

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

APRIL 1990



As the first signs of winter arrive, we can notice various changes in our surroundings. The long awaited first good rains have fallen on Warrandyte and produced a welcome settling of the dust on our roads, but the most marked change in the plants and trees. Leaves are no longer drooping and their uniform powdery appearance replaced by a fresh and infinite variety of green hues. A sigh of relief is appropriate also since we have passed through the summer period without any serious bushfires.

The Fowspians have been busy as usual, and their contribution to the Warrandyte Festival kept many of them extremely involved in many areas of activity. Not the least of these was the preparation of our exhibit in the street parade. We were pleased our entry won a major prize for the most elaborate exhibit. We were thankful for the help provided by the Rangers at Pound Bend.

As a result of many months of work we now have a nursery full of native plants that have been waiting for the autumn rains when they can be planted out in various parts of the State Park. Much help was yet again willingly made available by the Park staff. In the midst of all these activities we received some unexpected but pleasing news from the Ministry of Planning and Environment and C. F. & L. They are providing us with some funds for the construction of our multipurpose building at the Park depot. Our initial application was unsuccessful and we thought it would be a long time before we ever got this project off the ground. Now it looks like we can organise a much earlier start on the building.

Recently our success in propagation at the nursery has attracted the attention of other Friends groups, the Healesville Sanctuary, Municipal Councils, and local newspapers. This interest we welcome, and feel that it gives us an increased presence and involvement of our local community in matters environmental. But it does involve an increased work load for the committee and a small band of regular workers. We would like to see more Fowspians to give a little of their time. This applies in particular to those who can join us on a Thursday morning.

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine
flows into the trees. The winds will blow their
own freshness in to you, and the storms their
energy, while cares will drop away from you like
the leaves in Autumn.

John Muir.

The more points at which
you touch humanity, the
greater your influence.

Elbert Hubbard.

Autumn rain
has "Maider
Hair"
reappearing
in drifts.

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR.....

- APRIL 26th Propagation Nursery activities 10am bring lunch Weekly Thursdays.
MAY 3rd Planting in regeneration areas
10th Seed Collection and survey walks.
17th Renovation of the Nursery
24th Afternoon -- Visits to other Nurseries
31st. C.O.D.A.T Nursery and Healesville.
- ENQUIRIES Committee or Burkes 844 1060.
- APRIL 29th WELFOWSPIAN CLEAN-UP WALK. ALL WELCOME. Bring a Rubbish bag gloves etc.
MEET At the Eastern end of Town....Look for the Banner.
B.Y.O. Barbeque Tea at the end of the day at designated spot. Kids Adults
all age groups Bring your friends along. Enquiries Committee or W.E.L. Committee
- MAY 14-18th ARBOUR WEEK- Plant a Tree for our Planet. Local School involvment.
MAY 27th FUNGI WALK. Pat and Mike Coupar and Gretna Weste.
Stane Brae Venue. More next Newsletter.
- JUNE 2-3 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAYS. Tree plantings.
- RAFT TRIP = To be notified. MAY 5th Community Market. Volunteers....
MAY 13th Stoney Creek Weeders 9am-12ish!
- MAY 31st. ESSAY COMPETITION. Judging begins.
- Kangaroo and Koala Surveys are planned for the next few weeks. Contact Marg Humphrey
at the Park Office for the Time and Date.....844 2659.

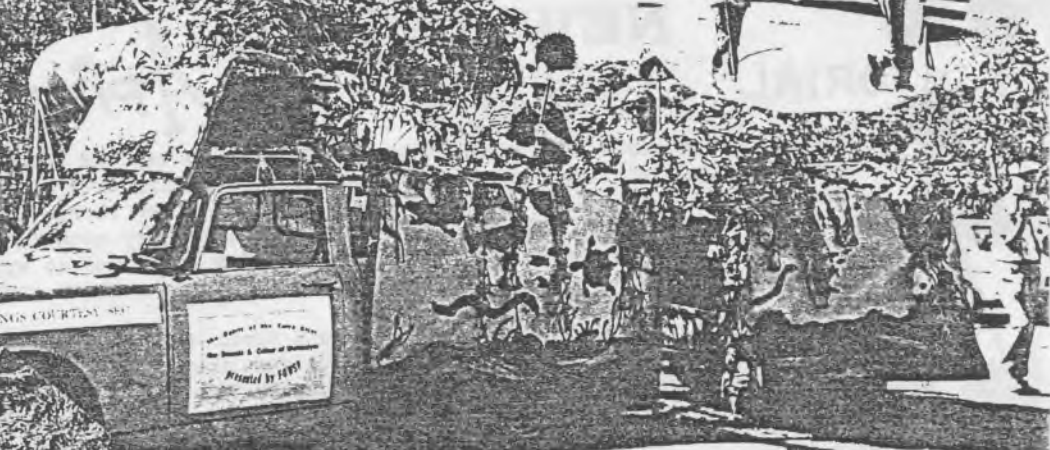
The Essay Competition will remain open for entries until WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK. Good entries will be published in the Newsletter.

TOPIC: ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION - Responses of the Individual.
Aprox. 500 words.

P.O. Box 220 Warrandyte 3113

Damper on sticks.

Thanks to all who rode on her or who helped create her! The Seymour Ute has never looked finer.



Warrandyte Festival



Despite the weather a wonderful weekend.



Mark was on hand for Propagation Displays.

Ranger Stephen Anderson... Backpainter extraordinaire!



The "verandahs" made a great difference!

THE CUP MOTH

They are known to most children as "Chinese Junks", "Bondi Trams" and sometimes "Spitfires" (although this last name is more correctly used to describe sawfly larvae, which when disturbed raise their bodies and eject a yellow fluid). They are known to many adults as stinging grubs which relish the tender young foliage of their healthy Eucalyptus trees, especially at their most juicy juvenile stage.

They are in fact the caterpillars of Cup Moths (Family LIMACODIDAE) but they do not resemble the usual image that we have of a caterpillar. The body is flattened with a retracted head and reduced legs and they are quite slug-like in shape and movement. Many can put out stinging bristles when disturbed, if brushed against or touched. The sting that they give is rather like that from a stinging nettle but a few ultra sensitive people may suffer a more severe reaction.

Cup moths are more common in the tropical regions of Australia but there are a few species found in our area, the caterpillars of which are quite common at this time of the year. They all have the same basic shape but with a variety of patterns in brilliant colours of green, red, blue and yellow. They feed exposed on the foliage during the day. The multi-coloured body plus the ability to raise stinging hairs are more than adequate protection from any predatory birds.

Cup moths have an interesting life history. Some species lay very unusual waxy, scale-like eggs in which the tiny caterpillars develop. After hatching the young graze the leaf surface until they are big enough to eat the whole leaf. They have quite an appetite and although most favour the Eucalypts (common species, The Mottled Cup Moth (*Doratifera vulnerans*)) I also feed on fruit and ornamental trees.

To watch one of these caterpillars pupate is a remarkable sight. First it spins a pad of silk onto a branch or the bark of a tree, then it almost turns itself inside out by bending backwards at the same time it weaves a strong silken cocoon around the body. This hardens to become a brown oval cup with a circular, lighter coloured 'lid' at the top. The length of pupation varies but when the moth is ready to emerge, it slices open the weaker top end climbs out to expand its wings.

It is interesting that an insect that is so commonly seen in its caterpillar stage, is rarely noticed as an adult. One of the reasons for this is of course that the moths fly at night, are fairly small (wingspan 30-40mm) and are generally rather dull brown in colour. But it never fails to amaze me that the same insect can be such a striking caterpillar one week, a brown cup, which incidentally bears a strong resemblance to a 'gum nut', another week and then a few weeks or months later emerge as a fully winged adult moth searching for a mate to start the whole cycle over again.

So lets look upon the Cup Moths favourably even though they may, in their larval stage, do a little unwanted pruning of our trees, leave their droppings over the roof of our cars and accidentally sting us if we get in their way. They are a most fascinating insect and after all just another small part of the natural world around us.



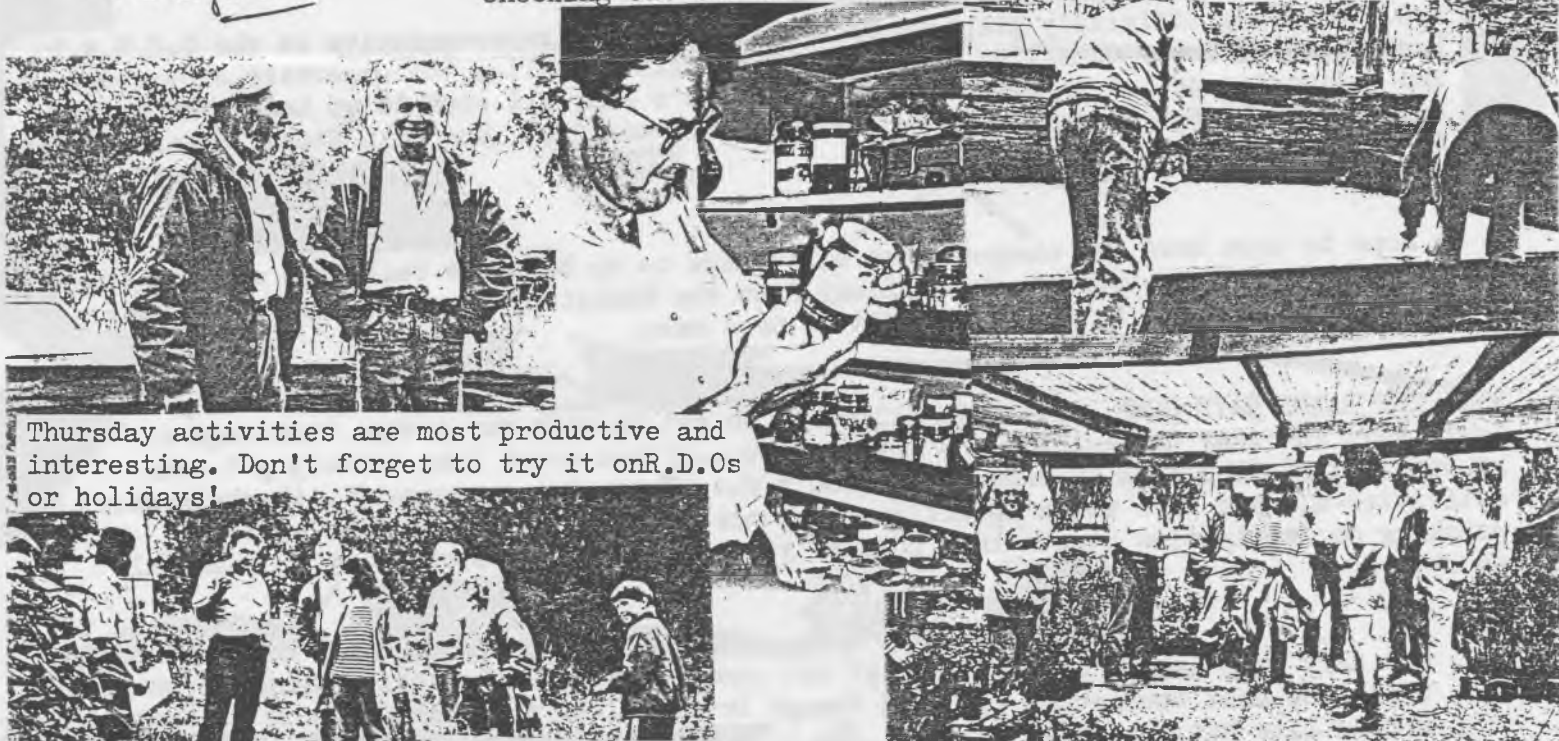
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
MELANIE COOPER



Blair

Checking out the seed collection.

What is Ben up to!?!...



Thursday activities are most productive and interesting. Don't forget to try it on R.D.Os or holidays!

David Middleton from Healesville Sanctuary looks over our Nursery

Hot House Gossip.

Eucalyptus polyanthemus
"Red Box" Lots of this loved loca
ready to prick out into pots now.

Land Clearing.....The Doncaster Templestowe News has reported our shock and horror at the clearing of all the understory vegetation on all of the block at the end of Nelson Rd. by the owner/developer. This wedge of land had almost no weed infestation and was CRITICAL as a wildlife corridor. A very rare butterfly has recently been discovered breeding on the Hazel Pommaderris. The vegetation removed was a strip of rare and very unusual Pommaderris and Correa clumpings and it is sad that the owners did not know or value what they possessed. We hope that the C.O.D.A.T. will insist on revegetation and we have offered to grow what is necessary. Pat and Gretna have made a detailed survey of species, part of their wider species surveys, and Gretna has been very interested to find that so many different Pommaderris sp. coexist in a way not previously noted either by Costermans or Willis. Gretna is also looking at causes of "die-back" between Black Flat and Jumping Creek

Mark Gardner wishes to congratulate all those involved in the English Ivy pull at Wild Cat gully. His recent inspection revealed a job well done and well on the way to regeneration and rehabilitation. Mark has suggested another clump which requires our T.L.C. however this may be the first area to be attended by Peter Hanson's "Anderson's Creek Crew". All regional weeding groups will follow the very successful techniques and format that "Gad's Gang" use....True Bradley method weeding and rehabilitation. Enquiries Mark Gardner 844 3799.

We are delighted with the interest and involvement of our local M.L.A..Phil Honeywood. He had intended to participate in the Raft Trip/Rubbish Removal however he noted with some relief its postponment as son Nicholas arrived and his father was needed at home! Congratulations to Phill, Gabriele and Catherine and we hope to meet you all at a later function. Phil does often involve himself in trying to resolve local "Green" issues and hopes to preserve the local "Green Wedge". If you would like to discuss these matters with him he will be available at one of our Weekend meetings as soon as possible. Watch the Newsletter next month.

We are pleased to announce that Pat and Mike Coupar will represent the Friends on the CITY OF DONCASTER AND TEMPLESTOWE Warrantdyte Townscape Advisory Committee. As well as their dedication to the F.O.W.S.P and to the Environment in general Pat and Mike are very well known amateur Naturalists and Entomological Photographers of note. Pat is in charge of scheduling of Plant stocks at the Friends Nursery. She is also co-ordinating all the current Plant surveys with Local Botanist Gretna Weste.

F.O.W.S.P. has officially proposed Mark Gardner as our representative on the C.O.D.A.T Pest Plant Advisory Committee. The Stony Creek group realise the expertise, experience and dedication he has to bring to the task. Gad's Gang all seem to go home with a grin and we report that Stony Creek is certainly "blossoming". The next Stony Creek morning is May 13th. 9am.

We hope to soon have the cheque which will allow us to begin to build our much needed "Folly". The very helpful Roger Holloway from the Ministry has also sent us another collection of papers to fill in should we need more.

WELL THE RAINS HAVE COME.....This allows us to get on with our Autumn Plantings at last. Next Thursday we really get a move on. SO...if you would like to help put some of our VERY READY plants in-come along! Don't put off involving yourself with the Nursery activities-all you have to be is willingonce this crop is planted we will be pricking our springtime plants into pots so you will have the opportunity to learn all about it.

The Raft Trip seems "doomed" - first not enough water in the Yarra- then too much. Watch the next Newsletter for word though Doug will be in touch. We hope to have it mid to late May.

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

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

THE PENNY POSSUM

NAME:

COLOURING IN COMPETITION

ENTRIES TO THE F.O.W.S.P. TO
BE IN THE RUNNING FOR A GREAT PRIZE!



COUNCIL OF YOUNGERS.

ANNA SCHURMANN Fowspianmites 8442843 MYLES SEYMOUR..Membership/Data 8442740

We are interested in expanding this Council.....Enquiries Marg Burke 8441060

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

Subscription : \$10.00

..... P/C

PHONE NUMBER

Committee

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS....ALL NOW DUE.....FAMILY SUBSCRIPTION \$10.....PLEASE SEND NOW.
 We have decided to retain the subscription at this level. As it barely covers Newsletter-
 production costs we hope all subscribers will rejoin without delay....even complimentarys!
 Don't forget Membership entitles you to a FREE plant every Market. Newsletter is monthly.

MARGARET BURKE Co-ordinator	8441060	IAN BURKE..Editor	8441060
DOUG SEYMOUR Secretary	8442740	KEITH THOMSON Treasurer	8441590
ANNE BEDFORD Asst. Sec.	4383216	MARK GARDNER Group Advisor	8443799
GAIL ROCHE	7221926	TERRY OAKLEY	6764768
OLIVE WALTERS	8464729		

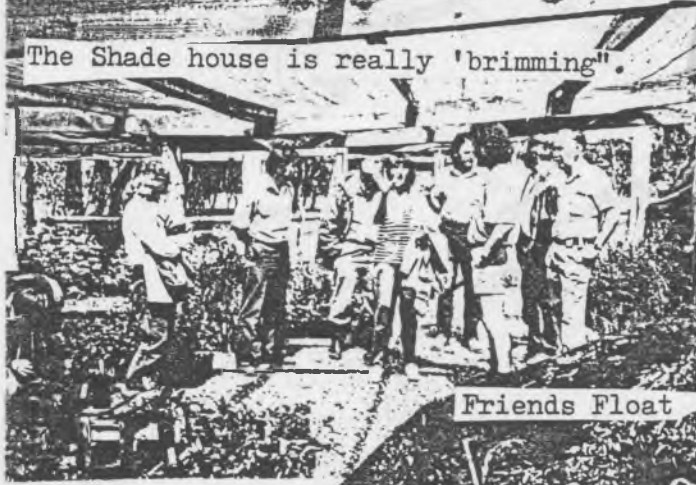
B.B.Q. Tea after the Festival



Ross Coupar-
Hard at it....!



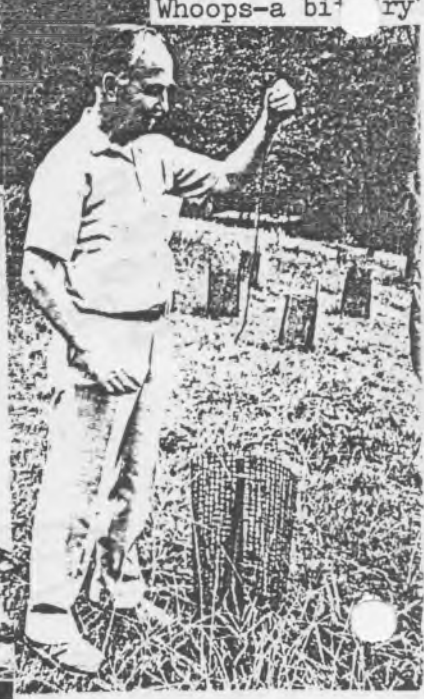
Whoops-a bi' ry'



The Shade house is really 'brimming'.



Friends Float



P.O. Box 220
WARRANDYTE. 3113



ILLUSTRATIONS BY
MELANIE COUPAR