



Warringal
Conservation
Society

PRE-SPRING NESLETTER

Volume 48/five Sept/Oct 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.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Dr Ken Walker - Native Bees of Australia

Australia has about 1,700 species of native bees which are unique because they evolved with eucalypts. Most Australian bees are solitary but some are communal. Ken will introduce us to the fascinating anatomy and behavior of Australian bees, and explain how citizen science has assisted his research.

OCTOBER SPEAKER

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

Susan investigates plant reproduction, population genetics and evolution. Thus builds 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.

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Tanya Loos – Rakali and platypus

Rakali are completely aquatic rats that eat fish, yabbies and sometimes even ducks. They are excellent indicators of ecosystem health and often share the waterways with platypus. Tanya will speak about the ecology, evolution and conservation of Rakali and Platypus.

**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

Thurs 6th: General meeting at 7.30pm - Native Bees

Sat 8th: Night walk at Banyule Flats (See news & Events)

Sun 9th: Planting at Tawny Pond (See news & Events)

October

Thurs 4th: AGM 7.30pm, followed by Grevillea

Sun 21st: - Planting at Wilson Reserve (See news & Events)

November

Thurs 1st: General meeting at 7.30pm - Rakali and platypus

Sun 11th: End of year bus trip (Details to come)

Message from the President and Treasurer

We have been much saddened by the passing of four WCS members; Pat Holywell, Max Chester OAM, Beryl Jarman and Brian Fleming. Their contributions to the Society are described in this newsletter. They will be greatly missed.

The Get On Board campaign nearly swept us of our feet! This Friends of the Earth initiative is a new vision for transport in Melbourne, promoting public transport over cars on roads, advocating for freight on rail, a greatly improved bus network, and active transport such as cycling and walking. Also in the package is Melbourne Metro 2 which is a new rail line from Clifton Hill to Sunshine. In concert with our action against the North East Link would/could we run a blitz campaign for Get On Board in the N-E

for a week in July? We did, and the actions taken are written up in this edition. I just want to sincerely thank all those who contributed; those who very generously helped to fund our flyer printing costs, and everyone who created the flyers, handed out flyers at bus depots, train stations, outside shops, letterboxed, rang a radio station, attended and presented at the Greens' transport forum, and appeared in a Heidelberg Leader article. A massive effort.

Now I must get back to the financial reconciliation for 2017-8.

Daphne Hards

News & Events

NOTICE OF MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 4, 2018

7.30 pm at the Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverley Road Heidelberg

BUSINESS

- 1 Confirmation of Minutes of 2017 Annual General Meeting
- 2 Annual Report of the Committee
- 3 Financial statements
- 4 Election of members of the Committee
- 5 Annual subscription fee

Banuyule Flats twilight to after dark walk

Saturday, 8th September, 5.30 – 9.30 pm

Discover the fauna which lives at Banyule Flats Reserve. At 5.30 pm we will walk to the swamp viewing area to see which birds return to roost. Then, when it gets dark at 6.15 pm we will commence our walk around the southern end of the Banyule Billabong and along the river bank. Wear sturdy shoes, bring binoculars and a torch with a red cover to minimise disturbance to the animals. meet at the carpark off Somerset Drive, Viewbank. Melway 32:F2
Bookings: Essential (Limited to 30 people)
<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=400531>

Who we are and how to contact us

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Committee: Anthea Fleming, Celia Smith, Daphne Hards, Dianne Williamson, Doug McNaughton, James Deane, Heather Smith, Michelle Giovias.

Upcoming Plantings (see WCS facebook for updates)

Sunday 9th September: Planting at Tawny Pond
10am -12noon

Tawny Pond is next to the Somerset drive car park near the sports fields at Banyule Flats - see below:



Sunday 21st October: Planting and weeding at Wilson Reserve

Join Friends of Wilson Reserve (Robert Bender's group) at Wilson Reserve in Ivanhoe. See WCS Facebook for location and updates.

Banyule Homestead – VCAT Outcome

VCAT members Presiding Member Bill Sibonis and Member Ann Keddie provided their decision on 22 August to uphold Banyule Council's decision to reject the Planning Application to change the land use and convert the Homestead into a function centre with on site parking. This would have resulted in significant tree removal. Other issues were traffic, traffic safety, noise, light spill etc

The Applicant had sought to control these issues by a series of complicated and difficult to enforce town planning conditions. In summary the decision is as follows:

"However, in the circumstances of this site, the complexity of the management regime brings starkly into focus the sensitivity of this location and its amenity. What we conclude is that the complexity of the conditions highlights the inherent incompatibility of the proposed use with the surrounding neighbourhood and is a clear indicator that the use, in the form proposed, is not suitable in this location. Adding to this is the uncertainty

regarding the effective management of the patron noise impacts and the patron car parking, both of which have the potential to unacceptably impact the amenity of the neighbourhood in a significant manner. The unacceptable visual impact of the structures proposed to manage the noise impacts is a further reason why the proposal should not be approved."

They were not satisfied the function centre proposal was an acceptable planning outcome. The decision of the responsible authority [ie Banyule Council] was affirmed. No permit was granted.

In conclusion the Tribunal commented that "... in the circumstances of this site, the complexity of the management regime brings starkly into focus the sensitivity of this location and its amenity. What we conclude is that the complexity of the conditions highlights the inherent incompatibility of the proposed use with the surrounding neighbourhood and is a clear indicator that the use, in the form proposed, is not suitable in this location. Adding to this is the uncertainty regarding the effective management of the patron noise impacts and the patron car parking, both of which have the potential to unacceptably impact the amenity of the neighbourhood in a significant manner. The unacceptable visual impact of the structures proposed to manage the noise impacts is a further reason why the proposal should not be approved."

WCS congratulates the hardworking members of Banyule Estate Residents Group (BERG) and other objectors who presented a compelling case against this development proposal. Many thanks too to the members of WCS who participated and attended the 10 day VCAT hearings.

Heidelberg Theatre Company WCS fundraiser

On a specific night during their run, HTC offers seats at a discount price. Half the ticket cost of \$20 is given back to Warringal Conservation Society. The last two plays 2018 are Blue Stockings and Inheritance. If you are interested in buying tickets for these plays and helping WCS, the details are: Blue Stockings on Wednesday September 12th at 8pm. Cost \$20 per seat.

Inheritance on Wednesday November 21st at 8pm. Cost \$20 per seat.

For tickets contact WCS at email: warringal3084@gmail.com or ring Doug McNaughton on 9458 3358.

2018 Warringal Prize Recipient

We congratulate Suzanne Moss 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). James Deane attended the University's awards ceremony as representative of this Society. Suzanne's prize is \$500 and we have also provided her with copies of our publications, and a one year complimentary subscription to our Newsletter. We are reliant on member contributions to meet the cost of the Prize, so please remember to add your gold coin donation at the door.



WCS prize recipient Suzanne Moss (centre) with WSC president Daphne Hards (right) and vice president James Deane (left) on National Tree Day

Get On Board

WCS and Friends of Banyule joined forces with Friends of the Earth's "Sustainable Cities" campaign #GetOnBoard for a week of action commencing Monday 15th July. This campaign aligns with our goal to aim to ensure the state Government develops an integrated transport plan that favours public transport and freight rail and NOT the North East Link.

Activities for this week and continuing have been:

Banner drops (three times) off the Estelle Street footbridge, over the Eastern freeway alerting thousands of motorists that if the NEL project goes ahead they will be sharing this stretch of road with 95,000 more cars.

Handing out over 1500 Get on Board Flyers and our own anti NEL flyer developed with Friends of Banyule members and wonderful layout by Heather Smith. The flyers were handed out at Watsonia, Rosanna and Heidelberg Railway stations, Doncaster 'Park and Ride' bus terminal and outside Leo's as well as letterboxing of these flyers in Heidelberg, Rosanna and Macleod. Many of the people we spoke to agreed that public transport solutions were needed as a priority to resolve road congestion and many of the conversations revealed people's increasing concerns about NEL.

On Tuesday 17th July Greens MP Samantha Dunn's hosted a transport forum with John Stone (RMIT), Tony Morton (PTUA) and Michelle Giovas, who explained that the North East Link is not a transport solution but will become a congested tollway solution with many detrimental environmental and wellbeing impacts to our waterways, open space and parklands and local

communities. Recorded here:

<https://www.facebook.com/SamanthaDunnMP/videos/2075487749385268/>

Many thanks to all involved but a very special mention to Don Stokes who has been the driving force to make these actions happen and be successful, he has been well supported by Rachel Lynsky and Marc (FoE) Ian Hundley and Cynthia Pulli (Save Doncaster Rail), Dennis O'Connell, Toni Simioni and Michelle Giovas

Actions have been continuing such as further Banner drops at Estelle Street, letter boxing, and handing out flyers at transport hubs like the Doncaster bus station.

For information The Sustainable Cities #GetOnBoard hold weekly meeting at the Friends of the Earth office every Monday at 6pm:
https://www.melbournefoe.org.au/sustainable_cities.

As we say "if you don't like the idea of a \$16 billion toll road through your neighbourhood, join the campaign to replace the mega road projects currently proposed across Melbourne with more sustainable and practical alternatives". Here Here!

If WCS members wish to become involved and get on board see www.getonboard.org.au or WCS committee (in this newsletter) or Friends of Banyule <http://www.friendsofbanyule.org/what-can-i-do.aspx>.

We can still fight off this damaging project and draw inspiration from Bob Brown's successful campaign to Save the Franklin River The fight is not lost until they have laid the last bucket of cement.

Michelle Giovas

North East Link Update

We continue to attend North East Link Community Liaison Group meetings about every six weeks.

At the last meeting 10 August we discussed NEL Authority's continue progress on the Environmental Effects Statement which will be released early 2018 in Feb/March. Also discussed was the Urban Design Strategy which has eight guiding principles to "integrate" the project; identity, connectivity and wayfinding, urban integration, resilience and sustainability, amenity, vibrancy, safety and accessibility. The NEL Urban Design team has divided the corridor into three distinct areas defined by landscape character -Ridgeline, Yarra River Valley and Koonung Creek Valley. It's gathering feedback from community and council that can be relayed to the design team for consideration.

Experience you get from driving, cycling and walking through different areas is distinct and gives context for designs. Additionally NELA have established a NEL Environmental Group which consists of NELA reps, Mike Marasco, Independent Chair, Dennis O'Connell, Friends Of Banyule, Andrew Kelly, Yarra River Keeper and Michelle Giovas representing WCS. The terms of reference for this committee are:

- Highlight environmental issues and potential adverse environmental impacts of concern to local communities and environmental groups
- Understand what is being discussed in the Technical Reference Group (TRG)
- Provide local perspectives and knowledge in relation to minimising adverse environmental community impacts
- Explore local environmental opportunities, including net gain.

Key topics to be discussed are

- Offsets not being in local areas
- Recognising community value of creeks and rivers
- Concerns around the project description 'worst case' in EPBC, e.g. barrelled creek
- How Fred Buono's proposal will be considered by NELA (believe it could affect/improve environmental outcomes). This is a proposal to extend the tunnel northward to past Grimshaw St relieving damage to Watsonia and Army Barracks area
- Want to understand the size of the footprint including for construction
- Changes from draft to final EES scoping directions
- Learnings from other EESs eg West Gate Tunnel, Melbourne Metro
- Emphasised that we would like to be briefed ahead of documents being released where possible
- Remember bad construction outcomes from other projects (eg LX, EastLink) and
- Have a better understanding about what the TRG's role and activities.

Additionally the next iteration of NEL design will be released soon with another round of information sessions planned for September/October. This design will be the reference design.

If you have any comments or specific questions about this or that you would like to raise with NELA please contact Michelle Giovas on 0409 179 121

Committee Report - July 2018

Lease documents for our office space at the Old Shire Offices have been signed for further 2 years. This space is essential for storing our equipment, library and documents.

This year we will be promoting our WCS September to November activities in the Banyule Council 'Spring Outdoors' program, including a twilight walk at Banyule Flats on 8 September. Committee members have been active in keeping our website and facebook page up-to-date with news items. Heather and Michelle attended a Social Media Workshop conducted by the Victorian Environmental Friends Network on 16 June.

Daphne, Michelle, Anne, Dennis and Dianne attended Melbourne Water community workshops

on 16 and 17 June to further the development of the community vision for the Yarra River. Many of our WCS members have been involved in the VCAT hearing on the Banyule Homestead development application by making submissions, reviewing documentation cross-examining witnesses, providing support in the gallery and assisting with financial expenses of the Banyule Estate Residents Group.

We have received a response from Duncan Elliott to our letter sent to NELA regarding our continued environmental concerns and requests for projects to compensate for and reduce environmental impact.

Dianne Williamson

5 July 2018

Farewells

Vale Beryl Jarman 9/01/1923 – 25/07/2018



A few personal recollections – I first got to know the Jarman family after I joined The Bird Observers Club. Howard Jarman was the Librarian, and the book collection was kept at their house in Heidelberg. At the time Beryl was a teacher at the Heidelberg Primary School. Howard was a very early WCS member and contributed much writing on birds to early Newsletters – he also revised our first Bird List. Beryl soon joined him as a Member.

They had planned a round-Australia birding trip when Howard retired – few people would have enjoyed it more. Tragically, Howard was diagnosed with cancer and died, shortly after the launching of the Bird Book to which he contributed so much, in

January 1982. After his death, Beryl became very active in our Society and was a very able Secretary. She had a large circle of friends who shared her interests in birds and gardening. She was very active at working bees and planting sessions. As she became less active in later years, I was glad to be able to drive her to Birdlife Melbourne and WCS Meetings.

During the terrible Black Saturday bushfires, the Jarmans lost a small house which had belonged to Beryl's late sister Helen Meggs. In May that year, Beryl asked me to drive her there, so she could see and photograph what remained before the site was cleared. It was a strange and affecting sight. The chimneys stood surrounded by fallen roofing iron. Glazed plates were stuck together where their glaze had melted, but Corning ware was unaffected except where the Pyrex lids had melted and welded onto them in blobs. But rain had brought up green grass – nibbled by surviving wombats, roos and wallabies – as well as so many ferns and fungi, and many of the surrounding gums had begun to put out new leaf. Beryl was already very stooped, and she had to lean on a tree to get upright enough to take her photos.

Despite her increasing frailty, which took her from her beloved home to the care at Strathallan Community, Beryl herself remained as resilient as a gum-tree or a fern. She is one of our much-loved unforgettables.

Anthea Fleming

Brian Fleming 29/06/1934 – 4/08/2018



Devoted husband of Anthea Fleming, they met at Melbourne University Mountaineering Club. His great delight was cars, and founded Melbourne University Car Club.

Land Rovers gave him access to bush and outback travel. He loved skiing and while a student ran MUSKI for many years. He loved native plants,

and took to bird-watching with enthusiasm; also passionate about the environment, recycling, and the poor treatment of refugees.



Farewells

Vale Pat Holywell

On 4th July, *The Age* carried a death notice for Pat Holywell, aged 93. She was the wife of our second President Keith Holywell, who took over from our Founder Doug Western and led us through the 1970s. Living in Buckingham Drive close to Banyule House, the Holywell family valued the view of Banyule Flats long before it was reserved. Pat used to bird-watch with a small telescope. I first met her when Keith invited me to become Editor – at the time she worked as a volunteer for the Conservation Council of Victoria (now Environment Victoria) and typed the Newsletter stencils to run through the Gestetner duplicator. She was a most able support to Keith and was a Committee member in our early days. Her enthusiasms included native plants – she propagated many for our early plantings, often from cuttings, and for her own garden – often in milk cartons.

When Keith became redundant from his work – I

believe at the CSIRO – she had to leave the CCV. and seek paid work. I had to learn to type my own stencils and print them. Eventually Keith found a position as the Principal of the Churchill TAFE, and the Holywells moved to Gippsland. We lost contact with them - perhaps their last appearance was at the launching of the Bird Book in December 1981. The Bird Book had been produced via weekly meetings of its Committee – the workload involved was unbelievable. Without the Holywells' enthusiasm it would never have appeared.

I was sorry to find no photograph of Pat in our archives. It was also unfortunate that no funeral notice appeared – I would have dearly wished to have contacted her four children to express my own and the Society's sympathies and sincere thanks for her work in our early days.

Anthea Fleming

WCS Annual Subscriptions

WCS subscriptions due July 2018

WCS membership subscriptions for 2018/2019 are due in July. 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 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 that your deposit has been made.

Warringal Conservation Society Annual Subscription

Name:

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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

Nature Notes

July 2018

Anthea Fleming – Bird of prey, possibly Peregrine Falcon near Waterdale Rd ; White-Faced face Heron and a Grey Fantail (dark - from Tasmania?) at Wilson Reserve; Australasian Grebe at Reedy Billabong sunning its backside; fungi – Saffron Milk Cap, Lawyer Wig, Pied currawongs eating seeds, Water Skink and Geckos

Dianne Williamson – Eastern Rosellas, Black Shouldered Kite at Banyule Swamp

Helen Boak – Black Cockatoos at Bolin Bolin Billabong

Brian Fleming – Black Cockatoos

Greg - Pardalote

Lene – Eastern Spinebill

Anthony Fernando – Lots of Pied Currawongs at Macleod

James & Gianna – Spinebills in Correa at Yallambie

August 2018

Sally Warner - Gang Gang Cockatoos in Bulleen

Anthea Fleming – Yellow-tailed Black cockatoos in Ivanhoe

Dianne, Dennis, James – 12 White-Winged choughs at Banyule Flats

Dianne Williamson - Black Shouldered Kite, Thrush, King Parrots on Banyule escarpment daily in afternoon

Daphne Hards – Grey Butcher bird in garden

James Deane - Gang Gang Cockatoos in Boroondora Park, Canterbury

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

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