



WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Early Winter Newsletter

Volume 48/three

May/June 2018

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.

MAY MEETING

Dr Susan Hoebee — Reproductive Biology and Genetic Diversity/Structure in Grevillea

Susan leads a research team at La Trobe University and investigates plant reproduction, population genetics and evolution to build a better understanding of how plant populations change over time and how increasing degrees of population fragmentation can affect the long-term survival of species.

JUNE MEETING

Tim Curmi – Native fish of the Yarra River

Tim is President of the Victorian Branch of Native Fish Australia, a volunteer organisation that is open to anyone who cares about Australia's native freshwater fish and the rivers, streams and other waterways that they inhabit. Tim is a freshwater ecologist and he will introduce us to Australian native fish with a focus on the endangered Macquarie perch, a fish of the Yarra River.

JULY MEETING

Mid-winter dinner & Rachel Lynskey - Sustainable Cities

Dinner from 6.15 pm. Followed by talk. Rachel is from Friends of the Earth and will talk to us about development of a sustainable community transport plan for Melbourne.

**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 3rd: General meeting at 7.30pm - Grevilliea

Thursday 17th: Meeting with NELA ecologists - (See news & Events)

Sat 19th: Planting with Friends of Salt Creek (See news & Events)

Sunday 20th: Planting at Frog Bog (See news & Events)

June

Thurs 7th: General meeting at 7.30pm - Native fish

Sun 17th - Planting at Native Gardens (See news & Events)

July

Thurs 5th: General meeting at 7.30pm - Dinner & Sustainable Cities

Message from the President (and Treasurer!)

Greetings! A long glorious autumn is drifting on but most of the country needs good rain.. The committee only had a short break over Christmas as we have been concentrating on North East Link developments. You will appreciate how much we have been doing from last month's report and again in this issue. It does not come easy to this retired laboratory scientist but I am finding the processes strangely interesting and I am learning heaps about infrastructure planning. And we are all still learning much about beautiful Banyule and the Yarra Valley. I could not do this without the support of the rest of our committee and I thank them very much.

Daphne as treasurer has got the ropes by now and we are doing OK, but there is no slack cash once we

have paid for office rent, hall hire, insurance, etc. We had to put our annual fees up this year finally, and I thank all those who have paid for 2017-8. If you are still receiving a mailed newsletter could you please consider having a super colour version sent by email. Australia Post has new rates for printed material and each mailed newsletter now costs us one dollar. \$90 x 6 issues a year is a lot of money for us. Your subscription of course covers this and if you still enjoy reading the printed newsletter with a cup of coffee that's fine. The most important thing is for us to stay in touch. Happy reading!

Daphne Hards

News & Events

North East Link – Ecological assessment and considerations

Thurs 17th May - Old Shire Offices.

This is an additional Special meeting for WCS members only.

Ecology team members from the North East Link Authority will provide us with information on their ecological assessment processes and the results of their investigations to date. They will explain their plans for translocation of the matted flax-lily, for off-setting loss of vegetation along the NEL route, and for minimising impact on native species habitat and wild life corridors. Our intention is that this will be a respectful exchange of information, and will not be used as an opportunity to protest or critique NELA actions or decisions.

Upcoming Plantings (see WCS facebook for updates)

Saturday 19th May. Time: 10am to 12noon

With Friends of Salt Creek Reserve

At the Northern Plots [Northern/Chapman Street end of the parklands]. Putting in about 460 plants to infill the plots, also some hand weeding as required. Come and meet one of our neighbouring groups.

Saturday 20th May. Time: 10am to 12noon

We are planting in a new location this month!

Just across the Yarra Trail from our Tawny Pond site we have new site - the Frog Bog! The Banyule Bush Crew have been working with the Green Army to remove the woody weeds from this spot and we will work with them to plant up the area for frogs. A great opportunity to meet some the Green Army folk

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, Heather Smith, Michelle Giovas.

News & Events cont.

and have a chat about our area, and find out a bit more about what frogs like in their habitat!

Location: Opposite Tawny Pond [which is right next to the Somerset car park- see below]



Sunday June 17th. Time: 10am to 12noon

Planting at the Banyule Native Gardens. Just off Banyule Rd.

Mid winter pre-meeting dinner

The July meeting will be preceded by a picnic style dinner at the OSO. Dinner provided by the Committee from 6.15pm. A donation of \$5 kids, \$10 adults is invited to subsidise operating costs and the Warringal Prize. Fruit juice & soft drink provided, BYO beer & wine. Meeting follows at 7.30pm.

NELA Update

The good news is that following submissions, including those from WCS & FoB that on 13 April 2018, the Federal Dept of Environment and Energy (DoEE) advised that the construction of North East Link is a “controlled action” under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. NELA are now required to prepare a Public Environment Report (PER) to be assessed by DoEE. The PER needs to cover

- Listed threatened species and communities
- Listed migratory species
- Environment on Commonwealth lands

The DoEE will shortly issue guidelines so that NELA can commence preparation of a draft PER. The public will have an opportunity to provide comment once the draft PER has been prepared. This extra level of assessment gives us another avenue to comment and hopefully have meaningful input into the project planning process.

NELA are running Community Drop in Sessions at

locations along the route and WCS members have been active participants at these events discussing project concerns with members of the community and making good use of the large NearMap images of project area at the heavily visited Watsonia and Rosanna sessions. There are still a few to come so check details on NELA website or the April 2018 NELA Community Update Brochure. At these sessions NELA are displaying “EARLY DESIGN SCHEMATICS AND ARTIST IMPRESSIONS” of the design so far.

This designs are also available at northeastlink.vic.gov.au/ The designs show the massive and complicated interchanges at Lower Plenty Rd and Manningham/ Bridge Rd that we are so concerned about. The NEL Community Liaison Group had its first meet and greet meeting on Friday 20th April, with the first down to work meeting scheduled for the 18th May, WCS members Michelle and Dennis O’Connell are part of this group, with James as standby. If you have concerns or queries you would like raised please feel free to discuss these with Michelle, Dennis or James.

Michelle Giovas

Changes to WCS committee

Don Stokes has resigned from the WCS committee. We thank Don for all his efforts this year. Heather Smith was elected to the committee at our April Committee meeting.

Activity Reports (Heather Smith)

Clean Up Australia Day

Thanks to everyone who came along to help at WCS’s first working bee for the year. Our Clean up Australia Day site centered around the Possum Hollow playground – a very satisfying location as there is always lots of rubbish around this area. About 25-30 volunteers participated over the morning. Apart from WCS members and friends, we had some new faces who had seen our event site registered on the CUAD website. Site coordinator



News & Events cont.

Kylie (from Banyule Bush crew) kitted us out with bags and sent us forth with wise words of encouragement. Among the rubbish retrieved was an old yabby net, full of mud and a small wiggling yabby, which was set free into the Beverly Road wetland by the Deane boys.

Darebin Indian Mynah Eradication program talk

I had questions about this program before we went, and came away with them all (and more) thoroughly answered by Darebin Parklands Ranger, Peter Wiltshire. Peter explained that he had originally been against trapping the Indian Mynahs until he saw the extent of their devastating effect on the native birdlife in the parklands.

Thus began a program that has become Australia's leading research on Indian Mynahs. Many ways of trapping were tried and discarded: nest boxes were reworked (inside and out) in many inventive ways to keep them out, or trap them in for collection, but the birds proved to be very intelligent and were able to think through solutions to almost every experiment. Peter and his working group finally solved the problem, rigging up a metal 'gate' inside the box that drops down to cover the entrance hole as the bird lands on a trip wire inside.

Using these and other traps which use food to catch the birds, around 1500 birds were removed over a period of months from the parklands. Local residents reported an increase in native birds including Eastern Rosellas around the park. However, over the following six months the Mynah's gradually bred up again. So it is ongoing, arduous work.

He is very conscious of the issue of killing humanly, so the 'trap' boxes are monitored daily to make sure that any trapped bird is in the box for a minimum amount of time. He discussed the pros and cons of various dispatch methods, saying gassing with car exhaust is too slow. He and his crew uses cervical dislocation to kill them as it is the quickest way and is coincidentally the method recommended by the RSPCA.

His detailed talk was well supported by extensive video footage of Indian Mynah trap and nest box behaviour, their intelligence at working through problems and their aggressiveness towards other species including removing eggs and chicks from boxes, regardless of whether they intended to use the box themselves. They viciously attack other users, including Eastern Rosella and Ringtail possums that attempt to enter the boxes.

It was a very interesting presentation - our thanks

to Peter for coming in from leave to present to us, and to Kylie for organising. Robert Bender from Friends of Wilson's Reserve was also present and has written a detailed account with some photos of the presentation. Copies of this will be available at the May meeting.

Banyule Festival Kids Art Farty Festival

With the threat of the North East Link hanging above our wetlands, our local communities and homes – WCS and Friends of Banyule held an information stall at the 2018 Banyule Festival.

There was lot of interest in the effects and repercussions of the North East Link. The A0 aerial maps supplied by James were a fantastic draw card, with many members of the public studying them closely and asking lots of questions. We also had an eye-catching, detailed display of the flora and fauna of the Banyule Wetlands area, showing what we would lose if the NEL goes ahead. The display was supported by Sustainable Cities' #GetOnBoard Community Powered Transport Plan material and the new WCS Special Species leaflet.

A HUGE thank you to all who helped with the stall – Anthea, Dianne, Daphne, Don, Doug, James, Michelle, Dennis, Gianna, Lene, Denise and to others who came to visit us during the day. A lot of work went into it beforehand and it was a long day from set up to bump out.



Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways Strategy

Over the past year Melbourne Water have been working collaboratively with the community of the Yarra River catchment area to develop goals, targets and a vision statement for the Yarra River and its tributaries. WCS Committee members have attended three Collaboration Workshops and participated in the goals and vision Working Party, which has now completed the vision statement and goals for inclusion on the draft Strategy documentation:

News & Events cont.

Yarra Catchment Vision (draft)

“Our Yarra catchment waterways are increasingly protected, respected and collaboratively cared for by Traditional Owners, government and community as living and highly valued entities. They are a linked network of thriving corridor and in-stream spaces which nurture biodiversity, deepen the relationship between people and nature, build resilience as our population grows and the climate changes, and contribute to well-being and liveability. Their ecological health and value to the community continuously improves through rehabilitated waterways and balanced uses.”

Yarra Catchment Goals (draft)

1. The environmental values and significant ecological processes of all of the Yarra Catchment waterways are protected and improved.
2. Riparian and instream habitats provide landscape connectivity, allowing the movement of native species and promoting resilient native flora and fauna populations.
3. Cultural and heritage values are recognised, protected, maintained and enhanced.
4. Communities and individuals connect with and appreciate the values of waterways. Waterway corridors are used for places of solitude, enjoyment of nature, & active & passive recreation that support mental and physical well-being.
5. An engaged and knowledgeable community in the Yarra catchment acts to protect and promote sustained waterway values. Our waterways are a place of continuous learning.
6. The waterways of the Yarra Catchment support natural system maintenance, potable and agricultural water supply, commerce and tourism in a balanced and environmentally sustainable manner.
7. Yarra waterways are managed in a transparent & collaborative governance framework that allows for strategic, innovative & integrated ways to protect waterways across public/private land.
8. The cultural, historical, amenity values and landscape settings of all modified waterways are protected and improved.

Work is continuing on the Yarra Catchment Preliminary Targets relating to indicators for fauna, vegetation, water flow, water quality and participation rates for community involvement. WCS has submitted comment on the draft document with recommendations for additional performance objectives for Banyule Billabong, Banyule Creek, Bolin Bolin Billabong, Annulus Billabong and Koonung Creek.

Dianne Williamson, 20 April 2018

Victorian Environmental Friends Network seminar

WCS is a member of this network which exists to help represent the common interests of all Friends groups in Victoria. Seminars, meetings and newsletters assist groups such as WCS to network with each other. Michelle and Dianne represented WCS at a full-day seminar on 17 March. This was an inspiring day with a selection of Friends groups sharing their experiences with achieving grants for habitat restoration and wildlife monitoring. We also heard about ways of including local Councils, schools and community groups with projects, and of sources of funding. Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change & Minister for Suburban Development, explained opportunities for Friends group involvement through Victorian government's environment programs. Kirsteen Thomson, of Greenspace Scotland, was the keynote speaker for the day and she spoke about the work and strategies of this social enterprise, independent charitable company which is involved with planning, development and sustainable management of greenspaces.

Dianne Williamson, 20 April 2018

Banyule House update

The owners of Banyule House at 60 Buckingham Drive Heidelberg have submitted revised plans for the building and grounds plus a draft Management Plan for the proposed Function Centre. The plans are difficult to interpret, however the revisions of concern to WCS include a 2.6m sound barrier fence on the top of the escarpment at the southern end of the property which will be visible from the wetlands, and possible removal of several more trees for a re-designed car park. Operating hours will be extended later in the evenings and the proposed valet parking could cause more traffic chaos in the street as people and cars queue to enter and leave the driveway at the start and end of functions. WCS will be submitting an updated 'Statement of Grounds' outlining our environmental concerns.

The Plans are available for you to see at Download the amended plans at <http://bit.ly/amendedplans> Read full details of the application at <http://bit.ly/banyulehomestead>

What can you do to express your concern?

1. Submit a personal 'Statement of Grounds' before

News & Events cont.

18 June, or an amendment to your original 'Statement of Grounds' by 3 May. Forms and guidelines from <https://www.vcat.vic.gov.au/resources/statement-of-grounds-planning-and-environment-list>

2. Sit in the gallery at any time during the hearing to show your support for the opponents. Hearings will extend for up to 8 days, commencing on 18 June. Check the VCAT website the afternoon prior to attending to check the venue and time. <https://www.vcat.vic.gov.au/todays-hearings>

Dianne Williamson, 20 April 2018

Mullum Mullum Festival

The 18th Mullum Mullum Festival will be held over the weekends of Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 April and Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 May 2018. There are many environmental talks and walks over the two weekends. Check the website for program and details of events.
<https://mullummullumfestival.org.au/>

Transition to a safe climate: creating a new story for Banyule.

Ian Dunlop will speak on Emergency Action in the Face of Climate Change, at 7pm on Friday 4 May. Saturday 5th May 9.00am - 5.30pm full day workshop to develop big ideas for community projects in Banyule. Bookings are essential. <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=350389&>

Heidelberg Theatre Company WCS fundraiser

Discounted tickets (\$20) to a production by the Heidelberg Theatre. Proceeds go to fund WCS operating costs. Contact warringal3084@gmail.com
Wed 2nd May 8pm - May 2nd 8pm

"The House of Bernarda Alba" by Federico Lorca.
Translated by David Hare, directed by Joan Moriarty .

Welcome to new members

We extend a warm welcome to new members:
Pam Norton & family
Amanda Dalyell
Denise Deerson

April Report of the Committee

Committee business

We had a busy and successful day at the Kids Arty-Farty Festival at Sills Bend on 18 March. James provided some wonderful satellite photos, superimposed with the NEL route and project area which were mounted on a new 3-sided stand built by Don. This proved to be a wonderful talking point and provides a clear depiction of homes in relation to the NEL project area. Our new WCS banner was visible from a distance and attracted many people. We handed out WCS and FOB flyers, information on public transport reforms, and NEL. Many thanks to all members who helped with the display and materials and who answered questions from Banyule residents on the day.

We have produced a new brochure 'Special Species of Banyule' highlighting 6 faunal and floral species, which are residents or migrating visitors to our area, and which are listed for State or National protection. (copy attached).

James, Daphne, Dianne and William visited 'Viewbank Gardens' retirement village on 21 March where Daphne led a presentation and discussion on Banyule Wetlands history and wildlife, and the work of WCS. We hope that some of the residents will join us at future plantings and meetings. Many WCS and FOB members and Banyule residents joined us for 'Clean up Australia Day' at Possum Hollow.

North East Link

The Committee continues to work against the NEL, and to minimise the environmental impacts. We congratulate members Michelle Giovas and Dennis O'Connor who have been appointed to NEL Community Liaison Groups. This will provide WCS and FOB with a link for on-going communication and input to design of the roadways etc.

Dianne met with the Board of the Yarra Riverkeepers Association to discuss environmental impacts of NEL. Daphne, Michelle and Dianne met recently with John Milkins to discuss potential hydrological impacts on Banyule Creek and Banyule Wetlands and to share ideas about possible offsets or projects for community compensation. Don is attending meetings of Friends of the Earth as our WCS liaison on working against freeways, and for improved public transport. Several members attended the protest on 5 March organised by Boroondara and Bulleen Groups at a NELA drill rig site at Derwent Square Bulleen

We have arranged another special WCS Members' only meeting with NELA's ecology team on Thursday 19 May, 7.30 at the OSO.

Local Environmental issues

Level Crossing Removal Authority (LRXA)
Works Staging at Borlase Reserve, Yalambie

Michelle observed early February that the LRXA

April Report of the Committee cont.

clay stock piling works were harming the trees on this reserve and polluting Banyule Creek. Complaints were made to all relevant government agencies, local councillors and state parliamentary members as this area is part of the NEL corridor and is being damaged prior to environmental assessments being completed. Samatha Dunn, MLC for Eastern Metropolitan Region raised this in parliament the next day while EPA investigated. Consequently the environmental management of LXRA operations have improved. We continue to monitor Banyule Creek and LXRA operations at Borlase Reserve.

Removal of trees at Woolworth's re-development site cnr Banksia St & Lwr Heidelberg Rd Heidelberg.

Michelle has been negotiating with the Woolworths builder, project managers and landscapers to try and retain some significant bird habitat trees which also add neighbourhood character. Woolworths have been very sympathetic to this approach and are endeavouring to retain 3 trees including the very

large River Sheoak

Committee participation in environment events

These events are a good opportunity to gain insights, be inspired and to network with other groups. Daphne, Michelle, Anne Bennet and Diannand Dianne attended, and Dianne spoke about the development of the goals and vision for the Yarra River at the Yarra Catchment Collaborations Workshop 3 on 16 March. Proposed preliminary targets for the Catchment were released for public comment on 15 March. Daphne, Dianne and Michelle attended the 'Possum Pallouza' fundraising event for Friends of Leadbeater's Possum on 7 March. A fun night although we all left with lighter wallets! Michelle, Dianne and Robert Bender attended a seminar run by the Victorian Environmental Friends Network on 17 March where several 'Friends of' groups spoke about their inspiring projects and there were presentations from organisations which provide grants for environmental restoration.

Michelle Giovias (WCS Committee Member)

WCS subscriptions due July 2018

WCS membership subscriptions for 2018/2019 are due in July. 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 below. Subscriptions can also be paid elec-

tronically 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 that your deposit has been made.

Warringal Conservation Society Annual Subscriptions due July

Name:

Address:

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Special area of interest:

Annual subscription type:

☐ **Single \$20**

☐ **Family \$25**

☐ **Concession (seniors, students etc) \$15**

☐ **Life subscription \$200**

Membership application/renewal (for July 2018-June 2019)

Donations always welcome

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

Warringal Conservation Society PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084 VIC

Duck Shooting 2018



Following a public outcry over so many illegally shot threatened and protected species of waterbirds, the Agriculture Minister Jaala Pulford called for a report into the Game Management Authority (GMA), the government agency responsible for compliance and enforcement. The Report, by Pegasus Economics, provided strong evidence showing the tax-payer funded GMA had not fulfilled its role. The Minister was reported to say that the structure of the agency would be reviewed.

The 2018 duck shooting season opened on 17th March this year with a later starting time; and two new regulations were introduced in an attempt to reduce cruelty and wastage. The first requires a hunter to immediately recover a downed game bird after it is shot and, as per existing game laws, immediately ensure the bird is dead. The hunter must not continue to shoot at other birds. The second regulation requires hunters to salvage at least breast meat from killed birds. Existing laws still apply.

The number of people who joined the rescue efforts on the opening weekend was larger than ever. They targeted Lake Cullen near Kerang where they easily outnumbered shooters; and the weekend

was quiet compared to other years. Nevertheless, the vets were kept busy treating several wounded birds.

Since March 17th teams of volunteers have gone out every weekend to look for wounded and dead birds on Victoria's wetlands. They have filmed and reported several instances of cruel and unacceptable behaviour on the part of duck hunters. On April 5th, these concerned volunteers displayed about 70 dead birds outside the Premier's office at Treasury Place. They pointed out that each one of these birds, whether a so-called 'game' or protected species, represented a breach of the new regulations.

On April 11th, the ABC's seven thirty report revealed that a senior Game Management Authority Investigator had stepped down and left the organisation out of frustration from being hindered for trying to prosecute shooters for cruel acts.

Volunteers will continue to monitor and document illegal activities of duck hunters on Victoria's wetlands over the next few months. If the existing laws and new regulations cannot be upheld throughout the three month season then it is unacceptable for duck hunting to continue in this State. The Andrews Government must act to ban it.

Please help to ban it.

1. Contact your local Victorian MP: 9457 5328, anthony.carbines@parliament.vic.gov.au

Send copies to:

- Agriculture Minister Jaala Pulford: 8392 6000, jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au

- Environment Minister Lili D'Ambrosio: 9422 5171, lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au

- Premier Daniel Andrews:

daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

2. Take action at: www.duck.org.au/how-to-help

Celia Smith

Darebin Path -Complete at last

Sunday 25th March 2018 saw a very happy occasion – the opening of the final section of the Darebin Path, from Sparkes Reserve to Willsmere Reserve in Kew. This was blessed with a bright sunny, windy morning, after heavy rain the day before. Darebin Creek was running strongly and the Yarra had also risen. And more than 500 people had come to celebrate the occasion --. walkers – some with children, some with dogs, cyclists galore, and at least one mobility scooter.

The official ceremony took place at Sparkes Reserve, but I gave it a miss, taking a short-cut to Waller Reserve, which is reached by a bridge from

the section bordering the sports fields of Alphington Grammar. Waller Reserve is on the Ivanhoe bank; in recent years it has been converted from a pony-paddock to regenerating bushland. The Friends of Darebin Creek have carried out several working bees here. A second bridge takes one along the Creek, on the edge of Latrobe Golf Club's grounds. A tall fence protects walkers and cyclists from stray golf-balls, and doubtless reassures the Golf Club about trespassers. There are many very fine large trees along the water-side, and at least one large clump of Blackberry to be dealt with. Beside the concrete path, new grass and shrub plantings are sprouting

Darebin Path cont.

through weed-mat. The path follows a raised section over the neck of a large peninsula, where the Golf Club's reservoir can be seen in the distance, and then over a bridge across the Yarra, into Willsmere Reserve. This is a long-established park, much-loved by local residents in Kew, with a hairpin-shaped billabong. Brian on his mobility scooter followed the path right up to where it meets the Main Yarra Trail, beside the Eastern Freeway, but I turned back from the Billabong, and met the main party who had started after the ceremony at Sparkes Reserve.

Cyclists and walkers made an impressive throng. Of course Tom Melican was one of them, but I met many friends and neighbours from DPA and Friends of Darebin Creek. I was delighted to meet a former very active WCS member, Scott Watson, who is now the Manager of VicRoads Environmental Section, and the designer of the Path! He and his two sons had come up from Frankston for the Opening, and I was very glad to congratulate him on its elegant layout and the beautiful section of Creek and River landscape now available to us.

Back to Sparkes Reserve, where Rotary had provided hamburgers and sausages, VicRoads and the Darebin Parklands Association had stalls, and coffee was being sold. Some more socializing, and I wrote down my only suggestion for improvement – that there should be notices erected naming Sparkes Reserve, Waller Reserve, and Willsmere Park, so that path-users can know where they are. As the Path ducks back and forth through three municipalities, Banyule, Yarra, and Booroondara, it

is easy to get confused. Congratulations to VicRoads for finally getting this very important route completed, and let's hope that the commuting cyclists don't skittle too many of us walkers on the narrower sections

Anthea Fleming



Nature Notes March 2018

Jane Crone - 3 Kookaburras in Ivanhoe

Daphne Hards – Tues morning (Feb 27th) Cattle egret at Banyule Flats - first for the year

Denise Fenrando – Echidna in Macleod

Celia Smith –Powerful Owl in Wilson Res – Kew Side

William Deane – Nankeen Night Herron and White Ibis at Banyule Swamp

Robert Deane – Grebes at Banyule Swamp

Michelle Giovas - Eastern Spinebill and Crimson Rosella

Heather Smith - Pardalote in yard in Rosanna

Anthea Fleming – Noisy miners harassing large tiger snake in backyard in Ivanhoe, a swarm of Brown-Thornbills. A number of birds at the Melbourne museum in a treed area at back with Mountain forest – Banded Landrail, Cunninghams skink, Bowerbirds including an adult male, Stick insects, fish – galaxias? Pigmy perch. Red browed finch, Blue Wren.

Nature Notes April 2018

Heather Smith – 30 Straw-necked Ibis at Banyule Swamp

Dianne Williamson– King Parrots are regulars at Banyule Flats

Jane Crone – 5 Black Cockatoos, Eastern Rosellas, Spinebills on Grevilleas, Gecko in letterbox

Celia Smith - 55 Kangaroos from Finn's reserve to Banyule Flats. Seen while bike riding.

Doug McNaughton– Sugar gliders 4 at Salt Creek – result of box project

Don Stokes – A Pardalote in garden in Rosanna

Gianna Romano – Whistling Kite at Riding School on Banyule Hill

Anthea Fleming - Acorns – turkey oak with large hairy base, WA eucalypt with 4 fused large flowers and red caps on buds and yellow stamens, cup moth cocoon, mistletoe on gum tree. Willsmere billabong is fairly dry but Straw-necked Ibis and ducks seen.



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