



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK INC.

February 1996 newsletter

WILLOWS UNDER ATTACK AGAIN

February 25th Family Sunday Activity.

Time: 1.00 pm onwards.

Place: Junction of Stony Creek and the Yarra River. Meet at the car park at the end of Boulevard. (Melway Ref: Map 23 C.9.).

Be prepared to get wet! We will be drilling and filling Crack Willows at the edge of the river and on small islands. We will also be removing clumps of Yellow Iris- a mattock or spade will be of much benefit.

Bring a plate to share for afternoon tea by the river.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET

Calling all Fowspians!! The first Saturday of each month is Warrandyte Market Day, a day of special significance for all members of the friends as we have our own stall where old friends meet and where new friends are made. Where members select a special plant for their garden (free!) where we exchange experiences and learn from each other, where we chat about, well-everything! It's a great day.

As with all things, it needs people participation. If you are not already on the stall manning roster, why not give it a go? You may receive a phone call from me soon (unless you ring me first!) to ask whether you could give a hour or two. Not every month- perhaps two or three times a year, just whatever suits you.

Annual Festival, 23rd and 24th of March FOWSP stall will be participating with billy tea, damper and music. People will be needed for both days. It will be an exciting weekend.

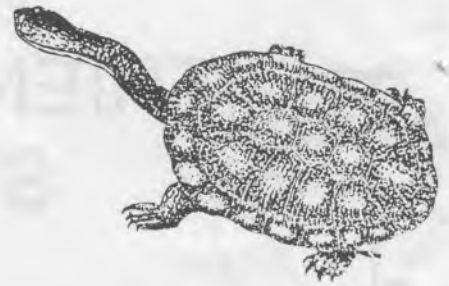
Remember the old maxim- "the more who share, the less for each to do".

Betty Oke 9844 3763

WARRANDYTE FOLLIES 1996

Folly times are here again! Save \$3 by booking via FOWSP. Tickets available through Cecilia Le Duc for Wednesday the 27th of March. This years extravaganza is a musical comedy entitled "*Bowl Them Over*". See Cecilia at the Depot for bookings or ring her on 9725 3959.

Mystery Reporter



Incredible facts revealed! 10.55am. Thursday 25th January 1996

RON LESLIE TAYLOR, currently serving time as a FOWSP committee member (in the capacity of minute secretary, and shared liaison contact person) was run to the ground (or water) in the confines of 'FROGLAND', Pound Bend.

Camouflaged as a bearded person he was caught in the act, using a very long handled sieve to remove surface slime and algae (Ed. note: mostly duckweed) from the pond - the home of countless frogs, mosquitoes, 'other aquatic 'creepy-crawlies' and a long-necked turtle.

Over the last couple of years Ron has carried out weeding, planting, mulching, rabbit catching and has been a major worker on the construction of a 35 metre - plus meandering board-walk.

Question to Ron: Is the *Epilobium billardierianum* spp. growing near the pond a noxious weed or what?

Answer: An evasive smile (a later opinion by botanist David Cameron seemed to vindicate Ron's actions).

Ron was born in Portsmouth, England, reached 'O' level in the General Certificate of Education and obtained Credits in the Surrey County exams. "My first job? I worked in the RICHMOND THEATRE, constructing stage scenery for 'The Merry Widow' and other musical shows. When the shows were on Ron would operate the curtains "and soak up and enjoy the music".

"Left home at age 15, and came to Australia on my own when I was 16 years old, went to Sydney and worked with a company of shop fitters and lived in a migrant hostel". He completed an apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery and has been in general building and design all his career, "built dairy factories, Target stores, etc as a project manager".

Interlude: At this point in the interview Ron spotted and pointed out a red-browed fire-tail which had come to the pond to drink. "I moved to Melbourne in the mid sixties because I met a girl who lived in Melbourne".

Worked for some major firms, then Murray-Goulbourn a construction manager for several years. In 1975 he married. Since the marriage ended five years ago, both his 'children', Julie 21, and Aaron 19, have been living with Ron until quite recently.

Question: "What are you looking for in life?"

Answer: "Fulfillment, and I'd like to find someone special. There are lots of wilderness areas I'd like to visit before they are stuffed up". I like bushwalking (Wilson's Prom. and Alpine areas) and remote camping.

"One of the best experiences is when I went to Nepal recently - the most gratifying and fulfilling I've had - three and a half weeks trekking through the Himalayas. I'd love to go back there again".

HOBBIES- "Women, model-making (mainly boats - the old galleon type), the whole natural environment, it all works together. I like reading - last book Dean Krootz, Wilbur Smith, novels, both the Australian and the American National Geographics. Gardening - including roses and tomatoes (the small ones). S.B.S., I watch mainly for the documentaries like the 'Cutting Edge'. Channel 9 news' every night".

FAVOURITE Film(s)- 'The Mission', 'Bridges of Madison Country', "Meryl Streep and Julie Christie are my favourite actresses,"

"I like to eat Asian food, Vietnamese, a good Chardonnay and a good red, sometimes a Heineken beer. Also enjoy Pizza with everything, and extra anchovies".

Music? Ron likes Enya, relaxing to new-age music, Cat Stevens, likes classical - Swan Lake. He likes old steam engines. Favourite comic book as a child was 'The Eagle'.

Then..... in his usual reticent manner Ron mentioned that he used to sing in the boy's choir at St. Pauls Cathedral, London, sang solo at Chris Bannister's (of 4 minute mile fame) wedding and also sang in the Southwark Cathedral Choir. "Um, I don't really sing now".

VITAL STATISTICS Brown hair, hazel eyes, distinguished beard, good physique, 65 kg and 5ft 10in. and wears boots most of the time. (deferring to decorum the Mystery Reporter refused Ron's offer of a centre-fold of himself!).

Question: “.What annoys you most?”

Answer: “Putting on a doona cover, glad-wrap and turning Aaron’s socks the right way before washing them; also general Government policies which talk of commitment, credibility and general concern for the environment and then don’t implement them.”

MISCELLANEA- Ron drives a white Ford utility (“nothing classy”)

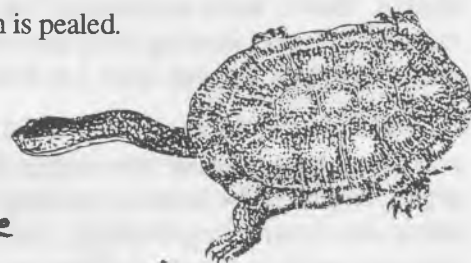
- became an Australian citizen on 14th Nov. 1990

- was born on 5th August 1943

- drinks Twinings Earl Grey tea.

From the foregoing let all be warned, your past may be revealed as the tocsin is pealed.

M.R.



Long-necked Tortoise

(Chelodina longicollis)



FLORA MANAGEMENT TEAM (FMT) UPDATE

David Van Bockel reports on FMT results over the last 6 months.


FOWSP have been planting many of the parks threatened plants into Frogland, giving them a secure location to grow in. This gives us some ‘breathing space’ in managing them. If the original population was to be lost in the field to fire, rabbits or some other cause, we will still have a population in Frogland. In addition many of these same species have been replanted back into the park as part of the species-enrichment program. The plants have either gone back into the original population, or a totally new population has been planted in a similar site to the parent plants (similar aspect, slope and associated species).

The plant list is ongoing, with new species still being found as well as confirmation of ‘unconfirmed’ species. In line with this, Pat Coupar has been busy taking photographs for the ‘Flora of Warrandyte’ album. She has photographed nearly 350 of the 440 species. In carrying out this huge task, she has been able to record the distribution of most of the uncommon plants. This has allowed us to rate each plant as either ‘presumed extinct’ (at the park level), ‘endangered’, ‘vulnerable’, ‘unknown’ or ‘secure’. This helps the park in prioritising which plants need attention.

The park has increased its number of rabbit-exclusion fences and this has secured a number of ‘hot-spots’ from grazing pressure. Several of these fences have been weeded for a third time and are now relatively weed-free. These fences now include some of the best examples of Warrandyte’s ground flora.

We have continued to benefit from the services of Graeme Lorimer and Cam Beardsell, who have helped with the survey work, lodging specimens at the Herbarium and the significance ratings.

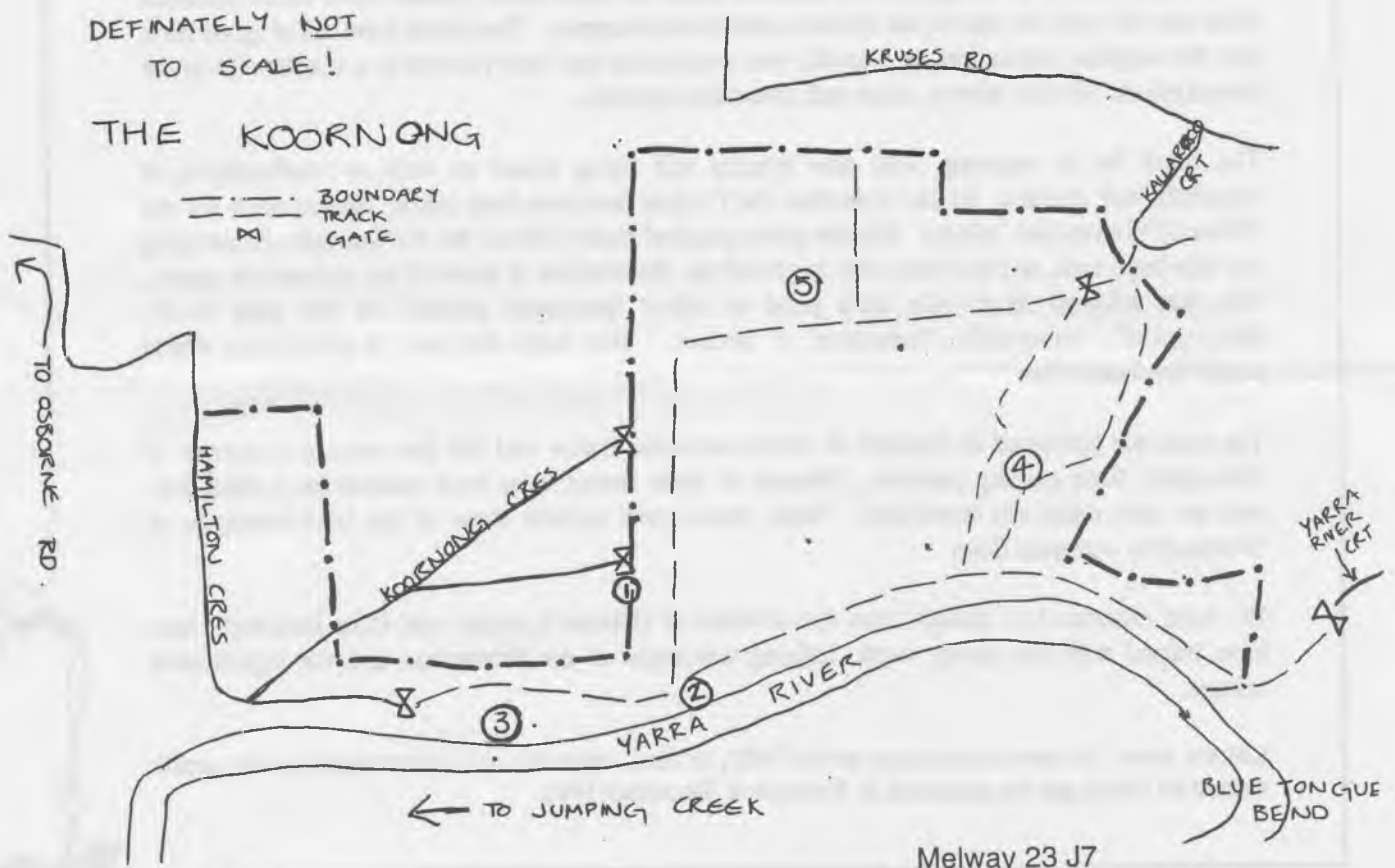
Editors note: For more information on the FMT, its aims, objectives and achievements see the article written by David and Pat published in ‘Parkwatch’ December 1995.



BITS & PIECES

1. We'd like to thank John Spencer Real Estate for their generous support of our group. They market our book **Discover Warrandyte** for us without keeping any of the money for themselves!
2. Our Folly was put to good use early on the morning of Sunday 28th of January when a large group of bird watchers gathered for pikelets and billy tea organised by ranger Brian Phefley. Famous ornithologist Ken Simpson, editor of one of the best field guides to Aussie birds, had led the group from the Tunnel at Pound Bend along the river track to the Folly. After what was probably breakfast for most people (the walk started at 6 am) we ambled back along the ridge track. Highlights include seeing a Crested Shrike-tit searching for insects on a dead tree across the river and four Dusky Woodswallows huddled up together preening themselves and their neighbours. I nearly forgot to mention that every body had excellent views of at least six koalas. Some were so close to the ground every detail of their fur and face was clear. We also saw a large number of nests varying from one which might have been built by a Little Eagle (a large messy collection of sticks high in a Manna Gum) to the more delicate cup-shaped structure of the Olive-backed Oriole.
3. Ken told us of the newly printed 5th edition of his book **Field Guide to the Birds of Australia** (Simpson and Day). It has lots of new colour plates (works of art) and all bar the first three birds are listed in a new order. Much of the latest knowledge about bird relationships is coming from DNA analysis which is leading to some very interesting findings. So if you can't resist keeping up with the latest in ornithology you'll have to rush out and buy a copy ! They are a little cheaper if purchased at the Bird Observer's shop at 183 Springvale Rd Nunawading.
4. Can we produce our newsletter using recycled paper? We had high hopes ! Judy Thomson was given the brief. She reports that with our present system (multiple photocopying by our photocopying benefactor) we shall have to stick with new paper. Recycled paper is comparatively rough and causes excess wear and tear on the highly polished (and expensive) drum in photocopying machines.
5. The deadline for contributions for our March newsletter is Tuesday the 5th of March.

KOOWHERE?



The Koornong is an often overlooked area of Warrandyte State Park. Small compared to many sections of the Park, the Koornong offers a variety of vegetation communities and habitats, making it ideal for a short walk. Early morning is magic along the river track, especially so for birdwatchers. Alternatively take a stroll on a warm afternoon finishing with a swim at one of the best swimming holes in Warrandyte.

Parking is easy at the three gates closest to the river. Check out some of our "points of interest" on the way.

1 Periwinkle Mound was our first project, transforming a Blue Periwinkle covered old fill mound, now flourishing with shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and ground covers.

2 The Swimming Hole. The Park and Melbourne Parks and Waterways combined to repair and prevent erosion, Friends of the Koornong planted the small fence with soil binding grasses and ground covers ... work to continue.

3 Periwinkle Gully. Another spot Blue Periwinkle was smothering. Before Christmas we started removing weed grasses from amongst Poa tussocks around the edges ... work to continue.

4 The Ivy Patch. An energetic Green Task Force and two Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, along with Thursday FOWSP members, cleared the ivy that totally carpeted this site... work to continue.

5 Juniper Wattle Exclusion Fence. Unfortunately this fence excludes the rare wattles it was built to protect! However it gives us a great opportunity to plant more, along with other appropriate rare species, and to monitor a rabbit free site...work to commence!

This year will be one of consolidation. As you can see there is plenty of "work to continue" before taking on new projects. We always have lots of fun getting it done and are very proud of what we have achieved so far. New faces (and hands) are always welcome. Join us - 1st Wednesday of the month 10am - meet at 1 on map.

* Acacia ulicifolia

Cathy and Friends of the Koornong.

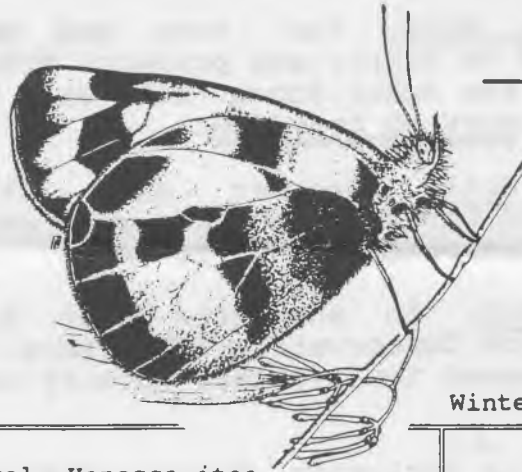


Silver Wattle
(Acacia dealbata)

WARRANTYTE'S BUTTERFLY DIARY

When we were working on 'Discover Warrandyte' we were going to include a list of our local butterflies. We also wanted to show when they are likely be seen flying. The information came from local experts as well as our own records. As 'Discover Warrandyte' grew larger and larger we were forced to omit the butterfly calendar. So here it is at long last for you to cut out and stick into your own copy of 'Discover Warrandyte'. But wait - there's more! At a later date we will be releasing Warrandyte's Bird list also omitted from the book due to lack of space.

Pat & Mike Coupar



Imperial White
(Delias harpalyce)

Winter Spring Summer Autumn

Browns

Australian Admiral *Vanessa itea*
 Banks' Brown *Heteronympha banksii*
 Common Brown (female) *Heteronympha merope*
 Common Brown (male) *Heteronympha merope*
 Cyril's Brown *Argynnina cyrila*
 Eastern Ringed Xenica *Geitoneura acantha*
 Klug's Xenica *Geitoneura klugii*
 Lesser Wanderer *Danaus chrysippus*
 Meadow Argus *Junonia villida*
 Painted Lady *Vanessa hershawi*
 Shouldered Brown *Heteronympha penelope*
 Spotted Brown *Heteronympha paradelpha*
 Wanderer *Danaus plexippus*

Skippers

Bright Shield Skipper *Signetta flammeata*
 Dispar Skipper *Dispar compacta*
 Donnysa Skipper *Hesperilla donnysa*
 Flame Skipper *Hesperilla idothea*
 Phigalia Skipper *Trapezites phigalia*
 Spotted Skipper *Hesperilla ornata*
 Symmonus Skipper *Trapezites symmonus*
 Yellow-banded Dart *Ocybadistes walkeri*

Blues and Coppers

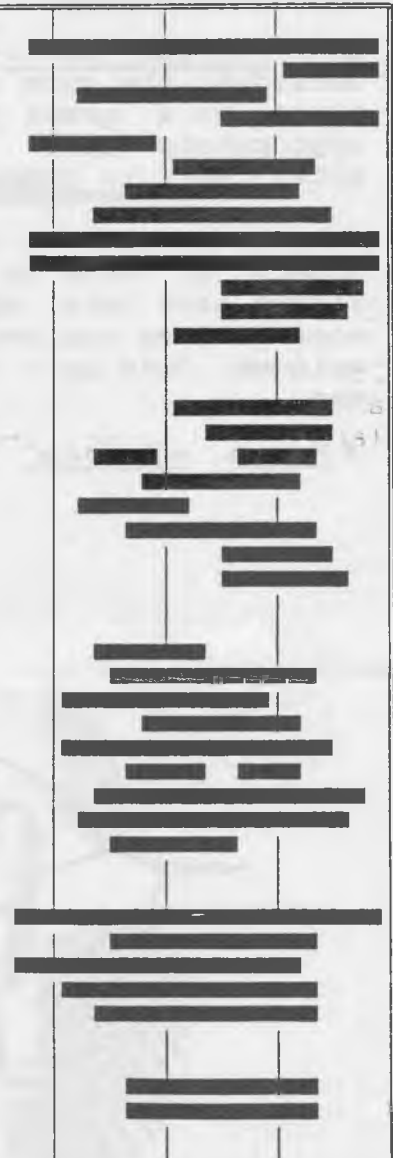
Blue Jewel *Hypochrysaps delicia*
 Bright Copper *Paralucia aurifera*
 Common Dusky Blue *Candalides hyacinthinus*
 Common Imperial Blue *Jalmenus evagurus*
 Common Grass-blue *Zizina labradus*
 Dark Purple Azure *Ogyris abrata*
 Olane Azure *Ogyris olane*
 Pea Blue *Lampides boeticus*
 Yellow-spot Jewel *Hypochrsaps byzas*

Whites and Yellows

Cabbage White *Pieris rapae* (i)
 Caper White *Anaphaeis java* (m)
 Imperial White *Delias harpalyce*
 Small Grass-yellow *Eurema smilax* (m)
 Wood White *Delias againippe*

Swallowtails

Dingy Swallowtail *Papilio anactus*
 Orchard Swallowtail *Papilio aegues*



(m) Migratory species
 (i) Introduced species

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY- SUNDAY 3rd MARCH

Join us for a fun day on our river as we canoe downstream collecting rubbish. We're planning to start at 11am -starting point not yet chosen. Bring your own canoe or be one of the lucky six people to use the three canoes the local hire company is providing without charging us. Each of those six folk will be given half an hour of professional instruction. Any interested people must phone Joan MacMahon(9844 3213) by Feb 20 - otherwise the canoes won't be held for us. Would people with canoes also let me know so the rangers can organise rubbish collection. As long as we have reasonable weather we'll have a great time and gain loads of satisfaction. Hope to see you there.

LIBRARY (RE)LOCATION????

Are you aware that FOWSP has an extensive LIBRARY ??? The majority of books are available for loan to all members. They are also an important resource for Park staff, and must be easily available to them. In recent months the committee has been discussing where to house the library in the future, and we need some input from YOU.

At present the library is in the Rangers' office. This has created difficulties both for them and us. Suggestions have been to build an extension to the Folly or to put them in a portable building -however the Park does not favour adding another building to the conglomeration already present.

A library added to the Folly would mean much easier access for members, especially on weekends and when no one is in the office. It would also include space to sit and read, take notes etc. Negatives include less easy access for staff. We would need to buy duplicate copies of some books they refer to frequently or that are owned by the Park rather than the Friends.

These are just a few of the issues involved. Cost, suitability of a building to maintain books in good condition, security, and landscape amenity are some others.

What do you think? Would you use the library more if it was moved? How do you feel about an extension to the Folly? The committee will discuss this issue again at our next meeting so put your thoughts on paper (in the suggestion box in the folly or to the P.O. Box) or pick up the phone and call a committee member.

NEXT MONTH . . . A Competition !

We're going to run a bird-watching competition. There will be three sections: the first is for primary school children, the second for secondary students and the third is for the rest of us ! It will be run over a fortnight and prizes will be given ! So get out your binoculars and start looking now. If you're not used to trying to identify birds some practice will be very useful. Entry is open to the whole community, not just FOWSP members so do spread the word.



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