

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

NEWSLETTER

1989

EDITORIAL

August



"In the future the chief duties will consist in so forming one's life as to give the highest possible good, and the least possible harm to others."

Unfortunately people do not always do good and this arises from many things—lack of opportunity, laziness, ignorance and apathy, and an attitude of 'leaving it to someone else'. Selfish behavior and vandalism have also become part of the fabric of our society. Friends groups such as ours have a wonderful opportunity for changing our lives and influencing those around us. We have been receiving many calls from other conservation groups who wonder how we have attracted so much interest from the community particularly schools, councils, and others interested in propagation and revegetation.

A central element in all this is our emphasis on family involvement with particular effort directed towards children. After all many of our activities will not benefit this generation, but their children and our grandchildren. To them we have a very definite duty. Within the framework of the C.F. & L. and The National Parks Association we have been able to provide activities for all age groups. Many people who have joined the Friends have expert knowledge and are more than happy to teach others. A contemporary of Mark Twain expressed some of our ideas nearly one hundred years ago;

"I expect to see the day when the conversational method will be supreme, and teaching will be done practically without books, by object lessons, thinking things out and doing things".

SUNDAY FAMILY MEETING.

The return trip to Morwell should be a most enjoyable excursion. Quite a few families are going in private vehicles. Penny Possum activities will be part of the fun on board the bus. Most seats are accounted for in the bus but we may have a couple of extra spots!

Val Polley is the Contact for the alternative weed pull. We believe Glen Jameson will give a few lessons on how to deal with the dreaded Onion-weed. The venue for this is Gold Memorial Drive. Enquiries Val Polley 8443086

SCHEDULE FOR DAY TRIP TO MORWELL -Sunday 27th. August 1989

- 9.00 am. Board bus at Park Depot, Pound Bend. Punctuality is essential. Your own car can be left there for the day.
- 11.30am. Arrival at Morwell
- 12.00 B.Y.O. lunch or BBQ if you wish.
- 1.00 pm Nature Walk - Foster's Gully.
- 2.00 pm Bus Trip- Billy's Creek.
- 4.00 pm Return to picnic area .
- 4.30 pm Board bus return trip to Warrandyte
- 6.30 pm Arrive back at Park Depot.

ENQUIRIES - Gail Roche 722 1926

Clematis
Microphylla

Joan and Tony pricking out the Clematis Microphylla.

Our "sound shell" a "germinating" idea.

Scrub those FILTHY pots!!
Our working conditions ARE a little primitive
....however August will see many changes!!

Pat shows how to sow the seeds.

Keith explains the problems of putting the "Hot Bed" into action.

One group divided up some roots of Dichondra and did d'Bradley".

en and Fred do the "DIRTY" ..Mark was giving
"cuttings" lessons nearbybut the camera didn't
catch him....

Marg and Bill and Hilary
getting the arvo B.B.Q..

All the eager learners listen and participate during Keith's fabulous lecture. We hope to have him out to a Thursday Seminar. Val is collecting his notes and these will be available very soon.

Hot House Gossip

Well....Val Polley DID IT...!!! We are all thrilled with her "LANDSLIDE".....!!

Now comes the slog. DONCASTER/TEMPLESTOWE do so need Council members like Val.

Had a lovely cold damp morning to meet Mary Anne Boyd-Squires from C.O.D.A.T. she and the Council and Lions club are after help with indigenous plants for Finns Reserve Alan Noy suggested us as possible propagation source etc. Very pleased to help in Community Projects. like this. Lovely to work with the Lions Lads once more...remember the Wonderful Tent we use so often was given to us by Lions last year.

Terry Oakley of our Committee (and other?) fame is now also on the C.A.B. Committee. He is busy with a "million" ideas, projects, and will be a marvel as a "promotor and general" ENTREPRENEURIAL LIASON-PERSON". He is currently organising (Basil I think) to make up an Environmental Notice-Board....Great news all.

Don Saunders and Georgia have a fine healthy and (we are sure) "Environmentally Perfect" baby son- Edward. He will be able to join the Fowspianmites band as soon as Georgia would like to come to a meeting. Last time she visited was to the Festival. Do remember that quite a few Mums come along of a Thurs!

Good News Indeed.

Several local schools have been in contact regarding plants for their school grounds. We are very pleased to help and perhaps the children may even become "Propagators" of their own indigenous bush plants. This kind of special "Friendship" is a wonderfully positive thing and we are planning with the park and school staffs just what we need.

We very much welcome enquiries from all the local schools, Kindergartens Church groups, Scouts, Girl Guides....Lets all THINK GLOBAL:ACT LOCAL.

Staff Travels..... Doug Cordell is off on leave with his family -following the footsteps of Ian Roche and crew. Thank goodness though our leader, the much missed "Mick", Gail and the Rochettes are due at almost any moment.....Will Ian Roche notice any differences.....? That is the question?

Dont forget the W.E.L. annual general meeting at the Grand Hotel on August 22nd We have so much in common and Friends need a strong and vocal "political ally" So lets all get together and see if a W.E.Lian phoenix will soar from the ashes.....

It is with regret from our point of view that we note the loss of Ranger Nick Walton. Having performed some whirlwind transformations of the general Depot and staff facilities and proving his "famed" talents as an interesting and interested "Motivator", saving Skids bacon along the way, and at the same time performing many small (albeit at top speed) miracles the Friends will miss him very sorely! Ah well -"Such is life". We hope Nick and his family love life at Inverloch and if they tire of it all- perhaps Nick will come back to us! Goodness....the Mystery Reporter is afraid to interview any staff lest we give them some dreadful "need to travel"..... Seriously Nick we all wish you the best. (But don't forget that article for the Rag!)

Hardly gossip but the Friends all extend to the Seymours our sympathy at the loss of Doug's Father. The loss was great sadness to our dear Friends. Our love.

"The Wattles in bloom!"

Hello Mites, are you well?

I was very glad to hear that the results of the yabbie survey were so successful, congratulations all involved. I wonder what else we have in that dam. The fish that was caught will have to be taken away along with his relatives as he was a carp and they don't belong there.

We are lucky that our yabbie catching didn't disturb the Bunyip, he slept through it very soundly.

No one found a platypus, ??Did you know??? When a Platypus dives it shuts it's eyes, ears and nostrils, so how can it find food? Their bills are very sensitive to touch, but that doesn't explain how it can detect shrimps before touching them.

All muscles send off weak electric currents when they contract, and water conducts electricity well. When the shrimps move they give off very weak electric currents which a platypus can sense from about 10cm away.

Sensing animals by the weak electric currents they make is called electrolocation. Some fish and dolphins also sense electric currents.

Pardalote
nest box



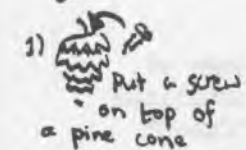
cut furrow with
tip in both bits



Put somewhere
appropriate



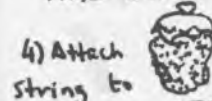
Bird seed
cone.



2) Combine Peanut
butter & bird seed

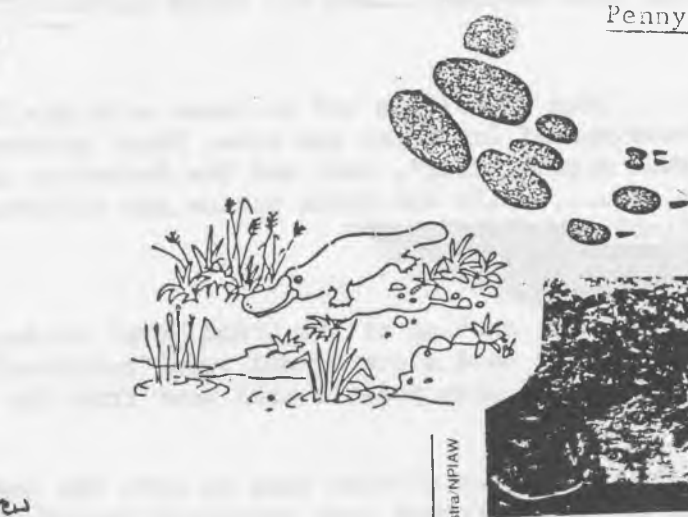


3) Smear on
Pine cone



4) Attach
string to
screw

5) Hang in tree



Penny Possum esq.

Platypus 40-50 cm



How to make
a Bird-call

1) Take a
Bottle or a
Jar, a Jar is
best as it
can double
as an insect
carrier

2) Take
a bit

of Polystyrene
foam and
moisten it,

3) Rub against
side of Jar

this works
particularly
well attracting
Fantails and
Honeyeaters

P.S. Please send any jokes, poems or letters to

F.O.W.S.P.IAN mites
25 Drysdale rd.
Warrandyte 3113

Platypus

Ornithorhynchus anatinus

With quick drying fur, webbed feet, a streamlined body and a broad muscular tail platypus are at home in the river.

They gather food by grubbing around on the bottom of streams feeling for morsels with their highly sensitive duck-like bills.

Their diet includes a range of invertebrates. Yabbies are a gourmet delight.

It is quite remarkable that these egg-laying mammals still occur on the doorstep of a big bustling city like Melbourne.

They've been around for about 60 million years (which is a lot longer than we have!) Lets hope that, as water quality and habitat improves, their numbers will increase.





YHA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

ENQUIRIES:

Anna Parkes, YHA Office (03) 670 7991
Ann Crawford (03) 809 2718

*Friends of Warrandyte
State Park. Copy for Newsletter.
regards
Ken Milnes*

On 4 September 1989 it will be 50 years since the formal founding of YHA in Victoria and Australia. A program of celebrations has now been finalised and YOU ARE INVITED to join your old and new friends in the following function

Sunday 3 September	"BACK TO WARRANDYTE" at the hostel site in Warrandyte State Park (Melway 23 C/D10).
12 noon	BYO Picnic/Barbecue lunch (Portable BBQs only).
2.15-3.00 pm	Paradiddle bush band.
3.00 pm	Unveiling of a cairn commemorating the site of the first YHA owned hostel, and the venue in 1947 of the inaugural meeting of AYHA. The cairn will be unveiled by The Hon Kay Setches, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands.
3.30-4.15 pm	Paradiddle bush band.

This afternoon members past and present and their families can take a last look at the old hostel and "Dave and Mabel" before these succumb to the progress of Warrandyte State Park.

There will be young trees available for those who would like to plant some to mark the occasion.

Afternoon tea will be provided by Portable Hostels. With their new "Town Hall" tent there will be adequate shelter should it rain.

RAFT TRIP.....DATE YET TO BE DECIDED....BUT NOW TO BE A SUNDAY SPECIAL MEETING.

If you have not given your name to Doug Seymour please do so as he needs firm numbers to book the craft. Again it will be our Friends from Wonga Park. We hope to extract lots of "Junk and rubbish" like last time. Friends have pestered Doug since his last effort (many most miffed to have missed so to speak!) If in doubt ...borrow Keith's Video of the event. Phone Doug Seymour 844 2740.

Visit by V.N.P.A. Bushwalking Group.



A big day is planned on Sunday Oct. 15th...Nick Walton and Friends are organising a visit by the V.N.P.A. Bushwalking Group. They wish to have a big work day.....! We have designed a gruelling programme. From 10.30am until they DROP(?) Tree planting, then an hour or so "propagating" then a B.B.Q/Damper cook lunch. THEN..off to pull Broom and all kinds of ghastly weeds. Then.....well its up to them! If they prove good workers....well.....we'll join them all up! NOW...DIARY OCT. 15th, 10.30 at the Depot. We hope this may become an annual event. Fowspianmite activities also.

Community Group "Friends"

Stony Creek Rd. Revegetation Project. Contact Mark Gardner 8443799
Bradleys Lane....Bradley Brigade..... Contact Ellma Angus 844 2230
Osborne Rd. Boyles Brigade and Fred's Fowspians.....Fred Jungwirth 844
Any other Community Street Working Bees who would like support, advice, help from Rangers (advice mostly) and help in replanting With locally grown and carefully selected Indigydites, please contact the Propagation group. We will help all we can...for you to learn all you choose. We are looking to provide this without charge, including the plants! We will show you how.

Also Working Bees to repair and upgrade all the Pound Nursery Facilities.

At our July meeting the Fowspians were given the job of finding out how many yabbies live in the dam at the Pound Bend depot. It is a pretty big dam so we paired off all the way around. There were over 20 Fowspians Mites there and many had not been to a Friend's meeting before.

One in each team "fished" and the other was ready with the net. Older cooked meat was the best bait. The yabbies are so keen to get the meat tied to the string, they don't seem to notice the line being gently pulled in.

You sure don't need much to go yabbing- string, smelly meat and a net or big sieve. Every team got at least one yabbie and many got two or three of all sizes. Myles hauled in seven yabbies and two fish with his big yabbie net. We kept the yabbies in two buckets, one for the small ones and the larger in another because yabbies sometimes eat each other.

When we crowded around to lift them onto the mud beach we found that we had pulled in thirtythree. There were three really large ones, five or six tiny ones and the rest in between. Some had to be turned around so that they would go back into the water.

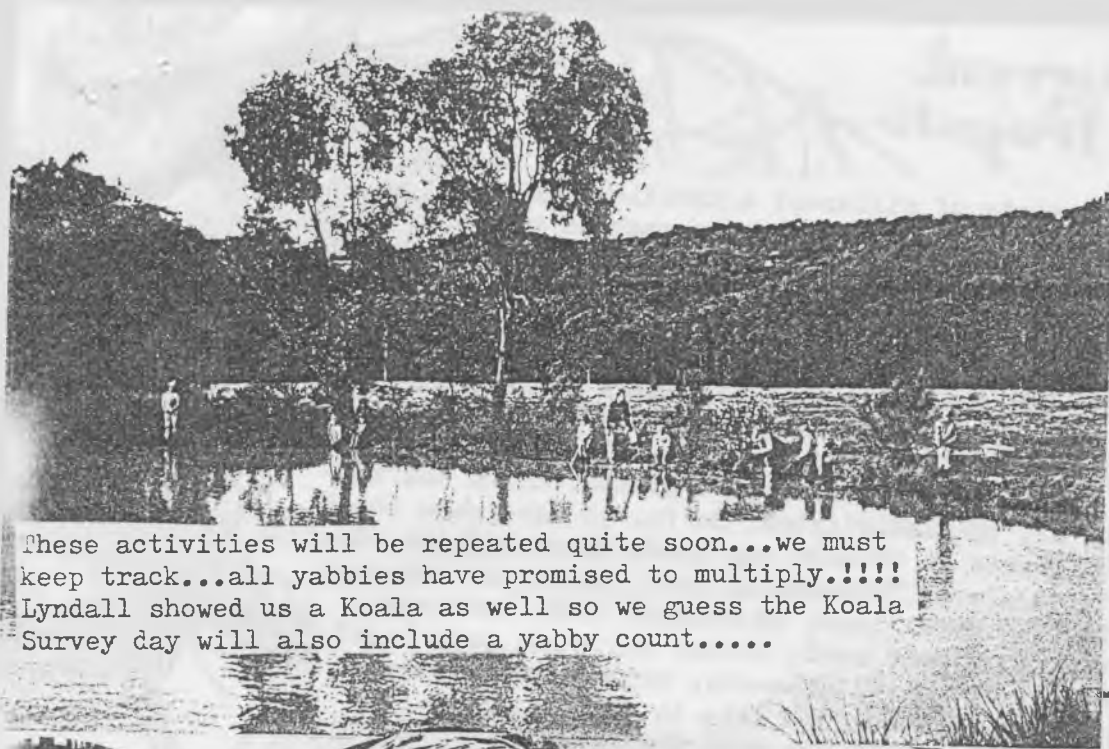
We all had damper made by Hilary, Anna, Kylie and Anne before we went home.

IT WAS A GREAT DAY !

Sunday Propagation Meeting.

The Sunday Propagation meeting in July was a wonderful success. Even the heavens smiled. We are very grateful to Keith McDougall who was an excellent teacher. His notes are being incorporated into a supplement which is being prepared.





These activities will be repeated quite soon...we must keep track...all yabbies have promised to multiply!!!! Lyndall showed us a Koala as well so we guess the Koala Survey day will also include a yabby count.....



Keith caught it ALL!!
Video can be borrowed.



All yabbies were "raced" back to the water at the end of the survey...cross our hearts!

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 and foes, 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.

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.....!

Contact

Marg Burke 8441060
Olive Walters 846 4729

What we need, stock and seed requirement

The propagation facilities upgrade report will be printed soon.

Mark and Pat are the Propagation planners and stock committee.

Propagation Planning
Contact

Pat Coupar 8441650
Ben Gotlib 8762348

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. 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

Ian Burke 8441060
Keith Thompson 8441590

Interested workforce
contact any Committee Member.

VIDEOS of Events.....Keith is our man. He is happy to lend or show you his tapes.

PLANT DIRECTORY.....Keith, with a little help from his "Friends" 12 is compiling quite a Dossier". We are keen also to have Pat and Mike Coupar provide photographs of all the Indigenous Species. This will be a long and expensive task but the idea has been enthusiastically received. All the records of the Propagation Activities are being carefully noted.

Contact Keith
Thompson or Pat
Coupar 8441590.

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.....

Contact

Judy Thompson
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.

WARRANDYTE 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

Brenda's Bunch are currently rewalking the "WALKS of WARRANDYTE" to check tracks, signs etc. They have done one Koala count. (See last Newsletter) and plan to have a Planned Programme. The next Second Saturday Group will meet it Normans Reserve. Brenda and Ellma are hoping for lots of Community support. All Enquiries Ellma Angus 8442230

Brenda Hunter

Keep the bush for our own sake

HOW well do you know your local bushland?

Did you settle in the eastern suburbs because of the close proximity to the Mullum Mullum or Koonung valley? And how long is it since you watched a long-necked tortoise excavate a hole in the bank of the creek to lay her eggs?

Perhaps your part of the creek has been made into a rock-lined channel, so that your chances are slim of seeing the tortoise as I did only last week. You are more likely to see the black rat (*Rattus rattus*) in the drain-like structure once called a creek!

The Mullum Mullum and Koonung valleys form essential corridors for animals to move in search of food and shelter.

Perhaps that is why the koalas that roam the Mullum Mullum and Yarra valleys are healthy. One of the reasons thought to spread "wet tail" (*Chlamydia psittaci*) is the inability to roam and the consequent interbreeding.

Some of the animals seen recently in the 40-hectare Mullum Mullum area are: sugar gliders, grey kangaroos, echidnas, swamp wallabies, bats, numerous reptiles and amphibians and, of course, Koalas which were sighted again in January this year.

In contrast, bushland reserves that do not form a link with other natural vegetation (valuable though they are) do not contain this huge diversity of fauna. For example, Blackburn and Ringwood lakes sanctuaries do not harbor the variety of birds and animals that feed and shelter in the creek valleys.

Native animals find it difficult to survive the pressures of a completely closed-in environment, where houses and roads completely enclose their territories.

The Hillcrest Reserve-Mullum Mullum valley area between Park Rd, Heads Rd, Donvale, and Huggins Rd, Mitcham, contains a rich variety of vegetation. For example, the riparian (or creekside) supports huge manna and swamp gums (koala food) the sheltered slopes contain tall elegant candlebarks with many native orchids growing beneath them in spring.

On the drier slopes a healthy heath understorey consists of species-rich areas with highly diverse eco-systems. Here, too, orchids may be found at all times of the year. The upper storey is made up of yellow boxes, narrow-leaved peppermint, messmate, red stringy-

bark and the occasional silver-leaved stringybark.

The arterial road is going to cut through an area of urban heritage that was in 1929 in a town planning report recommended for development as a linear park. The arterial road will break the continuity of this natural bushland corridor, which our early town planners recommended that we save.

The Huggins Rd bush and the Chalm Court area in Mitcham contains significant remnant vegetation and is also going to be severely degraded by the Eastern Arterial Road.

Apart from the destruction of trees, which are homes to a multitude of birds and animals, the noise and pollution will make it an unhealthy environment for all who live nearby. This will especially affect those people with asthma and respiratory problems.

Larval stages

The effects of rock-lined channels on the creeks in comparison to natural clay sediment and the host of indigenous plants that support it, has not adequately been looked into. Many creatures that spend the larval stages of their lives underwater need soil, plants and other natural vegetation such as reeds, rushes, sedges and herbs to exist.

For example, fish, including eels, feed on insect larvae, yabbies, other fish and frogs. Some fish breed in submerged hollow logs, holes in mud and shelter from their predators in underwater plants. Dragonflies, damselflies and mayflies need to emerge from under the surface of the water and climb onto herbage growing in and around the creek to commence their adult lives. Frogs also use aquatic plants as leverage to scramble from the water and shelter under the flaps of grass and reeds that overhang the creeks.

Generally indigenous native plants will not grow on the steep sides made from concrete and stone (rock-lined channels) and so make it impossible for these animals to complete the second stage of their life cycles.

This effect is then felt right through the food chain to the diet, such as water fowl, ducks and the long-necked tortoise.

The low populations of invertebrates, fish and frogs along rock-walled sections of the creeks stands as silent testimony to a sterile environment!

Clean fresh water for birds to bathe in is fundamental to their very existence. Feathers have to be scrupulously clean or flight is just not possible.

A healthy unpolluted creek supports a wide range of insects and honeyeaters and flycatchers feed on vast quantities of them. In fact, almost 80 per cent of a honeyeater's diet is insects!

Owls and tawny frogmouths hunt along the creek valleys for this very important part of their diet. Bats, echidnas and other animals also feed on insects in and under the trees that line the creek valleys.

The greenhouse effect is becoming a bigger issue every day. Can we afford to add to this by cutting more trees down and creating a road for thousands of cars and trucks? Have we thought carefully enough about other alternatives?

The Mullum Mullum and Koonung valleys are precious — not just because of their intrinsic beauty, but because of the hosts of animals that live there.

We also need places to walk in, wonder at and to allow some stillness and peace into our hearts and minds in this frantic world we live in.

C E C I L Y
FALKINGHAM



The area fondly known as the "ARBORETUM". The H.O. fellows a little pale.... Will have a poster on the notice-board at the next market. Please avoid titles which seem pery and to create an arboretum

KEEN gardeners and representatives of community groups and professional organisations have expressed interest in leasing 3.6 hectares of land at Emerald, which is being offered by the Victorian Conservation Trust.

The land was donated to the trust 10 years ago and director Warwick Forge says it is now felt the spirit of the bequest would be best served through private management.

The property slopes down a picturesque valley to a small brook. On its rich red mountain soil are the remnants of a fine established exotic garden with mature trees, rhododen-

drons, camellias and azaleas. But it is felt greater portion, which has been cleared should be rehabilitated as an arboretum indigenous native trees. There is also the possibility of a conifer garden.

The successful lessee will be required to develop and maintain the property according to sound conservation principles (which means in principle that no pets can be kept) and to permit limited public access to the arboretum, once established.

More details are available from Bill at Nobelius & Co estate agents, (059) 68

— Anne La

FRIENDS OF THE WARRANDYTE STATE PARK.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

00000-1989-00000

ENQUIRIES 84410

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

..... P/C

Subscription : \$10.00

PHONE NUMBER.....

Every THURSDAY 10am. PROPAGATION Meet at the Depot. Bring lunch.
Learn how to grow, plant, regenerate our bush.
Seed Collection. Flora/Fauna Surveys. Lots of fun
all age groups...and it is a way to "Act Local"

AUGUST 27th. Visit to Morwell National Park/Alternative Onion Weeding.

GAIL ROCHE 722 1926

Organiser VAL POLLEY 844 3086

September 24 Wildflower Walk..Learn to identify from the Master..Arthur Williamson

OLIVE WALTERS 846 4729

October 29 The BIG ANNUAL KOALA 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. After.

*****PLANT PROPAGATION SEMINARS*****COMING UP*****SOON*****

MONTHLY MARKET STALL. First Sat. of each Month. See us at Stiggants Res.
Next to the WEL tent. Swap your empty pot for a
new "Indigydyte". Free to Members. Join us for a
chat. Anne has a new Seed offer every Month.

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.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

IAN BURKE 8441060
MARGARET BURKE
MARGARET FISHLEY 844 3476
OLIVE WALTERS 846 4729
TERRY OAKLEY 876 4768
KEITH THOMSON 8441590

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MARK GARDNER 844 3799

P.O. Box 220.
WARRANDYTE. 3113



Acacia Brownii