



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

EDITORIAL

Now that everyone has returned from their long summer vacations, we can look forward to the Fowspians interesting program for 1989. We have tried to provide a diversity of activities, with some emphasis given to family involvement. The now firmly established 'Thursday Group' have achieved much praise for their propagation work, and provided a shadehouse with many new trees and indigenous plants. They will be used in a month or so to plant in selected areas of the Park.

We feel that we will have a very attractive and active presence at the Community Market this year. It was very pleasing to hear that due to the efforts of Pat Fricker the Lion's Club has been successful in obtaining a suitable tent for us. I'm sure that it will be invaluable at the Market and very useful for our monthly activities.

Very shortly we are confidently expecting to form a Saturday Propagation Group. A lot of members have expressed great interest in this. We will keep you posted.

Of course, all of our fabulous activities depend not only on your enthusiasm but also on receiving your \$10.00 subscription early in the year - it must be the cheapest deal in town.

WATSON'S CREEK VISIT.

Ten big Fowspians and three 'littlies' with Ian Roche as our guide set out on a very hot day to visit this area. We were all fortunate (except Ian R.) to have air conditioners in our cars. Cool drinks in the afternoon at Panton Hill were much appreciated. We explored various areas that could be possible additions to the State Park. Tim Bedford has been most helpful in providing additional maps of the terrain. Interestingly, we found a stand of large ironbarks that are rare and endangered species in the metropolitan area. Perhaps we can see that they are safeguarded and perhaps propagated in the future.

Glen Jameson will attend the V.N.P.A. Conference at Rose's Gap in the Grampians over the long weekend in March, and represent our Friend's group. He will report back to us in a subsequent newsletter. (We'd hope also to have the Wandering Warandidyte report on the trip of the Jamo's 4.... Come on now Glen.... !

Welcome to our many new members. Hope to see them at our numerous gatherings in 1989. Already a lot of them are becoming enthusiastically involved in our new and regular activities. They have come to realize that Friends make wonderful friends.

Coming Up Next...

NEXT MEETING

Members have alternative activities for the February 26 meeting.

1. Rafting Trip

A raft trip between the "lucerne paddock" and Jumping Creek Reserve carpark is being organized. The "lucerne paddock" is below the Bend-of-Isles but above our favourite Christmas break-up spot; the trip will take not less than 2 hours but we are planning on 3, as we plan to do interpretation and rubbish collection stops on the way.

Trip leader: Doug Seymour - see arrangements below

2. Black's Flat Weed Pull

For those not feeling hugely enthusiastic about a raft trip, Margaret Fishley will be on hand at the picnic area to lead a weed pull. Meet where the intrepid rafters assemble.

The groups will meet at Black's Flat after the paddle - it is hoped everybody will be able to bring along some BBQ things so we can have tea together.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RAFTING TRIP

Booking is necessary

Interested members are asked to ring Doug this Saturday afternoon (18 th.) on 844 2740 so that we can try to match seats with raft space. The Seymours are busy on Sunday so the alternative number is Margaret Humpheries at the Park office (844 2659) - on mornings only (Friday's OK). Get onto this at the earliest above time - we need to get organized !

Eligibility, \$

No experience is necessary (but is welcome). The trip is restricted to currently financial members and their children

Everyone will be provided with a buoyancy vest. Each participant will have to part with \$7.00 to cover the Park's costs for the trip.

Anyone who misses out shouldn't worry too much - surely there will be future trips.

Where & when


Please meet on the 26th. in the Jumping Creek car park near the canoe ramp at 1.00 p.m.

Fashion

Woollen clothes are great if the weather looks discouraging and sand shoes are the right footwear. Be keen on the idea of getting wet to the knees and a change to be left in the car would be welcome if you get soaked. We might decide on a swimming stop if its hot. Bring a bag for the rubbish and a thermos or whatever for the thirst.

Members who are keen canoeists might like to bring their boats - Doug and Nonnie probably will.

The trip will be postponed only if there is heavy unrelenting rain or in the equally unlikely event of flood conditions.



Profile of a Ranger -

STEPHEN JOHN ANDERSON

This Acting Land Protection Officer gave your ever-searching probing roving reporter his/her first enigma for 1989. Stephen apparently has no detractors, no enemies and no vices at all. It is very hard to find anyone who could say a bad word against him ! Investigating his early years I discovered the following. He was born in a hospital in the Kew area. He went to Manningham Primary School, thence Ayr.P.S. then Templestowe to the end of year II. He started (then deferred) a certificate of Applied Science at RMIT. Other learning experiences were;
helping in his father's engineering factory
fruit picking
6 years at Food Laboratories (in Carlton) as a laboratory assistant-
one of its main activities being soil analysis and leaf analysis

An interesting part of his life was when he used to work(voluntary) in radio as a broadcaster for 3PBS(FM), one of the first public radio stations. He was the Australian music co-ordinator,presenting 2 hourly sessions and also co-ordinating the monthly programs. Stephen's special interest was independent Australian music, presenting underrepresented non commercial music and young and upcoming bands.

Personal Statistics

1. 28 years old, not married, no children that he knows of !
2. No girlfriend "at the moment" he said,with a wistful smile in his eyes. Sorry people, his phone number is unlisted.
3. Colour of eyes- this caused considerable argument amongst those present.
4. Height- ? five foot something....
5. Has four wheel drive Suzuki Ute.

His Interests (not in order)

Bird Watching, botany, Tai Chi (Yang style), native plants, Bat-observing (heaps of bats in this area),6-7 species
Camping in the High Plains
Aboriginal food plants, medicine, and history.(long before the "Bush Tucker" stuff existed on T.V.)
Likes "Blues" music,Plays electric guitar as a hobby,and was in a band called BO-WEEVILS.
Independent Australian Music- Likes going to band groups.

BUT WHAT'S HE GOT TO DO WITH FOWSPIANS ???????

- He keeps an eye on us on Thursdays. His aim, which seems well on the way is to bring the Thursday group to a total self-management stage.
 - As part of his typical work day his mans the telephone answers enquiries in respect to weed and rabbit control. He receives quite a few S.T.D. calls on these matters.
 - He is always available on Thursdays, telephone 844 2659 for queries on noxious,general and environmental weeds.(sometimes referred to as "pest plants".)
 - Other times he carries out field inspections.
-

Page 2 Exposé

HIS COMMENTS -

He is not keen on working in airconditioned offices
"people ring up on the phone asking for "miracle" cures for rabbits-
but consistant effort is really what's needed".
"One concern is the lack of education in the community about weeds."
"Really glad to see more groups becoming active - would like to see
even more people involved in the local environment."

THE ENIGMA

Stephen does not smoke, rarely drinks, is not a gambler, his favorite
food is Warrandyte State Park barbeques. It is not known if he follows
a footy team . At a confidential interview he admitted to being a
"Weed Freak", traditional uses of weeds, herbal uses etc.

IN STEPHEN'S DEFENCE !

My first conversation with Stephen was in relation to grass identification
(the wild indiginous types) When subjected to a secret test he was
reasonably good at identification-(in fact he was right each time!)
"Wallaby grass,"Weeping grass" Kangaroo grass" Stipa and so on . Also
he had some handy tips about grass seed ripeness.

SNIPPETS

When asked if his family grew a lot of non-indiginous plants he refused
to answer on the grounds that it may incriminate him. (as one fellow
employee passing at that moment said "Write that down as Stephen answered
in his usual evasive manner!")
(My comment- Stephen is adept at getting the interviewer to ask questions
he doesn't want to answer.)
Stephen- " I was always first on the b----y roll at school because my name
starts with an A."

OTHER PEOPLE'S VIEW OF STEPHEN

- "he has a very quiet sense of humour that sneaks up on you....."
- "very open, very good with people...."
- "voice gets louder and louder when he is right....."
- "Unfortunately he hasn't got any bad habits...." (said one person
who had obviously been bribed)
- "sneakily devious " as well as "not sneakily devious"
- "known to be associated with the locker door welding incident....."
- "dog catcher at Diamond Valley...."
- "one of a team who built a complete shed around a car without leaving
an opening for it to be driven out....."

Your raving reporter earnestly requests that all information
on the above be sent to.....

Our Mlystery Reporter



A Friends-Letter from St. Arnaud.

Remember Article Oct '88 Newsletter?

5 Wills Street, ST ARNAUD 3478

5th Feb. 1989

China heading for ecological crisis: scientist

Beijing, Wednesday

China's scientists are warning of an impending ecological disaster. The nation is in the midst of one of the most severe droughts in its history, with more than 17 million hectares of crops threatened.

But the drought that is drying up rivers on the east coast is only one of a succession of droughts and floods that has plagued China in recent years.

Professor Luo Zhuchong and his colleagues at the Beijing Forestry Ministry say the dangers grow as demand for land and short-term greed remove the last vestiges of China's forest cover, accelerating soil erosion, silting up reservoirs and lakes and depleting the nation's water resources.

The figures now being made public reveal the extent of a problem that has long been ignored. China's forest cover has fallen by 30 per cent since 1949 and is now less than 12 per cent and will probably drop to 8.3 per cent during the next decade. This compares with 33 per cent in the United States, a country almost the same size.

Plans laid in 1980 to raise forest cover to 20 per cent of the land surface have now been abandoned and even the lower figure of 16 per cent looks hopeless. Since 1949 the area of soil erosion has increased by 32 per cent and annual loss of surface soil is more than five billion tonnes, equivalent to the removal of one centimetre layer of all arable land.

By comparison, the soil erosion in the US is 1.6 billion tonnes a year and in the Soviet Union 2.5 billion tonnes. Most of this soil goes into China's main river systems, the Yangtze and the Yellow River. The bed of the Yellow River is rising at a rate of 10 centimetres a year and stands up to seven metres above the east China plain. Almost half of Sichuan, the most populous province, suffers soil erosion with the consequent clogging up of irrigation systems.

The same is happening all over central and southern China. Dongting lake, a leading source of water in Hubei province, is silting up rapidly and the water storage capacity has fallen to a third of its level a century ago. Water is becoming a resource in desperately short supply in China, and in many cities has reached crisis point. Per capita water consumption is a fifth less than in the US but the population and industrial demand is growing so rapidly that by the turn of the century China will be short of 100 billion cubic metres of water, a sixth of the present capacity.

Siltage in one part of China is matched by desertification in another — to the tune of about 60,000 square kilometres a year. Desertified land in northern arid and semi-arid areas is expected to rise from 17.6 million hectares to 25 million hectares by the turn of the century. While western China is threatened by overgrazing on the grasslands — land use fees are now to be levied on nomadic herdsmen — the devastation of China's forest reserves since 1980 has been particularly marked in the south. A few hours drive out of Chengdu, Sichuan's capital, and you can see that every hill has been shaved of trees for miles around. "Its anarchy — local people have been fighting and killing each other over forestry rights. Even the guards are shot," Professor Luo said.

Wood is in enormously short supply in China. Since 1980 the free market price for a cubic metre of pine wood has gone up seven times, and is now equal to about as much profit as a Chinese grain farmer makes in a year.

The problems are not all caused by the economic reforms. In Guizhou province trees were cut down to raise grain production during the 1950s, or cut down to fire small blast furnaces during the "Great Leap Forward" when Chairman Mao declared China would overtake Britain in steel production within 15 years.

— Guardian

Dear Margaret, and Ian,

I was looking forward to the January Newsletter, and was pleased to find inside a personal note to me. Thank you.

Thanks also for the invitation to write for your Newsletter. I would like to do so, but not under the same title as I write for Clive ^{Blaney} ~~Bazley~~. I am waiting for inspiration. The St A. Field Nats is due to meet next Wednesday. We do not bash on as you people seem to do, but go into deep recess from the end of November to the second Wednesday in Feb. The garden Club is similar, although we try to have our Christmas party in December — early! — but then we don't meet again until the third Tuesday in February. A long break is nice if the weather is very hot, but this year it has been extremely pleasant, even up here. As you say, the warmth and the rain have brought on the weeds.

I presented my "report" to the Field Nats about Warrandyte, and they were impressed with the work you are doing. We are a very small club, and have no well-defined aims as you have, although in the beginning the aim was to save the *Caladenia Filamentosa* from extinction, and we feel that has been achieved. I wish we could have a monthly newsletter, but I have a horrible feeling that, were I to suggest it, I would get stuck with doing it by myself. So I think I'll lie low and say nothing.

I will suggest to them, though, that we draw up a yearly program such as you have done. I'll let you know, and perhaps the meeting will give me something to write about. Until then.....

Regards

Bobbie.

I'm glad Harry is proving useful.

Hop Goodenia
(being propagated)

Festival Coming Up.

Any ideas for Committee Meeting March 7th?


FOWSPIAN Committee.

The Age - 9.2.89

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

GAIL ROCHE 722 1926
VAL POLLEY 8443086
DOUG SEYMOUR 844 2740
ANNE BEDFORD 438 3289
GLYN JAMESON 8442395.

ELIMA ANGUS 844 2230



Fowspian Credo

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park are a group of people who love the natural beauty of our Park and who wish to share in an environmental program based on the needs of the Park;

Our Aims are:

-- To provide support and foster public awareness of the Park

-- To assist with special projects selected by 'Friends' in close consultation with the Ranger in Charge

--To bring into contact people with a mutual interest in the Park

* We gather on the last Sunday of the month at midday for a program designed for people of all ages to learn to discover ,appreciate, understand, and heal some of the damage done to this wonderful environment.

*We also have a midweek program for those 'around'. We gather at the Pound Bend Depot to learn to propagate indigenous plants, plant out various areas, survey flora, fauna and especially the local Koalas, encourage understanding and use of the Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration.

* A stall is held at the Warrandyte Community Market on the first Saturday of the month at Stiggants Reserve to encourage enthusiastic participation, understanding and education of our local community.



F R I E N D S O F C U R R A W O N G

Program for 1989

Note that the times for all gatherings
except for April and June

is 9:30 A.M. - 12 Noon.

Sat. Apr. 8th
& Sun. Apr. 9th

Construction of new walkway in kangaroo enclosure. This will be a major project - many hands will be needed for all or some of this weekend.
IMPORTANT - we are looking for a builder to volunteer his expertise to organize this project. Please contact Paul if you can help.

Sun. June 4th
(10 A.M. -4 P.M.)

World Environment Day. Tree planting.

Sun. Aug. 6th

Tree planting.

Sun. Oct. 15th

Seed collection. Weeding of Patterson's Curse.

Sun. Dec. 3rd

Seed collection and weeding using the Bradley Method.

CURRAWONG

BUSH PARK

Reynolds Rd. East Doncaster.

Phone : 842 7279

Pat Armstrong
Co-ordinator of Community
Involvement in the Park

Dates for the Calendar

PROGRAMME 1989.

- February 26. Doug's Day. Followed by a B.Y.O. Picnic/B.B.Q. Doug. Seymour
Raft Trip. Rubbish collection view
- March Warrandyte Festival Activities at Stiggants Reserve. Participation
in Festival Activities. Gail, Anne B, Glen. Billy Tea/Damper on
Sticks. Helium Balloon"Plant an Indigydite Penfriend" release, etc.
- April 30 History Walk. Guest guide- Ted Rotherham. Private Land as well.
Develop your skills as "Guides". Blackflat. B.B.Q.after. Marg F.
- May 28 Mount Lofty. General Inspection. Possible Plant up/seed survey
and/or collection. Guide Head Ranger Ian Roche. Margaret Burke.
- June WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY. Saturday Special Meeting. Plant some
of our very own trees. Pound Bend Orchard. B.B.Q. Ian Burke.
- June 25 Glen J. takes us on a Weed Identification/deinfestation "Trip".
Billy Tea etc after. Learn allabout the "Dreaded Pittosporum".
Timber Reserve. Webb St.
- July 30 PROPAGATION. If you've never tried it join Val P. at the Depot
Afternoon Tea and a talk by one of our Rangers after.
- August 27 This is the Weekend of our Visit to our Friends at Morwell N. P.
Possible overnight stay! More details to come. Gail/Committee.
- September 24 Wildflower Walk. Guest Guide the Famous Arthur Williamson
Jumping Creek. Perhaps try your "Bradley" skills on some
Broome as well. Olive.Walters/Ellma Angus.
- October 29 The BIG ANNUAL KOALLA SURVEY. Ranger Ian.R our Koaleader will
help us survey the Pound Bend Koala Population. Learn all about
it! Kids are great spotters! (so is Olive!) B.B.Q.After. Ian Roche.
- November 26 FINAL SUNDAY MEETING 1989. Breakup B.B.Q. Lets assess the Friends
Year. Followed by a Spotlight Walk with our Rangers to guide us.
More Details to come.

WEEKDAYS

- EVERY THURSDAY 10am. meet at the Depot for a 10.30 start. Bring
lunch. Activities guided by our Ranger Staff.
Propagation. Planting. Flora/Fauna Surveys(esp Koalas)
Seed Collection. Bradley Method Training/weeding.
"Do a Bradley" in the Friends own Special spot.
- SATURDAY- Some of the above are being organised when possible.
More in the Newsletter. Probabable monthly gathering!

MARKET.

First Saturday of each month. Join us next to the W.E.L. tent.
Members are allowed to participate in the "Befriend a Plant Scheme!"
More News to come. Enquiries-Committee Member.
Financial members who bring empty pots will be able to
exchange these for any plants in the "BEFRIEND ME " box.
We hope to soon have Glenn Jameson back into action selling
his "Indigydites" as well.

FRIENDS OF THE WARRANDYTE STATE PARK.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

00000-1989-00000

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

..... P/C

Subscription : \$10.00

PHONE NUMBER.....

Next

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Booking is necessary

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Each participant will have to part with \$7.00 to cover the Park's costs for the trip

All the other details in the newsletter

"Burgon" in Flower

P.O. Box 220.
WARRANDYTE. 3113

