

July 2006

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/ACN A0024890C

Park Watch Update

By Mike Coupar

A couple of weeks ago I visited two areas of the Park – one a popular and much-visited picnic area, the other lesser known and more remote.

Pound Bend



I am delighted to report that the restoration works around the swimming area at the exit of the tunnel have been completed and they look great.

The asphalt entrance path from the car park provides quite a contrast to visitors. On the right is the large fenced area which has received ongoing revegetation works over many years and has regenerated well. The left hand side of the track is more open with a ground cover of weedy grasses except in one section where, several years ago, FOWSP planted a number of rare local Banksias as well as some native grasses.

It occurred to me that this would make a great interpretive example illustrating a weedy site alongside a site where weed control has

been maintained. The difference is quite dramatic.

At the top car park looking over the river the fencing is now complete and warning sign of the life-threatening dangers of the river has been erected.



Stane Brae

It is many years since I have been to Stane Brae, sandwiched between Jumping Creek Reserve and Yarra Brae. I was impressed by the enormous area of planting that has been carried out over the last few years. Most of it seems to be doing very well. It was interesting to note that some shrubs, notably Myrtle Wattle Hop Goodenia and Pomaderris had been grazed by wallabies/roos that have reached down into the guards. This pruning has actually helped the plants, resulting in healthy bushy shrubs.

I also noted that some trees from much older plantings have well and truly outgrown their guards which will need to be cut for removal.

Location, location, location. The old dairy site is one of the best and it could be a resource for social/education events for staff and FOWSP, but it does need attention and securing. Perhaps FOWSP and Park Staff could have a combined working bee sometime soon.

Bush Backyard

Native Plants for Free

By Pat Coupar

I was meandering around our garden the other day and noticed there was a large bare area on a bank where I had removed some rather aggressive native, but not local, Flax-lilies. What could I put there instead? Grasses would be good, I wondered if the FOWSP nursery had any in stock. Then as I continued my tour I discovered a number of tiny Tussock Grass seedlings growing in the damp soil at the bottom of the garden. Perfect. I potted them up for planting into the bank a little later in early spring.

Over the years I have done the same with other indigenous plants that have self-seeded in my garden. Most years Weeping Grass has a massive germination beside an earth track, while Daisy-bush, Bulbine Lilies and even Correas have



popped up – not always where I want them mind you!

This year, for the first time, I have had Sword-sedge seedlings appear around a parent plant.

I am particularly delighted with these as they are almost impossible to grow from seed.

If you have an indigenous garden why not take a wander head down, of course, and see what you can find.

The Short-beaked Echidna

By Steven Katsineris

When I was a boy my family lived in Warrane, a suburb on Hobart's Eastern Shore. Behind our back yard was an area of bush, a creek and a golf course. Beyond them was more bush, many wooded hills with some fire trails and plenty of wildlife. It was a wonderful place to have close by whilst growing up. I would often go off by myself or with our dog walking through this varied woodland exploring.

On these walks I'd frequently see Echidnas wandering about in the open bush.

Every so often we would find an Echidna in our yard too, to the amusement of family and friends. But because our house was on the corner of a street and a busy main road, I was always afraid they would go on the road and get killed. So after everyone had had a good look at it, I'd get a spade and dig it up out of the ground, put it into a bucket and take it back up into the hills and let it go in the more remote bush.

When I got older and went away to various parts of Tasmania camping and bushwalking I'd also regularly come across Echidnas in a diversity of habitats.

Later when I had a family of my own and we were living at Dodges Ferry, a small seaside town on the southeast coast of Tasmania, we would commonly find Echidnas foraging in our large garden or the surrounding neighborhood, to the sheer delight of the children.

Since moving to Hurstbridge, we have also had Echidnas visit our garden on a fairly regular basis and have seen them wandering around on the nature strip or in the bush opposite our house. Even after all these years the children are still excited when another Echidna is found in the yard. Our youngest daughter, Lara sighted the



most recent one we had here and she rushed into the house eager to tell us about her discovery. This small Echidna stayed for a few days before moving on and was last sighted feeding on ants on the nature strip.

What's happening in your backyard this month?

Contributions can either be dropped into the editor at 143 Brackenbury St, Warrandyte or via email at ian.coupar@vcp.monash.edu.au

People in Plants

By Shelagh Morton

Brunonia australis Blue Pincushion

The Age of Enlightenment was a period of dramatic expansion in knowledge and science resulting in the establishment of scientific societies which developed the discovery and classification of new botanical species.

Robert Brown (1773-1858) was born in this era and contributed enormously to the increasing bank of knowledge of natural science.

Sir Joseph Banks promoted a scientific expedition to New Holland, led by Matthew Flinders, with Robert Brown on board the 'Investigator' as naturalist.

During these four years he described 2200 species of which over 1700 were new, as were 140 genera. He was the first botanist to visit Port Philip and despite the end of the flowering season 96 plant species, including 29 new to science were seen, including the orchid now called parsons bands (*Erochilus cucullatus*) elegantly drawn by Ferdinand Bauer.

When Brown first found *Brunonia* (latinized version of his name) he called it *Alstonia* after the Scottish botanist Charles Alston, but used that name for another plant. He collected it at Port Dalrymple in Tasmania and Port Philip in 1804.

We find evidence of the greatest British botanist in many of the plants in our locality - *Erograstis brownii*, *Acacia brownii*, *Carex*



brownii and one of the native docks *Rumex brownii*.

On board the 'Investigator' were Ferdinand Bauer and Peter Good, of whom you will hear more later.

Snippets

The Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater have announced the another six captive bred Helmeted Honeyeaters were released into the wild at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve in April this year. This is in addition to the seven that were released into the same area back in February. These releases as well as the ones that have occurred at Tonimbuk now means that all available birds from the captive breeding program at Healesville Sanctuary (not including breeding stock) are all in the wild. Hopefully these breeders will add many more young next season so that they too can be released into the wild.

Source: Friends of Helmeted Honeyeater Newsletter Winter 2006



TAG Morning at Spadonis

By Pat Coupar

On the first Thursday in June the TAG (Thursday Activity Group) team headed out to Spadonis Reserve to plant back several boxes of Yering Silver Gums (*Eucalyptus crenulata*). This was to be the completion of Stage 1 of a long term project to re-establish this rare and endangered tree in its natural environment at Spadonis Reserve.

Spadonis Nature Conservation Reserve is located at Yering on the north side of Olinda Creek at its confluence. It has been under the management of Warrandyte State Park since 2001. According to botanist and local expert, ranger Cam Beardsell, the Reserve supports one of the few relatively intact stands of floodplain riparian woodland remaining along the Yarra.

Last year, under the Parks Victoria Volunteer Grants Program FOWSP received money for a population recovery program of the Yering Silver Gum at Spadonis Reserve. The project began 11

months ago with the collection of seeds from the existing Silver Gums. These were successfully propagated at the nursery and were ready for planting in June.

Contractors had carried out weed control in the area prior to the planting. Around a dozen people car pooled from the depot to drive out to the Reserve. Entry was via a 1600 hectare cattle property through several paddocks.

The morning had been organized by rangers Cam Beardsell and Jodie Godfrey who directed the TAG team on the planting and guarding. In all 100 healthy 20-30cm tall plants were put in the ground by the eager volunteers. Also planted were a blue form of Tussock Grass (*Poa labillarderei*), Poison Rice Flower (*Pimelea pauciflora*) and Plum-leaf Pomaderris (*Pomaderris prunifolia*).

Stage 2 will involve fencing an area of about one hectare of the paddock for further planting.



Ranger Cam Beardsell collecting seed from an old original Yering Silver Gum



Flower buds of Yering Silver Gum

Tip of the Month

Cut out Cotoneasters and Replace with Indigees

Cotoneaster is an introduced evergreen shrub or small tree from China. It was once a popular ornamental garden plant, but has become an invasive weed of our bushlands and roadsides. It is extremely hardy and will tolerate a range of conditions. Mature plants produce masses of red berries that attract a range of birds that inevitably spread this weed in their droppings.

This plant can be removed by cutting all trunks/stems at their base and dabbing with neat Roundup or larger trees can be drilled and filled. Seedlings can be hand pulled.

Replacement species include a variety of *Pomaderris* species or *Coprosma quadrifida* (Prickly Currant-bush).



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.

PLEASE NOTE

The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday. Please note new opening times for Thursdays 9.30am to 12.30pm and the first Sunday of each month 2.00pm to 400pm.

New Prices

Members 80 cents

Nonmembers \$1.20

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.



Sunday Walks 2006

Held on the first Sunday of each month. Meet at 10.15 am. Bring a water bottle and snack to eat on the walk if you wish. Wear walking shoes and clothing appropriate to the weather. Walks will last approximately 2 hours. Join us after the walk for a BYO lunch (BBQ available) at 'the Folly' at Warrandyte State Park Rangers Depot, Pound Bend. Hot and cold drinks provided.

Walks are FREE. Bookings are ESSENTIAL. For more information contact Jeanette 9840 9129

August 6th. Discover Hillcrest. Cecily Falkingham, Meet at Lisbeth Ave (at Hillcrest sign), Donvale (Mel ref 48 K5)

September 3rd. Wattles and Wildflowers. Glen Jameson. Meet at Park gate, Tunnel St, Warrandyte (Mel ref 35 F2)

October 1st. Reptile Awareness Display. The Snake handler Team. Meet at Rangers depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Mel ref 23 C10)

Thursday Walks 2006

Held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1.00pm. Meet at the nursery, Pound Bend Rangers depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melways 23 C10). Walks will last approximately 2 hours.

FOWSP Committee 2006

Joan Broadberry	9846 1218	Treasurer
Pat Coupar	9844 1650	Newsletter Editor
Peter Curry	9844 0958	
Geoff Speedy	9437 0894	
Lee Speedy	9437 0894	Membership Secretary
Mike Coupar	9844 1650	
Karen Reynolds	9712 0797	Minutes Secretary
Martin Hiley	9844 4547	
Artur Muchow	0415383328	
Winsome Coutts		
Michelle Hanslow	0402251577	

Nursery Manager 0408317327

Park Office 9844 2659

Wildlife Rescue

Julie Pryor 9722 1117

Market

Marie Krause 9712 0498

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2006

The seminars are FREE

Held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, no bookings required

Time: at 7.30pm



Please Note: NEW VENUE: South Warrandyte Hall, 66-68 Hall Rd, Sth Warrandyte (Mel ref. 35 J8)

August 2 nd	'Bell Miner and eucalypt dieback'
September 6 th	'Wetlands of the Yarra Catchment'
October 4 th	'Koorie landscapes'
November 1 st	'Indigenous Story'
December 6 th	'Bush Heritage Fund'

Amanda Dare
Dylan Osler
Beth Gott
Mick Woiwod
Paul Foreman

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

The activities will take place on the first Thursday of the month from 10.00am to 12md. Either meet at the depot or on site.

So if you are interested in learning some vegetation management skills and helping improve some special sites in the Park just tag along with the Thursday Activity Group (TAG).

TAG dates: Thursday August 3rd **Woodies at Timber Reserve.** Meet at the depot at 10.00am
Thursday September 7th **Planting at Whipstick Gully.** Meet at the depot at 10.00am

Deadline for August newsletter is July 30th

Almost Lost in The Wilderness.

Steven Katsineris

I had been bush walking all day throughout the mountains and gullies of the Central Highlands of Tasmania. It was late afternoon and I was tired as I wandered back along the tracks towards the hut where I was camping. The sun was setting and the light was getting dimmer, but I knew this area so well and as I didn't have far to go, I wasn't concerned at all.



I continued to walk down the track looking out for the turn I knew veered off to the left. After a while I stopped as I had the feeling I'd come too far and had somehow missed the fork. But I couldn't understand how. I thought about it for a moment and being convinced that I could not have missed the turn, I walked on in the same direction looking out for the junction. A few

minutes later I stopped again, sure that I had come a long way past the left turning track.

It was getting dark and while I was calm, I was getting anxious, as I just could not understand how this could occur in an area I been through so many times before. I was confident I was on the right track and yet the turn wasn't there. I started to contemplate that I would have to give up soon and spend a cold, uncomfortable and hungry night in a hollow log. I walked back up the track the way I had come, looking around, until I was positive this track was familiar and in the fading light walked back down the track.

It was now so dark that I couldn't see very clearly, but relied more on my sense of feeling as to where the turn should be. I stopped at a point next to a large log lying alongside the track and thought this is the place where the other track should be. I climbed up on the log and on the other side of it I could just see the track. I realised this tree had fallen exactly across the spot where the two tracks separated.

I jumped to the ground and in the faint evening light I slowly walked along the track and in about half an hour got to the hut. Despite knowing this wild region so well, it only took a small obstacle and a minor change in the situation, to make me doubt my sound knowledge of the place and dent my confidence. It also made me reflect on how easily you can get into trouble in the wilderness, regardless of experience and skills.

Market Volunteers

A big thank you to the following people who volunteered their time on the FOWSP trailer at the June Warrandyte market: Ray Kruger, Antje Bauer, Jan Smidts, Mark and Margaret Hassell, Marie and Wolfgang and Marie Krause

The trailer was delivered by Geoff Speedy and returned by Wolfgang Krause.

Anyone who would like to be rostered on to help with the trailer, even for just one hour, can contact Marie Krause on 9712 0498. New members especially welcome - no previous experience necessary.



Two new brochures launched last month at Jumping Creek Reserve. Available from the nursery or the FOWSP trailer at the monthly Warrandyte market.



On a Pristine Shore

Gulls screech and wheel,
dolphins rise and fall on the incoming waves,
as I walk along the water's edge
of a pristine shore in the early light of day

Sea mist lies where sand and water meet,
and drifts in the morning haze.
My senses are heightened as I tread the unmarked sand,
and feel the wetness of the mist upon my face.

I'm the lone figure on the beach for miles on either side.
I am an explorer discovering this isolated place,
seeing it for the very first time, unspoiled,
not blemished by another's prints.

As I walk, each foot breaks the surface of the smooth clean
sand,
and my trail stretched out behind me.
I continue in my solitude
until I reach the distant cliffs.

Now the sun has risen, the mist has gone,
the tide is coming in and when I turn to retrace my steps,
the sea has cleansed the sand of my footprints.
Once more, I'm the lone walker on a pristine shore,
where gulls screech and wheel,
and dolphins rise and fall.

Alwynne Buntine



"I SPY"

By B.G



Albino Also

The results of the recent kangaroo survey at Stane Brae were, in short: 87 kangaroos sighted, including one teenage albino kangaroo accompanied by its grey mother.

Julie's Journey

One of our members, Julie Bishop, has safely returned from a trip to Morocco. Her passport being stolen from her room, she had to spend an extra nine days away from Australia, but this led to a four day stay in Paris. Julie was also witness to a fracas on the plane in which she was travelling. So, travel is not all 'beer and skittles'.

Wonderful Workers

At the mid-June Thursday, over 35 people turned up at the depot, pricking out seedlings, shifting gravel and performing a multitude of tasks.

Sheryl Nye and son Scott were also present as volunteers pricking out *Poa morrissii*. Scott recently had his second art exhibition during May in the atrium of the Warrandyte Civic Centre.

'Planting' People

Among the many visiting the nursery to acquire plants were Brooke and son Darcy. They were obtaining a few extra plants, grasses etc. to fulfil an original plant order.

Ian Sharp also visited for plants, and Amanda Jenkin and daughter were also obtaining plants for their Warrandyte garden.

Rangers in Reserve

At least ten people turned up at a recent Spadonis Reserve planting activity led by rangers Cam Beardsell and Jodie Godfrey.

Access was through private property on to Crown Land along the river (where the Olinda Creek meets the Yarra).

Two other people turned up at the actual Reserve, but missed the activity. Which all goes to show it pays to go to the specific meeting point or check where the actual activity is going to take place.

Cathy at Katherine

And why wasn't Cathy Willis and her walking group allowed into the Nitmilluk-Jatbula trail in

the Katherine Gorge area? Because someone was shooting buffalo and crocs from the air! Were they worried about mistaken identity?

Melanie's Moment

We hope to bring you a short note from Melanie's study research notes related to insects in the Warrandyte area.

TV Truth

Accidentally heard on one TV panel show. "There us sufficient in the world for mans need, but not for mans greed." Attributed to Ghandi.

Chipping for Cancer

"...independently commissioned tests show that many imported wood panel products sold every day in Australia contain dangerous levels of the suspected carcinogen formaldehyde. Seven of 16 imported panels failed Australian Standards outright ... including flat pack kitchens sold by prominent retailers such as Bunnings."

But Australian manufacturers must conform to the Australian Standards and so find it hard to compete.

Is it a matter of our old forests being woodchipped, sold overseas, then coming back to us impregnated with up to 2.24 times the Australian Standard of formaldehyde (which is classified as a Class 1 carcinogen).

Source: *CSIRO Ecos*, April-May 2006, page 5.

Employee Effort

Ringling Manningham Council for specific details of the July 2nd Fungi Brochure Launch and BBQ meant talking to a very helpful employee who chased up relevant information. Thanks Kay Toussaint.

Names Neuter

"Barlow and most authorities originally had considered *Amyema* taken from the classical Greek, to be neuter. However, it was later discovered that the European botanist P Van Tieghem had constructed his word *Amyema* from two Greek roots and had intended it to be feminine. He apparently had no knowledge of the existing word *Amyema* nor its gender." "The National Herbarium Canberra ... uses the feminine gender ... the Queensland Herbarium adhering to the neuter." Well now I Spy is really confused.

Source: *Australian Plants*, Vol 23, September 2005, page 108.



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Straw-necked Ibis
(Threskiornis spinicollis)

The literal translation of the scientific name of this Ibis is “spiny-necked sacred-bird” This is a reference is to the African Sacred Ibis, a close relative of our own, that was worshipped by ancient Egyptians. Live birds were kept in temples and when they died were mummified and kept in an animal necropolis.
Look out for Straw-necked Ibis around Warrandyte in paddocks during winter where they probe the soft soil for insects such as caterpillars, and beetle larvae.

FOWSP Membership Form

Name

Address

.....

Tel. no.

Email.....

Special Interest:.....

Membership \$20
Concession \$10

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