

Our merry band of spotters divided into three groups to do our annual koala survey, after lan Roche, our fearless Ranger filled us in on the do's and don'ts of the survey. He gave us an informed history of our koalas in Warrandyte State Park and of their condition and their future chances of survival.

The koala has managed to sustain its precarious hold in our park as people are becoming more informed about their needs. This is the fourth year the Friends have counted the koalas in October. It is the fourth year we have counted 20 adults and seen a few of their joeys. The koalas have been in a healthy condition and minus their ear tags. This indicates that our community is continuing to replace itself and moving to new territories, along the rivers verge. Our koalas have been seen as far as Eltham and towards Kinglake.

The Sunday was a lovely balmy day after a very hot day on the Saturday which improved the conditions for a walk in the bush. Walking along our various tracks craning trees from top to bottom searching for koalas led to observing many of the other delights of the bush. A tawny frogmouth was spotted by Bill White. The bush abounded with bird life and many of the flora were flowering. Superman Christopher and his mother spotted several koalas on their track. We finished the afternoon with Gail's damper and afternoon tea.

The data which this survey provides will help to form strategies to help the koala community of our park survive encroaching suburbs and their predators.

Thanks to everyone who participated to help our koalas.

Bradley

Brigade

FIRST THE BAD NEWS: The forests of Normans Reserve are being invaded! As you read this the ivy inches ever upward, covering the trunks of enormous Manna Gums-food and lodging for our delightful fellow creatures, Phascolarctos cinereus (usaully known by their nickname of koala).

The middle storey - a wonderful blend of Prickly Moses, Muttonwood, Lomatia, Blanketleaf and Christmas Bush is being pushed aside by Prunus and Pittossporum or else suffering from the heavy, strangulating burden of Japanese Honeysuckle.

As for the beautiful forest floor-a mosaic of Maidenhair, Poa tussocks, violets, sundews and mosses (the potential home of wombats and echidnas) it is suffering from the "predation" of the above weeds as well as the dreaded Angled Onion (most efficient "squeezer-outer" of everything in its path).

NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS: 1. At this time of year, with the right tools and not too much physical strain these weeds are readily defeated. (Secateurs, three - pronged weeders and large plastic bags will take any weeder a long way).

2. The Bradley Brigade has, like a Phoenix, risen again and for the next few months is going into action for one hour/week (Sat.9AM-10AM). We'ld love to show people how beautiful this forest is so if you'd like to help meet us at the end of Bradleys Lane at 9AM. If the time doesn't suit you phone us and we'll make a better arrangement.

Elma Angus (844 2230) Joan MacMahon (844 3213)

HELP!!!!

BRENDA

SLIDE NIGHT

A special slide evening with Arthur Williamson will take place in the old Scout Chapel at Blue-tongue Bend (or Skip Moyle Hut if it rains!) on JANUARY 15th - Friday evening. Arthur put together the original plant list which Pat, David and the rest of us are using as our base. He is a lover of this place and truly knows every inch! B.Y.O. B.B.Q. whilst we wait for darkness to fall. Arthur's slides and this place are a magical duo. Enq. 844 1060(Burkes)

Friends of Moornong

After nearly five months of carpet laying, clearing, rubbish removal and weeding, we are having a planting day on November 4th. "Periwinkle Hill" is about to sprout locals once again, and the newly discovered 'Koornong Creek' at its base (previously hidden by the mass of weeds) will flourish with sedges and grasses. We offer many thanks to Fay for all her help, both practical and motivational. While remaining a pillar of support in the background, she is bowing out of our monthly meeting to devote her energies elsewhere. Come and see us FIRST WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH 10am.

Our good friend Gretna Weste who is having a rather long enforced "rher wings(?) from a rather high ladder. We had a note from her hospi

Our good friend Gretna Weste who is having a rather long enforced "rest" after trying her wings(?) from a rather high ladder. We had a note from her hospital bed which shows just how hard it is to write when one is on ones back. Gretna promises a session on "Cinnanom Fungus" when she is up and about. Her big contribution to our group however was all those early morning flora surveys with Pat Coupar and David Van Bockel, and the help on "Discover Warrandyte".

We have had several other members with plaster casts after fancy repairs! Shirley is a well known sight around town with her sling. She is really clever with that "wrong" hand now and when we left her guarding the proceeds of our raffle at the Wonga Park Fair last week she promised that any mugger would come of second best to her plaster! Val Riddell has had a similar intricate repair...but he is not nearly as effective a guard as his cast is ONLY on his finger.

Lorraine Elliott, now M.L.A..for Mooralbark drew our raffle under the most dreadful conditions - The Market Stall was blowing away and the rain about to pelt down. Still we all managed and the Read Family won the Alison Thom teapot, sugar and jug, Mrs Reynolds the two bottles of fine Kellybrook Red wine and Margory Lapworth from the Community Centre a fabulous pot of Indigenous Lillies. Ammount raised....

We congratulated Lorraine on her seat in State Parliament and asked if she still wanted us to spy out the home she was looking for BUT she has found it. So our Lorraine Elliot M.L.A. is now a real local with bush at her door. She promises to bring a few colleagues to our Bush Dance.

Well the Boyles are going to have quite a bit of competition for the roadside verge comp next year. Mary Rudd AND WHOLE FAMILY now are to be found on every rainy day out on their nature strip working away. And Iris and Marg are at work. Joy Hildebrand and her neighbour are big competition SO- if you wish to join in this ridiculous race give Marg B. your name.

The workers who spent that Sunday in August pulling broom at Yarra Brae will be delighted to know that the chemical follow up which our Nicky did has been highly successful. Next year we will have our next visit and assess further requirements.... Thursday in winter.

Kym Docwra has become quite indispensible with her efficient and prompt help with typing up articles for the Newsletter. Maggie is really grateful as learning a new beast would be hell. If you have any articles you are able to politely ask Kym to help. Kym is another of these young people who give time and wonderful commitment whilst they await career developments...developing skills with us. AND WE TREASURE them. Kym 876 3807.

Special Meeting - Watson's Creek by bus

The OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL trip to Watsons Creek was a really memorable day both for the Council Members, the other guests who had been invited to participate, the guide Cam Beardsell and Alan Webster from Flora and Fauna Branch and myself (Margaret Burke) Every aspect of the day seemed to add to the occasion and what was more...we had wonderful weather. We began with a trip along Watsons Creek, ending at the Happy Valley Ford. There at that wonderful spot was visible evidence of all the dramatic problems which are rapidly engulfing our last wild creek. And of course the reverse side possibilitie possible future is also clear...and Cam has this marvellous skill in comunicating love for this fragiletreasure. F.O.W.S.P. helpers served a delicious hot lunch and OSAC members enjoyed the tranquility whilst also noting....consequences of the "Mud Bashing" activities of Hotted Jalopies, car dumping/stripping and off road "God only knows what", shootingwith numerous cartridges and signs of shot-up cans, signs etc. Rubbish was littering almost pristine creek banks and weed invasion problems beginning to get hold of track side and creek banks.

and Creek banks. Olearia blossomed around and Hazel Pomaderris hung with flowers and Ohs and Ahs escaped our lips as birds and butterflys lent their beauty to this magical but muddled scene. Lunch over the bus proceeded up to the One Tree ridge with views of both Melbourne and the bushland link along Watsons Creek all the way to Kinglake National Park. The walk to see the Quadrat Cam is presently surveying was almost over—whelming. One could not avoid standing on rare and exquisite orchids and the last withered Caladenia cenachilus was still recognisable. Next stop was even more exciting for me—Caladenia rosella in perfect condition, the rarest orchid I have ever been fortunate enough to see, surrounded by Salmon Sun Orchids. Alex Smart photographed many species and Pat Vaughan had his video camera rolling....so I hope you will be able to share these

wonders. Cam and Alan Webster then showed us past the lusher areas of Happy Valley Creek abounding in well known wildflower splendors (to a Warrandytian) with evidence of wonderful Tree ferm gullies - still poached- bushland still and beautiful- but with Trail bike erosion and banks collapsed from Off-road activities. Then ahead we stopped at an unknown gully and Alan introduced his friends Parent Powerful Owls with the one offspring they have reared this year. Alan Knows these birds well- knows many of the trials and tribulations they have faced over the years.

The bus then took us all back to W.S.P. for afternoon tea, a tour of the Nursery (with a pot of "Pink Bells" which we had seen on our travels), final considerations of what steps really were able to be taken. Thank

Visitors set off for home, cleaning up completed Fowspians called it a day...but not before we decided to commit some F.O.W.S.P. efforts to be FRIENDS to Watsons Ck and One Tree Hill. Next year we will help Cam with Operation 60 - a special Flora survey, and in the more immediate future perhaps create some temporary grills to safeguard the rare bat colonies. My very heartfelt thanks to all of you very wonderful Fowspians for ALL the work, help and tender loving care shown - Fowspians are a very special breed of folk.

Warrandyte State Park is an area of remnant bushland surrounded by predominantly urban and semirural land. It contains many important plant and animal communities. It is vital that we minimise the disturbance to these last remaining areas of intact bushland. Therefore as seed and cutting collectors we need to treat the park with care and respect whenever we are out collecting.

> Margaret Burke and Pat Coupar have been issued a permit under the National Parks Act 1975 by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife. This permit is for the collection of seed and cuttings of plants of Warrandyte State Park. This permit is subject to certain conditions and if these are breached the permit may be cancelled. So it is important for all F.O.W.S.P. members who collect seed in the Park, to follow the correct procedures; as we do not want to compromise Marg and Pat's position in relation to the permit.

The following is a short list of point that we must comply with, in our seed and cutting efforts:

-Marg, Pat or a Ranger MUST be present, -Not more than 10% of a standing crop to be collected,

-Seed and cuttings that are used as part of the park's revegetation program (i.e.those plants grown in the nursery) are to be collected only from the park itself, unless otherwise directed from Marg, Pat or

For those people who would like to assist in our seed collecting program over the summer, I strongly urge you to read Chapter 7 "Seed Collection" in "The Flora of Melbourne". It was written by Darcy Duggan of Yarra Bend Park and is only 3 pages long, page 33. It covers all important points and contains useful hints on collecting. The book is available to borrow from the library at the park office.

If you have any queries about this matter, please give me a call at the Park Office: Phone 844 2659.

David Van Bockel.

SEED

LECTION

PLEASE NOTE

Rangers are concerned that some members of the public are illegally removing seed and plant material. Please report any incidences to the park Rangers for further action.



Flying Colours.....To the setting....to the guests....to the Publishers agent, Margaret Tickle. Flying Colours.....to the wonderful supper those Fowspian "plates" contained. Flying Colours.....The speeches......Dr Tim New who declared "Flying Colours" launched Flying Colours to the most enjoyable of book launch functions most guests had ever FLYING COLOURS By Pat and Mike Coupar will grace many bookshelves in attended. this town and will be a most useable and enjoyable referrence for all of us amateur FLYING COLOURS......If you wish to purchase talk to Pat. Entomology enthusiasts.

FLYING COLOURS.....FLYING COLOURS.....FLYING COLOURS.....FLYING COLOURS

FRIENDS OF THE WANDERING BROGIL

PROGRESS REPORT

We have five little ducklings on our small pond! (Wood ducks)

Our frog chorus (Litoria ewingii) has diminished since the great flood but hopefully some made it to higher ground and the others are happy in their new home. We trust it isn't Port Phillip Bay.

Our sedges and trees from our Autumn planting are growing rapidly. Some had to stand up bravely as flood waters rushed over them. We have become experts at dragging carpet out of drains and replacing it.

Chris Geary from Melbourne Water visited with lots of compliments on our progress and promise of support in supplying plants.

Heather and Estelle have joined us with enthusiasm. (Estelle doesn't mind sharing her garden with the odd snake). Paul and Amanda are keen to restore their property with indigenous plants so that the wildlife corridor flows into their home.

Debbie continues to work tirelessly. Her bright optimism is truly in Spring.

Have you seen Shirley Mandemaker's "ducks cross here" signs on Research Road? She has done a wonderful job. One mother duck really does look cross too.

One last exciting newsflash - The rosellas ar definitly nesting in our roof again.

Joy Hildebrand







LAND FOR WILDLIFE - AND F.O.W.S.P.

Land for Wildlife has really taken off in Melbourne Region in 1992 and a lot of credit must go to the terrific support that has come from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. A staggering 25 Warrandyte properties have applied for LFW, most belonging to "Friends". Of the properties assessed, all have been eligible for Land for Wildlife and are of high conservation value. Osborne Road is on the way to becoming a

significant corridor to the river, with 7 properties in the scheme.

Due to the overwhelming support from this area, I would like to recruit some volunteer LFW assessors. This would involve attending a training day early next year and assessing 2-3 properties every 6 months. The amount of assessments would be up to you, but if you feel that you would like to give it a go, please see me.

Land for Wildlife is also looking at ways of registering group projects so if you're one of these active people involved in community projects, keep Land for Wildlife in mind, but more about that in 1993.

Virginia McCallum Land for Wildlife Extension Officer

The recent workshops held at the community centre were not only well attended but provided a wonderful forum for weeds, plant of the indigenous variety and bush regeneration to be discussed. After fossicking through and classifying Flora's garden specimens, being captivated by Pat's slide presentation, planning our home block for regeneration a la Mark and Cathy's style and being "weeded" out with Steve, participant went home with a different sparkle in their gardening eyes. For those who were unable to attend but would like a copy of the notes, please contact me at the depot (844 2659).

The Koornong Friends Group is actively meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. The Periwinkle hill is gradually being smothered and the replanting will restore it to a more pleasing mound. The group have also worked enthusiastically pulling Ivy and hand pulling Cape broom and other weedy varieties.

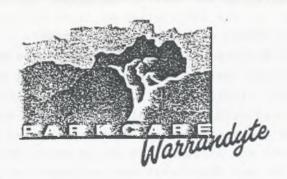
Bradley's Brigade are beginning to emerge at Norman's Reserve. This small, but still very important, group of workers are now meeting every Saturday morning (very keen) between 9-10am. All help is appreciated and welcomed no matter how big or small the time commitment is.

Several walks and weeding events have occurred at Fourth Hill. Smilax clean ups and Angled Onion smothering projects have been a step towards restoring this area. Although no set meeting dates have been established I am interested in hearing from any persons willing to be part of a monthly or bi-monthly working bee in this area.

Still in the development stage is the Weed Identification Kit. This will comprise of a weed poster, a weed checklist, control sheet and a indigenous plant/nursery brochure. We hope to have them available in the later months, keep your eyes out for them.

ParkCare will continue to run activities over spring and summer, and we hope the warmer(?) weather might entice a few people into the park. Look out in the Park's notice boards and around the local shops for flyers bearing the ParkCare logo. People interested in attending walks (day and night) to discover the "good" and "bad" of the park can register their details on the ParkCare mailing list, if you haven't done so already. If you are interested in being closely involved in a particular part of Warrandyte State Park or adjacent areas please contact me on 844 2659.

Hope to see you soon. Fay Valcanis.



Thanks 8.EC. John Ward and Richard Jansen brought S.E.C. Regional Manager Alan Driver out to the Park for the presentation of a cheque for \$1600 for the materials to build a large Greenhouse to add to the Nursery Complex. They enjoyed a fruit-salad lunch (hot day!) Alan was able see what we are doing, learning about the role of our Nursery and the Friends group. We thank the S.E.C. for their contribution and we look forward to an excellent relationship in the future.



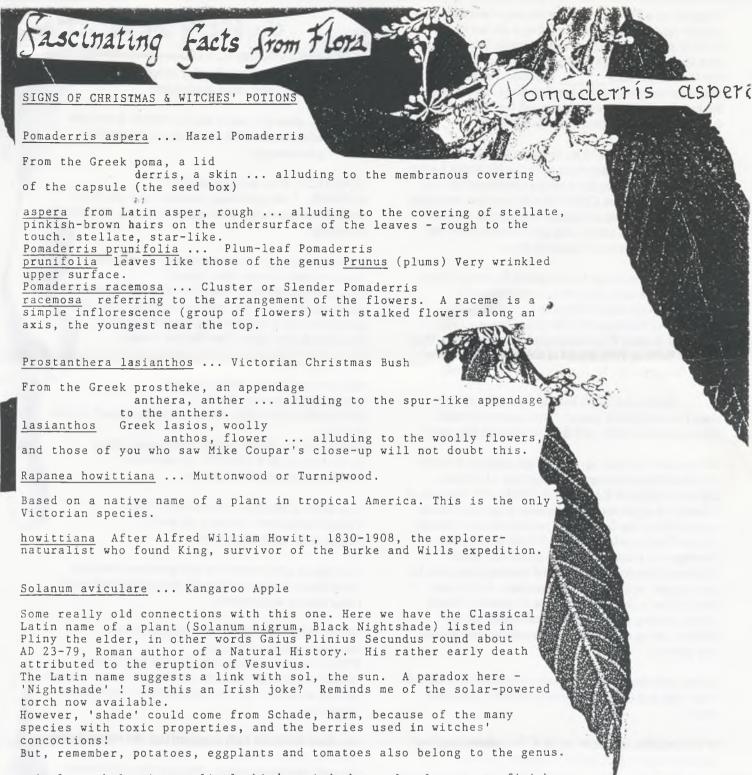
OF WARRANDYTE

BY PAT COUPAR

My first visit to Warrandyte was over 17 years ago, yet I vividly recall the rough, winding track with its pot holes and bull dust leading down to the tranquil waters of the Yarra river. I remember the aroma of Eucalyptus oil vaporizing in the stifling heat of a mid-summers day. There was a stillness about the place, a feeling of remoteness. I remember most of all the intermittent pinging which seemed to echo from the surrounding trees. It was my first encounter with Bellbirds. I must have read about them somewhere, for I knew instinctively that they were the source of those 'tink tink' noises. It was not until several visits later that I actually saw the birds themselves. Although not shy birds, their olive-green coloration makes Bellbirds hard to discern amongst the foliage of the Eucalyptus trees where they spend much of their time. Occasionally a bird will hop onto an exposed branch where the brilliant orange of its legs and beak are revealed. Bellbirds, are also known as Bell Miners and are native birds closely related to the Noisy Miner. Incidently they are not related to the Indian Mynah which was introduced in 1863 and is now extremely common in all habitats often replacing native birds such as parrots by competing for nesting hollows. Bellbirds live in large colonies and are aggressively territorial driving away other birds, many of which are much larger than themselves.

Bellbirds are honeyeaters and like other members of their group feed on nectar and insects. They seem to have a marked preference for scale insects and in particular the sugar lerp. Lerps are small sap-sucking insects often found on Eucalyptus leaves. They construct a sugary covering rather like a tent, under which they shelter and feed. The Bellbirds eat these sugary shelters but not the insects themselves, which continue to do damage to the leaves while making another shelter at the same time. Bellbirds have taken advantage of this reconstruction work and actually farm the lerps for their secretions. The damage lerps cause to the leaves is in the form of discoloured, dry patches leading to premature shedding of leaves. By scaring away other birds that would normally eat these insects, it would appear that the Bellbirds are encouraging the destruction caused by the lerps. However I have seen severe defoliation of trees by lerps in other parts of the State where no Bellbirds are present.

The Bellbirds of Warrandyte have seen many changes over the years. Since that hot summers day 17 years ago, I have driven down the rough, winding track to the river countless times. Now it is a sealed road with no pot holes and no bull dust, but at least now the bush does not receive a choking covering of dust every time a car passes by. At least now the aromatic Eucalypts and understorey of Wattles and Pomaderris are protected as a part of the Warrandyte State Park. At weekends the area is a popular destination for canoeists, bushwalkers or for those who just enjoy a picnic in pleasant surroundings. It has become so popular that at times during the warmer months it is difficult to find a parking spot. The feeling of remoteness has gone, but the Bellbirds are still there as a constant reminder of the day I first discovered and fell in love with Warrandyte.



aviculare belonging to little birds. And what a lovely note to finish on.

STOP PRESS...The newest sub-group Friends of One Tree Hill have as their first project the building of grills to install across the entrances to the mines where the Bent-wing ans Horse-shoe bats are living. Cam is worried at the amount of disturbance they have suffered. Bill White is chief engineer and installation day will be in several weeks. If you wonder at the promptness/urgency just ask any of the folk who went up what macarbre fate can befall a bat captured by some strange people at Halloween!

Flora.

Val needs a Hand ~

Val Himmelreich is gradually recovering, pulling life back together and a new home within the shell of her old one will emerge. She has received lots of support, sympathy and offers of help from you and the other groups of which she is a member. We have decided to set up a "RESTOCK VAL'S LARDER" Appeal as insurance will not cover all her needs. If you have something you wish to give (spices, herbs, pantry items, homemade condiments...use your imagination) any items give it to Pat Coupar(844 1650) or any committee member or leave it at the office. Second hand household items may also be "just the thing". Other groups contact Pat. Cash Donation O.K.

Disguised as a FOWSP member wearing a white hat your mystery reporter was able to build up a dossier on the FOWSP Minutes Secretary who is actually listed on the back sheet of your Park "rag" as an Assistant Secretary. Her true alias is Judy _____ Thomson. Further interrogation revealed that her first name is really Judith, but her close friends and relatives call her "Jude". Further searches of Debrett's gave "nee Chesterfield".

Born in Camberwell in 1936, Judith attended Mont Albert Primary School and then went on to the Methodist Ladies College, finally gaining her Leaving Certificate. She was once called "the Form Clown" (this information was easily extracted) - her sense of humour kept getting her into trouble "Didn't like school, was glad to leave, didn't cry when the "leaving school" song was sung.

Judy then went onto the Kindergarden Training College (K.T.C.), which now, after three name changes is amalgamated into the Melbourne University. After finalising her Kindergarden Teaching Diploma Judy worked at Burnley Free Kindergarden for two years, then married Keith in 1957, stayed at home and "had babies"; three; Rodney ('58), Merryn ('60) and Andrew ('64).

Judith and family lived in Hartwell for thirty years (in a solid brick home). "Returned to Hartwell Kindergarden in 1969, part time for the next five years".

She then left and took up study at the Institute of Early Childhood Development and completed a Graduate Diploma of Special Education in 1976.In 1977 Judy was at Allambie in a pilot early intervention programme in the nursery. When the funding ran out she did odd relieving jobs and finally ended up at the "Uncle Bob's" Child Development Centre which was part of the Royal Children's Hospital'. This involved running playgroups for handicapped children and their mothers. At the same time she had a part time job at the Canterbury Family Centre running a playgroup for residential and day children, set up a toy library, "enjoyed that" and worked with parents.

At this point the interested reader (as you all are) will ask - "but what has this got to do with FOWSP committee work?"

With incredible ingenuity the M.R. has "pieced together" the following background to "committee activity":

FACT 1: Judy was connected with the Warrawong Day Care Kindergarden in East Ringwood which was/is? owned and run by Graduate Teachers - JUDITH WAS ON THE COMMITTEE!- was president of the COMMITTEE for ten years and is still on that COMMITTEE! She also worked there on a range of activities.

FACT 2: Judith's grandmother was National President of the WCTU (see code reference later). Her grandmother was someone Judith always "looked up to" - a sweet,

Mystery Reporter

genuine person working with other people. She was probably one of Judy's main inspirations.

To allow the reader time to recover from these shock revelations, the MR moved on to a more subtle form of questioning:-

QUESTION: What are your hobbies?

ANSWER: I like gardening, reading, hand spinning of wool, house decorating, painting, entertaining, "like doing everything".

Judy likes cooking, her favourite meal - "everything"
Doesn't drink or smoke "like chocies"
Likes going on holidays, "had a lot of lovely holidays with
Keith and the kids", went away in a caravan. "Seen just
about every place under the Tropic of Capricorn".
Favourite holiday spot - "the Flinders Ranges"

FAVOURITES

ACTOR/ACTRESS: Ruth Cracknell Never misses the news, "SBS" "2"

FAVOURITE MOVIE: "Picnic at Hanging Rock" (a tick

for CG)

FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Warrandyte Diary FAVOURITE POP GROUP: Glenn Miller

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Classical

Judy drives a MAZDA 626 hatchback (blue). Traffic convictions? - "none at all, ever". Admits to no criminal activity.

Her biggest achievement was going overseas this year, "travelling to England by myself, and getting back again" (Also Europe and Ireland).

WHAT ANNOYS HER? - everything political, beaurocrats and inefficiency.
PETS? "Lost my darling little Cavalier King Charles Spaniel in April this year, she was named Candy - because she was so sweet". Still deciding whether to get another dog or not.

In a final statement Judy admitted that she enjoys looking after her grandchildren and helping people. It was also revealed that she moved to Warrandyte in 1987 when Keith retired, and she is recorded as saying:

"I like everything about Warandyte".

For the next unravelling interview your MR has targetted a "new" Ranger, another Construction and Maintenance worker, or another committee member. - TREMBLE IN FEAR!

WCTU- Womens Christian Temperance Union WA Inc- Is this an abbreviation for Warrandyte Incorporated?

DEBBY'S NEST BOX PROGRAM

Monitoring of Nesting boxes has shown mostly empty homes so far BUT some Starlings had to be evicted PLUS a swarm of bees! Lots more boxes are required for the program...we need help from interested members over the summer months. Enquiries...Debby Parker 846 2214.

2. Join the dots.



3.Animal wordsearch. Find the words and then write down the letters that are left.



Yabbys Cat Ekidna Ee1 Owl Rat Frog Fish Bat Tadpole Possum Koala

> Duck Turtle

Fly

Write down the remainding

Wombat

Ant

Cod

Hen

Slug

letters here.

Ibis

MEMBERSHIPRENEWAL(OR NEW MEMBERS WISHING TO JOIN)	SEND WITH CHEQUE TO	0 P.O.Box 220.
Names(all of family,ages of children)	•••••	WARRANDYTE Vic. 3113.
		cial interests?
Address	Family	Subscription/
Telephone No	Single	\$10.00
Any suggestions	Donation	a
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	PRIENDS OF WARRANDY	TO CHAMD DADY THE

