

Hot House

We had a good day, albeit a wet one, helping the ladies of the Mechanics Institute Groups plant up their garden which Bev Hanson had designed to compliment the Community Centre one. We also did"eight bags" of weed removal at the Community Centre and planted the roadside area along Mitchell Ave. Fortunately the rain ceased mid-afternoon and the Fowspian workers were very pleased with their efforts. We had a well earned cuppa in the Foyer. Thanks Margory. Arbour Week has been revived very successfully in Warrandyte as you can read in Pat's "Reflections". The time is really perfect for plantings and it is nice that an old tradition can be so useful to a world in need of trees. Many older folk will remember it as a day when the School Plantation was restocked, or the Schools garden made more splendid. In the early days many school gardens were very lovingly cared for and were often designed by people like Baron Von Mueller from the Botanic Gardens. Well now the focus is on the need for the young to be involved with plantings once again.

Warrandyte Sth. School incidentally will be involved in the task of creating a whole new garde -sadly leaving the old one behind. The school is to be "relocated" and we are to help them with the creation of an Indigenous Garden on the new site. We will begin "training" on direct seeding quite soon. We will provide lots of plants in pots as well so if you are connected with the school you may wish to help grow them all. THE PARTY OF THE P

We say it over and over but the call for old wool carpet, underlay(non-synthetic) and felts for weed suppression and direct seeding base goes out once more. Just ring the Park and David Van Bockel will arrange for its pick up....844 2659....we cannot have too much!

BOOK Well we have it all "coming along nicely". The printing is being "organised" and next Newsletter we will have a report from Mike Coupar.

Open Space 2000 has given us a real boost with a cheque for \$2000. Geoff Vincent came out and presented the cheque at a Thursday meeting. We stopped for a soup lunch and he saw all of our projects in action. We have applications for funding for two projects from the 1992-3 grants and hope to have news of the results soon.

Biggest new project will be the renovation of the F.O.W.S.P. Nursery. It sustained quite a lot of damage during the bushfire and wear and tear, time and very poor drainage have made it less than the best (you must be kidding!) But of course the Nursery really is the focal point of all group activity. Dereck Humphreys is drawing up plans, assessing existing structures and making some marvellous suggestion as to ways of utilizing what we have. We do need more area of Poly-house and hope to extend the present, ones to expand production especially during cold weather.

We look forward to the July Gala Day. We will have several "guest" groups ... Friends of Yarra Valley Met Park, Friends of Mullum Mullum Creek, C.S.I.R.O. Family groups and Parents of Warrandyte Sth P.S. Hope to organise some special entertainment for the evening in the Folly, S.E.C./F.O.W.S.P reveg. project will have its second work day on Thursday July 23rd. Don and Barbara Cameron will be back from holiday just in time to arrange the cuppas for the troops. Through Flora Anderson a reveg. of roadside which had Pinus. removed is underway...with our plants. Quite a change of practise and we hope the S.E.C. note the congratulations.

Raffle last month raised \$70 thanks to Bill's culinary skills. Bill Roxburgh has not been the fittest and this was his way of helping. Mind you he seems to do a pretty good job with the

Nursery pot washing!

"expert" help you if you are a novice. Just wear warm socks and bring a warm smile...MARKET

Marg Burke was late back to the May Nursery meeting as she and Fay Valcanis had attended a Greening Australia Conference. This had been a very interesting experience and of course a great way of developing the "networking" of groups like ours. We all need to work together if we are to achieve the Greening of this OUR part of the planet. Certainly their was a whole lot more consensus than there is at the Rio Summit!

The soup kitchen for Thursday workers has been a great success. If you come to the Nursery you don't even need to bring lunch....Just take your turn on the Soup Roster. Green fingers seem to make great soup! Much talk has revolved around the use of RABBITS for the pot lately with Jan Tindale promising rabbit soup when it is her turn. Wouldn't it be wonderful if those dreaded bunnies could somehow fill the bellies of the starving overseas?.....

The Yarra Yarra Koorie Dancers at the Mechanics Institute on July 12th is sure to be a fascinating experience. Gary and Ian Hunter joined us on the F.O.W.S.P. float at the Festival and I am sure made many friends during that brief occasion. See you there.

Harry Heaths our very Community minded Supermarket is presently sponsoring fund-raising for local Primary Schools. One is required to have your checkout docket "stamped". So you Fowspians can consider collecting these for the schools and also note the stores generous attitude. We have had help in fund raising ourselves and look forward to our Xmas Raffle.

Have you noticed any ParkCare Groups sprouting around the park?

ParkCare is currently initiating and supporting residents and community groups around the park to become "ParkCarers". Becoming a ParkCarer is fun and a great way to learn about the bush around you.

Is there a ParkCare Group near you? Join in on a Walk and Talk, Spotlight Walk or Family Fun Day OR ALL. I am eager to set up new ParkCare Groups or offer support to those who want to become ParkCarers, you dont have to live near the park. We have currently initiated three new ParkCare groups: Koornong, Anderson Creek (Fourth Hill) and Whipstick Gully (Fourth Hill) and are supporting the previous work done at Bradleys Lane and the ongoing work done at Stony Creek with Gads Gang. We hope all groups will be ongoing and that the positive response received from residents continues.

P.S. We have a New ParkCare sign that will appear on future ParkCare articles and on letters etc. etc.

Please note the following ParkCare Events. These groups also require carpet underlay or feltex for smothering weeds. If you have any to donate we would love to hear from you.

See you at the next ParkCare Event.

Jay

Fay Valcanis ParkCare Officer 844 2659

ParkCare Timetable:

June 14th- Park Day , Stony Creek with Gads Gang

June 19th- Spotlight Walk around Anderson Creek (Fourth Hill)

June 26th- Spotlight Walk, Whipstick Gully (Fourth Hill)

June 27th- Family Fun Day at Normans Reserve

July 1st - Family Fun Day, Koornong

July 11th- Family Fun Day, Andersons Creek, Fourth Hill

July 18th- Family Fun Day, WhipStick Gully, Fourth Hill

Friends of the Lyrebird

Its addictive - once you've attended a Lyrebird Survey in the Kinglake National Park you will be back again, and again! The 1992 survey will commence on Sat. 11 July at 2.30 pm in the Park Information Centre, Mason Falls, Pheasant Creek where an important briefing session will take place. Overnight accommodation is provided or you can take your tent and the dawn survey of the Lyrebird's territorial calls will be preceded by a group barbeque, spotlight walk and Lyrebird video and followed by breakfast on the Sunday. Contact Gay Harris (844 1448) for bookings and an information sheet and don't let another year go by without being part of this exhilarating event

BBQ LUNCH SUPPLIED for details park office 333-1185

KOALAS, KIDS & KANGAROO APPLES //@{{}]@G{}]@W{ By Pat Coupar Phew! Arbor Week is over for another year. In our case it turned out to be Arbor Fortnight. The response from the local primary schools was so great, we simply couldn't fit over a thousand children into The visit by the schools to the State Park was a hectic time for Park staff and 'Friends', but it was a resounding success. For the kids it was more than just a chance to plant a tree. It was an opportunity to meet a Ranger; to learn about revegetation and the meaning of the word indigenous; to learn that not all rabbits are fluffy lovable pets, but most destroy native vegetation and seriously degrade the bushland. The highlight for those children who planted trees near the river, was the presence of koalas high in the Manna Gums. Much to the delight of the children, one animal put on a great show stretching its body to the limit in an effort to reach tender young leaves at the very end of a swaying branch. At one point it seemed in real danger of falling out of the tree! Some children planted trees inside individually fenced coops on the orchard site and each coop was marked with the name of their school. They scattered seed, mixed with sand, onto carpet underlay which had been spread over the ground. We are using underlay as an experiment to suppress the weeds which run rampant in this vast cleared area of Pound Bend. Many children participated in nursery procedures such as pricking seedlings and taking cuttings. For their efforts, they were given a plant to take home and taught how to look after it. Arbor Week was the culmination of a years hard work and commitment by the thursday propagation group. It began with the collection of seed which was then dried and processed before being sown in small punnets and placed on the 'hot bed'. It is always a thrill to see the first green leaves - known as cotyledons emerge, especially if it happens to be one of the rarer plants in the State Park. The seedlings are guided by careful hands through the delicate stage of pricking out. Then follows weeks in a warm poly house before being moved to the cooler, but still protected, shade house. Finally the plants are taken out to the hardening off area where they wait, exposed to the elements, until the time is right for planting. Arbor Week is the ideal occasion, coming as it does around the time of the first autumn rains when there is still warmth in the ground. It provides an opportunity for the local children to be involved in revegetating sections of the State Park which will be theirs to enjoy for the future. The 'Friends' who followed the process through from the start must feel, as I do, a sense of great satisfaction to see our healthy young plants put in the ground. To know that the plants, grown from locally collected seed, are helping to return a wasteland of weeds back to beautiful bushland again.

DEBRYS DEBUT

My first encounter with F.O.W.S.P. occured over two years ago. In 1989 I spent two weeks doing work experience with D.C.E (then C.F. & L.) and on the first Thursday I was introduced to Margaret Burke. Most of that morning I spent washing pots and the rest of the time filling them with soil. All morning talk was flying about that I did not understand. (from what I can remember it was mainly scientific names of plants which could leave anyone lost.) That Thursday I met a remarkable group of people and it was a day that I never forget.

For the next two years joining the F.O.W.S.P. was continuously on my mind, but there was never enough spare time because of my school work. So as soon as I had completed my VCE/HSC exams I joined the F.O.W.S.P. (but not before disposing of my notes!!)

Now being a regular on Thursdays and helping with the weekend activities, I know that I'm a member of a fantastic community group. The most interesting aspect of the group is the different array of people. It isn't often that people of different age groups really get to socialize and work together. In our society we are generally placed in a class and these classes do not mix, but this is not a feature of the Friend's group.

I feel that I have learnt more in the past three months from fellow members than in the 13 years I spent at school. (I never learnt what a copper stick was at school! Hopefully in the time to come more young people who are interested in conservation of flora and fauna will be encouraged to become Friends of Warrandyte State Park.

Debby Parker...6 Oliver Rd., Templestowe

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE OF OUR SPECIAL NAME BADGES - COLOURED AND WITH YOUR NAME CALIGRAPHICALLY INSCRIBED, DEBBY IS TAKING ORDERS. THEY COST ONE DOLLAR. GIVE DEBBY YOUR ORDER ANY THURSDAY OR AT ANY MEETINGS, WRITE OR PHONE 846 2214.



Four of the six badge designs to choose from. These beautiful drawings were of course done for us by another of our active helpers, Melanie Coupar.

This is the initial column written by Debby Parker and hopefully will become a regular feature in the Newsletter. Her article is one I found quite moving — we hope to inspire and encourage younger members of the group to become seriously involved. Debby and her friend Kym come along rain, hail, or shine AND often do the lion(ess)s share of tasks. They are developing skills, knowledge, and experience and will also develop projects specifically their own. All the regular members are delighted to see such enthusiastic young women take such an active role.

So...if you are a younger member of F.O.W.S.P. perhaps you would like to write to Debby with views, ideas, suggestions...something to make us all think, smile, or do.

Margaret Burke.

Frogland....What a wonderland it is already proving to be. At the May Family Sunday it was

Frogland....What a wonderland it is already proving to be. At the May Family Sunday it was created with the Riddell Family's loving attention. And the Froglovers have been at it ever since. The area was already a boggy spot created unwittingly by run off from the F.O.W.S.P. Nursery. Lots of hard work later it has been formed into a pond with a seasonal wetland behind. Now the plantings/weedings are a part of every Thursday and we hope to get the balance just right...lots of plants to thrive on the extra nutrients in the water from the hardening off area etc. Sedges and tussocks have gone in and a number of our large display plants now live in "Frogland"......

Seen showing lots of interest in said Frogland were a group of four Wood-ducks. All were eyeing off the water trickling into the new pond-necks stretched, tails up wondering just how many juicy tit-bits were lurking in the muddy "larder".

AN UPDATE FROM THE BOSS' TAN ROCHE

Priority Vic, Open Space 2000, FOWSP, Land Protection, Park Management, Land for Wildlife, Public Land Management, Whew Warrandyte has never been busier.
Here is a brief rundown on the action.

Priority Vic:

Graham and Phil have commenced with 11 months work ahead of them, amongst the projects they will be working on will be replacing rotten picnic tables P/B,J/C.

Constructing an extension to the walking track network to P/B including footbridges and sections of boardwalk.

Repairs to the collapsed air shaft at Gerratys mine.

Open Space 2000/ Parkcare

Parkcare is going extremely well having attracted well over 70 people in 5 different locations to support Park Protection works.

At present the process is still evolving but the level of community support demonstrates their willingness to participate in protecting our environment.

Open Space 2000 is also funding the design work for the Fourth Hill Gold History walk, this should be completed soon and the commencement of construction works will begin in the new financial year funding permitting.

FOWSP

Friends have also been impressively busy, the combined FOWSP/Parkstaff effort over the 2 week Arbor week is a fantastic highlight. The program offered to the children was well structured covering nursery procedures, direct seeding, tree planting and a talk on the values of trees, each child finished their visit by preparing a cutting and taking it home. The many other areas of involvement for the group are well documented elsewhere in this newsletter.

Park Management

Featuring over the past three months has been Parkcare, intensive weed and pest animal works have been carried out in 4th Hill, Koornong, Normans Res, and Stoney Creek. Target weeds were blackberry, cotoneaster, prunus, pittosporum and boneseed.

Significant track works have been carriedf out throughout most areas including some improvements to the network for fire tanker access and a basic Helipad.

Rabbit fumigation has been extensively preformed in the new rabbit proof area to prevent the loss of the Arbor week crop. preparation works for the 4th Hill Gold History trail commenced with seed collection and direct seeding of bare areas on the track route.

I could go on but won't for fear of boring you to tears, but needless to say things are hectic yet happening out here at the moment.

Land Protection

Ray jasper is now the acting Land Protection Officer for the Eastern Operations Area of Melbourne and has been flat out dealing with rabbit/fox and weed issues outside the park.He is also heavily involved in the revegetation of the inner circle (Priority Vic) project in Brunswick.

W. DA

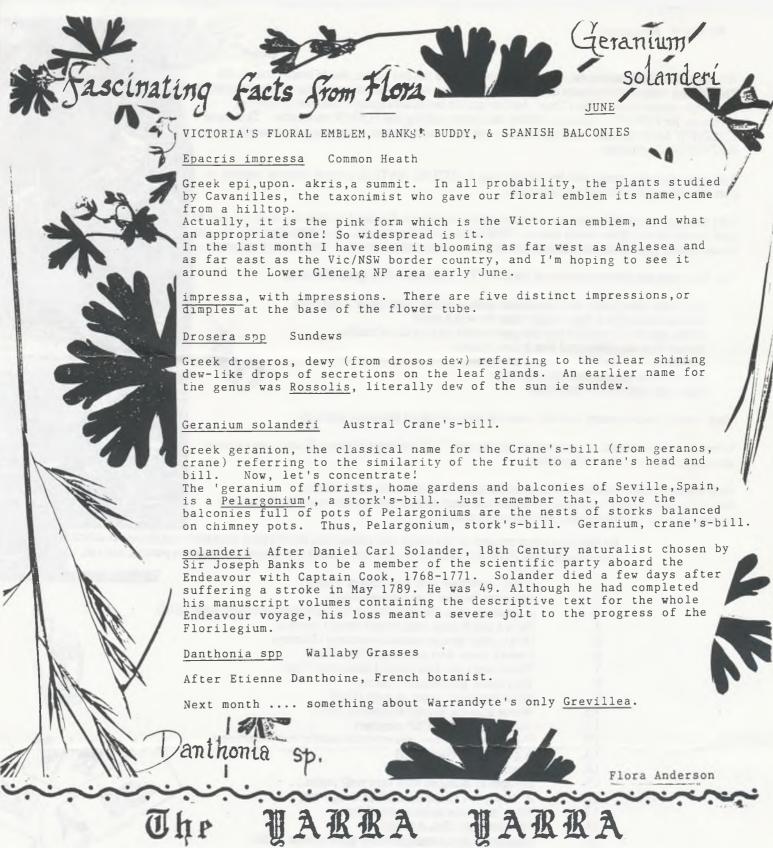
Land For Wildlife

This program is designed to protect pockets of remnant bushland in rural and urban areas alike. It is an objective of the program to link participating properties to develop a wildlife corridors so essential to maintain our dwindling native wildlife populations. Rangers have been busy assessing many properties including several from Friends, we would be delighted to hear from any other interested persons.

Public Land Management

Another one of Ray's many functions involves around the protection and management of Public land in the north of the Melbourne Region. This involves all the usual "Ranger" duties in areas of North Eltham and Christmas Hills, prior to this, precious little time was dedicated to their protection.





Bancers Abortginal

A day of Aboriginal Culture present as part of NAIDOC week.

* The history of CORANDERRK & VICTORIA.

* TRIBAL DANCING.

* ARTIFACTS.

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE

12 JULY 1992

12 noon 3 pm 6 pm The MECHANICS INSTITUTE HALL. 187 YARRA St; WARRANDYTE.

Admission......Adults......\$ 3.00. Pensioners & Children.....\$ 1.00. Family Ticket.....\$8.00.

for more information contact...... GARY HUNTER.....(059) 713498. Who is that mystery character, often observed around the hot house, shade house area at the 'Depot', and what is that person doing? Relocating sprinkler outlets, replacing shade cloth etc. and using non-metric terms? Yes! True! And he can be heard also quietly discussing material purchases for FOWSP or quietly, behind the scenes editing the FOWSP newsletter. This same IDENTITY has been seen wearing tennis shoes and is also known to keep a private eagle-eye on the FOWSP C-ordinator.

This same mystery person can be seen driving a SUZUKI HATCH, a small manual vehicle, as part of a conscious effort at conservation.

This presently unspecified person is known to have come to Warrandyte to live and to fish and to golf, but so far has given much time to FOWSP as a priority activity. It is rumoured that he is an exceptionally good pianist/musician who hides his light under a bushell (neighbour's comment).

The following are intimate details of the IDENTITY gleaned with great difficulty.

- he drinks fruit juices, but sometimes likes a whisky and ice or a red wine.
- he was chased by a tiger snake when he was a child
- at the age of 12 years he had the opportunity to do a lot of reading
- he has four daughters and five grandchildren
- his passport claims that his eyes are green
- he has a pre-dinner nap and rises early
- hair yes (see later) still there

Very slowly, your mystery reporter was able to build up an historical Identikit.

When young the subject of this revelation attended St Kilda West Primary School, then moved onto a secondary school in Caulfield.

He is known to have studied in places as far apart as Melbourne and Mildura. Part of his early career was spent at Pakenham, later studied beyond his initial level and then worked all over Melbourne as a professional (what?).

By this time eager readers of this script will realise that the Mystery Reporter was driven to solicit information from FOWSP Bystanders and others about the elusive and evasive person; such as,

- 1. A very generous man with apples (Cathy)
- 2. Margaret 'bullies' him (unidentified)
- 3. A thinking man, the editorials in the newsletter are very good (Bill)
- 4. He is a good cook (and makes bread) (anon.)
- 5. He's a great host at musical evenings (Shirley)
- 6. I worry about him smoking (Eliz., Pat?)
- 7. There aren't any bad points (about him) (Ian)
- 8. Very quiet, gentlemanly (anon.)
- 9. He is very easy to get on with (Ibid)
- 10. Worse than the Scarlet Pimpernel (Ben)
- 11. Very helpful (FOWSP member)
- 12. Very quietly spoken, a gentleman (administrative officer)
- 13. A good supervisor (Jim)
- 14. Deep, has integrity (Flora)
- 15. Mnages to delegate jobs very well (anon.)
- 16. A very good father (one of his daughters)
- 17. Not a bad bone in his body (ditto)
- 18. No comment (Sol, Arnold)
- 19. Reputed to be an exceptionally good pianist (Neil)
- 20. Impressed with his editorials (David)
- 21. He is a good friend (Gay)

Other clues to this person are

- a. He lives in Warrandyte 'over the bridge' and near the Yarra
- b. His birthday is in May
- c. He does not wear a beard or moustache
- d. His initials are I.L.B., reputed to like 'rag-time'
- e. He is <u>not</u> the Mystery Reporter
- f. He shares with home with, interalia, a large black poodle
- g. He isahhhghh

I hope the Editor has not doctored this demi-interview. In the meantime, your struggling, but noble M.R. intends to interview more committee members and other 'workers', SO WATCH OUT!!

M.R. and a variety of Newsletter staff have braved all and by many devious means have slipped this copy past the eagle-eyed and very determined editor. We pray he understands that this is the lesser evil (embarassment for an extremely modest paragon!)











