

June 1997

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. P O Box 220 Warrandyte 3113

Mount Lofty - Park at Last

By Mike Coupar

The Bill officially incorporating 88 hectares of Mount Lofty into the Warrandyte State Park was passed by the Upper House of Parliament recently. So now that bottle of champagne, frequently mentioned in many of our newsletters, can finally be taken out of its ice bucket and the cork eased off. All those people, too many to mention, who have worked in different ways to ensure this special area is protected and enhanced should be congratulated. In order to mark this occasion we will be organising an on-site celebration. Details in the next newsletter.

Mt Lofty is truly a special part of our region for it offers the opportunity for passive recreation and relaxation. One can experience a feeling of remoteness during the five kilometre walk along the river from Lower Homestead Rd to Witton's Reserve. On a summer's day there are many opportunities for a swim along the way. The car park at the end of Lower Homestead Rd is a popular starting point for canoeists taking on the rapids of the gorge to Witton's Reserve and further downstream to Yarra Brae, Stane Brae, Jumping Creek and Black Flat sections of the Park.

Mt Lofty, being the start of the gorge, has special geological significance for the Melbourne region, since it is the eastern most part of the uplifting which formed the Warrandyte hills some five to eight million years ago. The ancestral Yarra river maintained its meandering course during this era by incising its bed to keep pace with the uplift. In the process, river and uplift have created slopes, cliffs, undercut bends, rapids and river flats.

In the 1960's the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) acquired Mt Lofty as part of the now thankfully defunct Yarra Brae Reservoir project. Imagine a dam wall holding the

Yarra back along Yarra Brae, Mt Lofty and out into much of the Yarra Valley! In the interim Mt Lofty has been leased for grazing by the MMBW - now Melbourne Water. Much has been done over the years to get Mt Lofty formally included in the State Park. The first serious attempts were made back in 1988. However, a constant obstacle has been the cost of acquisition or finding a suitable swap of land. It would seem that the recent amalgamation of Melbourne Parks and Waterways with the Department of Natural Resources & Environment into Parks Victoria has overcome this problem.

The Warrandyte State Park Management Plan released in 1990 describes Mt Lofty as follows: "It features steep-sided slopes and magnificent panoramic views of the Yarra valley. Most of the block is cleared and has been extensively grazed, however, natural regeneration is occurring along the gullies, with a narrow fringe of remnant riparian vegetation providing refuge for wildlife".

Scott Seymour of Melbourne Water, who recently visited the area with FOWSP representative Flora Anderson, is of the opinion that "a significant amount of work needs to be done to control weeds, particularly water iris and to control bank erosion". It is obvious that restoration and vegetation works need to be undertaken along the river and up the slopes. Thankfully some of this has already started with fences to protect the wetland close to the Lower Homestead Road car park and other fragile remnant patches of vegetation along the river and on the slopes. With the help of Melbourne Water, the allocated money from the State Government and an enthusiastic Friends group, Mt Lofty at last will be getting some much needed attention.

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

JUNE 12TH Park Planting Day MORNING ACTIVITY

Meet on site at 10.00 am

There are plenty more plants to put in the ground. The location is inside the Pound Bend Tunnel fence, the ground will be soft and no rabbit guarding is required.

Leader David Van Bockel. Meet at Pound Bend Tunnel car park, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 A11)

JUNE 19TH Species Enrichment Survey

Meet at the depot at 1.00 pm

We will pool cars to have a look at several sites at Jumping Creek and The Common where rare and threatened species have been planted in the last few years. How have they survived the summer?

Leader Pat Coupar. Meet at the WSP depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 C10)

JUNE 26TH Black Flat Ivy Blitz MORNING ACTIVITY

Meet on site at 10.00am

There is a small, but concentrated patch of ivy strangling the native vegetation along Black Flat's boundary. Many hands make light work in removing this environmental disaster.

Leader David Van Bockel. Meet at the Black Flat car park off Tills Dve, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 H11)

JULY 3RD Timber Reserve Ramble

Meet on site at 1.15.pm

One of Warrandyte's forgotten reserves. This patch of bushland has a surprisingly diverse range of vegetation including a number of rare and threatened plants. Winter and early spring orchids should be in flower or bud, perhaps we will find the elusive Dwarf Greenhood.

Leader Ant Owen. Meet at the end of Wattleblossom Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 35 H1)

JULY 10TH Park Planting Day MORNING ACTIVITY

Meet at the depot 10.00 am

There is still plenty of room for planting in the coupe. This time all plants chosen will be those that grow in the vicinity and will be suitable to the site.

Leader David Van Bockel. Meet at the WSP depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 C10)

JULY 17TH Yarra Valley Billabongs Tour DAY ACTIVITY

Meet at the depot 10.00 am

This tour along the Yarra Valley promises some special highlights - Melbourne's remnant River Red Gum bush, billabongs and some surprising artwork. Bring lunch, we will pool cars and leave from the depot promptly at 10.00am so don't be late or you may miss out!

Leader Elizabeth Sevier. Meet at the WSP depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 C10)

JULY 24TH Pigeon Bank Creek Wander

Meet on site at 1.15.pm

A chance to visit this delightful ferny creek with its attractive Tassel Sedges. We will follow the gully, checking on some rare Blanket Leaf trees along the way, ending up at the bottom of Cathy's block. Afternoon tea will be provided by Cathy.

Leader Cathy Willis. Meet at the corner of Yarra River Ct and Pigeon Bank Lane, North Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 J6)

JULY 31ST-Mullum Mullum Creek Revegetation Walk

Meet on site at 1.15.pm

The revegetation of this linear strip of bushland by Manningham Council is a wonderful example of what can be done to 'bring back the bush'. A special highlight is the series of wetlands which offer fantastic habitat to birds and frogs.

Leader Jane Pammer. Meet at the corner of Deep Ck Dve and Warrandyte Rd, Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 34 F3)

AUGUST 7TH Normans Reserve Fern Gully MORNING ACTIVITY

Meet on site at 10.00am

Once this area was choked by Ivy, Pittosporum and Cotoneaster. After several 'Friends' and Green Task Force working days almost all weeds have been removed. We will do a check for any regrowth and plant some of our rare ferns and other plants into the site.

Leader Joan MacMahon. Meet at the car park at the end of Bradleys Lane, North Warrandyte (Melways ref. map 23 B12)





A Tree as Lovely as a Poem



By Peggy Safstrom

Just a few years ago, a lone prospecting miner, Werner Marschaleck, came across a magnificent tree in the rain forest between Powelltown and Noojee, in the Warburton Ranges, north east of Melbourne. One day recently, Lawrie and I too found this natural wonder which has been named the 'Ada Tree'. This tree is thought to be the most massive hardwood in the world - a giant long before Captain Cook first went to sea! When we heard of it, we set out to find it.

Just beyond Lilydale we turned right onto the Warburton Highway and right again at Yarra Junction along the Powelltown-Noojee Road. Now we were in big timber country. Finally we turned left onto the Ada River Road, an unmade narrow gravel track, just 12km to the Ada Tree carpark.

Three steps down from the carpark into the forest and we were in a magical wonderland. Myrtle Beeches, hundreds of years old, their trunks host to a myriad of ferns and lichens, dripped shining drops of crystal onto tracks covered thickly with the autumn-toned beech leaves. The narrow, winding track led twice across a sparkling mountain river - the Ada River - just a little stream here. The river twisted and turned, as if for the sheer fun of it, in and out between gravelly mini-islands clothed with tall tree ferns, their long frond tresses bending down to trail in the sparkling water, as if longing to go along with the frivolity of the little stream.

The track, so thick with its multi-coloured carpet of beech leaves, was fun to walk. We heard the eerie, drawn out "Kee-ar" whistles of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, and finally caught sight of a pair of them in the low branches of a Sassafras tree. When they saw us they took off with their slow, laboured flight, their calls warning others of our presence in their territory. Scratchings at the sides of the track told us that Superb Lyrebirds had been there earlier in the morning. We listened for their tell-tale repertoire of songs mimicked from the other forest dwellers, but they eluded us.

Many times we suddenly came upon a huge tree looming up in front of us through the enchanting green tracery of rain forest vines, and thought "surely this is it"! But nothing compared to the awe we felt when we really came to the Ada Tree. This towering Mountain Ash *Eucalyptus regnans*, stands about 80 metres tall.

Its branches spread gracefully in a huge circle, as if each were bestowing a benediction on all life below it. My outstretched arms reach about 1.5 metres. At shoulder height, it took ten times my outstretched arms to reach around its trunk, and where it slopes down and out, fluting into the ground, it is a much greater distance. Its vast root system fans out for more than half an acre collecting rain water enriched by hundreds of years of fallen leaves, to feed its majestic, massive branches.

We walked very slowly around the tree, trying to take in the wonder of this living masterpiece. We were on our own there, alone with this superb poem of a tree lifting her leafy arms to pray. We joined her! The surrounding forest trees and vines hushed, as if knowing our need of silence in this cathedral-like setting. We sat for a long time, contemplating the years that this gentle giant had been growing, ever expanding and expanding as it gazed at heaven unobstructed.

Extensive boardwalks to keep feet from compacting the soil around the tree, and strategically placed timber seats, had been constructed by 'The Friends of the Ada Tree'. This group was formed a few years ago by Werner and his friend Ray Wright, who together set about organizing a way to protect the tree and at the same time make it possible to be appreciated by others. The Friends, helped by working parties from Victorian jails, also carved the two kilometre track through the virgin bush leading to the tree. We felt, as I'm sure all those who made it possible for others to come and experience this wonder, together with all who have stood and gazed at this magnificent tree, that our lives were enriched beyond measure by this little parcel of rain forest and its previously hidden treasure.

Fortunately, it seems that the beautiful Ada Tree is with us forever - or at least until it falls of its own accord. It stands in rain forest which is still largely uncharted. A few old logging tracks in the area are now overgrown, and until the working parties established the paths, access was virtually impossible. The 'Friends' also maintain vigilance against any possible threat of logging in the future.

Editors Note: The National Parks Amendment Bill recently passed in both Houses of Parliament has just created The Ada Tall Trees Reserve.



Friends of Parks and Reserves Guidelines (draft)

Parks Victoria will encourage and support the establishment of Friends Groups in the areas under its management and provide ongoing support to established groups. Friends Groups will be encouraged to affiliate with the Friends Network.

A Register of Groups will be established to facilitate support and recognition. Approval of the relevant Parks Victoria General/Regional Manager delegate must be received prior to a new group being entered into the Register.

Criteria for recognition of Friends Groups by Parks Victoria

- 1) Friends Groups meeting the criteria will be recognised by Parks Victoria and be entered on the Parks Victoria Register of Friends Groups.
- 2) The group must have at least five, and should desirably have ten or more registered members.
- 3) The group must elect a committee, develop a constitution and become incorporated. (This is a requirement to receive grant monies and protect individuals).

The objectives of the group must include:

- the protection and preservation of the natural environment of the park or reserve.
- protection and preservation of the indigenous flora and fauna and features (scenic, archaeological, geological, historic or scientific) in the park or reserve.
- educating and informing the community about the role and values of the park or reserve.
- fostering community involvement in, and enjoyment of, the park or reserve in accordance with the above objectives.

4) The Group must agree to abide by the Code for the selection and management of Friends Projects.

Code for the selection and management of Friends Projects

- 1) Projects proposed by Friends must be developed in close consultation with local Park

management through the Ranger-in-Charge.

2) Approval for projects of works must be obtained prior to commencement from the Chief Ranger or his/her delegate.

3) Projects should be satisfying to participants and must be of benefit to the Park or Reserve and in accordance with any existing management plan.

4) Projects should not include work which would otherwise have been included in the planned annual works program.

5) Projects must be carried out in accordance with occupational health and safety standards.

(Volunteers are not covered by Work Cover although Parks Victoria has a limited accident and liability cover).

6) Attendees on work days must be listed and information submitted as requested to ensure volunteers are covered under Parks Victoria's insurance policy.

7) In the event of unforeseen problems the Chief Ranger or Ranger-in-Charge will consult with Friends if stopping or modifying a project becomes essential.

Parks Victoria support

1) Parks Victoria support for Friends Groups may include:

- Grants towards incorporation costs through Grants Program
- Administrative support with the production and distribution of newsletters
- Venue(s) for meetings or storage of materials and equipment
- Training in customer service, or conservation techniques
- Advertising for new members
- In-kind support for approved projects
- Regular briefings on Parks Victoria projects and park management issues

2) Friends may receive special privileges such as waiving of park fees where approved by the Chief Ranger.

General

1) Parks or Reserves will nominate a Ranger or other appropriate local person as primary contact for liaison with the nominated contact person of the relevant Friends Group.

2) These guidelines will be reviewed on a regular basis.

APOLOGY TO 'FRANKIE'

We spelt his name incorrectly in last month's newsletter.

His name is David Farrar, not Farrer.

Book of the Month

Water Plants in Australia A Field Guide

(Third Edition Paperback)

By G.R Sainty
(Sainty & Associates)

Review by J.R (Anon)

This field guide is compact in size and lightweight, which makes it easy to fit into a back pack or carry in hand while on excursions.

I find this book very user friendly. It contains over 120 full colour plates with a description of each plant. The book is divided into seven chapters according to growing habit and plant structure.

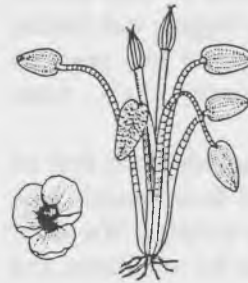
Each plant covered is accompanied by a simple pictorial key and brief text with introduced species highlighted in red. The key indicates such things as leaf shape, flower colour and climate (tropical or temperate), while the text contains plant descriptions, distributions and comments on invasion control and fauna usage.

Other chapters provide information on wetland definition, blue-green algae, use of water plants and artificial wetland construction.



In regard to Warrandyte, both indigenous and exotic local species are well represented and I have used this book myself when identifying plants in the field.

In conclusion I think 'Water Plants in Australia' is a useful tool when exploring our valuable wetlands and river habitats. The book is currently available from 'The Society for Growing Australian Native Plants' (SGAP) and the Botanical Bookshop. Recommended retail price \$29.95.



Ottelia ovalifolia
Swamp Lily



Potamogeton crispus
Curly Pondweed

A Rare Sight

by Joan MacMahon

Two lucky members of the MacMahon family (Ken and Daniel) recently saw an interesting bird in Normans Reserve- a Painted Button-Quail (*Turnix varia*).

We were thrilled! We have lived in this area nearly five years and this was our first possible sighting, so much checking of field guides ensued as it "might only be an aviary escape."

To our delight it matched the description in the books.

It's not a bird you'd expect to survive on the edge of suburbia, being a ground-dweller, and susceptible to the predation of the many moggies in the area.

The females are larger and more highly

coloured than the males. Apparently they initiate courtship, leaving the males to sit on the eggs and care for the young.

The vocal member of the pair is also the female. She makes a deep ooming sound, sometimes at night, which may be confused with the call of a bronzewing. This she makes standing on tip-toes, with chest puffed out.

Let's hope the bird Ken and Daniel saw has a mate and that they breed successfully. It would be horribly lonely if you were the last member of your species in the area.

Editor's note: Graham Pizzey's 'Field Guide to the Birds of Australia' was consulted for the information on behaviour.

Pest Plants Inquiry

A public hearing was held on Thursday May the 8th 1997 by the Environment and Natural Resources committee inquiring into pest plants in Victoria. On behalf of FOWSP Flora Anderson made the following points:

With an area of approximately 600 hectares Warrandyte State Park's linear and fragmented nature presents challenges, not the least of which is weed invasion. As far as problems are concerned, you name it - we've got it. There are a very healthy range of environmental weeds at Warrandyte.

There is not time to name weed species or describe how we tackle them, but I would like to make it clear that our contribution to the weed control strategy of WSP, due to good liaison, compliments the work being done by Park staff. It has not always been so for our early efforts were rather ad hoc. For example, if we noticed an infestation of ivy we would work on that, but the next 'Working Bee' might be digging out Smilax in another area. But over the last two years an integrated, planned approach has been established.

Park staff plan a year ahead what can best be done with limited budget and then consult with Friends as to what we can do to help. We never tackle an area bigger than can be monitored and kept under control until native vegetation takes over, either through natural regeneration or revegetation.

This has worked well because a core group has gained knowledge and experience at their own expense, by attending weed seminars, reading whatever they can get their hands on, joining organisations such as the Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association or attending Friends Network Conferences. Experimentation has played a vital role, also.

The ParkCare Program, while it lasted, was an excellent vehicle for sharing knowledge and for education - a prime example was a course in the use of herbicides. What we would like to see of course, is a healthy allocation of resources - Park staff levels and budgets ideally, should be increased.

We remind the Committee that most volunteers in our Friends Group are retired people, many of whom are no longer physically capable of the hard manual labour entailed in weeding bushland, especially in the rugged terrain

of WSP. This is no bowling green. Members of Friends groups are a cheerful willing lot and gain enormous satisfaction from working in Parks but they feel strongly that a funded volunteer group is no substitute for a properly resourced, well trained and adequate Park personnel.

As for future directions, we believe that the excellent work done by Carr, Yugovic & Robinson in their publication *Environmental Weed Invasions in Victoria* would be a great help to this Committee. We would love to see some of their ~~at their expense~~, recommendations activated. Dare I say all of their recommendations.

- Education ... Remember the power of TV. Use existing programmes on both TV and radio eg Gardening programmes.
- Target landowners especially those adjacent to Parks. Local Government. Nurseries are still selling weedy species.
- Include environmental weed control in Management Plans.
- Develop and implement a Statewide environmental weed management strategy within the framework of the national weed strategy.
- Fund research.
- Liaise with other agencies. eg roadside reserves are often disturbed three or four times in the installation of reticulated services which increases susceptibility to weed invasions. If it would strengthen the argument, nominate weed invasion as a Potential Threatening Process on the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.



Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia baileyana*

Flying Circus

By Ant Owen

After Christmas I put out a bird waterer just ten metres from the back door and was completely surprised by the number of birds that arrived even later that day. We live in a bellbird area that has some fairly clear boundaries and features; the dam, the Swamp Gum gully, Blackberries and Burgan, Cotoneasters and Coprosma. Bush on one side, suburbs on the other. Last year, with all the leaf-lerps and the water, there were so many Bellbirds that I saw few other bush birds. The eucalypts in the valley were hopelessly defoliated and many have since died, Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*) and Peppermints (*Eucalyptus radiata*) the most affected. This year, after an incessantly wet winter and an interminably dry summer, the Bellbirds have thinned out around our house. I ceased feeding the flock of firetails, the families of rosellas and the sparrows that came from the north, for fear of contagion and put out the waterer instead.

The circus dropped out of the trees. I had noticed associations of birds before - various species seemingly moving together, cooperatively working the resource, here at the waterpoint they arrived all at once: piping Grey Fantails flittered in the air, glowing Eastern Yellow Robins perched sideways on the trees, bejewelled and strangely animated Spotted Pardalotes that seem to know no fear, White-cheeked Honeyeater - the "kissing" bird and White-naped Honeyeater,

boisterous clowns splashing in the drink. Then the: Superb Blue Wren, Willy Wagtail, Silvereye, Brown Tree-creeper, Red-browed Firetail, tiniest, but chirpiest Brown Thornbill, White-browed Scrub-wren, Golden Whistler, Eastern Spinebill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Grey Shrike-thrush and Bell Miner, all came that day and most and more have continued to come to water.

The birds using the water are active in the adjacent bush as well, good numbers of Yellow Robins, Fantails, Thornbills, Blue Wrens (amongst others) are usually around, and I suspect they enjoy the clearance we have made to the blackberries as well as the remaining blackberries (a multitude of nests). The trees buzz with Pardalotes.

Lately Crested Shrike-tits have visited, cracking away bark on thin branches of trees and dropping in for water and the Golden Whistlers move through, singing from the gully up to the ridge. A little Rose Robin lit up the bush here for a day or two, travelling down the gullies from higher country to lower, on an annual migration.

Bellbirds rarely come, but the sweet tinkle of the birds persists almost all around the house leaving just narrow windows in time and space for other bush birds, presently things are balanced and it's been a spectacular show, but a battle as well, here on the edge.



Fourth Hill Extravaganza

Date and Time: Sunday June 29th 9.30 to 12.30 pm

Place: Meet at the car park at the end of Whipstick Gully Rd, Warrandyte. (Melways ref. map 23 F12)

Whipstick Gully has been transformed over the last few years. Winding paths have been created through indigenous vegetation. A small amount of planting will enhance the area even more. Then a look at the Air Shaft fence - a most successful revegetation project. A little hand weeding of this site will be followed by a nature walk. The morning will end with a bbq - meat, bread and bbq supplied, BYO salads and drinks

For more information ring Ranger David Van Bockel on 9844 2659



The Bend of Isles: An environmental living zone

by Joan macmahon

It was Thursday May the 22nd. I was late and tried not to hurry on the wet and unfamiliar roads. The meeting place was the Oxley Bridge, on Henley Rd. in Kangaroo Ground. Too far it seemed from my early morning appointment in Heidelberg. Rounding the last curve before the bridge I could see parked cars and as I crossed the bridge to my great relief a crowd of people. Wonderful!

Alan and Carol Bonny, local residents and active members of B.I.C.A. (Bend of Islands Conservation Association). had agreed to give the 'Friends' a tour of this unusual and successful experiment in marrying human needs with those of the natural environment.

Eighteen people had come to enjoy the day. We set off in a north-easterly direction to follow the course of Watson's Creek. We moved beneath a canopy of well-grown Manna Gums; so very tall and who can say how many decades of living they hide in their growth rings? At one stage we saw on the opposite bank a wonderfully expansive sward of Spiny-headed Mat-rush. Very restful to the human eye.

The creek banks (up to a metre deep) were in places lined with several sorts of ferns. The water was clear, unlike that of the river it would soon join. Perhaps this is why it commanded our attention. Two of our party just happened to be looking at the moment a fish moved by. Ross Coupar felt pretty sure it was a native - a River Blackfish. Wish I'd seen it too. I've never set eyes on one even though I live close to the Yarra and have paddled in it many times.

We turned back when we reached the large, lonely oak tree; all that remains of an old homesite. One wonders what became of those who planted the seed so long ago.

A large mob of kangaroos well up the slope above us gave a jumping and running show.

We ambled back to the cars and drove to the end of Henley Rd. From here we had fine views of

something we would rather not have seen. Heavy, noisy machinery pushing and pulling at the earth. Billabongs, precious natural features, with their complements of plant and animal life disappearing forever. Why? - because some people with too much power and money (they usually go hand in hand) want to make more money.

We retreated to the home of Margaret and Mick Woiward for a warming banquet of breads, home-made soup and cakes. And what a home! No monstrous modern house this, but a friendly place, built with care (and flare) from recycled materials and mud-bricks.

Out on the balcony some family friends were feasting. A party of White-winged Choughs, regular visitors to the feeding tray, were snuggled up together on the handrails. How many do you think there were? I'll give you a hint - there were more than ten and less than twenty. Yes, you're right. I counted eighteen. Hmm.....

Alan gave us a talk about the origins and the rationale behind the Environmental Living Zone. It's a fantastic concept and if more of Australia's bush-dwellers (human variety) followed the guidelines our natural remnants would be more secure.

Mid - afternoon saw us exploring the Woiward's river views and riparian vegetation. We also took the time to admire their very healthy -looking vegies. (Watered by treated sullage.)

Finally we were taken to an area of dry - sclerophyll forest. It was a delight to wander amongst grass tussocks and discover some orchid-rich areas. We came upon some lovely little! Tiny Greenhoods. This was a treat as this orchid is endangered in the State Park.

Thankyou to the B.I.C.A. folk who gave us such a pleasant day.

Urban Possums

The first of the Green Wedge Series of Seminars on Wildlife will be held on **Thursday July 3rd at 7.30 pm** at the Warrandyte Community Centre, Webb St (Melways ref. map 23 F11). The speaker is **Peter Brown** from Deakin University.



“I SPY”

by B.G

Boomers

Thursday 8th of May at 11am - a small mob (2!) of kangaroos was seen **inside** the Frogland enclosures - witnesses Angelique and Ben.

Trio Return Visit

Matt, Cecelia and Eathan dropped in the same day for a welcome visit to the Friends. They are at Mootwingee 'rangering'. Mootwingee, north-east of Broken Hill is a popular park for visitors - over 125 operators are licensed to take tours into the area.

Pigeon Bank Lane

(Warrandyte North or Kangaroo - Ground South?)

Karen Reynolds led an extra-ordinary walk through a 7 acre area involving 4 separate features - river flats, burgan area, exposed rocky ridge and rabbits everywhere.

High Speed Planting

Thursday 15th May - about twenty people, including four Park staff, planted out ten boxes of seedlings in less than an hour. The area improved was near the bank of the Yarra near Pound Bend Depot ('Endeavour Bank').

Missing, But Not Lost

Andrew Nixon, Ranger-in-charge is on long-service leave.

Who?

Mitzi Davidson, Ranger Band 1, ex Melbourne Parks and Waterways and normally based at Yarra Valley, is on a two month secondment to Warrandyte State Park.

Pray For Native Birds ?

The 'Adelaide Advertiser' on the 21st of May this year carries an article suggesting that "The magnificent native birds of prey are vanishing across the state." Is calico virus, which is devastating the rabbit population, and the wide-scale poisoning to combat mouse plagues removing an established exotic food source? The article continues, "People in the Flinders Ranges and Yorke Peninsular had noticed that Wedge-tailed Eagles were a rapidly vanishing species." Or are the birds preying elsewhere? The relevant article will be posted on the Folly noticeboard at the Pound Bend Depot.

Interstate and Back

Due to a 'crook back' and an Anniversary Adelaide Adventure (in that order!) some 'deeds' may not be reported in this month's column. Apologies may be in order.

I may also look at the latest interstate policy ideas - such as placing a restaurant on top of any State Park hill or Mount (sic), which has a good natural view.

"Bushland care awards"

A local environment group, the Bend of Isles Conservation Association, is one of four finalists in the Banksia Environmental Foundation's national Landcare Management Awards. Banksia Environmental Foundation executive director Helen Carbery said the awards program recognised environmental initiatives and achievements of people ranging from those working in community groups to industry.

Ms Carbery said the Bend of Isles Conservation Association had been successful in protecting 400 hectares of significant bushland through the creation of a special environment residential planning zone and an ongoing commitment to practical residential conservation over a 20 year period.

The annual awards are held during the week of World Environment day and the winners will be announced in Melbourne on June 7.

Seen in the Diamond Valley News, May 28 1997

FOR SALE

GOOD QUALITY ITALIAN WALKING SHOES

SIZE 39

HARDLY USED AS TOO SMALL FOR OWNER

\$42

PHONE JOAN 98443213

Stop Press

There will be **NO KOORNONG** July Meeting. Instead there will be a meeting on June 25th - same time, same place.

Calendar of Sunday Events

JUNE 29TH 4th Hill Extravaganza

Time:- 9:30 - 12:30 PM.

Rediscover Whipstick Gully! See how well our plants have grown and add a few more. Come to the Air-shaft to see one of Warrandyte's most successful revegetation fences. A little handweeding should keep the site in check. Followed by a nature walk. BBQ provided, with meat, bread and BBQ supplied, BYO salads and drinks.

Leader: David Van Bockel

JULY 27TH Frog Day

Time:- 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Come to learn about our local frogs in 'Frogland' We will listen and look for frogs, dip net for tadpoles and other aquatic invertebrates. Plus general 'Frogland' maintenance. Followed by afternoon tea. Bring a plate to share.

Leader: Jenny Hoskin

AUGUST 31ST Koornong Riverwalk

Time:- 1:30 - 4:00 PM

Follow up on the previous weed control along the River Track. Admire the highlights of the year's work. Small digging tools will be useful. Followed by afternoon tea. Bring a plate to share.

Leader: Cathy Willis

SEPTEMBER 21ST Timber Reserve

Treasures

Time:- 10:00 - 1:00 PM

A wildflower walk through the reserve to look for orchids, some of which will be flowering. Followed by an inspection of Pittosporum Gully Fence for some maintenance weeding. BBQ provided, with meat, bread and BBQ supplied, BYO salads and drinks.

Leader: Brian Phefley

Note: this is not the last Sunday in the month



There is not a great deal to report this month as Julie has been away for a couple of weeks.

A Tawny Frogmouth was hit by a car in Jumping Creek Road, it was only stunned and after being kept overnight was released the next day. A female Eastern Grey Kangaroo was also hit along the same road, her injuries were so serious that she had to be put down. This death was even more tragic because she had a joey in her pouch which was killed by the impact.

Once again this notorious stretch of road, particularly in the vicinity of the bridge, is taking a terrible toll on our wildlife. According to Julie many drivers do not stop and the animals that they hit are just left in the middle of the road. Not only are they often hit again by other cars, but the dead or injured animals pose a considerable danger to motorists swerving to avoid them.

The time of day when most animals are hit is dawn and dusk. If anyone is unlucky enough to hit an animal they should move it to the side of the road and, if it is a female, check to see if there is a young in the pouch. Then inform either Julie or the Park Rangers of the accident.

Another Eastern Grey Kangaroo, thought to be a female, has taken up residence in a paddock along Jumping Creek Rd. At night it sleeps in the shed on the property. Rangers from Warrandyte State Park and the local vet are keeping a regular eye on this roo as, although she is feeding alright, she cannot move very well.

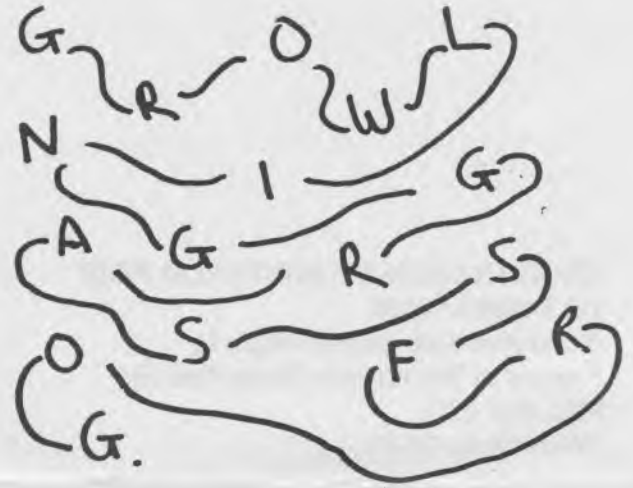
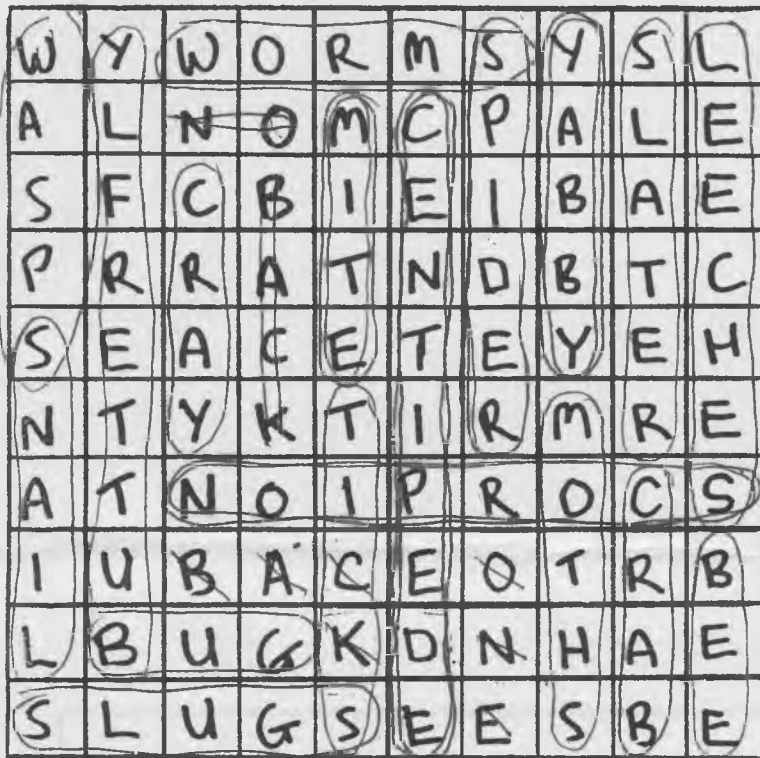
Recently, a kookaburra was brought to Julie that has been found by the road at Molesworth quite a long way north of Melbourne. The bird was only stunned and had no injuries, but it was extremely stressed by being out of its environment - it wouldn't eat and just sat in a corner. Kookaburra's are very territorial birds and if released in Warrandyte this bird would probably have been attacked by other kookaburras in the local area. There was no alternative, but to take it back where it came from. So Julie ended up with an unexpected trip to Molesworth to release the bird back into its own territory.

Finally Julie has informed us that she has taken on a new wildlife foster carer, and it is none other than FOWSP member Trish Millington. We would like to wish Trish all the best in her new venture. She certainly cannot go far wrong under the Julie's excellent guidance.

PUZZLE PAGE

Terrestrial Invertebrates.

Follow the lines, then



I am a, _____
(Litoria raniformis) _____

Draw me.

Worms
Wasps
Spider
Snail
Slugs
Bee

Leeches
Scorpion
Ticks
Moths
Butterfly
Bug

Cray
Mite
Yabby
Slater
Centipede
Crab

Invertebrates have N O B A C K B O N E.
(Write the remaining letters here) A E

Green Wedge Environment Seminar Series

Wildlife

3rd July
7th August
4th September
2nd October
6th November
4th December

Peter Brown
Melody Serena
Lindy Lumsden
George Paras
Andrew Bennet
Linton Staples

Urban Possums
Platypus
Bats
Native Fish of the Yarra
Wildlife Corridors
Foxes



Held at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month at the Warrandyte Community Centre,
Yarra St Warrandyte
Enquiries: Bill Mallinson 9840 9338

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