

August 2002

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

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

Where Did They Go?

By Pat Coupar

You may have noticed that our newsletters were a little late arriving last month. Why? We have no idea. They disappeared for almost two weeks and no one can tell us where they went.

The process of newsletter production which occurs each month involves many people. The newsletter goes to the printers on the second Thursday of the month*, with the deadline for articles being the preceding Sunday – this date can be found in large bold print on the loose centre page of each newsletter. The editor is extremely happy when members get their contributions in before or on the deadline, but gets frustrated when too many people want articles, (particularly those with dates that cannot be held over for the next month) incorporated at the last minute! So a big thankyou to all those prompt contributors.

Articles come in all sizes and by various methods. All handwritten articles are typed by the editor, while hard copies of those done on a typewriter or word processor are scanned as are the 'Worth Repeating' newspaper articles. Those received on disc are simply copied. Once on the computer, the articles are formatted and photos, line drawings or cartoons inserted.

The high standard of FOWSP's newsletter has long been recognised and thanks go to Cliff Green – editor of 'The Warrandyte Diary' for his helpful and constructive comments.

Once the newsletter has been assembled it is taken to Jenny Pike of 'Jennigraphics' who, incidentally, has designed our new colour flora

brochures. Snap Printing does the photocopying, collating and folding the A5 pages. By the way, did you notice that the last two issues were printed on recycled paper? More on this later.

Members of the committee take it in turns to fold and label (and insert receipts where necessary) the newsletters each month. Sticky address labels are printed out by Lee Speedy who is also our membership secretary.

The newsletters are sorted into three post code groups and taken down to our friendly Warrandyte Post Office staff – Don and Wendy. From there they are collected and taken either to Bayswater or Nunawading centre for a 'rough sort'. But that's not the end of it, from the intermediate sorting centre they go on to Melbourne's main sorting centre at Dandenong and then, presumably, most return to Warrandyte letterboxes.

Members usually receive their newsletters one or two days after being checked in at the Post Office. Last month, when they had failed to turn up in anyone's letterbox after a week, inquiries were made. Australia Post Helpline was rung and Don and Wendy contacted. Nobody could find them. It seemed our newsletters had gone walkabout. Then, after a further week, they turned up. What a relief!

A few days later there was a courtesy phone call from Australia Post, just letting us know they had no success yet in tracing our newsletters, but they were still trying. Whoops!

*Because of the two week delay last month, this newsletter has been put back one week.

My Favourite Place

By Lawrie Safstrom

What makes a favourite place? For me, it is beautiful moments felt deep within. At times over the 50 odd years we have camped at Barwon Heads during the Summer holidays, this place has given me these, and I'd like to share with you one day, one moment which seemed to go on and on in 1991, and can still inspire within me that thrill that I felt, when memory takes me to that beach.

Five of our grandchildren were there - Carl and Ailia, David and Karina, plus Jenny, who had turned up unexpectedly by bus for a couple of days. We woke, one by one, to a sparkling morning after a day of heavy rain. A calm, still morning with the sun glistening on the gentle waves. Sands washed clean. The tide was out as we set out from camp around the Bluff. Grandchildren up ahead, laden with snorkels, towels, goggles, fishing gear. And me, just strolling, and enjoying every second. (Peg was still at camp, waiting for Jenny to return from the showers, and soon followed us, and met us around the Bluff.)

At peace with the world, not many about so early, and me, singing "This is my island in the sun...." What a privilege I felt, to have such a day, and some of our beautiful family to share it.

At the pools amongst the rocks, first one then the rest of us jumped into the clear deep water. No hesitation. And me? I hadn't been in those pools in 20 or more years. I just went in. I **wanted** to go in. Nothing would have kept me out - how we respond to a perfect, happy and contented situation. What a wonderful thing, that our three children and nine grandchildren have grown up in a stable and free environment - the millions of children throughout the world that

have only known hunger, terror, guns and warfare. No normal childhood. Sad - so sad!

After our dip, Carl headed for the surf, while Peg, Jenny and Karina strolled back to camp. David and I headed for the rock holes along the back beach to fish. We called them "The Fingers", jutting out into the sea, with deep water between.

Then came what was perhaps the most beautiful few minutes. David just ahead, examining each fishing spot. Both of us at peace with the world. David was WHISTLING! I wanted to capture those moments for ever - as he skipped from rock to rock with his rod bag on his back and lips pursed for whistling - no need for a tune. I was so enthralled. I could have walked for miles just absorbing the wonder of it all. We go through dozens of situations each day. But only a few stay with us forever. And this was a very special and precious one for me - I will **keep** it forever!

Barwon Heads was always great with our children and their friends. But I think it's even greater to see each one of our grandchildren also loving the place and feeling that it is part of them and their growing up. I guess each one loving it for a different reason.

There have been times of latter years, when the question "Will we re-book our Barwon Heads camp site for next year or not?" comes up. The rising cost, families going interstate etc. when this happens I only have to recapture that sparking day, that pool, that whistle - and YES! we will keep it, whatever!

A sequel: Ten years later. Carl was married to his Tracey on his much loved Barwon Heads beach on a fresh April morning this year. And from Melbourne, Sydney and Perth came all our children and grandchildren to rejoice and relive their own beautiful moments at their favourite place.

David, Carl, Ailia
& Karina

Fishing at
"The Fingers"



Have you seen this girl?

By Cath Andrew



Grade 5 Warrandyte PS 1968

She is Anna Glynn (of Glynns Rd.), who has returned to Warrandyte as the Artist in Residence with Parks Victoria. She is living and painting at "Longridge" near where she spent the first 17 years of her life. Her grandfather bought the farm, originally called "Panton Point", and re-named "Riverswood", early last century. The property remained in the family until it was taken over by the Victorian Government in 1974.

The land is now part of Parks Victoria, regenerated by staff and friends and contains some of the most pristine billabongs in Victoria. The bird life and kangaroos of the hills and river flats sneak into many of Anna's paintings.

Anna was selected from Australian and International artists to work at one of the houses in the Park for nine months to portray the environment of Warrandyte, its people and stories. As well as preparing for an exhibition of her work, she has assisted art students at Community learning centres and will leave work produced during her residency to the Parks Victoria art collection. Her involvement in the community has also included singing with the "Chocolate Lillies" and with the Millennium Chorus – at a benefit concert for refugees. She has also found time to learn the button and piano accordions and to write songs that reflect her childhood in Warrandyte.

Some of Anna's best memories of growing up in Warrandyte are floating down the river in rubber tubes, her fairy glen near the tunnel, tomato fights in the vegie garden with her brothers, galloping through the trees on the river flats and learning to tend the soil. Her scared feet are permanent reminders of the 1960's bush fires when she tried to fight the fire wearing thongs! She remembers her excitement at finding the

orchids rejuvenating after the fires. For Anna, the fire, and later the flooding of the billabongs and the tunnel, were an awakening to the fact that humans cannot control the elements and this is subtly reflected in her paintings.

Over the past few years she has had many exhibitions in Australia and overseas - from Kyoto Museum to Arthur Boyd's residence at Bundanon in NSW. She has had a major exhibition at the Australian Museum, Sydney and in regional galleries in Victoria and NSW. Throughout the world her works are hung in galleries and in corporate and private collections. Being here again in Warrandyte has enabled Anna to remember happy times past and to discover new paths forward. Her life now is very much governed and reinforced by the values of her childhood and the environment in which she lived.

From Warrandyte, where next? Anna and her husband Peter will return to the Shoalhaven to complete their house and then maybe to Ireland. Meanwhile there will be new Artists in Resident at "Longridge" and the attached day studio.

Anna's exhibition, "Strange Memories" are paintings and drawings of Warrandyte opens on August 8th at the Barn Gallery, Monsalvat. The exhibition continues until the September 15th. (admission is free). Her work conveys the images and memories she holds of her birthplace. Some painting are narrative, others are quirky and humorous. I particularly like the way she captures the colours in the clear sky, and the hills around the river with the Eucalypts and ubiquitous kangaroos.

Everyone is invited to the exhibition at Monsalvat. Her grade 5 class of '68 is especially welcome.



Eve, Apple and Strange Memories

Draft Management Plan Warrandyte State Park

By Cam Beardsell

Cam Beardsell, botanist and WSP Ranger, has written a comprehensive report on the current status of the Park's flora and fauna for the forthcoming and final update of the WSP Management Plan.

Part Two - Fauna

One hundred and ninety seven native terrestrial vertebrate fauna species have been recorded in Warrandyte State Park. This includes 144 bird, 26 mammal and 27 reptile and frog species. There are eleven species listed as rare or threatened in Victoria including one critically endangered, three endangered, five vulnerable, one data deficient and one rare species.

The Yarra River is regarded as the principal wildlife corridor-in Greater Melbourne and Port Phillip Region. It is significant at the Victorian level for freshwater fish with fourteen native species recorded. Three of these have been introduced from northern Victoria including the endangered Macquarie Perch which has a substantial breeding population and the vulnerable Murray Cod and Freshwater Catfish.

The most significant indigenous fish include the vulnerable Australian Grayling recorded at rapids below Pound Bend, vulnerable Yarra Pigmy Perch in rapids at Mt Lofty and insufficiently known River Blackfish at the confluence of Andersons Creek and confluence of Watsons Creek. The lower reaches of Jumping Creek and Stony Creek support the regionally vulnerable Broadfin Galaxias and Flatheaded Gudgeon while the regionally vulnerable Tupong has been recorded below Pound Bend.

Small populations of the vulnerable Warty Bell Frog are present along the river at Blue Tongue Bend and Yarra Brae while the regionally vulnerable Lesueur's Frog occurs at the confluence of Watsons Creek.

A substantial roosting population of the vulnerable Common Bent-wing Bat and a small population of the rare Southern Myotis have been recorded in Pound Bend tunnel. Small numbers of bent-wing bats also visit the gold mines of Whipstick Gully and Fourth Hill. Small feeding troupes of the vulnerable Grey-headed Flying-fox have been observed in the park over recent years. These visit from the seasonal camp in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The critically endangered Regent Honeyeater was recorded in March 1988 in flowering Manna Gums at Pound Bend and Yarra Brae. The species had been a regular visitor up to this time but has

been rarely sighted since in the district. It is likely that occasional birds still visit Warrandyte State Park. The endangered Swift Parrot visits in optimal flowering years of Manna Gum. Feeding groups were recorded in March 1988 at Black Flat, Blue Tongue Bend and lower Stane Brae. Thirty birds were observed in April 2002 feeding on leaf psyllids and flower buds in Yellow Box at southern Pound Bend and in flowering Manna Gums at Norman Reserve. The regionally endangered Yellowtufted Honeyeater and Little Friarbird have also been observed in flowering Manna Gums along the river at Pound Bend and Yarra Brae. The regionally endangered Dollarbird has been recorded at Yarra Brae.

Several pairs of the endangered Powerful Owl have bred in Warrandyte State Park in recent years. Breeding sites have been recorded at Andersons Creek, Norman Reserve, Blue Tongue Bend and opposite Mt Lofty. The presence of ample old growth Manna Gums and prey (predominantly Common Ringtail Possums) in riparian forest along the river and herb-rich foothill forest above Andersons Creek form prime habitat of the owl. The endangered Barking Owl has also been recorded roosting in the cliffs of the Yarra opposite Clifford Park.

The box - stringybark and riverine escarpment woodlands of the park support one the highest population densities in the region of the vulnerable Brush-tailed Phascogale. The core area for the phascogale is at Jumping Creek Reserve and the opposite side of the river at Koorngong Reserve. There is a scattering of records throughout the park. A small population of the vulnerable Speckled Warbler occurs in box - stringybark woodland



at Fourth Hill.

Priority management actions for fauna in Warrandyte State Park include control of foxes and domestic dogs and cats, protection of Powerful Owl breeding sites and provision of artificial nesting habitat for Brush-tailed Phascogales. The current high priority riparian weed control program needs to be continued. The proposed revegetation of lower Stane Brae will strengthen the wildlife corridor between Blue Tongue Bend and Yarra Brae. A survey of freshwater fish and instream invertebrates is needed. A vertebrate fauna survey of Mt Lofty is also required. Increased levels of recreational disturbance at Mt Lofty may conflict with its considerable wildlife sanctuary values.

'Burgan, Bellbirds and Eucalypt Dieback'

A Land for Wildlife Field Day

Report by Pat Coupar

Part Two – Burgan Thinning Trials at Warrandyte State Park - Speaker David Van Bockel, Ranger WSP

David gave the Warrandyte perspective, making the following points:

- Burgan appears to be a problem in the riverine escarpment vegetation - ie basically along the Warrandyte Gorge. As you head away from the Gorge, the Burgan becomes less of an issue. It is still present, but the factors that cause the imbalance don't seem to operate in the same way.
- From our local observations, the following factors may have led to this problem: -
 - Burgan is preferentially grazed against by rabbits - they seem to eat everything but Burgan.
 - Burgan provides good habitat for Bellbirds. The birds are the likely cause dieback of the Eucalypt canopy, which has allowed more light and nutrients to the emerging Burgan. The Burgan (and rabbits) prevent the eucalypt canopy from regenerating.....And so it goes on.
 - The fire regime over the last several decades has (in part) been a cause for the Burgan to take off, and now the lack of fire may be a factor in preventing the decline of the Burgan.... And so it goes on again!
 - Burgan is sometimes killed by fire. In the wildfire at Pound Bend in 1991, about 30% of the Burgan was killed outright, the rest resprouted from basal lignotubers. The cooler fuel reduction burns do not get into the dense stands of Burgan. - there is not enough fine fuel (grass, fine leaved herbs and shrubs) to carry the fire. The few patches of Burgan that do burn respond in the same way as a wildfire
 - Burgan has a small range of environmental conditions in which it can germinate - these about once in every several years. Burgan has a great ability to invade old paddocks and other disturbed sites. For example Clifford Park Scout Camp was basically scattered eucalypts in the 1950's Scout Jamboree, and now the site is covered in dense Burgan with only a few emergent eucalypts, most suffering dieback.

David went on to explain the successes we have had, pointing out that the trials at WSP were initiated and carried out by the Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) in conjunction

with Warrandyte State Park staff. The site at Black Flat was chosen because of its dense understorey of Burgan with associated eucalypt dieback and large population of Bellbirds. In addition, it has easy vehicle access and defined edges (bordered along one side by a management track and along the other by an adjacent open area containing annual herbs and sedges); The occurrence of the following regionally significant and locally endangered species are present at the site: *Aphelia gracilis* (Slender Aphelia), *Aphelia pumilio* (Dwarf Aphelia), *Centrolepis aristata* (Pointed Centrolepis), *Centrolepis strigosa* (Hairy Centrolepis), *Phyllangium divergens* (Wiry Mitrewort) and *Ophioglossum lusitanicum* (Austral Adder's-tongue.).

There is a large population of Bell Miners at the site and rabbits are also present.

Control works have been carried out on four occasions from April 1999 to October 2001.

The following methods were used: Drill and fill using cordless drill and spot gun; Cut and paint using hand saw and dabbers; Chain saw and dabbing stumps with undiluted Round Up Biactive (glyphosate); Hand pulling small plants (this causes considerable soil disturbance) and seedlings. The first two techniques were only used on the first visit.

The results were generally encouraging. Some regrowth occurred on cut stumps from each of the previous year's treatment. Breaking these off on the following visits was enough to weaken the plant and kill it without the need for further chemicals. However, a recent visit to the site (8/5/02), seven months after the last treatment, revealed that the majority of those cut and painted had regrown prolifically. It was decided to spray these with Round Up Biactive 1:100 dilution.

The fact that the first three treatments were carried out in Autumn and this last one was in October, could account for the different results.

There was a large germination of seedlings the year following each treatment, but this has diminished with each year. Natural regeneration (seedling and regrowth) of the many species has occurred, particularly noticeable are the grasses and other ground covers. The only weed that had increased was Centaureium.



Continued on next page:

Burgan Thinning Trials continued:

There is evidence of considerable rabbit activity at the site. Most unguarded plants had been grazed. There appeared to be no grazing of seedling or regrowth Burgan.

In summary David said that while it is our desire to see the causes of these imbalances treated, like many things, the scale is such that "where do we start and what do we do". So in the

short term, we have targeted several sites where Burgan is adding to the pressure of rare plants, possibly to the extent where they may die out at that site. By controlling Burgan at these sites, we are freeing up the rare plants to continue on.

Next month - Lincoln Kern from Practical Ecology on 'Managing for a balanced ecosystem'.



By B.G

Indeed Indigenous

Mick Woiwood will be 'tour historian' on a coach visit to the Aboriginal settlements and those of the early colonists of the Yarra Valley.

Date: Sunday 20th October 2002

For enquiries ring Lesley Barnes 97355772

A National Trust event.

Whatever Happened to What's his Name?

Thursday 1st August 2002, the activity at the FOWSP nursery was in full swing, but after an hour or so I realised something was missing. Where was Josh. Reports from unrevealed sources were that he had a swollen left knee. Now how did he get that? His gait was a hybrid limp-hobble, and we hope he mends soon.

Magnificent Minutes

A copy of the minutes from the July committee meeting is on the nursery noticeboard. They are really worth reading, as well as being very well produced by Karen Reynolds.

Melanie's Meander

Committee member, Melanie Birtchnell has been on an eleven week visit to Sri Lanka. According to Melanie's mum it was a "fact finding mission". Is there more to it?

Redundancy and Renewal

With the potential advent of new type plastic tube holders for the nursery, yours truly has been made

redundant. No need to collect polystyrene boxes from IGA supermarket or North Ringwood Fruit Market anymore!

Margaret Gets Boulder

Margaret Humphreys was seen at the Depot recently.back from the Tanami Track (last year) and is now planning to go up to Innaminka and the Coongie Lakes. Her worst experience so far - "ruined an expensive brand new tyre on the old Karinji track near the Gibb River Road". The tyre was pinched between two boulders.

Cameron Continues

Also seen was David Cameron, still with the Department at the Arthur Rylah Institute, Heidelberg. He is still curating the statewide flora database and continues to maintain the Victorian Rare or Threatened Species list.

David is still sprouting an ever growing facial fungus, like the 'Usnea' lichen (Old Man's Beard).

David was born on Easter Sunday, 51 years ago and has driven his FJ Holden for the last 33 years.

Telephone Talk

Anna M. Richtarik was noticed 'manning' the phone at the Depot on the day all the staff were at a "very important function". Anna was also doing mapping work e.g. weeds at Warrandyte.

Williams Wanders

Kay Williams is missing in action. Last seen at headquarters. It was a pleasure having her at the Depot.



Friends of the Island

Another wonderful local group. They are doing great things near the Stonehouse Cafe (Melway 23 HI1).

Do consider joining them. Next activity is a Madeira Winter Cherry (*Solanum pseudo-capsicum*) pull on September 8th. Hopefully the water level will have dropped sufficiently. This weed is an easy one to pull so bring the whole family!

Free coffee at the cafe afterwards - a nice reward. Meetings are the second Sunday of the month starting at 1.30pm.

Phone Glenn Henke on 98442239. More details of what they hope to achieve next month.

**The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
want people to celebrate biodiversity month
September 2002**

Sunday September 1st - Biodiversity symposium

A review of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee act - 14 years on.

**Saturday September 7th - Monitoring Greyheaded Flying Foxes and Micro Bats at
Horseshoe Bend Ivanhoe**

Sunday September 22nd - Biodiversity Day Warrandyte State Park

Afternoon walks by local naturalists introducing you to the fabulous diversity that exists in our parks, followed by evening BBQ and spotlight.

More information from the FNCV 9877 9868 or email:fncv@vicnet.net.au



Australian Open Garden Scheme

Colin and Liana Joyce's garden, "Carrama", 57 O'Brien's Lane, Templestowe, Vic. (Melway 33K3) will be open as part of the Australian Open Garden Scheme on 21st and 22nd September 2002 from 10am. to 4.30pm.

Our adventure began thirteen years ago upon purchasing one acre of bare clay. Our concept was to create a habitat for native wildlife.

With the help of Landscape Consultant, Paul Thompson, wetlands and a fully native garden have evolved. Over sixty species of birds and a range of mammals and reptiles have either visited or are occupying our home with us.

We have been members of the Australian Plant Society and The Bird Observers Club for several years, and we were accepted into the Land for Wildlife program in 1992.

Adjoining is a Council reserve, Lirra Lirra Bush Reserve (1 hectare), which has been planted strictly indigenous through a program initiated and planted by local residents with Council funding. Luckily, surrounding properties have extended this theme to help support our native friends.

New Publications Launch

**FOWSP is delighted to invite all member and their friends to the
launch of our flora brochures and planting guide**

**When: Sunday September 1st at 4.30pm (straight after the sales and
propagation afternoon)**

**Where: The Friends 'Folly' at the Depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte
(Melway 23 C10)**

Drinks and nibbles will be provided by Parks Victoria WSP staff.



REGISTRATION BY AUSTRALIA POST

PP 346802 / 0005

If undeliverable please return to
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.
P.O. Box 220
Warrandyte, 3113



Early Nancy
(*Wurmbea dioica*)

Often called 'The Harbinger of Spring', Early Nancy is one of the earliest lilies to flower. It has white flowers with a dark purple centre – male and female flowers generally occur on different plants.

The best places to see this small lily are on the open slopes and ridges of Fourth Hill, Timber Reserve and The Common where it can be found amongst grasses often growing in groups.

FOWSP Membership Form

Name

Address

.....

Tel. no.

Family \$20

Single \$15

Concession \$10

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Special Membership Offer

Receive a discount if you renew your membership for three years

Single: \$40.00

Family: \$50.00