



WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## *Pre-Spring Newsletter*

Volume 47/five

September/October 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.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

### **Alice Ewing - Otways Conservation Dogs program**

A team of community volunteers has been trained to work with their own dogs to detect scats of endangered species. Minimal Impact Detection Methods are used to detect scats on both private and public land throughout the Otways (and beyond!). Initially, the aim was to train conservation detection dogs to locate Tiger Quoll scats (rediscovered in the Otways in 2012). In 2015, dogs positively identified an old quoll scat in the Cumberland Valley. From 2017 dogs are being trained to detect Long-nosed Potoroos.

## OCTOBER MEETING

### **Jane Turner - Biomimicry in Architecture**

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 the Melbourne Living Future Collaborative. Jane is passionate about the potential of Biomimicry to contribute to designs that are environmentally regenerative, socially just and joyous. She is a strong advocate for the integration of biomimicry at the earliest stage of a project and sees playfulness and intra-disciplinary collaboration as the keys to successful sustainable design outcomes.

**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 7th:** General meeting at 7.30pm - Conservation Dogs

**Sunday 10th:** Working Bee - Banyule Native Gardens (See News & Events)

### October

**Thursday 5th:** Annual General meeting at 7.30pm - Biomimicry

**Sunday 8th:** Working Bee - Banyule Native Gardens (See News & Events)

## News & Events

### Upcoming WCS working bees

(See WCS Facebook for updates:

[www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety](http://www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety))

#### September

Sunday 10 September - 10am - 12noon.

The Round Bed Banyule Native Gardens, Banyule Road, Viewbank. We will be working on the round bed - infill planting around the existing plants.

Melway ref 32:F1.

#### October:

Sunday 8th October - 10am - 12noon.

Banyule Native Gardens, Banyule Road, Viewbank

Back at the Native Gardens for more infill planting

Location: The Walter Withers bed - alongside the Yarra Trail.

Melway ref 32:F1.

### North East Link Community Survey

The North East Link survey is still open. If you haven't had your say, a link to the survey can be found at: <http://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/>

### Planting Report - National Tree Day - July 30th

A large turn out as usual for this annual event. The planting site was near Possum Hollow playground.



### WCS subscriptions due

WCS membership subscriptions for 2017/2018 are due in July. Thanks to everyone who has already paid! The rates are on pg 1. These are used for the costs of running the Society that include hall hire, insurance, and postage. Subscriptions can be paid to the Treasurer Daphne Hards at a meeting or planting, or a cheque can be sent by mail using the form on page five of this newsletter. Subscriptions can

also be paid electronically directly into the Society's bank account using the following information:

Account Name: Warringal Conservation Society

BSB: 633108 Account No: 143918613

Be sure to identify yourself as the depositor. To be certain, you can email [warringal3084@gmail.com](mailto:warringal3084@gmail.com) that your deposit has been made.

### Who we are and how to contact us

#### **Warringal Conservation Society Inc**

PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084

Email: [warringal3084@gmail.com](mailto:warringal3084@gmail.com)

Web: [www.warringal.org.au](http://www.warringal.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety](http://www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety)

**President:** John D'Aloia

Telephone: 0478739288

**Vice President:** Anthea Fleming

**Treasurer:** Daphne Hards

Telephone: 9497 4831

#### **Newsletter**

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**Planting Coordinator:** Heather Smith

**Committee:** John D'Aloia, Anthea Fleming, Celia Smith, Daphne Hards, Dianne Williamson, Penny Grose, Doug McNaughton, James Deane.

## News & Events cont.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday October 5th, 2017

7.30 pm at the Old Shire Offices, Beverley Road Heidelberg (Nomination forms on pg 5). Minutes of 2016 AGM available were published in Nov/Dec 2016 Newsletter.

#### 1. BUSINESS

- 1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of previous meetings
- 1.2 Annual Report of the Committee
- 1.3 Financial statements
- 1.4 Election of members of the Committee
- 1.5 Annual subscription and joining fee

### Breakfast with the Birds

A key annual Spring Outdoors event run by the Banyule Council and Birdlife Australia. Guided bird watching walks around Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands by Birdlife Australia guides, followed by a breakfast and bird count in the Old Shire Offices, Heidelberg.

Venue: Old Shire Offices, Beverley Road Heidelberg, Vic 3084

Contact Details: Jim Mead

Booking Required:

<https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Council/Environment-and-Sustainability/Spring-Outdoors>

## Once Bittern, Twice Shy

'Rolf Boldrewood' was the pen-name used by Thomas Alexander Browne (1826-1915) when he wrote "Robbery under Arms." His father bought the Hartlands property on Mt. Eagle in 1839, when he was 13. This must have included part of what is now the Yarra Flats Park. In 1908, as an old man, he wrote in *The Australasian of the Yarra River*:

"How changed are the woods and fields and the reed-fringed lagoons which in earlier days followed its winding course. The girdling reed-beds which sheltered the wild-fowl have disappeared before the encroaching live-stock. A bare pond-like outline alone remains where once lay the mysterious mere – haunt of the Bittern, the Heron, the Ibis, and the Pied Wild Goose."

This quotation was included in an early issue of the WCS Newsletter – December 1970. We now know the Pied Wild Goose as the Magpie Goose. During the 19th Century, it was exterminated in southern Australia – it was believed to compete with stock for grass - but it has been successfully re-introduced at Serendip, where it is breeding, and it is quite often seen in the western suburbs. The Australasian Bittern has been so affected by wetland drainage that it is now an endangered species. On a recent visit to Braeside Park, Daphne Hards and I were delighted to see one beside a large reedbed – I was very lucky to get a photo before it withdrew into the reeds and became invisible. Their shyness and camouflage makes them very hard to see. Apparently at least one pair, possibly two, are resident at Braeside. Lucky winter visitors to Werribee's Western Treatment Plant may also see

one. Later that day our party moved on to Edithvale Swamp, where some observers saw a Magpie Goose. This shows that it is beginning to spread eastward. I missed seeing it, so my photo was taken at Serendip.

*Anthea Fleming*



*Top: Bittern; Bottom: Magpie Goose*



## Recent Guest Speakers

### July - John Morgan - Native Grasslands

John spoke about the native grasslands of Melbourne, noting that the volcanic plains of Melbourne are the third largest in the world. Trees were rare due to frequent fires, a practice used by indigenous Australians to manage the land to favour plants producing tubers. Von Mueller considered the area boring and dull, but it is home to a great diversity of animals and plants. The area is/was home to bandicoots, quoll, broilgas, legless lizards, and the Golden Sun-moth amongst other species. Development has destroyed much of the grassland and many of the species that rely on it are gone or just hanging on. The Sunshine Diuris is a white orchid that was once extremely abundant, but now survives as a handful of specimens.

### August - Nikki Kowalczyk - Yarra Keepers

Nikki explained that the Yarra River keeper organisation has two paid employees, a board and number of volunteers. The keepers work to maintain the health of the Yarra. The Yarra begins near Mt Baw Baw and the upper reaches are in relatively good health. The lower reaches of the Yarra score badly for measures of river health. Pollution, runoff and plastic are some of the main problems. The keepers work to help the public appreciate the abundance of animal and plant life the Yarra supports, and understand the processes that threaten river health. They are increasingly working in schools to make children aware of how rubbish makes its way into the river and the problems it causes.

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## Duck Season 2017

According to notes for the 2017 duck hunting season by Victoria's Game Management Authority (GMA) ([www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/duck/duck-species](http://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/duck/duck-species)), the Freckled Duck is protected in all states and territories and must not be shot. Yet 143 Freckled Ducks were shot and left to die on one wetland alone near Kerang this season. They were found by volunteer bird lovers.

The Blue-Winged Shoveler was also on the list of legally protected birds from the GMA this year. According to the GMA notes, the Blue-Winged Shoveler cannot be shot. Yet 40 Blue-Winged Shovelers were shot and left to die on the same wetland near Kerang this duck shooting season. They were also found by volunteer bird lovers.

Victoria has twenty thousand wetlands where hunters can legally shoot during the three month duck shooting season. Many more than 143 Freckled Ducks and 40 Blue-Winged Shovelers must have died painfully and needlessly on our wetlands during the 2017 Victorian season. Many, many more native ducks would have had painful and unnecessary deaths as well. Duck Hunting is indefensible.

Celia Smith



*Freckled Duck*



*Blue-Winged Shoveler (female left; male right)*



*A dead Blue-Winged Shoveler*



## NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2017-2018

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_

for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: (Proposer) \_\_\_\_\_

(Seconder) \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby agree to accept the above position if duly elected.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*All signatories must be financial members of Warringal Conservation Society*



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## Warringal Conservation Society Annual Subscriptions Due in July

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Mobile:

Special area of interest:

Annual subscription type:

☐ Single \$20

☐ Family \$25

☐ Concession (seniors, students etc) \$15

☐ Life subscription \$200

**Membership application/renewal (for July 2017-June 2018)**

**Donations always welcome**

**Please send this form and subscription (cheque or money order) to:**

**Warringal Conservation Society PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084 VIC**

**(Or come to our monthly meeting and see treasurer Daphne Hards)**

## Nature Notes July

**Dianne Williamson:** Wombat in garden. Male spotted-Pardalote, Superb Fairy Wren nesting in flax-lilly

**Maureen McNaughton:** Eastern Rosellas

**Jane Crone:** Silver-Eyes and Spinebills.

**Michelle Giovias:** Possum in house.

## Nature Notes August

**Roland Hieser:** Pied Currawongs in Macleod

**Greg:** Tawny Frogmouths in Rosanna

**Jane Crone:** Black Cockatoos, Pied Currawongs, Silvereyes

**Heather Smith:** About 40 Black Cockatoos near Beverley Rd

**George Paras:** Red Gums being pruned by Gang Gang Cockatoos eating Psyllids at La Trobe Sanctuary

**Robert Deane:** Flock of Corellas at Viewbank Primary School

**Dianne Williamson:** Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos, Swamp Wallaby and joey

**Anthea Fleming:** Bittern and Magpie Goose at Edithvale (see pg3), Grey Huntsman Spider

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than a paper copy in the regular mail**

Save paper and see the photos in colour. Contact us at  
[warringal3084@gmail.com](mailto:warringal3084@gmail.com)

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



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