



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

OCTOBER

NEWSLETTER

1987

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LAST MEETING

It was a hot & sunny day the last Sunday of last month, 31st as the Friends met to take a look at the Common & see what weed problems it has, & what Orchids we could find.

It is a measure of the concern & appreciation that the local residents have for this piece of land that three turned up to help & guide us through this lovely bushland. The Common is fairly unique as far as the Park is concerned in that it is the only example of Grasslands, lightly wooded & gently sloping that we have. All the other parts of the Park are either hilltops or riverine areas.

Other people were out looking for Orchids to photograph or just appreciate as we began by pulling Broome. Many had pulled last year so our job was just to clean up the remaining seedlings, which were in plentiful supply.

A few Friends went deeper into the Common to cut down Pine, Pittosporum & Cootamondrol Wattle, again of which there were

plenty. Along the way we found many things in flower such as this Leopard Orchid. There is still plenty of work to be done in this area with large Pine Trees & many Cootamondrol Wattle growing there.



Lorraine Marshall & Peter Branchwhite from the Australian Native Orchid Society led the Orchid walk which we began in the little island of bush near the Car Park. In this small area we found all the orchids that we were able to find in the rest of the Common. Leopard, Waxlip, Golden Moths, Ladys Fingers, Tall Greenhood, Nodding Greenhood, Green Comb Spider & the Broad lip Diuris.

The dry autumn weather that we have had this year, kept Orchid numbers down, & our jaunt through the Common was not as rewarding as we had hoped. But we did manage to spot a few Eastern Grey Kangaroos, which are a feature of this part of the park & nowhere else.



A few plants of *Acacia leprosa* were in flower in the little island near the car park. This wattle is very rare, found as far as we know only in the Common. Also out in flower was *Acacia genistifolia*, *A. armata*, *A. acinacea*, *A. aculeatissima*, *A. pycnantha*, *Tetratheca ciliata* (Pink Bells), *Indigofera*, *Pultenaea gunnii* (an absolute sensational display), *Bossiaea prostrata*, *Viola Betonicifolia*, Yam Daisy, Buttercup, Dusty Miller, Yellow Star, Early Nancy, a great show

Later Lorraine, Peter & myself visited 4th. Hill as they wanted to see the

Purplish Bearded Orchid that we had observed last year on our walk. Marilyn Gray, who led the walk last year was very impressed with the colour of the Orchid that she speculated that it could be a distinct sub-species. Naturally Lorraine & Peter were interested to see it. They confirmed Marilyn's view that it is a very distinctive colouration & could well be a new sub-species.

Perhaps the C.F.L. should send out the experts to have this confirmed or denied, next year.

Usually a great place for Orchids, 4th. Hill was very light on for them this year. Luckily we went to the Common, for there wasn't much out at all.

Interestingly, many plants of *Pultenaea gunnii*, which was ablaze in the Common, were not in flower on 4th. Hill. In fact many plants were dead. Victims of the dry weather? Or is it natural senescence. Is it time for a fire to be put through this patch of bushland? It is certainly remarkable the difference between this year & two years ago....



NEXT MEETING

October 25th. Rendez-vous at the Reserve at the corner of Tareona ave. &

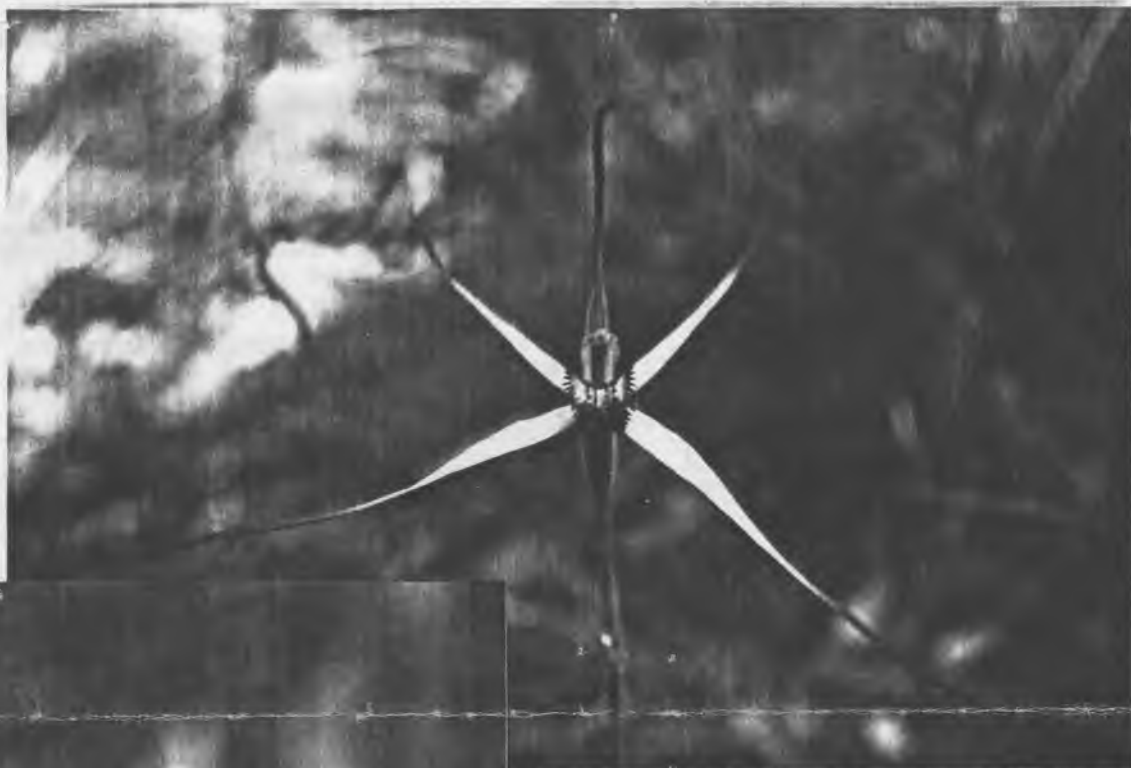
Everard Drive. Although it is written in the programme, Table & Seat construction, we couldn't get the funds to buy any timber, the C.F.L. are too broke & we should have approached the Service clubs.

However there is much work to be done in this area, consolidating the plantings we have done there & weeding around them. Many plants are under heavy pressure from weeds so we must ensure our previous years work is not undone. If you have one, could you bring along Whipper Snippers, they would be invaluable. There is a bit of hand weeding & hoeing, sounds great fun hey!!!

COMMON
SPIDER
ORCHID



GREEN
COMB
SPIDER
ORCHID



All photo's
are care of
Graham
Jarred, who
has photographed
all 27 orchids
of 4^m Hill,
mapped them
out & given
the friends
a copy.



TALL GREENHOOD
PTEROSTYLIS LONGIFOLIA

NODDING GREENHOOD
(CENTRE)



WAXLIP - GLOSSODIA MAJOR

1988 PROGRAMME

For the whole of next year Glen will be going on long service leave, & the family will be enjoying a long holiday. This means that all positions of the Friends are up for grabs. We need a Co-ordinator, News letter editor, Secretary, the jobs are not onerous & involve a minimum amount of work to keep things going.

Lou Sbalchiero gave a talk to the Friends last meeting about the Junior Rangers Club, so we will be involved in that next year in that we will provide a meeting of ours in which they will be invited to participate.

FEB... Planting out at Stane Brae

March... Festival Display in Warrandyte.

APRIL ... Pine Tree pull on 4th Hill & Junior Ranger Day.

MAY.....Asparagus weed in Blacks Flat

June (first Weekend) WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, plant up along Everard Drive with W.E.I.

JUNE Weeding ..Timber Reserve

JULY... Propagation.... Pound Bend

August....Onion Weed Pull (what else is there) Gold Memorial

Sept.....Broome Pull & orchid Walk 4th Hill & Junior Rangers

Oct Table & seat Constuction....Pound

Nov.....A.G. M & B.B.Q.

This is a suggested course of events. We have talked with the Rangers & they think this programme is OK. Have you any suggestions? We can change it any time.. What would you like to see be done in the Park.

Public Meeting

Val Polley also talked at the last Friends meeting to tell us of the Public meeting in regards the Management plan for W.S.P. On October 6, a large crowd met at the Mechanics Institute to participate in discussions regarding the W.S.P.

Discussion groups formed around areas of interest, & this was generally productive, however there were a few criticisms of the range of topics for example Weeds were not a topic. Surprisingly the C.F.L has not undertaken a full & comprehensive inventory of what is actually in the Park. Two Foresters were employed to map out the area as to plant associations, but the maps were not detailed enough to delineate the environmentally sensitive areas. No mention of what mammals are here, & no plans to survey them.

Conservation v. recreation

LONG term plans for Warrandyte State Park have sparked debate between conservationist and recreation groups.

The debate centres around what controls the new Warrandyte State Parks Plan, should introduce to the area.

Conservationists say recreational activities, including canoeing, can ruin much of the vegetation in the area, and horses in the park can spread the seeds of introduced plants among the native flora.

But others believe the park should be a recreational area, particularly horse riders, who are running out of areas to ride in.

A meeting between the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, and those interested in having a say in the plan was held in Warrandyte last Monday.

The Community Consultation Officer for the plan, Ms Val Polley, said the meeting was a success.

Over 90 people appeared to discuss and voice concern on issues such as horseriding, canoeing, funding, staffing, zoning, access to the park, and fire protection, Ms Polley said.

The co-ordinator of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park, Mr Glenn Jameson, was concerned over the spread of introduced plants from nearby homes, and the use of horses.

"The friends are basically concerned with the weed invasion," Mr Jameson said.

"We'd like to see some sort of registration of horses, so the people who ride

them come in one day a year and clean up the manure on the tracks.

"We'd also like to see them restricted to one track.

"We'd like to see the Pound (Pound Bend) updated as a recreation area and other areas preserved as conservation areas."

Mr Jameson was also concerned over whether funding for the plan would be ongoing, and if more staff would be introduced to combat the weed problem.

"I think the department of C, F, and L, have failed to come to terms with the problem," he said.

But the secretary of the Wyena Adult Riding Club, Ms Elizabeth Waters, said her group wanted more tracks for horses.

"Our views are that we would like defined riding trails through the park," Ms Waters said.

"We would like a trail that would go through Pound Bend, Fourth Hill, the Common, which then brings us on to Jumping Creek Rd, Yarra Brae, Stane Brae, and Mt Lofty."

The reason for this is the dropping number of safe riding places, Ms Waters said.

"We're taking our life in our hands riding on the roads, and we're not allowed to ride on the footpaths," she said.

Ms Polley said the planners are still seeking community input, and will hold another meeting at the Warrandyte Mechanic's Institute Hall at 8 pm on Thursday, November 17.

For inquiries, ring 651 3166.

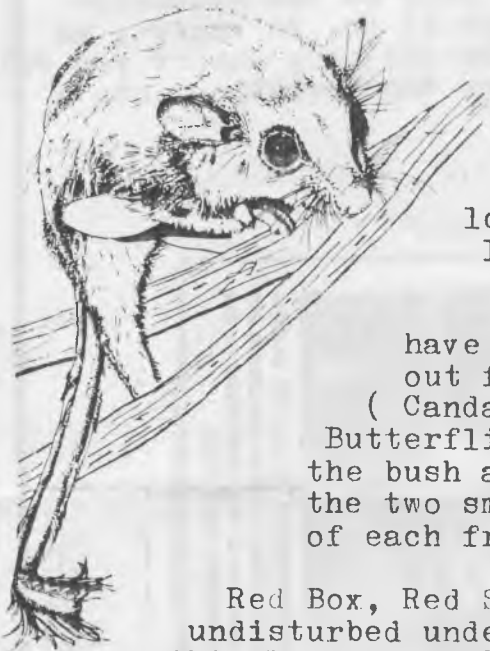


THE Member for Warrandyte, Mr Lou Hill, and the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Ms Joan Kimer, meet one of the inhabitants of the Warrandyte State Park.

Without a full & detailed inventory of what is in the Park how can one begin to draw up a Management plan! Perhaps they have already gathered this material, if so it may be a good idea to produce at the next Public Meeting which will be held at the Mechanics Institute, Warrandyte on Tuesday 18pm. November 17th. Be there, as were quite a few Friends last time. It may be the only chance you will ever have in putting forward something for consideration into a management plan.

EYESHINE

by JOHN REID



This is the first in a number of articles written for us by local naturalist, John Reid. The name Eyeshine comes from the fact that when you are spotlighting nocturnal animals, you can locate them by their eyes reflecting the light back to you.

Now that the sunny days of early Spring have arrived, F.O.W.SP.ians should keep an eye out for the Common Dusky Blue Butterfly (*Candalides hyacinthinus*). The small grey & blue Butterflies of this species should now be flying in the bush around Warrandyte. They can be recognised by the two small dark spots on the edge of the underside of each front wing.

Dry Eucalypt forests with trees such as Red Box, Red Stringybark & Long Leaved Box, & a relatively undisturbed understory, seem to be the favoured habitat of this Butterfly. Such forests are the dominant vegetarian type around Warrandyte State Park, making the area important for the conservation of the Common Dusky Blue.

Anyone who has followed the story of the Eltham Copper Butterfly, will know how important specific caterpillar food plants are for the conservation of Butterflies. In the case of the Common Dusky Blue, the food plants are Dodder Laurels (*Cassytha* spp.). Dodder Laurels are parasitic climbers that form tangled masses of wiry stems on other plants.

The small flat green caterpillars of the Common Dusky Blue rest on the Dodder Laurel stems during the day, but become active after dark when they feed on its younger shoots.

After weeks of feeding the caterpillars reach full size. They then pupate on the stems of the Dodder Laurel, where they remain over Winter, until their emergence as adults, Butterflies in early September.

Don't miss John's articles in the Leader newspaper called Nature watch.



C. consimilis ♂ R



C. consimilis ♀ R



C. consimilis ♂ V

Couldn't get a snap of *Candalides hyacinthinus* so this will have to do.

BIG NEWS

THE BUTTERFLY BALL IS COMING UP...PLEASE DON'T MISS IT....WE NEED ALL THE FRIENDS THERE TO ENSURE ITS SUCCESS AS A NIGHT TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY APPEAL..TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW 8442395

WARRANDYTE FOWSA
Help save the Eltham Copper
the Butterfly Ball



Friday 6th Nov
Mechanics Institute
Yarra St Warrandyte
\$10 a head 844 3140
gum tree - O bush band
plus the platform souls
CHILDREN
FREE
ADMITANCE



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