

May 2003

# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



# Newsletter

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

## Warrandyte's Hidden Gems

By Pat Coupar

Warrandyte State Park is full of surprises. One of its best kept secrets is the delightful walking track that follows the Yarra River for several kilometres along its northern bank.

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April I was among a group of people treated to a tour of the area organised by Marg Burke, co-ordinator of the Osborne Peninsula Landcare group. The purpose of the walk by was to inspect sites where environmental works have been undertaken, and review programs and funding for the next two years. Participants included representatives from the environment departments of Nillumbik and Manningham Councils FOWSP, BICA, Friends of Koornong, contract workers, local residents and Ranger, Cam Beardsell.

The walk, which started on Nillumbik Council land at the corner of Pigeon Bank Lane and Yarra River Court, followed a narrow track through dense bushland with occasional glimpses of Pigeon Bank Creek. A decade ago this creek was buried under a mountainous tangle of blackberries and Spear Thistles, and the river terrace heavily grazed by rabbits. But thanks to dedicated locals and funding from the council and a National Heritage Trust (NHT) grant, the place has undergone a remarkable transformation. Rabbits have largely been controlled, grasses guarded and weeds removed.

The fern-lined creek now looks sensational and supports the largest population of Tassel Sedge (*Carex fascicularis*) in the region, as well as a healthy diversity of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants. Weeds are now few and far between and

the river terrace provides the perfect ground habitat for Agile Antechinus and Bush Rats.

We left Pigeon Bank Creek just short of its confluence with the Yarra River and moved into the Koornong section of Warrandyte State Park. An enormous amount of work has been carried out in this reserve over the years, not least that done by the enthusiastic Friends of Koornong under the leadership of Cathy Willis.

Several rabbit exclusion fences have been built and maintained with regular weed control and some planting. In addition woody weeds – notably Sweet Pittosporum, Pines and Cotoneaster - have been eradicated over most of the reserve. More recently there has been control of Angled Onion, Bridal Creeper, Oxalis and Periwinkle.

We stopped to examine a rocky bank beside the track where once the rare Blue Grass-lily (*Caesia calliantha*) grew. Sadly, either because of the drought, rabbits or both, it seems to have disappeared. However, Cam did find a few plants of Pale-flower Cranesbill (*Geranium pallidiflorum*), a Victorian Rare or Threatened Species (VROT).

From the lower car park at Koornong we walked up the road beside Wombat Creek. Through total neglect over the years this once beautiful ferny gully has become a nightmare of weeds with honeysuckle smothering many of the trees and shrubs, thickets of blackberries, carpets of Angled Onion and Warrandyte's fastest moving weed – Tutsan. Currently the gully is in the process of being resuscitated and the Angled Onion is all but gone. Much of the honeysuckle is

Contd on next page

## Warrandyte's Hidden Gems contd

dead and every plant of Tutsan has been sought out and eradicated. Ferns and sedges are making a comeback and even an old Blanket Leaf (*Bedfordia arborescens*) tree has been discovered up the slope. The future of Wombat Gully is now a lot more promising.

Back on the track we encountered a patch of Blady Grass (*Imperata cylindrica*). This is a widespread grass, particularly in tropical and sub-tropical regions, while indigenous in Warrandyte it only occurs in a few isolated sites.

We were now on the Osborne Peninsula river frontage of the Park. Pausing for a while to view the river, Cam pointed out a dense growth of bright green sedge growing on a silty bend of the river. It was Tall Club-sedge (*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*), known from only a handful of rivers around the State. This is the largest population along the Yarra and (Cam believes) in Victoria.

Continuing downstream we entered a tunnel of Burgan and shortly came across a large colony of Autumn Bird Orchids (*Chiloglottis reflexa*).

Plenty of leaves, but no flowers. This is not unusual. We saw the site where many huge Cypress trees had been removed and in other areas where pines in their hundreds had felled.

We finished the walk at the Osborne nursery with still another half of the peninsula to walk another time and the promise of many more surprises.

Only those who know The Koornong and Osborne Peninsula well can really appreciate the huge volume of work that has been carried out along this stretch of the river frontage, much of it within Park boundaries.

In these times of budget cuts, money for environment management does not stretch very far. However, thanks to support from the Osborne Peninsula Landcare group and the NHT grant they obtained to manage the Warrandyte, Watson's Creek to Kinglake link so much more weed control has been undertaken in this little known area of Warrandyte.

## My Special Place.

By Whitney Forster-Clarke



**A**cross an endless grassy meadow, through a rusty iron gate, following a rough downhill slope with a meandering dusty trail. Engulfed in bushes with tall trees overhead shows the way to my favourite place.

You hear the soothing sound of running water, whilst still surrounded by the creaking intertwined branches. When you come out of the darkness into the freckled light which shines through the leaves you know you're almost there.

Then there is an intense light and you break out onto a track cut into the side of a mountain. Here there is an amazing view of the Yarra River raging over rocks in a sea of green trees, it feels as if you are in the middle of nowhere. There is not a wisp of smoke from a fire or a cow or a sheep just untouched nature, except for you having a peak.

As you sit there watching the water lap onto the sides of a little island, in the middle of the

rapids with only one tree standing on top, everything is erased from your mind. All you hear is the sound of animals rustling in the bushes below and the sweet call of bellbirds. This is my special place.

**Note:** Whitney is a fourteen year old student from Mooroolbark. She visits Wonga Park area on a regular basis. The area referred to is the Yarra Brae section of the Warrandyte State Park. Her great-uncle is a FOWSP member.



## Mt Lofty Morning

It is with regret that we have to say goodbye to Ranger Cam Beardsell at the end of May. Cam has been working as a ranger at the Park since February last year and during that time has supported many of the Friends activities and shared his seemingly unlimited knowledge so willingly. If there was anything you wanted to know about any aspect of flora, fauna, history or geology, you could just ask Cam.

One of the many projects Cam has been involved with during his time at the Park is the species enrichment program. Based on his detailed knowledge of vegetation communities and habitat requirements Cam has selected secure sites for the replanting, in the Park and Northern Reserves, of some of our most critically endangered species.

While Cam's future employment is a little uncertain, in his own words he will endeavour to

try and keep monitoring those rare and threatened species in the Northern Reserves that are so dear to his heart.

In true Cam style the morning will begin with a planting activity of endangered species. The location chosen is the Homestead Road swamp at Mount Lofty. Over recent years this area has had intensive weed control and some planting.

The nursery will be closed for the day for the planting and barbeque lunch provided by Park staff. We hope you will all come along and take this opportunity to say thanks to Cam for his valuable contribution to the Park and 'Friends' over the last 15 months. For now he will be very much missed, but perhaps, hopefully one day will be back.

**Date & Time:** Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 10.00am for planting 1.00pm for BBQ

**Place:** Mt Lofty. Meet at the end of Lower Homestead Rd (Mel. Ref. 279 B4)

## My Worst Weed

By Edith E. Irving

My worst weed is the Cypress tree – terribly old, straggly, and ugly. The ones I inherited in my own garden I have cut right back, but those of my neighbour's hang right over my drive and garage and drop debris constantly which sours the soil and virtually nothing will grow under them. They also cut out the light.

This year has been particularly bad as they have produced a bumper crop of nuts, maybe



because of the dry summer. Cockatoos (about a dozen of them), probably because they have found other food sources limited, spend much of their day in the trees chewing nuts and large clump of leaves and twigs which they then drop on my drive and sometimes on me if I am in the wrong place at the right time! I am forced to constantly sweep as the chewed nuts are very sharp and likely to give me punctured tyres.

## Your Worst Weed

Contributions (even verbal) can be passed on to Pat or Joan at the nursery on Thursday mornings or sent by e-mail to Joan at [joanmacmahon@hotmail.com](mailto:joanmacmahon@hotmail.com) or posted to Pat at 143 Brackenbury St, Warrandyte, 3113.

## Market Trailer Roster

We're calling for FOWSPian's who can tow the blue market trailer, to volunteer for one Saturday each year.

Already, Peter Curry, Owen Humphries, Ken McMahon, Wolfgang and Marie Krause and Geoff Speedy share the task.

You can volunteer to Deliver the trailer to the market before 7.45am on Market Day, (pickup

anytime the week before) and/or Remove the trailer from the market back to the Ranger's Office after 12:30pm on Market Day.

You will be provided with written instructions, a map, a key and a phone call reminder. Please call **Geoff Speedy** on 9437 0894. Market dates are 7<sup>th</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 6<sup>th</sup> Sept, 4<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov and 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003.

# Food For Thought

## The Dance of the Bumble Bee

By Dick Thomson

Prior to a recent trip to Tasmania there were reports in the press of some horticulturists wanting to introduce the bumble bee into Victoria. They believe that the bee would help improve their crop.



While in Tasmania we met bumble bees in the furthestmost points – and especially in National Parks. I wondered what impact they are having on the delicate balance between plants and insects. Have they reduced the number of native bees, wasps, moths and butterflies? Are they cross pollinating native trees, shrubs and herbs? Will this result in many hybrid plants that gradually replace native vegetation?

I would be most concerned if the bumble bee was introduced into Victoria before answers were found on the effects they will cause in our environment. From my Tasmanian experience it is clear that the bumble bee would soon populate areas well away from the horticultural crops. It is probable that their introduction would lead to them populating areas of the State from the coast to the high country and then areas of other States and the damage could be immense.

I would urge readers to be on the lookout for accidental introduction of the bumble bee and to consider being proactive in any discussion about introduction of the bumble bee into Victoria.

## On the Board Walk

By Dick Thomson

Readers will be aware that areas within and around Warrandyte that used to be rich in native flowers are now almost devoid of them. Sometimes this is due to conflicting use of the areas and weed invasion. Other times it is the weight of visitor numbers.

Some popular wildflower areas near Stawell and in areas like Anglesea have bus loads of people stopping to look at the flowers. Terrific, but at great cost to the flowers, other plants and the small creatures that live there.

Should this traffic be managed? if so how can we, the visitor, best be managed? What are the solutions? Are paths or board walks a possibility? Will visitors keep to board walks or tracks? In some States and other countries almost every walk in the bush is on a board walk. Paths risk bringing weeds and disease into the park via the gravel, then again board walks can be damaged in fires. Could some of the walking tracks around Warrandyte be converted to board walks to help manage the traffic? Would this help limit the damage to the environment we are enjoying while in the bush? Would board walks help areas like Tindal's Reserve? Could/should FOWSP become proactive in finding solutions?

*Editor's note: If any other members have concerns on environmental matters that they would like to air, or would like to respond to those raised by Dick in this article please don't hesitate to write in. This could become a new segment*

## Bryophyte Update

By Pat Coupar

Last year fungi and bryophyte expert, Bruce Fuhrer, undertook a detailed survey of Warrandyte State Park's mosses. Despite the dry conditions Bruce has come up with an extensive list of mosses and liverworts from Jumping Creek, Stane Brae and Black Flat supported by some stunning colour slides.

Bruce has made survey notes on 23 species, with information on habit, habitat, abundance, distribution and features useful in identification.

FOWSP will be applying for funding under the Parks Victoria

Community grants program 2003/2004 to produce a colour brochure of the bryophytes. The idea is to have a series of three brochures on mosses (and liverworts), lichens and fungi to compliment our extremely successful set of eucalypt, wattle and wildflower brochures.

Warrandyte has a number of significant mosses – Stane Brae in particular has several species not found in the other study areas. However, it is worth drawing attention to one species that is not so welcome. There is a moss invader in Warrandyte, *Pseudoscleropodium purum*. This aggressive introduced species spreads rapidly smothering other mosses and small ground covers. It tolerates a variety of habitats and according to Bruce is already becoming established in several areas of the Park. The question arises, what can we do about it?



## Ranger's Report

By Craig Lupton (Acting RIC)

### Natural Values Management

- A student from Deakin University (Fiona Hogan) is undertaking a Phd on Powerful Owls genetics and is conducting some of her research on the pairs in WSP. Fiona will be collecting DNA information from feathers (found under roosts) and blood samples taken from juveniles during banding. She will attempt to ascertain if the Powerful is one species across its entire range from Rockhampton to Portland.
- CVA (Conservation Volunteers Australia) is commencing their 5-week work period on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2003. They will be assisting with delivery of the biolink revegetation program, rabbit burrow collapsing in fuel reduction burn sites, rehabilitation of rake hoe trails along edges of burns, woody weed control and other tasks as requested.
- A trapping program for Brush-tailed Phascogales (BTP) will occur at One Tree Hill and Rifle Range Reserves. Trapping is to be resourced by DSE, Warrandyte PV Staff, Kinglake PV Staff and volunteers on a roster system. Following the methodologies agreed to by the BTP Statewide Working Group, PV have established 20 trap sites at Rifle Range and One Tree Hill and added them to 20 existing sites at Kinglake National Park (Everard Track and Watson's Creek Track) to form a new Priority Management Area (PMA). The plan will be to survey this PMA every year for the next 10 years to develop baseline data on population density and ascertain relative changes to the


population over time. Tissue Samples will be sent to Monash University for DNA work to determine the genetic make up of our populations and find out how viable our populations will be.

### Visitor Services

- The Warrandyte State Park Easter Holiday Activities for 2003 was successful. A total of 77 people participated in the activities. Over 40 people enjoyed the night walk. Wildlife seen included wombats, ringtail possums, brushtail possums, koalas and a boobook owl. Five people participated in the bird walk. Unusual birdlife seen include a darter and owlet nightjar. 28 people participated in the bat activity. Rangers trapped the previous evening at Blue Tongue Bend, however the weather was cold and wet - not conducive to catching bats, and subsequently none were caught. One bat was caught on the night of the activity - a Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturous*), an adult male weighing 4 grams.

### Fire Protection

- All the planned Warrandyte State Park and Northern Reserves planned fuel reduction/eco-burns have been completed. Burns include Boomers Reserve, Hochkins Reserve, and Timber Reserve. David Van Bockel was able to get two small burns completed along Pound Bend Road on the slash break - one adjacent to the Pound Bend Reserve gates and other opposite to the gate to the park office.



**Banyule's**  
INDIGENOUS  
**Plants**

**'Indigenous Plants of Banyule'**

We have 5 of these fold-out brochures to give away. 48 of Warrandyte's wildflowers & trees are beautifully painted in water colour – a work of art. If you would like one please phone Joan on **9844 3213 (A/H)**

## Indigenous Gardening Kit

Have you got a copy of our Indigenous Gardening Kit yet? We are selling it for the grand sum of one dollar.

Available around Warrandyte at the following outlets: Goldfields Cellars (next to the butcher); The Soil Shop Nursery; Post Office; Neighbourhood House and Information Warrandyte. Also, of course available each Thursday morning at our nursery and at our Warrandyte market trailer.

If you know of other suitable outlets please let Joan know 9844 3213 (A/H). We'd like everyone in Warrandyte to have one.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The nursery will be closed for propagation and sales on Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>



## FOWSP Committee 2003

<b>Flora Anderson</b>	<b>9722 1776</b>	Public Officer	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	
<b>Pat Coupar</b>	<b>9844 1650</b>	Newsletter Editor	Julie Pryor	<b>9722 1117</b>
<b>Ray Clarke</b>	<b>9841 8507</b>	Treasurer		
<b>Sue Sheperd</b>	<b>9844 3754</b>	Assistant Treasurer		
<b>Peter Curry</b>	<b>9844 0958</b>	Secretary	<u>Market</u>	
<b>Lee Speedy</b>	<b>9437 0894</b>	Membership Secretary	Marie Krause	<b>9712 0498</b>
<b>Mike Coupar</b>	<b>9844 1650</b>			
<b>Melanie Birtchnell</b>	<b>9870 1349</b>		<u>Park Office</u>	<b>9844 2659</b>
<b>Karen Reynolds</b>	<b>9712 0797</b>			
<b>Joan MacMahon</b>	<b>9844 3213</b>			
			<u>Nursery Manager</u>	<b>0408800026</b>

FOWSP Committee Meetings for 2003 will be held each month at 7:30pm on the Tuesday before the monthly Warrandyte market.

Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Peter Curry's house 3 Blair St, Warrandyte

## FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

### MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NURSERY

Propagation morning. 10.00 am onwards.  
Plant sales (by donation) 10.00am-12md

### MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> NURSERY

Propagation morning. 10.00 am onwards.  
Plant sales (by donation) 10.00am-12md

### MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MORNING ACTIVITY

Mt Lofty Planting & Cam's Farewell (see ad. this newsletter)

Meet at the depot at 9.30am or Lower Homestead Rd, Melway ref. 279 B4 at 10.15am

**Note: The nursery will be closed all day**

### JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> NURSERY

Propagation morning. 10.00 am onwards.  
Plant sales (by donation) 10.00am-12md

### AFTERNOON ACTIVITY

Walk with Josh (weather permitting). Meet at the depot at 1.00pm

### JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> NURSERY

Propagation morning. 10.00 am onwards.  
Plant sales (by donation) 10.00am-12md

### JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> NURSERY

Propagation morning. 10.00 am onwards.  
Plant sales (by donation) 10.00am-12md

## Green Wedge Environmental Seminar Series 2003

Thursday, 5 June 2003 – "The Long Term Flowering Patterns in Eucalyptus Trees"

Speaker – Melanie Birtchnell, PHD student and biologist with Greening Australia. Melanie's Honours year project also uncovered a fascinating social history of bee keepers.

Thursday, 3 July 2003 – "Platypus"

Speaker – Geoff Williams, Director of the Australian Platypus Conservancy, previously Director of Healesville Sanctuary.

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: The Function Room, Club Warrandyte (Warrandyte Pub)  
120 Yarra Street, Warrandyte 3113 (Melways ref: 23 11E)

For further information contact about the seminars contact:

Cathy Willis – Conservation Officer. Ph: 9840 9122

Email: cathy.willis@manningham.vic.gov.au

# An Evening on Cape York

Report by Ben Gotlib

Thursday evening, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2003. A barbeque at the Folly. Present were 18 people, one resident ringtail (running along the roof supports), three slide projectors and about 50 metres of cable.

Burke and Wills had still not returned from their Cape York trip, but Geoff, Flora, Pat and Mike had.

The quiet hum of peaceful conversation dropped away, the light outside mellowed then darkened. Suddenly in front of us a white almost blinding rectangle of light as Geoff Speedy stood and commenced his narrative.

**C.Y 1.** Between August and November 1980 Geoff, a now 'reformed bush-blower-upperer' traveled from Cairns to Cape York in a Bush Pilot Airway plane (flown by hairy-legged hosties).

On arrival at Wenlock they visited the 'Sex Change Hotel' (yes the name was, and still is, on the top sign of the hotel).

The country up there was raw to Geoff. He was sent to get food supplies for the camp and to "go up 100kms, come to a fence, turn right, go on another 50kms." But he turned off the wrong side of the fence and had to wait until next morning before they came for him.

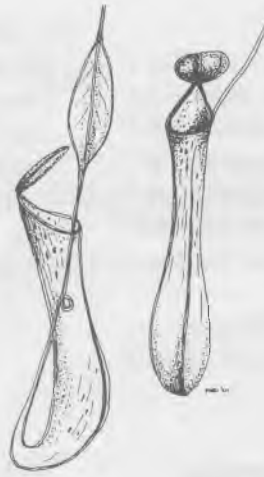
The camp area was near feral pigs, kangaroos, goannas and "an incredible variety of bugs." Geoff's job was to survey the potential effects of the sand mining (a 99.9% pure silicose sand used for lens manufacture) on the water table and shallow lakes in the area.

The sand dunes moved at a rapid pace, in geological terms, more than a metre a year. "The dredges were literally chasing the dunes." On one lake transection Geoff assisted, standing in the water holding a vertical survey pole, saw a 14ft crocodile. After a "faster than the speed of light" exit from the water they decided one measurement was enough.

Another activity was to go water skiing behind a 4WD vehicle – such was that part of the terrain.

Geoff's slides showed more bush than I expected, and of course ended with a sunset. All were taken while he was on a geological work activity. He had much longer hair then.

**C.Y.2** In 1987 (August 22<sup>nd</sup> to September 11<sup>th</sup>) Flora Anderson traveled to the Cape in the company of the Gove Bird Observers Club. They traveled in a large khaki army truck (no windows in the side) from Cairns to Coen, taking in the Iron Range National Park.



Flora's map of Cape York resulted in a 'map interlude', with Geoff, Flora, Pat & Mike making quite a few ad lib explanations of localities and features. Flora referred to the Telegraph Road, the savannah, Delhuntly River, melaleucas and grass trees. "Rainforest genera are present, the ancestors of banksias and grevilleas."

Frequent reference was made (illustrated by slides) to specific plants of interest including the Pitcher Plant where the insect trapping digesting pitcher is actually an adapted extension of the mid-rib of the leaf.

Geographical features visited by the group were Indian Head Falls, Elliot Creek, Jardine River and Mutty Head - a WW2 camp site. Elsewhere an old radar facility. At the Tip (Cape York) Flora was over 3000kms north of Melbourne.

The Bird Observers camped in the rainforest. Amongst Flora's slides was one of unmentionables on the tent clothes line. Whose?

Near Lockhart River the group saw mangroves, their air seeking tubes clearly visible. Finally a visit to beaches and a Kunai grass area. Well done Flora.

**C.Y.3** The third set of slides were presented by Mike and Pat Coupar who visited the area in June/July 2002 for 18 days.

They flew to Cairns, hired a 4WD campervan and proceeded via Daintree to Lakefield NP. On the Kennedy River there were billabongs and crocodiles. Ask Pat about the quiet secluded Catfish Waterhole and the thuds they heard during the night, and the large scratch marks in the mud the following morning not far from their tent!

They showed slides of grey termite mounds. The two Coupars crossed the Hahn River. Pat and Mike like swimming "but the crocodiles meant we had to be fairly quick." They were regularly delighted by the Pitcher Plants. General travelling speed was about 40kph – "nearly tipped the 4WD once."

Slides included: a 7cm Wood Frog, the only representative of the true frogs (having two vocal sacs) in Australia; Lockhart Beach; Pascoe River; Seisia, on the west coast near the top; rainforest of the Iron Range.

Finally the piece de resistance - Frangipani Beach and The Tip of Cape York. Having left the car at Pajinka a small tourist resort, they followed the board walk through rainforest and then a path over the rocks, walked for another 15 minutes and

Cape York Evening contd next page

### Cape York Evening contd

arrived at their destination – The Top of Australia. One of the family of Americans already there got out his GPS and declared “the position was out.”

At this point in the slide show there was a discussive exchange by two of the slide presenters about the wording of the signpost.

Other slides included a Giant Green Tree-frog, the Jardine River the Murray of the north; Elliot, Fruit-bat, Savo and Twin waterfalls; the old battered Telegraph Road and the heathlands on the By Pass Road.

It was a relaxing and informative night to whet the appetite. Congratulations to all presenters.

## Biennial Friends Network Conference 2003 Cape Bridgewater



By Lee Speedy

As mentioned last month, Joan MacMahon and I drove to Portland for the 2-day conference run by the Friends Network. It was very social, comfortable and informative. As Bernie Fox (Committee President) stated, there is a real need to celebrate Friends groups and their achievements. The Network would like to see even more Friends groups get involved in these conferences. He quoted Dr Marty Townsend who has studied Friends groups, noting that members had less susceptibility to heart problems! (Must be all that time spent amongst nature).

The Cape Bridgewater weekend combined fabulous views, with informed, topical speakers and a highly social set of ‘Friends’ relating their shared experiences. Some groups, like the Friends of Long Forest Mallee (FOLFM), gave an inspirational talk on their two recent publications. I was particularly delighted with their foresight, good planning and effort in producing a FREE book to hand out to local residents, to engender an understanding and ‘ownership’ of their adjacent bushland.

Phil Arnold, from the Friends of Great South West Walk (FOGSWW) gave us much detail on the 12 day, 250km long walk. It has 16 campsites, is accessible to day walkers and can be divided into 17 sections. Some walkers choose to stay in more upmarket accommodation along the way. The walk includes slices of the Cobboboonee State Forest, the Lower Glenelg National Park, Discovery Bay National Park, Mt Richmond National Park and the Cape Nelson State Park. Many of us walked one section from the Cape Nelson lighthouse. We admired the three volcanic Capes, the hardy coastal plants and the numerous bird life, including the previously rare seabird, the Australasian Gannet.

Ten years ago, there were less than 10 birds breeding on the Lawrence Rocks, off Point Danger at Portland. The end of the Point is now an established colony, totally Gannet covered and fenced-off from predation. (see photo).

Doug Phillips and Ivor Graney from the Portland Field Naturalists filled us in on the history and the wildlife of these Parks.

Doug’s talk mentioned the fragmentation of the parks, requiring linkages between them. He worries about the 26,000ha Cobboboonee State Forest. This forest desperately needs protection from logging and woodchipping, something that Environment Victoria has been pushing for several years.

Doug and Ivor had us pondering the futures of the Hooded Plover and the Little Tern, the Yellow-bellied Glider and the Growling Grass-frog. Ivor’s slideshow was full of frogs and froglets, including the spade foot toad with the vertical pupil.

I couldn’t resist asking Ivor, after enjoying his slides of daisies and orchids, (*Caladenia hastata* and the endangered *Caladenia valida*) how he manages his astounding close ups of local daisies, using ‘droplet photography’. Ivor chooses a blue sky/no wind day and carries a camera with a 300mm lens, to capture a small water droplet on a foreground stem, magnifying a colourful background daisy. How does Ivor manage to ensure rain on a still blue-sky day? He carries a water sprayer!



Gannets at Point Danger



## Interesting Snippets

Contributions this month from Marie Krause, Edith Irving, and Pat Coupar.

### A Welcome Sighting

By Marie Krause

On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2003, on Skyline Rd near Sugarloaf Reservoir (Melway 273), Wolfgang saw a male lyrebird, and possibly a female a short distance further along the road. This was a welcome sighting as they had not been seen for over a year.

The first recent reports of lyrebirds in the area were in 2000. There was a report by a contractor working on Mount Lofty to Ranger Glen Jameson. He had heard a lyrebird calling on the other side of the river. As well there were numerous confirmed sightings near the Co-op on Skyline Rd. Prior to these sightings the last records of lyrebirds in this area were from the 1960's.



### Chuffed by Choughs



By Edith Irving  
I know White-winged Choughs are often seen in Wonga Park, I rarely see them in Warrandyte.

So I was 'chuffed' to have a small flock finding something to eat on my lawn recently.

Also at my bird feeder, for a brief time, were six Long-billed Corellas. At first I thought they were Little Corellas as we have had large flocks

of them, sometimes with the Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and/or Galahs, in the last year or two. But on close inspection they turned out to be the long-billed variety. I have only seen one in Warrandyte once before many years ago, which I assumed was a cage escape.

It is also lovely to see the Gang-gangs back with us again, and to have the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos about.

### Greenhood Delight

By Pat Coupar

I was up at One Tree Hill on a weeding foray of the dreaded Caper Spurge (more on this in next months newsletter) with Ranger and botanist Cam Beardsell, when we came across a plant of the Dark-tip Greenhood (*Pterostylis atrans*) in full flower. We later discovered two more in flower and another with a green seed capsule.

Cam last saw this rare mountain orchid in flower about eight years ago. It seems that early autumn rainfall is critical for flowering.

This recent find was a new location for One Tree Hill.

### More Snippets Please

Many thanks to all those members who have contributed over the last couple of months, particularly those who have never written in before.

The feedback on this segment has been very positive but it does rely on you, the members, to keep the contributions coming.

Don't forget snippets can be about anything of interest in the environment and do not necessarily have to be about Warrandyte.

Contributions can either be dropped into Joan's, at 101 Bradleys Lane (or via email at [joanmacmahon@hotmail.com](mailto:joanmacmahon@hotmail.com).) or Pat's at 143 Brackenbury St. or passed on at the nursery.

## RED DOT

### Subscriptions for 2003 are now overdue

A RED DOT on the front of this newsletter indicates that we have no record of your subscription for this year. If you have a red dot but have already paid your membership for the year 2001 please ring our membership secretary Lee on 9437 0894.

If we have not received your renewal by JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup> membership will be discontinued.



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P.O. Box 220  
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### Victorian Smooth Froglet (*Geocrinia victoriana*)



Listen out for the distinctive 'cra-a-a-k, cra-a-a-k .....pip pip pip pip' call of this small brown frog. It can be heard during the day in autumn and early winter emanating from damp gullies and other moist areas.

Eggs are laid in sticky clumps in leaf litter at the base of grass tussocks, in areas that will later become flooded. Hatching can be delayed up to four months in periods of drought. Tadpoles feed on decaying vegetation at the bottom of shallow pools.

## 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

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