



WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Early Winter Newsletter

Volume 46/three

May/June 2016

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.

MAY MEETING

Trust for Nature

Ben Cullen is the Port Phillip & Westernport Regional Manager for the Trust for Nature. Trust for Nature is a not-for-profit organisation that works to protect native plants and wildlife in cooperation with private landowners. The Trust was established to enable people to contribute permanently to nature conservation by donating land or money. Trust for Nature owns a number of properties in the Port Phillip & Westernport region, including a reserve for the endangered Elthan Copper Butterfly.

JUNE MEETING

Earthwatch Otways Koala project

Robert Bender is a WCS member who regularly goes on interesting field trips and tells us about them at our meetings. Robert will speak about an Earthwatch project studying Koalas in the Otways. Koalas are relatively abundant in this region and in some areas their grazing is killing their preferred forage trees and causing them to starve. Earthwatch projects in the Otways monitor Koala populations and behavior, and try to develop better conservation strategies.

**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

May

Thursday 5th: General meeting - Trust for Nature - Port Phillip and Westernport

Sunday 15th: Planting at Banyule Flats near *Eucalyptus studleyensis*
(See news and Events)

June

Thursday 2nd: General meeting - Otways Koalas

Sunday 5th: World Environment day walk (See news and Events)

Sunday 19th: Weeding at Native Gardens (See news and Events)

News & Events

Upcoming WCS activities*

Sunday May 15th, 10am-12noon. Planting, weeding and cleanup

Under the the *Eucalyptus studleyensis* near Somerset Drive carpark Melway Ref 32:F2. Look for the big tree beyond the car park.

Sunday 5th June, World Environment Day, 4-6pm

“Who Roosts at Banyule Flats Swamp?” To mark World Environment Day come along to Somerset Road carpark at 4pm, and we shall walk and watch what wildlife settle into a safe roost for the night at our beautiful wetland. Bring binoculars. Please email your intention to come on warringal3084@gmail.com

Sunday June 19th, 10am-12noon, Weeding,

Near the Walter Withers sign at the Native Gardens Melway Ref 32:F1

*See facebook for updates:

www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety

Cleanup Australia Report

On Sunday March 6th we gathered at the Silt Pond at the northern end of Banyule Swamp. This is usually referred to as “The Grotty Pond” for a good reason. Storm water from the suburbs flows into the pond depositing a startling amount of crap in the process. Plastic drink bottles accounted for most of what we dragged out followed by tennis balls. After a couple of hours we had filled the Bush Crew Ute. As we packed up a Buff-Banded Rail dashed across the muddy edge of the pond we had just cleaned up. I hope it appreciated our work.



Cleanup Australia Day

Who we are and how to contact us

Warringal Conservation Society Inc

PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084

Email: warringal3084@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety

Web: www.warringal.org.au

President: John D'Aloia

Telephone: 0478739288

Vice President: Anthea Fleming

Treasurer: Daphne Hards

Telephone: 9497 4831

Newsletter

Editors: James Deane & Gianna Romano

Telephone: 94585985

Email: wcs.editor@gmail.com

Compilation & Mailing: Margaret Pollock, Heather Smith, Don Stokes

Planting Coordinator: Heather Smith

Committee: John D'Aloia, Anthea Fleming, Celia Smith, Daphne Hards, Dianne Williamson, James Deane.

News & Events cont.

Activity report - Woody Weed Removal

On Sunday April 10th we worked on the margin of Warringal Pond not far from the Possum Hollow Playground. Thick growth of Silver Wattle was cut out. Although these are a native plant, they are a colonizing species that produces a lot of seed and rapidly takes over. This limits the opportunities for other local plants to grow. The Silver Wattles we cut will be mulched and used on other plantings in the area.



Silver Wattle Thinning at Warringal Pond

WCS member's letters on the North-East Link Freeway proposal

Preserve our parklands

In response to the recent discussion of a proposed North East link freeway, the Warringal Conservation Society would like to stress the importance of considering our remnant bushland, parks and open spaces in this debate.

We are concerned that a North East link freeway will consume or compromise parkland and remnant bushland in Banyule and the surrounding area.

The need to preserve these unique areas should feature prominently in discussions of the proposed North East link road.

Anthea Fleming, WCS vice-president.

Heidelberg Leader 8.3.2016

Parklands need protecting

Good to see the Leader put the environmental aspect of the proposed North East link argument up at last ("Parklands could be lost", Leader March 8).

The congestion is a huge problem for everyone affected, but there has been far too little said about the inestimable value of the Banyule Flats to this area. It shapes the character of our area, it is our lungs and our connection to the natural environment, and it is what makes Banyule wonderful and unique. If it gets ruined by a freeway, this area will be just another landlocked grid of suburbia.

Don Stokes, Heidelberg

Heidelberg Leader 15.3.2016

Roads not the top priority

Regarding the campaign to make the North East Link a top government priority to fix congestion in Melbourne's north, including Rosanna Road.

The concerns of traffic congestion, including heavy trucks on Rosanna Road ('Campaign to fix link', the Heidelberg Leader, February 23) are understandable and require resolution.

However, Rosanna Rd does not carry 45,000 trucks per day, as quoted in the article. According to the most recently published VicRoads data (2013), Rosanna Rd carries 41,000 vehicles a day, of which a minority are trucks. In fact, a large majority of the traffic is comprised of single-occupancy vehicles, with many of them commuting to the CBD and inner suburbs along under-serviced public transport routes. One definition of madness is to do the same thing over and over again and to expect a different result. One only has to look at the increasing

News & Events cont.

gridlock in the face of ever increasing road capacity to see the futility of endless road expansion. We simply induce more traffic, and with it frustration, stress, pollution, environmental destruction and ill-health – and more congestion. Instead we should be prioritising facilities for walking and cycling and investing in the public transport network, which is not adequate to cope with our existing population, let alone the projected population growth.

John Merory, Ivanhoe

Heidelberg Leader 22.3.2016

Tunnel will save the flats

With talk of a North East freeway link, it is important to consider what is at stake. Non-specific references to a tunnel under Banyule Flats do little to address what a freeway might involve on a broader scale. Will it involve knocking over remnant bushland at Simpson Barracks, stronghold of the endangered Studley Park gum and part of a wildlife corridor? Will it go along Rivergum Walk taking out Redgums that have been there for over 100 years? Will it go through the grounds of the Heide Museum and Bolin Bolin Billabong?

Given the cost of a tunnel and inherent truck-unfriendly gradients, there is also the concern the whole freeway may revert to an above-ground format after it is promised.

The other proposed route through Green Wedge Nillumbik is likely to be equally destructive.

Yes, trucks on Rosanna Rd are a safety issue, which is why they should go via City-link, a road designed for heavy vehicles. The problem that will take longer to resolve is our reliance on single-occupant cars for commuting. Building more roads will shuffle this problem around, but ultimately result in more single-occupant cars on the roads as people undertake even more heroic commutes.

It will be tragic if attempts to persist with an inefficient mode of transport cost us our parkland and bush reserves.

James Deane, Yallambie

Heidelberg Leader 22.3.2016

Don't include me

'Ring of Ire' (RA, February) states: "Locals, commuters and truck drivers all agree that a freeway status road – the north east link – must be built". Please don't speak on my behalf. I live near Greensborough and Rosanna Roads. I have a husband who commutes, kids who have to cross busy roads to get to school, and I am also a long-term RACV member. Traffic volumes and trucks are an issue in our area, but we are well past the point where a continued focus on road building will provide an overall benefit. A freeway will use resources that could be better applied elsewhere, consume parks and bushland and ultimately result in more traffic.

Gianna Romano, Yallambie

RoyalAuto April 2016

Green lungs need sparing

Banyule Flats is an essential part of the 'green lungs' of our city, serving many important, albeit unrecognised, beneficial roles. While the problem of traffic congestion in Melbourne is undeniable, compromising natural assets such as the Flats is unlikely to offer a permanent fix.

Imposing on what is left of our wonderful natural heritage seems to be the only way forward for some. While dislocating a bigger problem may offer some temporary relief, permanent loss of natural habitat and local species extinction have far reaching ramifications that are immeasurable.

Denise and Anthony Fernando, Macleod

Heidelberg Leader 19.4.2016

March General Meeting Report

Plantings, Working Bees and Activities

14 members and friends participated in the February night walk led by George Paras and the BCC Bush Crew, and organized by Heather Smith. Highlight was a Powerful Owl.

Volunteers needed to support the work of the Committee on behalf of members

We are looking for volunteers to nominate to join the Committee. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month. If you think you might be interested,

have a look through the minutes of our recent meetings in the folder on the front table and then speak with a Committee member.

We would also like someone to volunteer to set-up our suppers and oversee the clean-up of the kitchen. This would involve arriving by 7.15 to put out the supper table, cups, tea/coffee etc, bringing the milk and advising the Treasurer when we need to purchase more supplies. You do not need to bake a cake or wash all the dishes yourself! If you think

March General Meeting Report cont.

you might be able to take on this role please speak with Dianne after the meeting.

Newspaper articles and letters on the Proposed NE Link

Members will be aware of the pro-freeway articles and letters in the Heidelberg Leader in the past couple of weeks. The Infrastructure Planning Australia report and the associated Infrastructure Priority List were released two weeks ago. The Committee noted that the priority list document includes ‘completion of Ringroad from Greensborough Highway to Eastern Freeway’, although there is no detail about the route, timing or funding.

The Committee has been working closely with Friends of Banyule and we should see a pro-wetlands article and photo in the Heidelberg Leader this or next week. The Committee has also prepared a ‘Letter to the Editor’ expressing our concerns about potential impact on Banyule Flats and adjacent areas of this habitat corridor. We encourage all members to take individual action on the matter by writing to letters newspapers and our politicians.

La Trobe University Prize

We have now exchanged contracts with the University to extend the ‘Warringal Conservation Society, Wildlife and Conservation Biology Prize’ for another 5 years and the value to \$500.

Banyule Environmental Advisory Committee

John D’Aloia has been a member of this Committee for 2 years, and his membership is about to expire. Although he was not a WCS representative, he was a strong advocate for conservation policy and practice, and chaired the Committee for the last year of his membership. WCS member Denise Fernando is also

a member of BEAC, so John is leaving the Committee in good hands. We hope that Denise will keep us informed of relevant issues.

Wetland interpretive signage – a Potential WCS project

Members have noted missing signs around the Banyule Flats area, specifically the ‘don’t feed the ducks’ sign at the benches overlooking the water. Replacement and additional signage could be a project for a BCC environment grant later in the year, extending on the work of Danielle Mallia. If you are interested in developing the idea and the documentation for the grant proposal, please speak with a Committee member after the meeting. The Committee alone can’t develop and then implement this type of project – we need your help!

Notices of events

We have received information on the following workshops which may be of interest to members: Warringal Habitat Links – 2.00-4.00pm Sat 5 March How would you like to have a sugar glider living in your garden? Come along to Transition Warringal’s Habitat Links presentation about what sugar gliders and some of their friends need to survive and thrive in suburbia. When: Saturday 5 March, 2pm – 4pm Where: Presentation at Rosanna Library, followed by an interpretive walk through Rosanna Parklands Guest presenter: Richard Francis, consulting ecologist. Free, check details on the Library’s website.

Composting and worm farms – Afternoon of 6 March. Free, but registration is required. See the notice on the front table.

Dianne Williamson & James Deane

April General Meeting Report

Planting and Working Bees

Heather Smith reported that the BCC Bush Crew and WCS volunteers will remove woody weeds in Warringal Parklands at the next working bee on Sunday 10 April.

Clean Up Australia Day

On 6 March WCS members and members of the community participated in this day by working at the Grotty Pond, at the Banyule Road end of the Banyule Flats. The correct title for this area is the Silt Pond. Volunteers removed masses of empty plastic bottles together with other rubbish.

Replacement of Signs

The Treasurer has approached the Council Bushland Crew about the need to replace the “Please Don’t Feed the Birds” notice by the viewing seats at the Banyule Swamp. The Committee is working on a grant application for additional informational signage to help visitors identify birds and other interesting features of the area, and to highlight the work of WCS and community groups in revegetation.

Woody weeds at Banyule Flats

The BCC Bush Crew and Melbourne Water have been working in the northern section of Banyule

April General Meeting Report cont.

Flats for the last couple of months removing Robinia trees, blackberries and other exotic weed species.

Wildlife and environmental issues

The Committee sent an additional letter to Anthony Carbines asking for his support to cancel the duck shooting season. WCS members Kate Bossence, Daphne Hards, and Celia Smith bravely participated in the Coalition Against Duck Shooting (CADs) protests at Victorian wetlands for the season opening. Kerang was their original destination; but court actions mounted by Animals Australia and other groups managed to close the two large wetlands in Kerang, where there were many threatened species of birds, before the opening; so the group went to Lake Burrumbeet near Ballarat instead. The season continues until June 13th.

To support The Wilderness Society's current habitat destruction campaign the Committee has written to Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister and to Greg Hunt, Minister for the Environment, requesting federal and state cooperation to halt land clearing.

Newspaper articles and letters on the Proposed NE Link

Members will be aware of the pro-freeway articles and letters in the Heidelberg Leader in the past few weeks. The Committee has been working closely with Friends of Banyule. To provide a balanced view, a pro-wetlands article and photo of WCS and FOB representatives has appeared in the Heidelberg Leader. 'Letters to the Editor' have been published from Anthea Fleming (on behalf of the WCS Committee), James Deane, Don Stokes, John Merory, Gianna Romano, Denise and Anthony Fernando and FOB members – all expressing concern about the potential impact on Banyule Flats and adjacent areas of this habitat corridor.

We encourage all members to take individual action on the matter, so that the community sees a balanced discussion, with letters promoting the importance of habitat corridors, the conservation value of the wetlands, and the community value of open space for passive recreation.

Truck curfew trial

The first meeting of the Community Reference Group (CRG) for the North East Truck Curfew Trial was cancelled on 23 March with advice that it will be re-scheduled in late April. The stated purpose of the meeting is: To present the current pre and post truck curfew results, as well as noise and safety assessment surveys and to discuss what this data means; To discuss options for an origin-

destination survey for truck movements and advise VicRoads as to the most suitable option. A Committee nominee will attend the meeting on behalf of WCS and will report to members at the May General meeting.

Banyule Environmental Advisory Committee

WCS members expressed concern at the March General Meeting that a BCC document included the statement that "The most efficient trees within Banyule for extracting air pollutants are Eucalyptus, Angophora and Platanus species." This was discussed at the BEAC meeting where members were concerned that this could be taken as a recommendation. BBC officers stated that preferential planning to plant plane trees was not BCC policy.

Banyule's Safe Travel Plan

Daphne Hards and Dianne Williamson attended a BCC community consultation forum on 8 March. The purpose of the Forum was to seek input to a set of draft strategic directions including traffic management, safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and integration with the Banyule Transport Plan. When the draft Safe Travel Plan is prepared there will be further opportunity for community review.

Banyule City Plan review

The City Plan is reviewed and updated each year after comprehensive consultation with the community, councillors and staff and it is time for review of the Year 4 Plan. The plan can be accessed from the BCC website. Members are encouraged to review the report and comment as individuals. The consultation schedule is:

28th April - Community Drop-in Session, from 6pm in Greensborough

5th May - Community Drop-in Session, from 6pm in Ivanhoe

19th May - Last day to have your say on final draft.

Volunteers needed for the Committee

Our Society is run by a small Committee and members are invited to consider nomination to join the Committee. Our duties are not very onerous, and we have always been a very harmonious group. If anyone would like to take part in activities and volunteer their services, please let a committee member know.

Volunteers needed to support General Meetings

We would like someone to volunteer to set up our suppers and oversee the clean-up of the kitchen. This would involve arriving by 7.20 to put out the

April General Meeting Report cont.

supper table, cups, tea/coffee etc, bringing the milk, and advising the Treasurer when we need to purchase more supplies. You do not need to bake a cake or wash all the dishes yourself! If you think you might be able to take on this role please email the committee.

Membership brochures

Daphne has organised updating and printing of the WCS membership brochure. The Committee provides copies for Ivanhoe & Rosanna libraries, Rosanna Council Offices and for distribution at working bees. If you can help with distribution, for example at other libraries or community groups, please ask a Committee member for supplies.

Completion of Darebin Creek Path

The last southern section of the Darebin Creek Path, for walkers and cyclists, is due to be completed in September 1917. This will lead from Sparkes Reserve to Napier Waller Reserve, through Latrobe Golf Club and eventually, via a 50-metre bridge over the Yarra, to Willsmere Reserve in Kew, where it

will meet the main Yarra Trail. The track has been constructed as far as the Waller Reserve, previously inaccessible. Here the Friends of Darebin Creek met on Sunday 3rd April for a working bee to collect rubbish and recyclables. About 12 attended, of all ages, led by Peter Wilshire of Darebin Parklands. The area has changed markedly from when it was the Wallers' horse-paddock. Blackberries, willows and other weeds have vanished and the area has returned to woodland with re-planting over the years.

WCS 50th Anniversary

Here we are in 2016 – the beginning of our 46th year! We are planning for what we can do to. An idea to celebrate our 50th Anniversary is to produce a History of the Society. If anyone has any historic material such as cuttings, photos, or personal recollections, please contact Anthea Fleming.

Celia Smith, Dianne Williamson, Anthea Fleming

Report on Duck Shooting Opening Weekend 2016

WCS members braved the danger and cold to help with rescues of native water birds at Lake Burrumbeet at the first 2016 Duck Shooting weekend. The season continues until June 14th.

Kerang Lakes

There have been some major wins this year in the fight to save native waterbirds. Lake Elizabeth in Kerang was open to hunters on March 18th, and several WCS members were on their way to help defend native water birds from hunters there. But just a few days before opening, 155 threatened blue-billed ducks were observed on Lake Elizabeth. The Animals Australia legal team swung into action; and because the Government didn't respond, a Supreme Court challenge resulted. On Friday at 2.30pm (less than 24 hours before opening), to avoid a possible court loss, the Government capitulated and agreed to close Lake Elizabeth to duck shooting. 155 threatened blue-billed ducks saved over 20,000 waterbirds on Lake Elizabeth from being terrorized, shot at, wounded, and killed. Some rescuers had already arrived in Kerang when the news came through that the change was to Lake Burrumbeet, near Ballarat. Other rescuers were on their way. It was a logistical challenge for the Coalition against Duck Shooting to inform everyone with a text

message, phone call or an email. With help from Animals Australia, they did.



Blue-Billed Duck

Johnson Swamp in Kerang was closed to hunting for the first month of the season due to the presence of the endangered Australasian Bittern. A month later, many thousands of water birds - from beautiful 'game' species to protected and threatened species - had also found their way to the relative safety of Johnson Swamp. So legal teams from Animals Australia and Coalition against Duck Shooting gave the Victorian Government an ultimatum to close the wetland and protect threatened water birds or face action in the Federal Court. Just days before shooters

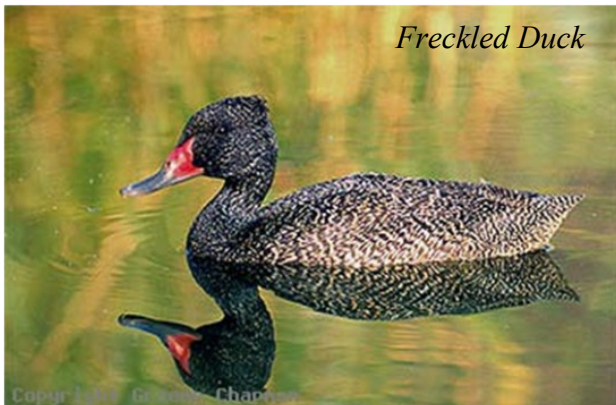
Duck Shooting 2016 cont.

were to descend on Sunday 17th April, the Government agreed to shut Johnson Swamp to shooters — for the entire duck hunting season. For the more than 60,000 native water birds who have gathered at this key wetland when so many others are dry, this means peace and safety. It means life. And, for the Australasian Bittern, this victory could make the difference between survival and disaster. Only about 850 of these beautiful water birds are left in the wild.



Australasian Bittern

Lake Toolondo: Thanks to the persistent efforts of rescuers, sadly a staggering 86 dead birds were recovered from Lake Toolondo over Easter, including 18 threatened Freckled Ducks, 27 protected Eurasian Coot and 21 protected Blue-winged Shovelers. All these birds had been left to rot on the wetlands after being shot on the opening weekend. Nine wounded birds were taken to veterinary care. It had been nothing short of a massacre, yet the Victorian government was refusing to close the lake to protect the threatened waterbirds remaining.



Freckled Duck

This slaughter of threatened species resulted in Animals Australia and CADS launching a Supreme Court challenge to have Lake Toolondo closed to

duck shooting. They went to court, laid out the evidence before a Judge, and a trial date was set. Then, with a trial looming over them, the Ministers responsible announced they would close part of Lake Toolondo to shooters -- the part of the lake where most of the waterbirds are living. Legal teams continue to work towards a full closure of this lake.

Public Money for Shooters

Just weeks after this illegal massacre of threatened water birds, the State Government has announced it will give over \$5 million of taxpayer funds to the shooting lobby to promote hunting in Victoria. The Government says, among other things, that the funds will "provide better hunting opportunities, and ensure our game species remain sustainable". But surely, with wetland habitats drying up and waterbird numbers plummeting, the best way to ensure populations remain sustainable is not to shoot them!

Caring Victorians will understandably be appalled to learn that this public money includes promoting the wounding and killing of defenceless native waterbirds for 'sport'. The Government's decision is clearly intended to appease the vocal and extreme shooting lobby.

What you can do:

- Alert other tax payers via newspapers social media, and talk back programs about the way public money is being spent to encourage the shooting of native ducks to appease a small minority of voters who want to hunt them. Newspapers have sites on which to record your message. Most people are opposed to hunting native ducks.

- Tell the Government to ban duck shooting. Email them or write them a letter. Email the Premier at daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au and the Minister for Agriculture at jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au

- Communicate your opposition to our local member, Anthony Carbines. He is also a member of our Society and does not, we believe, favour the hunting of native ducks. Remind him that we do have other candidates to vote for.

- Donations to help with costs for any of the groups mentioned above are always welcome.

Celia Smith

Win for Critically-Endangered Regent Honey Eater in Court Decision

In August 2015 WCS Committee responded to a request from Birdlife Australia by writing a letter to NSW authorities and to the Cessnock Council to object to development of a steel fabrication works in an area of the Hunter Economic Zone known to be a core breeding area of the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater. Doubtless many other organizations and individuals also responded to this request.

As we now learn, the NSW Land and Environment Court have found in favour of a challenge to the approval of a development which would have destroyed habitat for the Regent Honeyeater. This species may be down to as few as 350 – 400 birds in the wild.

Friends of Tumblebee, represented by NSW EDO, claimed that a Special Impact Study should have been carried out. The Court agreed, and added “Preservation of this area is of vital importance to the long-term survival of this species. Habitat destruction is a prime reason for its imperilled state.”

The decision also recognises the contribution Birdlife Australia's Regent Honeyeater data made to informing the decision, and the huge amount of effort Birdlife Australia volunteers put into searching for the birds.

The Hunter Industrial Zone in the Lower Hunter Valley contains one of the largest wooded remnants of lowland forest, with a remarkably large range of threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities.. It has been identified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area, but in 2002 it was re-zoned for industrial purposes by the NSW Government after minimal ecological investigation. A large steel fabrication works had been planned for the area, but, we hope, will not now proceed.

Summarised from Birdlife Australia media release, 11 March, 2016

Anthea Fleming

Nature Notes April 2016

As late Summer turns into Autumn, many bird species are on the move. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos are about in the Yarra Valley and along Darebin Creek, often feeding on pine cones. Lene Jakobsen saw some in Heidelberg Park, and Doug MaNaughton counted 14 in Rosanna Parklands. Anthea Fleming saw some at Napier Waller Reserve on Darebin Creek. Penny Grose saw a Gang Gang.

Dianne Williamson reported that two Swans came to Banyule Swamp, but stayed only two days. She also had two King Parrots and an Eastern Spinebill in her garden. Spinebills and Grey Fantails have been visiting the Fleming garden, and Anthea Fleming saw flocks of Silvereyes and Grey Fantails at Wilson Reserve and Banyule Flats – honeyeaters were also on the move at Banyule Flats, with Yellow-faced and New Holland Honeyeaters and an Eastern Spinebill. Many of these small birds may be migrating north from Tasmania.

Anthony Fernando saw four New Holland Honeyeaters in a flowering bottlebrush near Darebin Creek, and a pair of Scaly-breasted Lorikeets at Rosanna.

At Mt. Beauty, Heather Smith saw a Wedge-tailed Eagle pursuing one of a flight of gliders – the sail-plane kind, not the possums. The glider was flown by Peter Deane (WCS editor James' father).

Banyule Swamp's water-level has fluctuated very much this summer, but it has never quite dried out. Whistling Kites have visited (doubtless hoping to catch stranded carp) when it got really low). As many as eight Black-fronted Dotterels have been feeding along the edges, and a White-fronted heron, White-bellied and Yellow-billed Spoonbills are regular visitors. Chestnut Teal are the most numerous duck. A White-necked Heron visited on 11 March, and attracted “paparazzi” in the form of bird photographers.

As I drove through the parking area near the Banyule Theatre on the night of the meeting, I narrowly avoided running over a large silver-grey Brushtail Possum – which took refuge in one of Doug Western's row of Yellow Gums.

Finally, though I have not yet heard of any around Banyule, don't forget that Swift Parrots are arriving from Tasmania, so keep an eye (and ear!) out for them near flowering gums.

Anthea Fleming

Nature Notes cont

Other Sightings

Robert and William Deane saw Soldier Beetles swarming at Banyule Flats, and Swift Moth cases in Westerfolds Park



Soldier Beetles



Swift Moth case

**Would you like to receive your newsletter by email rather
than a paper copy in the regular mail**
Save paper and see the photos in colour. Contact us at
warringal3084@gmail.com

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



**WARRINGAL
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No: 100005201

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA