



Hardenbergia violaceae

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK Inc.

August 1994 NEWSLETTER

Editorial

In 1970 the human population count came in at 3.5 billion. Of these one billion had a rich and satisfying life ,while 2.5 Bln were judged to be living in misery and poverty. Twenty years later the population past 5.5 Bln and the disadvantaged poor had increased to 4.1.Bln.

If in the year 1800 you had told Adam Smith or Thomas Malthus these figures they would probably not have been concerned at all. The Rev . Malthus would say that the cause was 'the passion between the sexes'. In his book Principles of Population he held that population would always increase in a geometric ratio—2,4 ,8,16, and so on.,at best the food supply would increase only arithmetically—2, 3,4 ,5. Population would be subject to only the recurrent checks imposed by famine, wars, disease, and natural catastrophe. Some of these occurred in the great potato famine in Ireland. Previously to 1845 the population had doubled twice in 60 years. The government refused to give any assistance to the starving people. They said the cure was beyond the powers of men and the problem would be solved be a stroke of providence. Diseases such as typhus and cholera were epidemic and the only escape was to migrate to Europe or America.

■ , Today people living in misery dont often have the option of migration . The resistance to change in most first countries seems to have been maintained down through the ages. The accent on economic development is seen as the cure when in fact it is the cause of the problem. Population growth needs to be closely tied to a migration policy . Consumption of manufactured goods and finite natural resources need to be reduced in the rich countries. We can never expect developing countries to do these things unless we set them an example.

■ It is easy to forget that for many years the islands of the Pacific were exploited by European and Australian interests . In every case these islands have suffered in their cultures as well as economically. This is particularly true of Fiji and Nauru.

■ Just about everything in the modern world is related to the time factor—work, economics., taxes, leisure, so when we look at matters concerning population conservation or consumption we often seem locked into distinctly Malthusian concepts. We have been logging old growth forests at the same rate as we did 30 years ago. Shall we let time pass till they are all gone ? Why do we give money to the Solomon Islands for the same problem we fail to address in Australia ?

Perhaps we need to get rid of those ancient antique clocks and establish a program with the more reliable quartz models. It should be apparent that providence will not solve modern day problems.

“ I used to think I was poor. Then they told me I wasnt poor, I was needy. Then they told me it was self defeating to be needy ; I was deprived. Then they told me deprived was a bad image ; I was underprivileged. Then they said this was overused. I was disadvantaged. I still don't have a cent. But I do have a great vocabulary ! “

Jules Feiffer

“ When what you have done in the past looks large to you, you have not done much today.”

“ We live in an age when unnecessary things are our only necessities.”

“ Time is an illusion — to orators.”

Elbert Hubbard

“ To the operative classes Australia is a veritable land of promise.”

Victorian Review (1881) .

Whipstick Wonderland-Sunday Family Day August 28 1pm

We plan a day to develop the plantings at Whipstick Gully. The whole area looks splendid and of course Ron Taylor has been employed to design and build wonderful gates, horse..... and the information poppet will be built very soon. This area is to be the 'front door' of our Park and is just a short walk from the car park on Yarra Street. The plantings from last year have grown and the additions of this will transform the area. We feel this is a very suitable spot for a planting as a spot to remember our dear friend Bruce Bence(all his friends are welcome to help). We will have afternoon tea, bring a plate Guided talk and tour of this area

Matt le Duc, our Ranger in Charge.

We all congratulate Matt le Duc on his final appointment to the permanent position of Ranger in Charge of Warrandyte State Park.

Looking forward, we see a long and fruitful relationship between us. Next Newsletter Matt promises an article about how he sees our joint future plans. We will all look forward to this enthusiastically.

We are sure that Cecilia, and the rest of the family, will now truly be able to relax and settle in to life in Warrandyte.

Welcome.

ALERT, ALERT, ALERT.

As land carers, we all must be constantly on the alert to keep our bush, and particularly the little creeks that flow into the Yarra, free from degradation.

Since the recent school holidays, some harm has been discovered - a lovely grotto garlanded with necklace fern has been made into a *slide*: plants torn up to make space for a hut of iron and scrap timbers: evidence of a fire lit: and other saddening sights for us who for years counted this one of our 'special places'.

We all must increase our efforts to educate the children, who only think they are being inventive and having fun in the bush. We must help them learn to understand the fragility of our bush, the slow return of native species and the delicacy of our river bank. Also to give them the idea of being keen caretakers of the bush, and active educators of their mates who come to the area to have fun in the bush with them.

LAWRIE SAFSTROM

Government Transfer of Public Land.

The Victorian Government has recently announced its intention to offer 99 year agricultural leases to current holders of grazing licences on public land (Spring 1994). These will be offered for unused roads, water frontages and unreserved crown land not vested in trustees. The amount of land involved is in excess of half a million hectares, to be transferred from public to private ownership.

Certain enforceable conservation conditions are to be part of the new Act. Regulations existing under the present Act are rarely enforced. Under the present system licence holders receive an annual list of conditions for conservation. With the new Act, their next payment and conditions will arrive in 100 years.

After some years many licencees could become interested in improving agricultural productivity. This would result in more trees being cut, pasture and cropping introduced with further degradation of land, with topsoil loss and salinity problems. They would come to see public land as their own private property.

Millions of dollars are spent now in Victoria. The new Act could only increase these costs.

WHAT TO DO.

- (1) Write to Mark Birrell and your local member to protect against this legislation.
- (2) Ask that this land be assessed by the L.C.C. before 99 year leases are issued.
- (3) Write to Federal Minister for the Environment noting the legislation contradicts the stated aims of National Strategies for Sustainable Development.

Friends of Koornong/Osborne Landcare.

Lots of things are happening with these two groups around. David Van Bockel keeps 'tabs' on them and Park Staff activities have been complementing activities. Blackberries sprayed and dead are now being burnt off. The Landcare group plans a big English Ivy pull in the State Park behind the Safstroms place- Number 2. (Aug. 21st - any other Fowspians welcome-they seem to have a good time at it!)

Cathy Willis has her Koornongians (?) busy with a new riverbank section of periwinkle....they are experts at that! Next Koornong day is Wednesday September 7th. Cathy will be having a photo display at the FOWSP Market Stall and will provide information and advice for people in the area(including what and how to plant).

Hot House Gossip.

Urgently Required!! An old mesh bedstead for sieving our potting mix. As we change over to our 'homemade organic mix' the big 'bits' have to be extracted and this is what our Guru, Colin Arnold at Box Hill Council recommends to do the trick. So who can help.

The men in our building brigade have also risen to the call and are building 'bay two' for the compost. Poor fellows have about half a dozen tasks underway as the Nursery renovations develop. The S.E.C. are providing old poles for the work area and Matt has given us some old poles rejected as part of the poppet-head in Whipstick Gully.

Along with this project, the Nursery renovation has just taken a leap ahead. The work area, long a 'real mess with hardly room to swing a mouse' is about to change dramatically. The roofed area will about quadruple, storage will cease to be a cupboard which needs a stick to keep it shut, and the whole place will actually look like a professional organisation. Plenty of jobs on the 'Building Brigade' for any keen extra workers, but things are moving apace!

Much of our stock has been planted in the last few months. A large number went in with the Warrandyte Primary School 'Arbor Week' activities. We have had a constant stream of plants going in to Endeavour Bank and the Coupe, Ben and Ron have a gradual flow into Frogland and the Folly area. We have each of our sub-groups planting and many other projects are supplied. Records are much more carefully kept this last year and will be very accurate from this year on. Plant supplies are critical for our long term revegetation aims, so all those who help can be assured of the importance of their labour.

Peg & Lawrie Safstrom have put their absolutely lovely, environmentally exquisite "Land for Wildlife" place on the

market. It is in Osborne Rd which is a very environmentally conscious neighbourhood, and they are members of FOWSP, Osborne Peninsula Landcare and Friends of Koornong. They are very keen to get people who will treasure the place as they have and would really like it to go to Fowspians who would purchase as a private sale. (though it is in the hands of John Spencer & co as well). The details are: 1 acre river/park frontage plus 1 acre adjoining on separate title (also Land for Wildlife). They will sell together or separately. The home is a lovely, comfortable 3 bedroom solid brick house with views to the Dandenongs and lots of features. (Gas ducted heating/slow combustion fire/open fire - important ones at this time of year!). There is a brick garage and large workshop with a 4 car brick carport. Huge variety resident native birds (some in the large number of detached Nestboxes!) Enquiries: Phone 8443981

A new regular feature from this month on will be Stargazer's contribution. The author craves anonymity so S.G. 'she' will be.

On Sunday, October 2nd. we will have a joint activity with the City of Doncaster & Templestowe to plant up the new track between the Whipstick turn-off along the river back to the wetlands at Stiggants. Tim Rowe and Stephen Ray are organising this and we have heard that our old friends David Bellamy and David Attenborough will be along to help with this important revegetation work (already a lush riparian wonderland in spots). CODAT promises a free barbeque and no doubt Harry Heaths will be our special sponsor as usual. So if you would like to help develop the riverside walk, meet our celebrity guest workers and have a really beaut. afternoon, note this on your calendar NOW.

Hope you all noted the fame of our Ross Coupar. We feel we have a budding 'Oppy' Openheimer in our midst. He is

in the process of organising a learners permit to drive.... hope that doesn't lead him away to become a budding Bib Stillwell as well! (We need him round!)

The Arbor Week work in the Coupe (with Warrandyte Primary School) has made an enormous difference. No doubt Elizabeth will write another chapter to keep you up to date, however do feel free to have a tour any Thursday morning. Neal and Elizabeth just love to get people down there to explain it all (and give you a 'go').

Market Roster is working well and we are now trying to give people the opportunity to show off 'their' projects. In the next few months we will have Friends of Koornong and Wandering Brogil with displays and 'an expert' on hand. Matt has been along to 'show the flag' and we are open for any suggestions. Betty Oke organises the roster and will pass on any ideas. 844 3763

Several people who are textile 'freaks' have joined Marg with requests for bits and pieces of wool, mohair, any other knittable threads. The 'co-op' will share it out. Please leave scraps in the Folly. Many thanks.

FOWSP is very sad to hear of the death of Bruce Bence. Bruce seems to have been involved in almost every aspect of life in Warrandyte. His association with us was largely as an historic adviser, entertaining and informative speaker, and most specially recently with development at Whipstick Gully. At our meeting in Whipstick Gully last winter we offered him the opportunity to help with some of our planting. He had come to give a talk, elegant in his usual navy blue, and with a big smile announced a firm intention to act as supervisor. This year he would once again have joined us. We will miss his humour and advice very much. At our August meeting at Whipstick we will plant a special group of plants for our dear Friend Bruce Bence. (All welcome to help.)

Fascinating Facts From Flora.

A member of the orchestra, spots upon spots and when is a falcon not a falcon?

In the first two weeks of July I have walked three times to the cleared area on the south side (Wonga Park side) of the Yarra known as Bend of Isles. The motivation on the first time was to check that the *Lomatia myricoides* was surviving there still, but the next two visits were mainly for bird watching. I was lucky to be accompanied by some keen 'birder' friends from the Wonga Park Environment Group, on the most recent trip. On each occasion I saw something worth talking about, and so I'm using this opportunity to do just that.

To say the area was alive with rabbits would not be an exaggeration. So it is not surprising that there are no seedling Lomatias to be seen, but the three or four large shrubs I first noticed five years ago are still there and look quite healthy.

That Park management is a tricky business was brought home to me when we noticed that the Spotted Pardalote was using the vertical bank of the entrance to one of the rabbit warrens as a good place to construct its own little burrow, and that the Bracken and Blackberries were harbours for Blue Wrens and Scrub Wrens. I was motivated to look up the Yarra Brae section in my copy of the 1990 Warrandyte State Park Management Plan, page 119, Section 10.8, and was pleased to find that the control of rabbits and revegetation are listed as part of the rehabilitation schemes for previously cleared areas such as the Bend of Isles.

This month's 'Fascinating Facts' birds are some of those we saw on those walks in Yarra Brae.

Falcunculus frontatus

Crested Shrike-tit

falcunculus, L. little falcon

frontatus L. with conspicuous forehead (frons)

These birds feed in the upper branches of eucalypts, prising invertebrates from bark with their robust bills. Also called Eastern Shrike-tit, Bark-tit, Falcon-shrike and Yellow hammer. What was in the mind of the originator when he/she suggested *Falcunculus* as its name? Any ideas reader?

Gymnorhina tibicen

Australian Magpie.

gymno Gk. bare (remember gymnosperm?)

rhis Gk. nose (rhinos)

tibicen L. a flute player. (referring to the flute like carolling)

A variable species the 'White-backed Magpie' belonging to the Race hypoleuca and the 'Black-backed Magpie' to the Race tibicen. The Black-backed is not often seen in southern Victoria. By the way, *hypo* Gk. under; *leucos* Gk. white.

Pachycephala pectoralis

Golden Whistler.

pachys Gk. thick.

cephale Gk. head

pectoralis L. breasted

Also called Yellow-breasted Whistler, Thickhead and Thunderbird.

Pardalotus punctatus

Spotted Pardalote.

pardalotus Gk. spotted

punctatus L. spotted

You must agree, an accurate and emphatic description of this little creature.

Rhipidura fuliginosa

Grey Fantail.

rhipis, rhipidos Gk. fan

ura, oura Gk. tail

fuliginosus L. sooty

Rhipidura leucophrys

Willie Wagtail.

leucos Gk. white.

phrys Gk. brow

A "sweet-pretty-creature" indeed.

Zoothera dauma

White's Thrush.

Race *lunulata*

I have not been able to find the derivation of either *Zoothera* or *dauma*, but the *lunulatus* means 'marked with little moons' referring to the dark crescent shaped markings on the body feathers. These distinguish White's Thrush from the introduced Song Thrush which has forward pointing chevrons on the chest.

The former name for White's Thrush was *Oreocincla lunulata* (*oros*, Gk. mountain; *cinclous* Gk. bird) which perhaps accounts for the other common name - Mountain Thrush. Also called Australian Ground-thrush or Scaly Thrush. It usually inhabits damp gullies, forest and rainforest and is very hard to detect as it forages amongst the leaf litter on the ground. We considered ourselves fortunate that the one we saw happened to move as we approached, then froze for some time before disappearing silently into the scrub.

Flora Anderson

HISTORY OF ONE TREE HILL.

One Tree Hill Reserve is located some 40 Kilometres north east of Melbourne. In the Silurian Period, the Christmas Hills area built up bed rock deposits as it lay beneath the tropical seas, off-shore from Gondwana Land. Later, in the Devonian Period, the intense volcanic activity elevated and folded the sediments into synclines and anticlines and introduced auriferous minerals into the fractured rocks. The Silurian and Devonian rocks of One Tree Hill have become more resistant to erosion from the forces of wind and rain which has caused the slopes and tributary of Watsons Creek through Happy Valley. By 14,000 years before the present, temperatures would have been some 7 degrees below present day and the climate would have supported typical Tasmanian Highlands vegetation. Then the climate became wetter and the drier to support the Stringybark - Box Woodlands of the present day. The "People of the White Gums" and their dreams and totems were seldom understood by early colonists so history does not present with details of the Aborigines who grouped into clans in the closely related Wurundjeri and almost certainly occupied the area for hunting and gathering.

This paragraph is the first in a series. It is 'lifted' from 'Once Around the Sugarloaf' by Mick Woiwood. Any details of One Tree Hill history would be appreciated to advance the story further. Please feel welcome to come to Friends of One Tree Hill activities on the third Sunday of each month to share your memories (or phone Diane Silveri 710 1331).

NEXT THREE MONTHS PROGRAM-

On SUNDAY AUGUST 21st at 2pm. DAVID CAMERON will lead a FLORA IDENTIFICATION WALK with the FRIENDS OF ONE TREE HILL. Meet at the tanks on One Tree Hill Road. Last year some very interesting plants were discovered. Bring a contribution to share for afternoon tea.

On SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18th at 10am. Ranger RAY JASPER will introduce us to WATSONS CREEK where there will be some planting and weed monitoring and removal. For this activity, meet at the Car Park at the Sugarloaf Reservoir end of One Tree Hill Reserve.

On SUNDAY OCTOBER 16th there will be an event for the BOTANICALLY INFORMED and others to help find the 60th ORCHID SPECIES. Details of 'OPERATION 60' are sketchy, but anyone with an interest in IDENTIFICATION would be most welcome to come. Please ring Diane on 710 1331 or Ray on 844 2659 for more details.

Diane Silveri.

The Chase....Community Land.

NOT FOR SALE!

Dear Friends,

Four years ago a strong, lively campaign saved the Chase from development, with Eltham Shire voting to acquire, with cooperation of the developer, 11.2 hectares of some of the most important habitat... 'The Chase Reserve'.

South of the Chase is Bedstead Hill (Crown Allotment 4D), 6 hectares of almost undisturbed bushland that forms part of a wildlife corridor with Warrandyte State Park. This is one of our little known bushland gems, a steep ridge line with dense stands of box and stringybark overlooking the valley. In spring the slopes are sprinkled with orchids and the purple flowers of the *Brachyscome multifida* var. *Warrandyte* - locally rare and sadly not found within the State Park. A large 'Stag' tree is used by our eagles as a lookout perch and roosting tree.

Bedstead Hill is a logical extension of the Chase and best protected in long term, being acquired as public open space. It was not part of the original development but has since been acquired cheaply. A planning permit has been rejected by Eltham Shire for environmental reasons. In October 93, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal reversed the decision, despite a strong case by Eltham Shire, D.C&NR. (who listed the area as regionally significant as habitat for rare fauna) and local conservationists.

Following the appeal we have searched unsuccessfully for funds to purchase Bedstead Hill (\$160-190,000) and would still like to pursue this avenue. On Aug 2nd final permission was given to begin destroying bushland for the housing and access sites.

It is now a matter of urgency that we rebuild a determined grassroots campaign, so we can work together to save this special part of Warrandyte. If you would like to become involved, please contact Marcel Cameron on 437 1918 or 482 1756. More information has been pinned up on FOWSP noticeboards etc. as well as petitions, example letters of a strong and heartfelt nature (we reject abuse or threats).

looking forward to hearing from you,
Marcel Cameron



Mystery Reporter.....

Winter ill and chills, aches and pains have taken their toll of the M. R. However, after months of tiring leg-work and meeting furtive characters in dark and cobbled parts of the Folly the interviewee produced the following confession(s) - in writing.

....."Born Sydney 21/1/1916. Parents moved to Victoria when I was very young. (My father was originally a sheep buyer in N.S.W.) Lived at Broadmeadows on a property known as Gladstone Park (now the Gladstone Park Housing Estate). I first attended the Broadmeadows State School for about a year - I was then taken away from it and sent to a State School at Tullamarine to which I had to ride a horse three miles. That continued until the age of 13 when I came to Melbourne attending Trinity Grammar School until the age of 16. I did manage to reach Intermediate standard. I was also in the 1st. Eighteen football team although that was more a tribute to my size than my skill.

Soon after World War 1 my Grandfather took up land on the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp and planted the first commercial asparagus plants in Australia. My father managed the property.

In August 1934 I started work at the Australasian Jam Co. in Sth. Yarra [Now the Jam Factory Shopping Complex - M.R.], working on the factory floor: after 18 months I joined the office staff where I remained until I enlisted in the A.I.F. in 1940.

After a period at Puckapunyal I found myself drafted to the 8th Division at Singapore. We sailed sometime in January 1942 via Thursday Island and Torres Strait. During the voyage the ship was diverted to Darwin where we arrived about Feb. 5th. Darwin was first bombed 19th Feb. I was attached to the 2/14 Field Artillery Reg't using a 25 pounder gun. We remained in Darwin for 13 or 14 months during all the raids. Returned to Sydney late Feb. 1943 travelling overland in Army trucks to Mt. Isa then by train to Townsville and Sydney. Camped at Cronulla and out of Sydney until August, engaged in manoeuvres for a short time - during that time we were required to work on the wharves in Sydney. Early September (1943) sent home on pre-embarkation leave prior to sailing for the islands.

Because the above mentioned asparagus farm was now an essential industry, I was discharged from the Army because my father was no longer able to manage it. I remained with him until 1949 when I took on a place of my own in Sth. Gippsland running sheep at first and later engaging in dairying. Sold it in 1972 coming to Melbourne and obtaining work with Ogdens Industries, [He 'coded' keys for locks - M.R.] Huntingdale, in 1973 - retiring in 1978.".....

The above was penned by none other than Thomas William Roxburgh. (Bill) member of FOWSP ("joined about the time of the Morwell visit")

Height 5'11" (6' in shoes)

Colouring - Eyes - Blue Hair Colour - Brown

Weight - then twelve and a half stone, now seven and a half.

Married - wife, Trudy (who presented Bill with children Anne & Peter.)

Books For relaxation - detective stories, Agatha Christie - best writer.

of interest - Early Australian History, Environmental subjects.

T.V. - Only watch special programs, John Clark and

Brian Daw on Ch. 9. I try not to miss 'Murder She Wrote!'

Radio - A.B.C. News and discussions.

Sport - Socially, golf and tennis occasionally.

Competitively, Rowing (Mercantile Rowing Club, Henley 1938, Maiden Eight, 3rd out of 16 competitors.) -rowed No. 3 in boat at 12.5 stone. Shooting with shotgun &/or rifle for rabbits, hares, foxes, quail mainly. Fishing - preferably rock fishing. Swimming - am able to.

Favourite singer - Bing Crosbie, Paul Robeson. Mo (Roy Rene) was the actor who afforded me the most entertainment.

Music - No musical education. Listen to 'swing' for preference. Music of any type that pleases my ear. Didgeridoo fascinates me. "I'm musically talented as a lump of stone, can't even sing in the bath myself - well I do, but get roused on!"

Favourite Passtime - Ballroom dancing. Favourite dance, modern waltz.

Favourite Food & Drink - Strawberry Ice cream, tea (hot) & sherry (sweet).

Skills - Mainly agriculturally oriented - sheep shearing, ploughing, (horse or tractor). Horse riding, elementary animal husbandry generally. One of his favourite jobs was driving a pair of horses with a single furrow plough("..and I don't put the collar on upside down!").

Hobbies - Cooking, collecting early pioneer artefacts, spending as much time in the bush as possible, camping.

Favourite vehicle - Motor bike, the Ariel 600.

Best Holiday - Return trip to Brisbane in 1939 on a coastal steamer, the M.V. Manunda.

Saving - "Know thyself!"

Criminal Career - "At 15, fired a .303 in the back garden at Malvern - found out how big the Eastern suburbs constabulary was!" "...travelled in a first class railway compartment with no ticket at all."

Vice? - Mmm mm....(twinkle in the eye!)

" and I have a few investments in George Adam's establishments."

Q. What annoys you the most?

A. People generally don't want to look after or conserve their country. I hate unnecessary use of bad language in the media.

Q. What is the country's single biggest environmental problem.

A. Rabbits. And I've shot, trapped, ferreted, cooked and eaten as many as I possibly could! Still do.

The M.R. discovered that during '34 Bill worked for 2 pound ten shillings (\$5) a week. During the fruit season hours were from 7.30am. to 6/7pm. starting with asparagus in December. "Then apricots, pears, peaches and so on - jam making. He remembers riding the Horse Tram from Sydney Rd to the Zoo. The other experiences of VX62365 (who also attempted to supply a pension number) may be shared at the Nursery/Park.

Currently Bill stokes the fire in the Folly, brings along his uniquely delicious home baked breads and muffins, chops firewood, supplies hot water for working parties (saved the day at J.C. when the 'pots' broke!) and helps and advises in a million sundry ways as a FOWSP member. [Quoth Co-ordinator -" He establishes a level of decorum (always wears a tie), exudes wisdom, and his friendship has a value far in excess of 'rubies & pearls'."]



Cricket the Lorikeet by Anastasia Clendinnen

One day we were driving back from a swimming lesson when we saw a bird hobbling along the road on one leg and one wing. Dad caught her and we took her to the vet. The vet said that she had broken her wing. (It turned out that there was something wrong with her right leg too, but we never found out what.) He took her onto his table and bound her up (she looked like a gorilla!) with sticky tape.

We took her home and put her in a cage. She climbed about as if she had been born in a cage. We loved her, we showed visitors and never forgot her. When we went away we gave Cricket (that was what we called her) to our grandparents. Mum and Dad said she would stay there, but I didn't want her to. When at last she came back she was very tame, she ran up your arm and chewed your ear, and when you were sitting at the table you had to be alert (sometimes Cricket would be climbing you pants!). Now whenever I see someone grumpy, I think of Cricket, Cricket climbing crossly up my leg. And she would get onto the table and march around the table squawking if you didn't give her some of your food and drink.

Then one day Gilchrist (my brother) came into the house saying "Mum, by mistake, I stepped on Cricket." Mum was worried but then she tried to catch her and Cricket flew away. The next morning we were outside waving our pyjama tops around but she didn't come back (she had flown into a tree in our next door neighbours house). That is the last we saw of her.

Cricket was a Musk Lorikeet (very beautiful). In Musk Lorikeets the sexes are identical so we had no idea if she was really was a she. We wanted to redress the gender bias so Cricket was she. When Cricket's bandages were taken off she could not fly, nor did she seem to improve over time. She could flutter downwards off a table. Some people suggested that there was nerve damage, in the wing, and that this was irreparable. So her final flight to freedom, to the TOP of a 10 metre Red Box was completely unexpected. We just hope her life now is a happy one. Fia Clendinnen.

STAR GAZER'S CORNER

This article is devoted to Astronomy. Many ancient myths and legends were inspired by people who gazed at those "little lights in the sky. We begin our journey by introducing Venus, the second planet from the sun. Named after the Roman Goddess of Love. It is hard to miss her radiant beauty, outshining all celestial objects except for the moon and the sun. Venus can be found towards the north west about 40 degrees (two hand spans roughly) above the horizon. After sunset watch Venus slowly set over two hours and this will be visible until November.

Numerical Facts.

Distance from the sun - 108,200,000Km.

Size 12,104 Km diameter(similar to Earth)

Day Equals 243.16 earth days.

Year Equals 224.7 earth days.

(Note the day is LONGER than the year.)

Surface temperature-480 degrees celsius all the time. This makes Venus the hottest planet in the solar system.

The atmosphere is mostly carbon dioxide(a greenhouse gas) that is responsible for the high temperature.

Thick clouds composed of 'battery acid'(sulphuric acid) obscure the Venus surface. A planet so beautiful to look at, but not a place to live.

HAPPY STARGAZING.....S.G.

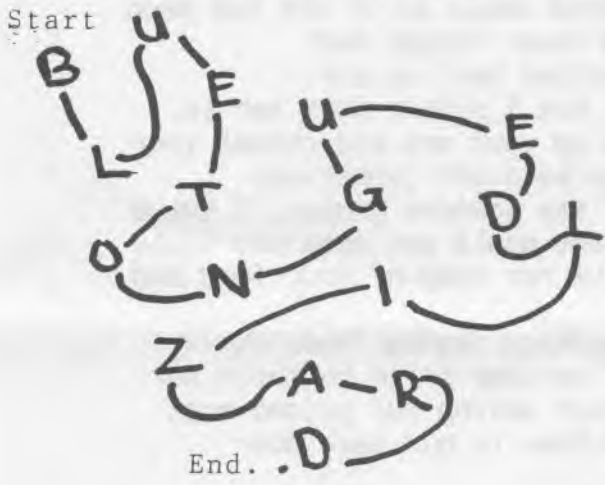
Visit to Grampians National Park. October 15th to 23rd.

The numbers of Fowspians registering for the visit to the Grampians has grown rapidly of late. Please contact Marg Dimech (844 3812) and/or add your name to the booking list on the Folly notice board. Marg has the latest details and she will be contacting the Friends of the Grampians to plan activities very soon. We will plan the stay over two weekends so as many people as possible may be satisfied. Camp sites are at Roses Gap camping park. We will take the Fowspian tent as our 'socialcentre' and dining room' and we look forward to a fabulous stay, meeting another like minded group.

Fossicking Ross and Percy Poss.

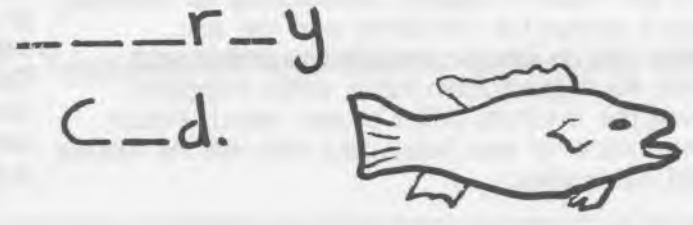
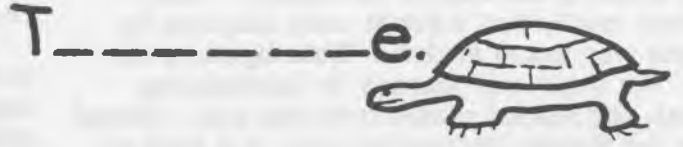
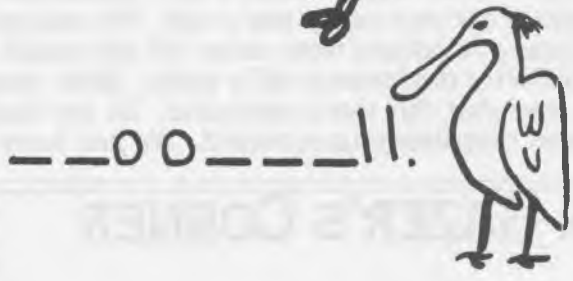
I am a _____

WRITE MY NAME, THEN DRAW ME.



I hope you like Anastasia's story about Cricket the Lorikeet. It is on Page 7. Why don't some more people send me in some stories, jokes or riddles? Post them to PO Box 220 WARRANDYTE 3113. Ross.

WRITE MY NAME, THEN COLOR ME.



W-r
-a-



INVERTIBRATES.

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

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------|
| CENTIPEDE | SLATER | BEETLE |
| INSECT | COCKROACH | FLY |
| MILLIPEDE | SLUG | FROG |
| CATERPILAR | SNAIL | ANT |
| SPIDER | WORM | MANTID |

Write the remaining letters here;

_____ -ty- s.