



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK Inc. NEWSLETTER

April

1994

EDITORIAL.

Editors spend a lot of time trying to sort out the difference between the real meaning of words, and the popular concepts they attain.

The word 'growth' is a good example, the dictionary says 'a gradual increase in size, or development'. To an environmentalist this could be a growing tree or animal, or to a family the height of their children, or to anyone the existence of a wart on the end of their nose.

Economists and politicians have totally embraced the word, and so have newspapers and magazines. They have given it new meaning and even provided a way of measuring it. Gross domestic product and gross national product are seen as part of growth. It has become a yardstick of progress and development and hence prosperity. A rise in G.N.P. is a sign of good times for all, a fall is an impending disaster.

But if there was a major fire in a chemical or nuclear plant and pollution caused many to be sick or die, then many extra medical and ancillary services are used and up goes the G.N.P. There was a significant rise in 1989 because of the Exxon Valdez oil spill - the greatest marine disaster in American history.

There are many things that G.N.P. does not measure, such as the quality and quantity of clean air, water, soil, and bio diversity. The increasing value of a living forest with its flora and fauna is also ignored, no account is taken of the value of volunteer workers in the community. They are a large part of the workforce in hospitals, care of the aged and religious organisations. Anyone who opts to be a full time parent does not rate. To economists these are all 'externalities' and irrelevant to their calculations. They live in a land of make believe where the aim is steady growth in consumption, wealth and profits, that can go on forever.

Growth has been equated with development, and has become 'sustainable', ever since the phase was used by the Bruntland Commission. Recently a delegate of a business group said he was having "sustainable thoughts".

The reality of economic growth is just a reflection of conspicuous consumption, be it a car, a coke, or a condominium.

Ecologists have stressed the need for reduction of growth and the G.N.P. in view of increase in human population and diminishing resources. But how can we expect third world countries to practise restraint when developed countries continue to do the opposite?

Preoccupation with economic growth has blinded us to a more important truth - economics itself is an invention that makes no ecological sense. To set our priorities around economics is to hurtle along a catastrophically destructive path.

Paul Erlich once remarked, "We will know when the game is being won, when a business man or politician gets up and says - 'We had a rise of 1% in G.N.P. this year, when we had a goal of a 5% reduction.'....."

"Men who sit back and pride themselves on their cultures, haven't any to speak of."

Elbert Hubbard

"We grow by doing, not by thinking our thoughts and feeling our feelings."

Elbert Hubbard.

THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL APRIL 1994

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME AT POUND BEND. Sat 16-Sun 17 This a new venture for F.O.W.S.P. and we hope lots of members will come along either day. We also hope you will volunteer to help with all the activities as advertising is for Melbourne wide. If you are able to be rostered on please ring Betty Oke 844 3763 or discuss with Marg Burke on 844 1060. Activities are similar to those during the Festival. 12.30 pm - 5pm Sunday CORROBOREE with local tribal elder Mullumdindi. on Sat 24th April, The Noisy Miners Bush Band (the Hildebrands & O'Leary) will play at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and we invite all to our Bush Dance. Bookings must be made (150 tickets). Ring the office 844 2659. Bring supper to share, 7.00pm onward. This will be an experience and a half so don't miss out. Come as a Warrandytian of the Gold Mining Era.

HOT HOUSE GOSSIP

This years Warrandyte Festival was one we faced as 'experienced' exhibitors. Pat Coupar and Cathy Willis put together a superb wetlands, (with the help of Keith Dimech's portable sandpit). Pat had written a leaflet on how to make your own wetlands area - which many people have wanted. The other special exhibit was Debby Parker's Nestbox display. The response to this was also enthusiastic and we actually had to beg Matt to somehow get more leaflets.

We can thank Luanda Pianta for the change in site; she also decided to put us away from the D.C.&N.R. tent. The long narrow site along the path worked very well. Ron and Jan Day loaned us 15 bales of straw (thankyou so much) and the Billy Tea and Damper or Girdle scones did an amazing trade! Bill Roxburgh brought his 'girdle' to try the scones this year, and put himself on duty the whole two days.... well those scones really sold as hot cakes. (Ron Taylor now has a friend 'running us up' a girdle to fit the drum B.B.Qs.)

Those who have been arguing can calm down. Joy Hildebrand was dressed as a Brunonia australis, not a blue fairy, as she travelled with Hildebrand on the float. She said many people 'got it', in fact local botanist David Cameron gave her the 'thumbs up' to congratulate her accuracy.

Shirley Mandemaker 'did or redid' so many banners and displays, she could have been forgiven for saying no to face painting. But she was there and her brand of painting is always rather special, so regulars were lining up - she needed a waiting hay bale! The old banner looks marvellous with its repaint Shirley.

We thank all members for their enthusiastic support. Ron Taylor did a magnificent job with his first time as

Fowsp's Festival Manager and he will no doubt be 'after' you all next year!

As you can all see the trip to Wilsons Prom was a great success. Whist there we voted to make visits to other State or National Parks a normal part of our program. Margaret Dimech was overwhelmingly elected to the job of organiser and she has already begun checking out the Grampians for the third week in October. If you are interested contact her as this area in spring requires 'booking'. Enq. 844 3812.

Some of our members are not very experienced campers. The Burkes required borrowed camping equipment (thanks Cathy) and packed up the day after the Festival. Somehow they left the air mattress behind... it was dark, two hours struggling with the mysteries of a very complex deluxe tent with lots of 'bits' had exhausted them and the prospect of all week lying on the ground had Marg rush down to the 'shop'. Next trip they won't need to borrow a bed!

Alison Thom spent each day recording with watercolour the incredible tones of the Prom. Last day we all had to view her Prom 'exhibition'.

May sound gruesome, but Fowspians were fascinated by a trip with Steve Anderson, to view and handle the contents of the D.C.& N.R. freezer at the Prom office. These sad little parcels gave us the opportunity to learn to identify fauna species. We had actually seen an Antechinus in Lilly Pilly Gully but weren't really 'sure'. Now we are certain that our siting had been of a very nonchalant little Antechinus stewartii, fossicking for insects from the safety of a huge sedge. This species occurs in the Park and now a large number of us have 'real' experience in identification.

And we actually had two birthdays whilst away. Olives and Brendan Dimech who turned ten and was able to really learn how to ride his Boogie Board present. (Ross was glad to help with the training!)

Thanks to all those members who receive a call from Betty (in charge of 'rosters') who are happy to have their names added to the list. Betty has taken on this onerous task this year and all who arrive to help see how 'many hands make light work' AND they enjoy it. Marg is eternally grateful for the change.

The clean up by canoe on Clean up Australia Day was very successful with 17 helpers. We had many canoes offered by locals or Friends and therefore did not have to hire them. A huge amount of rubbish was pulled out, all the rubbish eddies were mapped and maps sent in to Melbourne Water. Pat Coupar also mapped the willows and we hope to have a willow eradication program planned in the next year.

Elizabeth Sevier and Neal Tessier are working further wonders in the big Coupe. They are planning to cope much better this year with ground water. They have designed some ingenious spillover drains and we hope some extra long term workers may join them in this remarkable project. If you come to the Nursery do go down to the Coupe for a guided tour. Elizabeth promises an article updating you on works.

Anna Richtarik, mentioned last month, must receive another mention as this month she graduated in Science from Melbourne Uni and has now begun a two year Honours course. The project by the dam is more or less completed and now she is planning a new project with David - for her spare time! There is truly something marvellous about the young people in our group.

**Sunday April 24th Jumping Creek Road 1pm.
Reserve opposite entrance gates. Rabbit proof fence building.**

Help us to safeguard several rare species including the beautiful *Helipterum albicans*. Marg Dimech will be counting on lots of members coming to help and learn the fencing skills Steve Anderson taught her. Tools will be provided but you may wish to bring good gloves. Afternoon tea and a chat while the billy boils. Fay will tell you all about her new Rabbit Control Brochure. Enquiries Margaret Dimech 844 3812. Bring afternoon tea to share.

In the last month we have received two lovely long letters from members who have set up home in 'green pastures - far away'. We wish to share these with you all and will publish them over several months. Any way love to Pat & Graham Madeley, regular Fowspians, recently moved away from Croydon and so far only missing Warrantdyte and to Mo Dickson & Mick who moved to Murwillumbah over a year ago and certainly not missing suburbia. Ed.

"Tara" Traralgon-Balook Rd. Callignee Vic (Strezlecki Range Gippsland) Early March - Pat MadeleyI am missing F.O.W.S.P. dreadfully. The last months have been hectic, moving by trailer all my plants, the contents of Graham's shed and the things required to make life comfortable.

Builder is three months behind schedule! Makes one laugh reflecting that the choice of a 'kit' home was to cut building time. Started building 10 days ago and our caravan will be home for three months. Cost of storage is horrendous so we are having a double garage erected and moving in. Oh..everything takes such a time - garage will take 4-5 weeks (depending on weather). Ground needs to be levelled (man coming in 2 weeks)....AND you will ALL know that there is a terrible plague of mice. Neighbour, living inside a caravan, inside a large shed is having awful trouble. Will they nest in my beds and furniture? (Like me to look on the bright side??)

Hip, hip hooray, S.E.C. came up Tuesday - now have power. Haven't tried the T.V. yet to check reception, too busy, but steady rain (how I found time to write) might have us try it. Wonderful thing is we can plug in the heater...caravans are miserable without heat!

Graham saw workmen point up hill while assembling the line. Our dog Sam started barking and jumping - didn't go far, as she is still unsure of country life. Investigation showed an echidna curled in his 'scrape', under a tree we had cut down - kept Sam away as it would have distressed them both no doubt. Sam hasn't seen our resident fox yet, doesn't seem interested in its scats. But loves rolling in cow muck and is VERY interested in cows. Having a staring match with a heifer the other day - the cow won, Sam gave a bark and heifer went running uphill. Young cattle are in paddocks all around us, and are all interested in Sam. Coming nearer and nearer to the fences until they are right on top of her, Sam barks for a while then, suddenly moves in and they shoot off. Quite the cattle dog!

Son Russell is settling well at Creswick this year. Forestry course is much more interesting with field work, chain sawing, spraying and 4 wheel driving, first aid etc. Railway strikes don't affect him now after 4 years up and down. He is only 5 minutes away from lectures. He came up as a surprise last weekend, wonderful, but so brief. I guess we will get used to being without him. Mind you I don't miss the washing, plus the MacDonalds uniforms, plus the untidy bedroom. I noticed he was wearing the same tee shirt when he left. He said he is turning his socks and pants inside out. I don't think he will ever attract a girlfriend - unless the girls all do the same thing! He is hoping to get a job with MacDonalds at Ballarat, but I haven't heard of the interview result as yet.End of Chapter One.

Correspondent Number Two.

Howards Rd Burringbar Northern N.S.W. coast. Late March. Mo Dickson I was planting trees in the rain, got 9 in, but ended up so wet and dirty, I decided to take a shower and do something else (write this). Naturally the sun is out now. Still we need the rain and I won't have to water the trees in. There are three more avocados, 5 mangoes and some blueberries to plant...

We are still working hard, although earning very little at the moment. The house is quite civilised now (we have had to completely renovate it). We've finished lounge, kitchen, hall, toilet, and three bedrooms. Also nearly completed the main bathroom. Mick does the plastering and painting and I do the tiling and grouting. We've still got the laundry and 'end' room to do (this is a room which used to be a garage; which we are hoping to set up for tourists and guests). We have built a small ensuite in it, but the rest is very rough - no plaster and the ceiling a bit of a mess. Then there is the outside to do.....

I have been getting a small Plant Nursery started, specialising in bonsai using Native plants. Had the plants on our driveway at one time, which doesn't work very well with the chooks and our two dogs around. (Did you know that chooks love eating polystyrene boxes, dancing on potted plants, and playing "lets see who can knock the most pots over?") Mick built me a chook and dog proof shade house so I have somewhere to put plants. out of harms and suns way. Eventually I will get properly organised with growing, but I must admit the weeds are winning at the moment. I have produced a plant list which I have only given to one retail nursery. All I have sold so far is 80 odd paw paw tubes. Better than nothing I suppose, particularly as the paw paw seeds cost nothing!

We also started a worm farm. It has grown from one dustbin to two old baths, 7 'off ground' beds (8x3) and an 'on ground bulk bed'. Mick is destined to spend his life constructing 'wonders' to satisfy my wild ideas. (*Sounds like the destiny of Fowspian builders! Ed.*) In a couple of weeks, we hope to sell worms for composting and fishing, and wormcasts for compost. Apparently pig poo is one of the best worm foods so we were collecting it free from the local piggery. Stuff we were getting from there was mixed with urine and water, consequently very acid, and it had taken a long time to become O.K. for the worms. Next experiment is to use poo from another piggery (at Byron Bay) which is separated from the urine and nice and dry. We have to pay for this, \$15 a ute load (or \$240.00 for 20 cu. mt.) but I think it might work a lot better. Anyway, if you want any worms, you know where you can get them now!

.....More next month

Meeting regarding serious threat to Green Wedge.

Friday 22nd April, at 8.00pm.

We would like Fowspians to attend. Could each subgroup arrange a representative.

Venue: Check in the Warrantdyte Diary which will also have a comprehensive article. Phill Honeywood and Rob Gell will address the meeting and are anxious to have support from 'Green Wedge' supporters. See you there.

Enq. Alan King 844 3622 - Bev & John Hanson 844 3906.

Introduction by Anon...

An intrepid band of Fowspians descended on the National Park at Wilsons Promontory and were at once met by a totally different landscape (and seascape) from their venue at Warrandyte. We were able to investigate a totally different group of animals and plants. A bonus was to meet with the Friends of the Prom who were eager to join with us and share their special knowledge of the area. We were pleased we had the common aim of protecting the environment of this unique part of the world. A spell of perfect weather made our camp and activities even more enjoyable.

A special feature was the high level of friendship and cooperation that emerged between all those in the camping area - the evenings were a time when meaningful problems were discussed. (...and we had B.G. to help with the more difficult concepts!)

"The sun is up and death is far away: The first hour is the sweetest of the day"

John Neilson

Elbert Hubbard can have the last say - "If you want a friend; be one."

PROMONTORY PARADISE

by Pat Coupar.

Day 1 March 21st. Monday.

Weather - Warm and sunny.

By mid afternoon most of the campers had arrived had arrived at Tidal River, claiming 33rd Avenue as their own by erecting the FOWSP banner and tent.

At 5.15pm a hastily organised expedition set off from Telegraph Saddle to view the sunset from the summit of Mt. Oberon. No-one quite knew when sunset was, but we made it in time to marvel at the rosy pink rays from a dying, cloud veiled sun reflect on the halcyon (1) waters of Norman Bay and the outlying islands.

Day 2 Tuesday.

Warm, sunny and partly cloudy.

Most of the campers had a relaxing morning in preparation for the Lilly-Pilly Gully Circuit walk that afternoon. Mike, Ross and myself chose instead the Oberon Bay walk (11km return), which starts from the southern end of Norman Bay. The track climbs steadily around Norman Point before descending to Little Oberon Bay - a smallish cove with dazzling white sand and turquoise blue water. Refreshed by a swim and lunch we continued over a drink and scroggin*(thanks Olive), we compared notes. The 5km. LPG(2) circuit, it seemed was a little harder than anticipated but provided great opportunities for the 'bums-up' people(3).

Day 3 Wednesday.

Mild to warm, mostly cloudy.

One way or another the entire party of FOWSPs plus most FOPs(4) converged on Squeaky Beach. A number of us then followed the delightful walking track through fascinating, and sometimes bewildering, heathland vegetation to Picnic Bay. The day clouded over and a lazy afternoon was spent around the campsite.

It was Olive's birthday and the 'surprise' party (planned the evening before with Olive helping!) took place in the communal tent. Food and drink were plentiful and the company congenial.

Day 4 Thursday.

Warm and mainly sunny.

Today a party of 5 fit FOWSPs and 3 FOPs walked to Sealers Cove - a 20km return trip. It was a journey of discovery along narrow tracks winding through frequently changing vegetation to a secluded cove. There was a feeling about 'Sealers' and the granite tors that cannot be put into words, but will remain in our memories for a long time.

On our return we found the majority of the group had walked to Millers Landing on Corner Inlet (6km return), to carefully examine the worlds most Southerly Mangroves.

Day 5 Friday.

Warm, sunny with a westerly breeze

Today 'our' Steve Anderson who is on secondment at W.P.N.P. (5) (having finished an assignment for college at 4.30am) gave generously of his time. Firstly he and the FOPs showed us the track they had built together, then followed a behind the scenes tour of the Information Centre.

By afternoon most Fowspians had packed up and regretfully left for home, but Steve joined the Dimechs and Coupars for an afternoon of surfing and beach cricket at Normans Bay.

The evening was a highlight for those who remained with an impromptu wine and cheese party on the summit of Mt. Oberon. As cloud poured off the mountains behind us and dissipated in the warmer air below, we watched the sun go down and the stars come out. Thanks Steve for an unforgettable inter-stellar experience.

Day 6 Saturday.

Warm and sunny

The Vaggs and Silveris now joined the dwindling party of FOWSPs. In the morning the group went their different ways. On the agenda was a 6km return walk to Vereker Outlook with spectacular views of the Northern wilderness section of the Park. Other choices were Millers Landing and surfing at Whisky Bay.

The wonderful week of Promontory Paradise was winding down. Campsites were filling with holiday-makers taking an early Easter break - it was time to leave this most popular of all Victorian National Parks. Nevertheless there was a feeling of sadness as we dismantled the Friends tent.

That evening David Van Bockel, Steve and another 'old' Warrandytian, Brian Ragg joined us around the gas light (no fires allowed). Later a few of us walked down to the beach to stargaze. A silvery-white moon lit our way as we meandered back along the boardwalk named after the Aboriginal spirit of the area, Loo ern.

All week Loo ern, in the form of Sirius the brightest star in the sky, had watched over us. Perhaps it is him we should thank for making the friends inaugural excursion so perfect.

Footnote. 1. Halcyon - a Greek mythological bird which made the waters calm so it could lay its eggs on them.

2. L.P.G. - Lilly Pilly Gully.

3. Bums up people - People who like carefully (even slowly?) looking at plants.

4. FOPs - Friends of the Prom.

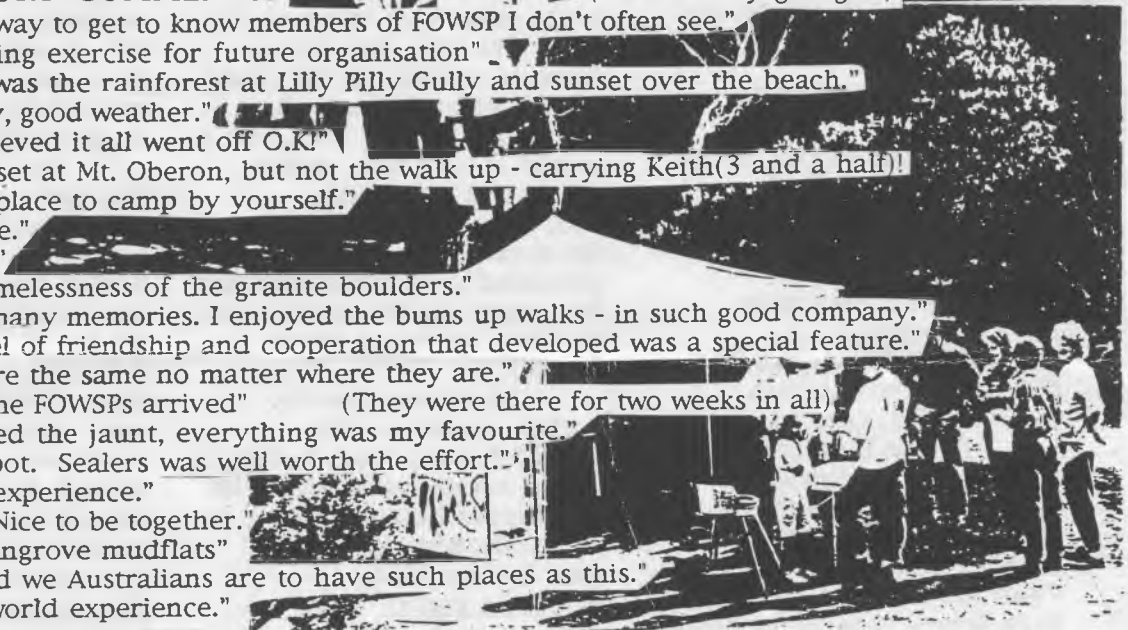
5. WPNP - Wilsons Promontory National Park.



CONVIVIAL PROMONTORY COMMENTS.

(Collected by gaslight!)

- Olive "It was a great way to get to know members of FOWSP I don't often see."
- Andy "A good learning exercise for future organisation"
- Betty "My favourite was the rainforest at Lilly Pilly Gully and sunset over the beach."
- Neal "Good company, good weather."
- Margaret D. "Incredibly relieved it all went off O.K!"
- Wayne "Loved the sunset at Mt. Oberon, but not the walk up - carrying Keith(3 and a half)!"
- Bill "A marvellous place to camp by yourself."
- Elise "Most enjoyable."
- Grant "Have it again!"
- Ellma "Sparkling. Timelessness of the granite boulders."
- Margaret B. "Fantastic. So many memories. I enjoyed the bums up walks - in such good company."
- Ian "The high level of friendship and cooperation that developed was a special feature."
- Ben "The Friends are the same no matter where they are."
- Margaret N. "Quiet before the FOWSPs arrived" (They were there for two weeks in all)
- Alex "I really enjoyed the jaunt, everything was my favourite."
- Ron "A very nice spot. Sealers was well worth the effort."
- Alison "A wonderful experience."
- Shirley "A good spot. Nice to be together."
- Gay "I liked the mangrove mudflats"
- Mike "How privileged we Australians are to have such places as this."
- Ross "An into this world experience."



THOUGHTS ON FRIENDS- FROM A "SENIOR" FRIEND.

Why have Friends groups (and varied friends activities)?

A sizeable proportion of our 'regulars' are more senior citizens - not capable of really strenuous tasks, so Nursery work or shorter weeding sessions are more suited to their capabilities. Shorter, maybe slower, walks to learn about plants and their habitats have become a most enjoyable activity - a *bonding* as well as an educational exercise for this group. These need to be frequent but diverse. After all it takes a lot of practice to implant names in older brain cells!

Parks *need* friends, BUT friends also *need* parks. Our Friends group provides a meeting place for people with a genuine interest in growing plants. We cater for a real need with the very 'friendly' and non-threatening activities that take place at 'our' Nursery. Some people just love filling pots, others specialise in pricking out. But one only has to walk through the work area and to hear the sound of happy voices (the topics of conversation are of no real consequence) to know that our group finds their work therapeutic. That it fulfils a need. It has become an activity which one can drop into or not - there is no compulsion to attend regularly but its comforting to know that there are always friends there and useful tasks each time one turns up.

Olive Walters.

(If you are one of the members (senior, junior or in between) who have spent a delightful day at the Nursery, haven't returned yet but have fond memories, just pop along one Thursday and we guarantee you a warm welcome. - Cathy, Marg & Pat.)

GIRDLE SCONES

- 10 oz. self-raising flour
- 1-2 oz. butter or margarine
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- milk

Sift flour and salt, rub in butter. Add milk and mix to a soft dough. Place on a floured surface, knead very lightly, and roll out to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut into triangles and place on a greased and floured, moderately hot girdle or heavy-based frying pan. When scones are brown, turn them and cook on other side.



Olive Walters offers her special family recipe for 'true Scots' Girdle Scones.

Mystery report....

This is a report with a difference. The Mystery Reporter himself could be revealed. (He's not interviewing himself either!) After interviewing the Mystery Reporter for two and a half hours, I managed to get the following:

Full name: 'THE MYSTERY REPORTER.'

Nickname: Mr Hotlips (by one of his mates at school).

Eye Colour: Brown.

Hair Colour: Brown (now greying).

Beard Colour: Used to be reddish brown.

Height: Used to be five feet five and three quarters.

Weight: 77 kilograms.

He was born at the Royal Womens Hospital in Carlton on August the 20th 1934. He attended Lee St Primary School, Princes Hill Central School, and University High School (was in the cadets at High School. After leaving school, he became an apprentice fitter and machiner in the Victorian Railways.

Before retirement he was a teacher in various 'Techs' throughout the Eastern region for 21 years. Earlier days saw him as an equipment examiner at the Jolimont Railway yard. He was in the National Service for three months. His current occupation is talking (he says it helps his breathing).

Our M.R. has been married, divorced, has four children (Harry, Steven, Lindell, and Kylie), and five grandchildren. But now Margaret is the Mystery Reporter's mystery. (Margaret won't let him touch the dishwashing - she loves mowing the lawn and most other household chores. (Many other male Fowspians are truly 'Green' with envy!

His mother is still alive and he had a sister (Gitle) and two brothers. One brother died in 1939. Solomon is the M.R.'s older brother. (I met

him whilst I was interviewing and he couldn't get a word in!)

He gave up smoking at the age of fourteen, had his first and only glass of beer at sixteen (he'd be lucky to have an alcoholic drink once a year) He says he can act stupid without having to drink - it might make him talkative (?).

The M.R. does have a criminal record. He was fined five shillings for travelling on a red train first class with a second class ticket, parking tickets and a speeding fine (over twenty years ago). His mother told him that he shoplifted a yoyo when he was four years old and once he got the strap for being late to school.

He forgets how he became involved with F.O.W.S.P. but he was looking for an organisation where he could contribute something to the community and, enjoy what he was doing.

Favourite music: Light classical, male choirs, Australian folk, brass bands, church music, some 'pops'.

Favourite records: Those that acknowledge the dispossessed and oppressed.

Favourite group: The Weavers.

Favourite T.V. Shows: Bennie Hill, Are You Being Served?, documentaries - especially on Australia, police shows, news.

Favourite actor: Charlie Chaplin.

Favourite actress: Was Ingrid Bergman.

Favourite movie: Viva Zapata.

Favourite Novel: Historical novels or biography.

Favourite Pastime: Eating and talking.

Favourite foods: Roast chicken and chips, fish and chips, fruit and vegies, seafood.

Favourite drinks: Coca cola, Twinings English and Irish Breakfast Teas, apricot juice.

Favourite saying: "Its a wise man who knows his own father".

Favourite country: Australia.

The M.R. loves plants but Wiry buttons, Candlebarks, Maidenhair Tree, Japanese

Maple, and Wallaby grasses are favourites. He is very fond of all animals, especially native ones but wombats, ring-tailed possums and bandicoots have a special place in his affections. Of the birds none can match the Wedge-tailed eagle. He wouldn't have a cat or dog as a pet, considering the plants in his garden, the birds that come and go and the possums on the powerlines his 'pets'.

He likes watching television, collecting little things and has a passion for gardening. He drives a beige Holden Apollo station wagon, and his best holiday was spent driving to Cooktown where he walked to the top of Mt. Cook alone. His favourite footy team was "...Carlton, when Bob Chitty was captain.

Biggest Achievement: Never wanted to get to the top, never wanted to lead, he wanted to be the equal to everyone else.

Biggest disappointment: His father didn't see his children.

Dislikes: Greedy opportunistic people whose rise is based on the exploitation of those who are weaker.

Heroes: Fred Hollows and people who work for the benefit of others, all the unsung heroes, those that know the risks yet do it anyway, AND the ordinary working person.

Your ambition? To live a long useful, and happy life.

Anything you'd like to say?


There is a tremendous understanding and wisdom in most older people if only younger people would ask ... and listen.

So now the Mystery Reporter has been revealed. If a handsome and intelligent looking man approaches you clutching a pen and paper, RUN - he wants to do a 'mystery report' on you!

Mystery Editor's Postscript :

In a rare moment of shyness the M.R. decided to keep his name a mystery - perhaps he intends to change it to.....(a secret!)

Sunday May 29th Fourth Hill Activities. Enq. Pat Coupar
Alison Thom and David Van Bockel 844 2659. Also
remember that we have Arbor week activities Mid May.
David will require your help.



Fern Spot

Spore collection

Chose a mature frond from which the spore has not been shed. The sporangia may be examined using a field microscope to determine this, or simply watch the development and judge when they are ready. The underside of the frond holds the sporangia and may have a 'dusty' feel when it begins to shed spore. There is no set time of the year when spore is ready. Spore of some ferns ripens in autumn or winter, whereas others may mature and shed before the heat of summer dries the leaves. You should try to identify the fern when you select the spore and record it for later labelling.

Trim the fronds and place between a folded peice of clean paper for up to a week. Keep this flat, between the pages of a book. Spore will shed as a fine brown or yellow powder and may be sown or stored in a paper envelope. Some species, such as *Todea barbara*, must be sown quickly because they lose viability within a few hours. Others, such as *Cyathea australis* may be stored for more than 12 months.

Sowing spore

Make a mixture of peat moss and spagnum moss or powdered tree fern and place in a container to a depth of 2 inches, and wet thoroughly. Crush some terra-cotta pot or brick to powder and sprinkle a fine layer on top of the mix. Sterilise the lot by boiling the water in the mixture - in the microwave oven will do, then drain off excess water, leaving some to provide moisture when the container is sealed.

When the mixture cools, spread dry spore over the top of it and cover the pot. It is important to sow it in sterile conditions as the ferns cannot compete with fungii and liverworts.

Method 1 Sow in a terracotta pot with a base bowl, enclose the lot in a clear plastic bag and place a piece of glass on top.

Method 2 Cut the top out of an ice-cream container lid, sow spore, cover the container with a clear plastic bag, the lid, then a sheet of glass.

The glass covering will prevent water and leaves collecting on top of the pot. The pot may then be placed in a shaded area (not dark) of the hot house, or simply in the garden under a bush. It requires a little warmth from the sun to circulate the moisture. You should not need to open the container to add water because the residual water will be retained. Some ferns, such as *Asplenium* and some *Maidenhair* will develop better if they are grown on a sloping surface.

Fern growth

A prothallus will develop after a few weeks. This is a tiny, flat, leaf-like structure with root hairs on the underside. These will show up as a green film on the surface of the mix. The prothallus contains both sexual organs and traps water underneath in which the sperm cells swim. A sporophyte (fern) will begin to develop in a few months - or even as long as 12 months later, and is parasitic on the prothallus until it develops its own root system.

While small (2 fronds), prick out the fern into a sealed box containing sterile soil or pots of soil. It is important not to let them dry out at this stage, and equally important to seal out any organisms which would harm the tender fronds. When they are large enough, the ferns may be gradually hardened off by lifting the lid a little, then re-potted into larger pots.

Some Fern Terms

prothallus

a tiny, flat, leaf-like structure with root hairs on the underside, which develops from the spore, and contains both male and female sexual organs.

sporophyte

a name for a fern, from when it develops on the prothallus, to maturity.

antheridium

the male sexual organs on a prothallus.

archegonium

the female sexual organs on a prothallus.



Growing from spore

by: Keith Vagg

OPERATION 'OFFSIDER'.

Have you ever wished you were or could be a Park Ranger? Do you wonder how life is on the open range? The Friends and Ranger staff have launched a new project called "Operation Offsider". The purpose of this project is to give Fowspians an opportunity to gain insight into a Rangers experience. It will take the Fowspian into areas of the park which they may never have been, and to share tasks they may never have tried. Fowspians who are contemplating an outdoor workers career will gain first hand experience and information. We hope that even closer ties will develop between Staff and Fowspian with true understanding of our respective roles. We hope to commence the project in early April and have a roster for the Autumn period.

Times will be Saturday and Sunday mornings, and will be the standard run. Fowspians will meet their Ranger at 8am and they will assist with appropriate duties (excluding enforcement). A trial run has been done by Bill Roxburgh (in his 70s) and Ross Coupar (nearly 17!) and both found it illuminating and interesting. Staff plan to take the 'offsiders' to the more remote areas not commonly visited. They will be shown as broad an experience of all sides of the life of a Warrandyte Ranger as possible.

To be timetabled for an 'offsider' position please phone Margaret Burke (844 1060) who will take your details and plan the roster with our Head Ranger.

Fossicking Ross.....

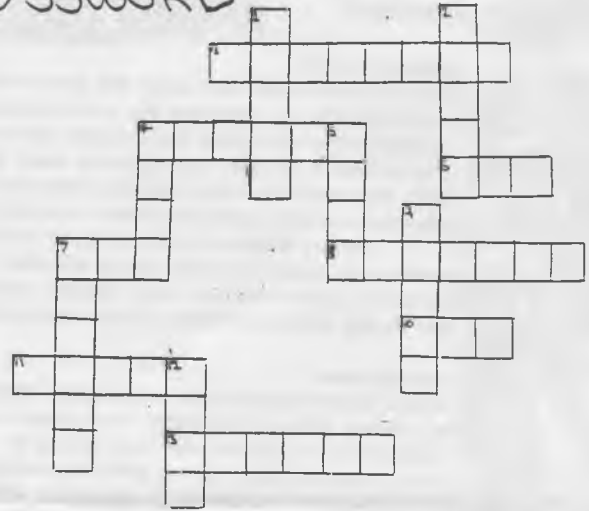
Why don't you write me some letters.....ROSS.

P.O. Box 220 Warrandyte

PLANTS

CROSSWORD

W	A	T	T	L	E	A	F	O	F
B	C	G	P	C	U	S	R	O	L
U	A	R	O	R	C	H	I	D	O
R	C	A	P	E	A	R	R	O	W
G	I	S	A	E	L	U	O	U	E
A	A	S	N	P	Y	B	O	C	R
N	G	E	N	E	P	E	T	W	B
B	A	D	U	R	T	R	E	E	U
U	L	G	A	G	U	M	R	E	S
D	L	E	L	S	S	E	E	D	H



- | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|
| WATTLE | BUSH | SEED |
| ACACIA | WEED | ROOT |
| EUCALYPTUS | BURGAN | LEAF |
| TREE | GRASS | ANNUAL |
| FLOWER | FEA | BUD |
| ORCHID | SHRUB | GALL |
| CREEPER | GUM | SEDGE |

- ACROSS:**
3. A large animal that hops and has a big tail.
 4. The koalas closest relative, that lives in burrows.
 6. A small insect.
 7. A type of tree (eucalypt).
 8. A spiky animal that eats ants.
 10. A wise bird.
 11. A slow, slimy animal.
 13. Something that lives, but isn't a plant.
- DOWN:**
1. An animal that lives in rivers & dams and has claws.
 2. An animal that lives in gum trees and eats leaves.
 4. A blind, slimy animal that lives in the soil.
 5. Gum ----.
 7. A very big lizard.
 9. A farm animal that lays eggs.
 12. Is green, and part of a plant (not chlorophil).

Write the remaining letters here:

JOIN THE DOTS.



ROSS COUPAR, BUSHCARE SERVICES
ENVIRONMENTAL GARDENER
 MOWING, WEEDING, PLANTING.
 REASONABLE RATES. 844 1650.



To Ross,
 You told me to give you a joke. Here is my joke.
 Q. Why did the gorilla climb the building?
 A. Because he was too big for the elevator!
 from Chris Stueven.

Committee.

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| Margaret Burke | 8441060 |
| Ian Burke | 8441060 |
| Gay Harris | 8441448 |
| Alec Manson | 8442557 |
| Pat Coupar | 8441650 |
| Judy Thomson | 8441590 |
| Joy Hildebrand | 8442638 |
| Shirley Mandemak | 8441895 |
| Cathy Willis | 8441841 |
| Margaret Dimech | 8443812 |
| Ron Taylor. | 8444285 |
| Kym Docwra | 8763807 |

Fern Society of Victoria Inc.

FERN SHOW

National Herbarium
 Royal Botanic Gardens

Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra
 (Melway Ref. 2L A1)

Sat 16 - Sun 17 April '94

Saturday 11.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Native & Exotic Ferns
 Plant, Spore and Book Sales

Adults \$3.00 Pensioners \$2.00 Children Free