

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

Over the past few months there have been many important and exciting changes to the Friends group. Perhaps the most significant of these is the idea of family involvement at our monthly meetings, and also the weekly propagation session. Children are most welcome to participate in activities with their parents. We hope that the monthly meetings will be organized by a different member each time, and each project of the day will be preceded by a short talk by one of the Rangers to familiarize us with the area.

The propagation group that meets each Thursday morning is involved in quite a range of activities, eg. seed collection, pricking out seedlings, house minding of native plants, and field trips to various areas of the Park. We are most grateful to Kim Robinson for her enthusiastic help in all the various aspects of conservation in the Park. She is also keen to see the formation of Wild Life Corridors in the areas of Warrandyte adjacent to the State Park. It is hoped that The Friends will be able to take an active part in this project. Our neighbours and other property owners near the State Park will be approached for their cooperation in this venture.

I think the 'image' of the Friends is gradually changing from a mere 'weeding group' to one of more diverse nature, and it is more useful to ourselves and of benefit to the community. Of course it should lead to more local people becoming involved and joining in our activities. To this end we hope to obtain our own tent, tables, display units, that can be used on market days, at Festival days, and at each of our meetings. Joan Ragg has kindly lent us a tent in the interim. We will try to provide examples of native plants and shrubs and weed samples. We have approached the Lion's Club and we are hopeful they can assist us with some capital items.

We are all delighted that Ian Roche and his Rangers are anxious to involve the Friends in Flora and Fauna surveys. Our members have expressed a keen desire to be part of this valuable work.

A Committee has recently been formed to plan the program for 1989 and suggestions are most welcome from our members. One suggestion is that we should have more barbeques at our monthly meetings, and that we have a different organizer for each meeting.

Finally, several of our members were fortunate to attend a slide evening and barbeque where Arthur Williamson showed a fascinating collection of native plants and orchids in the Park. A gourmet BBQ was thoroughly enjoyed with the members of the Park Staff.



We had a great day at Fourth Hill last month and the area really does seem to be responding to our ministrations. Lots more weeds to 'Bradley', but not as discouraging as the seemingly impossible task of hand weeding at Gold Memorial Drive. Doug Seymour is currently investigating other "ways" and means". Perhaps we may be called upon to propagate, replant etc. after the Rangers deal with the Onion Weed. Cam Beardsell pointed out some areas of weed and grass near the walking tracks on Fourth Hill which need attention whilst still relatively minor.

Cam took us to find the elusive Orchids, and other wildflowers. He was a wonderful guide, but alas the rainfall in May had been late and the Orchids either likewise or dormant! We hope Cam will agree to take us on another Wildflower walk as part of our Programme for 1989.



NEXT MEETING :

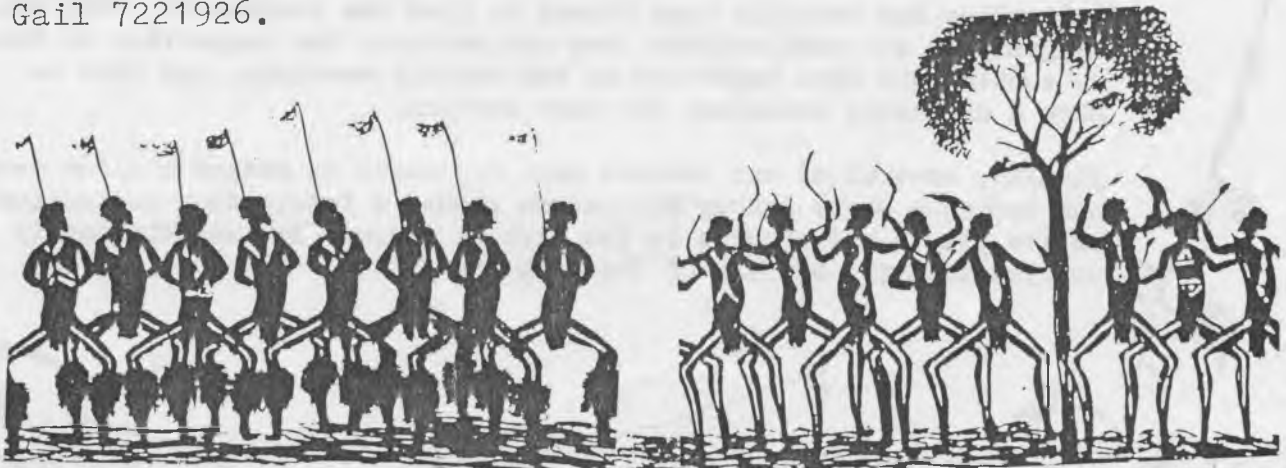
Yes it's on at last!!! There will be a Corroboree by the Wurungeri tribe at our next meeting. Norm Hunter is escorting the elders to Black Flat picnic area where we will have a BYO BBQ lunch..

Please note that there will be no whipper snipping at Tarroona Avenue as planned as after discussion with our Rangers it was decided there was no need at present to do any whipper snipping in that area.

Come along and join us in showing the Wurungeri tribe our support. Black Flat is off Tills Drive in Warrandyte, the park gates will be opened for us to drive through.

After our lunch and Corroboree for those who feel energetic enough we will endeavour to do a "Bradley" along the nature trail so we may have you working yet!!!

See you there at 12 noon. Enquiries Ian or Marg 8441060 or Gail 7221926.





WILDFLOWER WALK

PROFESSOR'S HILL SANCTUARY

one of Melbourne's most precious nature reserves

10.00 am Sunday November 6th.

- a refreshing look at our beautiful native bushland
- meet new species and learn about the Reserve

Your guide will be local botanist
David Cameron

ph 437 1918

meet at the corner of
Research-Warrandyte &
Wyuna Roads

bring a thermos for
a hilltop stop

ALL AGES WELCOME

PROFESSOR'S HILL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Note: for those who come away truly enthusiastic, the next bi-monthly maintenance working bee will be held at the same time the following week (13 Nov.)

FOWSPIAN Committee.

IAN BURKE 844 1060
MARGARET BURKE 844 1060
MARGARET FISHLEY 844 3476
Pat Fricker 8443702
Olive Walters 8464729

GAIL ROCHE 722 1926
VAL POLLEY 844 3086
DOUG SEYMOUR 844 2740

GLEN JAMESON 8442395...SOON!

True Tales from a Propagating Papa .

Tree propagating is best taken on by Junior Fowspians. Anne says I'm a big Junior Fowspian at heart and so allows me to help Megan.

When in the bush or paddocks and a tree or shrub takes our fancy we look to see if it has nuts. If it does we load Megan's pockets with them to take home.

The nuts come in a variety of shapes and sizes but are all so far easy to recognise. Megan's pockets hold enough nuts to give plenty of seed for a propagation exercise.

Inside the nut is the seed that is used for propagation. To get the seed out we place the nuts in an old butter container on the mantel piece above the lounge room fire (ie, a warm place). In a couple of days (maybe a week) the secret of the nut is revealed and out drop the little seeds which also vary in shape and size depending on the type of nut.

Once you have the seed it is usually ready to be sown. Wattle seeds are an exception which have a very hard outside shell that needs to be weakened before it can be propagated.

There are three methods used to do this:

1. Expose seed to a raging bush fire
2. Put a small nick or X in the shell with a pocket knife
3. put seed into a saucepan of water and bring to the boil, allow to cool and the the seeds are ready to go.

Because the seeds are small and numerous the method of nicking the shell seems too difficult so we use method 3.

Take-away meal trays (eg Chinese food) make ideal containers to germinate our seeds

We put about 30mm of potting mix into a tray and then drop the seed on the top. The tray is kept indoors and kept moist with a small water sprayer.

Sometimes it takes nearly a month for the seed to sprout other times only a week. We keep the babies indoors until they get to about 30mm high or until they look strong and then out into the cold they go.

The next stage is where all Megan's experience in the sand pit really shows. She fills small containers with potting mix to perfection.

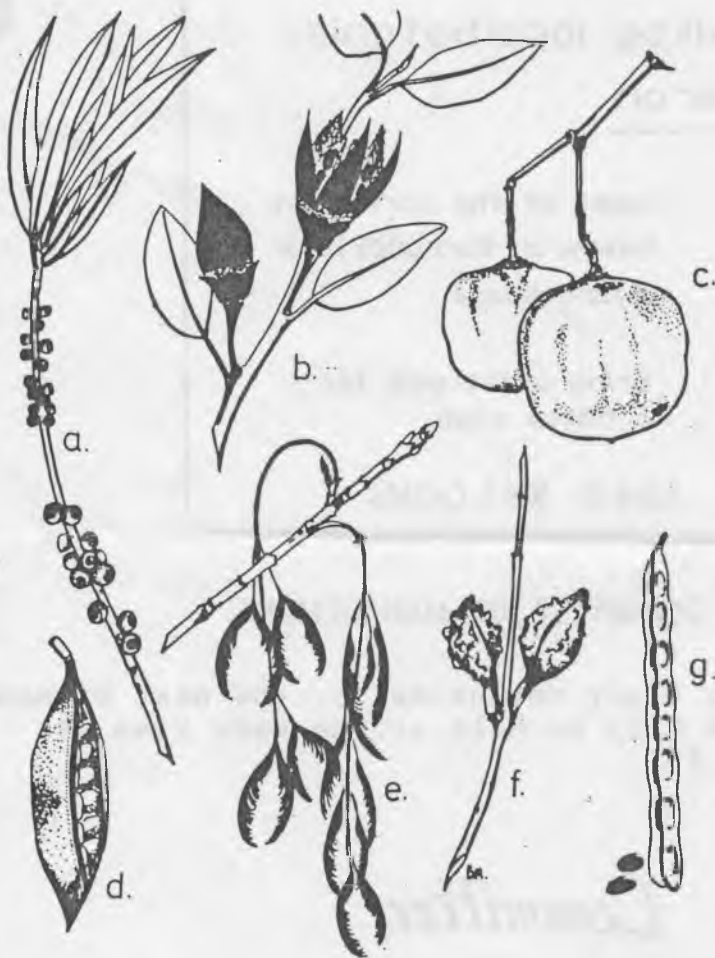



Figure 1 TYPES OF SEEDS. (a) *Callistemon*; the older seed capsules from lower down the stem are used. (b) *Lagunaria* (Norfolk Island Hibiscus). (c) *Jacaranda*. (d) *Brachychiton* (Illawarra Flame Tree). (e) *Acer negundo* (Box Elder Maple). (f) *Hakea*; the characteristic winged seed is inside the woody fruit. (g) *Acacia* (Wattle); these seeds require pre-sowing treatment to soften the hard covering.



She then puts the little trees into the pots.

The trees are kept outside but are protected with netting to stop wind, heavy rain or frost from damaging them.

We don't have a 100 percent success rate but most seem to survive.

The propagation of our trees costs us very little. Anne is aware of the need to recycle, and so collects yogurt containers and plastic drink bottles to use as plant pots. The only thing we buy is the potting mix which costs \$3-95 for a bag big enough to fill hundreds of yogurt containers.

We like to involve our Junior Fowspian in our tree propagation. She has fun and we hope it will give her an appreciation of our native flora when she is older.

Tim Bedford




Profile of a Ranger - Our Janine

This month we introduce Janine McKay - the quietly spoken and efficient red-head who has been part of most of our Friends days this year.

Janine joined C.F. & L. in 1984 as a construction and maintenance worker on a nine-month Commonwealth Employment Program at Gellibrand Hill Park. She stayed on after the termination of the Scheme, working at both Gellibrand and Organ Pipes National Park for a short period. In 1986, she filled a part-time clerical position at the park whilst doing part-time maintenance work. Janine also acted as a Park Assistant for 12 months before landing a permanent position in 1987. In April 1988 she applied for temporary transfer to Warrandyte at TA I level, then gained permanent position of TA II in June.

Janine lives at Ascot Vale and finds most of her spare-time, outside her job, taken up with part-time study for a Science Degree. Good-luck Janine with end of year exams and we're pleased you are now a permanent with C.F. & L. at Warrandyte State Park.



Wandering Warrandigidytes

Column.



MON. REPOS. - TURTLE ROCKERY

Just out of Bundaberg is the Mon Repos beach, famous for several reasons. It got its name from French people operating an underseas cable link to New Caledonia.

Along one edge to the beach park is a stone wall built by Kanak labour last century, when land was under sugar cane. Bert Hinkler, famous aviator and Bundaberg's favourite son, had his first flight along the beach there.

Most importantly for me, the beach provides a nesting place for no less than four species of Turtle. Mon Repos is the only place on mainland Australia where this occurs. Indeed a unique natural history place.

Nesting begins around November-December, when the huge turtles, Loggerhead and Leatherback, being two of the recorded species, heave themselves up onto the sand, dig their holes, and then deposit the many eggs before covering them and returning to the sea. The eggs then incubate for 3-4 months and then the little turtles run the gauntlet of the open sand and seas.

Quite understandably, this phenomenon has become quite a thing to watch and there has been a big upsurge in interest and attendance at both nesting and hatching. Rangers are becoming worried that popularity may kill the area.

Turtles coming onto the beach may be frightened back by lights being shone on them. Once on the beach things are more acceptable to the turtle, but initial emergence is critical. People observing the ritual must be carefully monitored.

The beach is little more than one mile long. On one night over 2000 people turned up to view the Turtles, imagine the chaos with only a few Ranger staff to control things. Hence the importance of Friends of the Turtles, to help guide the crowds towards tolerable behaviour. On busy nights the Friends would play a critical role in the future of Turtles nesting at Mon Repos.

The dunes behind the beach have a lovely grove of the Coastal She-Oak, Casuarine equisetifolia. A species that grows up the coast of N.S.W and Qld and into S.E.Asia. Only 15 years before, the dunes were naked and eroding because of the Sugar Cane farming practises. Now it is a natural, tranquil beach scene

Mon Repos is a great example of the support Friends groups can give the natural environment by guiding and planting indigenous species, thereby assuring a future for nesting turtles.



P.S. Gung -
found an
S.A.E. in
Broome!

See you
late in
November.
love

Jamo's
4

xxxx.





Planting out!



Propagating at the Depot.



Doing a 'Bradley'!



Next Year



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The annual membership of F.O.W.S.P. for 1989 has been set at \$10.00 per family. The small increase is unavoidable due to rising costs. PROGRAMME FOR 1989 is in the PLANNING!

ideas you might like to add

P.O. BOX 220 WARRANDYTE 3113 VICTORIA

I/WE WISH TO BECOME A FRIEND OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK & ENCLOSE \$5.00 for 1988
MEMBERSHIP FEE. (Renewable 89)
\$12.00 for 88-89

NAME..... TELEPHONE.....
ADDRESS..... POST TO BOX 220
..... POSTCODE..... WARRANDYTE 3113

844 1060
(ENQUIRIES - IAN BURKE)

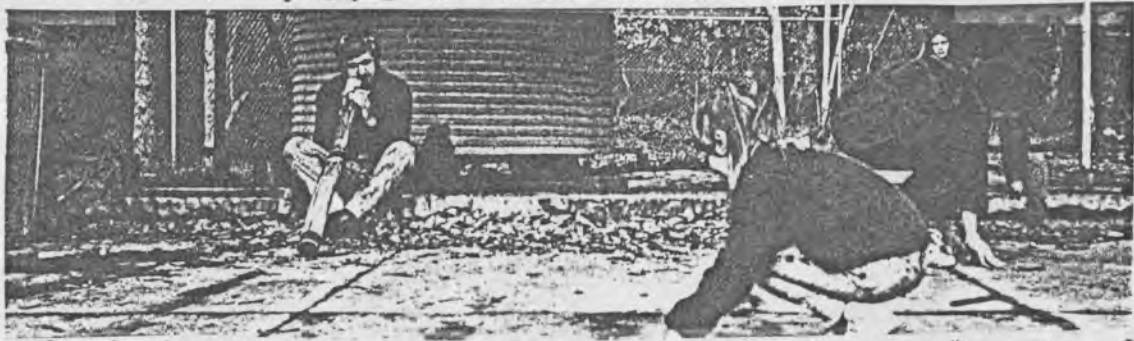
Coming Up

October 30 CORROBOREE - BLACK FLAT.

NOVEMBER 27, A.C.M. - B.B.Q. MORE DETAILS TO COME!

PROPAGATION GROUPS - WEEKLY - THURSDAYS 10AM - DEPOT,
BRING LUNCH.

MARKET STALL - 1ST SATURDAYS OF MONTH
STICLIANTS RESERVE - JOIN US THERE!



P.O. Box 220.
WARRANDYTE. 3113

