

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

NEWSLETTER

May 1989.

EDITORIAL



"If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mouse-trap than his neighbour, though he builds his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door,"

Hopefully this will hold true over the coming winter months..... Our plans for an "Activities Centre" at the Park depot will help to expand the Friends work in their desire to improve the quality of the environment in our unique Warrandyte State Park. We are heartened by the enthusiastic support of many members. If you would like to lend a hand you are more than welcome. Just call any Committee member, and see our "house in the woods" become a reality.

ME. LOFTY EXPEDITION

Our May Sunday Family Meeting will be a "Double Bunker". Firstly we will meet up at the Depot at Pound Bend and drive in convoy to the new Mount Lofty areas recently added to the Park. Our special Guide will be Val Polley who is the Community Member of the Management Planning Committee. Val will give us a "potted history" and the run down on Development plans and look for your ideas on Fowspian Feedback. We will also have Head Ranger Ian Roche with us to give us the Rangers viewpoint. The area is a real "Disaster Zone" and it will be a most interesting day.

We will survey and collect seed and try to determine just how we can tackle this rehabilitation programme. Wear stout shoes. Bring along your weeders "just in case" but the physical aspect of the days activities will be back at the Arboretum where all members will be able to plant up the area round the Dam. This will give you an opportunity to see the site of the "Folly", the Propagation area, shade house etc. and meet the Contact Person for a variety of projects.

Anna is planning a special Scavenger Hunt for Fowspianmites and will have some of Penny Possums Certificates for you to see.

We will have a B.Y.O.B.B.Q. in the Arboretum afterwards (early tea) and look at the Friends own B.B.Q site. Also the site of World Environment Plant-up. The Rangers will join us as the Billy boils for a good chat, and we look forward to meeting many of our newer (and older) members. See you all Sunday next.

Organiser Margaret Burke 8441060.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TREE PLANTING

SPECIAL WARRANDYTE SAUSAGES PROVIDED AND SIZZLING AS YOU PLANT.....!

Ian Burke is organising a special planting day on June 4th. We will have a B.B.Q. going all afternoon at the Arboretum-Folly site and we will plant out a special area near the Arboretum. This area was cleared years ago for Orchard use and we look forward to its transformation. June 4th is a SATURDAY and is also Market Day so don't miss. We will have a notice at the Market and we'd love to have every one join in this project. Can the world ever have enough trees? The nice thing is these are trees which we have grown.....!
ENQUIRIES Ian Burke 8441060 or Park Office 8442659.

The shadehouse will then be quite empty.....We will just have to grow more!

Correa Reflexa - flowering now

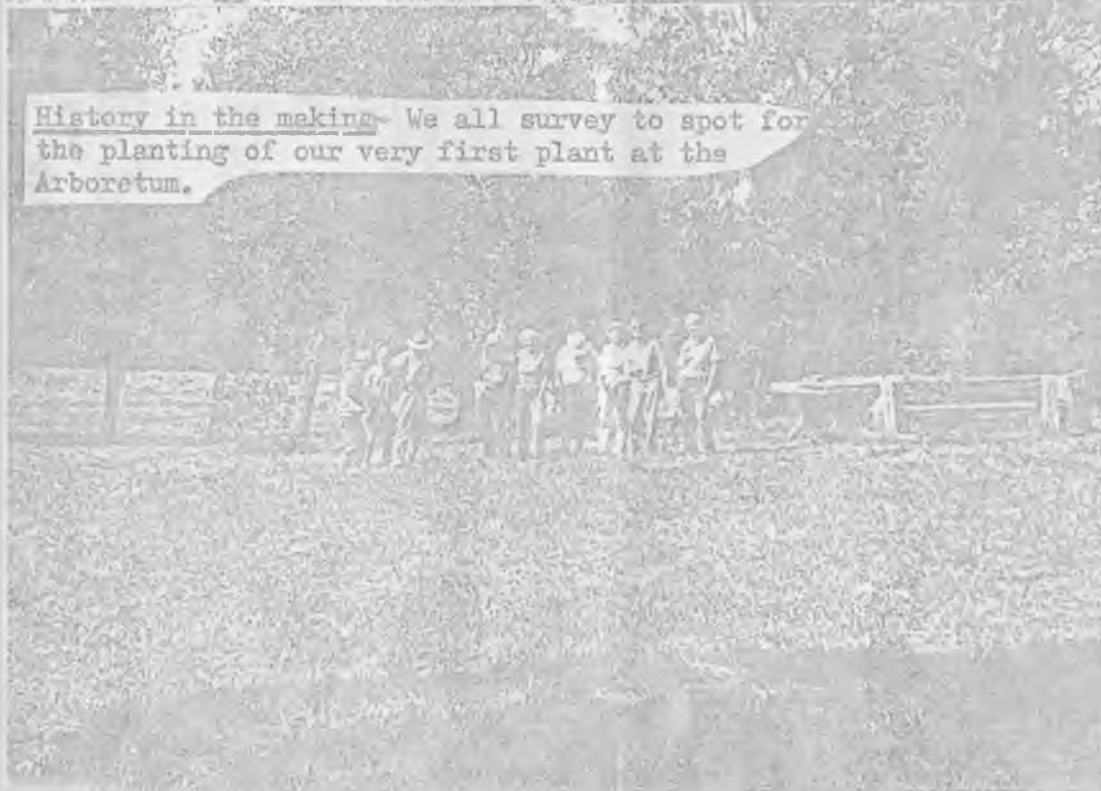
The Fowspian revegetators rest within the "walls" of the "Folly". Wont it be wonderful to have a place of shelter? Pat has promised a special slide show to celebrate our "Folly-warming"!



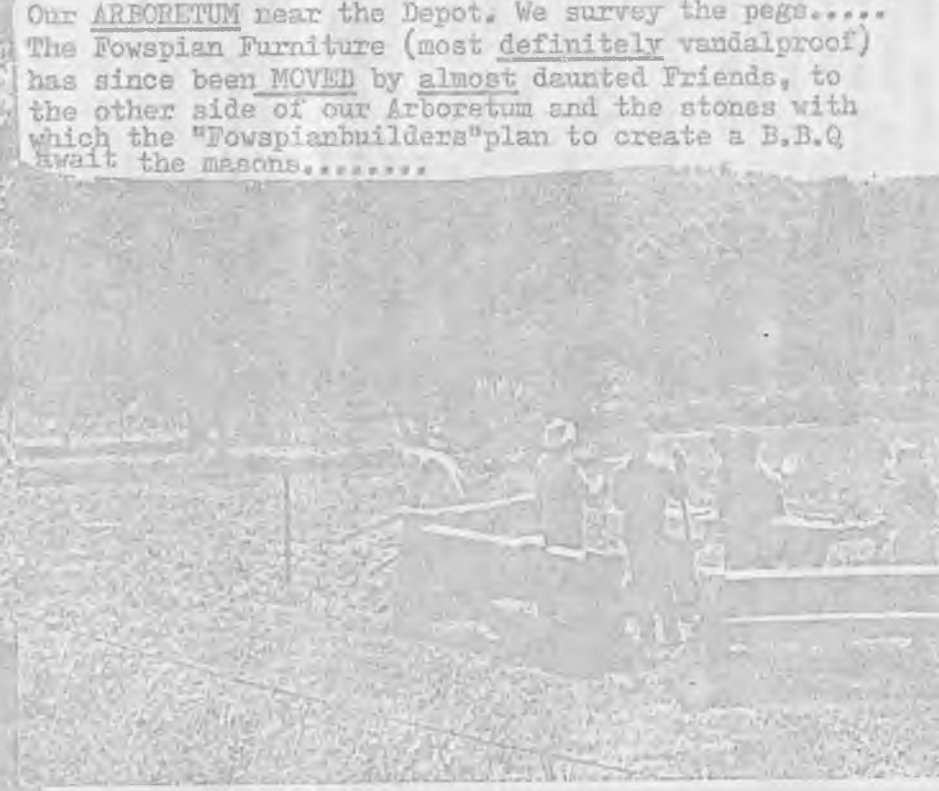
The Planners of the Arboretum deliberate! Pat Coupar with her "team" with Ian Roche.



History in the making - We all survey to spot for the planting of our very first plant at the Arboretum.



Our ARBORETUM near the Depot. We survey the pegs..... The Fowspian Furniture (most definitely vandalproof) has since been MOVED by almost daunted Friends, to the other side of our Arboretum and the stones with which the "Fowspianbuilders" plan to create a B.B.Q await the masons.....



THIS NEWSLETTER IS VERY KEEN ON BEING PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER. THE EDITORS ARE FOLLOWING UP A LEAD ON "SUPPLIES". ANY OTHER SOURCES OR LEADS WILL BE HAPPILY FOLLOWED. IT IS FOR USE ON THE PARK OFFICES XEROX COPIER. INFORMATION, HELP, PAPER DONATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY WELCOME. JUNE 1990. 8440.

Current Projects

Like to join in?.....

SUNDAY FAMILY MEETINGS.....A variety of different activities for all members. We hope to learn as much as we can about this very special environment, its friends, its inhabitants (past and present) and what we can do to safeguard its future. We have an emphasis on "getting to know each other and the park"..... Different members plan each Sunday Meeting and we have some fascinating things in store....!

PROPAGATION GROUP.....Thursdays EVERY WEEK. 10am. Bring your lunch.

Contact

Marg Burke 8441060
Olive Walters 846 4729

We have a most successful programme. Learn how to grow all the Indigidytes. So far we have seen about 5000 plants go through our shade house and the planting out has almost "cleaned us out". So we are underway with LOTS more. Learn to collect seed, cuttings, How to germinate seed, strike cuttings, grow local grasses, ferns, wildflowers, ground covers, shrubs and trees. ALL WELCOME lots to do.....!

BRADLEY BRIGADE.....See article this Newsletter. A Saturday Propagation Group will develop so come along and help to get it all underway

BUILDING THE "FRIENDS FOLLY".....Pound Bend near the Depot. Do you like building projects? We hope to begin soon to build a multi-purpose shelter for use of our groups and as a focal area for lots of FOWSP activities. (The Rangers will use it as well!) We have applied for a Govt. Grant to assist with this Project.

Contact

Ian Burke 8441060
Keith Thompson 8441590
Terry Oakley 8764768

THE ARBORETUM.....Planning and planting out is well underway but LOTS more to do. The area is the site of our planned "Folly" and will (we HOPE) eventually contain specimens of all the local flora. The plantings are all beautifully labelled thanks to Keith's talent so it will be an invaluable future resource. Work allied with our Propagation work.

Contact

Pat Coupar 8441650
Ben Gotlib 8762348

PATHWAY AND STEP MAKING.....Around the above.....

We need a "WORKS MANAGER" who wants to volunteer? We have had lots of ideas thrown around for stabilised earth paths and new Ranger Nick is getting us some printed information about ways and means.....! Interested workforce contact any Committee Member.

CATERING CORPS.....Wonderful job already done feeding the various groups but we hope to have lots of B.B.Qs, etc. and many handsets etc..... Gail Roche and Judy Thompson are our Contact People. 7221926 8441590

FOWSPIANMITES.....For the Growing Legion of young environmentalists Anna is a popular and dedicated Friend. We hope to have lots of activities for the young. Anna needs input for Penny Possums page and other activities. Do encourage your Fowspianmites to join in.

Contact

Anna Schurmann
8442843.

WARRANTYTE MARKET STALL.....First Saturdays of the Month. At Stiggants Reserve. Befriend a Plant Scheme is a very popular part of our Market activities. We are also giving free seed and advice on how to grow it. We are set up next to our friends W.E.L. and Anna is usually close at hand for visits from Fowspianmites. We have colouring in activities etc. The latest News and Views can be shared. We also interest new members. Come along and help "Person" the stall. Contact any Committee

We like to respond to the ideas of our membership. If you have any suggestions or ideas to contribute feel free to contact us. The Market at Warrantyte is a good place to contact the Committee personally, or write to P.O. Box 220.

Cutting Material

Evening Under the Stars

Arthur Williamson

On Saturday 15th. April 25 Fowspians and a "clutch" of Fowspianmites barbequed and then we greatly appreciated the fine photography of our Friend Arthur Williamson. The slides were of local Flora, Fauna and some weeds. The setting, in the old outdoor Scout Chapel at Blue-Tongue Bend "Under the Stars" was indeed MAGICAL.....THANK YOU ARTHUR! All Fowspians warmly agreed that more of these evenings are needed- as both education and INSPIRATION.....

History Walk

BLACKS FLAT APRIL MEETING

The weatherman provided a beautiful day for our April meeting. FOWSPians started gathering at 12 noon to first of all tackle weeds at the Park entrance, demolish a pumping shed, and then go on a history walk with Ted Rotherham, President of the Warrandyte Historical Society.

Smilax, broom, blackberry, household bulbs where once a miners hut had stood, were removed with an assortment of other weeds. A sumptuous afternoon "billie" tea came early, and then the FOWSPians, now numbering around 50 (men, women and children) took off after Ted to hear of the mining exploits in the area. Below, a few facts, to refresh your memory.

In 1842, the land was known as Dawsons Warrandyte Station (cattle), with a homestead near the main road. The Station was later bought by a Mr. Thompson, and later still by Captain Selby. By this time, gold was being mined in the area (one being the Yarra Tunnel mine) and in 1883 Capt. Selby opened the Black Swan mine. His homestead was destroyed in the 1939 fires. Capt. Selby is also credited with stocking the river with trout --- and planting the dreaded willows.

In 1905 the Caledonian Mine was opened. This mine went to 600 ft. and was the most productive mine in the area. Workers in the mine received the princely sum of 6d. an hour. Production finished approx. 1914. Mining in the Blacks Flat area accounted for half the gold found in Warrandyte, which included the alluvial mining along the river banks. The gold reefs went roughly in a North-South direction, as was evidenced by the mine sites we saw.

After the closure of the Caledonian Mine, the Mine Manager's son, Till, bought approx. half the land and established an orchard there, thus preventing any further mining claims being taken out. Tills orchard was largely washed out by floods in 1934, and his homestead destroyed by the 1962 fires. However, the pine trees at the entrance of the Park are survivors of the orchard area planted by Till.

As we stood on the river's bank, I'm sure many of us could picture the miners, crossing the river on the punt, with great expectations of making their fortunes in the Warrandyte area. Thank you Ted for an interesting insight into that era of the Warrandyte area.

Most people headed for home after our walk, but six families stayed on in the balmy evening for an early B.B.Q. tea.

Maiden hair
- emerging
all over the

PROJECT ARBORETUM.

Red Box ~
now Germinating

For many months now the "Friends" have been out collecting seed from local plants of the Warrandyte area. These have been processed and most have been sown into seed trays and later pricked out into 9cm pots and left to grow in the shade house.

We have watched with amazement and delight as our little seedlings thrived week by week. During the long hot days of summer our joy turned to concern for many species were growing faster than we had ever imagined. It was still too hot and dry to plant them out especially as some of them were starting to show signs of stress. Should we repot? Should we take the risk and plant? Should we wait? We hung on and so did the plants. The autumn rains came early and just after Easter at the beginning of April, we dug the first hole and planted out our first tree (a Golden Wattle). Everyones relief was obvious and a cause for a small celebration. In the following weeks we have planted many trees in the area that has been allocated to us around and beyond the dam near the depot.

The area has several existing stands of trees and some understory. The dominant Eucalypt is Red Box (*E. polyanthemos*) one which typifies the Warrandyte bush. Scattered amongst them are Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*) and some beautiful Candlebarks (*E. rubida*) their smooth white trunks standing out dramatically. The understory plants so far identified are Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*) and under one stand of Red Box a large group of delicate Gold Dust Wattle (*A. acinacea*). There is a mixture of native and introduced grasses and there are plenty of young seedlings.

However, rather than revegetating the area back to what it might have been before clearing our aim is to plant a variety of trees, shrubs and later grasses which are indigenous to the Warrandyte State Park. We hope to show in a relatively small area plant communities that can be found throughout the Park. At the moment we are somewhat restricted by the relatively small number of plants that we have grown in the shade house. Unfortunately we have propagated a predominance of plants favouring deep and moist soils. However, we have already planted groups of Long-leafed Box (*E. goniocalyx*), Red Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*) and Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*) with an understory of Golden Wattle (*A. pycnantha*), Prickly Moses (*A. verticillata*) and Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*). We have also planted a small group of Black She-oaks (*Casuarina littoralis*) with Hazel Pomaderris (*Pomaderris aspera*) and Christmas Bush (*Prostanthera lasiantha*). The ground was drier than expected so it is a little doubtful whether these plants will thrive as they generally occur in damp situations such as in gullies or close to the river. All trees and shrubs are protected from rabbits by plastic tree guards.

The project is in its early stages and seed propagation is an ongoing activity which is undertaken with great enthusiasm as is the planting out and tree naming.

Eventually we would like to have an area for Aboriginal food plants, to construct nature trails and an information centre. We hope that the arboretum will be a place where people can see for themselves the great variety of indigenous plants that make the Warrandyte bush what it is - a unique and very special place

The Warrandyte Lyre Bird,
Pat Coupar

P.S. This Article was typed
by Mike Coupar as Pat has
no typewriter. The Pen-name is his idea....
"I am forever coming home and
finding her scratching
around in the
garden!"

Cornea & Health...
cuttings on the 'go'

All welcomed..
Thursdays
10am. B.Y.O
lunch.



THE FOWSPIAN ~ mites

Penny Possum's Page

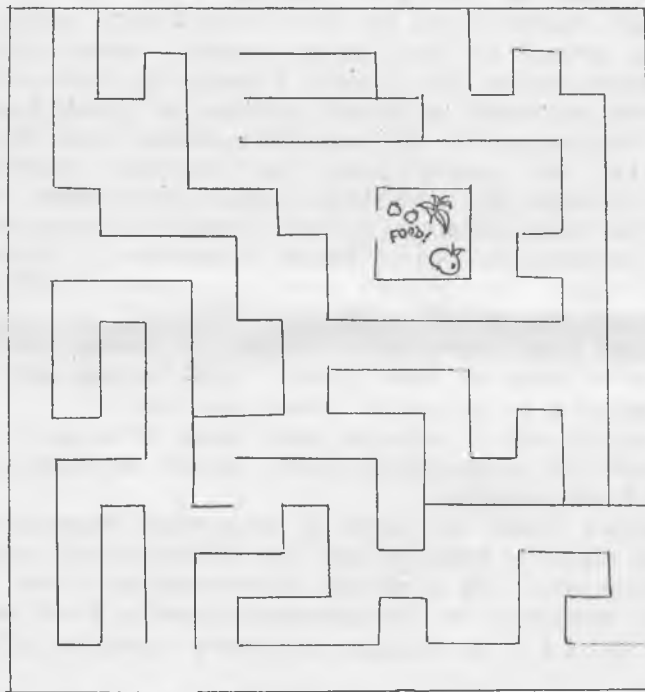
Hello Friends, Welcome to the May Penny Possum page.

Coming up on June 4th is World Enviornment day which the friends will celebrate at the depot with tree planting and a barbeque the major attraction is surprise activities for F.O.W.S.P. IAN Mites of all ages.

I will be peering from the branches above and I hope to see lots of faces there .
until next month

Penny Possum esq.

This is Megan Bedford's picture of a cat, an unwelcome visitor in the park. Cats are vicious killers of birds and other small animals, so keep yours locked up



Can you help me find the most direct route through the maze to my dinner?

Feathers collected by Megan Bedford



Mr. MOVIE-TONE NEWS...

KEITHS VIDEOS.

Keith Thomson has been ranging far and wide with his trusty camera and has caught some fabulous things on video-tape. The treasury has decided to purchase some blank tapes for Keith and we appoint him Mr. Movie-tone News! These "gems" are now FOWSP Classics and will be enjoyed by all who view them. Keith is both artistic and generous! If you would like to borrow one get in touch with him or a Committee-member. It would be a good idea to make a small donation as "Hire" so we can purchase a supply of blank tapes. Topics to Date.....The Raft Trip. Scenes of the 1989 Festival Before of the Arboretum and Folly Sites Propagation Days activities/Shadehouse Scenes. Catering Corps and V.I.Ps at Stane Brae.

CLASS HOUSE Gossip....

WHERE HAVE ALL THE INDIGIDYTES GONE?.....

We can pat ourselves on the widespread plantings of our "babies". We supplied a great many "planters" especially in Arbor Week. Of course we did a lot of planting ourselves but we really could not have managed the 5000 all by ourselves! We had 6 kindergartens, many local schools the Scouts (esp. the ones who planted up Yarra Brae where our own hungry Koalas are munching) Guides, Nth Ringwood Com. Reserve. a very large load went to the Board Of Works (who rewarded our efforts with their cast off rabbit-guards..we needed them VERY badly!) a sheltered workshop at Janefield took some and several local Street groups used our plants for under powerline reserve plant-ups! Our own Rangers and staff planted about 2000(so far) around the Depot, the orchard areas at Stane Brae etc.....

If you are part of a local group who would like some plants get in touch with the Rangers or a Committee member. And the "Befriend a Plant Scheme" has been a great way to Educate we members and get lots of Indigenous Plants into properties adjoining the State Park-many which are unprocurable commercially. The list of our "planters" is nowhere near complete and many more will go into the park etc. during World Environment Week!

The need is apparent for an upgrading of some of our facilities at the Depot. We lost the use of Chris Worrell's "Hot Bed" germination box (...it was Chris's own and is now at his new Park) We will miss it sorely during the winter months-already germination rates are slowing. Another improvement would be an automatic sprinkler system. These seem good projects to direct funds and TALENT towards. Keith Thomson has expressed willingness to make a few experiments with the parts we have so far.

TREAT IN STORE.....

Don Saunders, Director of National Parks, and a local resident, has promised to try to employ a Consultant such as ANDREW PAGET to run a Propagation Workshop at the Park- for interested FOWSPian Propagators. Don feels that our efforts are worthy of encouragement and promises to do what he can with his "budget". We are very excited by his interest and the encouragement of Geoff Durham. The Propagators response to the possibility of help from THE Guru of Indigenous Plant Propagation is excitement to say the least. A Workshop, perhaps of 2 or 3 days duration is mooted. It will probably be at rather short notice but we jump at the opportunity and will move, if not heaven at least those things earthly to have it "come off".

.....SO...BE PREPARED....PROBABLY BEFORE THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR!.....

CORRECTION -
Cutting
material
- Now in the
"pot"

P.S.. We
apologies for
printing faults
We continue them

National Parks Advisory Council Visit.
May 12th.

Greening Victoria

IN AN attempt to promote the growth of trees in Victoria, the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Ms Kay Setches, has announced a \$3000 grant to help produce grow-your-own-tree kits.

The grant has been allocated to the Natural Resources Conservation League which has a long history of encouraging tree growth on both public and private land.

Based on a program developed in

Western Australia, the kit is designed for community groups and schools.

The kits will be available soon for \$10 and include tested seed, potting mix, plastic pots, a pot rack, and a hessian cover.

For those unsure of tree growing methods, each kit includes a set of instructions.

For details about the project call Greg King at the Natural Resources Conservation League on 546 9744.

The N.P.A.C. are a group of people who advise the Minister directly on issues relating to specific National + State Parks across Victoria. This group came to visit Warrandyte State Park on the 12th May to discuss various issues in the Draft Management Plan. The Friends were called upon to cater for morning tea + lunch.

After a tour of the depot and a look at our famous propagating nursery, by the way they seemed to be very impressed with the number of plants in the greenhouse!!!! They arrived at Cold Memorial for morning tea, which was enjoyed by all, then went on a tour of the Cold Mine Tunnel on Fourth Hill.

Then the rush was on to Stone Brae where lunch of soup sandwiches + sweets was prepared by many of the Friends who helped out on the day. Thanks to all who gave up their valuable time to help.

It was a lovely day and a very informative one for both Friends + Advisory Council alike.

... OR JOIN THE FRIENDS

Cecil was just back from a weekend away
so NOTYPING.

WORDS FROM OUR 'HEAD MAN' IAN ROCHE

What can I say, the Friends appear to be moving ahead in leaps and bounds in many directions.

The propagating group is reaping the benefits of many hours spent seed collecting, cleaning, picking out and sowing, now nearly 3,000 approx later everybody is deserving of a pat on the back, the park and the community now have these plants greening Warrandyte.

Snowballing membership and general interest in the group are making possible projects like the formation and activation of the Bradley Brigade, the construction of the "Folley" and revegetation of large areas of park, particularly around the depot.

All this is in addition to the educational and practical tasks performed at the monthly Sunday meetings.

This group clearly has a friendly social cohesion, none the less the work performed by the many committed participants has broadened and increased without losing sight of the major goal of enhancing the park environment for the benefit of all.

Ian Roche

The Bradley Brigade

This new Saturday group of members set out on Sat. 13th. April from the Depot which is at the end of Pound Road. Much of this area has been originally cleared for Orchards, but now is infested with a fine collection of weeds. Near the River however is a triangle of beautiful Indigenous Grassland with a relatively small invasion of weeds....Well within our capacity to restore. With our two-pronged weeders, hand trowels. and "snips" we carefully set to work to "Do a Bradley", and removed small "invaders"

On May 13th. the group met once again. Ellma Angus appointed Brenda Hunter her "helper". Brenda and Ellma have planned a Programme to have "Bradley Workshops" and some associated Propagating and Planting Out....Much requested by the Fowspians/Fowspianmites who are "Busy" during the week!

Brenda Hunter will organise the next Bradley Brigades (Ellma is away on hols.) An exploratory "Bradley Mission" to our special "Triangle" will be followed by some propagating activities. Would you like to help in this most rewarding activity? Next Meeting Dates JUNE 10th SATURDAY 1.30.

ENQUIRIES Brenda Hunter.....379 7375

Ellma Angus.....844 2230

The area is close to the site where the FRIENDS FOLLY (actually our "Multi Purpose Shelter") is to be constructed, within our own ARBORETUM! -near the Dam and the Depot. And this....is where we gather, allwe WONDERFUL workers!...to have a cuppa and exchange news and views.

ELMA AND BRENDA HAVE THESE AIMS FOR THEIR BRADLEY BRIGADE.....

1. To Carefully remove weeds from the natural bush which is LEAST weed infested and work outward to where the are more dense.
2. Always replace topsoil and leaf litter/mulch to avoid reinfestation.
3. Try to pull weeds before they flower and set seed.
4. Remove weeds which re-shoot easily i.e. smilax/wandering-jew (bagging)
5. Replant suitable areas with Indigenous plants propagated from local seed and promote self-sown plants.

It is hoped to do some Propagation, Seed Collection as soon as we can.

FRIENDS AT WARRANDYTE MARKET.

another plug for Friends who also have stalls at the Market..... Barry Gesthuizen and Jenny Dawson are Fern Specialists, who are keen to propagate the Indigenous Fern Species. They already have several ready for the next Market so make sure you have a look and give them lots of encouragement. Jenny and Barry are "fernophiles" and keen growers. They are happy to help with questions you may ask. Mark Gardner has expanding "Indigidytes" in supply and Jill Harvey is keen to try several local "cottage type species".

great success has been our Seed Give-a-ways. Anne Bedford is responsible for the leaflets and seed strips. She hopes to add a different one each market. Many requests are coming in.....great feedback....Thanks Anne.

Adiantum Aethiopicum

IAN BURKE
MARGARET BURKE 844 1060
MARGARET FISHLEY 844 3476
TERRY OAKLEY 876 4768
OLIVE WALTERS 846 4729

GAIL ROCHE 722 1926
VAL POLLEY 844 3086
DOUG SEYMOUR 844 2740
ANNE BEDFORD 438 3216
ELMA ANGUS 844 2230

Committee

FRIENDS OF THE WARRANDYTE STATE PARK.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

enquiries 844 1060 00000-1989-00000

P.O. BOX 220 WARRANDYTE 3113 VIC

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

..... P/C

Subscription : \$10.00

PHONE NUMBER.....

Coming Up.

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 Reptiles). Seed Collection. Bradley Method Training/weeding. "Do a Bradley" in the Friends own Special spot.

BE SURE TO READ "CURRENT PROJECTS"...

May 28 Mount Lofty. General Inspection. Possible Plant up/seed survey and/or collection. Guide Head Ranger Ian Roche. Margaret Burke.

June 4th. 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 all about the "Dreaded Pittosporum".

Timber Reserve. Webb St.

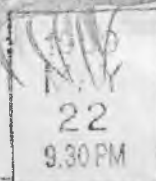
MONTHLY MARKET-Befriend a Plant-don't forget to bring back your empty pots. Take home another. Try a Seed Scheme slip. Anne will have her next exciting offering soon!

Mistletoe

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

FOWSPIANmites help Joan MacMahon to plant our Indigedytes in the Arboretum in ArborWeek activities. In the background Marg and Marg discuss Our "Folly"--standing "midst the pegs".

P.O. Box 220
WARRANDYTE. 3113



Epacris Impressa ~ Heath, Victoria's Floral Emblem