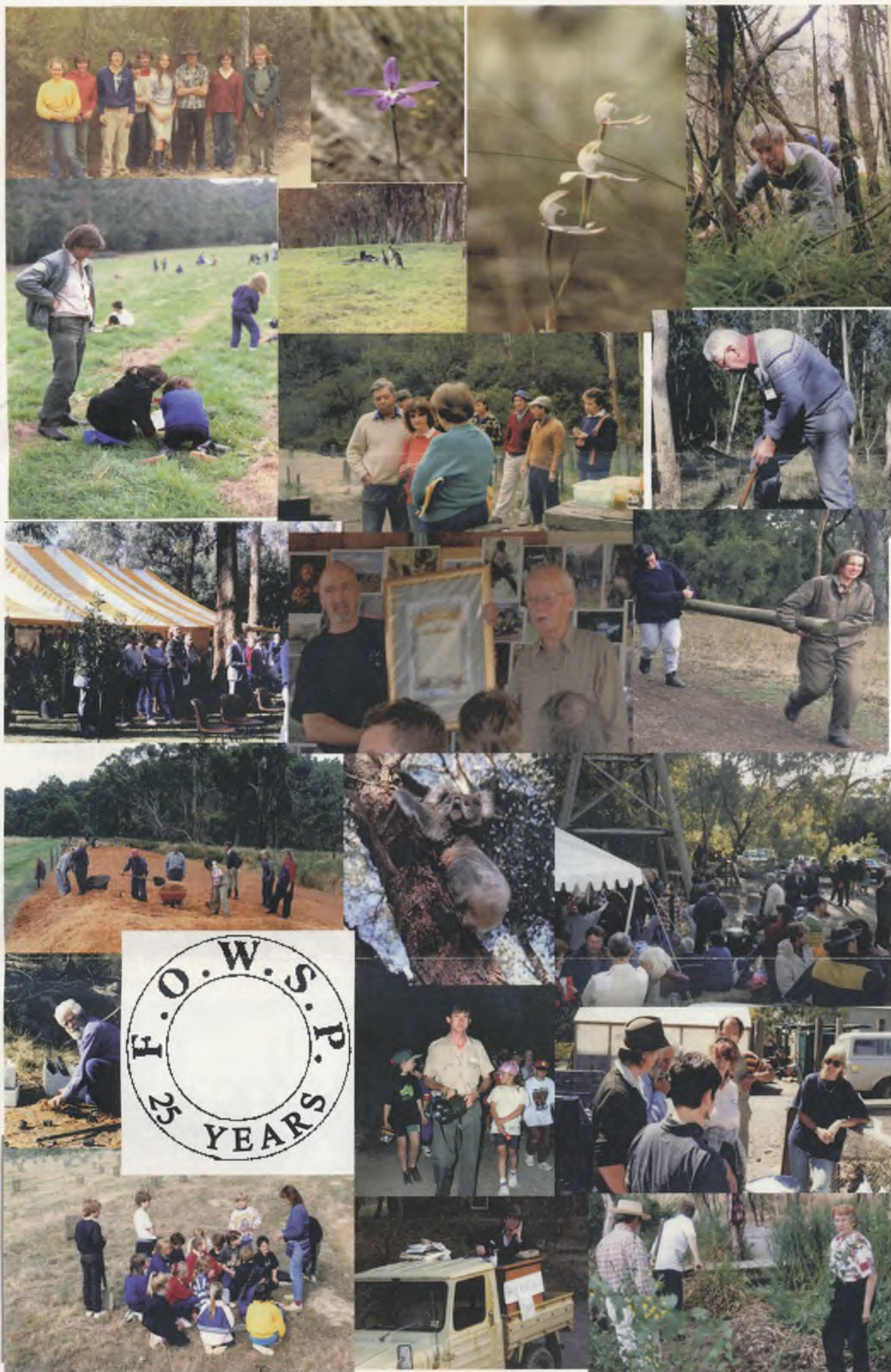




October 2007

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Special 25th Anniversary Edition

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

Happy Birthday FOWSP

By Val Polley

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) turned 25 in April. This iconic group has now been part of the Warrandyte landscape for 25 years - a major achievement and one worthy of celebration by the entire community.

How and why did it come about? The original proposal for a State Park in Warrandyte was really quite modest and the initial declaration incorporated only Pound Bend, Jumping Creek and Black Flat public reserves. However gradually the northern river frontage, balance of Jumping Creek, the Common, Timber Reserve and Fourth Hill were soon included and by 1981 the park began to take shape.

With the proposed addition of the Koornong and eastern section of Pound Bend however, it became obvious there was a great deal of work to be done in the various new areas, many of which were weed infested and contained areas where rubbish dumping had taken place over decades. As a result the Warrandyte Environment League (WEL), ranger Kris Reinertsen and some local residents, inspired by the efforts of the Friends groups in the Organ Pipes and Wilsons Promontory National Parks, decided to start a similar 'hands on' group for the Warrandyte State Park.

At a meeting held on April 6, 1982 Kris Reinertsen outlined his plans for the Warrandyte State Park and it was agreed that a new group, the Friends of Warrandyte State Park would be formed. Two coordinators were appointed for the

new group and the very first FOWSP working bee was planned for Fourth Hill later that same month. Things were much more gung ho in those early days and lots of tasks were undertaken then that are now not permissible for volunteers and I suspect the first working bee, designed to remove pine trees that had seeded out into the bush from the primary school pine plantation, was probably one of those. It was strenuous work. There were people with chain saws cutting down pine trees (some quite large). These were then pulled to collection points, loaded onto trailers and taken to unwanted tracks where, laid across the bare soil, they prevented access and erosion, trapped sediment and encouraged regrowth. At the end of the day there were many tired Friends and a tremendous sense of achievement and pride. But FOWSP was on its way!

Despite some major efforts in clearing litter and weed removal, numbers at working bees steadily declined until a crisis point was reached. Then - dramatically - all Friends received a phone



call from Mike Duff inviting them to an emergency meeting at his home in Castle Road. A small but dedicated group turned up (including me) and heard the news that the Friends group was in danger of collapse. The meeting decided that FOWSP must keep going. A timetable of working bees was set so people could plan ahead, the meetings were advertised in the *Diary* and other newspapers and once again FOWSP began to prosper.

This was a time when the planned work could be hard but varied and also introduced Friends to a variety of areas across the Park. Fourteen truckloads of rubbish were taken out of the Common on one Sunday. One session was spent stabilising a steep, cleared area known as The Wall with mats and brush. Rubbish and rubble were cleared from Geraghty's Mine on Fourth Hill, followed by clearing out the air shaft from the top of Fourth Hill. This entailed lowering volunteers down the shaft on ropes.

Then local resident ranger Glen Jameson assumed coordination of the group, ably assisted by Peter Van Dijk. Under their capable leadership FOWSP grew in numbers and enlarged its scope. My task was the new monthly newsletter for the communication of reports, information, times and dates. This was when the Greenhood Orchid logo and letterhead was devised. No computer then, everything was typed on my trusty portable, then cut, pasted and photocopied.

When Glen took off on a Round Australia trip with his family it was Margaret Burke and husband Ian who stepped up to coordinate the group, together with a dedicated and enthusiastic committee. Margaret's people skills and educative, collaborative approach combined with Ian's philosophical newsletter editorials and apt quotations saw the groundswell to unprecedented membership numbers and support. The focus of work changed too, becoming more centred on Thursday meetings with an emphasis on nursery work, education, building the small, pavilion-like Folly and establishing Frogland.

The early 1990s saw another change in coordinators for FOWSP with Pat and Mike Coupar. These long-term members, newsletter contributors and workers took over the role together, with a broad based, committed committee. During their term of more than a decade, FOWSP has continued to strengthen, grow and prosper with enormous benefits to both the park and the wider area. The Thursday program has continued to flourish as a result of very hard work and a dedicated nursery manager (and despite the drought). Plants are grown to revegetate and rare species are planted back in the bush to prevent extinction.

FOWSP remains a presence at markets and festivals with an excellent purpose-built trailer. It has published books (Discover Warrandyte), brochures, postcards and planting guides to educate and inform and enjoys a reputation for expertise, enthusiasm and significant and meaningful work.

Trying to encapsulate 25 years of achievements of FOWSP in a few sentences is hugely difficult. The impact of its activities in Warrandyte State Park over the years has been immeasurable. There have been innumerable working bees covering an enormous range of activities from construction to clearing, weed and rubbish removal, preparation and planting, exclusion fencing, fauna counts and so forth. Then there is the political lobbying where FOWSP has petitioned governments and councils over issues such as the inclusion of Mt Lofty into the park, retention of the depot, the need for community education officers, river management and a plethora of other issues.

FOWSP has been extremely successful in obtaining additional funding for the Park through grants for a wide variety of projects, including the nursery, polyhouses, rabbit exclusion fencing, nest boxes, the market trailer and many more. However it is with the development of the nursery and its work in seed collection, propagation, planting out and plant sales where I believe FOWSP's influence can be said to have spread far beyond the confines of the park itself. Twenty five years ago it was difficult to find any information on indigenous plants let alone buy them. Now, through its efforts, FOWSP has ensured the park has plants aplenty to revegetate areas with specialised, appropriate species.

So what of the future and the next 25 years for FOWSP? There have been many challenges over recent years but now the impact of the latest severe drought is being felt with gloomy forecasts of climate change and other detrimental outcomes. Dealing with new environmental problems will no doubt present new challenges for all environment groups. There has been the formation of other specialised groups such as the Osborne Peninsula Landcare Group with Margaret Burke at the helm, the Anderson Creek Catchment Group and the Warrandyte Climate Action Group. But the Warrandyte State Park will continue to provide the major focus for FOWSP, especially the preservation and protection of its fauna and flora while working alongside the staff and the local community to ensure the very best outcomes.

Edited from an article first published in the Warrandyte Diary March 2007

Reflections

By Pat Coupar

Mike and I joined the Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) in the mid-1980's. At that time we were in the process of moving from Ringwood North to Warrandyte, although we had visited the State Park on many occasions and become familiar with the various reserves, plants and animals. What attracted us initially were the beautiful swimming spots along the river.

The very first working bee we attended was at the remote Stane Brae beach (between Jumping Creek Reserve and Yarra Brae) where we planted trees and shrubs. Other early memories include witnessing the release of several koalas that were being relocated from French Island, into Pound Bend Reserve.

Not long after we joined the group, a weekly propagation morning was started at the ranger's depot. The nursery then consisted of a large ramshackled shade house with a sagging roof. It has been great to watch the nursery expand (with the assistance from grant money) over the years – new polyhouses, a renovated shadehouse and large hardening off areas. Today the nursery has become a major focus for our group.

Social activities were high on the agenda during 1990's. Mike and I presented several slides shows featuring the local plants and animals. These were held in the old Skip Moyle Hut (now demolished) hidden away deep in the bushland of Black Flat Reserve. There was no electricity so Rangers set up a generator to power the lights and projector and a roaring open fire inside the hut added to the atmosphere.

Then there were the FOWSP camps. One of the biggest was at Wilson's Promontory National Park, where WSP ranger, Steve Anderson, was on secondment. Unforgettable, was the race to reach the summit of Mount Oberon before sunset. From the top of the mountain we watched the sun sink into the ocean while sipping port and eating gourmet cheese and biscuits.

For Mike and I the production of the FOWSP book 'Discover Warrandyte' in 1993 was a huge highlight. We were involved from the beginning, firstly obtaining sponsors and then coordinating various writers and finally editing the book. It was an ambitious project, several years in the making. How could we forget the day of the launch. An hour before the official time of the launch at the Warrandyte community centre we were still

waiting for the final product. Stress levels were high, but the book arrived hot off the press just in time for the speeches and celebration!

For me personally, one of the greatest achievements was the flora survey of the whole State Park undertaken over 10 years with Ranger, David Van Bockel and culminating in a two volume colour 'thesis' on the 'Flora of Warrandyte'.

There have been a number of issues arising over the years that FOWSP has felt strongly enough to voice their concern. Among these are the closure of the mines, closure of the rangers office and relocation of the Park depot to Westerfolds Park and, our most public protest - the demolition of the rangers houses.

We regret one missed opportunity, when conservation groups could not raise quite enough money to buy the Stane Brae block of land, in the era of the Joan Kirner government.

At the end of the year, after over a decade, Mike and I will be resigning from the FOWSP committee and I will give up my position of newsletter editor. It is time to move on and we are entering a new and exciting era of our lives. We will continue as FOWSP members and still take an avid interest in the future of what has become one of the largest and most respected 'Friends' groups in the State.



**Celebrating the sunset on the top of
Mt Oberon,
Wilson's Promontory National Park
April 1994**

Greenies & Shed Men

By Margaret Burke

At the end of 1986 my late husband Ian and I took over co-ordinating the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. A daunting task as there was almost no money in the bank account and a long list of people to send out monthly newsletters. We calculated we had enough money to post out two editions and we had commitments to send out for the whole year. Lots of important 'complementary' members and about 12 paid up ones – these, the dedicated few who came to every working bee. Seemed we needed more paid members!

So the Warrandyte Market became a forum not only to educate the locals, but to sell ourselves and drum up members to continue and expand our activities. The Rangers suggested us taking over the rudimentary Nursery facility. At that time Ian Roche was appointed as Ranger in Charge and he had a whole range of vital projects we could support. A proactive supporter of the 'friends' movement, 'Mick' Roche endorsed the Nursery project and promoting the idea of plant propagation activities gave us a super abundance of enthusiastic members. A chat with these decided us on Thursdays as the most convenient day for Nursery activities and we fell into weekly nursery days as there was so much to do. Working Bees on 'vital projects' were to be Sundays monthly and varied.

As we developed our program several things became apparent. First that the NSW Northern tableland species, *Eucalyptus nicholii*, which was our principle workers shelter at Nursery was not going to be sufficient protection on inclement days. And scorched, damp or frozen members,

was not a way to develop a happy and loyal group of volunteers. Another was that the structure of the Nursery was in a pretty dilapidated state.

The Nursery was operating using the old Polyhouse and the core of the shade-house. We



had pots and potting mix and wonderful workers. The 'nicholii' did shade us but there was nowhere to have a cuppa, lunch, a talk or a social function. The community aspect of the group and a need for social occasions demanded a sanctuary. So we decided the 'folly' of building our own space was imperative.

Our workforce was mostly women for the Nursery activities. Many of these women had men at home sheltering in their sheds and doing the mysterious things which men do in sheds. What we needed was a skilled building force – to keep the Nursery from falling down and to create that other 'folly' – our 'group space'.

So began the process of women bringing husbands, or the Market stall becoming a rallying place for Warrandyte Shed Men to come along to sniff out the prospect of an interesting and co-operative ways to share their skills. The FOWSP Shed Men became a sub group of inestimable value and a look around the Nursery and Folly will show what they achieved.

When we began the building or refurbishment projects there were no grants schemes for materials etc. Ian Burke became an expert at inveigling money out of a wide range of sources. Nowadays good projects can be funded from a broad grants scheme.

It is with great fondness I look back at those early experiences. Many Fowspians have become lifelong friends and our achievements really made a difference to Warrandyte's environment.



25 Years to Celebrate

Place: The Folly, Rangers depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte

Date & Time: Saturday November 25th at 12.30pm

Dear Friend, you are a part of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park's first 25 years! We would like you to help us celebrate 25 years of volunteering. Please join us for lunch and festivities.

If you would like to come, it is important that you RSVP by 19th October as we have a lot to organise and need to know how many people are coming. You can reply to P.O. Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or by email to friendsofwsp@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you there. BYO drinks

Supported by Manningham City Council





Memories

By Cathy Willis

A Memorable Committee Meeting

Somewhere back in the 90s I was a committee member for quite a few years. We went through various stages of meetings in the Folly and then at each others houses. I remember one held at my place on a very hot night. The house was stifling so we sat out on the deck. What the issues were at the time has long ago faded.

After the meeting finished people left one by one. Joy Hildebrand was a very positive and lively member who never seemed phased by anything. She stayed on chatting until at least half the committee had left, and then said her farewells. She had parked her little Mini Moke at the bottom of my difficult driveway – if you drive down you have no choice but to reverse up. But Joy decided she could leave more easily.

Those who were left had moved indoors when we vaguely heard some cheery sounding 'yoohoos' from outside. On checking we realised Joy had decided she could manage a 10 point turn to drive out frontwards, but it hadn't quite worked. We raced up the steps to see the Mini Moke delicately balanced with one wheel in the air over the top step. Joy's weight balancing the car was the only thing stopping the Moke tumbling down the 25 steps to the house!

Positive as ever, she called "I think I need a push, but I'd better not get out to help". Fairly obvious! Luckily it was a very light car and we managed to lift/pull her back to solid ground without too much trouble. She breezed off with a wave in classic Joy style.

Bill's Car

Arriving at the depot one Saturday afternoon I unlocked the gate, relocked it behind me and drove in. I had spoken to the rangers and knew they were out all day so didn't expect to see anyone.

There in the carpark was Bill Roxborough's tiny little white car. I mentally scratched my head. He hadn't been there in the morning when the rangers left. I had seen him go home on Thursday. I knew he didn't have a key. And where on earth was he? Nowhere I could see.

I headed down to the folly, and sure enough there he was. Set up with a view of the dam patiently sorting seed with the sieves and jars, labels and envelopes surrounding him. He was very chirpy and while quite pleased for some company and a cup of tea, as usual he was happy

just sitting with a view of the bush and his seed sorting.

So how did the car get in? Bill's walking ability had decreased with age, (he would have been in his 80s by this time). He had been perturbed when he arrived that the gate was locked and nearly turned to go home to the suburbs. But he was a good judge of distance and decided if he got the angle just right he could squeeze the car between the gate and a tree if he got it just right. And he did!

He wasn't sure if he could get the angle right getting out again so we spent a pleasant couple of hour's seed sorting and chatting about life and the universe. We left together via the unlocked gate to go home.

The Caper Spurge Itch

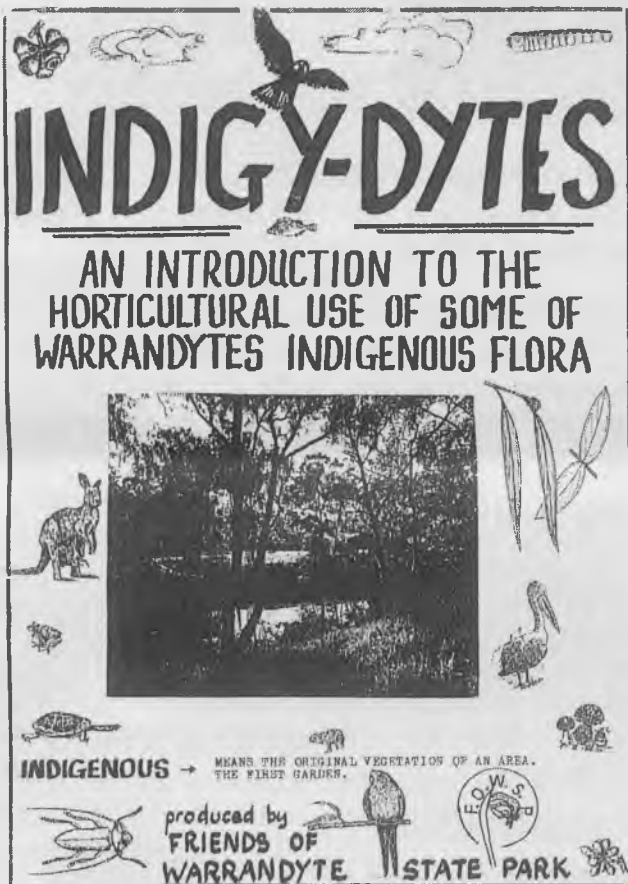
Many years ago, perhaps in a time when not everyone seemed so busy, we used to go out into the Park every Thursday afternoon. This followed a shared lunch in the folly, usually soup. These soups got more elaborate over time and the pressure to create something new became quite intense. But that's another story.

Thursday afternoons were often a walk and a fabulous learning time for me (mainly thanks to Pat). But we also did a lot of work. Collecting old guards, planting and often weeding. This week we had discovered there was a new weed infestation of Caper Spurge (*Euphorbia lathyris*) at the upstream end of the old orchard at Pound Bend. It was hot and many of us weren't very well dressed for outdoor work in the bush, but hey, we were old hands! We trooped down to the site and did at least take gloves, some people even wore them. After we removed the Caper Spurge most of us went for a swim.

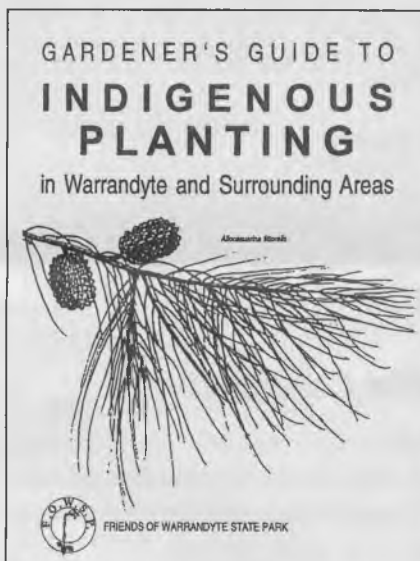
A few hours later I found myself scratching my arms. Didn't think much of it for a while. On examination though I found red blotches all over my forearms, up to about the tee shirt line. By the middle of the night I was scratching my arms raw in my sleep. Luckily we had an emergency tube of cortisone cream in the bathroom cupboard for my daughter's occasional eczema. The itching and redness subsided over the next few days.

I later found out quite a few of us had suffered. Mike Coupar's pharmacological knowledge came in handy and he wrote a subsequent newsletter article on the irritant qualities of the genus. We all complain about OHS these days but I think there's a lesson in there somewhere.

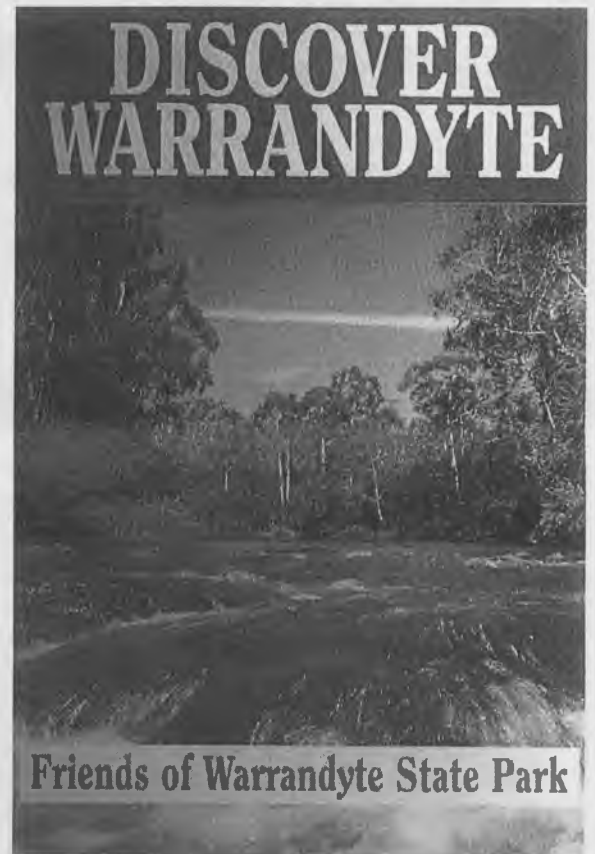
FOWSP Publications



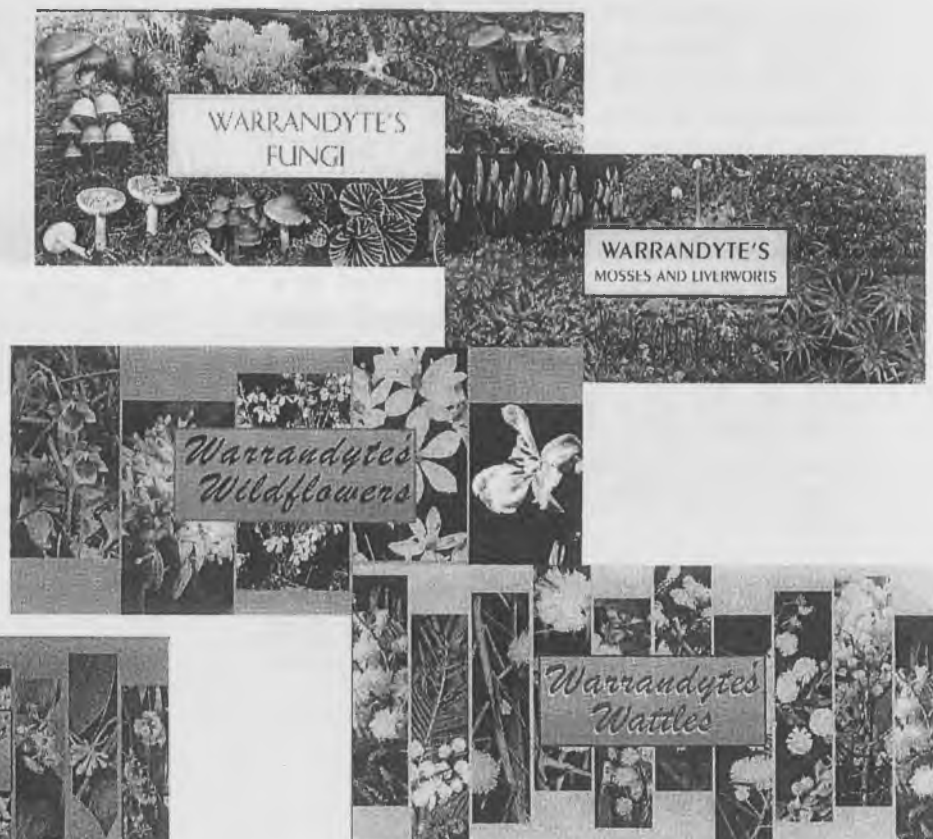
First Planting Guide 1985



Current Planting Guide



Our Book 1993



Colour Brochures

"I SPY"

By B.G

The Past (1996-2001)

Man Proposes, Nature Disposes

The trip to the billabong and wetland areas near Coldstream was postponed. Why? Because recent rains had made the area too wet (Aug 1996).

Singing Seed Sorter

Look in the Folly most Thursday mornings and you will find Bill Roxburgh, sorting seed, occasionally bursting into song (Bill, not the seed) (Dec 1996).

Goddess of Flowers

Flora Anderson arrived Thursday mid-morning having just written four articles for different newsletters – FOWSP, SGAP (Maroondah), a Wonga Park publication and the Understorey for the Upper Yarra and Dandenong Environment Council (March 1997).

Stirling Activity

The FOWSP weekend at Sheeppark Flat was quite stimulating (not including the tent shadow display!). Thanks go to the 4WDrivers who took us to the top of Mt Stirling (Near Mt Buller). Thanks again to Ross Coupar, Neal Tessier and Mike Coupar (May 1997).

Soup and Doughnuts

Jan Tindale's soup on 'scoria' day was delicious – and an orgy of doughnuts was provided by a teenager who wishes to be anonymous. (July 1997).

The Best Get Bugged

How did Andrew Nixon, Ranger-in-Charge get bugged in the middle of the depot paddock? (Oct 1997).

Gnome Liberation Front

15 garden gnomes found by the 'Ranger Swat Team' were handed in to the Warrandyte police. (Oct 1997).



Market Helpers

Stall helpers were Ian Hodson, Diane Williams, Neil Doran, Vivien Honeybone and two-year-old Donata (Circa 19970).

Oryctolagus cuniculus

Glen Jameson is at WSP for 3 months (part time) as 'Ranger in charge of rabbits' (Dec 1997).

Tooth Teacher

Mid-Jan, Colin Bromley (construction and maintenance) was seen teaching a group of 4 summer fire crew how to carry out chainsaw tooth maintenance (Feb 1998).

Michael's Mark

The Hon. Michael Woolridge, Minister for Health and Family Services, candidate for the Federal seat of Casey, informs me that he selects as his favourite plant the Black She-oak, "a graceful looking tree which produces a delightful sound when the wind passes through it". (June 1998).

"South" CFA

Sunday at Jumping Creek a team of 10 led by second lieutenant Nick Read was found 'droughting' (drafting?). The unit was practising the above procedure (Pumping water from the Yarra). It was good to see so many young people involved (Sept 1998).

Auction Activity

Mark Brown, work experience student from Norwood Secondary College worked potting and preparing plants to be auctioned at our AGM. Also helping were 3 visitors – Matt, Cecilia and Ethan LeDuc. (Nov 1998).

Commendable Community Cooperation

Members of the Maroondah Bushwalking Club will be taking Grade 5 students from Ringwood Primary School on a walk through WSP (Nov 1998).

Chase Chapter

Sunday 15th botanist David Cameron led a large group of (mainly) local people around the Chase Reserve. The walk was so steep that two walkers tumbled down the terrain (Dec 1998).

Baby Born

A new Philip-Owen arrived for Ant and Linda on Jan 14th. Congratulations (Feb 1999).

Olive's Omission

Olive W(alters) sowed one complete lot of Acacia (seed) without heat treating first. Boiling water was poured over the sown seeds and it worked a treat! Perhaps even better than the old method (Feb 1999).

Helmeted Honeyeater

The Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater find that "there's now an expectation that volunteers pick up the slack caused by the cuts in the department's services (1999).

Junior Jottings

On Thursday 27th September there were juniors helping in the potting up area – Caitlin Pheasant, Patrick Pheasant and Stacey Wigmore. Later Zoe Murphy, her three children and others walked around inspecting the 'coup' at the depot. (1999).

Stane Brae Stars?

Look out for a possible astronomy activity at Stane Brae in the future. Today Parks Victoria, tomorrow the stars? (May 1999).

Operation Over

Betty Oke (our magnificent market roster organiser) is recovering from an operation very recently. We all wish her well (Nov 1999).

Orchid Organs

Further to last month's comment on the Tiger Orchids – Bruce Fuhrer, wife Irene and a friend were looking at the 'prolificated' patch and the query was raised as to why the orchids were finished so early. Bruce said "I'd be finished too if my organs gave up".

Argentinean Ants

Students from Deakin University are 'doing' research on Argentinean ants and eucalypt dieback at Jumping Creek Reserve (May 2000).

Focaccia Feast

The focaccias baked by Jenni Willis for the minestrone soup lunch on Thursday 24th May were all well savoured. (2000).

Argentina-Australia

Recent visitors to the Thursday activity area were – Ana Maria Molina, Director of Arturo E

Rogonese Botanic Gardens Buenos Aires, Argentina (Ana is a grass taxonomist) and Mareela Sanchez, manager of 'Living Collection'. Mareela is an orchid taxonomist. They were here on work experience (May 2001).

Spring Surprise

More than a dozen people were led on a 'full of surprises' walk around One Tree Hill Reserve by botanist Cam Beardsell. Truly a rare treat. Cathy Willis and the nursery manager (JR) were assisted by two park staff to ensure that a welcome 'late lunch' with tea and coffee was arranged. All this on; the first day of spring (Sept 2001).

The Present

Ranger Risks

Featured in a TV segment on Channel 2 at 7.55 pm, August 1st 2007 was Jodie Godfrey. In full uniform Jodie was outside the Astor Theatre (St Kilda) actively helping and supporting the theme of the film "The Thin Green Line".

All profits raised by the showing are going to support families of Rangers killed in the line of duty in various Parks around the world.

See www.thingreenline.info

Stored Seed Sorting

A concerted effort is being made on sorting our seed stock. Surrounded by many jars, four members started with 'A' and found 18 jars of Acacia seed from various provenances.

Wombat Wreckage

In July the outside female toilet was severely damaged. It is thought that the culprit wombat was a 'boy'.

Plant People

Recently, accompanied by his mother, Patrick O'Brien (3-years old) was at the nursery acquiring plants. Bob Hodges from Wonga Park picked up 50 tubes of seedlings. Many others were also there looking, enquiring and acquiring plants.

Next Month look out for I-Spy's predictions for the future.



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Nodding Greenhood

(Pterostylis nutans)

The Nodding Greenhood Orchid is the flower featured on the FOWSP Logo.
The orchid grows in large colonies, sometimes containing hundreds of individuals.
Starting out as a rosette of ground-hugging leaves, the orchid flowers prolifically in late
winter and early spring.

Nodding Greenhood Orchids are still relatively common in Warrandyte, surviving in
shady, sheltered sites.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Tel. no.

Email.....

Membership \$20

Concession \$10

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

FOWSP Make the Headlines

March 1987

State won't buy wildlife haven

THE State Government will not buy 119 hectares of land in Wonga Park because the Conservation Ministry does not have the money.

Lillydale Council and the Wonga Park and District Residents Association had asked the Government to buy the land,

which is part of Stan Brae.

The association and council had asked the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mr Joan Kirner, to buy the lot to add to the existing Warrandyte State Park.

Mrs Kirner has told the council the land cannot be bought because of its high cost and because

the ministry has more urgent priorities.

Previously, the residents and council had sought to stop subdivision of the 160 hectare property, but the Planning Ministry approved a revocation order allowing it to be subdivided into 10 lots, the largest of which is the 119 hectare lot.

Lillydale Shire Presi-

dent, Cr Len Cox, said he would personally invite Mrs Kirner to meet the shire and residents and look at a way to buy the land.

Stan Brae is home to about 100 eastern grey kangaroos, swamp wallabies, sugar gliders, ring-tail possums and 100 different species of birds, including a pair of nesting wedgetail eagles.

Aug 1995

A PEACEFUL demonstration to save three rangers' houses from demolition at Pound Bend Reserve, Warrandyte, turned ugly last Thursday when one protestor was punched in the face and a number of people narrowly avoided being hit by contractors' trucks.

Despite the protestors' attempts however, one house was demolished and another had its roof removed after police escorted protestors off the site.

Mt Lofty secured

Sept 1997

By JENI WILLIS

At long last the champagne has been taken off ice. After 20 years of campaigning, Mt Lofty was finally made part of Warrandyte State Park when the National Parks (Amendment) Act was passed through parliament earlier this year.

Local residents, politicians and environmentalists celebrated the safeguarding of the area with a champagne barbeque lunch provided by Friends of Warrandyte State Park.

The celebrations took place on the riverbank at Mt Lofty one Sunday last month.

The 88 acre site in Wonga Park contains the only remaining natural billabong in the area, now that the adjoining billabongs have been bulldozed to make way for a golf course. It is home to some precious and rare wetland vegetation.

Originally the site was acquired by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to be used in the Yarra Brae reservoir project, but that never eventuated. In the late 1970s it

was decided the land would be sold off. This was halted by action taken by local residents.

Over the next 20 years, many people campaigned for Mt Lofty to officially become part of Warrandyte State Park, especially after the area was included in the park's management plan.

Mike Coupar, from Friends of Warrandyte State Park, welcomed more than 60 people to the celebration. He then introduced speakers Flora Anderson, longtime campaigner for Mt Lofty; Wendy Smith, MLA for Silvan; and Andy Nixon, ranger-in-charge, who unveiled a Warrandyte State Park sign.

Those who toasted Mt Lofty's safety included members of Friends of Warrandyte State Park; Sheryl Garbutt, shadow minister for Environment and Conservation; Friends of Mt. Lofty, Kirinari Kayak Club, Wonga Park Environment Group, Bend of Isles Conservation Association, local residents and past and present park rangers.

What's F.O.W.P.?

March 1982

The Warrandyte Environment League, together with some local residents, is forming a "Friends of the Warrandyte State Park" (F.O.W.P.) group.

Similar groups have been very successful in the Organ Pipes and Wilson's Promontory National Parks, where they have been responsible for some of the weed eradication, replanting and walking track construction.

Spokesperson for F.O.W.P., Geoff Osler, said "The purpose of the group is to involve the community in the restoration, development and protection of our Park.

"With the acquisition of Fourth Hill and the Koor-nong, the National Park rangers are flat out maintaining the Park, let alone developing and restoring the areas that have been over-run with noxious weeds or used as rubbish

dumps and trail-bike tracks.

"This is where Warrandyte residents can help. No special skills are needed, just some drive and an interest in the preservation of Warrandyte State Park."

Kris Reinertsen, the local National Park ranger said, "We have a big task in front of us. The help of a group such as F.O.W.P. would be terrific and we welcome the formation of an organisation like this."

F.O.W.P. is having its inaugural meeting at the community Centre (Getson's Building) on April 6 at 7.30 p.m.

For further information, contact Geoff Osler on 844 3758.

Unease at idea MMBW will manage state park

Nov 1990

THE Friends of Warrandyte State Park is concerned that the Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) intends to hand control of its parks to the MMBW.

A member of the Friends, Ms Margaret Burke, said the group believed the board "would not be able to manage such an environmentally sensitive area" as Warrandyte State Park.

By MARGARET COOK

"We feel it does a very good job with its own parks but we're concerned that it doesn't have the experience to manage parks with rare and endangered animals and plants," she said.

"We believe the integrity of Warrandyte State Park could be in danger and that it could be swallowed up in a very large bureaucracy.

Ms Burke said the Friends had met and "formulated a letter to the Minister for Conser-

vation and Environment, Mr Crabb, and to other people, saying we are very concerned about this proposal".

A spokeswoman for Mr Crabb said a draft proposal was being prepared which would "rationalise open space within the metropolitan region".

"The aim is to look at how the parks can be best managed and they will ultimately benefit from the expertise of both the DCE and the board," the spokeswoman said.

"A major intent of the draft proposal would be

to give groups such as the Friends a greater input into the management of the parks."

The director of the Victorian National Parks Association, Mr Doug Humann, said "the main managing objective of National and State Parks (DCE) was the protection of the natural environment and conservation values".

"The metropolitan (board) parks are more for recreation and there could be a dilemma if there were two completely different philosophies," he said.

"It is conceivable that the national and state parks will not be managed with conservation values being the principal aim."

Mr Humann said he believed "if this is being considered, there should be a proper community consultation".

The Member for Warrandyte, Mr Phil Honeywood, said he was concerned that "the professionalism of the parks and wildlife services provided by the rangers would be diluted if it was consumed as part of one big umbrella body".



Founding Crew

Left to right

Don Arnold, Ian Roche, Kris Reinerstern
(Head Ranger), Scott Coutts,
Don Saunders (Head of National Parks
Service), Georgie Waterman

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

CO-ORDINATORS:

Glen Jameson 844 2395
Peter Van Dijk 725 6348

NEWSLETTER:

Val Polley 844 3086

Friends of Warrandyte State Park are a group of people interested in the natural beauty of the Park and who involve themselves in an environmental programme based on the needs of the Park.

On the last Sunday of each month, from midday to 4.30pm, Friends of all ages and abilities, participate in a project designed in conjunction with the Rangers to heal areas that have formerly been abused. Projects undertaken include growing seedlings and propagation shrub and tree planting, building steps and bridges, weeding, rubbish collection and so forth. Afternoon tea is served and a guest speaker presents a short talk on relevant subjects such as local flora, geology of the area, possums and other mammals, gold history, aboriginal archeology, bush poetry etcetera.

A levy of \$5.00 a family is made to cover Newsletter and other costs. However everyone is welcome to attend any project day.

PROGRAMME 1985

FEBRUARY 24th

Removal rubble & other work at Gold Mine.
Rendezvous - Tunnel Street Car Park.

MARCH 31st

'Festival on the Island' - planting out.
Rendezvous - river bank behind tennis courts near bridge.

APRIL 28th

Jute mat spreading & tree planting Fourth Hill.
Rendezvous - Gold Memorial Car Park.

MAY 26th

Cutting steps & track forming at Gold Memorial..
Rendezvous - Gold Memorial Car Park.

JUNE 30th

Continuation steps & track Gold Memorial.
Rendezvous - Gold Memorial Car Park.

JULY 28th

Potting up Pound Bend nursery & planting out old orchard areas. Rendezvous - Pound Bend nursery, signs will be out in Pound Bend Road.

AUGUST 25th

Onion weed pull from car park to Gold Memorial
Rendezvous - Gold Memorial Car Park.

SEPTEMBER 29th

Removal broom Fourth Hill & orchid walk.
Rendezvous - Tunnel Street Car Park.

OCTOBER 27th

Removal cherry plum trees along Everard Drive.
Rendezvous - Everard Drive car park.

NOVEMBER 24th

Yarra Brae barbecue. Rendezvous - Gate car park, Jumping Creek Reserve.