



# FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1990

## Editorial

When we concentrate on a few specific concerns in our environment we tend to forget the wider problems existing around the globe. Only a small part of the huge mass of information comes to our attention. By the time it has been edited and cut for television, radio, and the newspapers, some of it falls into the category of misinformation. While we are thinking about planting more trees, cleaning up our own small part of the world, and devising methods to reduce consumption of non essential goods, we have economists and politicians talking about GNP, quality of life, and the catch phrase, 'sustainable economic development'. Growth in a country appears to an economist as the only way we can go. No growth means stagnation, and negative growth is a disaster resulting in recessions, and a return to cave dwelling. It is economics that now preoccupies the media and politics. Maintaining growth has become the *raison d'etre* of governments everywhere. Economists see natural resources as an infinity, a limitless bounty to be exploited. If it is suggested that resources are finite, they tell you science will find an alternative. No body of ecological scientists believes this is true. Also what is not really understood is that growth is a relatively new concept in the history of man. It did not occur until 200 years ago. It is also exponential in nature. (a fact ignored by our economic giants) We should be careful about a lot of the misinformation that are fed to us.

And what of the information we hardly ever hear about despite the wonders of mass communication. very little mention is made of the use of profits resulting from activities called 'high technology'. Modern economies seem addicted to military spending. Each year more than a trillion dollars are spent world wide for defence, armaments, and sale of weapons. (that is \$20 million every second) Governments around the world talk a lot about R & D in areas such as transport, energy, health, food., In the U.S. more than twice as much is spent on the military than is spent on all other services combined.

'Ignorance is not so bad as deception.'

## Sunday Family Meeting

The February Meeting this year was a most successful one, weeding English Ivy in Wildcat Gully. On June 24th we have planned a follow up working-bee. One section of Ivy has been cleared and Ian Roche has suggested that another concerted effort on our part could actually eradicate this problem. We feel that this would be a very satisfying work day and Ivy is something which all age groups can help with. Ian says that it really is a matter of the numbers of Fowspians who join in and provide HANDS. The Ivy Pull should take about an hour and a half. You will need gloves and warm clothing and Gum Boots may be a great asset. The rangers will help collect it all up afterwards. We actually all really enjoyed the last pull..remember?

THEN A SPECIAL TREAT...:.....A GOLD HISTORY WALK AND TALK.....

Last time John Hanson showed us the Fourth Hill mine. This time he has planned a walk to see several lesser known mines and will explain the history of the area. John is a well know member of F.O.W.S.P. and the Warrandyte Historical Society. Some of these Mines and shafts are a bit damp so the gum boots will come in handy!

AND THEN A BILLY OF TEA and AFTERNOON GOODIES (Bring to share) near the Gold Cairn. John will then answer all your Gold Days queries.

MEET at the Car Park Gold Memorial Drive.

TIME 1.00pm. Sunday June 24th.

BRING Gloves, Gumboots, Afternoon Tea to share.

# Hot House Gossip and Cold Things.

Our anger and action because of the illegal clearing in Nelson Rd. has stirred up a lot of comment and Community awareness. But...what is happening? Hopefully something VERY soon. Friends have been contacted about many other instances and we are trying to either help(?) or refer people to the right body. W.E.L. have a fat file already and another positive spin-off has been the lines of communication with W.A.C. and other Community groups has been "Honed and simplified" Trouble is we have many other practical and educational aims and ideals and should we spend lots of time and energy as a "policing body"?...Oh dear the dilemma?

Well...the Folly has begun!...our Fantastic Nicky (who is training under Craig's eagle eye) for her tractor licence had an admiring audience as she deftly levelled the site. Fabulous to see a "mere slip of a lass" handle the monster machine with such aplomb.

At the same time Ian, Paul, Alec and Ben (all of the Thurs. Nursery Group Fame) levelled a new Hardening off area under the Non-Indigenous shade tree. A fantastic effort and wait till you see it! Trouble was the gravel topping to finish the surface had been dumped about 100 metres away DOWNHILL! Ladies will be glad to hear that once again it was our undaunted C&M Nicky to the rescue. No need for wheelbarrows and exhaustion...Nicky and the Front End Bulldozer Blade scooped it up and the fast tiring Friends labour force were able to finish the job. Next week we begin in fixing up the old second Poly-house to act as a warm haven for the tiniest of our new seedlings...Carefully planned for Spring.

Very many thanks for your skills and cheerful help Nicky.

You will all have been admiring the exquisite work of Melanie Coupar in the illustration of her Mother Pat's articles. Mel is even allowing us her talents free of charge (she is doing some illustration for Dollars as well and we thank and appreciate her.

Another Member Glenn Henke, an artist in metals and jewellery, has offered to share his skills with us to produce a F.O.W.S.P. Medallion. It will be able to be used as a brooch, stick-pin key ring fob or a medallion to hang from a chain. He is currently looking at designs based on our Nodding Greenhood. Next Newsletter We will publish a series of designs for your comment and approval. Melanie Coupar has been inspired to produce a series and we look forward very much to seeing them.

Market stall worked wonderfully last month. In the past rosters have been a bit of a mess! May was a mess but June...Wonderful. and it will get even better. Too much for one or two Margaret cried...So now it is ONE HOUR shifts with at least two members on each. Alec Manson and Gail Roche set it up and "did" the first hour IN POURING RAIN without a whinge. It fined up later and the Rostered rallied. All you need is your enthusiasm for the group and to be able to swap pots and take membership-dues. Will try to have an experienced member with all novices. VOLUNTEERS....Ring Marg Burke 8441060 or Committee Members. Only ONE HOUR.....!

Great to see Kelvin Davies now employed as a C.& M. at the park. Out of work at the time of Arbour and World Environment Weeks he rang us and asked if he could help with tree plantings He spent a great amount of time doing just that and was involved with the School and Scout and Guide plantings which cleared the Shade House. We lamented his loss to a job he almost took in the Ski Fields when lo and behold area office snapped him up and he is now wearing C. F. & L. "greens".

Keith Thomson filled so many needs in our group, one of which was Treasurer. We are so very pleased to say that his dear wife Judy has decided he would like her to take it on. Judy was actually the Thomson to join the Friends originally, has been very involved and we hope the committee can be up to standard for her. Thank you Judy Thomson, a brave Lady.

You will find a Message from our Boss Ian Roche in this Newsletter as promised. We are also hoping to lure the Mystery Reporter back onto the job soon. Remember those hard hitting interviews....well its time for more. Staff and maybe even Committee.....,

Doncaster/Templestowe Council is considering making the Council Nursery available for Volunteer groups to propagate Indigenous plants for use in the City of D & C. We have visited the "palatial" Nursery, had visits from several staff members to see what can be done, and also begun to organise some propagation material swaps.

Planning for the next series of plantings has been very carefully considered. We could have actually got more plants in in autumn but from now on the communication between ourselves and planting groups has become so much better we will be able to assess our needs more accurately. We freed Park staff from plantings and therefore they are able to be used on weed control work we cannot do as efficiently.

While we are at it we hope all staff note how highly we estimate you as a team. Well done Head Ranger Ian Roche. A happy and motivated group are not an easy thing to mould when so much with so little is the task. Once that Management Plan is Published we hope it is implementd as soon as possible.

Finally the Management Plan has surfaced! We had a phone call last week...from Head Office no less to say that the Warrantdyte Management Plan is at the printers and is about to be PUBLISHED We will receive a copy hot off the press very soon and Warrantdyte will at last be allocated funds to be more than simply the forgotten corner of the Parks System that it has been. We hope all those fine ideas and money to implement them are soon more than an almost too distant memory. Will keep you all posted.

Winners of the colouring Competition werebrothers...so the McMahon Family will all be able to enjoy a visit to Healesville Sanctuary..Congratulations

# Pat~y~pus Page

INSECT OF THE MONTH

THE PAINTED ACACIA MOTH

The Painted Acacia Moth, or at least its caterpillar, could well be called 'Insect Of The Year' as it can be found throughout the whole year. It is particularly common during the winter months when the colder temperatures have slowed down many other insects. It belongs to a group of moths collectively known as the Tussocks Moths which get their name from the caterpillars all of which have densely hairy bodies with compact tufts of long hair on the upper surface.

The caterpillar of the Painted Acacia Moth is orange-brown in colour with four tussocks of creamy-white hair which gives it a toothbrush like appearance. It is a solitary caterpillar and feeds during the day exposed on the foliage. Foodplants include Acacias, Exocarpos, Callistemon, Melaleucas and Hardenbergia, they will also eat a wide variety of introduced garden plants. They are, in fact an excellent species to rear and observe in captivity, because their unusual life cycle makes an enjoyable learning experience for both young and old.

It is perfectly safe to handle this attractive caterpillar because the hairs are completely harmless. It can be kept, along with a sprig of the foodplant, in any plastic container with a tight fitting lid (caterpillars require surprisingly little air). A folded tissue in the bottom of the container prevents condensation and makes it easier to clean out the droppings every couple of days. It should be kept away from direct sunlight and the foodplant replenished as it is eaten or if it wilts. When the caterpillar is fully grown (30-40mm) it will look for somewhere to pupate. This will either be amongst the foliage or in a corner of the container. It then spins a cocoon of silk incorporating some hairs from its body and inside this protective shelter, it pupates. After a couple of days when pupation is completed, the cocoon can be transferred carefully to a glass container with a lid and kept in a cool place. By keeping it in this way, a quick glimpse each day will be sufficient to see if the moth has emerged, this usually happens a few weeks or sometimes months later.

In many species of moths it is not always easy to tell the difference between males and females; not so the Painted Acacia Moth. The male is orange-brown with brightly coloured gold and black hind wings, it has conspicuously large, feathered antennae. The female moth looks very different - she has only tiny, rudimentary wings and enormous abdomen covered in golden-brown hairs. After emergence she scrambles onto the outside of the cocoon and emits a scent called a pheromone from her abdomen, this is detected by the male, sometimes from a large distance away, with his huge feathered antennae. After mating the male flies off leaving the female to lay hundreds of tiny, white eggs on the outside of her cocoon. Shortly after completing this task, she dies, her abdomen deflated and shrunken.

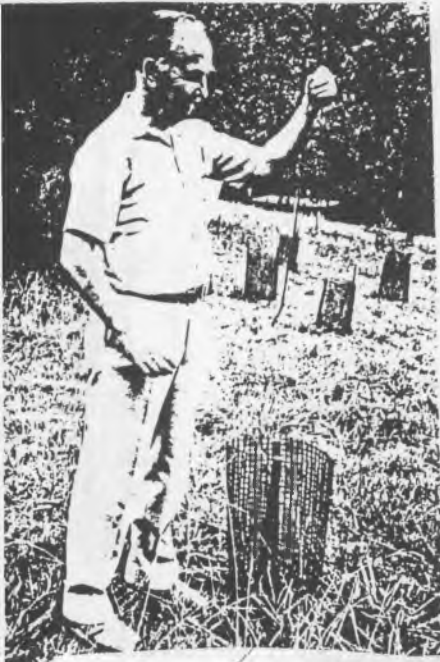
Occasionally neither a male nor a female moth will emerge from the cocoon, instead you may find a large hairy fly or a long thin wasp flying around the glass container - but thats another story.

By Pat Coupar



## Kangaroo Count

Kangaroo Survey was a fantastic success. Friends and the students from Doncaster East Tech, Environmental Studies Group followed Lyndall Ash's beautifully prepared maps and directions settin out (brrrr!) at 7.30am. The groups (five) followed the survey tracks and 120 Grey Kangaroo were counted in the Stane Brae and Common areas in the park. The next survey will follow this excellent plan and each time we do it more valuable data will be gathered.



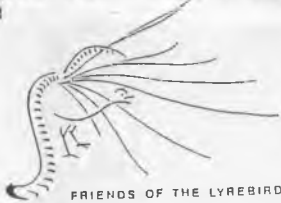
The Friends of Warrandyte State Park are sad to hear of the passing of Keith Thomson. Keith was a Committee member and Treasurer of our Friends group. He involved himself in many activities in the State Park. His considerable talents in his workshop were enthusiastically applied to many projects at the nursery at Pound Bend. We were all aware of his involvement in wood turning, carried out at a truly professional level. Not many of us knew that his achievements were performed in spite of a severe heart condition. Keith was never the complaining type.

He will be greatly missed by 'The Friends', and by many other people in Warrandyte. We extend our deep sympathy to Judy and her family.

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'To love one's friends; to bathe in the sunshine of life; to preserve a right mental attitude,-the receptive attitude, the attitude of gratitude, and do one's work - these make up the sum of an ideal life.'

'Some men succeed by what they know, some by what they do, and just a few by what they are'.



ANNUAL LYREBIRD SURVEY 1990  
KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK

We would like to invite :  
*Friends of Warrandyte State Park*  
.....  
.....

18th of March 1990.

On behalf of the "Friends of the Lyrebird" I would like to invite your Friends Group to participate in our Annual Lyrebird Survey. This will be held overnight on Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th of July 1990. I have enclosed a copy of the Agenda for the two days. If you intend to come there are a few things to bring:

- A Sleeping bag and Air Mattress or Stretcher
- A Compass
- Torch
- Pencil
- Watch and or clock
- B. B. Q. Tea and drinks
- Solid shoes for an evening walk.
- Raincoats, Warm clothing - as it is the coldest time of year

Please notify us if you intend coming so we can ensure a dry roof over your head.

Yours Faithfully,

Different Marg Burke  
(how could there be two?)

*M.Burke*

Margaret Burke

Secretary for "Friends of the Lyrebird"

Phone A.H. 710 1725

Coming Lyrebird Survey and Annual General Meeting

April 7th - Meet at Masons falls 10.00 a.m - general clean up work and revegetation. ( usual friends meet )

The Friends of the Lyrebird meeting will be held at the Education Centre, Park Headquarters at 2.00 p.m. So work as a group will only continue till late lunchtime.

Lyrebird Survey Agenda

Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th of July

- Saturday - 2.00 Friends of Lyrebird Meeting
- 2.30 Meeting to explain and prepare for Survey.
- Afternoon tea
- 4.00 Site Familiarization.
- B Y O Barbeque Tea and informal evening in the Picnic area.
- There will also be a night walk through the Park conducted by the Ranger.
- Early bed for an early rise.
- Sunday - 6.15 Move to Survey Sites
- 7.30 Breakfast.. and tall stories of Lyrebird Rituals
- Please bring \$ 1.00 per person for Breakfast provided by Friends.

If you would like to attend this Survey please phone in advance so we know the numbers attending and can forward you with a tape to familiarize yourself with the Lyrebirds calls.

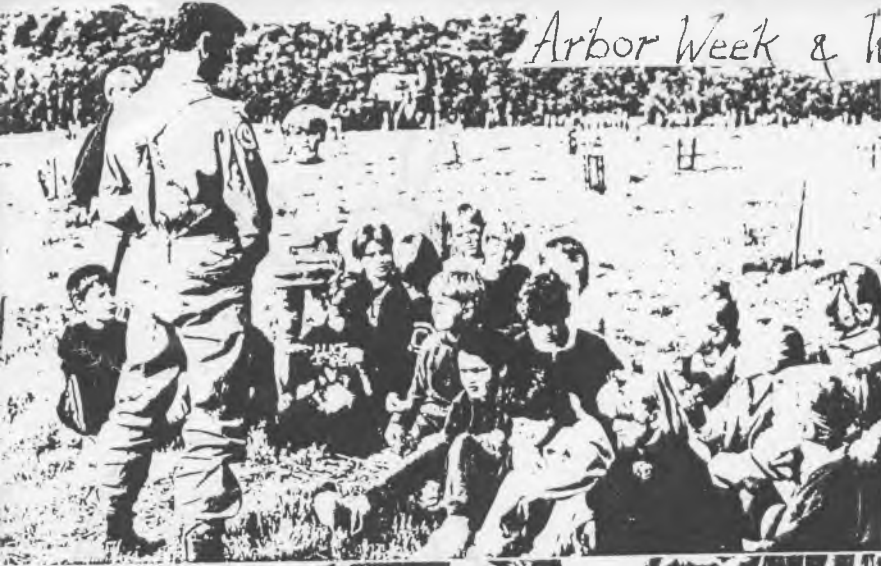
Please ring either Myself - Margaret Burke on 710 1725 or Lawrie Rigg on 434 6685 by no later than the 22nd June.

This Survey was instigated by the Friends of Kinglake National Park and the Rangers in 1988 in response to increasing pressure on the Lyrebird populations in the park. The Survey will provide valuable information which could not be otherwise available, if not for the help of enthusiastic volunteers. It is both this and an enjoyable social occasion.

Those Fowspians involved in last months Friday/Sunday Family activities will understand why Ian Roche announced he felt it to have been the best prepared and most successful activity we have ever organised. The spirit of Skip Moyle must have glowed as we enjoyed the Coupars wonderfully well prepared slide show which involved all the Fowspianmites as well. The log fire glowed, the ghost-fungi was eerily phosphorescent, the "quiz" just within our capacity to get a gold star and the company was environmentally Friendly! We were all fascinated by the specimens and all eager to participate in the Sunday walk. Sunday saw lots of Friends of all ages ready to set out to Blue Tongue Bend. This year was not a good year for Fungi but because we all knew what to look for an amazing number were found- even a ghost fungi. We had a lot of fun naming the Friendly Purple Mushroom (edible) and Possum's Pillows (Oki and Kylie's suggestion) Arriving at Blue Tongue Bend we then cleared and did a grand job of restoring the seats in the old Scout Chapel (the curved stone and concrete amphitheatre style benches were very heavy but Fowspian Might prevailed!) Afternoon tea was a bit later than expected because the Rangers had to save the day and bring in more water. (Marg B. sadly underestimated!). Ranger vehicle carried out all the tools/equipment and our homewards hikers were a bit weary but we all felt we had learnt a great deal and also had performed our task well- and had left the place "fixed up"! In all one hundred Fowspians signed on for the two activities. Our thanks to Pat and Mike Coupar and to Melanie and Ross Coupar who were true "right hand persons!" Special Note..... In the dark on Friday evening Ross Coupar and his torch probably saved the evening as we all went around in circles...Ross hopes that next time we use the Skip Moyle Hut we have NEW arrow signs to point out which tracks to take!

Two  
Treats  
in  
MAY

# Arbor Week & World Environment Week.



There were four Primary Schools involved in planting trees in the park during Arbor week, a total of 1000 students from Anderson's Creek, Wonga Park, Warrandyte and Warrandyte South Primary Schools helped plant 3500 trees which the Friends had propagated.

There were also 200 Girl Guides from Heathmont, Croydon and Ringwood who planted trees at Stane Brae on Environment Day. Well done everybody!!!

You little brats wanted to plant that tree".



Anderson's Creek Primary School Planting trees in the Old Orchard.



Once a teacher, always a teacher.



"Buzz off, can't you see I'm working"

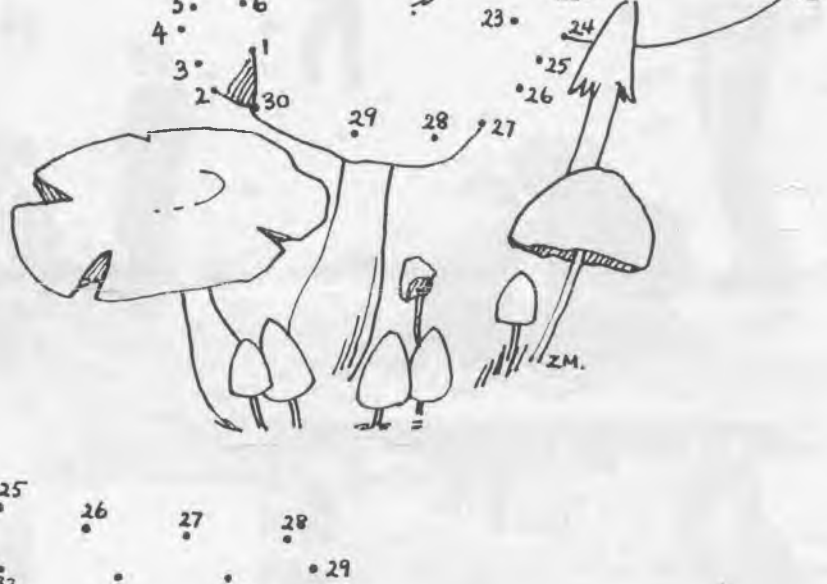
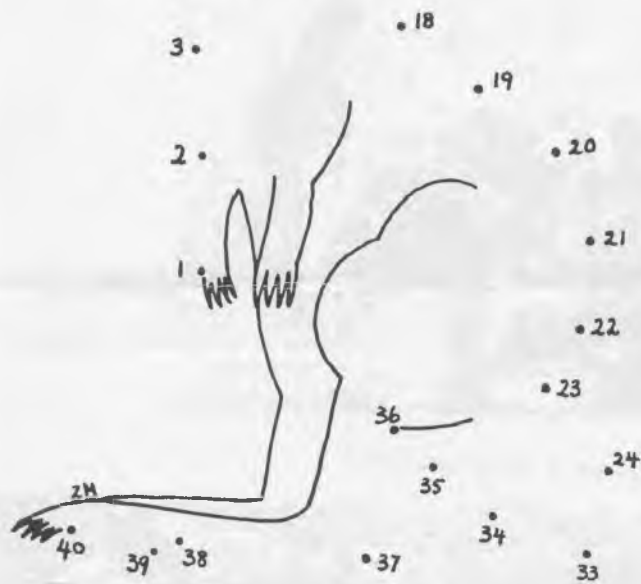
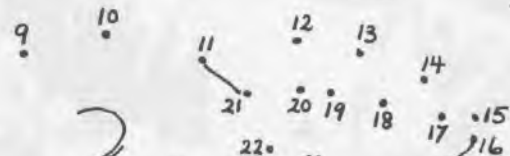
"And this is a shovel"



# Percy Possum's Picture Parade



You can colour Ryans Pictures.



If you have a picture, joke or story for Percy or Penny send it to P.O. 220.

Can you join up all the dots and find what we were searching for last month?

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

Family Members.....

..... P/C .....

Family  
Subscription : \$10.00

PHONE NUMBER.....

I also enclose .....donation.

P.O. Box 220 WARRANDYTE. 3113

# Environment Week.

## Arbor Week

Wonga Park Primary School about to plant trees at Stane Brae.

Go to it kids!!

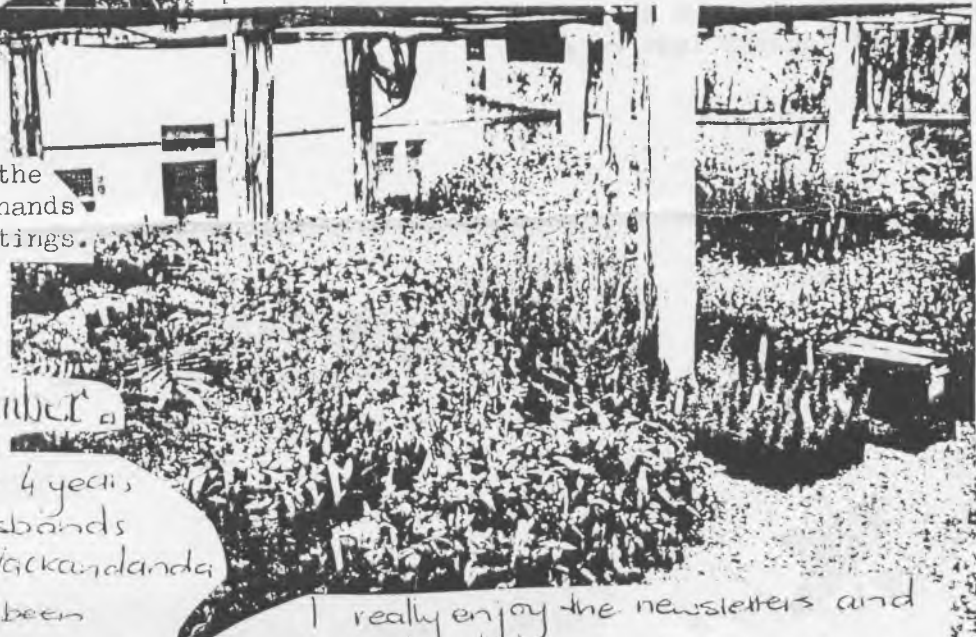
Alec lending a guiding hand.



"Look at all those pots, have we really planted all those"?



All these plants are now out in the park. The Nursery needs lots of hands to grow more for the Spring plantings.



### Letter from an Early Member

We lived in Narrandley for 4 years and then moved with my husband's job to Narragatta - living at Yackandanda and Markwood. As Chris has been transferred back to Melbourne we have just spent a month at Angebera and have finally moved to our house at Kinglake West. Hopefully we will stay here for a while.

I really enjoy the newsletters and hopefully will now meet you as we are closer. There is a friends group in Kinglake so I will join there but I still would like to be a 'newsletter' member of F.O.W.S.P.

Thanking You. Merran (M Weddall)

# The Roche Report.

In High school biology we learnt about the symbiotic relationship where each party receives an essential benefit from the other.

A good example is the Eltham Copper Butterfly and its attendant ants - neither would exist without the other.

Parks do exist without Friends groups but life is usually much easier with them. Their ability to perform tasks otherwise unattainable and their propensity to pass on positive environmental messages within the community, is a major asset in an area so rapidly changing, such as Warrandyte.

In order to achieve successful results both parties must co-operate fully and be fully supportive of each other, hopefully this objective is achieved, Rangers attend Friends activities/functions to assist and advise and learn as required. This is regarded by me as an integral part of the Rangers role.

A Ranger's time has to be spread thinly and cannot cover all areas as we would like but the Friends can also be eyes and ears of the community, reporting, advising and assisting where required.

Another important function of any Ranger's job is to "know the Park", this encouraged at all levels and it is not until this knowledge is learned that effective decisions can be made. All Rangers in this park are actively encouraged to spend as much time as possible in the park doing, learning and interpreting. Still sometimes this is not enough, administrative demands burden all field staff, restricting available field time - we can only hope to achieve balance as with all things environmental.

IAN ROCHE

## Dates for the Calendar

June 24th Sunday Family Meeting...Ivy Pull and History Walk.

Wildcat Gully. Meet Andersons Creek -Gold Memorial Dr.

June 21, 28, July 5th, 12, 19, 26...Nursery/Propagating Pound Bend 10am, all welcome, bring a sandwich. Children with an adult.

Activities at Nursery through School Holidays.

July 7th Market Stall at Stiggants. Check Rosters Volunteers

July 8th Gad's Gang at Stoney Creek Melway 23 C 8 Enq. 844 3799.

July 28th. Sunday Family Meeting....PROPAGATION at the NURSERY.

Children...YABBIE SURVEY.

### COMMITTEE

MARGARET BURKE Co-ordinator 8441060

DOUG SEYMOOR Secretary 8442740

ANNE BEDFORD Asst. Sec. 4383216

GAIL ROCHE 7221926

OLIVE WALTERS 8464729

IAN BURKE..Editor 8441060

Judy THOMSON Treasurer 8441590

MARK GARDNER Group Advisor 8443799

TERRY OAKLEY 8764768

Golden Gum Leaf Award this month goes to Nicky for all her help with that

mechanical monster last week.

P.O. Box 220.  
WARRANDYTE. 3113

