



Warringal  
Conservation  
Society

LATE SUMMER NESLETTER

Volume 49/two

March/April 2019

*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.

**MARCH SPEAKER**

**When Nature Calls: the work of Wildlife Victoria**

CEO Dr Megan Davidson will outline the rescue, education and advocacy work of Wildlife Victoria, celebrating its 30th year in 2019. Wildlife Victoria responds to reports of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife, providing assistance to over 50,000 animals a year.

**APRIL SPEAKER**

**Alicia Dimovski - The dark side of energy-efficient lighting: LED lights are giving wildlife the blues**

In a bid to reach climate change targets we have begun implementing sustainable lighting to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and save costs, but an unexpected negative impact may be hiding in the dark. We will investigate the ecological and health consequences associated with these bright white lights, and explore the use of "wildlife friendly" lighting to reduce our impacts.

**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**

March

**Thurs 7th:** General meeting at 7.30pm - Wildlife Victoria

**Sun 3rd:** Clean up Australia Day (See News & Events)

April

**Thurs 4th:** General meeting at 7..30pm - Wildlife and lighting

**Sun 7th:** Confluence clean up (See News & Events)

May

**Thurs 2nd:** General meeting at 7..30pm - Topic to be confirmed

## Message from the President

Inside a whole lot of busyness it was great to hear of two of our members receiving significant awards, detailed elsewhere. Congratulations to Robert Bender and Dianne Williamson, both for supporting our green spaces in different ways. We understand that Robert will receive his OAM Medal at Government House in April.

By the time you read this the Mordialloc Bypass EES (Environment Effects Statement) Inquiry Hearing will be underway in Dingley. This runs for 13 days and is an example of what will occur for the North East Link later this year. Both the applicant and objectors state their case and ask expert witnesses to detail the pros and cons of the project. The public can attend and members of your committee are going on selected days to hear what is ahead of us.

Four Pink-eared Ducks are still at Banyule Swamp. All's well.

*Daphne Hards*

## News & Events

### Warringal Conservation Members Winning Awards

#### Robert Bender

We were delighted to hear that Robert was awarded an Order of Australia in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List for his contribution to conservation and the environment. When he retired he began his own campaign to rid the Yarra fringes of weeds, and replanting native plants, in his local patch, Wilson's Reserve. Other locals joined in and Friends of Wilson's Reserve was



*Robert Bender  
watering in a new  
plant*

formed. The progress has been documented in Robert's monthly newsletter spanning nearly 23 years, beautifully illustrated with photos of work bees and wildlife. Along the way he has installed and monitored bat boxes, and now has a dedicated team of bat enthusiasts. He monitors frogs in the Reserve and on Ivanhoe Golf Course, and he floats down the Yarra regularly in his canoe collecting rubbish. Further afield he has been a long-time volunteer at The Organ Pipes National Park in Keilor North; and for holidays he has joined many Earth Watch expeditions all round Australia to learn about this great country. And those are just the bits we know about!! Warm congratulations Robert.

#### Dianne Williamson

On Australia Day 2019 Dianne received a Jaga Jaga Community Australia Day Award from Jenny Macklin MP for her huge contribution to Warringal Conservation Society. She features in photographs

### 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](https://www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety)

**President:** Daphne Hards

Telephone: 9497 4831

**Vice President:** James Deane

**Treasurer:** Daphne Hards

Telephone: 9497 4831

#### **Newsletter**

Editors: James Deane & Gianna Romano

Telephone: 94585985

Email: [wcs.editor@gmail.com](mailto:wcs.editor@gmail.com)

Compilation & Mailing: 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.

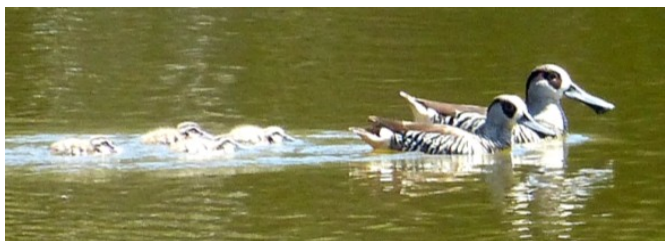
of the 25year planting in 1995, and she has been on the committee in various roles since 2006. In 2013 she became Secretary and has kept us all shipshape since then. We love her enthusiasm and adaptability and say thank you and well done. Congratulations Dianne.



*Dianne Williamson (left ) and Jenny Macklin.*

### **Pink-eared Ducks Breeding at Banyule Swamp**

Birdline Vic reports from Richard Loyn that Pink-eared Ducks are back at Banyule Flats and have bred again. 5 ducklings were seen on Sunday 17th Feb and 3 were reported on Thurs 22nd by another observer. Richard says it is remarkable for Pink-eared Duck to breed south of the divide.



### **Banyule Flats Twilight walk report**

About a dozen people joined us for a walk on the evening of Sat 9th Feb, including a few who hadn't previously visited Banyule flats and a baby. A Kookaburra was seen in the big old *Eucalyptus studleyensis* (Swamp gum and Red gum hybrid) near the Somerset drive carpark. We visited the swamp and saw Black ducks with ducklings and a number of Silver (Sea) Gulls. We then walked around the Banyule Billabong to the windmill and returned on a smaller track through the east paddock. A number of Ring-Tailed possums, three Tawny Frogmouths, and some rabbits were sighted. We visited a large wombat hole with evidence of recent digging, but the wombats either hiding or busy elsewhere.



*A young Tawny Frogmouth (photo Anthea Fleming)*



*At the Banyule Swamp*

### **WCS planting and working bees**

We have a full calendar planned for the year already. Details of all monthly activities are in the newsletter, on the Facebook page and in the calendar on our website. If you would like to be notified by email contact Heather at [elephantstamp@optusnet.com.au](mailto:elephantstamp@optusnet.com.au)

#### March working bee: Clean up Australia Day

Sunday 3 March 10am – 12noon

Location: Grotty Pond

Bring yourself, family and friends and give us a hand at Grotty Pond [or Silt Pond as known by some]. This will be a very satisfying location as there is always lots of rubbish around this area. When we've worked at this site before we've lost count of the plastic bottles and tennis balls! Australian Painted Snipe have been sighted at this small but significant place.

Bring own gloves and wear suitable footwear. If planning to work in the pond you must bring gumboots. Children are welcome but must be supervised. This event is a registered Clean up Australia Day event.

Meeting Point: We will meet on the Main Yarra trail, at the north end of the Banyule Swamp, Viewbank. Look for the Banyule City Council Truck. For more details and a map go to our WCS Facebook event page.

#### April working bee: Confluence clean up

Sunday 7 April 10am – 12noon

Location: Salt Creek/Yarra River confluence

This month we will be joined by Friends of Salt Creek who will help us remove woody weeds at the confluence of Salt Creek and the Yarra River. We will be working along the creek behind the Heidelberg Football Club club rooms. Bring own gloves and wear suitable footwear. Gumboots may



be needed.

Meeting Point: We will meet on the Main Yarra trail, behind the Heidelberg football club. Look for the Banyule City Council Truck.

More details and a map will soon be available on our WCS Facebook event page.

### **Coming events March-April 2019**

#### Changemakers 2019

Hear from inspirational environmentalist Prof. Tim Flannery at this seminar hosted by Village Wells founder Gilbert Rochecouste. An opportunity to network, catch up and celebrate the wealth of environmental work undertaken by volunteers in Banyule every year.

Thursday 21 March 6.00-9.00 pm. Tickets \$10 at [www.trybooking.com/BACRY](http://www.trybooking.com/BACRY)

#### Environmental Effects Statement Forum

Get the latest information and find out what Banyule Council is doing to get the best outcomes from the North East Link project for Banyule, plus hear guest speakers explain the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process and how to make a submission to the EES Panel.

Wednesday 27 March, 6.30-8.30pm. The Great Hall, The Centre Ivanhoe, 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe.

Free event. Bookings essential by 20 March.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/how-to-have-your-say-on-the-north-east-link-making-a-submission-to-the-public-review-tickets-55544768899>

#### Development planning in Banyule

Council is holding a forum for residents, developers, architects and consultants on to understand more about planning and development in Banyule. The forum will give you the opportunity to meet Council's Development Planners, learn about the Development Planning rules and regulations, ask any questions you may have on Development Planning.

Presentations will cover: Trees and development in Banyule; Overview of planning and development in Banyule; Initiatives and improvements; and Environmentally Sustainable Design and Liveability.

Friday 29 March 7:30am – 12:30 pm

Register for some or all sessions at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/planning-and-development-in-banyule-tickets-56089402914>

#### Towards a renewable energy future: A Q & A with Mark Butler MP

A community discussion about how Australia moves towards a renewable energy future with Labor's Federal Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

Tuesday 19 March 6.00-8.00pm

Viewbank College Performing Arts Centre, Warren Road Viewbank

Rsvp to 9459 1411 or [jmacklin.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:jmacklin.mp@aph.gov.au)

### **Have your say - March-April 2019**

#### Future of our forests

Forests provide Victorian communities with a broad range of uses and values that include clean water and air, grand old trees, biodiversity conservation, recreation and connection with nature, and jobs and economic opportunities. You are invited to answer this survey to provide your views on how forest management can be improved, and what you would like from forests into the future. Survey closes 30 March. <https://engage.vic.gov.au/future-of-our-forests>

#### Protection of urban rivers

The federal Labor party has committed to provide \$200 million to support our urban rivers and are seeking comments about which urban rivers should be prioritised. This is an opportunity to express concern about the impact of major developments such as the North East Link on the Yarra River and our local tributaries.

[https://www.tonyburke.com.au/urbanrivers?link\\_id=0&can\\_id=f286565d6fe886df817ed6ec30f9c600&source=email-well-protect-urban-rivers&email\\_referrer=email\\_485124&email\\_subject=well-protect-urban-rivers](https://www.tonyburke.com.au/urbanrivers?link_id=0&can_id=f286565d6fe886df817ed6ec30f9c600&source=email-well-protect-urban-rivers&email_referrer=email_485124&email_subject=well-protect-urban-rivers)

#### Proposed Multi use trail from Lower Plenty to Viewbank

BCC is exploring the feasibility of a 1 kilometre multi-use (horse, cycle and walk) trail between Bonds Road, Lower Plenty and Martins Lane, Viewbank including a bridge crossing over the Plenty River. Detailed maps and information from the Shaping Banyule website. The survey closes 11 March. <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/trails>

#### Review of Development Planning in Banyule

Council's Development Planning Services team manages building development within the municipality by assessing applications in accordance with relevant legislation, specific requirements and State and Local Planning Policies. This includes applications for new housing, sub-division,

## News & Events cont.

commercial offices, multi-story developments and more. Comments on all aspects of the planning process can be submitted until 8 March.  
<https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/developmentplanning>

### Heidelberg Theatre Company Dates for 2019

The first play for 2019, *Lost in Yonkers*, is currently running and you missed an excellent production if you did not buy tickets. The remaining program of plays is below and we would encourage you to purchase charity tickets on the dates given, cost \$20 each, where \$10 comes to the Society, \$10 to HTC. Every little helps so please consider purchasing your tickets through us, either by seeing Doug McNaughton at a meeting or by emailing [warringal3084@gmail.com](mailto:warringal3084@gmail.com)

*It's a Wonderful Life* based on film by Frank Capra  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May

*A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July

*The Drawer Boy* by Michael Healy  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September

*Tartuffe* by Moliere  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November

### Warrigal Conservation Society Greeting Cards

These lovely cards depict the centrepiece of our Banyule Flats area – the Banyule Swamp. Blank inside they can be used for any occasion, including as Christmas cards.

Well priced at \$3.50 each (envelope enclosed) or three for \$10, they are available for purchase at meetings or request via email: [warringal3084@gmail.com](mailto:warringal3084@gmail.com).



## Committee report - February 2019

### Bequest from the Estate of Beryl Jarman

Warringal Conservation Society is profoundly grateful to Beryl Jarman for leaving us a small but significant bequest in her will. We loved her as a friend, an active member since the 1980s, an avid supporter of all our activities, and she has helped us financially too. Bless you Beryl.

### Committee business

Letters have been sent to lobby politicians to stop recreational duck shooting, and a letter to the Premier and Melissa Horne and Anthony Carabines acknowledging the Vic Government's public transport initiatives. We also made a written submission to VCAT on the proposed development at 69 and 71 Banyule Road for which there is as yet no result to report.

**Kids' Arty Farty Festival March.** On Sunday 17th March, WCS will have a marquee which will be shared with FOB. Volunteers are needed to assist with preparation of the display (eg: providing photos and preparing posters), and also on the day. If you can help, please email us at

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

### Australia Day Awards for 2019

Congratulations to Robert Bender for his Order of Australia, and Dianne Williamson for her Jaga Jaga Community Award see pg

### Fundraising

Tickets are on sale for the 2019 Heidelberg Theatre Company plays. Wednesday charity night tickets are discounted and cost \$20 each, where \$10 comes to the Society. Please see Doug McNaughton at a meeting or email him at [warringal3084@gmail.com](mailto:warringal3084@gmail.com)

### Planting/weeding activities and events

Clean up Australia Day working bee will be at the Grotty Pond, on Sunday, March 3. For more details please go to our Facebook page. A draft planting calendar for the year is being developed.

### North East Link

Michelle and James have been meeting regularly with Community Liaison Groups; and the Committee will be meeting with NELA ecologists later this month. *We urge you to please email your environment-related questions to your Committee at*

## Committee report - February 2019 cont.

[warringal3084@gmail.com](mailto:warringal3084@gmail.com), and we will ask them on your behalf when we meet with NELA representatives.

After discussion with BCC Officers we have sent a letter to NELA asking for environmental projects as compensation. We are preparing a submission for inclusion in the Community Liaison Group reports which will become part of NELA's EES report.

### Opportunities for you to have your say

'Future of our forests' Vic community engagement website has been established.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/future-of-our-forests>

Members are urged to go to this website where there is a questionnaire to fill out and give your opinion. Right now in Victoria vast tracts of old growth forest at Granite Mountain on East Gippsland's Errinundra plateau, and in the Mountain Ash forests of the Central Highlands, are being bulldozed and wood chipped. These forests have remained untouched for thousands of years; and unless the Government is forced by public opinion to act, they and much of the wildlife within will not survive. The current logging policies of the Victorian Government lead to millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere every year; and they do not protect many threatened and unique species like the Greater Glider, the long-footed Potoroo, the Sooty and Powerful Owl, and Leadbeater Possum.

### Protection of urban rivers

There is a Federal Labor initiative seeking input on which rivers and creeks are at risk. We believe this

should be targeted for future funding. We would welcome an allocation of funds. All five water ways would be impacted by the NE Link. There are also hydrological issues with Banyule Flats, Yarra Flats, Bolin Bolin Billabong, etc.

### Review of draft Banyule Council Environmental Sustainability Plans

The Committee is preparing a submission from WCS for this Review; and you can submit your own comments on the draft plans for: Biodiversity, Environmental Stewardship and Water. Please go to <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/environmental-sustainability>

### Coming events of interest

The Victorian duck shooting season needs rescuers to help native ducks and other water birds on the opening day of the season on March 16th and at times before the season's closing day of May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please go to the Coalition against Duck Shooting's Facebook page, or to [www.duck.org.au](http://www.duck.org.au) for more information.

World Wildlife Day is on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The 2019 World Wildlife Day will focus on life below water to raise awareness about the breathtaking diversity of marine life, the crucial importance of marine species to human beings, and how we can make sure it will continue providing essential life sustaining services for future generations. More information is on their Facebook page, and at [www.wildlifeday.org](http://www.wildlifeday.org)

*Celia Smith*

## February speaker - Nick Bradsworth - Powerful Owls

Nick Bradsworth is a PhD candidate at Deakin University studying Powerful Owls and how they use habitat.

At up to 65cm tall, the Powerful Owl is Australia's largest owl. It is an apex predator in forests and bushland preying mainly on possums. It is listed as vulnerable in Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Powerful Owls occupy urban areas where parks support sufficient prey and provide the large nesting hollows they need to reproduce. Little is known about how much habitat is Powerful Owls need, how they use habitat, and how to predict where suitable habitat occurs. Nick is investigating these questions during his PhD.

The challenging approach used by Nick and his colleagues is to fit owls with a GPS logger to

document their nightly journeys. Owls are attracted using playback of Powerful Owl calls and trapped in a mist net. Body weight is recorded and a feather sample taken to provide DNA for sex and identity determination. A miniature GPS logger is attached a tail feather and then the owl is released. The owl has



*Nick Bradsworth with a Powerful Owl trapped as part of a tracking program.*



## Nature Notes - February 2019

to be recaptured to retrieve the data detailing its travels. All procedures are designed to maximise the amount of information gathered while minimising disturbance and stress.

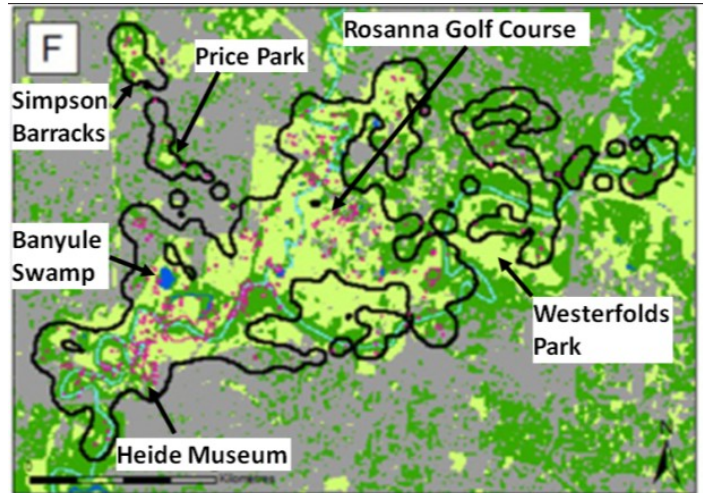
The territories of 12 urban Powerful Owls have been documented to date. An interesting finding is that urban Powerful Owls tend to have smaller territories than those residing in forest. Data also indicate that sightings are not a reliable indicator of the extent of owl territories. Owls are frequently sighted as they roost during the day, but are much harder to spot when they are out hunting.

An intriguing example is a male owl that resides at Banyule Flats. This owl is regularly sighted with its mate at roost sites. GPS tracking data (right) shows that it frequents the Yarra river corridor and the Plenty river. Surprisingly it also travels to the Simpson Army Barracks via Price park. The fact that planned major works for the North East Link will impinge on this owl's range is cause for concern.

Nick's work is a great example of how new

technology can provide insight that goes beyond traditional field observations.

*James Deane*



*A local Powerful Owl territory denoted by black line  
(<https://insideecology.com> "Tracking the untrackable – Where do Melbourne's powerful owls go at night?")*

## WCS Annual Subscriptions

### WCS subscriptions due July 2019

WCS membership subscriptions for 2019/2020 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 by post, 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](mailto:warringal3084@gmail.com) that your deposit has been made.

### Warringal Conservation Society Annual Subscription

**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 2019-June 2020)**

**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 - February 2019

Helen Boak reported seeing a Tiger Snake

Jane Crone saw two Spur-winged Plover (strictly speaking Masked Lapwings). She also had a Frogmouth on her clothes-line.

Daphne Hards saw a Wombat and a Sacred Kingfisher in Birrarung Park.

Michelle Giovas saw White-plumed Honeyeaters in her backyard.

Rowan Harris observed an Eastern Koel in Eaglemont (typically a bird with a tropical East Coast distribution. Melbourne sightings have become more frequent in recent years.)

William Deane observed 2 Tawny Frogmouths.

Heather Smith saw a Grey Butcherbird which had caught a mouse and suspended it in a tree fork – having weak feet, they must fix prey this way before pulling it to pieces..

In Wilson Reserve, Robert Bender saw 3 Nankeen Night-herons, and heard an Eastern Whipbird which has frequented the Yarra bank recently. A stray from mountain forests.

Dianne Williamson had a pair of Gang Gangs in her garden, and Little Wattlebirds. A pair of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes raised 2 chicks. She was also visited by Crimson Rosellas, and Tiger Snakes. She showed photos of 2 sizes of Cicada 'shells', the common Green Monday type and the half-size bush Cicada (usually black).

Anthea Fleming showed photos of Imperial Blue Butterflies at the Plenty, a Wilson Reserve Night-heron, and some criminal King Parrots which robbed her pear-tree. She also reported seeing a young Ringtail Possum which found shelter on a 40 degree day under plants by her front-garden tap. Remember to keep bird-baths full!

James Deane showed photos taken by his nocturnal wildlife camera, kangaroos, and a Barn Owl which roosts in an ancient Red Gum's hollow near his home. Also a Tasmanian Echidna, with its spines projecting through its warm woolly coat.

My neighbour Geoff Kelly reported that his bush garden in Clark Rd has been visited for a second time by an Echidna – and was photographed. He says it seems to have grown since its previous visit, a few months ago. By the time I could try to see it, it had gone to ground behind his chook-house. Presumably it patrols Darebin Creek. I hope it may visit me.

*Anthea Fleming*

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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)

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**WARRINGAL  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY**

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