

# Debby's Diary

Over the past five years the environment has become more of a hot issue, covered mainly through the media. But has it become a discussed issue in schools? Primary school cover a small part of this during Arbour Week. From my experience and talking to other students the topic is not much covered in high schools.

I must admit that with the new V.C.E. English students must select an issue that has been recently covered by the media. Therefore this gives the student a chance to become involved in environmental issues. A very popular conservation topic that arises early in the school year is the duck season. This gives students a wide understanding of the effects that this sport can have on the abiotic and biotic factors of the wetland ecosystem. There is still room for improvement for schools to encourage students to be involved in environmental affairs. If there is not more emphasis on the depletion of resources, the destruction of native habitats, there will be an extinction of native species and in the space of the next 30 years no native vegetation will remain. This indicates that WE are the last generation to be able to make choices on these matters.

We know that in Australia alone 97 native plant species, 16 mammal species and two bird species are now extinct. There are 209 native plant species, 22 mammals and 23 bird species that are endangered. Isn't this a sign that the ecological changes to forests are disastrous? As more and more trees are removed, our native animals are driven from the forests to new areas where they are forced to compete for survival. Many will not make it.

Formal teaching on the environment may never occur in our school, or it may take a few years to be established. Students can help by encouraging these issues to be discussed in classrooms. They can also help by conserving natural resources in their own homes.

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.



### DEBBY'S NEST BOX PROGRAM

The Lions Club President Peter Egan was pleased to give us a visit before his retirement and present us with \$200 to set up a nesting box programme. Debby Parker is leading this group which was up and running immediately. Neal, Ken MacMahon and Don Cameron (and Debby's father) all gave constructive advice but it is mostly a young women's project with Stephen Anderson giving Ranger guidance. Pat rick Fricker of Yarra Valley Met Park has also provided input with advice, a field tour, some materials and promises a slide night.

#### SLIDE NIGHT

Slide Night in the Folly......Guest Speaker will be Patrick Fricker from our neighbouring Yarra Valley Park. Patrick will speak about their experiences with the setting up of a Nesting Box Programme, construction and monitoring of boxes.

WHEN...Friday 14th August....TIME...7.30pm.....WHERE....In the Folly, Pound Bend Depot.

# Friends of the Lyrebird

Our numbers swelled to nine for the Kinglake annual Lyrebird
Survey this month. Almost all sites were covered, concentration being on the outlying parts of the park this year rather than the more heavily populated Mason Falls area. New member, Eleanor Lancaster actually saw a male bird on a tree trilling his territorial call at the break of, dawn!

## Hot House Gossip

Of course we ARE missing Ian Roche, currently holidaying somewhere in the "Out-back" but Brian Ward and Stephen Anderson have given us so much attention, support PLUS our David being his usual marvellously efficient self.... "Mick" had just better watch out! This issue is filled with "cat" articles. We do exhort members to review the way their Moggy is allowed to behave. We can vouch for the fact that the Hildebrands cats live their lives as the centre of the household... much happier than the misery experienced by those "dumped" and with no feral ferocity. Sadly though it is the family pet who spends his evenings at large who does most damage.

The joint day at Paddles last month was a great success despite the weather and firm friendships were established between F.O.W.S.P.,F.O Mullum Mullum, and F.O.Yarra Valley Met. Park. Such that our next Sunday meeting will be invaluable...Networking at its best. Of course we can't provide the sausages...TOO POOR....but B.Y.O. means plenty of variety. Glen Jameson drew the raffle tickets.(Bruce Plain won the cake, Brenda Hunter the plants) He also led us on a tour of Major Newmans house and down to the tree with the scar from use by Wurundjeri people...a coolamon or shield.

Hope you all took the opportunity to go to the Yarra Yarra Dancers exhibition and performance for N.A.I.D.O.C. Week. Murrundindi (Gary) and his brother and nephew (sorry Ian-I can't spell your tribal names) all gave us a fascinating insight into the history of their tribe...much of it tragic...and then transcending the disasters of these indigenous people gave us a delightful experience sharing their culture. We had a hands-and-feet-on lesson and SOME of us can now dance the Cockatoo (?????) We hope the Hunter brothers and families will be at the July 26th meeting.

Involvment in the Planning process of the S.E.C. in regard to the environment/roadsides etc. has been most interesting. Changes in practice is evident (note Wonga Park) and we are assured that this is permanent. John Ward has promised to look at our needs for a new Polyhouse to increase winter production of plants, perhaps purchasing the materials for our labour-force.

Our visit to Box-Hill Council/Green Link Nursery two weeks ago was a very interesting visit. Colin Armold gave us a guided tour and whilst many of their general principles were similar to ours we were really excited by his inovative ideas for use of waste plastics and practices for organic weed suppression. We hope to also eventually copy his methods for making potting mix/propagation mixes. We look forward to his visit to see how we have created Frogland as our way of treating run-off from the Nursery. (P.S. Lots more to be planted their by the way.)

A trip to Ronneby Tree Farm is in the wind. It is planned for a Monday soon after the school holidays. We wish to learn as much as possible about the use of the "root-air pruning" type of plant pots which they kindly donated. Enquire at the Office/nursery.

Cathy Willis and her happy band of helpers are transforming the Koornung during the monthly Wednesday working-bees. Fay organised heaps of carpet underlay and the group have used this in experimental Periwinkle suppression. (smothering) The turning circle at the end of Koornung was constructed using old fill with lots of bricks mixed in. Periwinkle is resistant to chemical control, and is almost impossible to weed from such fill so this will test our underlay smothering to the limit! The S.E.C. have given us a load of local mulch to cover this and Cathy and her workers will monitor regularly. All F.O.W.S.P. are most welcome to come next meeting Wed Aug. 5th at 10am. We are also doing a "Bradley" on an area of English Ivy and have done some replanting of Poa & Microlena.

REVEGETATION DAY NUMBER TWO AT GLYNNS ROAD WILL TAKE UP THE AFTERNOON OF THURSDAY 23rd JULY. MEET ON SITE OR COME TO THE NURSERY FOR USUAL ACTIVITIES. We will plant, weed, try some seeding and collect some plant material for propagation. David Cameron has made us a plant list for the area after a survey he made of his childhood home. TIME 1.30pm. PLACE..Glynns Rd.(look for the S.E.C. poles in place as guard logs. Cuppa afterwards at Don & Barbara's.

"AWAY". THE RECENT DRAMATIC PRESENTATION IN THE MECHANIC'S HALL WAS AN EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE AND THE STORM SCENE MOST IMPRESSIVE WITH ITS SOUND EFFECTS AND STROBE LIGHTING.

THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS ARE ON THE WAY FOR SEPTEMBER. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

A Long Way |
from Ringwood

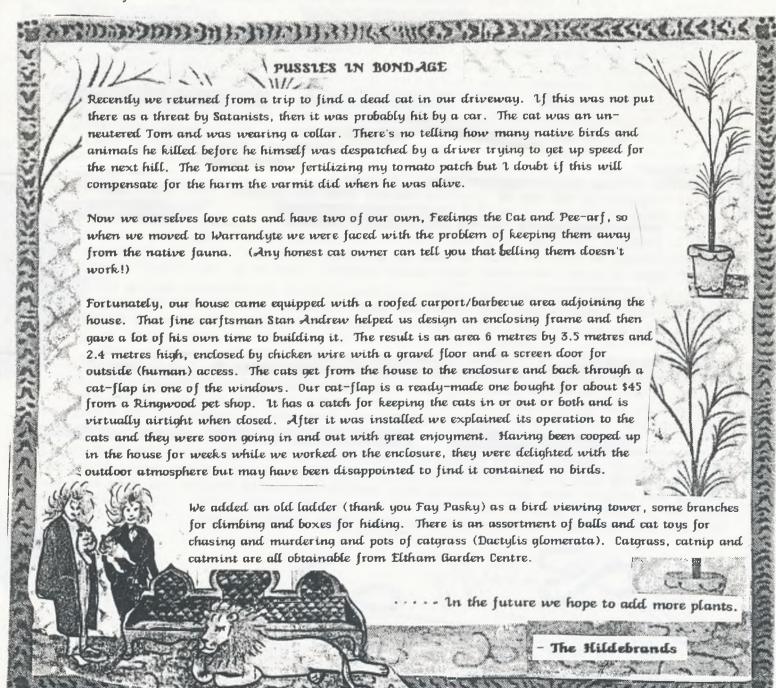
On Saturday 6th June Ken McInnes of Mullum Mullum Creek Friends combined with neighbouring Friends Groups in a walk to observe the flora and fauna of the bushland which meanders through 21 km. of Melbourne suburbs. Many areas are untouched indigenous bushland, other areas are receiving help from Friends of Mullum Mullum Creek but there are many areas neglected or wrecked by mismanagement.

A large stretch of bush with Manna and Swamp Gums, grass trees, Dianella Revoluta, Hyacinth Orchids, wild birds and other wildlife will totally disappear if the Eastern Freeway becomes a reality.

After morning tea at Schwarkolt Cottage we continued through Yarram Derham Reserve, the Water Pipe Track up to McIntyres Road. This is an area of intense and glorious bushland - a piece of nature's magic. We lunched uphill above the creek, surrounded by farmland. There were many times urban Melbourne seemed far away.

We abandoned the last three kms. due to rain and fast fading winter light. We were then transported back to Paddles Reserve by Shir'ey McInnes who had helped all day. We warmed up with damper and tea and then all walked to where the Mullum Mullum creek and Yarra converge to finish the day. Thanks to Friends of Mullum Mullum Creek.

BRENDA HUNTER.



#### Cat Control Seminar - A Review

Fluffy the Cat, friend or foe? Domestic cats have become a regular TV news item of late. The Cat Control Seminar held last week (2/7) at the Institute for Animal Science provided a forum for the facts to be addressed.

In the opening address, the Hon.Ian Baker MP, Minister for Food and Agriculture, pointed out that of Victoria's 1.5 million cat population, each domestic cat being responsible for killing an average 25 animals a year. He said "Cats are nocturnal hunters, be it in urban, rural or bush surroundings". I.Baker is a strong supporter of the proposed Companion Animals Bill and believes that, by giving cats legal standing, the need for responsible ownership will be faced.

Following his address, several further speakers elaborated various issues surrounding cats.

In studies conducted in 1989 by Dr.David Paton, zoologist at the University of Adelaide, residents were asked to record details of animals killed by their pet cats. Dr. Paton found that one in three Australian households keep domestic cats. On average each pet cat brings home five birds, 16 mammals, and 5 reptiles per year. Dr.Paton said "Domestic cats take a diverse array of vertebrate prey despite being cared for and fed by their owners".

His studies showed that the presence of bells made little or no difference to the success of cats taking wildlife, with 50-60% of domestic cats with bells taking birds and mammals and over 30% still taking reptiles. In his talk, Dr.Paton outlined that " the demise of wildlife is attributed not only to cats, but also to habitat clearance and predation by foxes. However individual cat owners can help reduce the overall impact of cats on wildlife by being responsible owners and eliminating further predation by cats"." Responsible ownership of cats",he said "not only secures the welfare of cats and wildlife, it minimises the public nuisance of cats". Responsible ownership means, providing your cat with adequate identification, confining your cat to your property, desexing your cat and keeping your cat in at night.

Another issue brought forward was the relationship between the disease toxoplasmosis, cats and wildlife. Dr.David Obendorf from the Department of Agriculture Vetinary Laboratories, Tasmania, discussed the effects of toxoplasmosis on wildlife. Toxoplasmosis is a protozoan disease that is spread by cats. He said, "The cat is the only known carrier of the disease, allowing the parasite to develop in its intestine and then passing it on in its faeces".

The toxoplasma disease effects the brain, intestine and pancreas of wildlife eventually causing death in infected animals. "Toxoplasmosis also affects the behaviour of our naitve animals which increases their susceptibility to predator attacks and car hits. This disease is only spread by cats and has the ability to devastate wildlife populations", said Dr.Obendorf. He later went on to say that "Cats dont generally show symptoms of the disease even if they are carriers". He stressed that "cat control is essential if we are to reduce the effects and spread of toxoplasmosis".

Dr.Carole Webb, Cat Protection Society, reminded us of the value of cats as companion pets. She stressed however that "owners need to be more responsible for their cats and ensure that all cats carry identification, either on a collar and tag, ear tatoo or microchip".

Dr.Webb pointed out that "cats over 6 months old should be desexed as this not only decreases incidences of wandering, fighting and it also increases their lifespan". "Night confinement," she said, "not only offers cats greater protection, it also reduces the risk of catching feline aids, reduces the nuisance problems to neighbours, it protects wildlife and it increases contact between the owner and cat there-by improving their bond". With a claim rate of less than 1% of cats in animal shelters, the need for responsible cat ownership is essential.

The cat issue is not a cat problem, its an owner problem. Dr. Hugh Wirth, President of the RSPCA concluded that " cats are good for humans with regard to companionship, yet there is a need to manage cats and manage them with respect to their welfare". He later went on to say, "there needs to be control of cat numbers, their reproduction and disposal of those that are not required. We cant live in a system where cats are uncontrolled".

Having a pet cat is a privilege and requires a lifetime of proper care. Being a responsible owner will ensure protection not only for your pet but for wildlife also. John Seebeck, Department of Conservation and Environment, discussed DCE's new campaign "Protect Your Cat-Protect Your Wildlife". He said " the campaign aims to raise the community's awareness of the impact of cats on wildlife". Only by raising community awareness of the impacts of pets on wildlife will the urgent need for identification, registration, desexing and curfewing of pets become apparent.

Copies of the pamphlet, Protect Your Cat - Protect Your Wildlife are available from Warrandyte State Park (844 2659) or Department of Conservation and Environment Information Centre (412 4795).

Fay Valcanis ParkCare Officer Warrandyte State Park.



HOW MUCH IS MOUNT WORTH? By Pat Coupar Mount Worth is an area of tall wet mountain forest in Gippsland - an island of native vegetation in a sea of cleared rolling hills. As such Mt Worth State Park is priceless. Its rain-soaked slopes are dominated by mighty Mountain Ash - the tallest flowering plant in the world. Towering tree ferns fill the gullies, festooned with their creeping epiphytic relatives. Some of the vegetation is hundreds of years old. Once, not so long ago, most of Gippsland was covered by forest such as this. Then came the settlers. They saw the area, with its good rainfall and fertile soil, as an ideal place to graze cattle. The forest was brutally slaughtered with axe and fire. It was an almighty effort. But the dream was over almost before it began. The land, particularly in the east, was too rugged and transport prooved difficult. Soon blackberry, bracken and other weeds began to invade. By the end of the First World War the farmers had little money to repair fences and buildings and 60,000 hectares had been abandoned and a further 64,000 hectares were badly neglected. Miraculously, tiny remnants of original forest still remain. Glimpses of the great forest that once existed can be seen at Tarra Valley and Bulga National Parks in the east and Mt Worth State Park in the west. The vegetation of Mt Worth is quite different to that of Warrandyte with two notable exceptions - Silver Wattle and Blackwood. However, because of the deep fertile soil and an annual rainfall three times that of Melbourne, the trees at Mt Worth are giants compared to their Warrandyte counterparts. Something that both Parks have in common is an active 'Friends' group. Like FOWSP, the Friends of Mt Worth State Park hold monthly sunday meetings This dedicated group of volunteers have constructed a network of walking tracks and bridges that enable visitors to see special features of the Park such as the 'standing giant' - a Mountain Ash tree over 300 hundred years old. The 'Friends' are celebrating their 20th year of operation. Their current project is to make a path with easy gradients so that those in wheelchairs have access to some of the beautiful areas of the Park. There are a number of cleared areas within the Park and a major reforestation program is underway to repair the damage done 100 years earlier. It is a massive undertaking. So far nearly 70,000 seedlings of

Mountain Ash and Mountain Grey Gum have been planted.

The general attitude of most people today has changed from those early years. They know that they cannot continue to take relentlessly from the land without giving something back. With the advent of Landcare many farmers and landholders are being given the incentive to fence off badly eroded areas, particularly along creeks and river banks, and to plant indigenous trees.

Mt Worth State Park protects a fine example of wet mountain forest. It provides a remarkable insight into what the area was like before European settlement. Parks like Mt Worth and Warrandyte with their diverse flora and fauna allows us to gain greater undersatnding and appreciation of our precious natural environment.

> MOONLIGHT CREEK PICHIC AREA 3 OFFICE 3 K

Hakea sericea

HOOKS, HEMP & HORTICULTU

Grevillea rosmarinifolia... Rosemary Grevillea

Named after Charles Francis Greville 1749-1809, a founder of the Horticultural Society of London, and a Vice-president of the Royal Society. He introduced and grew rare plants. Greville was a contemporary of Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) and would have been 19 years old when Banks sailed with Cook from Plymouth in 1768. Sir Joseph was President of the Royal Society

for 42 years from 1778 till his death in 1820. We can presume that the two knew each other well.

 $\overline{ ext{Forms}}$  to the NE of Melbourne have previously been referred to as glabella

Gynatrix pulchella ... Hemp-bush

Greek gyne, woman thrix, hair

Not only are there stellate hairs on the under-surface of the leaves but the ovary too is hairy. Male and female flowers are usually on separate plants.

pulchella ... beautiful

Hakea sericea... Silky Hakea/Bushy Needlewood

Named after Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake (which means hook) a German patron of botany. (1745 - 1818) and yet another contemporary of Sir Joseph Banks.

sericea ... silky or hairy.

It is the young growth which has the white silky hairs.

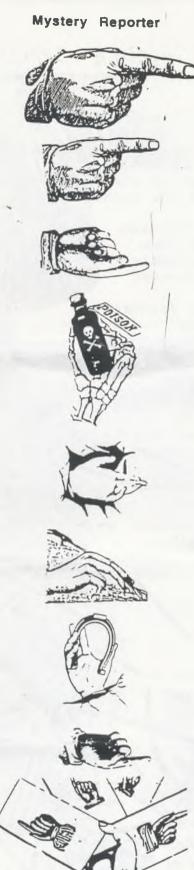
Hibbertia obtusifolia ... Grey Guinea-flower

After George Hibbert (1757-1837) a London merchant who had a private botanic garden at Chelsea, London.

obtusifolia ... with blunt leaves.

#### OPEN SPACE 2000

Our co-ordinator, Margaret Burke has been appointed as one of two representatives from the Yarra River Catchment, to the Open Space 2000 Advisory Council. Along with Ian Harris, General Manager of National Parks and Public Lands and Jeff Floyd, Director Open Space, Waterways and Environment, eight people have been appointed to represent the Community in four different regions of Melbourne. This group will advise the Ministers on priorities and directions of open space management, land aquisition, conservation of environmental and cultural values in Open Space and in priorities in funding and planning. Much importance will be on fostering the establishment of friends groups and the awareness of community awareness. Margaret's appointment shows that the department values highly the contribution FOWSP is making to the community - congratulations Margaret!



All those intellectuals who watch "Get Smart" will understand when your Mystery Reporter refers to a "circular wall of silence" resisting my research at Warrandyte State Park. To overcome resistence to interviews your Mystery Reporter has adopted the guise of recruiting agent for a Northern suburbs football team - the "Olympic Colts".

Fay Valcanis (usually confused with volcanoes) Name

Called "fudge" by her sisters, but wouldn't reveal her Macedonian alias. Nickname

25, going on 26 on 7 August 1992 Ace Occupation Park Care Officer T.O.2 with D.C.E.

Favourite Record The Police, Bay City Rollers when younger Hollowmen, Clouds, Humming Birds - local Australian music Favourite\_Group

At the moment, Mr Bean Favourite TV Show

Has no heroes FavouriteActor/Actress/Sportsperson

Pride and Prejudice because it reminds me of my mother Favourite Novel was chocolate and fudge and PASTA (really enjoys her food) Favourite Food

Coopers Beer/Ale Favourite Drink

outdoors, camping, travelling (up the Murray and overseas), enjoys **Hobbies** 

culturally different countries, aerobics, collects a lot of junk, volleyball, social basketball, visiting places of interest, galleries,

Science Museum, G.I.G.S. Datsun Pulsar 1982, Silver

- having to come back from overseas Biggest disappointment so far

Getting a job Biggest achievement

Car

Biggest influence on career - Sunday visits to Ferntree Gully National Park

What 'cheeses' me off - bad smells, people in cars who sit at green arrows and don't

turn. Illogical and irrational people.

Fay was born (breach birth) in Queen Victoria Hospital on a Sunday afternoon, attended 'Auburn Central' Primary School (where Margaret Burke was a primary teacher), then attended Burwood Heights Primary, onto Burwood Heights High School, completed HSC then onto Rusden, Victoria College whenre she 'did' a Bachelor of Education in Environmental Study (four year course) and passed. In 1988 she worked part-time at K-mart, at Cadburys on the production line and then in 1990 went overseas for 13 months. Greece, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, U.K., Tahiland, Malaysia and the West Part of the Middle East.

Fay worked in an exclusive Japanese Department Store in the U.K. and an Ice-Skating Bar! On return to Australia and after a mysterious three week interval, Fay started some emergency teaching and also did some writing for the Science Museum at Spotswood and assisted with developing some VCE Curriculum material. This was followed by Interpretation work with the then Board of Works, then in 91/92 Interpretation work at Warrandyte State Park. Her appointment as Park Care Officer at W.S.P. took place in February 1992.

This entails community education and participation in and around the Park - engendered by various meetings of the community and neighbours of the Park, walks and talks about the Park and initiating and supporting Park-care groups.

Here-in ended the official interview, but her linguistic abilities include English, Australian, Modern Greek, Macedonian and is known to understand variations of some slavic languages.

Fay has gone so far as to say "there is a male on the horizon" and that the family cat is called "Pringle".

Her eves - dark brown, Hair - dark brown but sometimes goes red at the hairdressers, Height - 171 cm plus.

Cryptograms (not the botanical version)

- Technical Officer Grade Two T.O. 2

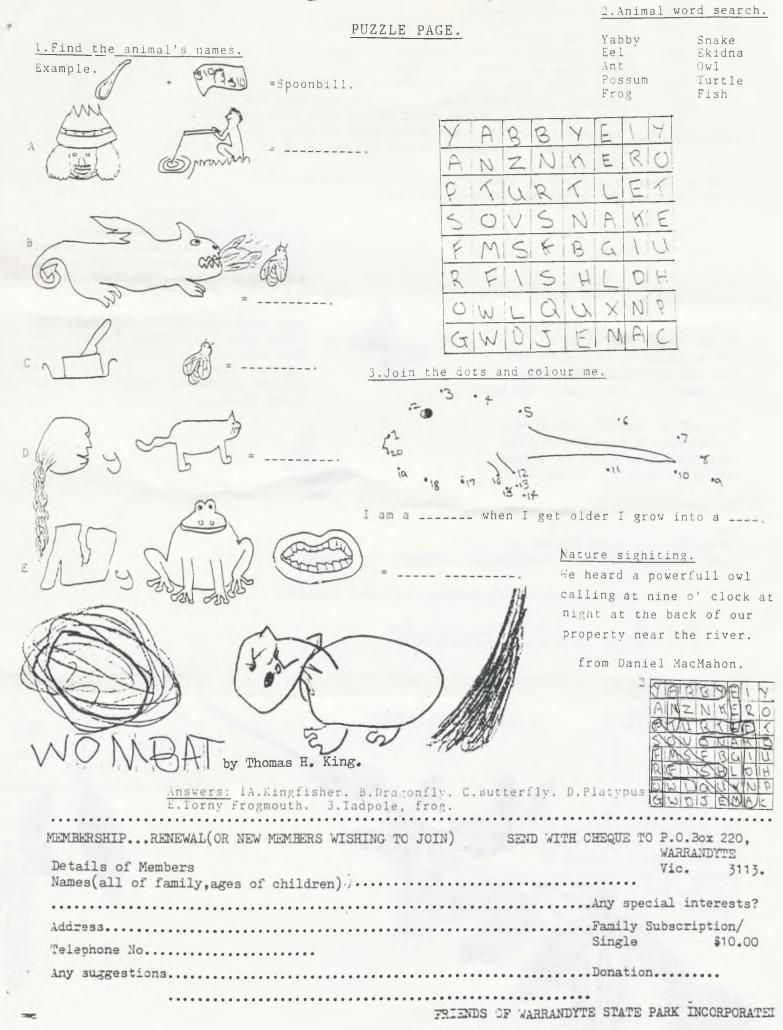
G.I.G.S. - the Mystery Reporter offers a free icy-pole to the first person who really knows the origin of this cypher.

M.R./D.C.E./H.S.C./U.K./V.C.E./W.S.P. - these are on the restricted list.

(refer ISBN-0-85561-166.9)

Many thanks to local historian Bruce Bence who escorted us on a guided tour of sites of past W'dyte fires, the Kangaroo Ground CFA and a helicoptor view from the K.G. Fire Watch Tower on Sunday 28 July. Our coach captain, Ron Golding did his usual sterling job despite having to top up a leaking radiator along the way. Another treat was the stop-off at the Ness property to inspect the mock-up of the original fire tanker, used in the CFA's centenary celebrations. Our library now sports two new books on fire prevention and history, which we hope members will take advantage of. Its not something we like to think about, but we do live in a fire-prone part of Melbourne and it's easier to sleep in summer, knowing all precautions have been taken!

# Fossicking Ross & Percy Poss.



DATE	S FOR THE	CALENDAR.	CAN VOIL HEET D
July	23rd.	Planting Glynns Rd (S.E.C.)	CAN YOU HELP?
·	26th	BIG DEPOT MEETING DAY	Old Newspapers (under mulch)
Aug.		Market at Stiggants (Volunteers please)	Leave in the Folly.
	4th	COMMITTEE MEETING	Off-cuts of Timber esp. cedar
	5th	F.O. Koornung/Parkcare restoration 10am.	for Nest Box construction
	9th	Gad's Gang at Stoney Ck 9.30am	() ()
	14th	Slide Night Guest PATRICK FRICKER 7.30pm	044 3097
	15 <b>-</b> 16 30th	S.G.A.P. Wildflower Show Contact Denise Bre	
30th Yarra Brae visit, Broom pull. Guided walk Flora Anderson  Every Thursday Nursery Activities etc. Bring bread & butter (Soup is on!)			
No experience necessary. Survey Plants, collect seed during			
		aftermoon.	12000 2000 0000
Bradley BrigadeSorry no dates Phone Joan MacMahon 844 3213			
Other Parkcare Enquiries Fay Valcanis 844 2659			
CCMMITTEE MEMBERS.			
Margaret BurkeCo-ordinator 844 1060			

Ian Burke.....Editor.....844 1060
Gay Harris......Secretary....844 1448
Alec Manson.....Treasurer...844 2557
Pat Coupar.Propagn.Publication.844 1650
Judy Thomson...Asst. Secretary.844 1590
Gail Roche....Crafts Festival..722 1926

Olive Walters...Propagn.Nursery, 846 4729 Mark Gardner.....Groups Advisor 844 3799

Shirley Mandemaker. Social Sec... 844 1895

Cathy Willis......844 1841

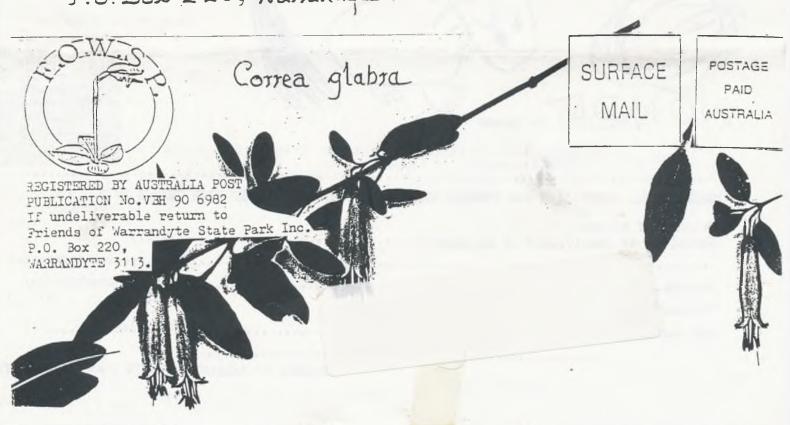
My son, oh son I have to say
The garden thrives while you're away
Bulbs are sending up strong shoots
And weeds have been pulled to their roots.

The wind has caused the trees to sway The seedlings have come on since May New growth on all plants doth appear And all is verdant, have no fear .....

The NSW premier is now John Fahey Greiner, I hear, has had his day (as had the petunias the grey hanging basket which I replaced with some hardenbergia violacea!)

P.S. Anon is a mother whose son loves exotics!

## P.O. Box 220, Warrandyle



Anon.