOME PULL... TUNNEL ST, FOURTH HILL... ORCHID WALK LED BY CAM BEARDSAL... JUNIOR RANGER DAY

OCTOBER 30 - WHIPPER SNIP & WEED TAROONA AVE PLANTINGS... CORNER OF TAROONA AVE. & EVERARD DVE.

MARKET DAYS at Warrandyte - 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, 31st of each month.

