



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK NEWSLETTER

Editorial

MARCH

1990

As the season of 'Mists and mellow fruitfulness' approaches and the days start to shorten, and although we have still have much we can regard as fruitful we have become aware of some mists that descended upon us and clouded our vision of the true nature of the world we live in. They appear in the form of air and water pollution, destruction of the rain forests, the reduction of arable lands from which no country has escaped. It is very easy to ignore such things as they don't often make headline news on the media. So much happens in other countries and our vision is just occupied with our own immediate interests. In the space of one generation the rest of the world's problems will certainly become ours. There are many ways we can set a good example to others in our community and educate our children to awareness. A lot of practices in a household such as recycling of paper, plastics and glass, reducing gasoline and oil use, composting food scraps, not using pesticides are but a few. The practices are noticed by others and the ideas are catching. It is interesting to notice that people living in rural areas of Victoria seem to have a greater understanding of environmental issues than their urban counterparts. There is much interest in propagating large tree nurseries, erosion control, and community tree planting organisations. Even the streets of large towns seem much clearer of garbage and litter.

We in Warrandyte and Eltham are fortunate to have amongst 'The Friends' members who are on our local councils. Also at a recent reception the Mayor of Doncaster did express much interest in our group and decided to become a Fowspian. It all helps to have the cooperation and involvement of those who manage our local utilities.

On a wider level we have the Federal elections nearly upon us. We should give careful thought to those who have the responsibility deciding the future of our country. We perhaps should be grateful that environmental matters are a significant feature at this poll. At the same time be aware that politicians mostly are not skilled in the important matters surrounding environment. Maybe someday economists who advise them will drop some of their erroneous concepts.

Thoreau was a little more enlightened when he said, 'The cost of a thing is the amount of what I will call life which is required to be exchanged for it.'

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste to our powers:

Little we see in nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon.

William Wordsworth.

Warrandyte Festival

ALL MEMBERS COME ALONG AND SAY HELLO AT THE FESTIVAL IF YOU WISH TO BE ROSTERED "ON" PHONE
Gail Roche 722 1926....Keith Thomson 844 1590.....Nonnie Seymour 844 2740 or Burkes 844 1060

- 22nd...Thursday...FESTIVAL DISPLAY/Tent erection etc.....Help Required.
- 24th...Saturday...WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL....STREET PROCESSION.....FRIENDS FLOAT.....MARKET....PROPAGATION DISPLAY/DEMONSTRATIONS....PLANT EXCHANGE BILLY TEA & DAMPER.....FACE PAINTING.....FREE SEED LEAFLETS...
- 25th...Sunday.....MORE OF ABOVE.....MEMBERS WILL ALSO MAKE PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE. BALLOONS.....EDUCATION..INFORMATION....DISPLAY OF OUR ACTIVITIES.....KEITHS VIDEOS SHOWING.....MEET YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS BRING A PICNIC EVENING MEAL SUNDAY AND JOIN US TO LISTEN TO THE CONCERT AND WATCH THE FIREWORKS.....Enquiries Committee.

Dates for the Calendar

Volunteers

- 7th. Saturday.....MARKET....STIGGANTS RESERVE.
- APRIL 19th...Thursday...KANGAROO CENSUS/SURVEY.....See Hot House Gossip.
...Sunday.....RAFT TRIP...RIVER CLEAN UP.....See Article.
- 22nd-28th.....ARBOUR WEEK....ANZAC DAY.....AUTUMN TREE PLANTING...ENQ. Committee
- 29th...Sunday.....WELFOWSPIAN YARRA CLEAN UP WALK.
- THURSDAY....WEEKLY..10am.ACTIVITIES AT THE FRIENDS NURSERY Bring Lunch. All ages.

Mistletoe in Flower near the Depot.

We had a most enormous truck, trailer and extra MOUNTAIN of Ivy pulled from the bush in Wildcat Gully. Having over FORTY pairs of hands meant we achieved a wonderful result. Then John Hanson offered to lead the Goldmine exploration. An expert and experienced guide he gave the group much insight and information about the early days, mining in Warrandyte and the odd humorous anecdote or three!...Then it was up the track to visit Bev Hanson for treat number two. Bev gave us a talk about her landscaping experiences and the history of the development of Community Groups in Warrandyte...and all the giggles and grimaces grins and groans that had meant to the family. Then it was a tour of the Garden.....mmmmmmmm THEN...it was Peter Hansons turn....He is the NURSERYMAN at BIMBADDEEN Nursery which is of course a part of the Hansons Garden. Peter is growing many Indigenous plants and we do not hesitate to recommend that all members hasten to support this venture.the afternoon tea which we shared was scrumptious many many thanks.....

NON-INSECT OF THE MONTH

SPIDERS



Spiders of course are not insects, but I thought it would be worth taking time out this month to give them a mention as they are most plentiful at this time of the year.

Like the insects, spiders belong to a group of invertebrates called Arthropods. They are in a class called Arachnida, named after the Greek Goddess Arachne who was famed for her skill at weaving. According to Greek mythology, the Goddess Athene challenged her to a weaving contest but Arachne won the contest and Athene was so cross that she turned her into a spider condemned to spin and weave forever.

Probably the most well recognised difference between spiders and insects is that spiders have eight legs and insects have six. Another major difference is that the body of insects is divided into three regions, head, thorax and abdomen, spiders have only two divisions, the head and thorax being fused into one cephalothorax. Spiders do not possess antennae like the insects.

There are two species of spider I would like to go into some detail about as you are quite likely to literally run into them in the bush or garden at the moment. Both are absolutely harmless orb weaving spiders whose webs are strung between trees and shrubs at about face height or lower. The leaf-curling spider can easily be recognised by the presence of a curled brown leaf in the centre of the web. The spider itself remains hidden within the leaf but if you look closely you can sometimes see a pair of legs sticking out. This remarkable adaptation provides the spider with an excellent shelter from the weather and protection from predators such as birds. Males and females are similar in size, unlike most spiders where the females are much larger than the males. After mating eggs are laid within the curled leaf and when they emerge, the young spiderlings disperse to form their own webs. Because they are so small and there are so many, only a few ever survive to maturity.

The other spider which is very common at the moment is the six-spined spider, sometimes called the jewel spider. Like the previous species, this spider also strings up a web between low bushes and quite often you will see a group of many webs occurring together in a colony with some webs overlapping others. The spider rests during the day in the centre of the web waiting for the vibration caused by an insect caught in mid-flight. The female spider is about 80mm long but the male of this species is only 30mm long. The body is rounded with irregular markings of black, white and yellow, it has six prominent spines which are quite harmless and give the spider a somewhat star-like appearance so that it really does resemble a jewel in a sparkling crown when the sunlight catches it. By mid-late autumn the spiders have mated after which they lay eggs and die. The young spiders grow slowly over the winter and are not large enough to be noticed in the bush until the following summer.

I have to admit that my feeling for spiders in general is not akin to my love of insects, in particular butterflies and moths. It is a strange human quirk that many of us have an in-born dislike of spiders and in some cases an actual fear of them which is largely unwarranted. Most species are completely harmless and are in fact extremely beneficial in keeping the balance of nature by preying on small insects, many of which have become pests. Spiders are a fascinating group of small animals, their many adaptations to hunting and catching prey are amazing and often complex. They have an intricate courtship and mating behaviour and many species, such as the flower spiders are surprisingly beautiful. So maybe they deserve a little more consideration and understanding than perhaps many of us have given them before.

Ok!
Rachael +
Sean's -
Illustrations

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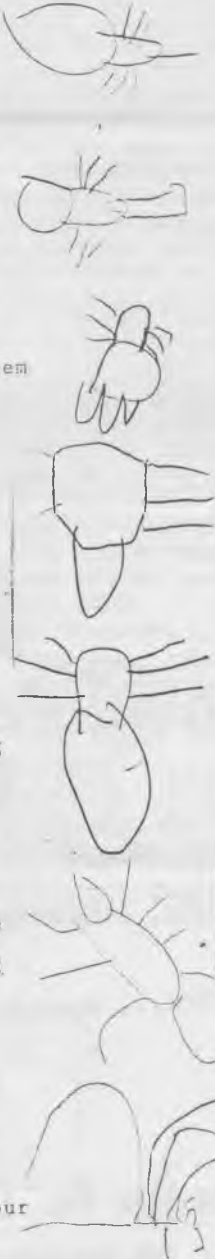
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Bushland Flora STOCKLIST Autumn 1990

Margaret, could you please
make these available to the
FOWSP's
AFT to Andrews

Andrew Paget has sent us a supply of his "BUSHLAND FLORA NURSERY" Stocklist for Autumn 1990. Copies are available on application or at the Market Stall at the Festival etc.

Hot House Gossip

KANGAROO SURVEY...SCHOOL HOLIDAYS...THURSDAY APRIL 19th....

Afirst for us. As many eyes as possible will make this a great success. Check at the Festival tent for details. We hope to have lots of both Fowspians and Fowspianmites to help with a Census and General Condition Survey. Head office "helpers" will be along. Enquiries....Ian Roche 844 2659 or Committee Members.

MORNING TEA AT THE WARRANDYTE UNITING CHURCH SUNDAY MARCH 25th. 11.30.....

Marg and Stan Fishley are saying farewells to Stan's parishners and vice versa as Stan is to Minister to the needs of the Wedderburn Uniting Church Parrish. They will continue to be involved in Friends activities, visiting often however the Fowspian FRIENDS of our wonderful Fishleys are invited to this morning tea. It is an opportunity to say just how much we will regret the kilometers between us (can't scream HELP...MARG! that loudly...)however they are not going to miss all of the meetings....on good authority.....

GING BACK IE BUSH

method of bush regeneration



"The Bush", The Bradley
bush regeneration. Joan Bradley.
Press, 1988. 111 pp. Pocket sized.

little book is now "in remission"
at shops, for around \$5.00
price around \$12.00

plans in detail the three
uses of the "Bradley" method
regeneration, goes on to
detail some of the subtleties
and some very
about the gentle

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as you learn all the concepts
method ready for your next Fowsp
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tent. Buy a few and give them away.
the bookshops opposite at Target
wood)

Ken McInnes.

Wonderful to welcome Brenda Hunter back into "harness" after her very horrifying experiences. She is looking fantastic and seems eager to "crack the whip" and get on with her activities as a Friend and Fowspian.

ARBOUR WEEK.....ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY.....TREE PLANTINGS FOR THE AUTUMN SEASON.....

All school groups, any community groups, all members are enjoined to come along and plant a tree in the old Wagner's Orchard. We wish to see a forest flourishing very soon and the Friends Nursery is trully a "joy" to behold. This carefully scheduled crop now needs to be planted. We hope to organise plantings for all of the week April 22 to 28th. This includes Anzac Day and what more fitting memorial for "Diggers" than to plant some Bush. ENQUIRIES.....Burkes 844 1060.....Office at Depot 844 2659.....Committee Members.....

A SAN FRANCISCAN TO COIN A PHRASE!

A dear friend of Ian Burke planted the first of our Autumn plantings. Dr. William T. Price, a visiting SanFranciscan was invited to make his mark in the park. After commencing to attack the lovely Warrandyte "mudbrick" he pronounced the clay as HARDPAN. He managed to make a "bed" and planted a Red Box and a Candlebark which both seem to have prospered since leaving the pot. We will have Keith make a special marker and will let Bill know of their progress. Now a keen FOWSPian he has taken many memories of Warrandyte back to California.

F.O.W.S.P. has been asked to assist the Healesville Sanctuary Voluntary Groups to set up a Nursery for their revegetation projects. After the Festival the Thursday Group will visit and begin the "liason/assistanceplan". We will provide what plants (in the short term) that we have to spare, and look forward to a long and close relationship between Community groups.

Peter Hanson will become the leader of another Regional Group in the Andersons Creek and Gold Memorial Drive Area. He will be advised by Mark Gardner who is the Committee Member in charge of Regional Groups. Any other enquiries about Street Plantings, Regional Sub Groups etc. can be discussed at the Warrandyte Festival. Dates and shedules for Gad's Gang at Stony Creek, Bradley Brigade Activities and Webb St. Weeders will be on display at the Festival Tent.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE TENT ERECTION FOR FESTIVAL.....THURSDAY March 22nd 5.30pm...IAN BURKE is leading this group and will need helpers. W.E.L. tent is also going up and both groups hope to have a wonderful Festival Presence. Helpers Phone Ian...! 844 1060

The Greening of the C.O.D.A.T. Councillors was in fine evidence at the Warrandyte Ward Reception at the Municipal Offices.....also a wonderful mood of "communication and conciliation" The Burkes, the Seymours and several other members attended this function and had the opportunity to meet with lots of other community identities to our mutual benefits! We are delighted to announce that Mayor Trevor Waring and family are now PAID members of FOWSP. Trevor promises to become an active member (Especially if he can show his expertise as a Yabbier!) Meet him on the Saturday of the Festival.

MEMBERSHIPS.....HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!?!?.....WE NEAR THE 200 FAMILY MARK! Subscriptions may be renewed and New Memberships applied for at the Warrandyte Festival or by mail. We thank those VERY generous members who have included a donation as an extra. It is very satisfying for us to see the support of the membership and to note the affection with which both members and the general community show.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

NAME..... ADDRESS..... Enquiries 844 1060.

..... P/C

Family
Subscription : \$10.00

PHONE NUMBER.....

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P.O. Box 220 WARRANDYTE. 3113



RAFT TRIP

ON THE DAY

Doug's Day

We will be paddling from Whitton's Reserve, Wonga Park, down through the Bend-of-Isles with some rubbish collection stops on the way.

A few members have already booked and a few questions are common

1. This trip will not be undertaken if the River is raging or too low. Light rain won't stop the trip but a storm would. A later date will be arranged if the weather causes postponement.

We're playing it safe so children younger than nine should travel quite safely but it is of course the parents responsibility to assess the conditions in terms of their particular child on the day. A number of young children are very keen and are planning to come.

2. Because the hire of the raft is the business end of the trip we must know our numbers in advance so please get your name in. \$8.00 a seat, big kids \$5.00. Please come if you book as the hire cost is the same once the rafts are prepared.

We meet at the premises of Wonga Park canoe hire at 12.30 on the day - they are in Homestead Road Wonga Park. The usual practice is to bring a change of clothes just in case and perhaps some provisions for after. These are left at the destination which will be decided nearer the date. We will organise a few cars to be taken down from the start to the finish and left there (what canoeists call the "car shuffle").

For on board - it is probably wise to dress for a dunking. Wool is the warmest wet clothing. A number of members wished they had brought along some soft drink to sustain them during the last paddle.

Doug

WEATHER CONDITIONS CHANGE DATE OF RAFT TRIP

Sunday April 22.

I have just talked to Frank Cocu of Wonga Park Canoe Hire and we've agreed that the March rainfall is more like a February pattern. It is highly unlikely that the water level will be high enough on April-8 for good rafting. Low water makes a raft like a bathtub in a bog and it becomes difficult to pull the raft over the rapids without damaging them. The booking is now for Sunday April 22, the last day of the school holidays.

Rafting is fun so come along.

ARRANGEMENTS

1. Book by April 17th - ring Doug/Nonnie 844 2740 or Margaret/Ian on 844 1060.
2. On Saturday April 21 confirm that the trip is proceeding by ringing either of the above numbers.

ESSAY COMPETITION

Here is your chance to express your views and practical suggestions you see of value to protect and improve the environment in your day to day living.

TOPIC : ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - Responses of the individual.

About 500 words - send entries to FOWSP Box 220 Warrandyte 3113. A fascinating PRIZE for the best entry will be awarded at the Warrandyte Festival next month.....no entry fee required!
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PENNY POSSUM'S PAGE.....LIKE LAST FESTIVAL.....PENNY IS HIBERNATING?!?!

Penny will have her page to distribute at the Festival. Children who visit the tent or try the Wombat tunnel will be able to have one -whether or not the family are members. DON'T FORGET THOUGH.....SHE IS HOPING FOR LOTS OF ENTRIES IN THE PICTURE COMPETITIONS.....PRIZES.....A FAMILY PASS TO HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY.....WOW!

1990 COMMITTEE

MARGARET BURKE	Co-ordinator	844106
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OLIVE WALTERS		846472
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