FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE
STATE PARK

NEWSLETTER April 199

Editorial

In April last year we mentioned in the editorial how pleasing it was to endure a long hot summer without bushfires, and how fortunate to receive a grant to build our multi-purpose facility 'The Folly' at Pound Bend. The propagation in our nursery was being expanded and "all was right with the vorld"....... But it is fascinating to contemplate just how unpredictable is the future, both in the long and short term. We had no way of knowing that within a few short months we would be shocked by a terrible war in the Middle Fast, a disastrous series of economic failures in the State of Victoria together with similar events affecting Tasmania and Western Australia. The conservation movement quite quickly took a back seat with the media. But then the major bushfire at Warrandyte made the local residents aware of how fragile and endangered was our own environment. Sometimes we tend to forget the unforseen difficulties that individuals face in their personal lives. Somehow most people with or without help are able to accept and adjust to these unpredictables.

But not everything is doom and gloom. People can see often that bad situations as a challenge and can devise schemes and plans that will not only solve the original problem, but make even greater improvement to the original situation. A no better illustration of this is seen at the time of the bushfire. Trees and plants thought to be dead were saved by the extra efforts of the members so that hardly any plants were lost. People outside the Friends group responded to our requests for help. Local councils provided money and materials in a prompt and generous manner, Many members included donations when paying their membership dues. The Ranger staff at the depot provided us with valuable advice and help to get the nursery back into action again.

There was a commonly held opinion after World War I that the world needed to have natural disasters and wars to revive interest in science, the arts and personal endeavour and stimulate ideas for the future. But primarily it was used as a justification for wars. Things were very different then as the industrial revolution escalated. Nobody in the western world thought about consumers, population problems and food supplies for the world.

Hopefully an increasing number of people see that there is a need to have plans for the future. A lot of citizens in this society seem to prefer to live in 'a hydrocarbon crazy isolation' with no thought for future generations. It reminds one of the man who jumped from the top of a skyscraper. As he passed the 17th. floor a guy leaned out a window and said," How are you doing?....
The man's reply, "So far so good! ".......

Although futuristic projections are fraught with inaccuracies, we do need to do some planning to conserve the finite resources of the Earth.

"Will we devote our abilities and our energy to further short term material wellbeing, or will we commit ourselves to Life on Earth."

Robyn Williams. (Science Show)

"Let us all take warning, and not begin to prophesy until after the event."

Elbert Hubbard.

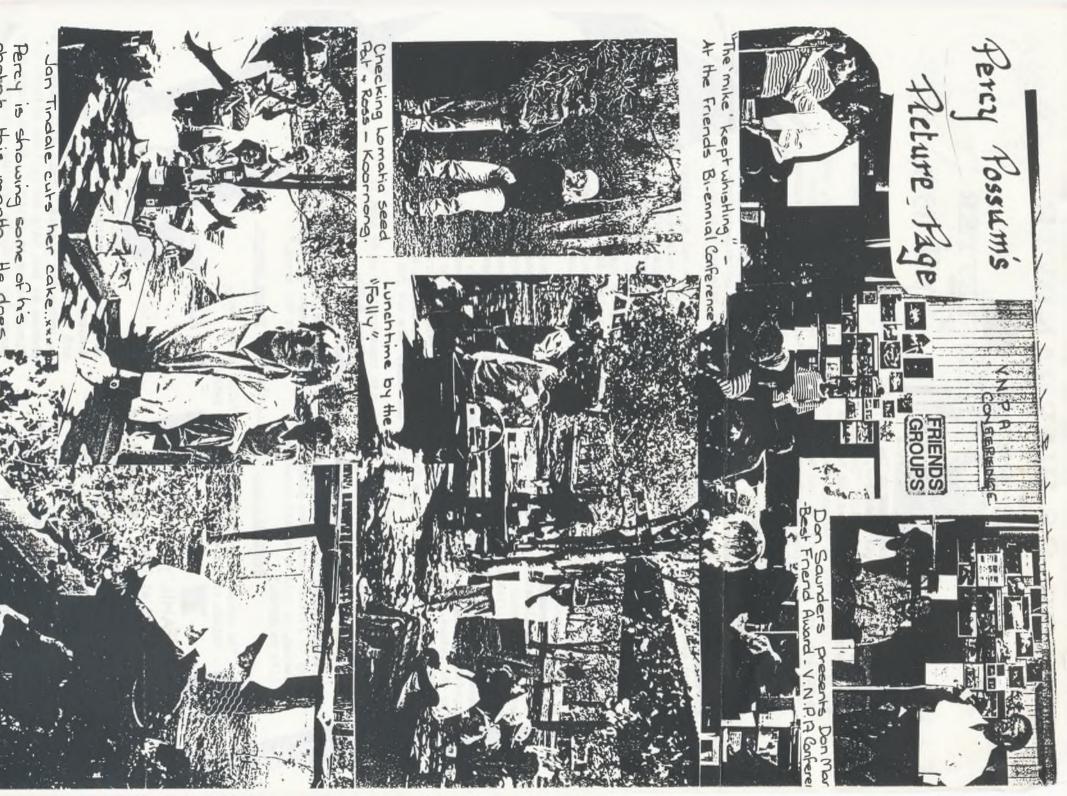
"An optomist is a mam who when he falls in the soup, thinks of himself as being in the swim."

SUNDAY FAMILY MEETING

- Sunday, April 28 at 1 pm
Meet at the Skip Moyle Hut. The activities
will divide between work on repairing,
re-lining and restoring the hut, which has
already been the venue for many enjoyable
evenings, The alternative activity will be
our first big plant-up for '91, putting in
many new plants into the cleared area next
to the walking track. This will be a
wonderful opportunity to brush up on your
"Indigidytes".

Elbert Hubbard.

Pat Coupar will be on hand to give you a mini-'Plant Identification Seminar' and the rangers will be bringing and operating a portable pump and firehose to water the plants. This will give us a chance to see this marvellous adjunct to firefighting in action. Bring along some snags for an early evening barbeque.



COMMUNITY CENTRE PLANTING.

COMMUNITY HOUSE PLANTING - Those of you that stayed on in the sweltering heat after the ivy pull would've remembered Bev Hansen's talk on her landscaping plans for the wonderful new community centre. There had been great public support for a change in the landscaping plans and now Bev has asked for the Friends group to assist her in the planting out stage, with plants from our very own Nursery. The first planting will be held on Sunday May 5 and all are asked to bring their the indigeneous plantingt the new centre friends and neighbours along to begin Please bring along your own tools as most of ours were burnt in the fire, as you know. Harry Heaths, our local purveyors of fine food, will be providing drinks and refreshments but do bring along a plate to share for afternoon tea.

We look forward to seeing you at the Community Centre in Yarra Street at 1 p.m.

gad's gang latest Sunday 14 April saw five plus kids, keen weeders all. and one new member at Stoney Creek. Work done included lifting of thistle CADS CANC rosettes and a broom and blackberry pull, as well as some follow-up work. The areas worked to date are looking particularly good and I'm confident that the project is more viable now than ever, so let's keep up the good work!

> Next May 12th. All Mother's Welcome

WALK

Walk talk and gawk by the Vict. National Parks Assn. Following a briefing by Margaret Burke and Doug Cordell in Pound Bend a group from VPNA led by Geoff Durham set out on a tour of several local Warrandyte State Park areas of interest. Pound Bend history was absorbed as we wandered along the river bank there - onto to Black-flat, strolling around the loop while marvelling at the old tree pre-dating European settlement. It has only recently died. There was fencing wire embedded in one side used by an early settler. An extensive mine tunnel had caved in covering the rail cars and tracks still in situ. Just prior to the collapse the miners had thankfully left for the day. Surrounding a raised area a worn circular track indicated the site of a puddling system worked by a poor old horse ceaselessly plodding around it. On arrival at the picnic spot near the river for lunch two of our party were missing. Another walker raced up to tell us that these two had taken another track and would walk onto our next destination - Jumping Creek Reserve. At the picnic area Geoff pointed out that the farrows were evidence of an old orchard. The new beach at Sandy Bay was duly admired and hiking onto Blue Tongue Bend we saw the remains of an old bridge and mine shaft entrance on the opposite bank. Much interest was shown in the Boy Scout chapel and on the return trip we inspected a lerp - a small insect exuding a sweet, sticky covering prized by bellbirds which apparently farm them. This is said to be one of the causes of tree destruction as they aggressively drive off any other insect-eating birds in their territory. At Sandy Bay we broke up after an informative 4 hours. - Shirley M.

HOT HOUSE

Seed collection has been slowing as the Autumn sees most shed their precious cargo. However the Eucs. are their with seed "on high". Soon we will be seen with our long handled pruner treading the trails in search of "gum-nut babies". Walks on Thursday each week.

Well Pat has told all in the "hot gossip" line this month. Gretna does still seem to be talking to me after last month...the proof reader must have been asleep Gretna. XXX The Folly and Skip Moyle Hut are getting lots of attention and work. We hope to use S.M. lots

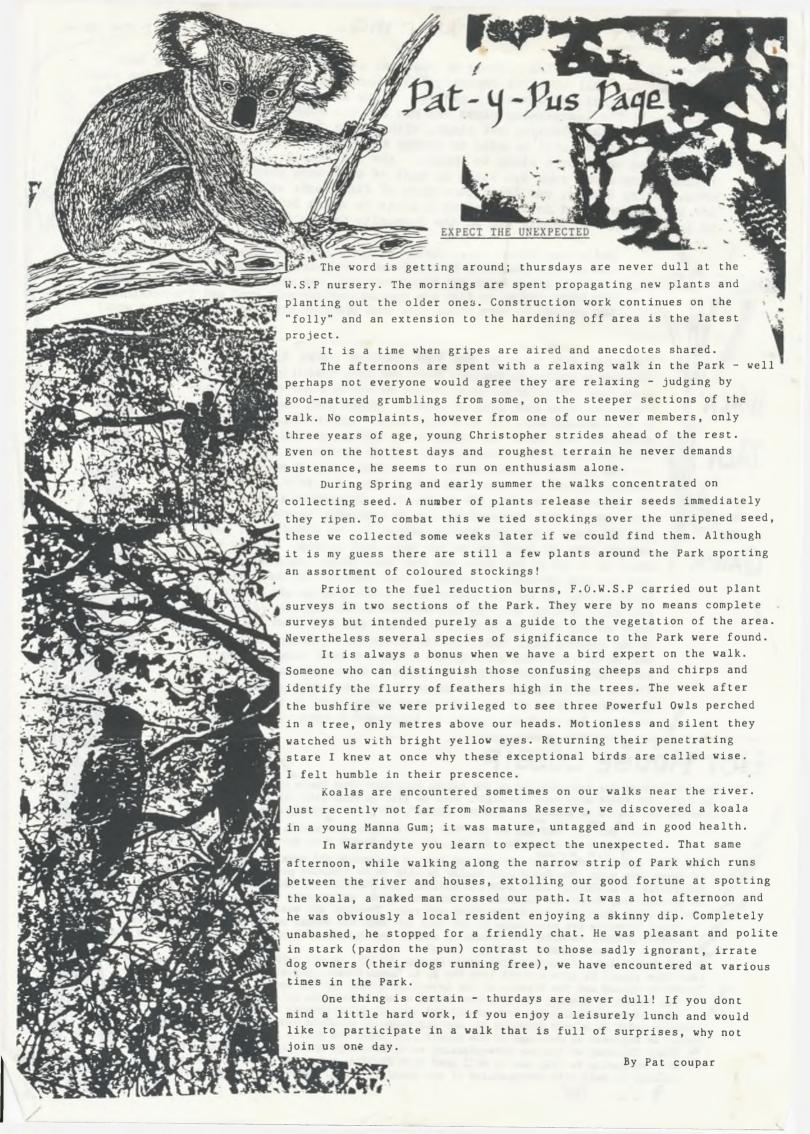
of times this year. The Folly will really be able to be finished properly...WE HAVE BEEN THE RECIPIENTS OF A FURTHER GRANT FROM THE MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND URBAN GROWTH....\$3000..... So the building committee planners and workers are off and running to get a cosy shelter and meeting place ready for the winter winds and rain. Thankyou who ever kept it from the flames. Local Councils are responding to our call for help and mutual support after our loss of

rabbit guards. We offer our labour to remove tree guards (a very labour intensive task) in return for said guards. Any other ideas?

We are having lots of contact from other Groups. As well as the walk around Bend of Islesetc (see this issue) We have a visit from the F. O. Organ Pipes...August 4th. A visit to French Island in Spring and the Friends of the Lyre-bird Survey for the brave.

The number of members who have been moved to add a donation to subs is really heartening Some is specifically for tree guards and some is going towards Publication funds. Wildlife watch is slowly catching on. Any sightings of wildlife (excluding human variety) should be reported at meetings or the market...or phone the office 844 2659.

Every Thursday we include Tree-planting as an activity. Soon the local school children will be coming to help and we will need much FOWSPian help. Any other groups are most welcome to help with revegetation of our bushfire plain... Wagners Orchard! Just come.



STOP PRESS

F.O.W.S.P are in the process of writing a book tentatively titled "Discovering Warrandyte". Over the last couple of months a book committee has been planning the content of the book, its cost and potential funding. Members of the committee are:-

David Van Bockel
Margaret & Ian Burke
Pat & mike Coupar
Zoe Murphy
Ian Roche
Jan Tindale
Gretna Weste

Each have agreed to write on specific topics such as natural history, conservation, Park regulations, role of F.O.W.S.P etc. In addition Bruce Bence has kindly agreed to write a chapter on the history of Warrandyte and Cecliy Falkingham has offered to help us out with information on birds.

We have made a very enthusiastic start and will soon be at the stage where we require someone with word processing skills. Unfortunately no one on the committee has these skills. If there is $\frac{\text{ANYONE}}{\text{Either contact Pat Coupar}} \text{ who feels they could help us out could they } \frac{\text{PLEASE}}{\text{Either contact Pat Coupar}} \text{ 844 1650 or Marg Burke} \text{ 844 1060}$

Fascinating Facts

Cable Railways and Seeds.

m Hora Acacia Implexa in bloom.

From somewhere in my dim past I recall being instructed that to proceed from the known to the unknown is an effective teaching method.

So come along with me on this cable railway track to learn something of wattle seeds.

Cable railways are also known as funicular railways ie they are worked by a cable or rope. The Latin for rope is funi. Thus, the adjective funicular describes something which depends on a rope.

Now we are ready to step lightly from funicular railways to seeds because a funicle is the supporting attachment of a seed.

Now, if you are sufficiently inspired to observe a funicle what better seed than that of Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood) and Acacia implexa (Lightwood)?

A. melanoxylom. A

You will be delighted to see that herein lies yet another difference between the two species.

In Acacia implexa, the funicle is folded under the seed. In Acacia melanoxylon, the funicle encircles the seed.

Thanks to Gretna, for it was she who drew my attention to funicles and also to the fact that the silver foliage of Acacia dealbata inspired its name.

And now to introduce two more plants and their fascinating facts...

Billardiera scandens (Common Apple-berry) and

Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria) ... both of which belong to the Pittosporum family.

You know the Pittosporum family because you have removed Sweet Pittosporum from many a Flora Reserve

Billardiera was named after the French botanist Labillardiere and scandens derives from scandent which means climbing.

Bursa means a purse. You all know that the Bursar is the Treasurer --- he/she who "holds the purse strings"

Thus Bursaria because of its abundant small brown purse-like fruits.

And spinosa well that means spiny.

Some Bursarias are more "spinosa" than others.

A Difficult Issue.

Ian Roche wrote this article at my request. As a Friend who is also a dog owner I feel all of us could learn much from this clear and informative article. The rangers are facing a great deal of hostility over the NO DOGS IN PARK issue and we ask you to show your supporta mail campaign from the "Dog Lobby" could be counterbalanced by well informed Friends putting pen to paper. All those who walk with us on Thursdays will know just how often we encounter dogs OFF leads...followed by an owner with lead in hand. These folk only leash their animals at the park gate to walk home very often it seems. Still the issue that the WILDLIFE in the last fragile remnants of habitat must be protected. Scent of the most docile and well leashed pets lead other dogs to "invade".....and roaming dogs still exist to follow those alluring trails of urine scent. Our own "Jasmine" has her territory and this is not Warrandyte State Park!

Several of our Rangers have suffered assault when attempting to politely enforce regulation AND

Please read Ian's article, consider it carefully and feel free to express your views.

aborg and Buke

DOGS AND WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

The issue of prohibiting dogs in the Park touches most residents in Warrandyte directly or indirectly. They will be either outraged as responsible dog owners that they cannot any longer take their pet into parts of the park or applauding the foresight of the Dept. of C & E for the stand on their long term protection of the Natural Values of Warrandyte State Park.

I have attempted below to weigh up the arguments for and against dogs in the park. It is not without bias totally, however it is as fairly represented as I can portray it.

The Park regulation banning dogs from 4th Hill, The Timber Reserve, The Common and Pound Bend came into being from 1/4/91, it was not arrived at without a great deal of consideration, consultation and research.

This Department is charged with the long term protection of the remnant vegetation and wildlfe in Warrandyte State Park, it also desires to encourage the sensitive use of the Park by all visitors.

We contend that although unpopular now, in the long term this restriction will enhance all peoples enjoyment and pride in their park.

COMMON GROUND

- 1. A general recognition of the Natural beauty of the park.
- 2. A desire to cause no disturbance to Wildlife eitherhort or long term.
- 3. A desire to encourage the community to use the park sensitively.
- 4. A recognition that dogs off leads are a threat to all park users and inhabtants.

Ian Roche

Not enough consultation

This was the first Management Plan officer. Consultation consisted of Public meetings, a community letter drop, as much publicity as possible in television and papers, a gala launch of the draft plan, and a 12 month period for people to comment on the draft plan. No comments for dogs in parks were received.

Misleading consultatio n i.e. At Public meetings only dogs off leads were discussed as problems not dogs on leads.

My dog on a lead cannot and will not harm wildlife.

I always walk my dog on a lead and so does everyone else that I see in the Park.

It's too dangerous to walk alone in the park without the protection of my dog.

My dogs presence deters firebugs and vandals.

All C & E employee's hate dogs

to ever employ a community consultatio

At Public meetings dogs running free were agreed to be a problem and should be controlled.

Dogs on leads are less likely to harm wildlife directly, however their olfactory senses are highly sensitive. They mark new territory by leaving their scent (Urine) everywhere, this in turn is an attractant to other dogs (wandering) not on leads to enter the park.

Hotly disputed by all Park Rangers, the reverse is the fact, very few dog owners have co-operated with the old dogs on leads policy.

Statistically this statement is totally unfounded. The only assaults in W.S.P. have been committed on Rangers male & female by dog owners over not having their dogs on leads. One murder had occurred - Drug related. It's only too dangerous for Rangers not the community!!! This park has a far higher degree of safety for users as the Managers have a high degree of visability than other areas not patrolled by Rangers. We cannot of course quarantee anyones safety but neither can a dog walker.

The human presence may deter these activities more particularly Ranger patrols, walkers presence may disturb some of these activities, however dogs cannot recognise offenders and should not be used to restrain them.

A statement made in ignorance and desperation. Rangers have a healthy respect for all life. We do However see a great deal of the negative impacts of dogs on our native wildlife therefore we we must do all in our power to protect them, and can assure dog owners that dogs are capable of wildlife destruction.

I've been walking my dog for years now in the Park, why should I change now it's my personal right.

My dog wouldn't/couldn't harm anything.

If dogs are banned from the park for conservation reasons why are horses still permitted.

There are lots of other non indigenous animals in the park like foxes, cats, rabbits, what are you doing about them and why pick on dogs.

There is no where left that I can walk my dog!

There's no wildlife in 4th Hill to protect anyway.

People in this position are extremely for tunate to have had the opportunity to do so, they have had a privilege that has contributed to the gradual destruction of Melbournes closest native wildlife.

Every dog owner will state this, however a Ranger cannot make the same distinction not having lived with an animal for several years. The same rules must be applied to all. A Magistrate at the Heidleberg court when summing up a dog offence case said, "every dog owner that comes before me claims their dog has never hurt anyone before yet here you are in court."

Horses are restricted to through routes within some parks. They are prohibited from most other reserve; We are constantly monitoring their impact and will review their use of the park should impact prove to be excessively detrimental.

This park is committed to the improvement of wildlife habitat by the management of exotic animals. Rabbit control works ongoing in W.S.P. are-contruction of rabbit proof fencing, fumigation of warrens, trialing of new poisoning techniques which will prevent the poisoning of non target species. Fox control is carried out with the use of spare traps but other methods are either too dangerous to people or other wildlife in built up ereas. Cats are live trapped where a problem has been recognised or reported. The problem associated with the presence of exotic animals are enormous in this area but we are working solidly on this resolution.

There are many areas that dogs can still be walked such as Andersons Res. Normans Res, Township frontage, Koonong, Stoney Creek, Roadsides, Council Res. and Footpaths.

Totally incorrect, however it is in a degraded state and in need of careful management. Confirmed sightings of wildlife in this area are Echidna, lizards, Snakes, Insects, Ringtail Possums, Brushtail Possums, Sugar Gliders, Feathertail Gliders Koola occassional Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Antechinus, Bush Rats and a large range of native Birds. With care wildlife can be encouraged to return.

Jan Roche.

roposed the at 10 am colony. The Friends of the Butterfly's next m on Sunday 26 May a Diosma Road, west c activities are pla

The Mystery Reporter Rides Again!

On a fleeting return from the VIC INK INKWIRY your investigative mystery reporter interviewed Brian Colin Ward, designation - Ranger, classification - Technical Asst. Grade 2.

Born 1959 AD in the Royal Womens Hospital Melbourne, Brian was brought up in Dandenong and Richmond, attending Dandenong West Primary School and moved onto Dandenong High School where he completed Year 10, particularly enjoying History as a subject. Brian was an apprentice baker (Tip Top) for two years, involving weekend and shift work then he went into scaffolding and rigging for three years, lived in Mallacouta for two years working as an abolone "shucker", and acted as groundsman at the Shire Caravan Park. During this time Brian also surfed, bushedwalked, scuba dived amongst other activities. He had had a long association with the area and friends there but in 1982 Brian moved back to Melbourne and started with the National Parks Service as a Construction and Maintenance worker at Lysterfield Lake Park, then onto to the then Ferntree Gully National Park for a while, then came to Warrandyte State Park.

In 1986 Brian became a ranger at the Park. It should be mentioned that Brian and Margaret (who used to work at St. Vincents Hospital) have a daughter Alicia, 15 months old who is very good at re-arranging the house.

Brian is particularly interested in coastal management throughout the State. He commenced an Associate Diploma of Applied Science (ADAS) at Frankston TAFE last year and will be studying ecology and resource management this year.

He is very interested in bird life and wild life management. Other interests are water sports in which he is very active - water-ski-ing, fishing, diving etc.

His favourite T.V. shows are good comedies such as "Fast Forward" and he enjoys a good "belly laugh". Other shows he likes are documentaries. He is pleased with his new Ford Lasar (1990) - a one car family), but hasn't been on a "decent" holiday for five years.

Favourite food - seafood, any type, loves it all.

Favourite drink - Victoria Bitter - the "green pies", particularly cold.

He has completed a first aid course, heavy truck excavator licence, chainsaw, radio telephone ship operators licence, boat operators certificate,

He used to play football for Dandenong West, but now barracks for Richmond. Also used to play cricket for Hailebury College (whilst he was there for two years), best at batting (and ruck in football).

Boot size: 11

Blue eyes 6'2" high (approx. 190cm)

canoe and kayaking certificate and sundry others.

Had his tonsils out at 8 years of age, and a hernia at 7 years of age, caused acting as a milk monitor at school - lifting the crates). At this point the interview had to be concluded as Brian was going to assist with the retaining walls being installed at Jumping Creek, then to return to complete some administrative work that Margaret Humphrey had just put on his desk.

BEND OF ISLES VISIT A small group of Fowspians paid a visit to this special spot with the intention of developing communication between ourselves and the Bend of Isle's Association, to our mutual benefit. The initial contact, organized by Claire Watson, was through Mike Woiwood who showed us his mudbrick home and section of the riverbank. The Bend of Isles Conservation Group committee is enthusiastic to have some joint meeting and Margaret and Robin are presently working out the details for a visit by FOWSP to parts of the environmental living zone and a return visit to our nursery. It is hoped that this collaboration will lead to much more extensive and accurate koala surveying.



'Auntie' Bashes

Conservationists

During the recent war, while the fearless heroes of America, (with some assistance from various Honorary Americans), were bombing the Bejesus out of the barbarian hordes of Mesopotamia, our beloved ABC was angrily accused of "bias" because it did not devotedly purvey pure propaganda for the American cause. Our PM in particular exhibited some fairly high dudgeon.

Has a chastened and penitent ABC now undertaken acts of contrition in order to win Bob's forgiveness?

Friends who tuned in to the seven pm news oh ABC-TV on Sunday April 7th, might hazard an answer to this question. They were treated to a long and detailed account of how BHP, trying to make an honest buck by helping the rest of us to a brighter future, were being persecuted by those awful Greenpeace persons. Although part of a news program, there was no news in the story. The events depicted - Greenpeace boats interfering with an oil exploration ship - had occurred some days before, and there had already been a debate on the 7;30 Report. In Sunday's version the story was that Greenpeace was mulishly against all off-shore exploration at any time, even though BHP is just ever so concerned to protect the environment. Whales were not mentioned. The spokescreep for BHP was the same one who had appeared on the 7:30 Report debate, but this time the ABC had kindly spared him the distress of having to face any one from Greenpeace.

Seething, as they say, with indignation, your correspondant phoned the ABC and, with iron self-control, inquired politely if the ABC had been sold to BHP. "The ABC? Hell, mate, the Government!" would arguably have been the correct answer, but it wasn't the one I got. I will not, however, bore the reader with the gormless mumblings that issued from the "news" department.

We've learned not to be surprised when a certain personality with dazzling cheekbones presents anti-conservationist items on another channel.

But we pity the poor timber industry. Their slick little fantasies can only be run on the commercial channels, and the forest-flatteners unquestionably pay a bundle for production and for airtime. (HOW CAN THEY AFFORD IT?) Lucky old BHP gets their propaganda filmed, edited, and presented for free - at tax-payers' expense!

Hildebrand

Family Subscription \$10	Donation to help cover costs	•••••
Please fill in the memb	ership details and send with a cheque Membership entitles you to a Free I	indigenous plant at each
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