

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

1989,
JUNE



Although winter is a time when it is tempting to stay indoors in front of a good fire, the Friends Group has continued to carry on its activities in the Park. Our World Environment Day was a great success, many trees being planted near the Depot. It was followed by an enjoyable barbeque, where we were able to exchange ideas about the activities and projects of the Group. This is a most important aspect of any group and helps to choose the most effective and useful program for the future.

"It does not take much strength to do things, but it takes great strength to decide what to do."

One thing we and the Park staff agree on is that assistance from Government departments, the Corporate sector of the community, and local business people is most necessary if we are to achieve our aims. The committee has already started to investigate these sources. The image and importance of Friends Groups will be brought to the notice of a greater number of people in our community, rather than confined to a small isolated group.

"World Environment Day should not be just one day, but like Mother's Day should be every day". (and for everyone").



↑ Before - our plants will change all this!!

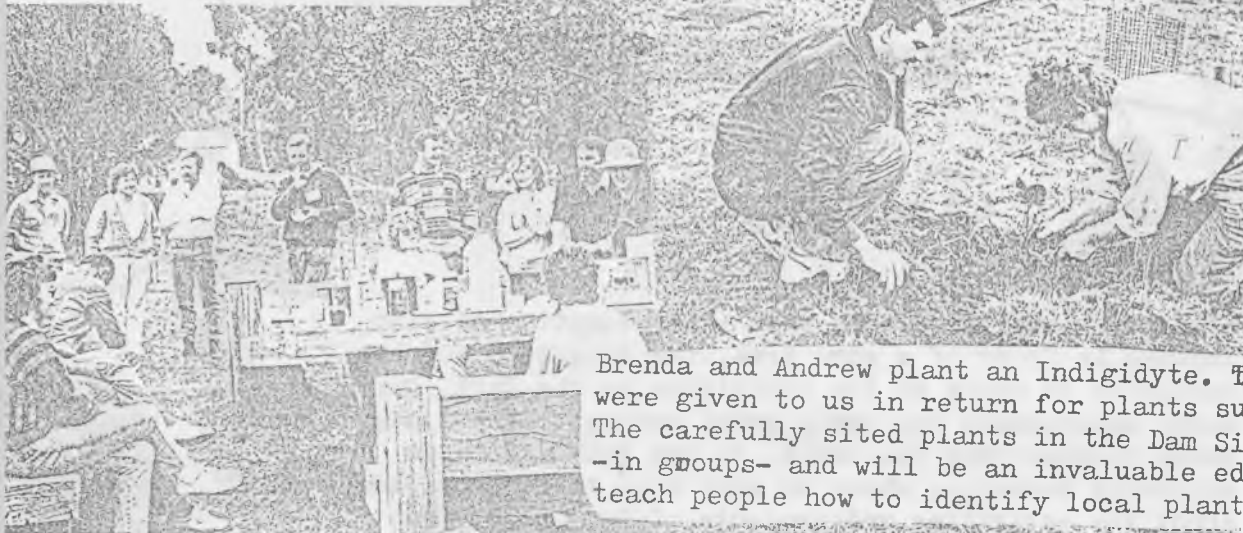
~ Pittosporum Pull ~

The next Sunday Family Meeting is on Sunday June 25th. It is a Weeding Working Bee being organised by Glen Jameson. The time? 12noon... The Place? The Timber Reserve at the top of Webb Street. Glen will tell you all about the problem plant Pittosporum. Billy Tea afterwards so bring something along for afternoon tea.

ENQUIRIES Glen Jameson 844 2395.

Correa Reflexa - flowering now

Derek Humphreys explaining our "Folly" plans which he has drawn up. Derek also arranged the submission for funds and hand delivered them at VERY short notice. Our very sincere thanks.....



Brenda and Andrew plant an Indigidyte. They were given to us in return for plants such as the carefully sited plants in the Dam Site groups- and will be an invaluable education to teach people how to identify local plants.

Friends about to begin planting.

Mark Gardner gave us all a lesson on just how to do it for maximum survival and growth rates - perhaps more important than actually getting them to the planting stage. All plants have been grown from seed we collected.

Keith Thomson made a collection for the "Lake Friendly" stage.



DO VISIT THE DEPOT DAM SITE SOON AND PLANT AN INDIGENOUS PLANT THEN WATCH IT GROW. BRING ALL THE FAMILY. IT IS ONE WAY TO THINK GLOBAL: ACT LOCAL. BE A FRIEND!

THE LATEST FAUNA TO BE SURVEYED! These specimens were as surprised as the Friends who "captured" them.



P.S. There were five fine beasties and all made a happy backwards reentry into "Lake Friendly".

ME, LOFTY EXPEDITION

Our May Family Sunday was a wonderful success. Val Polley was an inspirational "Interps" guide and we learned so much. 35 adults and 15 Fowspanmites attended. Val has written the following report and also showed us her original "Sources". About half of the families stayed on for a B.B.Q. and "Yabby" count. at the Dam Site

MOUNT LOFTY VISIT

Mount Lofty in Wonga Park, the easternmost point of the Park, was the destination for the last Sunday meeting of Friends.

As yet it is not part of the Park strictly speaking. Joan Kirner, the then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands (CFL) announced at the launch of the Draft Management Plan last August (1988), that Mount Lofty is to be handed over by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) to become part of the Warrandyte State Park. However the negotiations over the arrangements have become somewhat protracted and this has still not finally happened. It is to be hoped this will not take too long as there is lot to be done there.

The Wonga Park area was settled by squatters as early as 1852. The name is popularly thought to have come from Wonga, headman of the Wurundjeri whose tribe supplied aboriginal stockmen to properties in the area and who are reputed to have a burial ground somewhere on Brushy Creek. Early maps of the area show the property called "Yarra View" which included Mount Lofty was originally settled by the Bruce Family. In 1905 it was purchased by Arthur Payne (later Captain) who undertook vigorous development of the property, clearing, fencing, irrigating and sowing pasture. It became a model farm, breeding Romney Marsh sheep and stud cattle. His activities attracted a good press and many visitors, and Wonga Park on the gradually became a better known destination. Ready public access facilitated subdivision of the property by Payne's successors and the western end was divided into ten acre farmlets. The eastern end was taken over in 1954 by the Brothers of St John of God as a rural training centre for handicapped men and boys. This continues today and is still a prominent stud farm with prize winning cattle.

The Mount Lofty sub-divisions were never built on though the roads were named Wayne Road and Stephen Road. The Board of Works purchased the land around the 1960's when a Yarra Brae dam was being considered as a major component in Melbourne's water supply. This would have covered a substantial amount of the riverside land and back along Brushy Creek. However this was not proceeded with and negotiations have been taking place since then to include the area in the Warrandyte State Park.

The Sunday excursion saw about 30 Friends gathered at the trig point on Mount Lofty itself on a fine and quite pleasant afternoon. The view from this point is quite outstanding. The drive-in does not prepare one for the rapid gain in height that gives a 360 degree panoramic view from the top. There are outstanding views up the Yarra Valley to the Great Dividing Range and across to the Dandenongs. It is very apparent from here that this is the beginning of the Warrandyte Gorge with the flat river meadows of the Yarra Valley giving way to steep sided, wooded slopes downstream. Most of the Mount Lofty block itself however has been cleared and extensively grazed in the past, though the steep gullies are revegetating well since stock has been removed from the property. A fringe of riparian vegetation provides shelter for wildlife.

At this point the Yarra River is very scenic, curving round the base of Mount Lofty with some exciting rapids which attract many canoeists. The Homestead Road canoe launch site, at the eastern edge of Mount Lofty, provides good access for canoeists to the river at this point.

Friends walked down to the river and along to an attractive beach area. The bank on the other side provides an attractive backdrop being steep and rocky with slender manna gums and clumps of ferns. The MMBW has been removing willows but has left large piles of trees which are beginning to shoot where they lie. Burgan is growing thickly where the banks have been disturbed during the

willow pull. Friends enjoyed the views along the river though one house, apparently deserted, on the opposite bank in the Environmental Living Zone somewhat detracts from the views along one stretch of the river.

Friends briefly discussed plans for Mount Lofty which are outlined in the Draft Management Plan. These include the provision of car parking and picnic places off Homestead Road and vehicle access to the top of Mount Lofty so people can have access to the wonderful views. A future option of expanding picnic facilities at the beach area with car access nearby is to be investigated.

Other actions in the Plan include revegetating with indigenous vegetation, controlling river bank erosion and providing low level recreational facilities.

During the planning process Mount Lofty was seen, in conjunction with Wittons Reserve and Homestead Road, as an ideal area to provide visitor facilities and access to the River. The Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority had planned for a high level of visitor facilities on Mount Lofty itself. The Draft management Plan has focussed these on Homestead Road and Wittons Reserve because of their good access and planned for low level recreational activities for the Mount Lofty block itself. These planned works are seen as high priority however as by spreading visitors throughout the Park it is anticipated visitor pressure currently being experienced at Jumping Creek and Pound Bend will be relieved.

Friends agreed however that Mount Lofty is rather fragile. Soil cover is very thin and the slopes very steep which could lead to erosion if facilities are not well sited and maintained. Revegetation will be important, grass re-establishment was discussed and the possibility of installing rabbit proof fences to ensure revegetation success. Rabbits, foxes and blackberries are major problems at Mount Lofty.

After the walk along the river bank, returning by a steepish climb to the cars, the group returned to the Park depot where afternoon tea was consumed before further planting and work undertaken round the dam. Those Friends who attended enjoyed visiting this area which was new to most of them and hopefully will lead to further visits to the eastern end of the Park which has an interesting history and is well worth exploring.

(The Lillydale Library has a number of books detailing the history of this area 'Border Country' published by the Shire of Lillydale is an interesting history of Wonga Park and Mooroolbark)

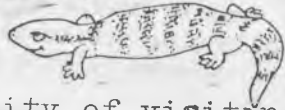
Val Polley (Community Consultation Officer for the Draft Warrandyte State Park Plan and Friend)



THE FOWSPIAN
~ mites

Penny Possum's

Penny Possum Broadens her Horizons
at Gellibrand Hill



Page

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

I recently had the opportunity of visiting Gellibrand Hill National Park. I was treated to a guided tour by former Warrandyte ranger Iain Bruce who is currently running the Woodland area of the Park. I was shown around the Woodland Homestead—a beautiful big house brought over from England as a kit home in 1842 around the homestead cows graze to reduce fire risks and to add to the Homestead atmosphere I particularly liked seeing the old and twisted River Red Gums and the open grasslands where many native grasses thrive.

At Gellibrand a colony of Eastern Barred Bandicoots has been started to try and keep the diminishing population alive. The Bandicoots are from the Hamilton area where they were living in a tip due to their natural habitat being destroyed for timber and farming, they also fall prey to feral cats and foxes.

Gellibrand is a wonderful place to visit. I recommend it highly I would like to thank Andy, Enid, Iain and Richard

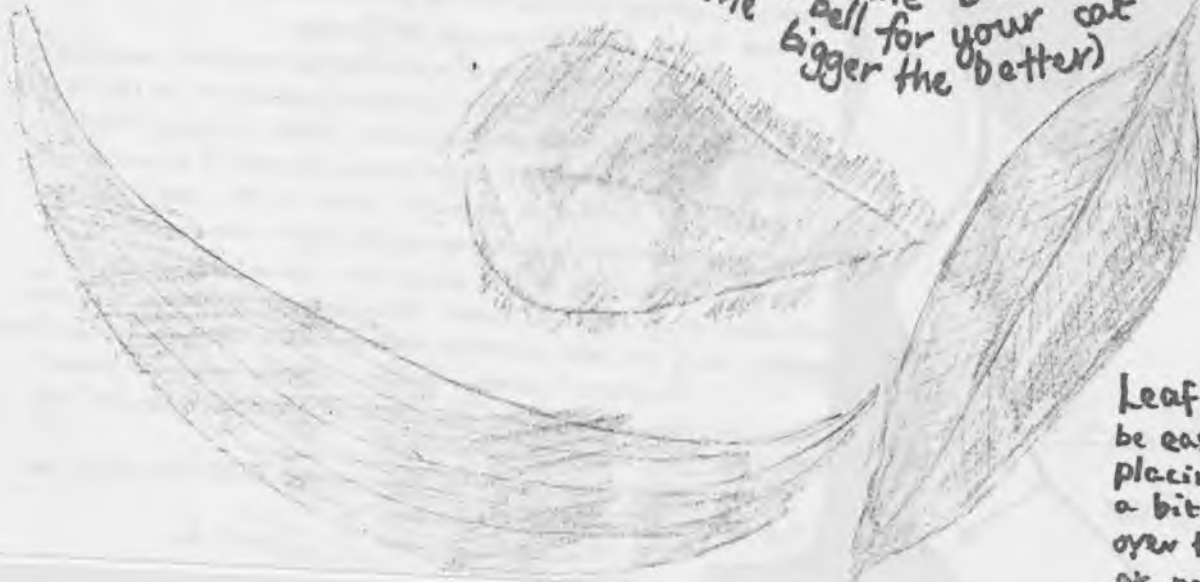


Eastern Barred Bandicoot

The Best sort
of Bell for a
Cat
Protect the Bandicoots
Get a bell for your cat
(the bigger the better)



Penny Possum esq.



Leaf rubbings can
be easily made by
placing a leaf underneath
a bit of paper and shading
over the top with a crayon
or pencil

LYNDALL ASH - Technical Assistant Ranger (T A 2) is replacing Janine (who is on study leave) as a Ranger at the Warrandyte State Park, Lyndall previously worked with the Board of Works at Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park. She was there for two years.

As this was basically metropolitan land which has been generally much altered, Lyndall decided to broaden her experience by joining the C. F. & L. which offered a wider variety (although less resourced) park experience.

Born in "God's own country", the great Goulburn valley, Tallygaroopna near Shepparton Lyndall attended local schools and then went to Dookie Agricultural College to finally complete a Diploma in Applied Science (Agriculture). She spent some time as an accounts clerk in the Dept. of Veteran Affairs and then as a worker in the Dept. of Social Security.

Remarkably, during all this time Lyndall helped run her parent's farm. (wheat and vealers)

After a few months overseas (Europe-Scandinavia- British Isles) and also worked on a couple of farms. She returned home after visits to Scotland, The Orkneys and Essex and worked as a Project Officer with the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers in various Victorian Centres.

Her work now is as liason for the Friends of the Warrandyte State Park, looking at the "Interps" aspect of the Park. (Interps = Environmental Education for The Public) and also the day to day tasks as required for any Ranger. (patrolling etc.)

Lyndall's rural background and her desire to share her knowledge with people have both contributed to her choice of career.

Personal--- drives a Nissan Pulsar. Pets goldfish, but not much luck so far. Interested in bushwalking last time in the Orbost region, horse riding, squash, given this up recently due to weekend work roster.

Likes old black and white films; John Wayne, Kathryn Hepburn, and Errol Flynn. She hasn't got a T.V. as she is a T.V.-oholic is an insidious collector of anything eg. Barbed wire (different knot types), dust in the house, (hates lawn mowing and housework). She would like to live in a very low maintenance house. She does some leather work and likes using hand tools. Sport following and politics not of any interest. Violence is depressing to her. Could she be classed as an "A-Grade Practising Dud- Rager" ?????

Someone suggested that "still waters run deep". I imagine that is why Lyndall's favourite drink is pure water..... (cloud juice)

N.B. Lyndall is an alternative phrase maker.

She has a boyfriend.. (bad luck all you others.) Geoff, who comes to Friend's meetings when he is down from Shepparton.

At this point Lyndall had to rush off for an important task, but she let drop one last gem..... she is an unrevealed poodle expert.

Lyndall Ash



Those of us who have had anything to do with propagating medium to tall tree species will agree that often the biggest difficulty lies in obtaining the seed.

Of course some seed can be collected from trees with branches lower down or those drooping within reach. However, when large amounts of seed are required or when the genetic diversity of the species depends on a few remnant trees it is important to collect seed from as many representative trees as possible. This means that some mechanical means of harvesting must be employed.

The Bicentennial Indigenous Plant Propagation Project [Put a little bit back] sponsored the development of a high tree pruner. Jim Lambert, who is associated with this project and the Blackburn Creeklands Committee allowed me to borrow the pruner so that I could demonstrate its use to the FOWSP group on 25 June 89.

This gadget consists of a standard, commercially available pruning head (similar in action to scateurs) attached to a 1.8m length of aluminium tubing. By attaching further lengths of tubing (cleverly matched to fit together) the height can be extended to a maximum of 11 metres. The limitations on height relate to the weight of the unit plus increasing unwieldiness as the height increases.

The benefits of this pruner were obvious when it was put into operation by FOWSP. Some Yellow Box and Candlebark pods were quickly, easily and safely harvested when previously they were well out of reach.

The pruner suitably impressed all those who were present and I am now investigating the means of acquiring a similar 'high tree pruner' for Warrandyte State Park.

Many thanks to Jim Lambert and the BIPPP for making their "high tree pruner" available for the day.

Lyndall Ash



Author
Who refuses
to be
named!

Red
Box

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TREE PLANTING

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

Another One hundred and one Indigidytes planted. After the Market members came to plant up- this time in an area once part of the old orchard. These trees are part of a revegetation project which will screen the Depot and associated buildings from Research Rd. Family groups were guided by Rangers and Friends and all plants were carefully sited, planted and given our T.L.C."mulching". Supplied more school and local "No man's land" reveg plantings with our left over's. Thursday group began a big clean up of the propagation area.....SO.....



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

Koala counting is being organised by the Saturday Group. Lyndall is the best person to contact at the moment for details. We hope the weather will be on our side. Learn all about how your family can help in this VITAL task. Phone 844 2659.

National Parks Advisory Council

240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002. Telephone 651 4111

Mr Ian Burke
The Friends of Warrandyte State Park
C/o Park Office
P O Box 61
WARRANDYTE VIC 3113

18 May 1989

Dear Ian

On behalf of the members of the National Parks Advisory Council who undertook the inspection of Warrandyte State Park on Friday 12 May 1989 I wish to convey to you our appreciation of the work that is being done within the park by the Friends.

From what we saw on our inspection, and through meeting with the Friends over lunch, it is obvious that the efforts and commitment provided by the group make a significant impact to the effective management of the park. The contribution is greatly appreciated. I should also like to thank the Friends for the excellent morning tea and lunch provided.

Yours sincerely



G A Durham
Acting Convenor

FRIENDS OF THE WARRANDYTE STATE PARK.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

ENQUIRIES 8441060

00000-1989-00000

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

BE SURE TO READ "CURRENT PROJECTS"...

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.

30 JULY--- Propagating Val P. Park Depot Grasses.

Special activities for all. Fowspanmite fun with ???

26 AUGUST--- Visit Morwell Nat Park - Gail R.

Alternative weeding at Gold Memorial Drv. Val Polle

TREAT IN STORE.....

.....SO...BE PREPARED....

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!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

IAN BURKE	8441060	GAIL ROCHE	722 1926
MARGARET BURKE		VAL POLLEY	8443086
MARGARET FISHLEY	844 3476	DOUG SEYMOUR	8442740
OLIVE WALTERS	846 4729	ANNE BEDFORD	438 3216
TERRY OAKLEY	876 4768	ELIMA ANGUS	844 2230
KEITH THOMSON	8441590	MARK GARDNER	844 3799

P.O. Box 220.
 WARRANDYTE. 3113



THE BEGINNING OF OUR PATHWAY PROJECT.....THE STEPS.....WATCH OUT FOR NEWS OF THIS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES....OR COME AND HELP ANY THURSDAY.

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 Warrandyte is a good place to contact the Committee personally, or write to P.O. Box 220.

