



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

NEWSLETTER MARCH 1989.

EDITORIAL

As we approach a change to Autumn from our long hot summer, we realise a definite balance in Nature, a noticable harmony in the seasons. (Vivaldi even put it to music). Man is a part of Nature and to go against it will enact a large price. There has been a tendency for modern man to live in isolation and refuse to acknowledge interaction with his environment. We have thoughtlessly cannibalised our environment in the past few decades, and a multitude of socio-economical problems have been the result.

The ancient Chinese recognised the importance of cooperating with Nature to enjoy a good life, rather than competing with or destroying Nature. The concept of a correct balance between man and his environment poses the question of to what extent and how do we achieve a better harmony and thus improve the quality of our lives. A perfect balance is not attainable, due to the constant changing of the environment and of ourselves. Perhaps some of the birds, animals, and plants are much smarter than we give them credit for.

Nevertheless, living in Warrandyte we have a unique opportunity by becoming interested in our landscape and its wildlife, (including homosapiens) to intelligently make some useful changes. Such advantage is denied our more suburban neighbours. Positive efforts that can start in your own garden, extending to the State Park and out into the general community. As a Friends group we can extend our influence over a large area.

To gain the most from being a Fowspian involves more than just attending two or three monthly meetings, and there is so much more available with the formation of the highly sucessfully propagation groups. The Rangers are providing us with much advice and help in expanding our activities.

Finally, I'm sure that you are all looking foward to the very important event this month- The Warrandyte Festival. The Friends hope to have a very interesting and different display this year. So see you there on March 18-19.

Monthly Market Stall

Market Stall.- The Befriend a Plant Box will be at the Market. Members who bring back last month's empty pot may choose a new Indidydite- some smaller plants coming up. Glen promises to sell some real "Collector's items as well , and proceeds will boost funds. But come each 1st. Sat. and join us for some gossip, grizzles and get to know FRIENDS . Special "FOWSPIAN-mite" activities as well.

Help spread the word and join us next to the W.E.L. tent.

Autumn in Warrandyte

Autumn is a somewhat lean time for flowers in the bush. The Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria Spinosa*) has just about finished flowering and is now setting seed. However clusters of tiny white daisy-like flowers can still be seen on the Dogwood (*Cassinia longifolia*), the Shiny Cassinia (*Cassinia aculeata*), and in moister areas the Tree Everlasting (*Helichrysum dendroideum*). Also in flower is the Drooping Cassinia or Chinese Tea-Scrub (*Cassinia arcuata*) and if you run your hands over the yellow-brown plumes you will notice a distinctive spicy aroma. A flower that often goes unnoticed is that of the Mistletoe, *Amyema* sp- clumps of which can be seen hanging from Eucalypts particularly around the depot.

Insect life is abundant. On a dull day at Fourth Hill we saw the following butterflies; the Common brown(male and female), Ringed Xenica, Klugs Xenica, Painted Lady, and several skippers including the Symmommus and the Dispar, both of which are common amongst the Kangaroo grass. In gardens and beside the river Common Grass Blues, tiny yellow-banded Grass Darts and the introduced Cabbage White can all be seen flying.

The caterpillars that we encountered in the bush were a group of Processionary caterpillars on a juvenile Red Stringybark, (*Eucalyptus macrorrhynca*), GumLeak Skeleton, sers and Tussock moth caterpillars which are also common in gardens at the moment, along with two species of Cup moths which eat the leaves of Eucalypts, favoring young trees. These caterpillars should not be handled as they eject stinging bristles when disturbed.

Other insects that can be seen now include praying mantids, stick insects crusader bugs, and plant hoppers which although extremely abundant in gardens, do very little harm. Spiders too are plentiful especially the leaf curling spider which makes its home very cleverly in a dried up leaf strung between branches.

While up at Fourth Hill we were lucky enough to disturb a Boobook owl, it flew across to perch in a large Red Box tree, and then it looked down quizzically to see who had woken him from his daytime sleep.

Although this is an exceptional hot and dry time of year, the diversity of life in the bush is enormous. It can only be admired the way the plants and animals adapt to this hostile time. The life cycles of insects and the different stages of plant growth are changing all the time. So with the coming of good autumn rains in the next few weeks we can expect the bush to come alive with a great variety of mosses and fungi reappearing amongst the leaf litter.

Blair
Pat Coupar

Mistletoe in Flower near the Depot.

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Mistletoe in Flower
near the Depot.

Coming Up Next

HELP HELP

HELP!!!!

The Warrandyte Festival.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY 18TH
& SUNDAY 19TH
OF MARCH

Yes it's that time of year again folks. The Warrandyte Festival is upon us. We need your support and help at our display this year. We intend to sell Balloons with the Golden Wattle seeds attached to them, and we would also like to sell Billy Tea & Damper (on sticks only if the weather allows).

Glenns' famous plants will be for sale at last!!! Don't miss out this is your chance to purchase some before they are all gone again!!

The propogation team will display their techniques and "show off" their end products.

We especially need people to help with decorating Glenns' truck for the parade and with setting up the display on Saturday morning first thing.

If your interested in attending the display please write your name next to the preferred time slot and tear off the bottom section and either send it to:- Gail Roche, P.O. Box 61, Warrandyte, 3113. or Phone me as soon as possible on 722 1926.

SATURDAY	8am	till	10am
	10am	"	Noon
	12am	"	2pm
	2pm	"	4pm
SUNDAY	10am	"	Noon
	12pm	"	2pm
	2pm	"	4pm

Volunteers



And how did Doug's Day go?

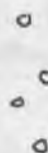
"INTERPS" BY RAFT

Report on February meeting activity - raft trip from "Yarra Brae" to Jumping Creek Reserve

23 Friends plus children have now tried out Ian Roche's suggestion of a canoe raft trip activity. If the talk around the evening "barbie" and subsequent calls I've had are any indication the whole thing must be judged a huge success. There is even talk of a special Saturday paddle in the Spring.



This trip was organized as part of the Park's interpretation program, under which people are taught about the values of the Park through experience (something like one of the Friend's objectives also). A very suitable ranger was selected to accompany us - Janine. We only found out later that this was Janine's last full day for the academic year. Good fortune in your study and see you back soon Janine.



Three 6 berth rafts were pushed in from the "lucerne paddock", just downstream of the Bend-of-Isles, just after 2 p.m. The Seymour lot had borrowed a three-man raft for the day and the Jungwirths and Anne Warren had canoes in with the bigger rafts. Much hilarity as the crews settled into paddling order. Austin Polley ended up as rear "helmsman" on one, the red one liked heading into the scrub for a while (peels of laughter) and the second grey boat got off like a rocket with the younger Coupers paddling enthusiastically. But people who had never paddled before were soon looking very good.

The Park looks entirely different from the River. Good management has minimized erosion but we'll have to tackle those rotten iris when they are next most vulnerable as they are spreading downstream, mainly on the northside.



Meanwhile, the Seymours soon found out why we were advised to put a li-lo in at our feet - the raft had a hole in the bottom. As the buoyancy is in the sides and rib there was no risk but what a picture we looked with all that rubbish we collected on the way floating around inside !

A great deal of rubbish was pulled out from under overhanging foliage and along the banks at the foot of Boucher's Lane. The group collected enough bags to fill a station wagon to overflowing at the other end (some picnicking visitors volunteered). It was pretty messy work but all that washed off as we ported the rafts through a series of rapids. The River had dropped a little over the fortnight since the raft hirer (more of Frank later), Kim Robinson and I trialled the route; the journey took a little longer making the last half hour pretty arduous for some. The Volger boat song was sounding out from one raft at this stage. A nice feeling of achievement at the end.



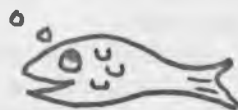
As I was pulling half a door out of one set of rapids I noticed how effective a bow draw is in turning a raft. Bev Hanson just leaned forward and pulled one of the rafts round with a single stroke. We paused at the Stane Brae picnic spot for a swim. The trees planted two years ago are really a part of the landscape now.

Many pictures were taken of the spectacular anticlinal fold in the rock, striking up from the south bank above Blue Tongue Bend. The old paddle wheel race and frame and an eagles eyrie on the south bank were worth a look too.

A good day. Thanks to Ian Roche and the crew and also to Frank Cocu of Wonga Park Canoe hire, without whose generosity and help the trip wouldn't have been possible. As a fellow paddler I was pretty impressed by the good equipment and Frank's concern for safety desire for everyone to have a good time.

Thank you also to the Blacks Flat weeding party for setting things up so nicely for the BBQ.

Doug Seymour.



Resources: Wonga Park Canoe Hire, Lot 15 Homestead Road, Wonga Park, 722 1956

Landlubber's Lament

The "landlubbing" members of F.O.W.S.P. gathered at Blacks Flat for our February meeting - Bedfords, Fishleys, Jamesons, Riddells and later on, Whites.

A spot was chosen for the erection of our 12' x 12' strong canvas tent, a donation from the Warrandyte Lions Club. The tent met with the approval of those present and was left in place for the rafters' inspection later in the day.

Glen shared his knowledge of the trees, shrubs and grasses near the B.B.Q. spot, then with eyes scanning the sky-line, the dreaded pine trees were spotted, and dealt with by either chopping down or ring-barking. The children helped by gathering broken glass, pine cones and any other rubbish not wanted in our beautiful Park.

A leisurely afternoon tea led into an early B.B.Q. tea, and still the rafters hadn't arrived. However, the long awaited meeting took place on either side of the now locked park gate. Will the mystery ever be solved -

WHO DONE IT ??



The Next Exposé

ONE WAY TO BECOME A RANGER. (Dealing with IAIN WILLIAM BRUCE !)

Iain (who will be 21 y.o. on March 26 1989) ended his full time schooling by completing year 11 at Sunbury High School. He started as a "Trainee professional" on a golf course, working in the Golf shop, handling green fee tickets and acting as tee manager,. Being interested in landscape gardening he applied for an advertised "Youth Guarantee" position with the C.F.L. as a trainee Ranger. This consisted of three days a week job experience and two days study at Frankston. Iain completed the "Certificate of Vocational Studies in Conservation" the same year and then took on a few subjects of the present Ranger course, ("Certificate of Applied Social Science in Conservation and Resource Management")

Only 18 y.o. at the time he was considered too young and/or inexperienced to supervise Construction and Maintenance workers- often 20/30 years older, so he was offered a full time position with C. and M. All this was while he was at Organ Pipes National Park. (Keilor) There was plenty of hard work, lots of weed control, revegetation rabbit control, etc. The "Organ Pipes" was one of the first Parks to have a Friends Group, which did most of the work.

After 2½ years Iain applied for and was posted as Acting Ranger (Technical Assistant Grade 1) at Warrandyte for 6 months. This introduced Iain to a different type of Park, different vegetative type and wider experience.

On the day I interviewed him, Iain's shift started at 11am, (as he was responsible for the evening gate closure at the Park.) Other duties included checking out public signs ordered, (from the Benalla region that has a sign producing workshop.) following up the preparation of the Easter Interpretation Program- which includes gold walks, picnic capers, possum prowls, check and replace logos on vehicles, plus patrol work before closing the gates. According to Iain, Warrandyte is a great place to gain experience, in the many facets of the Parks environment.

PERSONAL DETAILS

--Likes golf, used to be Captain of a pennant team in Goonawarra- this golf interest is associated with aqua-diving, (but that's another story)

--He would like to learn to play guitar

--He likes any music (but not really classical, and certainly not "plant growing" music.

--Films. Last saw one about 2 weeks ago, at the drive-in. It was about a train robber, but he can't remember (WHY) !!

-- Reading. The 'Age'. At present reading a book about Wombats-- would like to read the book about 'THE BRADLEY METHOD'.

Iain loves Wilson's Promontory. Last hiked overnight to Sealer's Cove.

Yes, He has a girl friend, they've been going together for 3 years

Iain is the youngest of three, and an uncle twice over.

Other things he likes- grassland areas, curry, He shares accommodation with two other Rangers in Brunswick- across the road from Royal Park Golf Course. His first vehicle was a Honda 250 motor bike, "gave it up because it was too dangerous. His present vehicle is a 71 Mazda Capella. He hopes to gain experience one day in an Alpine/coastal/desert Park, but first he wants more experience in the Melbourne area.

He feels that the Youth Guarantee Scheme has really turned out well for him. He likes to keep an open mind on conservation matters. Last but not least he fought fires at Orbost last year (summer). He was sent as part of a crew from Melbourne Region, and fought fires at Heathcote in 1987. In the same year he qualified in the St. Johns First Aid.

The rest of this interview was bluepencilled by your ever failing reporter.....but ask and ye shall be told!)..even about the car-pool incident !

*Our Mystery
Reporter*



Dear Margaret and Ian,

When I received my first FOWSPian Newsletter, I was so ignorant I did not know where Warrandyte is. I thought it might be somewhere in Gippsland, and had a lot of trouble finding it on the map. In case any of the Friends are as ignorant of St Arnaud, I thought I might tell you a little about it.

St Arnaud is on the northern side of the Great Divide, 200 metres above sea level, in the heart of a sea of blue hills. It is a small old-fashioned town of only 3000 people; just big enough, to my mind. There are most of the shops one could need (no health shop, though,) and enough industry (harvesting machinery, knitting mills, poultry processing, and so on,) to keep it viable. In fact, we now have two good air landing fields, one almost in the town. And a local newspaper!

Good roads lead off in all directions: to Donald, Charlton, in the north, to Bendigo to the east, to Ballarat and Avoca southwards, and to Horsham and Stawell to the west. St Arnaud sits like a jewel in centre, half-way to everywhere. When we came here from Melbourne, 8 years ago, we liked to think it was half-way to South Australia, (Berri) where our son lives. Now we stay here because we find it about half-way to Heaven.

One of the good things about the district is that the trees are re-producing themselves. As one farmer said to me, "It's only bloody Mallee, it grows up again as fast as you can cut it down." Only partly true. There are some areas of Mallee scrub, and it is cut for Eucalyptus oil, over and over again. But where that farmer, and most farmers are living, the trees are Yellow Gum, Red Gum, Grey Box and Iron Bark, providing some quite useful timber, and growing again "as fast as you can cut it down." I read in the newsletter that your Ironbarks are "rare and endangered species." Perhaps we can send you some seeds.

Yesterday, driving along one of our picturesque tree-lined roads, we were sad to see some of the trees dying, their richly coloured tips turning to burnt brown. This is not heat or dryness, or the dreaded die-back; the Council, in its wisdom, has decided that the re-growth along the roads is a hazard to drivers, and needs to be poisoned off.

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Spraying is to be undertaken to help resolve the numerous problems the immense regeneration of trees is causing within the Shire, essentially reducing safety on various roads.

Cr. Peter Douglas told Council that something must also be done about the various trees growing on the walls at Teddington Reservoirs, or there would be longterm problems, with perhaps cracks forming in the structure.

Red Box ~
now Germinating

Our FRIEND
from St. Arnaud

Sad, eh? Personally, I have never heard of a fast-moving gum tree causing death or injury - though come to think of it, I remember my sister once swearing that a passing lamp post had attacked her vehicle!

However, it is nice to know we have a problem of "immense regeneration" and not the reverse, as apparently they do in China. (And even in other parts of Australia!)

The St Arnaud Field Naturalists were interested in your January Newsletter, and were inspired by it to try to map out a program for the year ahead. We have a trip the Sunday after the Wednesday monthly meeting, but it has usually been an ad hoc arrangement at the meeting, and we felt that if we had a year's program of interesting outings, as you do, and were to have it published in the paper, we might attract more (and younger,) members.

As a result of our planning, we took our Feb. trip to the Secretary's residence along the Charlton Road, to see wild water birds which have been attracted to the dam on the property. The McDonalds (who of course "have a farm") thought it was time their two house ducks were pensioned out onto the dam to take their chances with the foxes, and as a result, several more species of birds have taken up residence there. We saw cormorants, spoonbills, and black ducks. When the duck-shooting starts next month, lots more water birds will take refuge on private sanctuaries where no shooting is permitted. I wish we could warn them and tell them where to go. The ducks, I mean. Of course we would like to tell the shooters where to go also!

Goodbye for now. Looking forward to the next Newsletter,

Yours, Bobbie.



THE FOWSPIAN ~ mites

COMPETITION

This is an adult crimson rosella colour him in his real colours (you may like to use a book to help you) and bring him to The Friends display at the Festival or send him to-

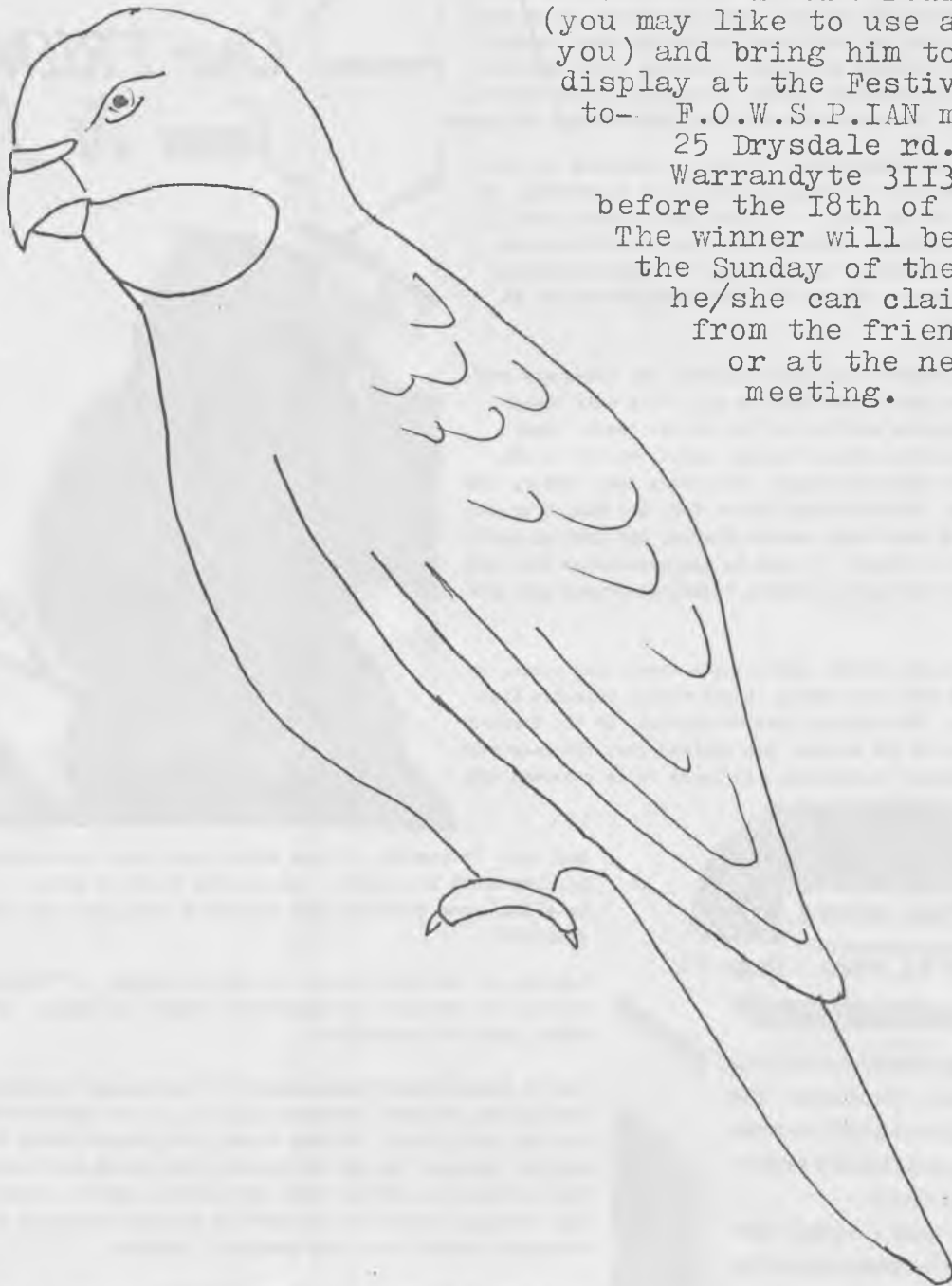
F.O.W.S.P. IAN mites

25 Drysdale rd.

Warrandyte 3113

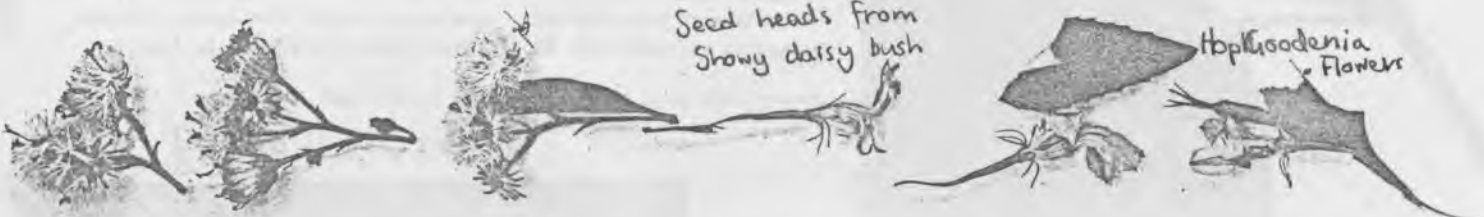
before the 18th of March.

The winner will be announced on the Sunday of the Festival & he/she can claim thier prize from the friends display or at the next Friends meeting.



P.S. Please send any jokes, poems or letters to F.O.W.S.P. IAN mites
25 Drysdale rd.
Warrandyte 3113

& they will be printed in the next Friends newsletter



Seed heads from
Showy daisy bush

Hopbush
Flowers



9 December 1988

Dear Wildlife Watcher

The survey phase of Urban Wildlife Watch is finishing on December 31, 1988.

Thank you for your contribution to the thousands of wildlife records compiled so far. Below is a current summary of the Watch data:

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 500 approximately

NO OF SPECIES RECORDED -

BIRDS:	212
MAMMALS:	31
REPTILES:	19
FROGS:	8
FISH:	10
INVERTEBRATES:	168
INTRODUCED VERTEBRATES:	20

MOST COMMONLY RECORDED SPECIES -

BIRD:	Australian Magpie
MAMMAL:	Common Brushtail Possum
REPTILE:	Garden Skink
FROG:	Common Eastern Froglet
FISH:	Mosquito Fish
INVERTEBRATE:	Dragonfly
INTRODUCED ANIMAL:	Blackbird

For any records yet to be returned, please send them to us no later than early January.

The results from your contributions will be the basis for a book about urban wildlife to be produced during 1989 and published by Angus and Robertson in early 1990. The contents will include the survey results and lots of information about urban habitats and nature conservation.

URBAN WILDLIFE WATCH

For more information about wildlife and conservation, contact the sponsors of this project:

World Wildlife Fund
Level 2, Ross House
247 Flinders Lane
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Tel: 03 650 7011

National Parks and Wildlife Division
Department of Conservation Forests and Lands
240 Victoria Parade
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Tel: 03 412 4011

Parks and Waterways Division
Board of Works
625 Little Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Tel: 03 620 0221

The Arthur Rylah Institute
for Environmental Research
123 Brown St. PO Box 137
Heidelberg, Victoria 3084
Telephone 450 8617



Once again, thank you for your participation in Urban Wildlife Watch.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Wilson

JANE WILSON
URBAN WILDLIFE WATCH COORDINATOR

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

..... P/C

Subscription : \$10.00

PHONE NUMBER.....

P.O. BOX 220 WARRANDYTE 3113 VICTORIA

Enquiries 844 1060

Coming Up. The Bradley Brigade

Saturday Propagation and Regeneration Group

Festival

Slide Show by Starlight

Slide Evening in April - A return of Arthur Williamson for a "Show by Starlight". Venue; The Chapel at Blue Tongue Bend - more next month

Keith's Videos Raft trip - more to come ?????

Our Special Priority Plans

Development of Depot area as our own special project. Dam area and around Depot as our own "Botanical Gardens". (Anyone make Botanical nameplates ? Ideas for erection of shelter ?.....Who likes construction projects? Maybe building BBQ's? Any Volunteers?

Committee

IAN BURKE
MARGARET BURKE
MARGARET FISHLEY
DENISE FRICKER
OLIVE WALTERS

844 1060

8443476

8443702

846 4729

ELLMA ANGUS 844 2230

GAIL ROCHE 722 1926

VAL POLLEY 8443086

DOUG SEYMOUR 844 2740

ANNE BEDFORD 438 3216

GLEN JAMESON 8442395

Warrandyte Festival

P.O. Box 220
WARRANDYTE. 311.

Are you a fully paid up Financial Member? Subscriptions are now overdue. Do you have a red mark? Look carefully!!!

Sweet Bursaria - seed soon!

