



# FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

## NEWSLETTER

# JANUARY

As 1989 is now underway, we look forward to continuing the activities of Fowspians with an even more varied and interesting program. We have seen a substantial increasing in the membership during 1988. Some of the people who have joined us have expert knowledge in the areas of plant propagation, botany, and conservation of our Park areas.

We are very grateful to Ian Roche and his Ranger crew for their very active and interested participation in our regular meetings and helping to show us areas of the Park we have not previously seen.

Sadly, we must say farewell to Kim Robinson and Iain Marshall who will not be with us in 1989. We nevertheless are very thankful for their concerned involvement in helping the Fowspians throughout the past year. We wish them the best of luck in their new jobs. Our Thursday group, with much helpful guidance from Kim, has done a good job in propagating plants, and has added about 2000 young plants to the Depot's collection. We look out with anticipation to planting these out in the Park in about 2-3 months time. Those involved had a definite 'hands on' experience and increased their knowledge of indigenous plants.

We are publishing again the provisional program for 1989, and hope that members will be pleased with it. We have in place an informal committee of 8-9 members and would be happy to receive any suggestions to our program. Our next meeting will be about 2 weeks from now, as many members are still away on their summer vacation.

Finally, and IMPORTANTLY, we need to remind you that subscriptions to F.O.W.SP. are now due for 1989, and we hope to receive yours soon. (maybe a little earlier if possible) ! Remember a small \$10.00 (household/family) is all that it takes to give you so much !  
So go for IT !! ..... NOW !

## Next Meeting

The first Sunday meeting for 1989 will be an exploration of the Watson's Creek area to be added to our Park. It was to have been part of a Dam catchment planned for Melbourne, instead it will, hopefully, form a link in a wildlife corridor to Kinglake National Park. Join us at the Pound Bend Depot to set off on a 'Discovery Tour'. Our Leader will be our Head Ranger Ian 'Mick' Roche. Pack a Picnic 'Tea', walking gear, Aeroguard, and a hat (and whatever!) and prepare to help learn what we can about this exciting addition to W.S.P. See you at Mid-day Sunday 29th. Jan.

It is great to see the enthusiasm that has endured the comings and goings of Park staff and friends alike over the many years of the Friends existence. I for one applaud the work past and present. The benefits of your efforts will extend well beyond the enjoyment of those directly involved.

Friends groups vary greatly in the direction they follow however the binding threads are to;

- Fulfil a need to assist in the conservation of a resource
- to enjoy doing it.
- to encourage others to enjoy and protect their environment
- to assist in educating people of all ages in caring for the environment

One direction the Friends group may choose to pursue is the interpretive area eg. Friends of the Zoo, The Museum, or of Gellibrand are all involved this way. At Warrandyte this may take the form of assisting in the summer interps program, or at Easter and even during school holidays. This can be rewarding to all participants.

The Warrandyte Friends need to have a policy encouraging members of all ages in turn providing a vast pool of experience availability and ability to achieve the above goals.

Equally the Committee needs a program which will encourage participation of most members and yet be practical and enjoyable as well.

That can be a tall order, however this year's program attempts to address these criteria and hopefully make the group and even more effective and respected organization.

Comments will be appreciated regarding the program and should be directed to any committee member for consideration at the next meeting.

In Rob

IAN ROCHE Senior Range

## CSIRO's new lawn is lean on liquid and love

By CARMEL McCAULEY,  
Canberra

Hate mowing the lawn? Tired of moving the sprinkler? The CSIRO has the answer: a lawn that doesn't need watering and requires mowing only once a year.

But you'll have to get used to a tufty, grey-green lawn, rather than the lush, deep green of exotic lawns, because the grass is grown from a native seed.

The CSIRO's division of plant industry has been developing the wallaby grass seed, or danthonia, for three years under a pro-

ject funded by the New South Wales roads department.

The head of the research team, Dr Richard Groves, said yesterday that the grass would reduce maintenance costs because it relied on natural rainfall and needed only annual mowing.

Growing to about 60 centimetres, it had been tailored for landscaping in cities and along roadsides. But Dr Groves said the CSIRO could also develop a different variety of the grass that would be shorter and more suited to the home garden.

"If you want grass and don't

want to mow it, then this grass is for you," he said. "But if you want a green carpet, then this won't be suitable."

Mr Iain Dawson, a scientist involved in the research, said the wallaby grass was not soft and green all year round, so it might not be liked by people accustomed to the "European look".

"The problem is we have a European aesthetic sense in what we think looks nice in a landscape," he said. "If we can re-educate the community about what looks nice, it can save a lot of money."

The CSIRO hopes the wallaby grass will be on the market within three years. It is about to look for a commercial outlet to grow and market large quantities of the seed.

Dr Groves believes the grass could sell for \$100 to \$200 a kilo, which would make it more expensive than exotic grasses, but it would be attractive because of its low management costs.

Landscape architects, in particular, favored the grass because of its aesthetic qualities in blending with the Australian landscape, he said.

## AND THAT'S THE WAY IT IS!

This is a story about 4 people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

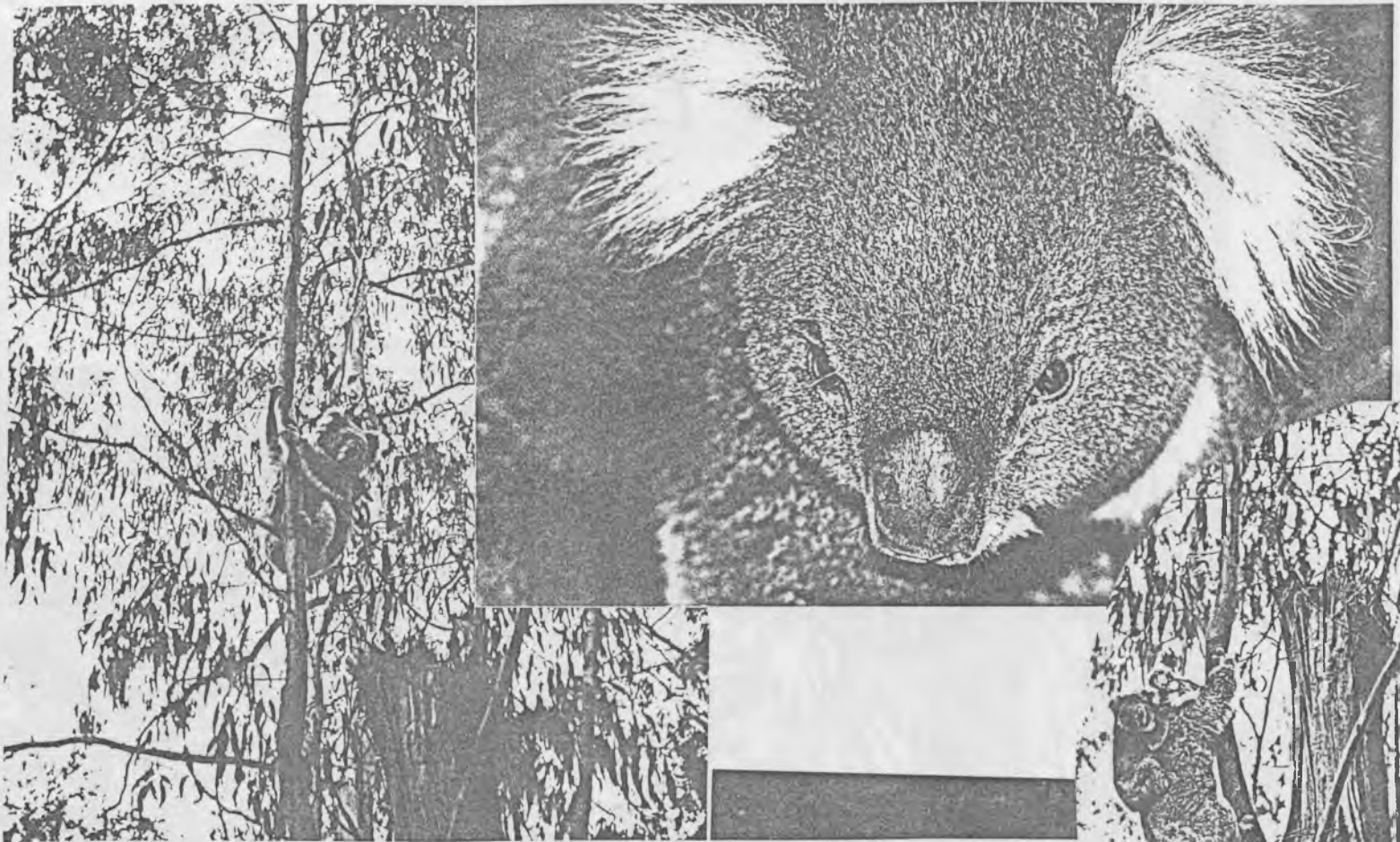
There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Now Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Supplied by Bill R.

KOALAS KOALAS KOALAS KOALAS KOALAS KOALAS KOALAS !!!



Koalas are being counted !

Following a talk by Anne Withal to prepare we intrepid Fowspians-  
Counting, Habitat, Identification, Seed collection and propagation  
of food trees is underway. Contact the Park, Olive or Marg B. if  
you are interested in joining us.



These Koalas were released into our Park on Nov. 18th. Thursday  
FOWSPIAN survey team reports that the seven sighted this week  
look 'relaxed' and settled- albeit a little disgruntled at being  
spied on. Counting Koalas is suitable for all age groups - we'll  
show you all the tricks of the 'Koala-spy-ian' trade(????)

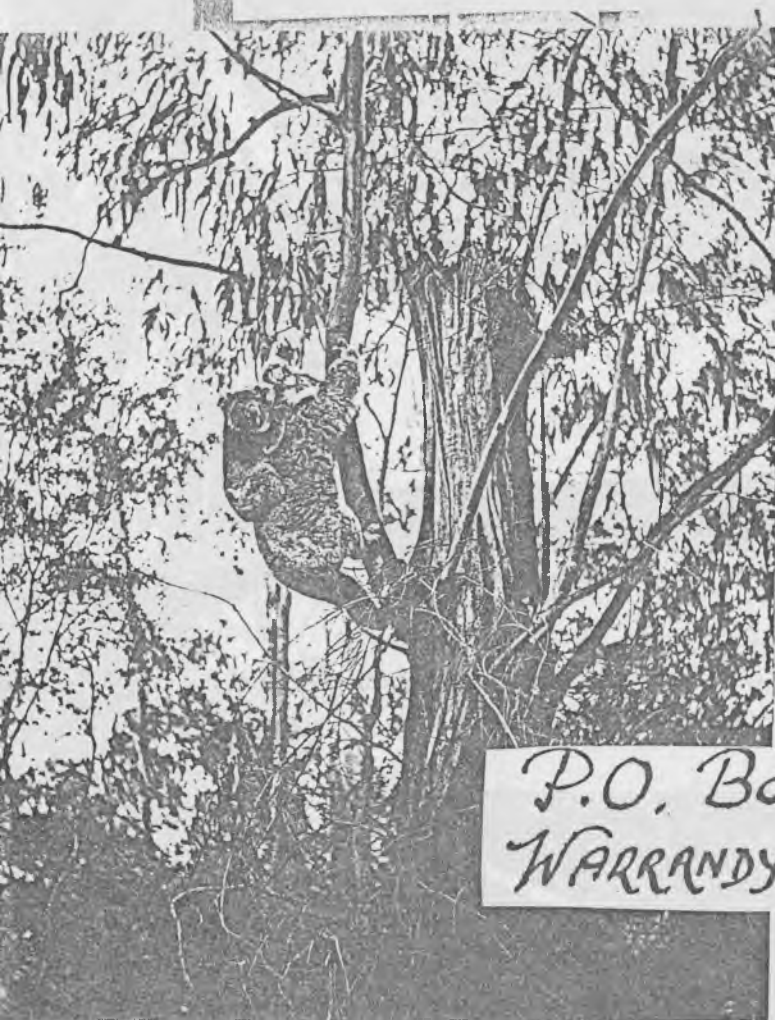


Our thanks to David Cameron for his 'Grasses Workshop'. More of this in our next newsletter.....

## FOWSPIAN Committee.

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

GAIL ROCHE 722 1926  
VAL POLLEY 8443086  
DOUG SEYMOUR 844 2740  
and back home at last.....  
GLEN JAMESON 8442395.



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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.
- 26 FEB--- Canoe trip-Wittons Reserve to Blackflat Doug S.  
BYO BBQ tea - Alternate B/f nature trail maint.
- MAR--- W/dyte 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

Doug. S

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  
Weeding 'A la Bradley'

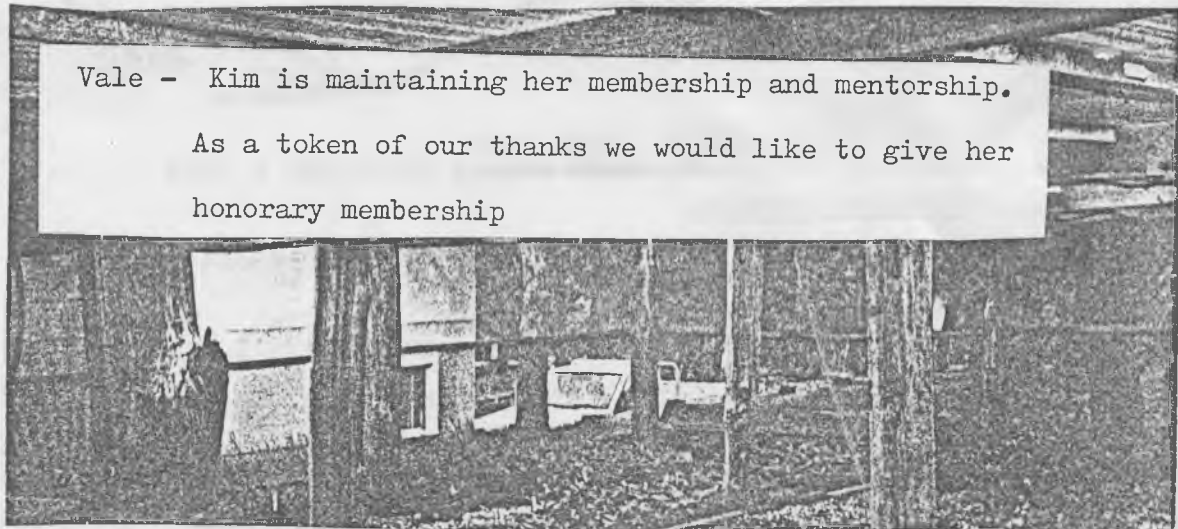
Saturday groups - as above (perhaps monthly?)

Evening Meetings - Social / Educational Slide nights et

Ideas you may wish us to consider at the Committee meeting proposed for early February.

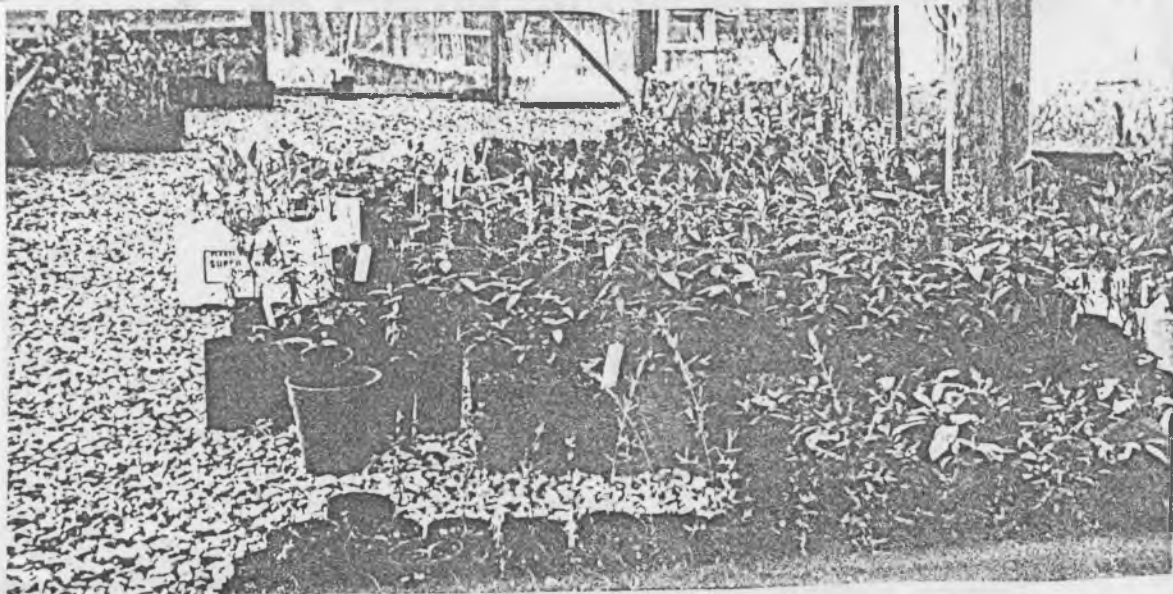


Vale - Kim is maintaining her membership and mentorship.  
 As a token of our thanks we would like to give her  
 honorary membership



Propagation Activities on Thursdays.

A very enthusiastic band of people gather every Thursday. Sadly, we have lost our Kim Robinson to the State. (She is now Statewide Weed and Vermin Control Officer! ) Steven Anderson has now become 'OUR RANGER'. If you have the time, interest and a love of plants that is all you require. We are all learning 'on the job' and sharing our experience. The propagating is done in true nursery conditions and the shadehouse abounds with Indigidites ready to plant as soon as the Autumn weather arrives(???)  
 We gather at the Depot at Pound Bend 10am. Thursdays. Bring a cut lunch and enjoy the day. Phone Marg, Olive, or the Depot.



FRIENDS OF THE WARRANDYTE STATE PARK.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

00000-1989-00000

NAME..... ADDRESS.....

..... P/C .....

Subscription : \$10.00

PHONE NUMBER.....