

# FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK NEWSLETTER



As the year is so quickly drawing to an end, we can look back and realise there have been many changes in the image and the level of activity of the Fowspians. We have had quite a substantial increase in our membership and the degree of involvement of our members.

One of the important changes has been the regular activities that the 'Thursday Mob'. It has become so popular we will continue to meet through the summer months. As well as our usual work we hope to be involved in Koala survey when children are most welcome (as long as with parents). They are of course welcome to help and enjoy themselves at any of our gatherings.

A January meeting is being organised to inspect another new area that is being added to our State Park.

We were pleased to see that a number of Fowspians attended a working bee at Professor's Hill where we enjoyed a most informative talk by David Cameron, who has agreed to give a special demonstration lecture to us on the native grasses of the State Park.

We note with pleasure the return of Chris Worrall to the Park Rangers group. He has been on leave the past couple of months. He has shown a great interest in our propagation group and I am sure we can learn a lot from him.

I am sure that all Fowspians will join me in extending our grateful thanks to the Warrandyte Market Committee for their generous donation towards various items of equipment needed in our activities.

It is probably a little early to wish you all a Merry Christmas, but not too early to remind members that the annual Subscription for 1989 is now being gratefully accepted! .... after all, such a modest sum (\$10.00 per household) gives you so much in return.

IAN BURKE

## STOP PRESS!

A Very Special Meeting has been added to this years calendar! David Cameron, 'Local Botanist' Extrordinaire has generously agreed to give us a Grasslands Identification Workshop (weather permitting) at Andersons Creek Streamside Reserve.

DATE Saturday 3rd of December- after the W'dyte Market.

TIME 2pm. For a couple of hours.


BRING. Notebook, Pencil, Hand lenses and some sheets of White Card if you wish to collect and name your own reference collection.

David will bring his blackboards and chalk and his very special knowledge of these little understood species.


Meet at the cnr. of Gold Memorial Drive and Harris Gully Rd at 2oclock on Sat. 3rd. December. 1988

Those who would like to bring a picnic evening meal may do so. Perhaps the Wandering Warrandigidytes (alias Jamo's 4) will be back -we may hear of their trek...and welcome them home. Enquiries to Committee members.

Seed heads of  
Olearia  
flavida



David Cameron posing with a 'never before identified' species of Helichrysum which we all witnessed being discovered! All we could wish for (?) on a magnificent Wildflower Walk. Photographs courtesy of En-En Clarke.



THE WORLDS FIRST CLAYTONS CORROBOREE!!!  
(the corroboree you have when your not having a corroboree)

We must have had the best ever turn out for our October B.B.Q. meeting. About 40 Adults & 15 children arrived at Blackflat and what a beautiful day it was too.

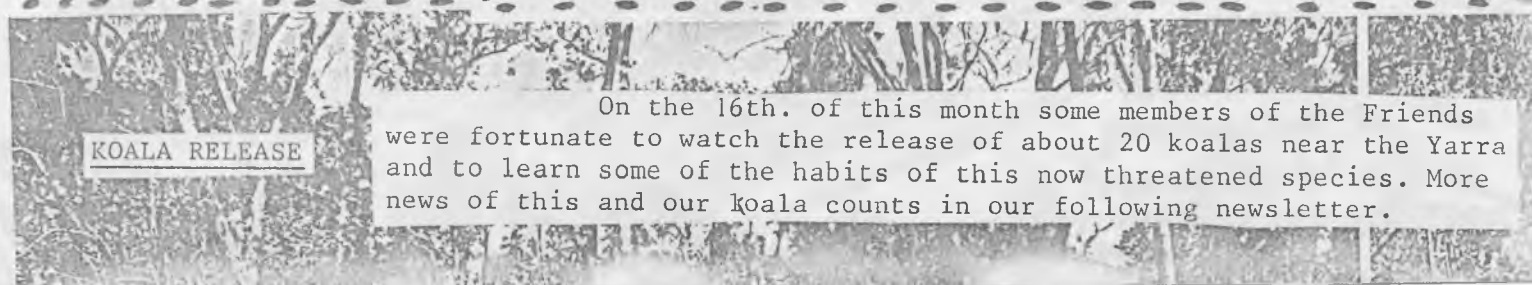
OCTOBER  
MEETING REPORT

Disappointment was minimal because of the above conditions but it was a shame that the Werrunjerri Tribe couldn't make it, however a great many Friends arrived and partook of the delightful local weather and company. The kids were delighted with being able to cook their own damper over the fire, some even came back four or five times for more!!! Not to mention the adults!!!

After lunch some of the more energetic decided to walk the nature trail while others walked all the way to Jumping Creek Reserve and back again.

Thankyou to Ian Bruce for organising the B.B.Q.'s for us. It seems the tremendous attendance of the meeting shows that to attract large numbers the activity should be as interesting as possible and activities should be as diverse as possible too.

17 Koala + pouch young  
↓  
Wonderfull - see paper



**KOALA RELEASE**

On the 16th. of this month some members of the Friends were fortunate to watch the release of about 20 koalas near the Yarra and to learn some of the habits of this now threatened species. More news of this and our koala counts in our following newsletter.

# EXT MEETING

Come along and spend a relaxing final meeting with FOWSPians for 1988. We will be gathering at idyllic "Stane Brae by the River", where there is lots of space for rugs, folding chairs, and a safe river beach for youngsters and the not-so-young.

Weather permitting, the Rangers will have our B.B.Q's going so bring along whatever you wish to cook. If its a Total Fire Ban day, only bring cold meats, etc. We would like every family to bring a salad and/or sweet to share for lunch, and/or some cake for afternoon tea.

As its a B.Y.O. day, please bring your own:

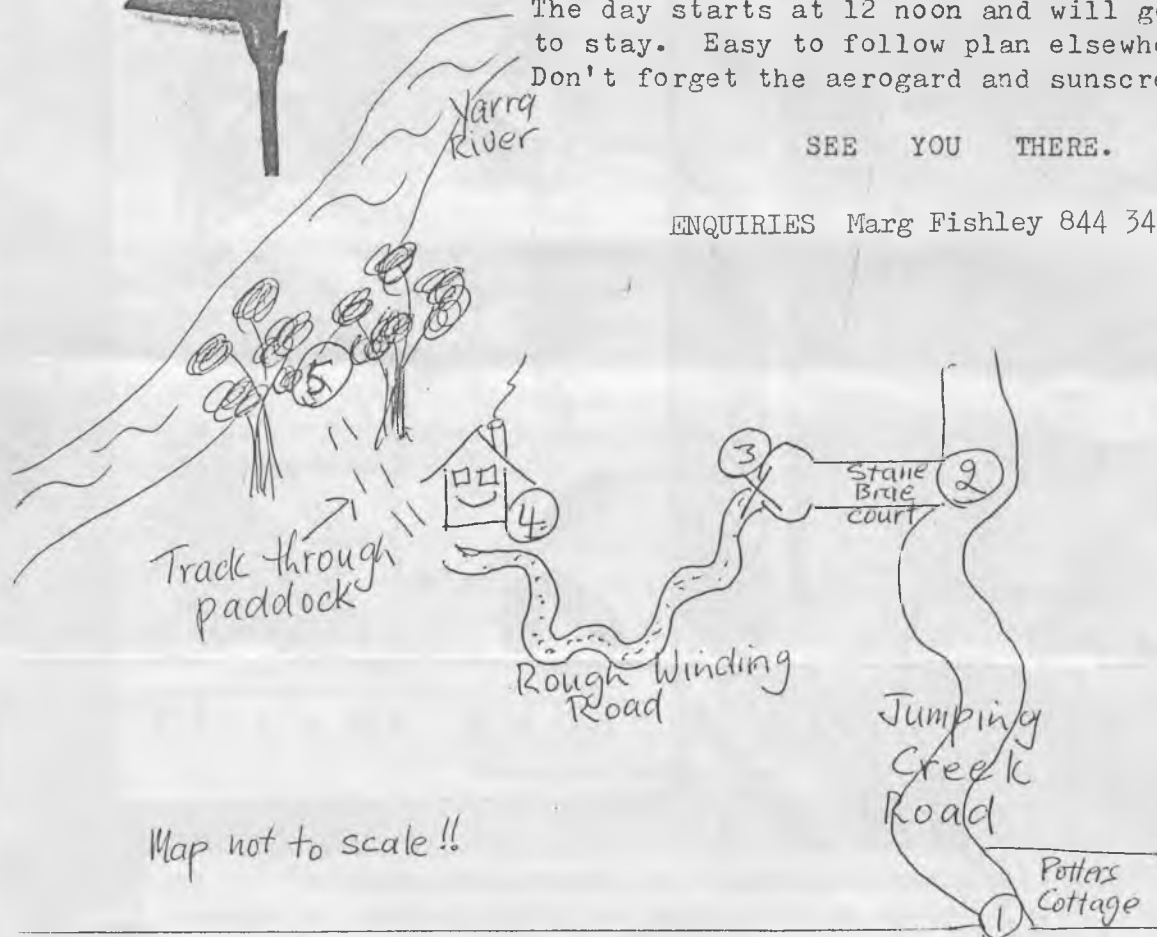
plates, knives, forks and spoons  
glasses and cool drinks  
rugs and folding chairs  
salad/sweet/cake to share

Billy tea and coffee will be provided.

The day starts at 12 noon and will go as long as you like to stay. Easy to follow plan elsewhere in the Newsletter. Don't forget the aerogard and sunscreen lotion.

SEE YOU THERE.

ENQUIRIES Marg Fishley 844 3476.



Warrandyte / Ringwood Road

- ① Melway Map 35 - J, 1  
Go along Jumping Creek Road approx. 3.3 km. to Stane Brae Court ②. (This is a new road and may not be shown on older Street Directories.)
- ② Melway Map 24 - E, 10  
Turn left into Court, through to country-style gate ③ and continue along and down rough winding road another few kilometers.
- ④ Last sign of civilisation (Roche's house), follow tracks and signs through grass paddock to river's bank ⑤, scramble down bank, then this is the spot for a FOWSPian Christmas Break-up B.B.Q.

"DOING A BRADLEY" HITS THE AIRWAVES!

Radio National recently included a feature on this method of bush regeneration in their "Practicalities" Program (Broadcast on Saturdays at 9 and repeated the following Tuesday at 3)

Who knows how many hundreds(?Thousands?) of listeners were inspired to do some weeding next time they're in the bush.

Sat. 22Oct. and Tues. 25th.

Did any member happen to tape this Broadcast? Let us know if you heard it.



Eileen and Joan Bradley.

COURTESY OF JOHN FAIRFAX AND SONS LTD.

## BRINGING BACK THE BUSH

• The Bradley method of bush regeneration •



J O A N B R A D L E Y

How about this book as a great Christmas Gift. "Australiana Aspect" in Yarra St Warrandyte promises to stock this and several other recommended books. They are most helpful and don't charge "Tourist Price".

### FOWSPIAN Committee.

IAN BURKE  
MARGARET BURKE 844 1060  
MARGARET FISHLEY 8443476  
DENISE FRICKER 8443702  
OLIVE WALTERS 846 4729

GAIL ROCHE 722 1926  
VAL POLLEY 8443086  
DOUG SEYMOUR 844 2740  
GLEN JAMESON 8442395....almost!

his interview was conducted on the run whilst Kim led an intrepid band of helpers (FOWSPIANS) on a seed collecting foray for Park propagation.

Born and bred in the beach suburbs of Melbourne, Kim, a young 28y.o. is a LAND PROTECTION OFFICER (the only one of this type in Victoria at this stage) and is currently on secondment acting as PEST, PLANT AND ANIMAL PLANNING OFFICER for the Melbourne region.

Based at Melbourne Head-quarters of the Department of Conservation, Forest and Lands, Kim is actively assisting at the Warrandyte State Park and supplying information to landholders close and adjacent to the Park in relation to land protection issues.

The work basically involves plant and animal control by chemical and non-chemical means.

Kim is also helping the Thursday Group of FOWSPIANS. Guiding and leading such activities as

- \* seed collection and naming
- \* seed planting and propagation in trays
- \* "potting on" seedlings already grown
- \* preparation and mixing of appropriate growth mediums
- \* location of all the above in sheltered areas or greenhouse etc.

As a child and teenager, Kim spent weekends and holidays on a farm in South Gippsland (Strezlecki country) involved in a wide range of activities - shearing animal husbandry (is the word sexist?) vermin and weed control, fencing, painting and trail-bike riding.


Amongst her work activities as an adult, Kim, who qualified at Melbourne State College (B.Ed in Environmental Science) worked as a Training Officer on Urban Revegetation on the Merri Creek (3 years) then returned to teaching Environmental Science at Secondary School level.

She was also involved with neighbours of the "ORGAN PIPES" in an effort to control thistles in the area.

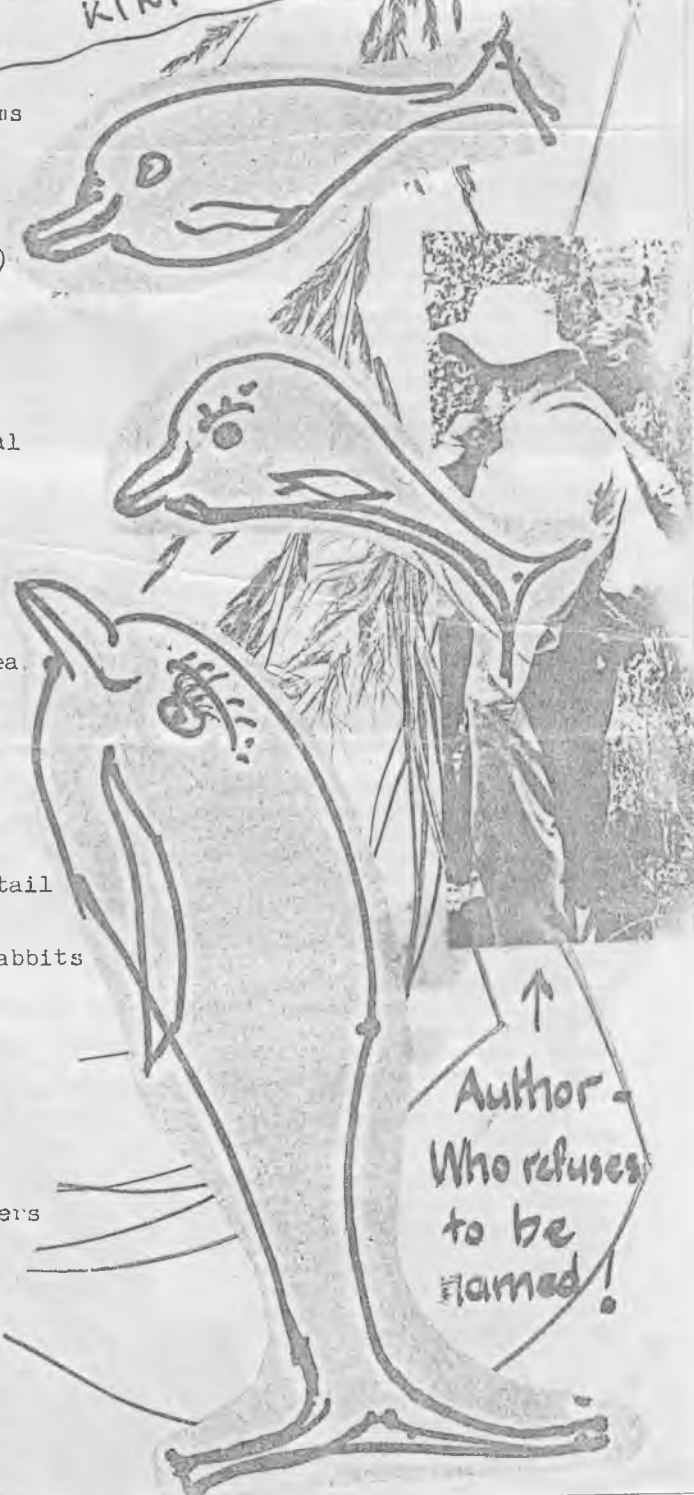
#### Vital Statistics:

- Ambitions
  1. To rule the world
  2. To make people control their plants and animals.
  3. To be re-incarnated as a wedge-tail eagle or dolphin
- Interests Bushwalking, absailing, shooting rabbits gliding, feeding birds etc
- Pet Aversion "Huntsmen" hiding in toilet rolls
- Favourite Sayings:
  1. "Oh Yeah"
  2. "I'll pretend I didn't see you do that."
- Bad Habits occasionally sets fire to dried out leaves wrapped in paper cylinders then puts them in her mouth (but not on days of total fire ban)
- Favourite Beverage: Bourbon
- V.F.L. Team? One-eyed Collingwood supporter (aren't they all?)

\* Comment by fellow worker on last two points mentioned  
"Obviously got no taste at all!"



\* PROFILE of  
MS KIM E. ROBINSON \*



# LETTER FROM THE COUNTRY

This Article reproduced from the 'Diggers Club' Newsletter. Seems a interest / relevant to Warrandyte experience.

Dear Clive,

Congratulations on Digger's Club 10th Birthday, and thanks for the Garden Annual; the beautiful pictures in it never fail to renew my enthusiasm for the casual, easy-care garden which it is my ambition to achieve.

I do agree with your words on page 3 of your recent Garden Annual:

"The nostalgia for plants Australian, whilst it rekindled interest in our own flora, brought into suburban gardens many plants that were best left in the bush."

I have to tell you that even country gardens now, which ten years ago "seemed largely unspoiled by these trends", have taken up the fashion of growing "native" flowers. These so-called natives are mostly cultivated specimens of Western Australian species, and just as unsuited to Eastern States' gardens as any other imports from foreign countries.

One of my dreams is to have what I believe to be an ideal native garden: a large tract of unspoiled bush which could be treasured and tended, improved with winding paths and steps and carefully constructed waterways and pools, with perhaps the addition in selected places of some hardy introduced natives from elsewhere that would not compete with the indigenous plants to their extinction. William Ricketts has done this in his Dandenong sculpture garden — if it is still as it was many years ago when first I visited him.

Yesterday I visited a cousin who has acquired 38 acres of unspoiled bushland near Inglewood. Well, it was unspoiled. Having two horses, and hoping to acquire some cattle, they had already constructed sturdy fences and a stockyard, using the timber cut down on the property. The hooves of the horses were already churning the soil into dust or mud. The delicate native grasses were fast being replaced by sowings of rye grass and clover, fertilised by superphosphate, and round the future house area there were experimental crops of corn and oats, as well as vegetables for the table.

Of course one has to live — although they know full well they can't make a living from the few cattle they can rear on less than forty acres. But they are going to make a big difference to that area in the attempt!

I remarked on the beautiful stand of "Wait-a-while" wattle (*Acacia colletioides*)

that graced the steep hill — almost a mountain — that comprised the back of the 38 acres. "There was more of it before we cleared that!" said Heather, proudly pointing to the heaps of dried scrub awaiting burning.

"But you won't be clearing it off right up the hill?" I asked.

"Oh yes we will, the cattle can't eat that!"

We walked up the hill, along the track made by the tractor, and admired the sundews, with their milk-white flowers as big as fifty cent coins facing up from ground level, and the little blue lady's-finger orchids, cheerful patches of them growing in the hard soil.

"Superphosphate will kill all the little native flowers" I warned them.

"Then I'll bring it in in truckloads" said Heather, partly to shock me, I suppose.

They pointed out a family of fire-tailed finches on the dead branch of a tree. "Don't forget" I said "that every time you cut down a tree you destroy a habitat."

"Well, we have to get rid of the timber round the house in case of bushfires" said Heather reasonably.

How sad it is that those who love the bush so much that they choose to live there, must destroy it by the very fact of their presence unless, like William Ricketts, they can creep in with reverence for what nature had created, build the minimum of residence, and be content just to enjoy, and perhaps enhance, that which is already so beautiful.

My other big dream is to acquire a patch of scrub somewhere that has already been spoiled by someone like Heather (with the best of intentions!) and help it to restore itself. For the bush does come back, given time, and preservation from the teeth and hooves of animals like cattle and rabbits. Never quite the same, of course, but perhaps in some ways even better.

It would be necessary to reduce the competition from the introduced vigorous grasses, rye and couch and clover, and, as this could not be done overnight, it would be permissible to plough up the pasture land, or part of it, and use it temporarily for a non-native garden of an uninvasive kind. So one could have the best of both worlds!

Roses and marguerites and lavender and other herbs, and even bulbs around the house, will never get away, and, unattended, over-run the surrounding bushland so that reforestation is impossible. Some of the most charming places in the country are where old homesteads have been deserted, leaving their gardens to fend for themselves, so that we find precious old roses, self-sown plums, mulberries and quince trees surviving in unexpected places. They do not destroy the bush, but enhance it, conjuring up memories and visions of old gardens long ago.

Around our garden of non-native plants, and amongst them, we could introduce the indigenous plants again. Most of them can be obtained from State nurseries set up for reforestation purposes; or we could gather seeds and grow our own plants.

On Heather's land, not only the Wait-a-while wattle would grow, but also the Nealie wattle, *Acacia rigens*, similar but smaller, and the Gold-dust wattle, *A. acinacea*, a small shrub of the gold fields. The Spreading wattle, *A. genistifolia*, has graceful, broom-like, fronds to fill the spaces below the eucalypts, brightening the winter months with its pale flowers. The Golden wattle, *A. pycnantha*, grows and seeds freely around Inglewood, so it would hardly need reintroduction. Other wattles could be introduced, but it would be best to concentrate on those native to the area, and to grow them in groups or clumps and to encourage them to spread naturally.

First the wattles: then, behind them, the eucalypts of the district and, finally, the little ground dwellers, the orchids and heaths, which will creep back provided that cultivation is not too stringent and that fertilisers are not used.

I am happy to say that the farmers around St Arnaud, and further afield, have seen the writing on the wall, or, to be more precise, have seen the salting of the pastures, due to removal of the forests.

On a recent flight from Berri in South Australia, to St Arnaud, I was interested to see that, whereas the Mallee lands cleared in times gone past were left without trees at all, the lands more recently cleared have left wide bands of trees along the fences and around the boundaries of the properties.

These so-called "corridors" of vegetation are very important to the birds, especially the smaller birds who do not make long flights and are nervous of predators if they have to fly in the open. Along the corridors of natural scrublands they can move to better feeding and watering places, as well as finding shelter and nesting sites.

All around the countryside there are little groups of farmers cooperating to plant areas of trees, sometimes along the three-chain roads and stock routes, sometimes fencing areas of Crown land, and sometimes donating areas of their own pastures, to be fenced off and planted with trees.

Some do it because of the inevitability of pasture deterioration if they do not, but some do it because it is their joy to see the trees come back.

"I just want to live in a place that is green and pretty, with lots of birds" said the secretary of one of these groups to me "instead of a bare brown land."

The farmers of the past are not to be blamed for the bareness and brownness of the treeless lands to the north. In their day it was considered good farming to leave no tree uncut, and in many cases it was enjoined upon them by the Government as a condition of keeping the land.

It will be interesting to see if the farmers of this generation can reverse the effects of the over-cultivation of the past. But I am afraid, Clive, that neither you nor I will live to see it completely turned round — it is bound to be a long and frustrating process.

Still, with an imminent "Greenhouse effect", who knows? The rain we are enjoying today (2nd September) should bring along the newly planted trees. And it accounts for the extra-long letter I have written to you — it is no weather to be out working in the garden!

Regards,

Eunice Laidler

St Arnaud, September 1988

Photocopies of Grasses, Seed etc collected and being propagated by the Friends. Some are 'germinating as you read' - we hope!

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK  
PROPOSED ANNUAL PROGRAMME \* 1989

FAMILY SUNDAY MEETINGS.

- 29 JAN--- Inspection of new Wetland/Creek area which is to be added to the Park. B.B.Q. or Picnic Evening. — Have added this meeting
- 26 FEB--- Canoe trip-Wittons Reserve to Blackflat Doug S.  
BYO BBQ tea - Alternate B/f nature trail maint.
- MAR--- W/dyete festival ---Glenn/Gail Billy Tea / Damper on Sticks  
Helium Balloons with Acacia Pycnantha Seed.
- 30 APRIL--- History walk -Guest guide -Ted Rotherham? Margaret F.  
Private land Blackflat.? B.B.Q (Evening?)
- 28 MAY--- Mt Lofty -General inspection /seed collection Ian R/Marg B
- 25 JUNE--- Broome pull -4th hill-off Whipstick Gully Glenn J.
- JUNE--- World Environment day Iain B. Tree Planting  
Pound Bend Orchard
- 30 JULY--- Propagating Val P. Park Depot
- 26 AUGUST--- Visit Morwell Nat Park - Gail R.
- 30 SEPT--- Wildflower walk Arthur W/Olive Jumping Creek.
- 28 OCT--- Koala survey Ian R. Pound Bend.
- 25 NOV---Break up BBQ /Spotlight walk Yarra Brae

Programme set by --- Margaret F  
Margaret B  
Ian B  
Olive  
Gail R  
Ian R

THURSDAY GROUP WEEKLY ACTIVITIES.

Weekday groups --- Propagating  
Tree planting  
Koala survey  
Seed collection  
Bradley Method Training Sessions

Saturday groups - as above (perhaps monthly?)

Evening Meetings - Social / Educational Slide nights etc.

NOVEMBER 27 A.C.M. B.B.Q. at Stone Brae - NOON  
DECEMBER 3 MARKET, FOLLOWED BY 'GRASSES' WORKSHOP  
PROPAGATION GROUP - THURSDAYS 10AM POUND BEND DEPOT.  
1ST KOALA SURVEY - DEC 1ST (TO BE CONFIRMED)  
BRING LUNCH.

Holiday Period - Koala Counts, Seed Collection - WEEKLY



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