



# FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

## NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1990.

### Editorial

Science provides us with a unique way of describing the world. Its concept is to focus on one aspect of nature, isolating it from all else. Having discovered the workings of each part, they could then be all fitted together to find a comprehensive explanation of the natural world. The idea does not work because we cannot predict the interaction of each small part, and the very act of observing nature changes it, since in order to see it we have to control it, and can never know it as it really is.

Long before the scientific age came along there were people capable of taking a different view of the world, with which few modern environmentalists would disagree. In Canada one, Chief Seattle delivered a speech when preparing to sign a treaty with the white man. Here are just a few of his comments:

"We know the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next one, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land what ever he needs. He kidnaps the land from his children. He does not care!.....

"He treats his mother the earth, and his brother the sky, as things to be bought, plundered and sold like sheep or bright beads. His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert.....

"This we know. The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected. What ever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. What ever he does to the web, he does to himself.....

"The whites too shall pass, perhaps sooner than all other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed , and one night you will suffocate in your own waste!.....

These are profound thoughts and interesting comments about man and nature taken from Chief Seattle's speech delivered in 1854.

Politicians, economists, journalists, etc all seem to have a fragmented approach to problems environmental (and most other matters as well).

They are acutely focussed in the present, with no time to consider the past, but confident about predictions for the future. Just as well our memories of these are short, so few of them come true.

Some of the most important issues in the environment are decided by our politicians, so it is necessary that we keep our views constantly to their notice. Our quite new (perhaps not green!) federal Minister for the Environment recently stated "I am sick to death of the green credentials of the government being questioned."

Kermut could have made her realize ... it's not easy being green .....

The world is a looking glass and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it and it will turn and look sourly upon you; Laugh at it and with it, and it will be a jolly kind companion

William Thackeray .

Men and nations can only be reformed in their youth; they become incorrigible as they grow old.

Rousseau

Search thy own heart; what paineth thee in others in thyself may be.

John Greenleaf Whittier.

## Sunday Family Meeting B.B.Q. & Concert

Sunday Family Meeting.....NOT TO BE MISSED.....26th AUGUST.

WHERE.....Blacks Flat.....SKIP MOYLE HUT.....Gate will be open.

Task will be to clear around the old Rangers office (previously an old scout hut- now venue for our slide nights and concerts.) We will also fix the floor, veranda and steps if possible. Lots of weeds and excess scrub has encroached on the building.....Some removal. Bring gloves, some tools-2pronged weeders etc. Rangers will provide most tools and will guide our endeavours. We hope to assess the overall repairs necessary (the hut has suffered some vandalism) and approach local service clubs with the Skip Moyle Hut Project. Seed and plant propagation material will be assessed also.

AND AFTERWARDS.....B.B.Q. TEA FOLLOWED BY A CONCERT IN THE HUT.

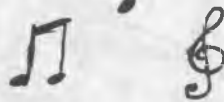
LOG FIRE ROARING, PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS GREG & JOY HILDEBRAND

WILL HELP US TO HEAR THE MAGIC OF THE EVENING, THE BUSH.

ARE THERE FAIRIES IN BLACKS FLAT?????????

BRING A CUSHION OR CHAIR....APLATE TO SHARE

LISTS HAVE A MARVELLOUS MUSICAL TREAT.



# July Propagators & Company!

Wonderful meeting last month. How many superlatives are there to describe it all, and how can we mention all the folk who made it so successful?

We had 70 members involved.....all divided up into groups and so much was achieved and learnt. The Friends were spread all around the Depot, Nursery, Folly site, dam area and out into the Orchard.

Main task etc. was Propagation and Nursery Maintenance. We had Olive Walters in charge of teaching people the general tasks of preparing pots, soil, and labelling...The propagators then graduated to pricking out our tiny seedlings and the cuttings "ready". Pat Coupar spoke to groups, teaching them the various methods of treating and sowing seeds. Mark Gardner had other groups making cuttings (which I might add are well rooted and ready to pot up!) Margaret Burke organised a transplant of Dichondra after "preparation" of the site (weeding- using an awful variety of bits and pieces of metal for tools!) The care we take with labelling and dating plants to make sure we put the correct things into reveg. sites seemed to become clear. The soil/potting mix was all used up which shows just how much work was done.

Nursery was transformed at the same time.....Tim Bedford and the Riddell Brothers organised the resurfacing of the COMPLETE area- not only the shade house but the work area as well. Amazing and we lost track of the barrow loads of screenings moved.

Ian Burke explained to Bill White that some old damaged "Undamageable" furniture needed attention. Well Bill knew just how to manage that problem and we now have all the tables and chairs near the Folly in as new condition. Don't know about Ian and Bill though- the timber had all been Red Gum and Jarrah and they looked a little worn!

The Yabby survey was a great success. The count was 75 yabbies- a large number for winter. Ross Coupar was there very early to "train" newcomers. Lucky as plenty of enthusiastic first timers (some adult) arrived as soon as lunch was over. The Seymour boys also proved indispensable as usual helping the Fowspianmites.

The Damper Makers Gossip Group put in many hours of toil! And of course we all enjoyed cooking our damper on sticks.

The Sunday saw several visitors and several "Never Before" families join in and we can pronounce it a GREAT SUNDAY. Hope all have been thanked- simply too many people to give out Golden Gum Leaf Awards.

## Townscape Working Bee

Margaret Burke

On the 23rd. of September The Townscape Committee and the Friends are having a working bee at the riverbank area opposite the Grand Hotel Yarra Street. We will be clearing, weeding, planting some of the plants from the Friends Nursery and some from the C.O.D.A.T. Nursery. Fantastic that this kind of co-operation is at last happening and Jane Marriot from the Planning Dept. is very keen to see this as a BEGINNING. She, Val Polley and perhaps many of the other members of council will help us to have a great day. Friends Damper on Sticks Brigade will be there to help with sustenance....Billy tea as well. TIME 1pm. Sunday 23rd. September 1990.

## Olive takes the Floor

Olive Walters gave a paper on FOWSP at the recent Open Spaces Strategy Workshop given by the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. We thought it was worthwhile printing the first part to remind members of our stated concerns and objectives. The unabridged version will be available at the Market Stall so call in for your copy as the rest of the article goes on to look at how well we doing at meeting these objectives - its impressive how close we get!

Friends of Warrandyte State Park are a group - quite a large group - of people from many parts of Melbourne and many walks of life - some old, some young and many in between - but all interested in the out-door environment provided by the Park.

The stated objectives of the "friends" or "FOWSPIANS" as we call ourselves are as follows:

1. To provide support for and to foster public awareness of the Park.
2. To assist in the development of the Park with special projects as agreed with the Ranger-in-Charge.
3. To bring together and to provide a forum for people with a mutual interest in the Park.
4. To arrange outings and activities for education and enjoyment of members.
5. To support the effective management of flora and fauna in Victoria.

Among our concerns are:

1. Conservation of natural bushland.
2. Removal of invasive plants and weeds from bushland and roadsides.
3. Regeneration of spoiled or formerly formed areas with plants indigenous to those sites.
4. The encroachment of urban development on Park areas.
5. The protection of fauna in the Park and the preservation of corridors of native, natural vegetation for the safe movement of these animals.

# Hot House Gossip, Cold Things

## Hot House Gossip

The Propagation Thursday group ask that all members help to collect polystyrene "Greengrocers Boxes". We use these to contain and "corral" our plants in pots. The boxes are able to be recycled in a very positive "green" way. Also required are plant labels. Don't worry if they are already written on as we have ways and means of "dealing" with them. Drop in to the depot nursery or to the Market Stall. Will be seeking other recyclables...WATCH THIS SPOT!

Folly is progressing. The site was surveyed and pegged by Tim Bedford then we organised the drilling of the post holes. We are seeking some quotes for the roof construction but will be having some extra work days later to do the "easy(?)" labour intensive tasks. If you are an "expert" on mudbrick walls or brick paving contact Ian Burke or Alec Manson.

Market Stall roster got a bit messed up last month...If you can organise a substitute for your time slot...fine...or ring Marg or Gail. We hope to tidy up both the "act" and the stall and are seeking some refinements....like a Market umbrella and havemadepositive steps to replace Marg and Ians old Beach Model which has a terminal condition! Folks who wish to join the roster...one hour at the market WITH an experienced hand as companion....Phone or see Marg or Gail.....DON'T BE SHY..... (644 1060 or 722 1926)

We thank Terry Oakley for his help over the last two years as committee member. His activities with other committees and with local groups has demanded much of his time so he has felt he must resign from the F.O.W.S.P. committee.

Many thanks Terry and well remember offers of future assistance!

Nursery seems a little depleted of regulars at present of a Thursday. Several have gone on trips (to escape?) and we have go many jobs to do....our plants need you! Jobs for all ages and levels of experience, children are welcome with an adult, and of course get a job! Lots of construction/renovating of the nursery buildings to do....also lots of planting around the sites. Bring lunch and go home with that "inner glow of achievement"....you will get plenty of laughs!

OUR OWN RANGER

Ranger David Von Bokel has been a great inspiration to the propagators and nursery labourers - particularly of late. Always keen and interested in what we do etc, he has been able to provide both guidance and material for division to allow us to develop skills propagating grasses and sedges which we had not tried. We will be able to provide plants exactly right for several critical revegetation areas. We give him a Golden Gum Leaf award for going without lunch several times of late to help at the Nursery. Ian Roche tells me that he has his blessing to squeeze us in - in a more "official" way from now on.

The Park has been very short staffed of late. Illness, courses and annual leave has seen the staff very "thin on the ground". We are aware of these difficulties and welcome the Roches back from Queensland with open arms....NO GAIL...MICK DOESN'T WANT TO MOVE NORTH!

Big news....a certain Ben Gotlib, long term member, activist/nonactivist and \*\*\*\*\* has promised ON THE OCCASION OF HIS NEXT BIRTHDAY to shave of his famous beard...and possibly ...gasp...his moustache! We await the big day. What will he really look like....?????????

We have a copy of the final really trully copy of the Warrandyte State Park Management Plan and feel free to ask for a look. Now we hope for a starting date, money, and staff for its implementation.

We reprint here the copies of the replies to Darryl Cox Letter to the D&T News Editor. (It caused a stir because he was standing against Louise Joy in council elections - Mr. Cox seemed like the last kind of rep. W'dyde needed)

Progress with Mr Barnes and the illegal clearing at Lot 3b Nelson Rd is spasmodic. We hope the plans for enforcing long term revegetation are becoming more acceptable. We fear that it all goes on and on to little effect though. The grape vine tells that our respected local botanist David Cameron had a hand in the "landscaping/reeveg. plans- trouble was somehow the final report which he produced had lots of blanked out para.s- much of Davids recommendation seems to have been "impossible"....Contrary to gossip we do not want "blood" we just wish to see the enforced restoration of that critical corridor for wildlife etc. We feel sure that a bond and caveat on the title could see this a long term solution. We wish to make sure that the efforts of ourselves and other concerned groups are not for nothing.

Two regulars and families are off overseas at present. Oh no-one is indispensable we cry..... BUT Olive Walters and the Seymour Family are hard to do without.....So if you have been a little "tardy" of late, just hop back into action!

Do we have any Poets around? Joan Ragg wrote a wonderful piece last year. How about a few lines from the membership. Would love a cheery little rhyme or two.....Come on.

And were are all the letters to the Editor?

Casual vacancies to the committee have occurred and these have been filled- after a little "subtle" persuasion by Gay Harris and Alexander Manson. These appointments will be ratified at the next committee meeting. Gay is of course already Social Secretary, and Alec "works supervisor" (or whatever!) Thank you both for your enthusiasm.

Now speaking of the Social Sec. Gay will investigate liason with other local groups for our "cultural enlightenment and general community togetherness" (wow!). We hope to havemany more occasions like the recent Musical Evening at the Mechanics Institute. Be watching.....

We hope to see lots of people at our concert on Sunday (not to mention at the working bee) Greg and Joy have been members for over two years but can hardly ever make weekend meetings because of their commitments as performers. If you attended the A.G.M. you will remember the wonderful concert we all enjoyed. This is their way of "being involved members" as they feel a great concern for the environment and the issues we deal with. Several other musicians have also been invited and will join the performance.....Magic indeed.....

The newsletter is really a celebration of a magnificent showing of Clematis microphylla this year -it "ices the bushland" every where. Take a close look at the delicacy of the flowers. We have some to give members at the market stall.

Kelvin Davies, a Construction and Maintenance (C&M) worker, Grade 3, was born in Richmond (and hates football?). After Greenwood Primary (Bundoora) he went to Macleod Technical School where he completed Year 11. His first job was at a Garden Centre and since then has had lots of other jobs in the gardening, horticultural area, even worked for the Shire of Diamond Valley.

Of course, in his twenty-three years it would have been difficult to gain an enormous range of experience, however Kelvin's interests include environmental issues - is in the RAINFOREST ACTION GROUP, Diamond Valley branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation (A.C.F.) and has even had some experience with FOWSP (an undefined mysterious organization!).

Kelvin enjoys camping out and is also involved with voluntary groups which act to protect the environment. One secret, pried out under investigation is his interest in cricket. Kelvin presently plays for the Ivanhoe Cricket Club. His forte is batting. Best score ever was 127 runs, about the year 1987.

The car he has just acquired is a 3 cylinder Suzuki Hatch, definitely not a petrol guzzler. As far as favourite feeds, Kelvin is a semi-vegetarian, (does this mean he eats semis carrying vegetables? (- joke by mystery reporter) and is trying to become a vegetarian because he believes one main cause of the degradation of Australian land (and elsewhere as in the Amazon Basin) is our high demand for beef. Kelvin is also opposed to chicken-battery type farming and feed lot cattle raising (a concentrated area where cattle permanently feed and cannot forage - M.R.). His favourite drink is "water from mountain streams". Hopes (if he can get the holidays) to go to Cape York with friends at Xmas - would like among other things to look at all the varied landscapes of Cape York - forests, beaches, tablelands etc.

Eye colour - brown, rides a pushbike regularly and has two each of brothers and sisters, one of whom is a keen bushwalker. Kelvin's activities during the last week - painted signs, revegetated around Bradley's Lane; "today" is chopping out Cootamundras and Pittosporums down in the Pound Bend area. He enjoys control of environmental weeds.

Kelvin would ultimately like to get into Perm-a-culture, an alternative lifestyle which preserves the best aspects of our planet, and avoids degradation of the Earth. He was recently involved with the Shire of Diamond Valley to ban the use of Rainforest Timbers in all Council projects; Kelvin supplied the pamphlet which the Shire issues to each applicant for a building permit, the information shows realistic substitutes for Rainforest Timbers.

Kelvin likes listening to 3RRR and 3CR, "Earthworm" and "Watching Brief" - 5pm every Monday on 3RRR. Finally, he doesn't smoke, "drink", gamble, works as well with women as men, has all his own teeth and gets around wearing light green overalls.

And so, after another enthralling episode, your mystery reporter signs off .....



SOCIAL  
TOTTINGS

Friends got behind W'dyte Ward council candidate **Louise Joy** on Friday 27 July and organized a table for her fundraising musical soiree held at the **Warrandyte Mechanics Institute**. It was a magical night introduced by Roger Kibell and although there was no time for a full rehearsal, local talent gave of their all and the individual acts coalesced into a musical feast to remember! Repertoire ranged from Gilbert and Sullivan to Vivaldi from Banjo Patterson to Bach but the harmonious tonality of dual celloists Gerry and Jenny Keunemann was probably the highlight of the evening. Don't miss out on the next function to be held in this venue .. watch the newsletter and book seats for our table where we can promise you a good night out. P.S. Louise won the seat and our best wishes go with her to ensure that Warrandyte retains the community uniqueness that make timeless events like this possible.

by 'Butterfly' *Gay Harris*

## FROM ONIONS TO ASPARGUS

Pat ~ y ~ pus Page

What do onions and asparagus have in common, apart from the fact that they are both vegetables? Angled Onion (*Allium triquetrum*) and Smilax Asparagus (*Asparagus asparagoides*) are just two of the major invasive weeds of the Warrandyte State Park. They thrive in the wetter areas particularly where the ground has been disturbed or vegetation removed. The white, bell-shaped flowers of the Angled Onion are just starting to appear, they look quite attractive rather like large snowdrops, but there the resemblance ends, the grass-like leaves have a pungent onion odour which makes this weed an easy one to identify. Smilax Asparagus, also known as Bridal Creeper, grows aggressively at this time of the year. This plant is a tenacious, woody climber, its bright green shiny leaves can easily be distinguished amongst the more subtle tones of the native vegetation, while concealed below the ground the horrific bulbous tubers spread like a mat over the roots of trees and shrubs.

A weed is usually defined as a plant growing where it is not wanted. This rather broad meaning may be interpreted in various ways; agricultural weeds are those that compete with crops, garden weeds compete with flowers, vegetables, Australian natives or any plant that has been grown by choice. As far as the Warrandyte State Park is concerned, any plant that is not indigenous (native) to the area may be termed weed. Weeds may be dispersed in a number of different ways; wind, water and animals especially birds which carry seeds in their droppings and have the potential to spread them far and wide. Seeds are transported in soil on the tyres of our cars and on the soles of our shoes, some, particularly grass seeds hook into our clothing or on to animal fur.

Any cleared area is an open invitation for weeds to become established and this often happens beside roads and tracks. Weeds are adaptable, grow vigorously and outcompete many natives for moisture, nutrients and light, eventually creating unfavourable conditions for the original vegetation and the associated native animals.

Warrandyte has its fair share of weeds or pest plants as they are sometimes called. Many, particularly when in flower, are stunningly beautiful such as the Cootamundra Wattle. This is one of the first to flower, its delicate feathery-grey foliage is almost obscured and the tree nearly weighed down by the magnificent fluffy golden blooms that brighten up even the dullest winters day. But the lovely Cootamundra is a weed. Originally from a small area in New South Wales near Wagga Wagga, it is extensively sold in nurseries and has become an extremely popular garden plant. However, some garden plants have a habit of escaping. Seedlings of this wattle are sprouting up regularly in many areas of the State Park. According to Leon Costermans (Native Trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia), this tree has been known to hybridise with the native Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*). If this is the case then it is cause for concern for here in Warrandyte the Silver Wattle is a common tree especially along the river banks.

So what can we do to prevent this army of weeds advancing further into our native bushland? The "Friends" group, with guidance from the rangers work tirelessly to remove Ivy, Cape Broom, Pittosporum and Pines from the State Park and recent Ivy pulls have shown we are achieving gratifying results. In addition there is much we can do as individuals; we can learn to identify the most troublesome weeds so that we can recognise and where possible remove them from our property, a high priority for any private land adjoining the State Park. We can make friends and neighbours aware of the weed problem and advise and encourage the Bradley method of weeding. This approach favours hand weeding with minimal disturbance, where practicable and working from good areas of native plants towards the weed infested areas. We can dispose of garden rubbish thoughtfully, preferably at an authorised tip.

Horse riders need to be particularly diligent when in the State Park and use only the wide tracks recommended as Bridle Tracks, because horse droppings are yet another source of weedy, pasture grass seed.

Weeds have become a problem ever since the first white settlers came to Australia over 150 years ago, bringing with them seeds of fruits and flowers to remind them of home. Now more and more people are becoming aware of the threat that weeds pose on the natural environment and "Friends" groups are getting together in many areas to join the the battle in the fight against these unwelcome invaders.

Some of the problem weeds of the Warrandyte State Park are listed below with their country of origin. This is by no means a complete list, more detailed information can be found in the Warrandyte State Park Draft Management Plan. There are also several good books available on weeds and how to control them including 'Bringing back the bush' by Joan Bradley.

Smilax Asparagus ( <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> )	South Africa
Angled Onion ( <i>Allium triquetrum</i> )	Mediterranean
Boneseed ( <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> )	South Africa
Blackberries ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> )	Europe
Willows ( <i>Salix</i> spp.)	Europe
Pittosporum ( <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> )	East Gippsland VIC.
Cootamundra Wattle ( <i>Acacia baileyana</i> )	Wagga Wagga NSW.
Monterey Pine ( <i>Pinus radiata</i> )	U.S.A
Cherry Plum ( <i>Prunus</i> spp.)	Europe
Cape Broom ( <i>Genista</i> spp.)	South Africa
Spanish Heath ( <i>Erica lusitanica</i> )	Spain, Portugal
English Ivy ( <i>Hedera helix</i> )	U.K
Japanese Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera japonica</i> )	Japan
Cotoneaster ( <i>Cotoneaster</i> spp.)	Europe
Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> )	Europe
Wandering Jew ( <i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i> )	South America
Various grasses and flat weeds	Many parts of the world.

By Pat Coupar

This page has been repeated as some members missed out on it last month. However, we have added a competition - how many weeds can you identify for the coveted Golden Gumleaf Award?

Can you identify these weeds?

# 'Neat and tidy' road to disaster

DONCASTER AND TEMPL ESTOWE NEWS, Wednesday, August 15, 1990

## Letters to the editor

● Letters should be no more than 250 words. All letters must be signed, with names and addresses clearly written. Phone numbers should be provided where possible. Letters should be typewritten, or clearly written, and letters may be edited for reasons of space.

### Storm in a teacup

HYSTERIA in Warrandyte has hit a new high. A landowner reduces a fire hazard and there is an eruption of comment more befitting the end of the world.

As a member of the council's environmental working party for east of the Mullum Mullum Creek, I was originally concerned with the initial reports of the land clearing as conveyed by Crs Denford and Polley, so much so that I decided to inspect the area for myself.

Having seen the clearing and photographed it, I can tell your readers they have nothing to worry about, except for the attitude of those calling for the landowner's head.

The local member has brought this storm in a teacup before Parliament, the ward councillors are seeking prosecution, the council cannot determine whether it should prosecute or enforce revegetation (of what? The trees are still there).

In the meantime, residents can rest a little easier this summer, with the knowledge that in one part of Warrandyte a potential fire hazard has been lessened by a landowner being neat and tidy.

Daryl W.J. Cox,  
Candidate for  
Warrandyte Ward,  
22/24 Rainbow Valley Rd,  
Park Orchards.

RE: "Storm in a teacup" letter from Daryl W.J. Cox (25/7) on tree clearing in Warrandyte.

The clearing of native vegetation which Mr Cox refers to occurred on a property at the northern end of Nelson Rd, Warrandyte.

The clearing was on very steep slopes and the vegetation which has now been cleared was in 1989 identified in expert reports as being of state botanical significance and regional zoological significance.

The property forms part of a landscape which has been classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). The Warrandyte State Park bounds the property on three sides and the landowner not only cleared vegetation on his own property but within the adjoining state park.

The clearing has resulted in extensive environmental damage due to loss of significant vegetation and habitat for native fauna. It is also likely to lead to considerable erosion of topsoil and spread of weeds into the state park.

These are the facts on what Mr Cox has emotively termed a "storm in a teacup" and a landowner "reducing a fire hazard" and being "neat and tidy".

Glenn Martin,  
Secretary,  
Warrandyte  
Advisory Committee,  
Warrandyte.

### Fire claim obsolete

MR DARYL Cox claims that "hysteria in Warrandyte has hit a new high" over a landowner who has cleared about four hectares of bush held in his custodianship (zoned Landscape Inter-

est A because of its high conservation values) together with about a quarter hectare riverside in the Warrandyte State Park.

I laughed hysterically when reading "there was nothing to worry about" because "the trees are still there" as his photograph shows.

I have photographs of Lot 3B, Nelson Rd, which show the real extent of devastation to our precious bushland.

The statement that "a fire hazard has been lessened by a landowner being neat and tidy" is antiquated.

Mr Cox has misjudged public opinion, especially strong in Warrandyte, that nature conservation has immense practical values. For instance, introduced grassland as it is now growing is about eight times more flammable than native vegetation.

Presently the Friends of Warrandyte State Park is working on the long process of revegetation. We are always available to correct any misunderstanding people may have concerning the values of Warrandyte bushland.

This invitation is of course extended to Mr Cox.

Mike Couper,  
Friends of  
Warrandyte State Park,  
Warrandyte.

### Damage is obvious

HAVING lived in the area most of my life, I know that prior to the clearing, the Nelson Rd site consisted of open forest and shrubland of numerous indigenous species which form a link between the Black Flats and the Jumping Creek State Parks.

When it was cleared the indigenous trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses covering approximately four hectares were destroyed leaving a few isolated strands of young eucalyptus.

The damage is very much evident from the Yarra River as canoeists, bushwalkers and residents would testify.

Having visited the site on a number of occasions and having also taken photographs, it is obvious that it has created a hole in the Warrandyte landscape which cannot totally be restored.

Mr Cox refers to Warrandyte's diverse forests and woodlands on private and public land simply as potential fire hazard, not as a social, biological and cultural asset which most Melburnians let alone Warrandyte residents, value very much.

While his concern for fire prevention is admirable, the notion of indis-

criminate clearing well away from homes is somewhat bizarre.

The Australian natural landscape is beautiful even though it is not "neat and tidy" and the sooner people like Mr Cox realise this, the better for the community as a whole.

I believe that Mr Cox's role in the council's environmental working party should be re-evaluated as it obviously seems to be a negative and ill-informed one.

Certainly, people should move to Warrandyte and Park Orchards for its natural value, not for speculative gain.

Paul Waddell,  
Osborne Rd,  
Warrandyte.

### Paper shows bias

GREEN may not be the favourite color of a newspaper which wraps a few pages of other stuff around its real estate advertisements, but whatever happened to subtlety?

You can't buy publicity like a sympathetic election eve editorial butting on to a unilateral, self-interested espousal of an exclusive cause.

The only thing missing from *The Leader Page* of August 1 was an outright declaration of support for Mr Daryl Cox and his ambition to sub-divide the world.

Mr Cox may by now be a Warrandyte Ward councillor, which would justify your generosity in allowing him space in the letters column to voice his astonishing environment philosophy: that the bulldozing of Warrandyte bushland, including a significant tract of state park, was a commendable contribution to the concept of a bushfire-free Victoria.

You allowed Mr Cox to

get away with that outrage, and let me pre-empt the stock reply by suggesting that space (in the paper) is only as tight as you make it.

Perhaps the *DT News* has lived too long with the developers.

Lee Tindale,  
Browns Rd,  
Warrandyte.

Melanies  
Badge Designs



ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY FRIENDS MEETING  
September 23rd (Sunday) 10.00 am  
Eucalyptus Road, Eltham  
Contact Ranger Stephen Anderson on 844 2659  
for details .....

## WARRANDYTE DIARY

AUGUST '90

# Winter chorus croaks to life

How quickly the seasons change; was it only a few short months ago that the earth was parched and cracked, baked by the scorching sun?

Now shallow depressions have become squelchy bogs filled with water containing a myriad of new life. It is from these intermittent, often murky swamps and from the permanent marshes, that the music of the bush emanates in a chorus of croaks, creaks and honks.

Frogs — those amicable amphibians that are so frequently heard and yet rarely seen. It is frustratingly difficult to locate a calling frog. Even if you approach the sound as stealthily as a tiger stalking its prey, you can advance just so close and then



NATURE  
By PAT COUPAR

silence as the frogs are alerted to your presence. They are experts at detecting the slightest sound or movement.

I have had more success in finding frogs by simply turning over logs and stones around the edges of swampy areas, but always being very careful to return the frogs and replace the logs to their position with as little disturbance as possible. It is in fact

illegal to collect frogs without first obtaining a special permit from the Fisheries and Wildlife Department.

Frogs play an extremely important role in ecological food-chains. Their diet consists of insects, spiders, leeches and countless invertebrates and they in turn are a food source for fish, crustaceans, birds, reptiles and small mammals. They are a particularly favored meal of Red-bellied black snakes, Copper-head, Brown and Tiger snakes, all of which are found in the Warrandyte area.

Many frogs breed during the

cooler months of the year, hence the urgent mating calls of the males that reverberate in the air during winter.

They have a fascinating life-cycle which has engrossed children for many years. There is something rather magical about the way a young aquatic tadpole transforms into an air-breathing adult frog. The hind legs sprout first from tiny swellings or buds, followed in the same way by the forelegs. The long fish-like tail shrinks and finally disappears altogether and the development of the characteristic head with its large bulging eyes, completes the metamorphosis.

Warrandyte has 10 species of frogs, the Brown Toadlet which has been found at Whipstock Gully is locally significant. You might not encounter many of these secretive creatures face to face but it is likely you will hear their throaty croaks at some time or another during winter.

If, like me, you are fascinated by these appealing animals and would like to know more about them, there are several excellent books available in your local libraries.

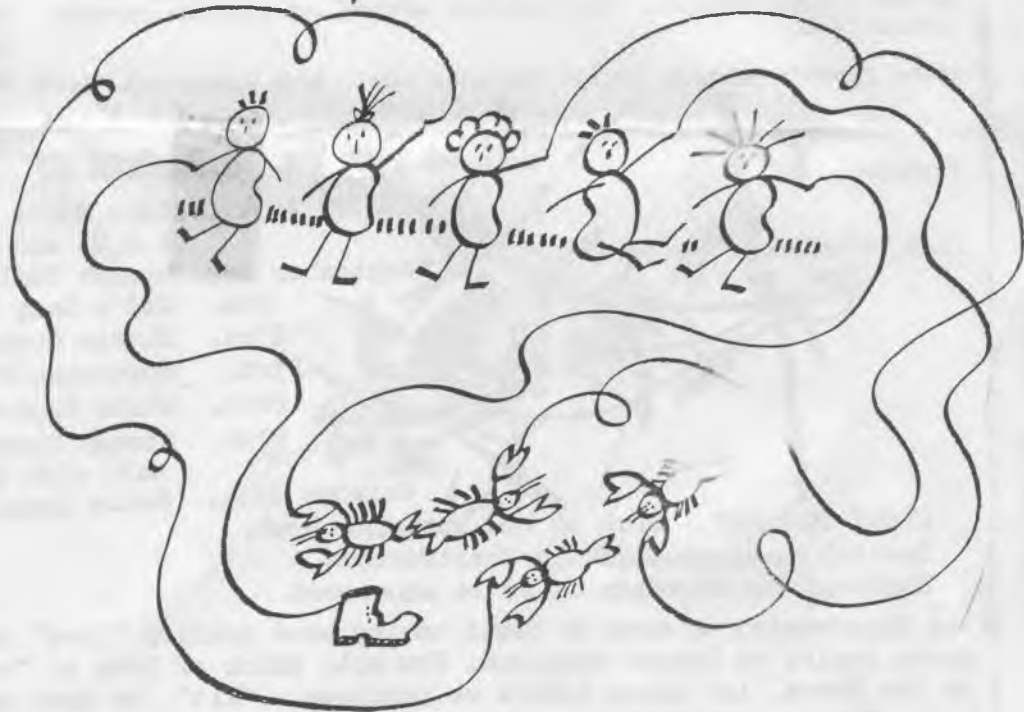
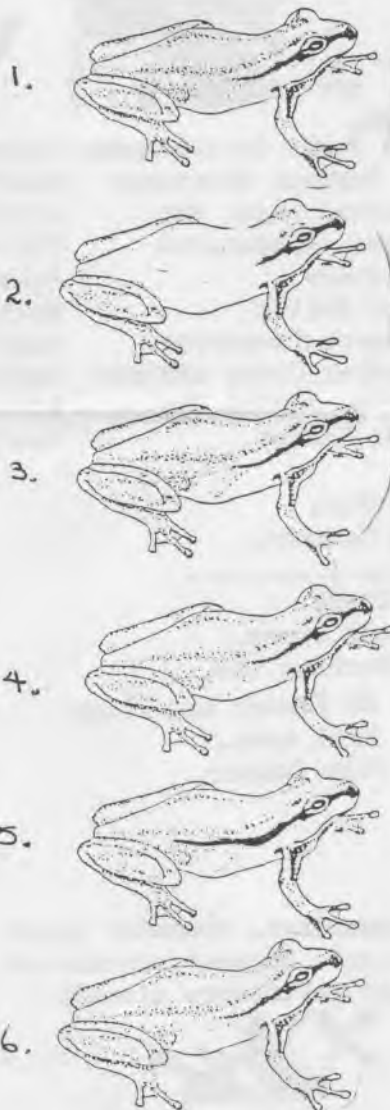
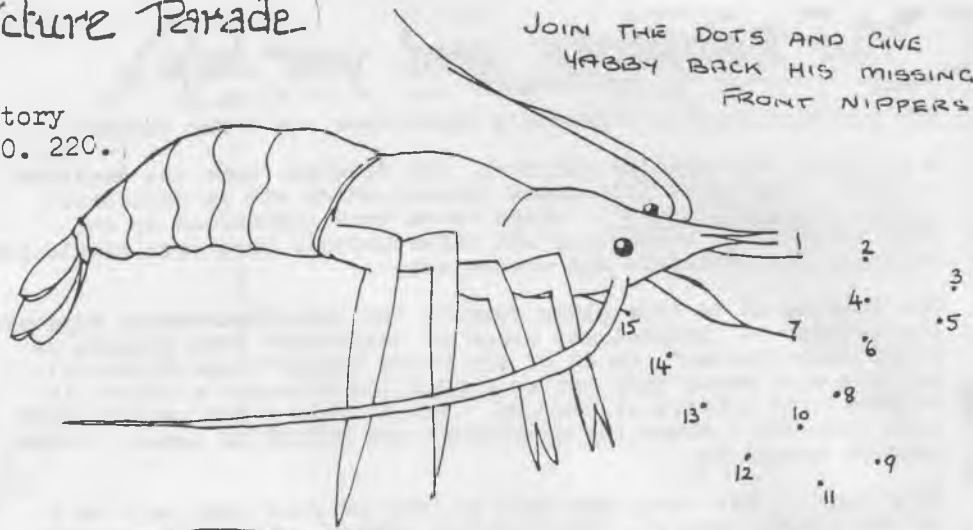


Brown Tree Frog

# Percy Possum's Picture Parade

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

JOIN THE DOTS AND GIVE YABBY BACK HIS MISSING FRONT NIPPERS!



TRACE EACH STRING LINE WITH A DIFFERENT COLOUR TO FIND OUT WHO CAUGHT THE BOOT.

WHICH TWO BROWN TREE FROGS ARE THE SAME?

NOW COLOUR THE PICTURES.

## Handcraft Group

Gail Roche is to begin a group of handcrafters making hand made paper. She has been researching processes, techniques and necessary equipment and is about to call for those interested to form a team. We will produce notelettes, cards and envelopes and sell these at the Market Stall. Shirley Mandemaker has offered to make some designs to make the hand crafted stationary most attractive. If you would like to learn more please contact Gail Roche or the Park Office. Gail....722 1926.

### 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

# Our Rainforests need your help.

Did you know some of Victoria's rainforest are under threat?

A previous Conservation Minister, Kay Setches, made the decision to allow logging of 111 coupes (areas) which are in rainforest "sites of significance". These areas were identified by the department's own scientists who unfortunately have very little power compared the foresters and economists.

The logging is to take place despite the same departments supposed commitment to "protect all areas of rainforest from logging or other disturbances". (p 42 of the State Conservation Strategy). Logging will begin this spring unless the minister's office is flooded with letters of concern. So far only a few letters have been received - these the government can afford to ignor. Large numbers cannot be.

So please, a 41¢ stamp and half an hour of your time will be a valuable contribution. The V.N.P.A. office can provide further information.

Steve Crabb's address is 240 Victoria Pde,, East Melbourne. 3002.

## Committee.

Margaret Burke Co-ordinator 8441060  
 Douglas Seymour Secretary 8442740  
 Anne Bedford Asst. Sec. 4383216  
 Gail Roche Handcrafts 7221926  
 Olive Walters 8464729  
 Ian Burke Editor 8441060  
 Judy Thomson Treasurer 8441590  
 Mark Gardner Group Advisor 8443799  
 Gay Harris Social Sec. 8441448  
 Alexander Manson 8442557

## Dates for the Calendar

Thankyou,

Joan MacMahon.

AUGUST 26th....Skip Moyle / Black Flat  
 B.B.Q. and Evening Concert.  
 September 1st. Market Stall.....  
 9th. Gad's Gang Stoney Creek.  
 23rd. Eltham Copper Friends Group.  
 23rd. Townscape/Friends Working Bee.  
 28th. Slide Night-What's In Flower and Flight  
 30th. Stoney Creek/Prof. Hill area.  
 Walk with Pat and Mike Coupar.  
 October 28th. Koala Count.

EVERY THURSDAY. Work at the Nursery. 10am.

Special Meetings....Folly Construction.

Handcrafting Evenings....To be announced.

For Papermaking we need to begin saving good quality "junk" paper, magazines, computer paper photo copies no longer required. You will think of lots of "recyclables". Biggest expense will be the Press. Any ideas before we purchase a "kit". We have many eager volunteers already.

Time....Evenings of a weekday. Venue.....Park Depot.

MARGARET BURKE  
 BOX 220

