

July 2003

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

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

Joint Grant Application

By Pat Coupar

In a first for FOWSP, our group has joined forces with RMIT University in applying for funding through the 2003/2004 Parks Victoria Volunteer Group Grants program. Together we have applied for a grant of \$10,250 to develop a 'Fieldwork Base Camp Research and Visitor Facility' at Stane Brae in Jumping Creek Reserve section of the Park.

The plan is to convert the old existing dairy and shed at the site of the Rangers house that was pulled down several years ago (amidst much publicity) into some basic accommodation with a small kitchen area. Also it is intended to provide seating and barbeque facilities for general use and install new doors for storage areas for keeping field equipment.

The re-development of the site for use as a study/research centre has the potential to attract other environmental groups like the Victorian Field Naturalists Club who may like to use it for their purposes.

There is also the opportunity of setting up a permanent interpretive display. This would be useful for various walking groups that often visit the site as a lunch stop.

The Stane Brae area offers some of the best opportunities for field work in the Park as the adjacent bushland contains several rare flora and the section of river below the dairy is close to where the endangered Australian Grayling fish was recently rediscovered.

Students from RMIT's Applied and Environmental Sciences department are no strangers to Warrandyte State Park. Under the

guidance of their lecturer Richard Francis and Park staff, the students have recently been working at Warrandyte State Park and the northern Reserves. Among other activities, they have been involved in fauna trapping at Rifle Range, woody weed control at Boomers, ivy removal at Gold Memorial (Fourth Hill) and the planting of rare and endangered species at Timber



Reserve.

FOWSP have obtained many community grants over the years for projects ranging from educational brochures to rabbit exclusion fences, including several grants for upgrading and maintenance of the nursery. We are hopeful that this latest joint application for what is new and exciting venture will be viewed favourably.

My Best Worst Weed

From a Wandering Jew

By Joy Dahl

It's kind of a love-hate-love relationship, the one between *Tradescantia* and me. This realisation hits me as I sit here at the back of the old cottage overlooking the Yarra reviewing our 18-year struggle.



Well not exactly directly overlooking the Yarra. More like staring at the smelly old septic sticking up like a scabrous sentinel in the backyard's prime position, beyond which I can just make out some brown reflections. In a couple of weeks I'll actually be able to see the Yarra from here. The above ground monstrosity will be gone, replaced by a state-of-the-art underground septic and water recycling system. And with the passing of the old concrete bunker, a huge portion of this to-ing and fro-ing will become just a memory. Well I can only dream that it does.

It all started when I arrived in Warrandyte, this time to stay, in 1985. Driving along gum-lined Everard Drive parallel to the Yarra's rippling little rapids, going home was magic - like heading into the bush on a camping trip. It still is. My Aussie husband introduced me to the garden at our newly rented house in Hutchinson Ave. It sloped down to the river and was full of gorgeous lush plants with shiny bright green leaves and tiny star-like white flowers. It was love at first sight. And then he told me, "Got to get rid of 'em, pull 'em out, wipe 'em out, they're a blight, a weed, they spread everywhere, they're Wandering Jew."

I was shocked, disappointed and a little hurt. After all I myself am a bit of a wandering Jew. I mean I am Jewish. And I have traveled and worked all over Australia, in fact all over the world. Sometimes when things didn't work out, like relationships or plans, I've felt plagued with a kind of blight, and sometimes I've been, especially in my youth if I do say so myself - rather lush, shiny and star-like. And in the hard-driving professions I've pursued, you could say I had indeed wiped myself out. Which was one reason I was back here in Australia, in Warrandyte - to recuperate.

But with Wandering Jew, both human and plant varieties, there is much work to be done, much to be learned. First, after surrendering to the necessity, I discovered that 'getting rid of 'em wasn't so easy. The soft stems and leaves pull off readily enough, but that means the tiny roots stay hiding firmly in the ground ready to produce a new crop which spreads even further. Frustrating. Then, if I left the leaves and stems lying around, say in a pile, for a few days or even a month, they survived, living on nothing but the moisture in the air, putting down new roots and in the end merrily exploring ever-new areas of the garden. In full flower they spread faster, and it was even worse if I threw the bits in the compost - they either thrived right there or hibernated and rose again in newly composted beds.

I must admit I do admire this quality - the survival instinct. Survival, after cruel treatment, survival in harsh conditions, survival after concerted efforts toward your total annihilation, The ability to pick yourself up by your bootstraps, or stems as it may be, and move on, or to rise again after apparent death. It surely helped the most famous Jew the world has known. It's one reason why there are still Jewish people in the world at all. It's why I'm alive after all my personal traumas, alive and here enjoying the delights of Warrandyte. But admirable as it was, the little darling *Tradescantia*, still remained what is called 'a high maintenance relationship.' That is, to 'get rid of 'em' took heaps of work and proved to be a virtually impossible task.

Annoyance, frustration, but not hate. That is, not until it got Kiva. Kiva was our neighbours lively, playful, loving, loyal, gregarious Blue Heeler. *Tradescantia* made her life a misery, poor thing. As apparently many dogs are, she was highly allergic to it, suffering a terrible itching rash. To see her suffering filled me with anger which fired a passionate campaign of destruction. I worked relentlessly to stamp it all out, rip it all out, crush it, to make it suffer the way it made Kiva suffer. Completely fired up with true hatred - tearing around the garden, tearing it up - this was war.

The terrible tragedy is that the weed was everywhere, not just in our garden, and Kiva's rashes became worse each year, developing into infections, producing deafness and requiring Cortisone treatments, which had awful side effects. In the end she was in such pain you couldn't even pat Kiva's poor old head without her whimpering. Death proved a kindly relief.

My Worst Weed: Contd on next page

My Worst Weed: Contd

A reluctant move to the other side of the river, North Warrandyte, pledging to return to The Bend as soon as we found a house to buy on the 'proper' side, gave us some relief as well. Our new home didn't have *Tradescantia*, so for a few years I could almost forget about it while we hand weeded our acre block to liberate the many native orchids from the grip of shell grass. (Another story.) Almost I say, because unless I carried plastic bags on my walks along the river to fill with the Wandering Jew plants thriving on its banks, I felt very guilty just ignoring them. Very Jewish to feel very guilty. To tell the truth, as the years passed the intensity of my hatred subsided gradually, even though in Kiva's name, I still periodically pulled the blighters out.

Hurrah! We finally got back to Pound Bend. OK, it's a termite-ridden, falling-apart-at-the-seams cottage, which will have to be demolished in order to build a solid home, but hey, it's the beloved old neighborhood. And wouldn't you know there in the yard is the beloved-hated old *Tradescantia*. This time it adorns a pile of rocks on the 'in your face,' sore-thumb septic, turning this ugly reminder of the sewage of life into a tropical, almost a tropical ... well a sort of a ... a big green box. Better than a big grey box which you can't even pretend isn't a 'yank.' (Another title I've had to learn to bear in Oz.) So there you go. The Wandering Jew became not only admirable but actually, I'm bemused to say, useful. But only until we tear the house down, only for a couple of years, we told ourselves.

The couple of years have turned into six, and over time the love-hate-love seesaw with *Tradescantia* developed in earnest. One day grateful for the visual relief it offered, the next

working hard to keep the so-and-so from spreading. One day swearing to wipe it out completely, the next day glad to see a few survivors peeping out from between the rocks. After all, as I continue to tell myself, "it's only temporary, we're containing it, and the neighbor's new dog isn't allergic to it, and we're not the only ones who have it, and I still carry plastic bags into the Park for clearing the wanderers from river-bank areas where I wander, and ... and..."

A few weeks ago, just after we signed the contract to put in the new septic, and the working drawings for our new home entered the final stages, I had an errand to run in Lygon Street. Parking in Cardigan Street, I walked to Lygon along one of those charming little alleys with townhouses, imaginative wrought iron fences, wine bars and tiny low-walled decorative gardens, newly planted. I couldn't believe my eyes. The ground cover of choice, attractively laid out to overflow the walls from thigh height down to the concrete path was ... you guessed it didn't you? *Tradescantia!* How appropriate! We Jews always did get along with the Italians, well almost always. And anyway, contained within the concrete and bitumen of the city, where could it go? Hopefully not to Warrandyte.

At least now I can really pull out all the stops, knowing that even in the unlikely event I succeed in this highly challenging, 'maybe if I'm persistent enough' campaign to wipe it out, on my occasional trips to the city I may openly and without guilt, celebrate with a lovely latte or a sip of Cab.Sav. the rich beauty, adaptability, functionality and survival capacities of the weed I might think of as my namesake, the Wandering Jew - *Tradescantia*.



Cam Beardsell talking to a captive audience of Fowspians on Fourth Hill

Interesting Snippets

Contributions this month from Olive Walters and Pat Coupar.

Drawings by Melanie Coupar

Why?

By Pat Coupar

Outside our back door is a large, Red Box tree. Until a few weeks ago it was extremely healthy with prolific new growth and masses of flower buds.

Not any more. The tree is in the process of being defoliated. We started to notice sprigs of leaves and buds appearing on our balcony (over which the tree hangs) and on the ground beneath.

At first we were not certain who the vandals were. We thought it might be the overweight Brush-tail Possum that seems to take delight in eating my wildflowers, ferns and epiphytic orchids.



But no, we caught the culprits in the act – it was a pair of Crimson Rosellas. Every morning I sweep up the clusters of bitten off leaves and the buds which will never flower and every evening there are more. While all the time the tree is looking more and more like a deciduous European import.

This has never happened before. So why now? Will the rosellas only be satisfied when all the leaves are gone? And why are they doing it?

Any theories. Anyone?

Winter Cheer

By Olive Walters

Winter brings its bird visitors to suburban Templestowe. The Pied Currawong's call is heard in Green Gully Linear Park. In May this year the Gang Gangs made their annual visit to our area, but this year they have moved on again.

Most days now I am charmed by glimpses of an Eastern Spinebill as it sings in a bare non-indigenous tree outside my window or takes a swift dip in the bird bath. These nomadic visitors cheer the dreary winter days for me.



More Snippets Please

The feedback on this segment has been very positive, but it does rely on you, the members, to keep 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 the editor at 143 Brackenbury St, Warrandyte or via email at ian.coupar@vcp.monash.edu.au

Sunday Planting Day at Koornong

Date: Sunday 24th August

Time: 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Place: Koornong. Meet at the lower car park Koornong Crescent, North Warrandyte (Mel ref: 23 J8)

This site, beside the river track, was once a weedy wasteland full of Blue Periwinkle and Yorkshire Fog. The weeds are now gone, but to prevent others moving in we need to plant it up densely with a variety of native grasses, sedges and ground covers. We have heaps of plants to go in the ground and planting is easy in the soft soils.

The more people, the more plants we can get into the ground, the less weeds will return. Even if you can only spare half an hour that would be great.

Ranger David Van Bockel will be on hand to help and offer advice. Afternoon tea will be provided.



FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 10.00am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. When there is no scheduled afternoon activity we often go on a spontaneously organised walk. Propagation takes place from 10.00am to 12 midday followed by lunch. No prior experience necessary - there is always someone available to show you the ropes.



JULY 24TH NURSERY

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

JULY 31ST MORNING ACTIVITY

Planting at Whipstick Gully

Meet at the end of Whipstick Gully Rd, (Mel. Ref. 23 F12) at 10.15 am. or at the depot at 9.45am.

AUGUST 7TH NURSERY

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

AUGUST 14TH NURSERY

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

AUGUST 21ST NURSERY

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

AUGUST 28TH MORNING ACTIVITY

Planting at Pound Bend

Meet at the car park Pound Bend picnic reserve (Mel. Ref. 23 A11) at 10.15 am. or at the depot at 9.45am.

SEPTEMBER 4TH NURSERY

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

Note: Informal walks or planting activities may be organised on propagation mornings

Green Wedge Environmental Seminar Series 2003

Thursday, 7 August - "Restoring Ecological Processes, or Just Putting Sticks in the Ground?"

Speaker: Glen Jameson, Environmental Team Leader, Parks Victoria. Glen will evaluate progress in environmental management during the twenty years of his experience in the Middle Yarra region.

Thursday 4 September - "Bushland on Life Support".

Speaker: Peter Thrall, Plant Ecologist, CSIRO Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research. Peter's PhD focused on plant population biology and diseases. Peter will relate his research to rare and threatened plants, conservation, and helpful soil organisms.

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

FOWSP Committee 2003

Flora Anderson	9722 1776	Public Officer	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	
Pat Coupar	9844 1650	Newsletter Editor	Julie Pryor	9722 1117
Ray Clarke	9841 8507	Treasurer		
Sue Shepherd	9844 3754	Assistant Treasurer		
Peter Curry	9844 0958	Secretary	<u>Market</u>	
Lee Speedy	9437 0894	Membership Secretary	Marie Krause	9712 0498
Mike Coupar	9844 1650			
Melanie Birtchnell	9870 1349		<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
Karen Reynolds	9712 0797			
Joan MacMahon	9844 3213			
Michelle Hanslow	0402251577		<u>Nursery Manager</u>	0408800026

The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday 10.00am to 12md and the first Sunday of each month 2.00pm to 400pm.

Sunday Opening Days for 2003

August 3rd
September 7th
October 5th
November 2nd
December 7th

Important Notice

Please note the nursery is only open for plant sales during the above times. Some members and non-members have been turning up for plants (and advice) outside these hours without prior arrangement. If you find it impossible to come during official opening times please contact the nursery manager first.

FOWSP Committee Meetings for 2003 will be held each month at 7:30pm on the Tuesday before the monthly Warrandyte market. The next meeting is on 29th July at Flora Anderson's house, Lot 8, Styles Crt, Wonga Pk

**Deadline for the August newsletter is
August 16th**

Park News

By Ranger David (Frankie) Farrar

Staff

David Van Bockel is back to full-time work. And Mick Smythe and John Gower have decided to transfer to Westerfolds Park, in return Justin Welander is transfer ing back to Warrandyte.

Fire

With last years fire season was one of the busiest for many years, park staff lost time on other works. They look forward to targeting priority work areas this financial year.

We had good success with planned ecological burns at Timber Reserve, Boomers Reserve and Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve. The next priority is to treat rabbits that are now finding the burnt sites a good area for feeding on fresh vegetation growth. Fumigation and other techniques will be carried out to decrease the damage caused by rabbits.

Walking Tracks

Colin Bromley will be implementing upgrading works on the walking track at Bluetongue Bend this financial year starting in October.

Fauna

A Brush-tailed Phascogale Trapping Survey was conducted throughout the Warrandyte - Kinglake Link during May 2003. By following the methodologies of the Brush-tailed Phascogale Statewide Working Group, ranger staff have established 20 trap sites at Rifle Range and One Tree Hill in addition to 20 existing sites at Kinglake (Everard Track and Watsons Creek Track) to form a new Priority Management Area (PMA) for the Phascogale. The plan is to survey this Priority Management Area every year for the next 10 years to develop baseline data on population density and ascertain relative changes to the population over time. Ear tissue samples will be taken and sent to Monash University for DNA analysis to determine the genetic make up of the Phascogale population and find out how healthy our population is.

Stewart Judd, ranger from Kinglake N.P, has been instrumental in establishing the methodology for the Phascogale survey. Stewart says "Resourcing these trapping sessions is a 'big ask' but with DSE, PV and volunteer commitment it spreads the load. The positives from fieldwork and networking make it all worthwhile". The setting up traps on the Monday is was largest commitment and takes 4-6 people 6 hours to complete. Checking traps and processing animals (Tuesday to Friday) of that week is usually completed by 2-4 or more people in about 3

hours. Checking traps starts early at 7:30am but is generally finished by 11am. Friday is a little more involved again because the traps need to be taken down and packed up.

In other Brush-tailed Phascogale news, a number of nest boxes have been inspected in Warrandyte State Park with no Phascogale activity observed. Nest box survey is an ongoing activity carried out twice a year. Road killed Phascogales have been reported and handed to me at the park office and this is still a very good way of recording Phascogale movements. If the animal is fresh on recovery I can take an ear sample and send this to Monash University for DNA analysis. All confirmed sightings of Phascogale will be recorded on Parks Victoria EIS data base system.

Powerful Owl



Three nesting pairs of Powerful Owl have been confirmed breeding again this year in the park. Female Powerful Owls will be on 1-2 eggs now, with young fledglings during late August and early September. This is a critical time for the fledglings because weaker birds with poor flying skills

sometimes sit on the ground near the nest tree and may fall victim to predation by fox, cat or dog. Park staff will endeavour to humanly trap foxes near nesting sites to help this rare owl species disperse.

Round 31 Green Corps & Biolink

A new Green Corps team has started work on the Middle Yarra Remnant Vegetation Protection Project, which will see programs implemented at Warrandyte SP, Plenty Gorge and Yarra Valley Parklands. Karalyn Herse is the team leader of 2 women and 8 men. The program was launched on 9th July by Kevin Andrews federal member for Menzies.

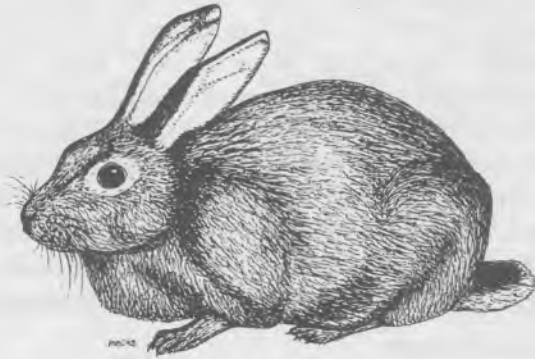
At Warrandyte there will be a focus on completing the third phase of the Biolink revegetation program at Stane Brae, Pound Bend and Yarra Brae. Around 14,000 plants will be planted this year, bringing the tally to around 80,000 plants planted since 1997. Most of those plants have been propagated by FOWSP over the years. Pest plant and animal work will be included in the program, as well as monitoring of nest

Contd on next page

Park News contd.

boxes and fox sand pads. The Green Corps will be involved in Community Projects of their choosing and Minor Projects, which will see them travel to other parts of Victoria for short periods.

Pest Animal (Rabbits)



Last year's rabbit control program was again successful in our aim to get a Rabbit Free status.

A 'Rabbit Free' area is defined by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) as "land that does not demonstrate any visible signs of rabbits when assessed during normal monitoring methods. It does not mean a complete and permanent absence of rabbits". If we can maintain rabbits at less than 2 per spotlight kilometre (psk) we can significantly reduce the effect on biodiversity. However, we still have a few rabbits in and around the park. Recent rabbit spotlight counts have shown for Mount Lofty 3.6 rabbits psk, Pound Bend 3.5 rabbits psk, Yarra Brae 1.1 rabbits psk and Jumping creek at 0.6 rabbits psk. The target for all areas in the park and reserves is to have rabbits at less than 2 rabbits psk. To maintain low rabbit numbers we use an integrated approach including techniques like Pindon baiting, fumigation, shooting, and strategic fencing. Sometimes eco-burning can be used to clear vegetation to assess warrens.

Endangered fish and Links Golf Course Update

By Flora Anderson

When it came to the notice of FOWSP that the presence in the middle Yarra of both Macquarie Perch (endangered) and Australian Grayling (vulnerable) had been verified in the recent Arthur Rylah Institute of Environmental Research survey, we were delighted.

However, a subsequent reading of the ARI survey has left us with grave concerns about the potential risk in terms of sediment, instream siltation, erosion and runoff, particularly during the construction stage of the Yarra Valley Golf Club links type course on the flood plain north of the Yarra (former Henley Farm)

The term 'links' originated in Scotland where golf was played on undulating sandy ground near the sea shore with turf and coarse grass. We would call such terrain dunes. Simulating this will involve the introduction and moving around of enormous amounts of sand and soil on the flood plain.

The Yarra River Macquarie Perch are thought to be one of the last breeding populations in the country. Siltation is a major threat to breeding habitat as the eggs cannot adhere to pebbles and rocks which are covered with silt.

FOWSP has joined major conservation groups, Environment Victoria, Field Naturalist Club of Victoria, Friends of the Earth, Native Fish Australia and BICA, with advice from The

Environment Defenders Office, to work towards securing the integrity of the habitat of Macquarie and Australian Grayling. We are looking for the very best environmental outcome.

These endangered species are listed under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC). Environment Australia who administers the Act, decided that the golf course development should be a controlled action. No works can proceed until an assessment is carried out by Environment Australia. A request for an Environment Effects Statement was refused. Submissions were invited and all the above groups responded. Submissions were sent to the Yarra Valley Golf Club with copies to Environment Australia. The proponent will send a response to Environment Australia who then do an assessment which will be sent to the Approval Section of EA. Finally to the Minister for Environment. We have no idea how long this will take but will let you know the results.

It is now up to the proponent to demonstrate that their actions will have no adverse effects on the integrity of the breeding grounds in the Yarra below the golf course. Other concerns are that the modification to the flood plain include levee banks and the question of monitoring for pesticide and herbicide contamination.

For more information check out Native Fish Australia's website (www.nativefish.asn.au). Cliff Green's excellent report in the June Warrandyte Diary is also recommended. If you would like to read FOWSP's submission, ring the Secretary, Peter Curry.

Green Wedge Seminar – May 2003

'The Vegetation of Manningham's Green Wedge' By Paul Foreman

Report By Michelle Hanslow

Paul's research of the Shire has involved a couple of stages. Phase 1: Mapping of remnant vegetation with aerial photograph interpretation. This process involves looking at consecutive photos of the terrain (taken from an aircraft) with the use of a stereoscope, which puts the image into three dimensions. From these photos, the topography and current land use/vegetation can be determined. Then, using GIS (Geographical Information Systems), the aerial photographs are inputted onto the computer and vegetated areas outlined, so that on-ground studies can be confined to these areas.

I asked Paul whether he had had any opposition from people in the Green Wedge when he approached them to ask whether he could survey their property. Although he has not completed the surveying, he has not had, nor is expecting any opposition, as he believes that most people would be happy to know what is on their property.

The next step of Phase 1 is to create maps based on the information collected from the photographic and background studies and the surveys. The colour-coded maps created are:

Indigenous Tree Cover

This predominately indicates where native trees are located, but also includes indigenous shrubs, grasslands and wetlands too. Dark green = dense canopy closure, pale green = sparser or semi-cleared, through to grey = no trees, urban. Manningham has about 38% of the land still with fairly intact tree coverage, however if looking just at the Green Wedge, this figure increases to about 70%.

Modification Index Map

This map indicates what areas have been modified in some way. It concentrates only on the modification of trees, not the mid or ground stories. Similar colour-coding is used as for the above map. Approximately half of all the bush cover is in a degraded state.

Land Units Map

This map shows how the land is being used: Green = indigenous habitat (little degradation or removal of the understorey), red = urban areas, purple = revegetation sites (shown mainly along the Yarra River - revegetation within already healthy areas are not shown as revegetation sites).

Manningham
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Risk Map

This map showed areas in an exhausted or degraded condition that Paul classifies as 'at risk'. These sites may have had their understories removed, have patches of weeds and have stock grazing, but also have patches of flowering native forbs etc. If current practices continue on these sites, then the native bush will degrade further. They require 'resting' from grazing and other pressures. They may require spot weeding and/or burning to return them to their original state. The more degraded sites are harder to revert, so efforts should be concentrated on the better sites

Phase 2: Classification of the vegetation according to Government criteria then takes place. Ranking of significance is from local/regional, state to national. So far no areas have been classified as being of national significance.

Paul is working on presenting his findings to local Council members to encourage the input of money to help with land management. The bulk of the 'at risk' areas in Manningham are on private land, and so the Land Management Course offered for only \$50 for residents in the Green Wedge, is a great step forward.

Habitat corridors are an aspect that Paul is investigating through the course of his work. Where there is no corridor - i.e. no connection between two larger indigenous sites, or no little useful or healthy vegetation along what could be a corridor (e.g. Ruffey Creek) - then there is no habitat. Funds therefore should not be concentrated in these sites. It is better to direct what limited funds are available for revegetation to the more healthy sites, where habitat already exists, or to those sites that directly link two larger areas of bushland.

Paul encourages all environmentally-minded people to become involved in Trust for Nature, which applies covenants on properties (larger than 6 hectares) that are worthy areas of remnant bush or offer habitat for wildlife. He sited two properties in Manningham that already have covenants - Stane Brae and the Hansen property in Webb St, Warrandyte. Trust for Nature also offers help and advice for property maintenance.

On a final note - Paul did really well to present his talk, as the Powerpoint Presentation couldn't be used due to computer problems.



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Common Heath
(Epacris impressa)

Victoria's floral emblem.

This familiar small woody shrub has been flowering in the bush for several months. Most of Warrandyte plants have white flowers, but you can find some with pink flowers especially on Fourth Hill.

The tubular flowers are an excellent source of nectar for the Eastern Spinebill and other honeyeaters which in turn pollinate the plants.

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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