



# FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK Inc.

## December Newsletter

Dear reader,

The end of another year approaches, seemingly with the speed of an express train. Before we find ourselves tumbling into 1996 let's consider some of the many achievements of 1995. For this, see the article by Pat Coupar and ranger David van Bockel.

Having taken on the job of producing our newsletter, even though my word processing skills are at this stage minimal (talk about a slow-poke)! I have even more respect for the energy and expertise which Margaret and Ian Burke put into the many newsletters they produced together.

At the moment I'm at the bottom of the learning curve but hope soon to be in the exponential phase in which case you should see a marked improvement in quality!

I recently came across a talk by Jeff Mosley entitled "**The Volunteer's Role in Nature Conservation**". He gave the talk in 1980 in Cairns, at the Second World Wilderness Congress. He begins his speech in this way, "**We conservationists are very lucky people. To us life is always interesting, and we maintain and retain our natural curiosity. But if we are distinguished by our love of life, our other distinguishing characteristic is that we care. We are tuned into the needs of future generations more than most other people. Non-conservationists sometimes think that conservation must be a wearisome responsibility, but it isn't. We really can't help being conservationist, and of course to most of us it is an enjoyable task. We see ourselves as part of nature's built-in defence mechanism, trying to correct some of the things that go wrong in nature as a result of people's more thoughtless activities. Certainly I believe that the community has a need for us. There are so many forces and interests in society which work to maximise present returns without thought for future needs. ....**" What do you think?

## *Merry Christmas*

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank all those members that have taken part in various activities, working bees, sub groups, etc, over the last year, a lot of hard and rewarding work has been carried out. We all look forward to the coming year and working together with lots of enthusiasm to do what we can for the Park.

One of the nicest things about our group are the people that are in it. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



## 1995 - THE YEAR OF PLENTY

Following a particularly dry year in 1994 with one of the poorest displays of wildflowers on record, 1995 has been a year of plenty: Plenty of rain, plenty of weeds, plenty of wildflowers and a wealth of new plant records for Warrandyte.

During the year FOWSP carried out a range of weeding and revegetation works at the monthly sunday meetings, on thursday afternoons and in their various sub-group capacities. In addition FOWSP members co-ordinated and worked with the Green Task Force at various locations throughout the State Park and adjoining areas.

Listed below is some of the work achieved by FOWSP during 1995 and the different areas in which that work was carried out.

### WILLOWS DRILLED AND FILLED

Black Flat, Pound Bend, Stony Creek & Osborne Rd Peninsula

### CARPETING AND MULCHING

Pound Bend (The Coop, Frogland, & Endeavour Bank), Stony Creek & Brogil Creek

### FENCE BUILDING (All shapes and sizes)

Stane Brae, Koornong, Pound Bend, Normans Reserve, Timber Reserve & Jumping Creek

### IVY REMOVAL

Koornong, Osborne Rd Peninsula, Normans Reserve & Stony Creek

### PLANTING

Pound Bend (The Coop & Frogland), Whipstick Gully, Fourth Hill, Timber Reserve, Koornong, Osborne Rd Peninsula, Stane Brae, Normans reserve, Brogil Creek & Mt Lofty

### GENERAL WEEDING

Just about everywhere!



*Hop Goodenia*

Over the past year 31 new plant records have been identified for the Warrandyte State Park area by David Van Bockel and Pat Coupar with help from Joy Hildebrand, Joan MacMahon, Cam Beardsell, David Cameron and Graeme Lorrimer. There have also been 12 rediscoveries as well as many new location records for a number of rare and significant plants in the State Park.

NEW RECORDS

GENUS	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	FAMILY
<i>Agrostis</i>	<i>aemula</i>	Blown Grass	POACEAE
<i>Aphelia</i>	<i>gracilis</i>	Slender Aphelia	CENTROLEPIDACEAE
<i>Brachyscome</i>	<i>perpusilla</i>	Rayless Daisy	ASTERACEAE
<i>Caladenia</i>	<i>parva</i>	Small Spider-orchid	ORCHIDACEAE
<i>Caladenia</i>	<i>phaeoclavia</i>	Brown-clubbed Spider-orchid	ORCHIDACEAE
<i>Carex</i>	<i>chlorantha</i>	Green-top Sedge	CYPERACEAE
<i>Carex</i>	<i>polyantha</i>	Sedge	CYPERACEAE
<i>Centipeda</i>	<i>minima</i>	Spreading Sneezeweed	ASTERACEAE
<i>Centrolepis</i>	<i>aristata</i>	Pointed Centrolepis	CENTROLEPIDACEAE
<i>Cheilanthes</i>	<i>distans</i>	Bristly Cloak-fern	ADIANTACEAE
<i>Crassula</i>	<i>peduncularis</i>	Purple Crassula	CRASSULACEAE
<i>Cynoglossum</i>	<i>latifolium</i>	Forest Hound's-tongue	BORAGINACEAE
<i>Cyperus</i>	<i>gunnii</i> ssp. <i>gunnii</i>	Flecked Flat-sedge	CYPERACEAE
<i>Danthonia</i>	<i>semiannularis</i>	Wetland Wallaby-grass	POACEAE
<i>Dianella</i>	sp. (Naughton Ave.)	Flax-lily	LILIACEAE
<i>Dicksonia</i>	<i>antarctica</i>	Soft Tree-fern	DICKSONIACEAE
<i>Diuris</i>	<i>lanceolata</i> X <i>pardina</i>	Hybrid Diuris	ORCHIDACEAE
<i>Hemarthria</i>	<i>uncinata</i>	Mat Grass	POACEAE
<i>Hydrocotyle</i>	<i>tripartita</i>	Slender Pennywort	APIACEAE
<i>Imperata</i>	<i>cylindrica</i>	Blady Grass	POACEAE
<i>Isolepis</i>	<i>fluitans</i>	Floating Club-sedge	CYPERACEAE
<i>Isolepis</i>	<i>hookeriana</i>	Grassy Club-sedge	CYPERACEAE
<i>Isolepis</i>	<i>marginata</i>	Little Club-sedge	CYPERACEAE
<i>Isolepis</i>	<i>platycarpa</i>	Flat-fruit Club-sedge	CYPERACEAE
<i>Juncus</i>	<i>gregiflorus</i>	Green Rush	JUNCACEAE
<i>Juncus</i>	<i>holoschoenus</i>	Joint-leaf Rush	JUNCACEAE
<i>Juncus</i>	<i>prismatocarpus</i>	Branching Rush	JUNCACEAE
<i>Luzula</i>	<i>meridionalis</i> var. <i>flaccida</i>	Common Woodrush	JUNCACEAE
<i>Myriophyllum</i>	sp.	Milfoil	HALORAGACEAE
<i>Stylidium</i>	? <i>despectum</i>	Small Trigger-plant	STYLIDIACEAE
<i>Wahlenbergia</i>	<i>gymnoclada</i>	Naked Bluebell	CAMPANULACEAE

REDISCOVERIES

<i>Acaena</i>	<i>agnipila</i>	Hairy Sheep's Burr	ROSACEAE
<i>Brachyscome</i>	<i>decepiens</i>	Field Daisy	ASTERACEAE
<i>Caladenia</i>	<i>lindleyana</i>	Wine-lipped Spider-orchid	ORCHIDACEAE
<i>Calandrinia</i>	<i>calyptrata</i>	Pink Purslane	PORTULACACEAE
<i>Chenopodium</i>	<i>pumilio</i>	Clammy Goosefoot	CHENOPODIACEAE
<i>Eryngium</i>	<i>vesiculosum</i>	Prickfoot	APIACEAE
<i>Juncus</i>	<i>pauciflorus</i>	Loose-flower Rush	JUNCACEAE
<i>Juncus</i>	<i>planifolius</i>	Broad-leaf Rush	JUNCACEAE
<i>Lepidosperma</i>	<i>gunnii</i>	Slender Sword-sedge	CYPERACEAE
<i>Lyperanthus</i>	<i>suaveolens</i>	Brown-beaks	ORCHIDACEAE
<i>Mitrasacme</i>	<i>paradoxa</i>	Wiry Mitrewort	LOGANIACEAE
<i>Pterostylis</i>	<i>concinna</i>	Trim Greenhood	ORCHIDACEAE

## A GREAT EVENING

We had a lively evening at our end of year bush dance. Children and adults had heaps of fun dancing to the tunes of The Free Selectors. We even had a go at a bit of line dancing. The lucky hamper winner is a friend of Ron Taylor's. As well as some lovely gifts provided by our own members, these local traders contributed handsomely; Marris Bros. Meats (at West End), the wood - fired Bakery, Warranglen Nursery, River Clay and Ron Day of The Soil Shop.

Newly  
emerged  
cicada



Empty  
nymph  
case



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (always welcome)

This is an extract from a letter sent by Hildebrand to a friend living overseas.

“Lately we've been putting in a lot of time trying to stop the construction of a freeway through our area, which is known as the Green Wedge. Other wars begin and end, but the struggle to preserve the natural environment just goes on and on, as long as there are more and more people wanting more and more of everything. I wish they would stop.

Some people enjoy conflict, but not us. We just like being alive, so battling the developers and politicians is a bring-down. The only good thing about it is that it has given us some priceless friends: other people who would rather be pottering about, or travelling, or making love, or having a party, or reading a good book, or making music, or building something funny -- but who are horrified by what has happened and will keep happening if somebody doesn't do something. And that means us, god damn it, a career we never wanted, and one we want to retire from as soon as possible.”

## BURKE'S THANK YOU PARTY

A pleasant evening of chatting ,fine food and entertainment was enjoyed by a large crowd at Margaret and Wayne Dimmock's place on the 11 Th. of November. Three very special guests made the trip from Phillip Island; former Warrandyte S.P. head ranger Ian Roche, wife Gail and daughter Carly. The family is moving to Launching Place as Ian has obtained the position of head ranger at the newly created Yarra Ranges Park (National?State?) and will be based at Woori Yallock. Joy and Greg Hildebrand sang and played some marvellous music. Aren't we lucky to have our very own in-house musicians? Margaret and Ian were given some beautiful gifts including a platter by Alison Thom, wine glasses, the recently published book describing all of Victoria's orchids ( a must for "orchidologists") and framed photos of orchids by Pat Coupar.

## REPORT ON FINAL SUNDAY ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR

On the 26th. of November, a dozen of us gathered at the car park at the end of Bradley's Lane. Marvellous Brenda Hunter (one of our most active "distant " members ) brought along a friend who had travelled even further than she had, coming all the way from Geelong to Melbourne by train! We started by enhancing the work of several previous sessions, putting in some extra plants and removing the last of what had been a very large ivy patch. While Matt drove the rest of the gear closer to the next working site most of us had a look at Antechinus Swamp.( This is a treasure since as far as we know there are no similar sites in the Warrandyte area. It was originally much larger but as so often happened much of it was deliberately drained ,many decades ago, to suit the needs of human settlers.) Luck was with us and a few of us saw an Eastern Swamphen moving amongst the rushes. We looked at the planting's of Swamp Gum ( *Eucalyptus ovata*) and Prickly Moses (*Acacia verticillata*) placed by one of the Green Task Force teams. We also looked (in vain) for the very substantial chicken-wire enclosure which 3 young Green Task Force blokes had placed around a small patch of Leafy Bog-rush (*Schoenus maschalinus*.) NO SIGN OF IT! We assume it was filched to fulfil the needs of more recent human settlers! Feeling somewhat disappointed, we continued along the river track until just before it peters out opposite Anderson's Creek. Here we had a look at two interesting plants; the first being Elderberry panax (*Polyscias sambucifolius*) and the second Blanket Leaf (*Bedfordia arborescens*.) Both these plants are unusual for Warrandyte , being typically found in higher rainfall areas such as the Otways, The Prom, The Dandenongs and the Central Highlands. Nearby were two interesting holes in the ground. The large one was obviously the home of a wombat (perhaps the one which occasionally leaves its "calling-card" in the MacMahon's carport?) The other hole was very neatly constructed in a near-vertical bank and only about 10cm. wide. It wasn't a rabbit-hole, so maybe it belongs to a Water Rat? We turned our attention to a nearby Ivy patch and soon had it cleared. Special commendation for hard, enthusiastic work goes to Christopher Stuevan (8) and Ethan le Duc(5). We replaced the ivy with wattles, poas and *Goodenia ovata* and then enjoyed a very substantial afternoon-tea in the MacMahon's backyard.



# THE MYSTERIOUS RETURN OF THE MYSTERY REPORTER

**PREFACE:** Much of this interview was recorded on a plain, nondescript, unidentifiable brown paper wrapper in keeping with the desire of the interviewee to "hide her light under a bushel."

**PROLOGUE:** The small car convoy wended its way through Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground to arrive at Pretty Hill. Time 1:15 PM. Date Thursday 15 Th June 1995. The seventeen FOWSPIANS then proceeded by foot on a "surprise walk" led by none other than the CHIEF OF STAFF of a local Warrandyte "priceless" monthly newspaper.

Contrary to the 1940's doggerel -Tallarook, on the Hume Highway, has in fact been the birthplace of many worthy Australians including Janet Mitchell (nee Buchanan) Tindale. Born in 1941, Jan attended Tallarook State School where she learnt to play cricket and "footy. Why? Because of the fifty pupils, Jan was the only girl! At Grade five Jan's parents decided it was time for her to become a lady, so they sent her to Fireback C.of E. Girls grammar School where she gained her Leaving Certificate-Bookbinding, History, Geography(brilliant etc.) She then trained and qualified at the Royal Melbourne Hospital as a registered nurse.

Jan arrived in Warrandyte in 1962 "just missing the bushfires .The house on Brown's Hill was built on the rocks (over a brown snake home - it's still there) and still remains my main residence although I sometimes retreat with the legendary Lee to Portarlington.)

**VITAL STATISTICS:** **Height :**"always used to be 5 feet 5 and a half inches, but I shrunk" **Weight:** "I don't know, changes a lot" **Hair:** "Brown, grey under neath " **Eyes:** "green"

In deference to good taste only the following facts are revealed:

- I. The grandchildren call Jan "GOOGIE"
- II. Jan has been discovered dividing and "potting- on "Bidgee-Widgee" (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*) in the FOWSP potting area.
- III. She was vice- captain for a year at school. Form 2\3 level?
- IV. "Susan Renouf was my blackboard monitor"
- V. Three of Jan's four children have provided her with eight grandchildren.
- VI. One of her jobs is local newspaper photographer and "the person they.....(blue pencilled!)"
- VII. Appropriate mouse-use was introduced to Lee by the MR's nephew!
- VIII."I don't like sweets", but Jan is reputed to be an excellent cook
- IX. Jan drives a 1990 Nissan Skyline

**FAVOURITES:Colour:** "Red" **Jewellery:** "Opal "

**Music:** "Country and Western" **TV|films:** English comedies, Fawltly Towers, Dad's Army. One of the best films I like is the one about the Coke bottle as a gift "from the gods."(? The Gods Must Be Crazy )

**Actors|actresses:** Peter Sellers, Katherine Hepburn. **Drink:** Good white wine, Beer-Victoria Bitter,Heavy. **Food:** Wild duck and rabbit. **Cooking utensil:** "My Weber without a doubt. I smoke hams,rabbits and fish in it." **Gifts:** "I'm not the sort of person who values material things very much, it has to be something useful eg. a new set of golf clubs."

When questioned, Jan finally admitted, that her favourite native plants and animals were "Cinnamon Wattle, all indigenous animals.....and my dog."

Her favourite places are "Cape Conran, go there every year, Portarlington-lots of good friends there." Jan would like to go to "some of the islands, Fiji, a nice long cruise, about 6 months, on a small ship, nothing too big.

**Question:** "What annoys you?"

**Answer:** "People who won't change their ways. I once thought I knew all about Warrandyte, but then joined FOWSP and realised how wrong I was."

**Question:** "C of E mean?"

**Answer:** "Church of England. My religious range is C of E school, Methodist Sunday School, Baptist, Presbyterian, became a Catholic for a while- now I think I'm covered and will end up in the right place. And I've been confirmed twice."

Jan's interests are or were, apart from children..... loves cooking, "planted camellias in the Warrandyte rock," been President of the Warrandyte Kindergarten, played tennis, fishing...."biggest catch a King George Whiting, 1.5 kg.," she has no criminal offences "none that I can think of" and finally Jan in an apparent bout of truth, confessed that Lee is her lover. "I think I've said enough" were supposed to be her final words for the interview. But then she revealed that she had had her appendix out!

**Epilogue:** After this hazardous encounter with a hardened CHIEF- OF-STAFF the M. R. will select a less circumlocutory target.....for interrogation.....next time.

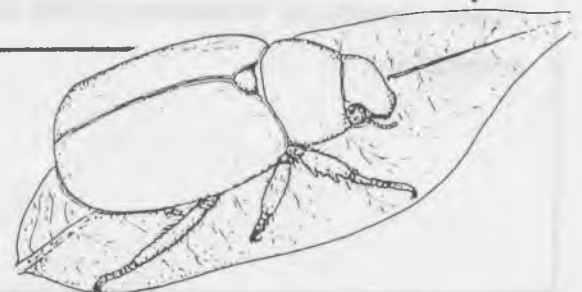
#### OUR NEW CHIEF RANGER

On Thursday 7th. Dec. the Friends Group had a visit from Ian Christie (Port Phillip Regional Manager) and Bob Brinkman (Chief Ranger, Dandenong Ranges) who came to the Park to meet the new committee. One of their duties for the morning was to introduce David Nugent to the Friends Group. David is the new Chief Ranger for the Yarra Ranges Area which takes in the Warrandyte State Park, he has come to this area from being Chief Ranger at Ballarat.

Following introductions the committee had an informal meeting with the Department representatives to discuss various issues concerning the Park and the working relationship between the Friends Group and the Park staff. The main topic discussed was the Park Management Plan and its implications. Both Ian Christie and Bob Brinkman endorsed their confidence in the Friends Group, the Park staff and in particular the Ranger in Charge, Matt le Duc.

After the meeting Ian, Bob and David stopped for lunch and a general chat with members. We take this opportunity of welcoming David Nugent to Warrandyte and look forward to meeting with him again.

*Christmas Beetle*



## BITS & PIECES

- 1.** Our book , **Discover Warrandyte**, is still available at the special member's discount price of \$12. It's packed with natural history gems and great photos of this lovely part of Victoria. Most of the information is relevant to south - eastern Australia ( even the oft - forgotten "Tassie" ) so would make an excellent Christmas present. Members can obtain copies from Ron Taylor, Betty Oke (844 3763 ) or Joan Macmahon.
- 2.** Thursday activities continue right through the Christmas and holiday season. Even if you've never been before, don't be shy about turning up , you will be made to feel very welcome. Starting time is 10 AM, with lunch at The Folly at about 12. We often have magpies, swallows and Wood Ducks for company.
- 3.** The Tuesday morning activity is also ongoing. It usually gets going a little earlier ( around 9.30 ) and finishes with morning tea ( around 11.) Those attending need to be able to work independently but don't be put off by that - it wouldn't take many Thursdays to learn " the ropes." If you have a particular project in mind or would like some ideas please have a talk with Pat Coupar or David van Bockel.
- 4.** As you know, back problems are rife in our community. We bush regenerators are not immune as is proven by our young secretary Kym Dowcra. Many months ago she spent a day pulling smallish broom weeds out at Tindals Wildflower Reserve. Next morning she woke to discover she had badly damaged her back and has had to give up her job. So do take care when pulling weeds and try to use an appropriate tool.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

To preserve the sanity of the membership secretary and to simplify the administration of F.O.W.S.P. the committee has decided to ask for all subscriptions in February of each year. Members whose subscriptions are due between March and August 1996 will not be expected to pay the full amount of \$15.

Members who have paid since 1 August 1995 are now financial until Feb. 1997. (Most gave extra donations anyway for which we thank them.)

All newsletters will contain a membership renewal notice in February. New members joining after August will only pay up until February of the next year.

Please contact Joy Hildebrand (9 844 2638) for any further information. All correspondence **will** be entered into!



*Hop Goodenia*



# PUZZLE

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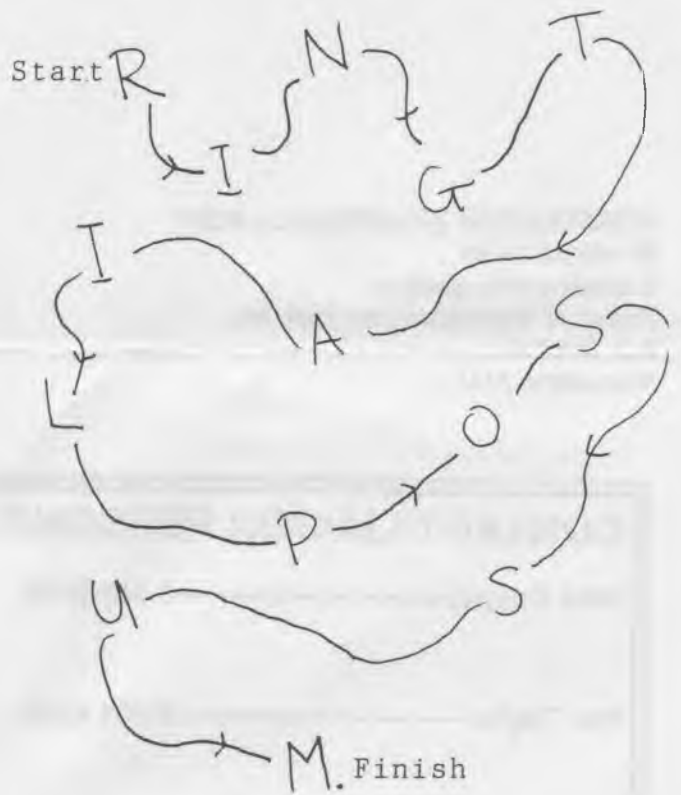
## BIRDS.

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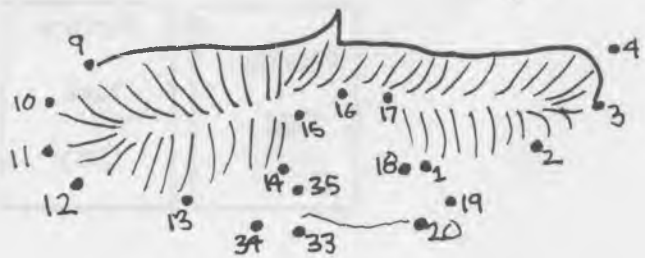


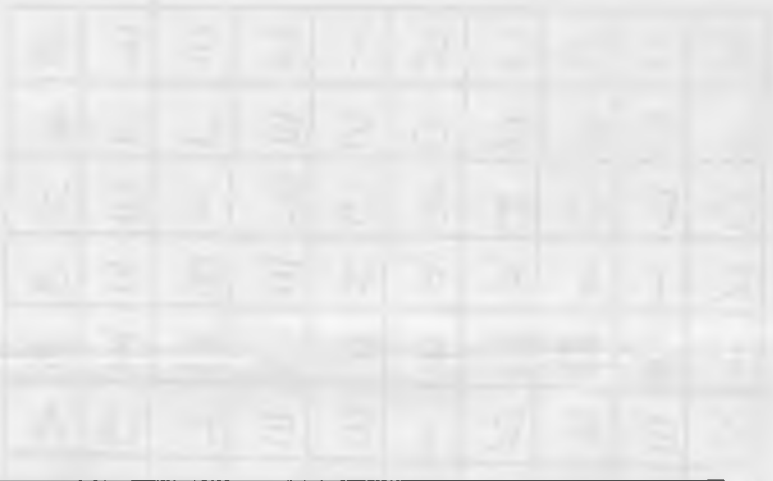
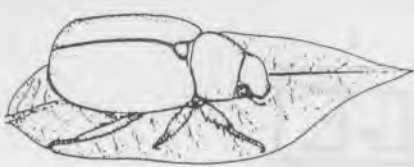
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