



WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Pre-Spring Newsletter

Volume 41/five

September/October 2011

Warringal Conservation Society is a local, not-for-profit, community organisation caring for the environment in Banyule.

Formed in 1970, the Society is an active and productive steward of Banyule's environmental heritage.

Join us!!

Warringal Conservation Society is not just a local environment group: it is stimulating, fun and companionable and takes an active role in the wider community.

Single \$15,
Family \$20
Pension/student/
unemployed \$10
Life \$150

Articles and photographs for the newsletter are welcome. We may edit for legal, space or other reasons. Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Warringal Conservation Society.

Newsletter printed courtesy of Jenny Macklin MP.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

An Introduction to Fungi

Paul George from the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria will discuss Fungi. Often called the 'Hidden Kingdom', Fungi are one of the most important and diverse life forms on earth. They play a vital role in all ecosystems and most plants could not survive without them. This talk will introduce you to their rich diversity and fascinating beauty. The talk will include many beautiful photographs of Fungi.

OCTOBER MEETING

Green Wedges

Kahn Franke is President of the Green Wedges Coalition, an expert on indigenous plants, a longstanding CFA member and a mountain biker of some repute with views on trail management. Kahn will speak on recent developments concerning Green Wedges. The Green Wedges are less densely populated semirural or bushland areas surrounding Melbourne. They were formalised by the Hamer Government in the 1970s and are important areas for conservation and recreation. The Baillieu government has announced a review that may result in the relaxation of laws protecting Green Wedges from development.

**Meetings on first Thursday of the month
from 7.30 pm at the Old Shire Offices,
60 Beverley Road.**

**Enter from Buckingham Drive near the Banyule Theatre and
Greening Australia. Melways map 32:D3. All Welcome**

AT A GLANCE

September

Thursday 1st Sept: General Meeting. Speaker: Paul George - Fungi

Sunday 18th Sept: WCS 40th Anniversary Planting*

Thurs 29th Sept: Frog night Warringal Wetlands *

October

Thursday 6th Oct: Annual General Meeting. Speaker: Kahn Franke - Green Wedges

Sunday 9th Oct: Planting at East cnr Warringal Swamp *

Friday 21st Oct: Deadline for Nov/Dec Newsletter

Sunday 23rd Oct: Breakfast with the Birds *

***See News and Events for details**

News and Events:

Warringal Conservation Annual General Meeting

The society's AGM will be held on the 6th of October 2011 starting at 7.30pm in the Old Shire Offices.

Plantings for September & October September 18th - WCS 40th Anniversary Planting.

A momentous occasion to be marked by a planting including several Eucalypts. Site to be announced.
October 9th - South East corner Warringal Swamp planting. Infill planting to previous WCS planting site. Mainly around edges near drain lines to bolster numbers and rejuvenate this site. Melways map 32:C4. Park in Heidelberg Football Club and turn right along bike path to swamp (20 metres).

Enquiries: Don Stokes 0425 730 554

Spring Outdoors 2011

Make sure you collect your leaflet from local Library or Council Offices! A splendid spring program of interesting outings and activities provided by Banyule, Nillumbik and Manningham Councils. Most are free, but don't forget to book! The Frog night and Breakfast with the Birds below are two examples of events in the leaflet.

Frog Night

Thurs. 29 Sept. *Community Frog Night* with WCS and Healthy Waterways Waterwatch. Meet at Old Shire Offices, 6-7.30 pm – walk round Warringal Wetlands – gumboots advised. Limited to 20, so book early – Belinda Moody, 9457 9821.

Breakfast with the Birds

Sunday 23 October Organised by Banyule City Council and the Bird Observers Club of Australia. Small groups will be guided by experienced birdwatchers in a walk round Banyule Flats. Meet 7.30 am, Somerset Drive Carpark – be

punctual! Followed by light breakfast at Old Shire Offices. BYO binoculars and wear comfortable walking shoes. To book, ring BOCA, 9877 5342. Limit 100 participants.

Planting report - July 7th at Banyule Swamp

This was an infill planting in a fenced area on the edge of the Banyule Swamp. Sedges (*Carex*) weeping grass, Bidgee Widgee, Lesser Joyweed and some Paperbarks were planted. We also put in a lot of tree guards as there are plenty of rabbits around at the moment.



How to contact us

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News & Events cont

Planting Report - National Tree Day July 29th

WCS members contributed to a National Tree Day planting organized by the Banyule Council. The site was on the bank of the Plenty River at Yallambie Park, an area that has been blighted by weeds and rabbits. The weeds and rabbits were taken care of by the council prior to the planting, leaving a large bare area. An adjoining grassed area was also converted into a new indigenous garden. In the order of 3000 trees, shrubs, grasses and sedges were planted over the course of the morning.



Coalition Against Duck Shooting - 2011 Report

The 2011 recreational duck shooting season ended half an hour after sunset on June 13 although, as rescuers reported to police, illegal shooting continued well after the closing time. This year rescuers found a total of 555 dead 'game' species which shooters illegally left on the wetlands, as well as 23 displaced swan eggs and 75 illegally shot protected species, making a total of 630 birds. These were displayed in Melbourne and then taken away by DSE. The list is: 22 Eurasian Coots, 10 Black Swans/cygnets, 8 Grebes (Australasian, Hoary-headed & Great Crested), 5 Plumed Whistling-ducks, 5 Australian Magpies, 5 Purple Swamphens, 3 Musk Ducks, 3 Dusky Moorhens, 2 Little Ravens, 2 Galahs, 1 Little Button-Quail, 1 Freckled Duck, 1 Barn Owl, 1 owl (unidentified), 1 bird of prey (unidentified), 1 Blue-billed Duck, 1 Australasian Pipit, 1 Black-winged Stilt, 1 cormorant (unidentified), 1 Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Many other wounded birds were rushed to veterinary care or to wildlife carers. All the birds found by rescuers represent just the tip of the iceberg. There are 20,000 wetlands where shooting can take place in Victoria and rescue teams patrolled only a handful of these. The 15 DSE Wildlife

Officers responsible for regulating the season were mostly absent due to a lack of budget allocation.

The season may be over but not the campaign. We will continue fighting on behalf of our native waterbirds until recreational duck shooting is banned in Victoria as it is in WA, NSW and Queensland.

For an excellent article by Crikey's Mark Argyle: <http://blogs.crikey.com.au/rooted/2011/06/16/ducking-the-main-issue-on-hunting/> and to see reference to the Greens' Parliament debate to ban duck shooting and Greens MP, Sue Pennicuik's footage of the opening weekend: <http://mps.vic.greens.org.au/node/2973>

WCS Treasurer - Member assistance required

Geoff Baker has been the Treasurer for nearly 20 years and has decided that it is time for another member to take over. Geoff is still willing to assist when needed. If anyone thinks they can help and is interested in finding out what the job entails, please call Geoff (9459 0634).

La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary Indigenous Nursery Grand Re-Opening

The Plant Nursery has been renovated and a grand re-opening will be held. Discounted plants (10am-3pm), Sausage Sizzle (11:30am-2pm), Free guided tours of the Sanctuary (11:30am and 1:30pm), Activities for kids, Indigenous Plants Workshop (12pm), Nesting Boxes for Indigenous Wildlife Workshop (1pm), Door Prizes. Sunday 4th September. Time: 10am-3pm. More details 9479 5061 or www.latrobe.edu.au/wildlife

Notes from the WCS Library

The current issue of the *Bird Observer* informs us that the 3000 sq.kms of the Pilliga Scrub in NSW overlie substantial reserves of coal seam gas. Proposals to develop gas extraction could result in clearing a network of pipe routes, wells and roads, fragmenting the largest island of semi-arid woodland in the state, and threatening pollution to a major aquifer which feeds the Great Artesian Basin. The Pilliga's sequence of habitat changes since white settlement was described in Eric Rolls' *A Million Wild Acres – environmental change in the Pilliga Forest* (Penguin 1981). Highly recommended blend of social and natural history. We also have Eric Rolls' *They all ran wild*, a well-written history of introduced animals in Australia.

We have a number of interesting videotapes and DVDs.

News & Events cont

They include:

- *The Otways – too precious to plunder* (Environmental Network)
- *Macquarie Island* (Rohan Clarke, 2006)
- *Fungi Map 2001* (Royal Botanic Gardens)
- *Nightlife of Australia's Southeast Forest* (Ninox Pursuits).
- *Seeding the Future: seed collection and cleaning.* (Judy Allen, The Natural Gardener (2010))

They are stored together in a box labelled Video. If anyone wishes to donate any interesting tapes or DVD on natural or conservation topics, we would be happy to give them a home. Please remember to write all loans in the Loans Book.

Anthea Fleming

Australian Plants Expo 2011

10-11th Sept, 10am-4pm - Huge display of native flowers and plants. Adults \$5, concession \$4. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd Eltham (Mel 21 J6).

See home.vicnet.net.au/~apsyarrayarra

Reminiscences of Reg Johnson

Reg and Kath were associated with an indoor bowling club called the Helping Hand for many years. I think originally it was to provide recreation for those who were mentally handicapped, but over the years "ordinary" players like myself were recruited. We never had more than about 20 members, but participated in the Northern Suburbs Indoor Bowling Championship.

About 6 years ago, the Heidelberg Bowling Club

where we played every Friday night, asked us to leave so Reg found us a home at the Macleod YMCA. His talents were revealed when the YMCA decided to ask us to pay fees (and not small either) for our Friday nights. But Reg found documentary evidence that Senior Citizens of Banyule were allowed to use the hall for free. It wasn't so much the money as the principle of the thing.

At supper, over tea and biscuits, Reg and Bill would sometimes mention their experiences of WW2, Reg as a navigator on Lancaster bombers leaving from British airfields. Those Aussies who joined the RAF called themselves the Odd Bods; Reg marched with them every Anzac Day. - supported by his grand-daughter on his last appearance this very year [and very proud that his uniform still fitted]. He attended the Odd Bods Reunions in England, the last one being only two years ago. This was to be the last in any case, as hardly any of the original members are left to attend such an event.

Dorothy Davies

Vale Keith Anderson

Some of our older members may remember Keith Anderson, who was an active WCS member in the '80s and 90s. We are sad to hear of his death on 24 July 2011. He took part in many planting bees at Banyule Flats and Warringal Park, and was also a member of the Friends of the Yarra Valley Park.

President's Report July 2011

Additions to Banyule Significant Tree Register

I attended Banyule Council meeting on 6 June 2011 to address an item in the Council Meeting agenda regarding the Significant Tree Register.

Council was congratulated on its commitment to the continued enhancement of the Significant Tree Register, and reminded that the initial significant tree register was created and developed by the Warringal Conservation Society in the mid 1980's, and that it was a proud day for the Society when the Significant Tree Register was taken up and enhanced by Banyule Council in 2001.

Trees listed in the Significant Tree Register are protected in the Banyule Planning Scheme under schedule 4 to the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO4). This overlay obliges landowners

and occupiers to make a planning permit application if they want to remove or do works that might affect a Significant Tree.

The Significant Tree Register is a living document, and requires continued additions to the register otherwise it simply becomes a register of museum pieces that will dwindle over time.

It was, therefore, pleasing to note that there were an additional 135 new significant trees added to the registry, and it appears that Council resolved to include several other nominated trees as well.

It was also noted that Council, with input provided by Warringal Conservation Society, had also developed criteria for what is described as "Substantial Trees."

The Society hopes that, given appropriate time and

July President's Report cont

resources, Council will embark on a process of establishing a "Substantial Tree" register as a second tier register. This will ensure that upcoming trees will accord enhanced protection, and eventually join the ranks of the Significant Tree Register.

Melbourne Water – Healthy Waterways Initiative

WCS was informed by Banyule Council's Environmental Sustainability Section that Melbourne Water had issued a Community Bulletin in June 2011 regarding its 3 year \$1.9 million Healthy Waterways project to improve the environmental health of the Yarra River between Dights Falls & the Plenty River, involving the removal of over 60 regionally significant weeds, and invasive trees.

Melbourne Water has advised that in the coming days, the crews will be undertaking some large invasive tree removal works between Burke Road in Ivanhoe East and Plenty River in Templestowe. Invasive trees to be removed include Poplars, Hawthorn and Robinas. According to the map provided by Melbourne Water some large invasive tree removals are taking place around Beverly Rd and Buckingham Drive.

Poplars, Hawthorn, Robinas and other species targeted in this project are considered environmental weeds in Victoria and there are strong environmental reasons for their removal. Controlling weeds will allow native plants such as gum trees, wattles and bottlebrush to regenerate more successfully helping to protect and improve significant areas of vegetation. In time, the project will help improve water quality and increase local numbers of native fish, platypus and birds

We thank Banyule Council's Environment Section in bringing this issue to our attention.

New Additions to WCS Committee

I am happy to report that the WCS committee has a number of additions to our Committee. See email to committee.

I have had discussions with Marion Ware, who has agreed to join the WCS Committee. Marion is president of the Friends of Banyule, and has been a member of WCS for a number of years. I have had the pleasure of working with Marion on the Friends of Banyule Steering Committee in the campaign to protect Banyule Flats. Marion is an excellent leader, and under her leadership Friends of Banyule have garnered considerable respect in the community as an environment group that cares for the environment in Banyule. Although Marion will still have considerable commitments as President of Friends of Banyule, and she is also undertaking Post Graduate studies, I'm sure that all members would welcome Marion's contribution to our committee.

I am also pleased to advise that James Deane has agreed to attending some of our committee meetings. As we are all aware, James & Gianna have done an excellent job as our Newsletter editors, and although James has commitments in relation to being our Editor, he has graciously offered further assistance in attending our meetings. I believe that all of us on committee would welcome the assistance James has to offer, and we all hope that James will find being on committee of assistance in his duties as our editor.

Information sought by Environment Victoria regarding Article in WCS Newsletter.

EV approached WCS for a copy of the eulogies for Reg Johnson published in our recent newsletter so that they would have a comprehensive history/story about Reg. A copy of the Newsletter was sent to EV.

John D'Aloia

President's Report August 2011

WCS Prize

I am pleased to advise that Anthea Fleming & I were invited to attend an award ceremony at LaTrobe University on 20 July 2011.

Anthea & I were introduced to Emeritus Professor John McKenzie Deputy Chancellor, and Professor Brian McGaw Executive Dean of Faculty of Science, Technology & Engineering, who expressed their thanks to the Society for investing in the future of their students.

On behalf of the Society, I extend our sincere

congratulations to **Meredith Kirkham** as the recipient of the inaugural WCS prize for the best 1st year Bachelor of Science (Wildlife & Conservation Biology) student.

The Society has committed to provide a prize for the next five years. It is hoped that such support and encouragement will lead to more conservation ecologists to protect our wildlife.

Ban on Live Animal Exports

Members are advised that on the basis of evidence

August President's Report cont

revealed to the Australian community regarding the deplorable treatment of livestock in Indonesia, the Society added its voice to the chorus of individuals and organisations condemning live animal exports. Although the Society is committed to protect, restore and rehabilitate the natural environment for indigenous flora and fauna in Banyule and beyond, it was considered that the Society should, at the very least, express its concern about the welfare of any animal that is subject to ill treatment.

It is for this reason that the Society undertook the following:

- Sent a letter to our local Federal Member, Jenny Macklin, condemning the live animal export trade and calling for a ban on live animal exports,

- Made a short submission supporting a permanent ban on live animal exports to:

- Independent review into Australia's livestock export trade, and

- Senate Inquiry: Improvements in animal welfare for Australian live exports.

Animals Australia and RSPCA have organised a national rally to call for the ban on live animal exports on Sunday 14 August at 10.30am, on the steps of Parliament. This date has been chosen as Bills to end live export trade will be voted on in parliament on Thursday August 18 2011. Those members interested in this campaign are encouraged to attend this rally.

Opera House Net Traps

Last meeting, the Society was asked to write to our State Environment Minister calling for a ban on Opera House Net Traps. In accordance with that request, a letter has been drafted and will be sent to the State & Federal Environment Ministers, once it is ratified by the Committee.

Heidelberg Transport Forum

Members are advised that a Sustainable Transport seminar is being held at the Heidelberg Primary School Hall on 31 August 2011 from 6.30 – 9.30 pm. The Guest speaker will be Frank Fisher, Professor of Sustainability at Swinburne University, Australian Educator of the Year 2007 & prolific author on sustainable transport issues. This will be an evening of information and conversation about how we might transform transport in and around Heidelberg and beyond. Bring some food to share if you like, your own mug, and a gold coin donation to cover expenses.

RSVP: Mary Stringer 9455 2581 or info@transitionbanyule.org.au

Exploring ways to Enhance the work of the Society

As members may be aware, the Society has had some difficulties in filling committee positions, making it particularly difficult for existing committee members to undertake all the necessary work of the Society.

Although there has been some respite with additional committee membership recently, the committee is mindful that some changes are required to distribute the burden of work so that it is more sustainable. To this end, the committee have been exploring some ideas.

There have been discussions on such things as:

- Email Updates to Members – Those members who have provided their email addresses to the Society may have noticed some email traffic from the society regarding upcoming events that could not be included in our Newsletters. On occasion there are times when events occur very quickly, and the only way to notify members would be via email. If there are members who have an email address, and have not advised the Society, but would like to be kept updated, please advise a committee member.

- Revamping WCS Website/Blog – Our website is still offline, and there will be an attempt in coming weeks and months to resurrect the website. It is hoped that further enhancements may be possible so keep an eye on this space.

- Email committee members - WCS Committee is structured in such a way that it includes Committee members that meet face to face, and Committee members that are provided with email of discussions held, and they contribute via email response – that way they can respond when they have time to respond if need be.

- WCS Adviser Group - This group would comprise senior members of WCS that we can seek advice on particular issues – George Paras is a good example involving flora & fauna issues (from time to time George has provided his expertise in assisting the society in resolving issues). In this way we are engaging and including a larger group of members in participating in the work of the Society. It may also mean that members that are unable to physically participate in WCS activities such as plantings & meetings can participate electronically.

- WCS Campaign Leaders – The Society is involved in a wide range of campaigns and activities, be they local issues or national issues.

August President's Report cont

We have members who are passionate about particular issues, or who are members of other environmental organisations, that may wish to bring such issues to the attention of the Society. It is considered that perhaps such members may wish to become WCS campaign leaders in areas that they are passionate about, and may then provide reports to

the Society from time to time, or may seek to engage WCS support for their particular cause.

I would be pleased to receive any feedback from members regarding the above thoughts & ideas

John D'Aloia

July Speaker - Rodger Scott, Wildlife Photography and Wildlife Art

Rodger Scott is a wildlife painter and photographer, and a member of BOCA and the Wildlife Art Society of Australia. He discussed his approach to photographing birds and other wildlife, and what he aims to capture in a photograph.

Rodger explained that, depending on the goals of the photographer, the ideal photo can vary a great deal. A bird observer may simply be documenting the fact that they have seen a particular species and any photo that captures the distinctive features is a success, regardless of its aesthetic qualities. A wildlife photographer, on the other hand, will be looking for a sharp image with good colours, a nice pose, complimentary background and a lack of any detracting features.

A wildlife artist like Rodger uses photographs as a starting point for a painting and still needs a nice pose and detail of distinctive features. Distracting objects, like twigs or wires, are not important because they do not have to appear in the painting. (see photo and painting of an Eastern Spinebill to right). Likewise, background can be modified or replaced. A painting can also be based on features and poses from several photos. Rodger also uses video, and selected stills can show difficult to see details and behaviors. Video using infrared is also good for observing nocturnal animals.

Rodger paints with water colours and gouache and brought some beautiful examples of his work to the

meeting. A smaller painting of one bird with a simple background takes Rodger 3-4 hours to complete. A larger more complex painting may take a week or more.

For more on Rodger's work see:
www.wildlifeartsociety.com/artist/rodger_scott.php

James Deane



Photograph (above) and resulting painting (below) of an Eastern Spinebill



A painting of a group of Scarlet Honeyeaters

August Speaker - Rachel Bishop, Edible Gardens

Our August meeting was different in that it began with a food swap initiated by our speaker Rachel Bishop. A large audience then heard about where some of the seedlings and veggies on offer had come from.

Rachel is a teacher by trade and passionate about local food production. She pointed out that fifty years ago the majority of our food was sourced locally, but now most of it travels large distances. This transport is a waste of resources and usually reduces the quality of the food by the time we get it. Rachel's friend Veronica mentioned Veggie box schemes, such as Local Food Connect, where subscribers can get a weekly box of locally produced seasonal vegetables.

Rachel explained how she took on a job at Churinga, a place in Greensborough that supports intellectually disabled people. Her brief was to work part-time and set up a food garden on a fairly minimalist budget. Help came in the form of the permablitz scheme where people band together to set up gardens based on permaculture principles. After contributing to several other gardens, Rachel's turn for a permablitz came up. From a starting point of a

row of cauliflowers and broad beans partly sheltered by the eave of a building, a large adjoining grassed area was turned into a veggie garden. The garden uses wicking beds that are watered through a pipe that goes to the bottom of the garden. Water is wicked up through organic material in the bed, minimizing evaporation that occurs when gardens are watered from the top. From the photos shown, it seems to work very well. Four old baths have been turned into worm farms and a green house is also under construction.

An important part of the project has been the involvement of intellectually disabled people. Rachel described how several people had developed gardening skills ranging from worm farming, seedling propagation, weeding, harvesting and preparing veggies for sale. A range of vegetables from the garden go to a local farmer's market. Volunteers assist with the garden on Wednesday mornings and food swaps have been held on the second Saturday of the month.

James Deane

Local Plants - Greenhood Orchids

Greenhood orchids belong to the genus *Pterostylis* and are common in some areas around Melbourne. They have a domed flower that is mainly green, but often has white stripes or reddish and yellow tinges. Their leaves form a small rosette on the ground and most flower though winter and spring, then die back in summer and survive as an underground tuber. Their flowers attract small flies and gnats that act as pollinators. Some common species like the Nodding Greenhood form large colonies.

Native orchids like Greenhoods don't cope well with disturbance, weeds and grazing. Many also require the occasional fire to promote flowering. As such, orchids have been lost from many of our suburban parks and reserves. Some Greenhoods can be cultivated and are available from specialist nurseries and enthusiasts. Others are impossible to maintain outside their natural environment, meaning that their existence is linked to habitat preservation.

There are quite a few Greenhoods and other native orchids in flower at present. The examples shown here were photographed in Boomer's Reserve at Smith's Gully and Professor's Hill at Warrandyte.

James Deane



Clockwise from top left: Blunt Greenhood, Tall Greenhood, Maroon Hood and Nodding Greenhood.

Opera House Net Traps and Platypus

Warrigal Conservation Society recently wrote to the State and Federal Environment Ministers calling for a complete ban on the sale of Opera House Nets due to their impacts on protected species, particularly the platypus. These traps also pose a serious threat to other native wildlife such as turtles, water-rats and water birds.

Although the use of opera house net traps is illegal in Victorian public waterways, they can still be used in dams on private properties to catch yabbies and crayfish. They are readily available, cheap and many people are unaware that they are banned from public waterways. There is little or no warning about the hazard they pose. The traps are often put out overnight when wildlife is most active; and tend to get left behind

Opera house traps are particularly hazardous to platypus because they go inside to get yabbies, are unable to free themselves and drown. Traps are commonly set in summer, which is breeding season for the platypus. If a breeding female is trapped, dependent young in the nursery burrow also die.

Opera house traps with drowned platypus have been found by the DSE and the Platypus Conservancy in several Victorian rivers and the urban fringe waterways of Melbourne in recent years. On the 6th July 2011, at a Manningham seminar, the Conservancy reported that one of the rivers surveyed recently had thirty-seven opera house traps within a few hundred metres and contained seventeen platypus skulls.

The number of platypus in Victoria has declined in recent years and there is concern about their future. Platypus can be seen sometimes in our local waterways and are a drawcard for visitors and tourists. The death of even a single individual could make a difference to the survival of the population.

There are predictions that much of the platypus' present range will become drier with climate change. They need all the help we can give them to survive and eliminating deaths in yabby traps will make an important contribution .

Celia Smith

Nature Notes - Member's Observations

July

- Before the meeting, Roger Fyffe showed me specimens of some large black wasps he had found catching and burying locusts; they then died. I have vivid memories of similar wasps hovering above sandy unmade roads at Sorrento in my young days. They captured and buried caterpillars, after laying an egg on each. The wasp larvae feed on the buried prey before hatching next spring.
- Celia Smith saw 4 Kangaroos at Banyule Flats and another 23 upstream, past Plenty Footbridge.
- Brian Fleming found two young Bluetongue Lizards in the garden when weeding. He saw a flock of about 20 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, and Robert Bender counted 38 of them.
- Jane Crone has two pairs of little Ravens building nests, one in a cypress, another in a Yellow Box. Galahs have been eating plane seeds in The Eyrie.
- John D'Aloia reported 20 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos in Beverley Rd. feeding on the grass.
- Greg reported that he had seen a large owl perched on the edge of a house veranda in Rosanna.
- Robert Bender showed some photographs of local fungi and a Slime Mould. He reported that a Powerful Owl pellet collected at Yarra Bend contained remains of a Little Red Flying-fox, an unusual visitor to the Melbourne area. Robert also received the photograph on the right showing that Powerful Owls do take the occasional Flying Fox. The photograph was taken at Wilson Reserve in Ivanhoe and shows an Owl with a Grey Headed Flying Fox.

Anthea Fleming



Nature Notes cont.

August

Anthea Fleming reports:

- On 21 July, a Fox in the south paddock at Banyule Flats – it jumped up from the grass and ran into the Billabong. It had a splendid red coat.
- First Blackbird this spring, heard singing, 31 July.
- On 1st August, a Kookaburra flew into the back window but recovered and sat on the rail for a while – it seemed unharmed.
- Wood Ducks are seeking nest hollows – on 9 August a pair was cackling on a chimney top. We have heard Tawny Frogmouths calling at night since late July.
- On 16 August, a Pied Currawong collected large dead twigs from our Lemon Verbena bush and carried them to our neighbors' Sugar Gum, where it nested last year.
- Jane Crone reported Kookaburras calling after dark in Eaglemont.
- Robert Bender showed us photos taken last January, when he met a Black Duck leading her ducklings to water from Rotherwood Rd. Under Robert's escort, they crossed Lower Heidelberg Rd and Ivanhoe Park and oval. They went down Irvine Rd and onto the Golf Course, where they found a suitable pond.

Anthea Fleming



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If not delivered return to: PO Box 64, Rosanna 3084



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CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

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