



WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

True Spring Newsletter

Volume 47/six

Nov/Dec 2017

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 \$20,
Family \$25
Pension/student/
unemployed \$15
Life \$200

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.

NOVEMBER MEETING



Andrew Kelly - Yarra River Keepers

Andrew Kelly is the Yarra River Keeper and Vice President of the Yarra River Keeper Association. In Andrew's own words "We advocate for the River: for green spaces, for water quality, for biodiversity, for the birds, animals, insects and reptiles along the River, for good planning decisions, for the

tributaries, for the parklands, for appropriate recreation; and for an understanding of our river and its role in the life of the city of Melbourne. We lobby governments and we educate the community. We tell the story of the River."

Andrew will speak about the new Yarra River Protection Act.

See: <http://yarrariver.org.au/>

DECEMBER MEETING

Members' Night

Members' Night then Christmas supper. WCS members will give short presentations. There is likely to be discussion of the North East Link road project and its impact on bush and parks.

Meetings on first Thursday of the month*

**from 7.30 pm at the Old Shire Offices,
60 Beverley Road.**

(*no meeting in January)

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

AT A GLANCE

November

Thursday 2nd: General Meeting - Yarra River Keeper

Sunday 12th: End of year bus trip (See news and Events)

December

Thursday 7th: General Meeting - Members' night and Christmas supper

News & Events

End of Year Excursion - Westgate Park

Date: Sunday 12 November 2017

Times: Leave Heidelberg at 9am - back about 5pm

Bring: Picnic lunch or BBQ, thermos, drinks, camera. Dress for rain/sun as required. There isn't much storage room on the bus so folding chairs are a luxury item.

The bus holds 22 people,. There may still be seats left on the bus- Contact Heather Smith

Email elephantstamp@optusnet.com.au or phone 0423 191 977 or 9455 2771.

Planting Reports

Plantings on Sunday 10 September and Sunday 8th October were at the Banyule Native Gardens. We have been working in this area regularly for a few years and it is looking great. Thanks to Meg Lowe from the Banyule Bush Crew for supporting our work.



Annual General Meeting 5 October 2017

On behalf of the Committee outgoing President John D'Aloia presented a report highlighting the Society's successful year. The Committee for 2017/2018 was elected as follows:

President	Daphne Hards
Vice-President	James Deane
Treasurer	Daphne Hards
Secretary	Dianne Williamson
Committee	Anthea Fleming, Michelle Giovas, Doug McNaughton, Celia, Smith & Don Stokes

Our new President, Daphne Hards, warmly thanked John for his outstanding work as President for the past 17 years. The minutes, Financial reports and the Annual Report of the Committee are attached.



Who we are and how to contact us

Warringal Conservation Society Inc

PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084

Email: warringal3084@gmail.com

Web: www.warringal.org.au

www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety

President: Daphne Hards

Telephone: 9497 4831

Vice President: James Deane

Telephone: 94585985

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: Anthea Fleming, Celia Smith, Daphne Hards, Dianne Williamson, Doug McNaughton, James Deane, Don Stokes, Michelle Giovas.

News & Events cont.

North East Link Update

WCS Committee representatives have been working hard behind the scenes in conjunction with Dennis O'Connor of Friends of Banyule. Geotechnical drilling commenced at Banyule Flats on 6 October, with some spill into the river which was reported to BCC, NELA and the EPA. We took the opportunity to take a 'protest photo' at one of the sites after planting on 8 October. The Heidelberg Leader printed an article on the issue on 17 October.

We jointly hosted a meeting of Corridor A community groups and individuals on 29 September. The event was a successful way to network and share strategies. The BCC response to NELA was presented to the Council meeting on 16 October, with strong arguments against Corridor A and expressing a well argued preference for Corridor C. The submission to NELA included a letter from the Victorian Transport Association indicating their preference for freight movement on Corridor C. Dianne presented a statement to Council on behalf of WCS, and Dennis spoke on behalf of FOB.

We have sent letters expressing concerns relating to corridor A to 21 state politicians and we prepared a 'scorecard' with our own ratings of Corridor A, critiquing the NELA ratings published in their August 2017 newsletter. FOB have an information sheet which includes names and contacts of relevant politicians – please add your voice of protest – BEFORE the decision on preferred corridor is announced. The information sheet is attached to the newsletter.

Melbourne Water's 'Imagine the Yarra' now has several positive Banyule Flats stories from WCS members. Michelle, Dianne and Dennis have successfully lobbied Melbourne Water and Andrew Kelly regarding the NELA posting on the site. Please add your story of why the Yarra and wetlands is important <https://imaginetheyarra.com.au/>

Dianne Williamson



Report on Council Response to the North East Link Technical Summary

Several members of WCS attended the Banyule City Council meeting of 16 October where one of the key agenda items was Council's Response to the North East Link Technical Summary. The response was detailed and concluded that 'Corridor Option C is strongly supported as the preferred option for the North East Link. This is consistent with Council's long held position recognising the need to complete Melbourne's Ring Road as a direct orbital link from the Metropolitan Ring Road to Eastlink at Ringwood.'

Council adopted the following recommendation: BCC 'Rejects Corridor Option A as not meeting the North East Link objectives on a number of measures, including but not limited to:

- Inadequate capacity at the Eastern Freeway to cater for any additional traffic travelling west and inadequate capacity at the EastLink Mullum Mullum / Melba tunnels for traffic travelling east.
- Propensity of Corridor A to cater for mostly commuter traffic which is contrary to the North East Link Authority objective for the North East Link to move freight more efficiently.
- Impacts of severance on the communities of Greensborough, Watsonia and Macleod.
- Potential increased traffic volumes and traffic noise on arterial roads and the local road network.
- Potential environmental impacts on Banyule's parklands, reserves and green open space including its effects on Banyule Flats and Warrigal Parklands.'

Refer to the attached statement which was presented to the Council on behalf of WCS.

Dianne Williamson

Banyule House developments

The developers of this property are appealing against the BCC decision not to approve the planning application which would have resulted in this property being converted for use as a function centre. This matter is currently before VCAT with the 'Compulsory Conference' scheduled to take place on Monday 30th October and the VCAT hearing taking place on the 18-22 of December (with the possibility of a further 2 days in early March). WCS submitted a 'Statement of Grounds' to VCAT and are supporting the Banyule Estate Residents' Group (BERG) in opposition to the development.

News & Events cont.

Warringal Conservation Society Prize

We congratulate Regan Beazley as this year's prize-winner. The aim of the prize is to "Promote excellence in conservation by recognizing student excellence." The prize is awarded to a student with the best course weighted average mark score upon completion of the first year of the Bachelor of Science (Wildlife and Conservation Biology). Daphne Hards and Dorothy Davies attended the University's awards ceremony as representatives of the Society. Regan's prize is \$500 and we have also provided her with a WCS mug, copies of our publications, and a one year complimentary subscription to our Newsletter. We are reliant on member contributions to meet the increased cost of the Prize, so please remember to add your gold coin donation at the door.



Left to right: La Trobe University's Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Rob Pike, WCS Treasurer Daphne Hards and Warringal Prize recipient Regan Beazley

10-year Healthy Waterways Strategy for the Yarra Catchment

Since September Melbourne Water have been involving community within the Yarra catchment to develop a long term vision and goals for the next 10 year Healthy Waterways Strategy. Daphne Hards and I represented WCS at a Yarra Catchment Collaboration Workshop for key stakeholders and community members on 10 October 2017. This is happening in parallel with development of the Yarra Strategic Plan.

We were provided with a snapshot of the catchment including an overview and assessment of the condition of the waterways in the catchment compared with what was hoped for in the current Healthy Waterways Strategy. If you would like to see this information the presentation is now available on the Melbourne Water website at

<https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/Yarra-catchment/update>

Participants then identified key issues and opportunities in the Yarra Catchment which need attention. Threats from feral animals, weeds, litter, lack of Parks Victoria staff and development were listed as were achievements including re-vegetation and water harvesting projects.

The session concluded with small groups drafting visions for an idealised catchment in 10 year's time. These visions will now be evolved by a 'Goals Working Group' which will be meeting in November. Members of the Working Group include John Milkins (BCC), Andrew Kelly (Yarra River Keeper) and myself.

You can get involved by sharing your comments and personal experiences on important places for you along the Yarra River and its tributaries. Your contributions will be grouped into the themes of recreation, amenity and community connection to build an understanding of the social values of the river. Have a look at the interesting stories (some from WCS members) which are on the Imagine the Yarra website and add your own to share your personal memories and what you value.

<https://imaginetheyarra.com.au/>

Dianne Williamson

Victorian Environment Friends Network

Daphne Hards and I attended the annual awards event of this group on 14 October, representing WCS. Dennis O'Connor and Michelle Giovas were also there representing FOB. It was a great chance to network with members of other 'Friends of' groups. The Network provides contact details of their affiliated members on their website at <http://friendsvic.org/>, a sense of community with other friends groups, regular newsletters, and recognition of the work of groups and individuals.

Their 'Best Friend' awards are designed to recognise volunteers who make an outstanding contribution through exceptional dedication as a Friend. We were delighted to see Robert Bender's name on the banner listing past recipients. The Best Friend Award recipient for 2017 is Jim Stranger of the Friends of Tyers Park. Highly commended were Pat Jeffery of Churchill Island, and Spencer Unthank of the Penguin Study Group.

Dianne Williamson

News & Events cont.

BCC Draft Recreation Plan 2017-2021

The Committee reviewed the draft Plan and made a submission on behalf of WCS, during the community consultation period, recommending addition of the following additional strategy: Increase community participation in greening and re-vegetation projects including the scheduled plantings of Friends' Groups which are supported by BCC Bush Crews.

Outcomes relevant to 'People':

- provides family-friendly opportunities to exercise without the commitment and costs of sporting club membership
- increases community awareness of location and facilities in parklands
- increases community connectedness promotes mental as well as physical well being

Outcomes relevant to 'Planet':

- increases the capacity of re-vegetation programs, and increases community appreciation of Banyule's parks
- offers the opportunity to learn about Indigenous vegetation, wildlife and habitat

Dianne Williamson

Welcome to new WCS members

We give a warm warm welcome to the following new members and we hope that they enjoy our activities:

Jane Belfrage

Marilyn Truefeldt

Robert Stringer

Mr & Mrs Robert Ives

Tributes to Rosemary Balmford

We record with sadness the recent passing of the Hon. Rosemary Balmford AM on August 8 2017. We note her very distinguished law career and this, combined with her love and interest in all things ornithological, was the basis of her splendid assistance, along with her husband, Peter in preparing the Warringal Conservation Society's first constitution. Many hours were spent in face to face discussions between interested WCS members and the Balmfords in their Boulevard lounge room. This document served as a fine framework for our early endeavours.

Of interest to many was the fact that Rosemary was secretary of the RAOU, and also wrote a couple of books including – LEARNING ABOUT AUSTRALIAN BIRDS [William Collins 1981] which was updated to BEGINNERS GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN BIRDS [Penguin Australia 1990]. Thank you, Rosemary, for providing a firm foundation, so freely and generously given, to the Warringal Conservation Society.

Liz Evans

Kathleen Johnson remembers Rosemary with her husband and son attending many Bird Observers camps.

I owe a great deal to Rosemary Balmford. Very early in our acquaintance, when I mentioned the

interesting birds in our garden, she told me I must join the Bird Observers Club – and in due course I did. (She also encouraged me to join the Nursing Mothers Association). She and Peter were very active bird-watchers – for many years they held a banders' licence. They trapped and banded many birds in their garden and elsewhere. Peter demonstrated the technique for me by trapping a Flame Robin at Wilson Reserve. Deftly and gently handled, the bird was taken from a netting spring-trap, fitted with its numbered band, and safely released. They caught numerous migratory Silvereyes, but never had a re-trap. Other birds were more regular visitors. They also took part in the Nest Record Scheme - one record was the Grey Fantail which reared three broods of three young one spring, all from the same nest just outside the study window. The Balmford house in the Boulevard has a splendid view over the Yarra Valley and what was later to become Yarra Flats Park. It also sheltered a colony of Gould's Wattled Bats under the house – Museum Victoria staff regularly checked them.

Rosemary and Peter were also both members of the Victorian Ornithological Research Group and the RAOU, and Rosemary took the daunting role of RAOU Secretary from 1969-1972. During 1975 -76, the Bird Atlas of the Melbourne Region was carried out by VORG – we all filled out birdlist cards and the results were published by Helen Aston and Rosemary. This involved learning basic statistics – but Rosemary said “If I can learn it, anyone can.” (Incidentally, the Heidelberg square on the map grid had the highest score of species in the survey.) This

Tributes to Rosemary Balmford cont.

scheme acted as a pilot and training exercise for the Australian Bird Atlas – a huge project which ran from 1977 to 1981. This was a major stimulus to bird study throughout Australia. The Balmfords took their VW camper-van on local Atlassing trips and far afield, joining a RAOU expedition to the deserts of Western Australia.

During her distinguished career as a judge, Rosemary took the chance to go birding when on circuit in country towns. She warned her Associates that this was compulsory, “but it's better than golf.”

Her memoir, *A Funny Course for a Woman*, published in 1913, is fascinating, including not only her legal career, but details of life in East Ivanhoe when it still had unmade roads. It was launched in the Library of the Supreme Court “to give people a chance to see one of the most beautiful rooms in Melbourne”. This was typical of her generous approach to life.

Anthea Fleming

WCS General Meeting October 5th 2017

Our energetic Sunday morning activities leader is Heather Smith. Heather told us about the next event, which is Sunday October 8th at the Walter Withers bed in the Native Garden adjacent to Banyule Road, Viewbank. Heather will take bookings for the annual bus trip, this year to Newport Lakes near the mouth of the Yarra on Sunday Nov 12th.

On our most important issue, the N-E Link, last week the committee and FOB hosted a meeting with other concerned groups who are popping up along Corridor A. The members present were asked the following questions: Do you want to see some action taken to voice our concerns? Answer “Yes”. Would you like to be involved? Answer “Yes”. Would you be happy for the committee to lead? “Yes”

The speaker, Jane Toner, was introduced. Jane is an Architect and Australia's first Certified Biomimicry Professional. She is the founder of Biomimicry Australia and one of the co-founders of

Melbourne Living Future Collaborative. Jane is passionate about the potential of Biomimicry to contribute to designs that are environmentally regenerative, socially just and joyous. Her talk is entitled *Biomimicry in Architecture*. At the end of Jane's presentation Celia Smith gave a warm vote of thanks.

Upcoming events: A talk at Royal Historical Society where John Burch will trace the history and use of the Kulkyne, a unique natural environment south of Mildura, formed by the Murray R overflowing into the dry Mallee.

Andrew Kelly, Yarra Riverkeeper, has drawn our attention to the website “Imagine the Yarra”. We encourage all to post a personal story about the Yarra.

Convener: Daphne Hards, President

September Guest Speaker - Alice Ewing - Conservation Dogs

Alice is an ecologist by training and also loves dogs. She became involved in the Conservation dogs program in 2014 when her dog Juno was 2 years old, the perfect time to learn. Dogs are trained to recognise the scent of Tiger Quoll scats. As training progresses, the process is made more challenging to simulate the complex natural environment where dogs will eventually work. Dogs spend 40-60 minutes searching, then have an hours break before searching again. They also need to be very obedient because they do surveys in National Parks where dogs are normally allowed. A Quolls scat was recently detected at Cumberland River near Lorne. Dogs are now being trained to find Potaroo scats.

See www.facebook.com/OtwaysConservationDogs



Annual Report of the Committee - 5th October 2017

As President of the Society I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Committee of Management.

WCS Members' Activities

Over the past year we have continued to enjoy each other's company, have welcomed several new members, and discussed environmental matters at our shared February and July dinners, at plantings, and at suppers after our monthly meetings. We commenced the year by sharing an evening walk at Banyule Flats with members of the local community. Many members also participated in the annual 'Breakfast with the Birds' event

Wildlife and environmental protection

The North East Link Authority's Corridor A proposal, linking the Greensborough Highway with the Eastern Freeway, has been a major focus of this year's activity for the Society, working in conjunction with the Friends of Banyule. This potential tollway could impact on bushland, fauna and heritage sites including Simpson Army Barracks, Creekbend Reserve, Banyule Flats, Warringal Parklands, scar trees in and adjacent to Heide, Bolin Bolin Billabong and Yarra Flats Parklands. We have attended many community meetings and spoken with and made presentations to North East Link Authority staff, local and state politicians, community members and community groups about our concerns and recently hosted a joint WCS/FOB forum of Corridor A residents, community and business groups.

In April we conducted a successful workshop with members on the environmental or 'planet' components of the Banyule City Council's Plan, and made a subsequent submission to the Council. The report commissioned by BCC on Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands ecological values assessment was presented at a July Council meeting. It confirmed the state significance of Banyule Flats and is a valuable reference document on the fauna and flora of the two Reserves.

We have worked with the newly formed Banyule Estate Residents' Group and the Friends of Banyule in relation to the proposed conversion of Banyule House from a residence to a commercial function centre. We have made formal submissions to Banyule Council regarding a planning permit and to VCAT regarding an appeal from the owners of the property. This matter is now before VCAT.

We have made submissions to the Victorian Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into the

'Environment Protection Amendment (Banning Plastic Bags, Packaging and Microbeads) Bill 2016', and on the Draft Action Plan 'Improving the Welfare of Animals in Victoria - 2016-2021', specifically requesting an end to duck shooting. Comments on the Hurstbridge Railway Line upgrade's environmental impact at Rosanna Parklands and Rosanna Railway stations were submitted. We also wrote to the Commonwealth Minister for Environment & Energy and the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines regarding the environmental impact of Adani mining on water resources and the Great Barrier Reef.

Letters were written to the Victorian Premier and the Federal Minister for the Environment asking for the closure of the Hazelwood coal-burning power station. We have also written to the NSW Government expressing concerns about their proposed removal of the 'Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995' and the 'Native Vegetation Act 2003'. A letter expressing our concerns for Rosanna Road traffic management and potential impact on Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands wetlands was sent to VicRoads.

The proposed sale by La Trobe University of their land, currently leased to the Strathallen Golf Club has been of concern because of the proposed reduction of open public space and impact on the wildlife corridor or Gresswell Habitat Link. Society representatives have been working with the Strathallen Open Space Action Group to oppose commercial development of the site. We also raised concerns with Banyule City Council about vegetation removal and road construction within the Simpson Army Barracks.

WCS Operations

President John D'Aloia was presented with an Honorary Life Membership Award at the October AGM, acknowledging his significant contribution to WCS. We congratulate Regan Beazley as this year's winner of the Warringal Conservation Society Prize, provided to a student in La Trobe University's Bachelor of Science (Wildlife and Conservation Biology).

We have raised funds for the Society through sales of WCS books, greeting cards with Daphne's beautiful photos, our monthly hamper raffle, donations at our February and July catered dinners, and discounted tickets to performances of the Heidelberg Theatre Company.

To promote the Society Anthea Fleming set up an informative pictorial display on Banyule Flats at

Annual Report of the Committee cont.

Ivanhoe Library. We have been working with BCC on a short video which will illustrate the ecological and recreational values of Banyule Flats. Work has continued on the design of interpretive signs and a walking map of Banyule Flats reserve. We recently received a grant from Bendigo Bank of \$2,075 grant to enhance the design and content of our website. We have presented a talk on the Society and Banyule Flats to Ryder-Cheshire Homes and in August we presented a community forum, together with FOB, at the Hatch Gallery titled '*Banyule wetlands values – what's at risk?*' Four of our members participated in a BCC workshop which focused on creative ways of motivating and attracting members and several members attended the Council's Change Makers seminar.

Habitat Restoration

Maintenance and planting working bees were carried out in the cooler months at the Tawny Pond, at the base of the Eucalyptus Studeynsis adjacent to the Somerset Drive Carpark, at the Native Gardens, and in Warringal Parklands. Members of the public were invited to join us on Clean Up Australia Day when we worked at the Banyule Flats Reserve, and on National Tree Planting day at Warringal Park. None of this would be possible without our very dedicated team of volunteers of all ages, led by Heather Smith, and the splendid staff of the Banyule Bushland Management team.

Speakers

This year we have once again enjoyed a variety of excellent speakers on topics. Education is an important role of the Society and we are very grateful to all our speakers. Danielle Mallia talked to us about her 'Yaro Yaro River of Mist' project and Heidelberg cultural walk, Trevor Edwards spoke on the intriguing topic 'No such thing as a free lunch: Deception in pollination of some Australian orchids' and Gary Presland informed us about indigenous issues and culture. We also enjoyed presentations from Sarah Gaskill about the project to refill the Banyule Billabong, Richard Loyn on the fauna of Columbia and Equador, John Morgan on native grasslands, Alice Ewing on the Otways Conservation Dogs program, and Jemma Cripps on the monitoring of Eastern Grey Kangaroos in urban areas. James, Penny and Dianne provided short presentations on our December members' night.

Appreciation

We sincerely thank the following people and

organisations who have assisted our Society. Banyule Council and its officers, including John Milkins and Jim Mead, who have provided information and support on environmental matters, and the BCC Bush Crew who have supported the Sunday morning planting and weeding activities.

Jenny Macklin and her office staff have assisted us to publish our Newsletter. Cr Tom Melican, Cr. Craig Langdon, and Cr. Peter Castaldo have provided assistance and ongoing support.

East Ivanhoe Grocers have continued to generously support the Society by contributing a proportion of customer payments in a point system which has allowed us to obtain deli items and groceries for suppers and fundraising hampers.

We've had the pleasure of working with many Friends and environmental groups again this year especially the Friends of Banyule.

We also thank all our members for their continuing support. You attend our monthly general meetings, participate in WCS and community plantings, support us in our public activities, and support the Society's campaigns through letters, subscriptions and generous donations. In particular, Heather Smith does an admirable job keeping our membership database up to date, providing an active and interesting Facebook page, and organizing the planting and working bees and the annual end of year outing. Denise Fernando, Anthea Fleming, Daphne Hards, Heather Smith, Michelle Giovas, Dennis O'Connor and Dianne Williamson have worked on our map, video and signage projects.

Our heartfelt thanks go to James Deane and Gianna Romano, to contributors, and to the volunteers who staple, fold and post the Newsletter. To the members who regularly attend Council meetings and speak on environmental and development matters; we extend our appreciation to you all.

The Committee has worked enthusiastically throughout the year as evidenced by the activities noted in this report. I thank Anthea Fleming as Vice President, Daphne Hards for her work as Treasurer, James Deane for the Newsletter and for working on the Website, Doug McNaughton and Penny Grose for contributing ideas and supporting fund raising, Celia for her liaison with animal advocate groups and for meeting promotion, and Dianne Williamson for her work as Secretary.

On behalf of the Committee
John D'Aloia, President
5 October, 2017

AGM Minutes & Financial Statement Audit

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - October 5, 2017

The meeting was held at the Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverley Road Heidelberg. The Notice of the Meeting and a call for Committee member nominations were distributed to members with the September/October 2017 Newsletter.

Meeting opened: 7.40 pm

Present: John D'Aloia (President), Daphne Hards (President elect) and 17 financial full members

Apologies: James Deane, Rosemary Peisley, Don Stokes

BUSINESS

1 Confirmation of Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting were confirmed.

Moved: Doug McNaughton

Seconded: Daphne Hards

Motion carried.

2 Annual Report of the Committee

President John D'Aloia presented a detailed report on WCS activities for 2016/2017 and reflections on his period as President of the Society. The report was accepted.

Moved: Irene Kearsey

Seconded: Anthea Fleming

Motion carried.

3 Financial statements

Treasurer Daphne Hards presented the 2016/2017 financial statements as audited by Stan Obliubek. Members were advised that, in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, the financial statements had been reviewed by the Committee and John D'Aloia and Doug McNaughton had signed a statement that '...they give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of WCS during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending 30 June 2017.' Stan Obliubek was re-appointed as WCS auditor for the year 2016/17.

The financial report was accepted.

Moved: John D'Aloia

Seconded: Irene Kearsey

Motion carried.

4 Election of the Committee

The President declared all Committee positions vacant and nominated Heather Smith as the Returning Officer for the election of positions. Appropriately completed and signed nomination forms were checked by the Returning Officer. As there were no contested positions the Returning Officer declared the following appointments for the year 2017/2018 without an election:

President	Daphne Hards
Vice-President	James Deane
Treasurer	Daphne Hards
Secretary	Dianne Williamson
Committee	Anthea Fleming, Michelle Giovas, Doug McNaughton, Celia Smith & Don Stokes

Incoming President Daphne Hards thanked retiring President John D'Aloia for 17 years of service as the President of the Society, and Penny Grose for her contribution as a Committee member.

5 Annual subscription

Members were advised that there would be no change to subscriptions and fees in the next financial year.

Meeting closed: 8.03pm

WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

for the year ended 30th June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Receipts		
Subscriptions		
Life membership	450.00	300.00
Annual subscriptions	615.00	730.00
Prior year	215.00	285.00
Donations	1347.20	543.25
Sales of publications (Books and Cards)	82.00	5.00
Bank interest	279.17	320.66
Grant-Melbourne Water (Insurance and Postage)	0	550.00
Bendigo Bank Community Grant	1960.42	0
East Ivanhoe Foodworks Points Refund	0	800.00
Banyule Council Grant - Leanne Cole	0	0
Auspice	0	0
Banyule Council Grant - Danielle Mallia	0	5252.00
Auspice	0	0
Banyule Council Grant - Interpretive Signs	5000.00	0.00
	<u>9948.79</u>	<u>8785.91</u>
Payments		
Newsletter costs	191.15	431.69
Meeting expenses(includes Digital Projector 2016)	250.50	544.95
OSO Office Rent	605.70	543.00
Insurance Premium	610.50	867.45
Administration Expenses	179.80	952.92
Library acquisitions	55.00	0
WCS Prize - Latrobe University	500.00	250.00
Subscriptions		
Australian Conservation Foundation	65.00	65.00
Wilderness Society		60.00
Environment Victoria	55.00	55.00
Victorian National Parks Association	65.00	185.00
		<u>245.00</u>
Donations		
Climate Council	50.00	50.00
Coalition Against Duck Shooting	50.00	0
Wilderness Society	0	50.00
Fungimap	50.00	0
Montmorency Group	0	150.00
		<u>10.00</u>
Postage, stationery, sundries	227.61	100.00
Leanne Cole's Project	2476.00	875.00
Danielle Mallia's Project	1485.00	430.00
	<u>6916.26</u>	<u>5350.01</u>
Surplus/Deficit for year	<u>3032.53</u>	<u>3435.90</u>

BALANCE SHEET

as of 30th June 2017

	2017		2016	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Current Assets				
Cash	11,949.71		8,217.54	
Investments	10,748.62	22,698.33	11,469.45	19,686.99
Less Unpresented cheques		120.00		141.19
Debtors	-		-	
Total Assets		<u>22,578.33</u>		<u>19,545.80</u>

Membership Fund

Balance Brought Forward	19,545.80	16,109.90
Surplus /Deficit for year	3,032.53	3,435.90
Balance Carried Forward	<u>22,578.33</u>	<u>19,545.80</u>

Commitments

Auspiced Grant - L. Cole		2,476.00
Auspiced Grant - D. Mallia	3,337.00	4,822.00
Total Commitments	<u>3,337.00</u>	<u>7,298.00</u>
Net Assets	<u>19,241.33</u>	<u>12,247.80</u>

\$19,241.33 includes \$6960.42 in grant money

Nature Notes

September 2017

Roly Hieser- Eastern Rosellas in Macleod in olive tree, chased by Noisy Miners

Robert Bender – Sugar Gliders chased out by bees – two have returned recently. Spotted Pardalote

Doug McNaughton – carpet on roof of boxes to prevent bees making a hive

Robert Bender also noted the carpet strategy is used at the Organ Pipes. Spotted Pardalotes at Darebin Crk

Michelle Giovas – friend saw Echidna behind tennis courts near Banyule Flats 2 weeks ago

Don Stokes – Platypus near Odyssey house

Anthea Fleming – Dusky Moorhen collecting nest material and Darebin and nesting in a duck box. In garden – little tiger snake under brick collected in jar and released. Banyule flats - olive backed oriole, Sambar Deer in billabong,

October 2017

Daphne Hards reported frogs at Beverley Rd wetlands. Both wetland and ponds holding plenty of water for frog life. On September 17th she recorded Common Froglet, Southern Brown Tree frog, Striped and Spotted Marsh Frogs. Also reported that her Eastern Spinebills departed in late August but the Silvereyes have returned. Singular thrill of a Grey Fantail in her Ivanhoe garden

William Deane saw Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike in Viewbank, a Tawny Frogmouth near the windmill and Red-rumped Parrot near Banyule Billabong.

John D'Aloia - young Ringtail Possum in their garden, now being cared for by Macleod Wildlife Rescue. Ite Sonder found a young possum in Brown St.

Maureen McInerney saw Cattle Egret and a Grey Fantail on river flats beside the Boulevard

Robert Deane reported Willy Wagtails and a Grey Butcherbird

Jane Crone says there are Tawny Frogmouths back in the Eyrie, Eaglemont

Dorothy Davies reported a beheaded Ringtail Possum near her unit in Fairy Hills

Jane Toner has seen 2 foxes on a Kew street.

Michelle Giovas saw boxing kangaroos at Banyule Flats.

Liz Evans. Tawny Frogmouths returned late August to nest in backyard for the eleventh year in a row. Same Eucalypt. Same fork in the tree. For nine of those ten years twins have hatched.

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WCS Statement to Banyule City Council regarding Council's submission to NELA

Warringal Conservation Society (WCS) is a local not for profit group whose members are passionate about the environment and conservation of green spaces in Banyule, and beyond. We formed in 1970 to protect Banyule Flats Reserve and Warringal Parklands in Heidelberg from sporting grounds and freeway encroachment. Over the intervening almost 50 years, with Banyule City Council's support, we have continuously advocated and volunteered to restore this magnificent green space for the community to enjoy and to provide wildlife habitat.

We view with great concern the possibility of a NELA's Corridor A option passing through Banyule from the Greensborough Highway to the Eastern Freeway.

We have long opposed any freeway link, advocating that it would be more beneficial to increase the public transport options in the north-east sector. It is very disappointing that the State Government avoids rail transport to solve the transport of goods around Victoria. Building roads for trucks and single occupant cars is ultimately going to cause more congestion and bottlenecks.

Corridor A will not meet the NELA's stated aim of providing an 'orbital' link. We believe that it will not reduce traffic congestion through Rosanna, Heidelberg and Bulleen, which is largely local or city bound. Traffic issues are likely to be increased at both the Hoddle Street and the Mullum Mullum tunnel ends of the Eastern Freeway.

We cannot be complacent about the 'promise' of a tunnel under Banyule Flats. Geotechnical and economic assessments or change in Government policy may result in an above ground 'sky road' or a cut-and-fill tunnel.

We are very concerned about Corridor A because of:

- the public health impact of noise and fumes, especially where the roadway and interchanges will be adjacent to schools, recreational facilities and residential areas, and Manningham/Bulleen roads will encroach on open space
- the impact on the very culturally and environmentally significant Bolin Bolin Billabong and Heide areas.
- the risks to the culturally significant aboriginal scar trees, one on the corner of Bridge St and Manningham Roads and the other, 'Yingabeal,' in Heide grounds, due to tunnelling and altered hydrology
- the potentially altered hydrology of wetlands and waterways including Banyule Creek, Banyule Flats Reserve, Warringal Park and Yarra Flats.
- the disturbance of subsoil structure and drainage caused by road construction, vibration, run-off and tunnelling that may put at risk the most intact Grassy woodland and wetland in the Middle Yarra – of State Significance – and only 10 kilometres from the CBD.
- the loss of public amenity and green open space when we are facing higher density residential zones and climate change. In addition to the roadways, the proposed interchanges at the Eastern Freeway/Bulleen Road, Greensborough and Lower Plenty Roads will encroach on this open space.

We note that NELA's response to Council's questions continue their evasive approach to community consultation.

Warringal Conservation Society wishes to state in the strongest of terms its opposition to Corridor A for the North-East Link.

We applaud the Council's thorough and considered Submission to the North East Link Authority, and the Mayor's public statements in this morning interview on Jon Faine's 774 radio program.



North East Link (NEL) threatens much more than parklands.

Friends of Banyule are a community organisation campaigning to protect conservation and environmental assets in Banyule. We're currently campaigning to prevent the proposed NEL freeway through Banyule Flats, Warringal parklands and residential areas. Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands are sites of state environmental significance and include flora and fauna of national significance. The area is an environmental oasis cherished and enjoyed by the Banyule community and beyond.

In December 2016, the State Government announced that the NEL was to be built and in August 2017, North East Link Authority (NELA), released the four corridor options. Details available at <http://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/>. NELA proposed four corridor options for the NEL, **Corridor A** connecting the M 80 ring Rd from Greensborough to the Eastern F'way at Bulleen passing through the Banyule Flats or via the more easterly Corridors B, C and D which connect with East Link at Ringwood.

Corridor A directly impacts Banyule Flats and other conservation areas at Watsonia Army Barracks, Banyule Creek, Bolin Bolin Billabong, Koonung Creek and the Yarra River.

Corridor A puts Banyule Flats and its surrounding parklands at risk, along with significant compulsory acquisitions of residential property, sporting facilities and school land.

Corridor A appears as already chosen by NEL A and is misleadingly presented as the cheapest and shortest option, which it is not.

We need to urgently campaign to protect our public open space, homes and residential amenity from significant freeway works including interchanges at Lower Plenty Rd, Manningham Rd and Bulleen Rd and the major tunnel portals at either end of the proposed tunnels.

Corridor A impacts Aboriginal cultural heritage sites at Heide and Bolin Bolin Billabong, schools, ovals and sports facilities along Bulleen Rd including the likely compulsory acquisition of homes, businesses and community assets along the route and at interchanges through Greensborough, Yallambie, Macleod, Viewbank, Rosanna and Bulleen.

Corridor A, through Banyule Flats and Bulleen Rd is the most disruptive and significantly impacting of the four options:

- Adversely impacting conservation areas and parklands;
- Disgorging 120,000 additional vehicles per day onto the Eastern Freeway at one of its most congested points;
- Preventing Construction of Doncaster Rail project, adding to future congestion, not solving it;
- Heavily impact existing road infrastructure for up to a decade;
- Potential tolling of the Eastern Freeway to pay for four extra lanes and upgrades required along 16km of the Eastern Freeway from the Chandler Highway to Springvale Rd to make this option work.
- **Corridor A is not the cheapest or shortest option** – costing needs to include the extensive Eastern Freeway works.
- Compulsory property acquisitions in surrounding neighbourhoods affected by vehicle emissions, noise, loss of amenity.

A decision on the final corridor will be made soon, before the end of the year. Construction is set to start 2019/20 and will take some ten years. Meanwhile, congestion on Greensborough H'way, Rosanna Rd Manningham Rd, Banksia St, Bulleen Rd and other arterials will continue to increase. Over dimensional and hazardous goods trucks will not be able to use the tunnel and with toll avoidance, these roads will continue to be congested.

We need an integrated, holistic approach to the transport system, including Doncaster Rail, an Airport Link, rail freight, further duplication of the Hurstbridge line, new technology signalling an upgraded electric bus fleet connecting with rail timetables.

We want sustainable, liveable communities for everybody, not toll roads and profits for the corporate few.

We urge you to:

Attend: Friends of Banyule Annual General Meeting, Thurs 30th Nov at 7pm at the Old Shire Hall, 60 Beverley Rd, Heidelberg

And Join Friends of Banyule – Annual Membership \$15.00 Bendigo Bank, BSB: 633 108, Account No: 1359 89424

Write/email your local members (details over page) outlining your concerns; (use dot points above)

Check out our web site and follow our Facebook page;

Contact us at Friends of Banyule, PO Box 577 Heidelberg

friendsofbanyule@gmail.com www.friendsofbanyule.org like us on 



<http://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/>



Construction of the Murrumbidgee Tunnel
A Freeway in a tunnel still has to come out somewhere.....

Please email your concerns to:

North East Link Authority

community@northeastlink.vic.gov.au Attention Duncan Elliott.

And to our State Representatives:

Anthony Carbines MP, Member for Ivanhoe,

Parliamentary Secretary for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Parliamentary Secretary for Water

anthony.carbines@parliament.vic.gov.au Street Address: 56 Beetham Parade, Rosanna, VIC 3084, Phone: (03) 9457 5328

Hon. Colin Brooks MP, Member for Bundoora

colin.brooks@parliament.vic.gov.au Postal Address: PO Box 79, Bundoora, VIC 3083, Phone: (03) 9467 5657

Hon. Matthew Guy MP, Member for Bulleen

matthew.guy@parliament.vic.gov.au Street Address: Shop 30D, Bulleen Plaza, 101 Manningham Road, Bulleen, VIC 3105

Phone: Electorate Office: (03) 9850 7983; Opposition Leader's Office: (03) 9651 6719

Tim Smith MP, Member for Kew

tim.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au Street Address: Suite 1, 400 High Street, Kew, VIC 3101, Phone: (03) 9853 2999

Hon. Richard Wynne, Planning Minister

richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au Postal Address: PO Box 1474, Collingwood, VIC 3066 Phone: (03) 9415 8901

Hon. Luke Donnellan Minister for Roads and Road Safety

luke.donnellan@parliament.vic.gov.au Postal Address: PO Box 126, Endeavour Hills, VIC 3802 Phone: (03) 9706 0566

Hon. Daniel Andrews, Premier,

daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au Postal Address: 517A Princes Highway, Noble Park, VIC 3174 Phone: 9578 5644

Tim Pallas, Treasurer

tim.pallas@parliament.vic.gov.au Postal Address Shop 2, 56-58 Watton Street, Werribee, VIC 3030 Phone: 9741 1133