



# FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK Inc. August/September 1995 NEWSLETTER

## *Editorial.*

From the early part of the industrial revolution people have been subjected to ever increasing changes in their everyday existence. There have been famines, diseases, wars, natural disasters and the rise and fall of empires. In more recent times scientists and ecologists have drawn attention to the need for sustainable development and our dwindling natural resources. Our immediate view of the world, though improved, has many blind spots. An unconscious expectation of past technology on present perceptions blind us to the impact of new technology. There is an expectation that the political economy should function like a machine. We expect reality to fall into simpler patterns than it actually does. There is evidence that human expectations are of a linear nature. Most of the time, most people expect that current conditions will continue for the indefinite future. We may call it optimism, faith, or just a reluctance to see the party end. At the same time we presume the environment is stable and not really a problem. Why else would people build cities on flood plains and earthquake fault lines. Why would the gambler double his bets when losing? Most of human history is a record of astonishment. People constantly marginalise their affairs and become crisis prone on the basis that nothing will change in the near future.

Very few nations have maintained constitutional stability over the whole industrial period. Loss of stability often occurs suddenly with little warning. The U.S. with Britain have lasted for a long time. But many European nations have suffered through wars or suffered from internal collapse. The peoples of weaker economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have governments that come and go like Elizabeth Taylor's husbands.

It could be that a form of "linear thinking" is responsible for people's apathy toward the fragility of our planet and the need to do something about it. Many years ago Tolstoy said "False conclusions are woven thread by thread into the fabric of our lives". Or to give it a modern touch, false conclusions programmed into our lives like a computer virus.

One thing is certain. If we do not pay attention to our non renewable resources and our population problems not even non linear thinking will save us.

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are still not saved".

Jeremiah 8: 20

"To trust your heaven to your future  
is to have no future worth having".

Elbert Hubbard.

We used to hear much about mere man, but man  
is fast growing less mere'.

Elbert Hubbard.

"The days of our lives are like sand passing through the hourglass of time."

Anon.

## AFTERNOON WALK WITH DAVID CAMERON MEET 1.00pm AUGUST 27TH AT STONY CREEK.

Friends of Stony Creek are planning a great day. They will show us the miracle they performed last fire season (reducing fire load along the Creek) and Gad will show the fish ladder he built with help from the Green Task force during Operation Meandering Yarra. Our own WORLDfamous botanist, the incomparable David Cameron, will then give a talk on woody weeds. You will all be given the opportunity to learn (hands on) the best methods of control. FOSC members will also teach fuel load reduction techniques. THEN we will be taken on a MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR to learn from THE EXPERT - Orchid/wildflower ID Skills. David will answer all your questions and Fowspians will find the day indeed a treat. So..... BRING YOUR WEEDING EQUIPMENT (WE WILL SUPPLY SOME) AND SOMETHING TO SHARE FOR AFTER-NOON TEA. WEAR GOOD WALKING SHOES, BRING HAND LENSES (AND YOU MAY INCLUDE BINOCES.)

SEE YOU SUNDAY!!! Enq. 844 3799 Mark Gardner (or Thurs - David/Marg B.)

*This is the Parkcare/sub group we are reporting on for this month. Joan MacMahon here writes to all the people in Bradleys Lane to let them know what is going on and to ask for help and interest.....*

# THE BRADLEY BULLETIN

## Issue 1 June 1995

### AT THE BOTTOM OF OUR GARDENS

Some people have fairies at the bottom of their garden- we are just as lucky, having instead (? as well) a nature reserve. Now, not many people in Melbourne (indeed Australia) can make such a claim.

In these days of continued loss of our Earth's protective vegetation cover (along with animals whose homes are now gone), we are lucky to be surrounded by so much that is still relatively natural.

By the way the losses aren't occurring only in exotic location such as the jungles of Brazil, the rainforests of Malaysia and islands in the Pacific but right here in good ol' Aussie. We are still clearing approximately 600,000 hectares every year!!!! Who can work out how many square kilometres that is?  
(a) 60 (b) 600 or (c) 6000?

If you choose the largest of these three possibilities you were correct. Your prize? - a warmer climate! Much of this damage is occurring in The Sunshine State where apparently it hasn't yet sunk in that destroying the natural vegetation cover on this scale is a major contribution to Australia's Greenhouse Gas emissions. (Plants consume carbon dioxide and emit life-giving oxygen.)

Locally things aren't totally rosy either, since the "green mantle" is still disappearing under new houses and the continued expansion of our already large road system. Been down Reynold's Rd. lately? More dead hot mix being poured over living earth, more magnificent mature trees biting the dust, more homeless birds and animals. As to the destruction which will accompany the ring-road, should it be built through this area (Melbourne's lungs) —

— one hates to imagine it!

#### THINK GLOBALLY: ACT LOCALLY

Anyway, I'm an optimist so what can we do at the local level? One very useful and satisfying activity is to do a bit of EARTH REPAIR ACTION. In this way, in company with thousands of other small groups

working in Australia and in other countries we can improve our local environment and help turn the ship around. So I'd like to introduce you to our local group, THE FRIENDS OF BRADLEYS LANE. Now that Elma and Grant Angus have gone to live in Blackburn we are down to around one member! (Yours truly!!) My idea is for a few people to get together whenever it suits them (it doesn't have to be at a regular time) and help to improve our very own nature reserve. It's very degraded in places by weed invasion, (English Ivy, Japanese Honeysuckle, Hawthorn, Prunus etc.) These push the native plants aside, and take over large areas (such as at the back of 99 to at least 105) our local Wildlife such as wombats, echidnas, ringtailed possums and middle storey and ground dwelling birds (e.g. robins, whistlers and White's Thrush) lose out.

However. ALL IS NOT LOST. We humans, with a bit of gentle weeding and planting can come to their aid.

If you are interested give me a call on 844 3213 (evenings are best) or leave a note in our letterbox (110 Bradleys Lane).

#### OUR TAXES AT WORK

Lately we've had the services of several Green Task Force teams helping to improve animal habitat down at the end of the lane. A giant patch of ivy was re-moved and heaps of plants put in the ground. Have a look next time you're down -it's on the right as you reach the carpark. The Green Task Force folk are on a 6 month training scheme funded by DEET (Employment, Education and Training -a federal dept.)

Our own Park Rangers are so stretched for staff and resources these days there's no chance they would have been able to do it. By some miracle they have been able to organise contract spraying of blackberries and it's been a great success.

RARE PLANTS, POWERFUL OWLS AND FIREGUARD.  
Next bulletin.

*This is Joan MacMahon's first 'Street Bulletin' and a cry from and to the hearts of her neighbours to join her in the wonderful work she has been doing in and around Norman's Reserve, Antechinus Swamp and the strip of riverbank around Bradley Lane - all State Park. If you live in or near Bradley's and are not a member of a sub group this is one to really win your imagination. Or maybe you live further afield and would like to belong to some special project..... this one does so need helpers. Have a chat to Joan (or with Pat Coupar for that matter) and find out more.*

## STAR GAZER

It's the time of the year when the nights are long, ideal for stargazing. The cool, dry air creates favourable atmospheric conditions for stargazing.

Jupiter, by far the largest and most massive of the planets, best placed for observation (Opposition June 1st). Its bold light compelled the Roman's to identify it with their principle god, (the Greek Zeus).

Jupiter is a gaseous body, mostly hydrogen. One of Jupiter's distinctive features is the 'great red spot', first recorded by Cassini, 1665. This enormous storm is approximately equivalent to three Earth diameters long and one wide. The four principle satellites of Jupiter were among the first telescopic discoveries (Galileo, 1610). Since then they have been known as Galilean moons. They are Ganymede, Europa, Callisto and Io.

To locate Jupiter, look for the brightest celestial object in the evening sky, towards the east, in the constellation of Scorpius.

Numerical Facts	Distance	778440000 kilometres from the sun
	Size	11 Earth diameters
	Year	11.86 Earth years
	Position	One beyond Mars
	Number of satellites	4 principal and 12 smaller ones.

Happy Stargazing

S.G.

## LUMBERJACK CAKE

Here is the recipe for the cake I made for Ray Clarke's birthday recently. Lots of nursery workers present that Thursday asked me for it. I got it out of the Age 6/10/92, a Beverley Sutherland Smith column. Hopes it works.

### INGREDIENTS

2 apples  
1 tsp bi-carb soda  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp vanilla essence  
125g butter

185g dates  
1 cup boiling water  
1 egg  
1 1/2 cups plain flour  
1/2 tsp salt

### Topping

1/2 cup brown sugar  
60g butter  
1/3 cup milk  
60g shredded coconut

### METHOD

Butter a 20cm square tin, line with baking paper. Peel, core, chop apples. Chop dates, mix with apples, bi-carb soda and boiling water. Leave to cool to lukewarm.

Cream butter and sugar, add egg and vanilla.

Sift flour into creamed mixture alternatively with fruit.

Pour into tin, bake at 180C 60-80 mins. or until cooked. Combine topping ingredients in a saucepan and stir until melted. Spread over cake and return to oven for 20 more mins. or until topping is golden brown.

The recipe doesn't say what to do when you take it out of the oven so I left it in the tin until we ate it the next day. Everyone liked it except for one (my daughter) who thought it too sweet, so if you don't go for sweet sticky cakes its probably not for you. Cathy Willis.

## WINTER SURPRISES.

Meetings of the Flora Management Team (Marg B. Pat C. Matt le D and David VB) have discussed the need to modify the FOWSP program as Park staff is not often available on weekends to support working bees. Where we have Parkcare/Sub groups able to organise support (tools, plants, site preparation removal of weeds etc.) these will be high priority. Another high priority however must be education of members. Over the last few years we have maintained a high level of 'all work' and we really feel the need to remember that members need to have other hands on experiences. Things like Flora and Fauna identification skills are essential for training of well rounded Fowspians.

The committee has decided to budget our own funds this year to add doors to the Folly, thus making evening activities an all year possibility. Quotes have been sought during the last two months and we hope to have them installed this winter. Margaret had a number of speakers etc. 'informally booked', (with dates to be announced) - other suggestions from members are most welcome.

Thursday walks have been altered dramatically about 3 months ago as flora and fauna identification development, and simply 'learning the Park' was something the FMT and the FOWSP Committee saw as important. (Occasionally we may do mini projects when a sub group needs special help.) Pat Coupar and Angie Stefanotis have put together a special 'pack' to facilitate the experience. See Marg Burke for more information.

Pat Coupar's special walk last month was very well attended. Pat concentrated on fungi, mosses, ferns and algae which we all found fascinating. Angie and Carol Traill put together notes written as we walked, and these may be read at any time (Enquiries Angie). We will plan other walks like these and try to let you know in advance, however EVERY THURSDAY we have walks in all parts of the Park, including many areas not well known. REMEMBER - FRIENDS GROUPS ARE, AFTER ALL, ABOUT PEOPLE!

# FASCINATING FACTS AUGUST 1995

## THE SILKEN, THE SOFT, THE SMALL AND OTHERS.

*Malurus cyaneus* Superb Fairy-wren  
Greek: *malos*, soft; *oura*, tail; *cyanos*, blue.  
Also called Blue Wren, Blue Bonnet or Mormon Wren, these social creatures live in groups which have selected their own territory. Favourite haunts are thickets on the fringes of scrubs, tangles of Blackberry on river banks or if you are lucky in the 'pricklies' of your own garden.

*Secornis frontalis* White-browed Scrubwren  
Greek: *sericos*, silken; *ornis*, bird; *frontalis*, with a conspicuous forehead.  
Also called White-fronted Scrub Wren or Cartwheel Bird. They also prefer thick undergrowth of creek banks and gullies, but will frequent a well vegetated garden. Better still, an overgrown garden with lots of cover.

*Smicrornis brevirostris* Weebill  
Greek: *smicros*, small; *ornis*, bird.  
Latin: *brevi*, short; *rostrum*, bill.  
Here we have the smallest bird in Australia. Usually called Brown Weebill. For its size, its voice is surprisingly strong. Mostly seen in pairs or small parties. The short bill should help you distinguish Weebills from Thornbills.

*Colluricincla harmonica* Grey Shrike-thrush  
Greek: *collurion*, shrike; *cinclos*, bird,  
Latin: *harmonicus*, harmonious.  
As the name implies, the Grey Thrush, Harmonious Thrush or Whistling Dick, is among the world's most pleasing songbirds. It is not a member of the Thrush family. It belongs with the same family as Robins, Whistlers, Flycatchers and Fantails. Shrike, by the way, refers to the hook-tipped beak.

*Platycercus elegans* Crimson Rosella  
Greek: *platys*, flat; *cercos*, tail.  
Latin: *elegans*, handsome.  
An elegant bird indeed. Also called Red Lory, Mountain Lowry, or Crimson Parrot.  
This month I've noticed them eating the berries of

the White Cedar in my garden and of course they are the culprits responsible for the gum-flower strewn paths in the Parks.

*Platycercus eximius* Eastern Rosella  
Latin: *eximius*, excellent.  
Also called White-cheeked Rosella and Nonpareil Parrot. Are nonpareils still sold at grocery shops? I remember when nonpareils used to be on the shopping list with paper patty-pans, icing sugar and cochineal at children's birthday party time. They were shaped more like splinters but with the colours of 100's & 1000's. As an adjective, nonpareil means unequalled, without peer. I am tempted to call the next Eastern Rosella I see, a Nonpareil Parrot.

*Dacelo novaeguineae* Laughing Kookaburra  
Dacelo is simply an anagram of alcedo (Kingfisher) novaeguineae, of New Guinea  
Until fairly recently, the name was *D.gigas* thus describing the Laughing Kookaburra as one of the largest Kingfishers in the world. With the change we seem to be presented with a paradox as none of my references mentions New Guinea as part of our Jackass's range, whereas the Blue-winged Kookaburra, *D.leachii*, is certainly found in New Guinea as well as northern Australia.

If you are interested to read more of 'The New Guinea Connection' with Australian birds, I found a useful article in the Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds by Richard Schodde p. 602. For an excellent description of this popular icon of the Australian bush, look for p. 319 of the same book.

It is worth noting that the last three birds on this August edition of Fascinating Facts, require old trees with holes and hollow limbs for nesting.

CHEERS! *Flora A.*

## WATTLE DAY FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 1st & 2nd

Something new for 1995 is a Warrandyte Wattle Festival. This has been something we have done in the previous two years as part of our Market Stall. This year is the Centenary of the Grand Hotel and as they are prepared to sponsor it a committee has been set up to organise the event. (Yes we know August 1 is the traditional date.) FOWSP have been asked to set up a stall, display of our Nursery, Parkcare/sub group activities and the Wattle Fairy will of course paint faces. We will have pricking out pots of wattle seedlings, samples of seed with instruction sheets and hopefully an Acacia display. We would like to have Wattle flower damper and pikelets with Wattle Billy Tea for sale. An Acacia species planting would take place in the Community Centre Garden - give Joan MacMahon a hand. We will take orders for wattles to replace weed wattles removed from Warrandyte Gardens. When we have stocks FOWSP and the Rangers will home deliver. The occasion will end with a Wattle Ball, -special \$15 tickets apply, ring Shirley (844 1895) to book. Fowspians note in your diaries! Lots of volunteers needed - please call Betty Oke on 844 3763. All sub-groups please check with Marg, Shirley or Betty as each Sub-group should be part of the display!



## HOTHOUSE GOSSIP

Story from Glenn Henke who has recently been doing a bit of bike riding around, "good for ones health", saw one of those 'significant roadside' signs and decided to have a bit of a look. There clustered around the sign were five healthy little *Pinus radiata*. Yes, Glen did remove them!

Things discussed at Committee meetings are often rather tedious. We do always report the 'juicy bits', often in HHG. It has been suggested that members would like to know more so from now on Margaret Dimech will pin a copy on the notice board in the folly.

One thing which has been discussed at length at committee meetings, locally and in general at all meetings is the loss of Park staff houses. These are all to go and the three ranger/families at living within the Park have moved out. FOWSP have written to both the Minister and the Premier (as acting Minister of Finance. We have also followed the line of VNPA Friends Network (Newsletters in Folly). The reply from the Minister, Mark Birrell is available from Marg Dimech.

DC&NR did offer a house to FOWSP as an office/shopfront. After much looking, discussion and consultation, the committee, with help from all those attending the Thursday Nursery activities, agreed that they were all-

- Too far from the Nursery,
- Were in very poor repair (thus would require too much work from members who wish their efforts to conform with FOWSP's aims and objectives),
- Would be a drain on resources better spent elsewhere,
- Were much too big for our requirements (as library, office, seed processing work).

Marg B. thus informed Bob Brinkman, suggesting what we need is a site office type building. Bob (Chief Ranger, based at the Port Phillip Office in Dandenong) has promised to help us get this type of building. The Committee has set aside some of this years budget to help with this. Any ideas, comments???

Another problem which has arisen is reduction in Ranger hours (thus support for FOWSP or sub-groups) on weekends. This is quite a complex issue and we hope to arrange for a FOWSP/Staff 'think

tank' as soon as practicable, to allow people to understand these issues and other possibilities

The Burkes have just arrived back from a holiday at Tathra on the N.S.W. coast near Bega. They stayed in a flat under a home belonging to Elsa Ardern. This has a wonderful view across unspoiled bushland up the Bega River. Recently widowed, Elsa needs to find extra income for rates etc., and this would suit the needs of many Fowspians for a blissful holiday at specially 'negotiated' cost. If you are interested contact Elsa on 844 3440 or see Marg Burke.

Marg and Ian thank all those who welcomed them back so warmly and also those who have offered a hand with some of the tasks involved with running FOWSP & Newsletter. Please keep an eye on the 'Vacant Positions' adverts for a job to inspire you.

Soup roster has produced some fabulous lunches this year. Please add your name if it is ages since your turn. Shirley promises the recipe for her asian style noodle soup which has been perhaps the most unusual for 1995 so far. Anyone interested in putting together a collection of soup recipes?

## Fossicking Ross & friends.

### ANIMALS

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

Kangaroo	Snake	Possum
Koala	Eel	Fish
Lizard	Frog	Bat
Duck	Eagle	Rat
Platypus	Ant	Wombat
Ekidna	Moth	Rabbit
Owl	Yabby.	

## FOLLOW THE LINES, THEN DRAW ME

U A L  
G H I N G K O O  
A R R U K O  
W I T H A S E K A N  
I'm a .....

Ross needs you to send him jokes, puzzles and pictures. Post them to P.O. Box 220 Warrandyte 3113 or give them to Marg Burke.

Which animal's name is not spelt the correct way? Write it here .....

## Committee.

Margaret Burke	Co-ordinator	844 1060	Joy Hildebrand	Assistant Treasurer	844 2638
Ian Burke	Editor	844 1060	Shirley Mandemaker	Librarian	844 1895
Gay Harris	Secretary	844 1448	Cathy Willis	Propagation Manager	844 1841
Alec Manson	Market Stall	844 2557	Margaret Dimech	Membership/Secretary	844 3812
Pat Coupar	Nursery/Publication	844 1650	Ron Taylor	Folly Manager	844 4285
Judy Thomson	Treasurer	844 1590	Kym Docwra	Calendar Editor	876 3807
<u>Associate Committee Members</u>			<u>Building Committee</u>		
Mike Coupar Publication 844 1650			Ian Burke 844 1060 Don Cameron 844 2389		
Cecilia le Duc Folly Mngr 722 1926					
<u>Market Roster</u> Betty Oke 844 3763					

WE ARE CURRENTLY DESIGNING A NEW WRAPPER. PLEASE NOTE IF YOU ARE MARKED AS DUE TO PAY MEMBERSHIP (RED SPOT) PLEASE CUT OFF ADDRESS LABEL AND SEND IT WITH A CHEQUE TO P.O. BOX 220 WARRANDYTE 3113.

REGISTRATION BY AUSTRALIA POST  
PUBLICATION No. VBH 90 6982  
If undeliverable return to  
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.,  
P.O. Box 220,  
WARRANDYTE 3113

## A Day with David Cameron and Friends of Stony Creek.

Stony Creek 1pm August 30th. 27

Bring hand weeding tools. Guided Mystery Tour with our David Cameron, botanist extraordinaire!

## Wattle Day Celebrations September 1 & 2.

Saturday at the Community Centre. Visit or volunteer! See you there.

## Thursday Nursery Activities.

10am onwards. Lunch, soup roster. Come and learn how to propagate our indigenous plants. Walk in the afternoon. Learn your way around the Park, identification skills, seed collection, have a marvellous time.

Sub - group activities listed on Folly notice-board. They will only be published quarterly from now on, so please refer to previous Newsletters. (Saves paper/work!)

## Tip -toe through the Orchids with Cam.

Please note that the date for this activity is NOT REALLY FIXED. Botanist Cam Beardsell, world's greatest living authority on One Tree Hill and it's incredibly rare orchids, is planning to show you one of the worlds rarest orchids. He asks that you be patient as orchids do not run on our time-tables. So October 22nd could change (my mistakes last month were perhaps prophetic!) Watch next month's Newsletter. It will be worth waiting for!!!

## SLIDE NIGHT IN FOLLY - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22nd.

POWERFUL OWLS with ALAN WEBSTER BBQ TEA 6.00pm

Bus trip to Brisbane Ranges October 8th. Enq Ron Taylor 844 4285



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Only