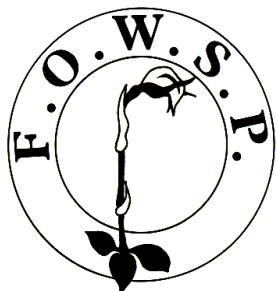


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

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



Editor's corner By Linda Rogan

Photo by Aidan O'Dempsey

AS YOU CAN SEE from the photo above, 11 ANZ and 6 FOWSPian volunteers plus rangers form an enthusiastic, formidable crew. On Thursday 19 June all defied the morning drizzle and planted a whopping 650+ plants in the Boys Road block before rain returned. It is impressive to see how much has been done. PV put on a great BBQ for lunch. This was followed by an local history walk to the Tunnel with Ken Crook. Our special thanks go to the ANZ volunteers. For memories of Boys Road as it used to be, see Gray's letter page 3.

We workers were amazed to see how dry the land was as we dug. Only the top 1-2 cm held any moisture. Which led to a conversation about hoping for a fine day for planting, but feeling guilty, as if our strong wishes might send away rain we might otherwise receive. Realistically we know that even our strongest hopes (and prayers?) won't change the

weather for the day but taken together, our actions will effect the strength of climate change, the biggest thief of rain from SE Australia. All of us were grateful for the rains that have followed on this occasion..

We are now in Deep Winter and past the winter solstice. I must admit the long nights and short days at this time of year can make me a bit grumpy. When I was working, I used to take armloads of Daffodils to share at work the Monday after the solstice to help lift my spirits. This time I decided to take a close look at what is happening in my increasingly indigenous garden. I found the Juniper Wattle covered in pale yellow balls of stamens as well as tight buds, a scattering of blooms on the Twiggy Daisy Bush, Correas, including Multi Bella, all blooming well, buds on the Blunt and Trim Greenhoods, a few tentative white blooms on the Forest Germander and a wide range of fungi.



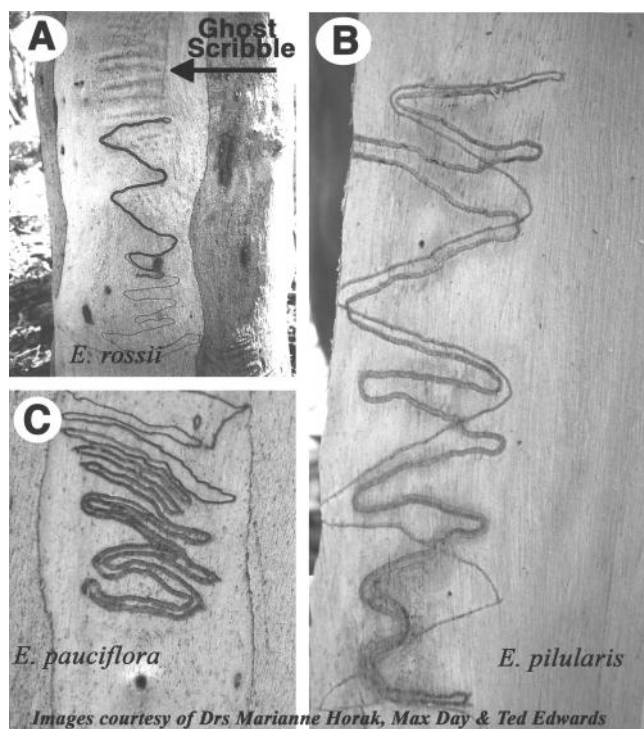
(Continued on page 2)

Deadline for September edition newsletter is Friday, August 22nd
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Have you seen any scribbles?

By Doug Hilton

THREE GIANTS of Australian Entomology have been collaborating to investigate that icon of the Australian Bush – The Scribble. Scribbles are found in the bark of a variety of Eucalyptus species, generally known as “Scribbly Gums”. The scribbles represent the tunnel made by a moth larva as it feeds on the tree. The identities of the moths that make the scribbles have remained elusive. Is there a single moth species or are there a variety of moths that make scribbles?



These questions have been preoccupying Max Day for the last few years. Max was born in 1915 and has been with CSIRO Entomology for over 70 years. In Australian science, Max is a legend, being elected to the Academy Of Science (the Hall Of Fame for Australian Scientists) in 1956. Max has been working with two of Australia’s pre-eminent lepidopterists, Marianne Horak, Head of the Lepidoptera (moth and butterfly) section of the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC) and Ted Edwards, who knows more about Australian moths than any person alive. This trio have found that there are many types of “scribbly moths”, with each type of scribble made by a different species. The moths all seem to be members of a small and very poorly studied family known as Bucculatricidae. The “scribbly moth” genus is named *Ogmograptis*, with common “scribbly moth” called *Ogmograptis scribula*.

Their work also suggests that there may be two

fundamentally different types of “scribbly moths”. One group, whose larvae feed just beneath the surface of the bark, create the typical scribbles (Figures A to C). The other group, whose larvae are more mysterious and might feed deep down between the bark and the wood, form an externally visible “ghost of a scribble”, only as the tree grows (Figure A).

My interest in scribbly moths was sparked last November when I caught two small moths at my 500 W light, which I run at my house most nights to attract insects. I had not seen these moths in 5 years of collecting. I had no idea what they were, but when I took them to the ANIC in Canberra, it was clear they were members of the *Ogmograptis* genus, but were different to all those species in ANIC. The problem is I cannot recall seeing any scribbles in gum trees around Warrandyte? There are many people in Warrandyte who spend much more time in the bush than I do and who are certainly much more observant than I am. Has anyone seen any scribbles? I would love to photograph them and see if I can find any larvae. If I can find larvae then I can see if their DNA matches the DNA of the moths I caught. So if anyone has seen any scribbles, please email:

Doug Hilton (hilton@wehi.edu.au)

(Continued from page 1)

Sharing them with you via photos on the bonus page will certainly help lift my spirits and I hope yours.

Doug Hilton, page 2, appeals for information from newsletter readers. Please let him know where within or near Warrandyte you have seen scribbles on gum trees.

Congratulations to anyone who succeeded in reading out loud “FOWSP works here and there...” from last issue. Artur told me he got a cramp in his tongue. My hope is that all of us will now be more aware of the broad and diverse area managed by our rangers and therefore of interest to FOWSP.

FOWSP members will have the opportunity for an organised interpretive walk in this block on the last Thursday of June. We will report what we have learned in the next news letter. (see p 9)

Our apologies for gremlin in the printed copy of the last newsletter. Some fonts transformed themselves into one that was very hard to read. Apparently I need to learn about embedding (font) to avoid this in the future.

By the way, remember we originally only promised 6 issues of the news a year. So this is your blooming lot for the next two months. Number 7 will be out in September.

The Watcher

by Alwynne Buntine

I sit upon a rocky ledge and watch the eagles
soar above the open plans, trod by feet so
long ago that walked this ancient land.

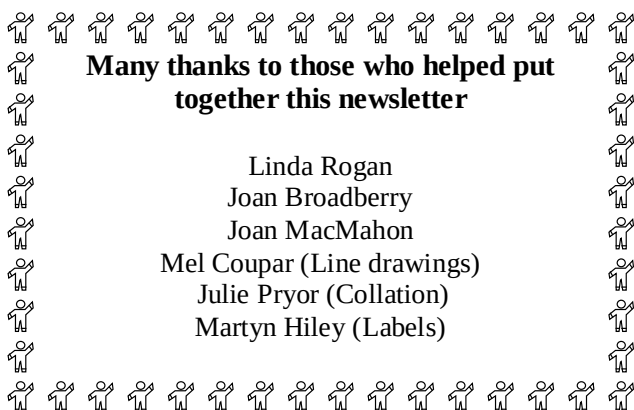
I see the heat shimmer along dry river beds,
edged by trees, the only indication of where
they once flowed.

Rocks stand stark and red rising from the
soil, harsh and angular against a bright blue
sky. Deeply furrowed by long passed rains
and gouged by the sands of time.

The land is covered by Spinifex grass
lightened by the red brown dust
and trees are gnarled and stunted by the
harshness of this place. Still it has a beauty,
a grandeur of it's own, and I, the watcher on
the rock, feel it's majesty and it's power en-
gulf me.

*Alwynne tells me a visit to the Flinders Ranges in-
spired this poem. It put me in mind of Ethabuka in
far west Queensland, my photo below Ed.LR*




**Many thanks to those who helped put
together this newsletter**
 Linda Rogan
 Joan Broadberry
 Joan MacMahon
 Mel Coupar (Line drawings)
 Julie Pryor (Collation)
 Martyn Hiley (Labels)

Letter from Gray

Yes, I am back at Kuranda, in the company of
Wompoo Pigeons, Victorian Riflebirds and Red-
necked Crakes, trying to deal with the rainforest bot-
any after so many years absence.

(Regarding) the Boys Rd neighbourhood, (in
Warrandyte) when I was just old enough to notice,
had but two houses - the old Berens house, almost
up against the northern boundary of Pound Bend
Reserve, and a fascinating junk-yard in what is now
known as Gallatlys Lane. we used to apply that
name to the lane that ran along the Reserves north-
ern boundary. Little of that lane remains except for
some of the fence-posts. By the time the neighbour-
hood was acquired for inclusion in the Park there
were about six houses - each of which is persistently
memorialised by its own sweet weed-suite.

We boys stole from the junk-yard an aeroplane
belly-tank housing for use as a boat on the River -
the punishment was immediate, painful and abso-
lutely worth it!

There used to be a well-worn path to Scouts
Beach, which was a favourite swimming and pic-
nicking spot in those days, combining a gently slop-
ing sandy beach with a safe diving-log just a little
way upstream.

I remember one picnic particularly well. English
rellies were visiting, and of course a bush picnic was
exactly what they had in mind. While the adults en-
thusiastically drank a careful selection of Victorian
wines, we children dived and swam. The supervi-
sory intent, however, appears to have been soluble
in alcohol - no adult noticed cousin Simon go under
- luckily I managed to fish him out before he had
suffered much more than a fright. I was a little puz-
zled at the effusive gratitude of his parents - after all,
they did have seven other children....

The ancient machine with the Kurrajong growing
through it is, - we were told as kids, - a mobile field
kitchen. It probably dates from WWI, as it was horse
-drawn. You can still see how the flue from the fire-
box folded down in transit, just as you can make out
the slots for the great food vessels.

Affectionate greetings to you and all Friends and
Rangers! *Gray*

WILDLIFE SHELTER, **reported by Joan Broadberry**

I HAD MARKED the date on my calendar some time ago. On June 4th I attended my first Manningham City Council Environment Seminar to hear Adriana Simmonds give an illustrated talk on running her wildlife shelter. I'm so glad I did. Adriana is no longer just a name in the FOWSP contacts list, she is a truly remarkable person and her presentation was one of the most logical, sensible and humane I have ever been to. The following is my summary of what was said with apologies for the inevitable errors when taking notes in the dark.

Adriana shared some of her personal journey with us. Originally from Colombia and a trained biologist, she is married with two children and lives on a 1 acre property in Wonga Park. For six years now she has run a wildlife shelter from her home for sick, injured or orphaned native animals. She has also transformed her garden from exotics to indigenous. In 2000 Adriana became a wildlife foster carer, being supervised and trained by an experienced shelter person. In 2003 she became a fully licenced wildlife shelter operator. Her work is voluntary, self funded and full time. The aim is to give a second chance to injured sick and orphaned wildlife.

The central reason why animals come into care is through "us", that is we humans. Each shelter around the area specializes and things will be different in each. Adriana specializes in small animals, birds and reptiles. The two main reasons why animals need care are: 41% through cats and dogs 21% loss of habitat.



Education towards responsible pet ownership is critical. Adriana finds that when people bring wildlife into the shelter there is a wonderful opportunity to educate. For example she asks those folk to give the animal they have brought in a name. More later.

What happens initially?

1. A phone call. Decisions to make. Leave the animal or rescue it and bring it in? The public need patience and perseverance at this stage, as sometimes it takes up to 10 phone calls.
2. Assessment – decisions re medical attention, care, whether the animal is an orphan etc
3. Each animal is given its own number and name. Careful records are kept including location found, rescuer's names etc.

What happens in the shelter?

1. An individual psychological and physical plan is created for each animal.
2. There is a nursery area for "pinkies", small baskets with a heated pad underneath. This nursery area is also a hospital when needed. Adriana's photos showed it to be orderly, clean, bright and inviting where all equipment has its place.
3. There is a transition room. Animals taste and smell the outside world for first time in larger cages with different sizes for different species. Each cage has slot for the animal's number and details. Adriana also keeps all details in an information book.
4. Aviaries in the garden are the places used to prepare animals for release. Adriana also has to prepare herself to let the animals go.
5. Release time is very special. All the work leads to that moment. Animals are released in their own boxes or nests, so they have a refuge, the option of safe place. Adriana contacts the people who brought the in the animal and makes a time for release. Her husband attends with ladder and nails for fixing nest boxes and extra food for 5 days is provided. She asks the rescuers to feed and look out for the creature; and most people are happy to do so. This is part of the education process. This time has the power to change both the animals' fate and people's attitudes.

A sustainable Shelter

All nursery excrement is used on the garden. Only water and a few environmentally friendly products are used to clean. Grey water is used for her potted fruit trees. No chemicals or fertilizers at all are used. In the transition nursery the cages are raised and the floor meshed, so that a tray containing worms fits underneath. The worms provide composting. No water or chemicals are needed and there is no smell and no flies. It is cheap and easy and, again, the composted waste goes on the veggie patch.

The outside aviaries use organic pea straw on their floors, and, depending on the time of year, and weather this may only need to be collected after several weeks. The straw goes to make mulch for the veggies and orchard. Adriana runs two compost bins for waste food etc. They fill slowly and when the second is full, the first is ready to use. She aims to mimic nature

Pets

The family keeps two cats. Adriana believes they make lovely pets and it is good for her children to have pets that stay with them as there is so much coming and going of native animals. She advocates a compromise position on cats: between - kill all cats and – allow them all to roam free. It's all about

(Continued on page 7)

FOWSP Committee 2008

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Gray Ardern 0418 190261

Cathy Willis 0418 142297

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Treasurer/Newsletter

**Tag Activities/Newsletter/
FOWSP contact**

**Membership/
FOWSP contact**

Secretary

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Park Office

Market Coordinator

Wildlife Rescue

Koala Rescue

Librarian

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Adriana Simmonds
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Julie Pryor
9722 1117

Judy Green
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Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

July 3 **Fourth Hill** Fence extensions for Brown Beaks, Bettons Track
August 7 **Mt Lofty** Woody weed control
September 4 **Webb Street** Woody weed control post fire with Bush gain

The Thursday Activity Group is co-ordinated by Ranger Jodie Davis and FOWSP member Joan MacMahon JOIN US on the first Thursday of the month from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Either meet at the depot (sharp at 9.30 am), or on site. LEARN some vegetation management skills and help improve some special sites in the Park. Just tag along with the Thursday Activity Group (TAG).

For more information contact either Jodie on 9844 2659 or Joan on 9844 3213
Also note : 3rd Thursday of the month, Anderson Creek Landcare Group activities

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2008

Held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at South Warrandyte Hall, 66-68 Hall Rd,
Sth Warrandyte (Mel ref. 35 J8)

July 2 **Carbon Rationing Action Groups CRAGS**
August 6 **Gorillas in the East of Africa**
September 3 **Ecology & Land Management**

Bill Pemberton
Pat and Mike Coupar
Doug Frood



Seminars are FREE. No bookings required
Supper provided

Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

Sunday 27 July **National Tree Day (planting)** Tim Krasevac, Environmental Works Officer, on 9433 3715

Thursday July 31 **The Thin Green Line, film screening** Bookings: Georgia Ramsey, Environment and Strategic Planning, on 9433 3210

Saturday August 2 **Native Vegetation Law and Policy** Bookings: Verity McLucas at the EDO on (03) 8431 3100 or verity.mclucas@edo.org.au

Saturday 6 September **One Tree Hill - Orchids and wildlife walk:** Georgia Ramsey on 9433 3210



For more see [Nillimbik environmental events july-dec08.pdf](#),

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

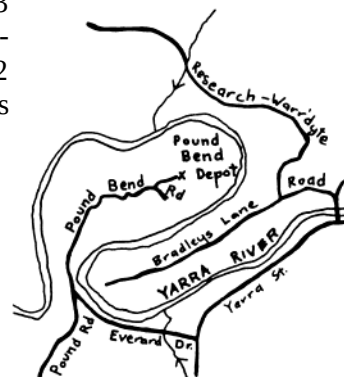
We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 9.30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. On fourth Thursdays we often go on a spontaneously organised walk. (see below) Propagation takes place from 9.30 am to 12 midday followed by lunch (BYO). No prior experience necessary - there is always someone available to show you the ropes.

NURSERY OPENING HOURS

The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday. 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and the first Sunday of each month 2 pm to 4 pm.

PRICES

Note: A donation increase will occur in July as follows:
Members \$1.00 Non Members \$1.50



Nursery matters—opening hours and return of trays

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.

Would all members who have obtained plants from the FOWSP nursery please make sure they return the empty forestry tubes and more importantly the black plastic tube holder trays. These trays are specially made and have been bought by FOWSP at considerable cost. They can be returned to the nursery any weekday between 8 am and 5 pm or on the first Sunday of the month between 2 pm and 4 pm.

Sunday Walks 2008

This educational series of interpretive nature walks takes you into some of Manningham's most inspiring and interesting bushland. All walks are free but **bookings are essential** as places are limited. Each one commences at 10.15 am. It is important to note that walk lengths and difficulties vary, and times and distances are an estimate only. Appropriate shoes, hat and clothing, and a water bottle are required, as is food on longer walks.

Sunday 3 August Matt Dell, botanist and PhD candidate, will lead us on a walk from Pound Bend picnic area in Warrandyte, to explore the delicate miniature world of mosses and liverworts. We will also look at some of the flowering plants and vegetation around Pound Bend. Meet 10.15 am Pound Bend picnic area, off Everard Drive Warrandyte. Walk time estimated to be 2.5 hours, and approx. 3k. Melways ref 23 A10.

Bookings or info: KayToussaint on 9840 9348 or email eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

Thursday Walks 2008

If the weather is suitable and there is enough interest, walks may be held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1 pm after lunch. Meet at the nursery, Pound Bend Rangers depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10). Walks will last approximately 2 hours. No need to book, but remember there is no definite program for these walks. **Enquiries to Josh Revell 0408 317327**

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP

(Continued from page 4)

Responsible Pet Ownership. Adriana showed us photos of her cat mesh cage. Every person who comes to shelter is shown the cat enclosure. She sees the need for balance. The mesh cages are good for cats – less injuries and vet visits and the cats live longer. Letting a cat outside, even in the daytime, is loosing a 24/7 hunter.



Habitat restoration.

Adriana realizes that she can do all the rehab work but there may still be no place for the native animals to live. Therefore habitat restoration is essential. She has started with her own property. Firstly there was an assessment from Land for Wildlife. Her old planting was full of environmental weeds and exotics, so she removed everything non-indigenous including roses and azaleas. They were replaced with 3000 plants, all from FOWSP nursery. Young kangaroos now exercise on the native grass lawn.

Tips for habitat restoration

1. Start with the ground itself. If the ground is healthy, seeds will naturally regenerate
2. Trees are the top layer only; there is a need to fill in the other layers of bush.
3. Choose different species, to promote a diversity of insects and foods.
4. Create corridors to link isolated patches of vegetation. Adriana's photos illustrated a very narrow but effective corridor planted along one side of the driveway linking the front and back of her property. Animals must be able to migrate and interbreed and they need protection along their paths.
5. Keep litter on the ground, logs, rocks attract microorganisms, insects and fungi which provide food for the bigger animals such as lizards.
6. Dense planting of bushes is good for small birds.
7. Put in an aquatic habitat, it will be used by almost all animals for drinking especially in summer and is important for frogs.
8. Grasses are great for insects and butterflies

Adriana has used some of the space in the garden to share her experience and educate others. There is a visitors trail with 12 Stations all connected with conservation, responsible pet ownership and planting. The last station is the shelter itself.

Her final message was that the key work is education and right planting. First and foremost, indigenous plantings. Well, Adriana you won't get an argument from FOWSP on that!!!

Middle Yarra Landcare Network:

- The planting at 197 Jumping Creek Rd. on June 1st was well attended
- MLYN Facilitator position - Manningham is reviewing applicants.

Rangers Report

- FOWSP and Rangers staff have been removing old fencing from the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve. This is to reduce any impacts that old fencing might have with the movement of Kangaroos and Wallabies.
- The water from the two tanks on the Long Shed will be plumbed up to the Nursery, to assist with the Nurseries water supply over summer.
- Now that the old office has been removed, the retaining wall below the Nursery is being replaced, to make the area look nice and be safer.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday July 8, 2008

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

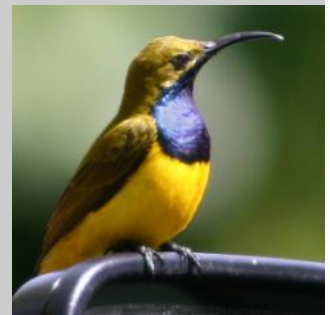
Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Not everyone sees the world as we do:

"Whaddaya looking at? demanded the local yokel."

"In that green-flowering mistletoe there are Sun-birds, Mistletoe Birds and Scarlet Honeyeaters!" I exclaimed.

"Oh, is that all? Just bloody birds?"
(from Gray)



And also

We stopped at a moist rock face to marvel at hundreds of butterflies perched, immobile in the shade.

Passing walker, "Whatcha looking at?"

Us "Oh these wonderful butterflies"

PW looking confused and a bit frightened, "You a botanist then?"
(From Linda at a past trip to Katherine Gorge)

Bits and Pieces from the end of Bradleys Lane (see map page 6) by Joan MacMahon

There are two spots in Norman Reserve (melway 23 B12) where I know greenhood orchids grow. By the way, who was this Norman person? What did she or he do to gain such recognition? I'd love to know.

Now, these are plants I know little about –as they are small, pretty much plain green, only occur above ground for part of the year and tend to be readily swamped by weeds (of which the environs of Bradleys Lane have way more than a fair share).



Through a bit of very bad organisation both these spots are right next to the walking track, so I'm planning to help protect them with some stakes and that shocking pink marking tape often used by bush regenerators. This is needed since there are some heavy and boisterous dogs around here, with owners who enjoy giving them a bit of freedom from the 'tyranny of the lead'.

The group closest to the carpark consists of about twenty Nodding G'hoods on a bed of moss, nestling under the protection of a couple of large *Lomandra longifolia* plants. Not too many weeds thanks to yours truly. The second and larger group, has both Nodding and Tall G'hoods and is awash with Angled Onion and the grassy weed Panic Veldt. This group could do with some loving attention from a few more *Homo sapiens*.

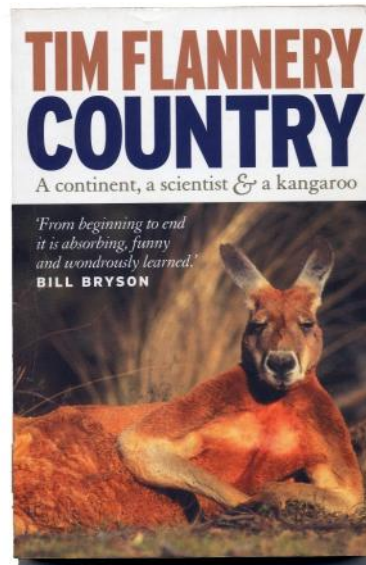
I'll be leading a walk upstream from the Reserve carpark on Thursday the 17th of July as well as the following Sunday, July 20th; both walks starting at one o'clock. Children are welcome to attend the Sunday walk. They'll have fun spying on all the people wandering along the track on the other side of the river. Some great views are to be had and some interesting plants as well as the site of the old bridge. Let me know if you'd like to come on the Sunday. 9844 3213 is best as I can't guarantee to always check e-mail.

Recently the 'Thursday Mob' heard a rather large bit of bad news. Apparently a substantial area of private land abutting the Stane Brae section of our park has been cleared of much of its indigenous vegetation. More detail next month – that is if I find the time to contact the Manningham Council officers who'll have to deal with this setback.

Talking about damage to significant vegetation, did you see the report in *The Age* of June 20th titled "Heritage Tree Damage Costs Developer \$150,000"?

This happened at the former Kew Cottages site, where some eucalypt trees thought to be about 130 years old were "put at risk when unlawful excavation works cut some roots and caused soil compaction." The excavator weighed 21 tonnes!! The trees had been listed by Heritage Victoria and the case was heard at Heidelberg Magistrates Court.

By the time you receive this newsletter the winter solstice will have passed (21st of June this year; did you celebrate?) and we can enjoy the lengthening days, increasing sunlight and buds and leaves enlarging. Many wattles will have opened their flower buds to reveal golden, cream or lemon patterns on the landscape. Keep your fingers crossed we get good rains this year so that the floral feast is extended.



**Country, by
Tim Flannery**

**Reviewed by
Joan Broadberry**

Australian of the year, Tim Flannery is one of the world's great writer-scientists. He is the author of the *Weather Makers*, *the Future Eaters*, *Throwim Way Leg* and *The Eternal Frontier*.

These are all books I treasure, read and re-read. I should also mention the recent ABC TV series *Two men and a Tinnie*

Country, published in 2004, contains three major interwoven storylines: autobiography, travelogue and the natural history and evolution of the kangaroo. Spanning several decades of Flannery's life, the book recounts his early discovery of palaeontology and how he came to find his home in the world of the museum. Quite remarkably Flannery failed Zoology 101. His own coming of age journey is woven like a thread through the book.

The central theme of *Country* is about finding kangaroos and their remains in hot, desert country. Kangaroos show remarkable adaptations to this dry, ecologically demanding land and Flannery makes

(Continued on page 11)

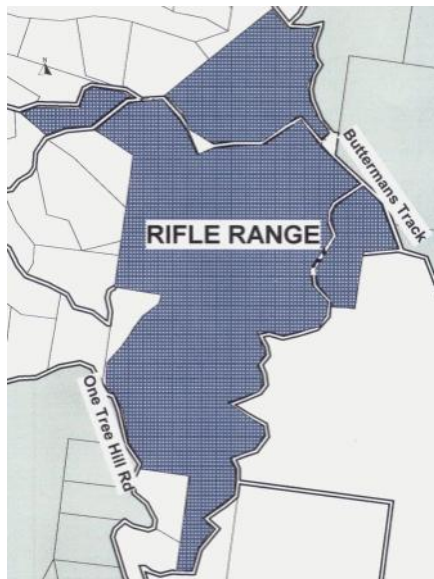
WARRANDYTE-KINGLAKE NATURE CONSERVATION RESERVE

From a report by Kylie Tenace

Nature Conservation Reserves are to be managed primarily for the conservation of biodiversity. It is an objective of this reserve that it provides a habitat link between Kinglake National Park and Warrandyte State Park. This will ensure the genetic diversity of the threatened species which inhabit the area. Nature Conservation Reserves are suitable for passive recreation such as nature study, bush walking and picnicking.

The Warrandyte - Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve (Warrandyte – Kinglake NCR) of 660 ha is located between the Yarra River at northern tip of Warrandyte State Park and the southern section of Kinglake National Park

RIFLE RANGE BLOCK



The land is predominately native forest with a cleared portion of approximately 20ha between the Roberts Rd (road reserve) and Buttermans Track.

Catchment: The ephemeral stream Five Mile Creek runs along the eastern boundary of the reserve. This creek is a major tributary of the Watsons Creek.

Fauna values: This section of the reserve is home to threatened species such as the Brush-tailed Phascogale and Powerful Owl. An annual Brush-tail Phascogale trapping program is undertaken in the Rifle Range block. This 10 yr program monitors such things as overall health and numbers of the population and is run in conjunction with DSE. The trapping sites run through Rifle Range, One Tree Hill and sections of Kinglake National Park.

The Wonga Pigeon. Steven Katsineris, August 2006.

On several recent trips to Mallacoota I have regularly seen pairs of these large pigeons in clearings, foraging on the ground for seeds and fallen fruit. They seemed unconcerned about our presence and would go on feeding in a relaxed way near us. Although Wonga Pigeons are found around eastern Australia, I have only seen them in the coastal areas of East Gippsland, mostly in camping and picnic areas, parks and gardens, alongside roads and on walking tracks, usually adjacent to coastal rainforests and eucalypt forests that are its favoured habitat.

The Wonga Pigeon is a ground-dwelling pigeon.. It is mainly coloured a blue-grey on the top of the body, with a whitish face, a distinctive white V on the

breast. The eyes are a dark red-dish-brown, with a pink eye-ring, while the feet, legs and bill are red. Its call is a loud, high-



pitched, monotonous 'coo' that is repeated over long periods of time and can be heard a long distance away.

The Wonga Pigeon feeds mainly in the early mornings and late afternoons, spending the midday perched. They search for food on the ground, walking long distances along well-defined tracks they follow whenever they visit a feeding site. Wonga Pigeons eat seeds, fruit and berries of native and introduced plants and insects.

Wonga Pigeons are monogamous and breed between October and January. Nests are a stick and twig platform built in large trees, high off the ground. Sometimes they will use the nests of Topknot Pigeons or Tawny Frogmouths. Wonga Pigeons usually lay two large eggs. Both parents incubate the eggs, feed the young and defend the area around the nest.

Land clearing, fox predation and shooting during the 1940s reduced their population. Fortunately, Wonga Pigeon numbers are now recovering in some of these places.

A shy and elusive bird, except in areas where it has become used to humans, they will however take swift flight with loud, explosive wing-flaps if disturbed.

Travels of an ex-Pat

by Pat Coupar

Abandoned

Three days out from Warrandyte somewhere along the Stuart Highway we pulled in to a red dust rest area for lunch. I saw him at once, lying in the only patch of shade beside a table, unleashed, uncoloured and utterly alone. As we got out of the car he looked up at us with big sad eyes and when we approached placidly stood up on old arthritic legs and wagged his tail. Abandoned with only a blue ice-cream container of water: at least he had that.

We ate our lunch. The old dog didn't pester, but lay back on the ground and watched. When we had finished we gave him some bread and chicken and refilled his water. He seemed totally resigned to his fate. Whatever that was. We wondered how long he had been there, dumped like a bundle of rubbish. Had others fed him and given him brief comfort and company. I looked behind as we left – the old dog had settled back on the dusty red earth, head on paws, eyes open watching us depart.

Abandoned again.

Part two: Many red heads

Mike and I have lived in Australia for 38 years and never visited the Red Centre. Until now. We spent three nights at Yulara Resort Campground and watched the sun rise once and set three times over Uluru – that massive monolith formerly known as Ayers Rock.

So much has been written already about Australia's most iconic geological feature. I won't even try to put into words what it feels like to be in the presence of this sacred sentinel. But of Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) I knew very little before we came up here and took the walk they call "The Valley of the Winds".

The 7.4 km (plus) walk is classed as difficult but we found it moderately easy. From the car-park we headed through desert sand and sun bleached spinifex into Kata Tjuta's heart. The name "Many Heads" refers to the spectacular 39 sandstone domes, the tallest of which – at 546 metres – is some 200 metres higher than Uluru. We scrambled up steep rocky tracks, along rough red ridges, through darkened chasms between towering dome walls where the sun never penetrates. We ascended and de-

scended time and time again and always everywhere vivid colours – fiery terracotta domes against brilliant blue sky and stark white trunks of ghost gums amongst tussocky grasses.

Only a few other walkers were encountered and for the most part were alone in this vibrant beating heart of Australia. We quickly learnt to look back at regular intervals from where we had come – for the views behind were just as spectacular as those in front. We took our time, savouring, contemplating and of course photographing. Returning to the car, we were elated, inspired and pleasantly tired – looking forward to our next big walk up and around the rim of King's Canyon at our next National Park – Watarrka.

June Market Volunteers

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Alison Thom

Tony Honeyborne

John Hanson

Marjan Kiewert

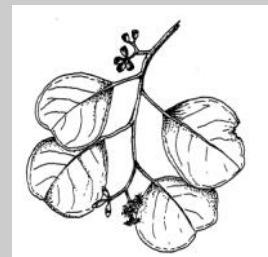
Mark & Margaret Hassell

Wolfgang & Marie Krause

Peter Curry (delivery & return of trailer)

Anyone who would like to be rostered on to help with the trailer, even for just one hour, please contact Marie Krause 9712 0498

*New members especially welcome,
No experience required.*



***What's happening in your backyard?
favourite places: something to say!***

We would love to hear from you, a paragraph or a page, photos welcome. Contributions can be mailed to FOWSP, P.O. Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or preferably emailed to Linda Rogan, lindarogan@netspace.net.au

“I SPY”

By B.G



PEOPLE AND PLANTS

During June, Annette Lion was seen actively assisting at the Depot Nursery. Annette used to run her own garden maintenance business. (She has Horticultural qualifications from Burnley).

When asked, “Why are you here?” Annette said, “I wanted to move away from roses and get into the indigenous stuff – it is so much more beautiful and rewarding. I’m also into permaculture and veggie growing, organics and chooks.” Annette has two children, Kira, 3 ½ y.o. and Mikaia, 14 months.

That same day, Alicia Houston was helping FOWSP. Alicia has recently been traveling in Japan, Europe and skiing in Canada. Alicia worked at the CFA head office in Burwood, “dispatching fire trucks”. With qualifications in Environmental Science, Alicia is applying for a job with the DSE.

FUNGI PHOTOS

Whatever happened to Lee Speedy, a past FOWSP committee member? Lee now works at the Melbourne Herbarium on the Fungimap project. This project, started in 1995, has selected a hundred species of fungi which are identifiable in the field, called target species, and asked knowledgeable enthusiasts across Australia to submit records of their field observations so that distribution maps can be created. So far the number of records exceeds 20,000.

DOCUMENTARY DETAIL

From a recent documentary shown on the ABC. Did you know that after the Referendum circa 1967 that, “Indigenous Australians (were) to be included with all races under the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and (were) no longer included under the Flora and Fauna Act.”

VISITORS VISIT

More visitors in June were Monique Kilkenny (“like the beer”), with children Manon (5 y.o.) and Tobias (3 y.o.), and Fiona Wade with 4 y.o. Louis. Monique has been to the Nursery many times over the last two years. This day she was acquiring lots of *Poa Labillardiera* and Acacias, “for the creek bed”. One of Monique’s particular studies is Epidemiology.

MELANIE’S MORNING TEA

At a “thank you” morning tea for Melanie Lange who has been a Key assistant at the FOWSP Nursery, it was a pleasure to meet Mel’s partner Benjamin Hollard, “A musician by trade” Ben is currently working as a workplace trainer, (health and safety, first Aid 1,2,3, emergency asthma management and anaphylaxis management (epipen). He works with Councils, schools, factories etc, and has set up a, “First aid training” company called, “Up to Date”. Melanie and Ben are currently looking forward to a new arrival and as well as “thanks”, the special morning tea was to extend our best wishes to Ben and Mel and their coming baby.

EASTERN EFFORT

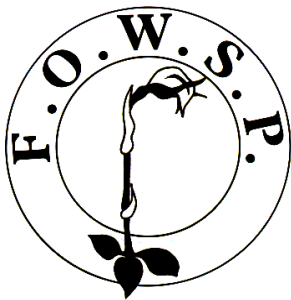
An Australian Plant Society group is working on a project to produce a CD of local plants of Eastern Melbourne. The project is progressing well. Any images you would be happy to have include can be sent to aitchguy@netspace.net.au, or phone Sue Guymmer 9872 3583. Being sought are digital images with a resolution of at least 1 mb of whole plants, and of the various identifying features such as foliage, flowers, bark etc - preferably photos taken locally, “in the wild”. Especially requested are: *Acacia dealbata*, *A. implexa*, *A. leprosa*, *A. mearnsii*, *A. verticillata* var *verticillata*, *Adiantum aethiopicum*, *Gahnia radula*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Poa Labillardieri*, *Tetratheca ciliata*.



(Continued from page 8)

their fascinating evolutionary stories entirely accessible to the lay reader. He is also not afraid of tackling tough issues such as culling and also tells heartening stories of kangaroo species being rescued from the precarious edge of existence. *Country* offers new information in defence of Flannery’s hypothesis that it was people rather than climate change, that caused the extinction of Australia’s megafauna.

There is much, much more in this entertaining and instructive volume. Australian history, geography, geology, conservation, bush characters, Flannery’s encounters with indigenous people etc. I highly recommend this as a book one needs to own not just borrow from a library.



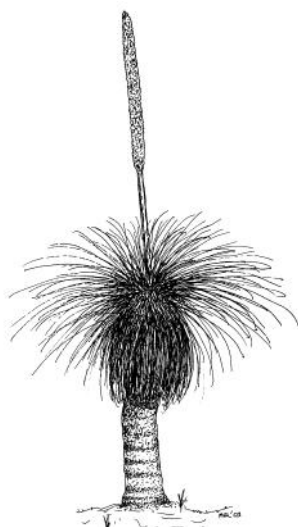
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P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



Austral Grass Tree Xanthorrhoea australis

By Linda Rogan

This is a slow-growing, stout perennial plant with a thick woody trunk or butt surmounted by a grassy tuft of leaves and if not burnt, skirted with old leaves. Xanthorrhoea species provided nectar drinks and the root provided food for the Aborigines. The flowering stem provided spears and firesticks.

This plant is not found in Warrandyte State Park but it occurs in the Warrandyte Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve near Sugarloaf.

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

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Membership (family) \$20
Concession \$10

Newsletter by email (tick box)

☐

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus

Little wonders from Linda's garden
late June 2008



Twigg Daisy Bush *Olearia ramulosa*



Juniper Wattle *Acacia ulicifolia*

A variety of fungi



Photos this page © Linda Rogan 2008

Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows:
lindarogan@netspace.net.au