



Warringal
Conservation
Society

PRE-SPRING NEWSLETTER

Volume 49/five Sept/Oct 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 Kate Thwaites MP, Member for Jagajaga

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Carolyn Ingvarson - Lighter Footprints and Climate Change

Lighter Footprints is a committed local climate group of concerned residents from Boroondara and Whitehorse municipalities working on the serious challenge of climate change. They aim to influence Australians (including local, state and national decision makers) to take the necessary action to halt global warming as a matter of urgency.

OCTOBER SPEAKER

Graham Thorley - History of the Heidelberg District.

Graham from the Heidelberg Historical Society will take us through the history of Heidelberg, its surrounding suburbs and some of the colourful people who settled here.

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

David Sykes, Victoria's Population Boom

David is from the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, and studies population changes. Victoria has added a million people to its population in the last decade. David will discuss patterns of population growth and what we can expect for our local area.

**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 5th: General meeting at 7.30pm - Climate Change

Sun 8th: Planting at Frog Bog (See news & Events)

October

Thurs 3rd: AGM 7.30pm, followed by Heidelberg History

Sun 20th: - Planting, location TBA (See news & Events)

November

Thurs 7th: General meeting at 7.30pm - Population

Sun 10th: End of year bus trip to Organ Pipes (See news & Events)

Message from the President

By the time you receive this newsletter the IAC Hearing for the North East Link will very nearly be over. And what a blessing that will be. WCS is scheduled to speak on Monday September 2nd if you care to attend at the Veneto club. The timetable is best checked on the Engage Victoria website. Wish us luck.

Our Annual General Meeting is fast approaching – the October meeting. All positions on the committee will be declared vacant so if you would like to participate at that very congenial level please let one of the committee know. We would welcome new ideas and help in all forms.

The days are getting longer, we've had real rain, and my wattles are a blaze of yellow. I cannot wait for spring! I hope you are the same.

Daphne Hards

News & Events

NOTICE OF MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 3, 2019

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

BUSINESS

- 1 Confirmation of Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting
- 2 Annual Report of the Committee
- 3 Financial statements
- 4 Election of members of the Committee
- 5 Annual subscription fee

Upcoming Plantings (see WCS facebook for updates)

Sunday 8th September: Planting at Frog Bog 10am - 12noon

Back at the Frog Bog this month, filling in the gaps - hoping to hear some frogs calling. Located just across the Yarra Trail from our Tawny Pond site, which is right alongside the Somerset Drive car park. Melway ref: 32:F2. A great opportunity to see how last year's plants are progressing, and find out a bit more about what frogs like in their habitat!

Sunday 20th October: Planting -10am -12noon
Site to be confirmed.

Sunday 10th November: Organ Pipes Trip

We are planning a visit to the Organ Pipes National park. We may meet local Friends groups and hear about their work, or hear from local flora or fauna experts. This annual field trip for WCS members is generously supported by the Banyule Bush Management crew. More details will be posted on the WCS facebook page.

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

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Telephone: 9497 4831

Vice President: James Deane

Treasurer: Daphne Hards

Telephone: 9497 4831

Newsletter

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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.

Warringal Prize

We sponsor a prize given each year by La Trobe University to a first year Bachelor of Science (Wildlife and Conservation Biology) student for outstanding academic achievement. This year's Warringal Conservation Society Prize winner was Kiara Catania, seen here with Daphne Hards and James Deane at the prize giving ceremony. Daphne and James had a nice chat with Kiara and her parents, from Murchison, and we hope Kiara's enthusiasm for the environment will carry her through to a rewarding career in her favourite field. Kiara'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 thank all members for gold coin donations which contribute to the cost of the Prize.



Heidelberg Theatre Company Dates for 2019

The program of plays for 2019 is below and we would encourage you to purchase charity tickets for 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

- The Drawer Boy by Michael Healy
Wednesday 11th September
- Tartuffe by Moliere
Wednesday 20th November

Australian Plants Expo 2019

14-15 September, 10.00-4.00pm.
Eltham Community Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham.
A weekend of native and indigenous plant displays and sales. There are also talks, sales of books and giftware including decorative pots, and refreshments.
Entry: Adults \$5, concession \$4, and kids free.

National Tree Day report

The National Tree Day planting on Sunday 28th July was a great success! Eleven registrations from the NTD website swelled our group to 31 adults and about 11 children, who planted a total of 868 plants by about 11.30am. Twenty species including masses of ground covers, grasses, shrubby understory plants and one lone Callistemon. We worked at the Southern end of the Warringal Swamp, just past the Possum Hollow playground. The Bush Crew prepared the site – with the intention of planting more understory plants to enhance last year's work. Thanks to all who came and made it light work and a fun day!



E-Waste...has no place...in your rubbish bins!

From the 1 July 2019 – the Victorian Government banned e-waste from Victoria's landfill sites. This means it can no longer be put into any of our domestic rubbish bins. It must be taken to the Waste Recovery Centre at the corner of Waterdale and Banksia Street, Bellfield. What is e-waste? Anything with a plug, battery or power cord – including TVs, computers, mice, mobile phones, electronic toys, hearing aids, kitchen appliances, white goods, batteries, cables and printing cartridges.

Welcome

We extend a very warm welcome to our new WCS members:

- Alice Bennett
- Rob Granter & family
- Julian Nesci & family

North Eastlink Update

The Public Hearing for the North East Link Project began on Thursday the 25th of July and will run for nearly 8 weeks. At the hearing an Independent Advisory Committee considers evidence from:

- the North East Link Project organisation acting on behalf of the state government
- Interested/affected councils
- Businesses
- Sports Clubs
- Schools
- Community Groups
- Individuals

WCS has endeavoured to have a presence at the hearing each day. Dianne Williamson, Daphne Hards and Michelle Giovas have been regular attendees. The process has been very formal and orchestrated by barristers acting on behalf of the major interested parties. The North East Link Project have by far the largest legal team.

So far the hearing has mainly involved expert witness testimonies on behalf of the North East Link Project and the Banyule, Boorondara, Whitehorse and Manningham Councils. Naturally the experts the North East Link Project have engaged present a fairly rosy picture of the road and environmental outcomes. Fortunately the councils have engaged a number of very good witnesses in an attempt to provide some balance.

There has been some pretty robust cross-examination by barristers that sometimes provided insight into important issues, and at other times mainly sought to discredit the other teams witness. WCS have submitted a number of questions regarding environmental issues and some of these have been put to the expert witnesses on our behalf.

Some fairly glaring holes have emerged in the proposed management of environmental issues, mainly concerning Matted Flax-lily and Studley Park Gum in the Simpson Barracks. Risk assessment has also been a topic of much discussion as the assessment methods used by the North East Link project are atypical and obscure or understate several of the most serious risks of the project. What this means for the current design is hard to judge. It all depends on the recommendations that the independent panel makes, and whether the minister decides to accept them.

Next week community groups and individuals get a chance. WCS is scheduled for Monday September 2nd at the Veneto Club in Bulleen (see Engage Victoria website for latest timetable). We hope to provide a local environmental perspective that will help convince the panel to recommend a rethink on some of the more damaging aspects of the current design.

James Deane

Annulus Billabong Inspection

With plans to re-fill Banyule, Bolin Bolin and the Annulus Billabongs in the air, I was invited to a preliminary site visit to the Annulus Billabong in Yarra Flats Park, on 25th June. Fortunately it was a bright sunny day - the first for weeks. Representatives of Melbourne Water, Yarra Riverkeepers, Melbourne Parks, DWELP, and Chris Callaghan and John Milkens from Banyule Council, all dressed in high visibility vests. We made a circuit via the area next to Banksia St, past the Banksia St Billabong, whose presence is obscured by heavy plant growth. Next we moved along the Yarra Banks, where there is a very heavy growth of Tradescantia - no wonder we saw no ground-feeding birds. Local ground flora was wiped out by grazing in the past. We found the billabong outlet, deeply eroded, all under fine large Red Gums, with wattles, Coprosma and Tree Violet. The only access here is

by a maze of paths made by cyclists. The Annulus itself is not nearly so heavily overgrown or weedy as Banyule Billabong, but the 1980+ plantings on the 'island' have grown well. Its floor is grassy and may have been mown in the past. It is very large and, when re-filled, should provide a wonderful bird area, as it did in the 1980s. There was much discussion of billabong management, past and future - I was able to contribute recollections. A Wallaby was seen in the Annulus edges, and of course some of the Kangaroos were seen. Visitors were impressed by their tameness. The area under the power-lines is kept clear of trees - the grassy area provides grazing for the kangaroos, and could benefit grassland birds if not over-mown or over-grazed.

Anthea Fleming

Help Save Victoria's Native Waterbirds

In March this year, Victorian MP Andy Meddick introduced a bill to ban duck shooting. When the time is right, Andy will bring this bill for its second reading and then for debate with the goal of legislating a complete ban on duck shooting in Victoria before next year's season is announced.

Your help is needed to keep the pressure on the government and show there is overwhelming public support to ban recreational duck shooting in Victoria. Please keep up the pressure by sending emails to our Victorian politicians to say that you want the recreational shooting of native waterbirds

banned in Victoria.

In particular, please email:

1. The Hon. Daniel Andrews, Premier of Victoria
daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au
2. The Hon. Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development
jaclyn.symes@parliament.vic.gov.au
3. The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change
lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au

Celia Smith

Committee Report - July 2018

Committee activities

Congratulations were extended to Kiara Catania, the recipient of the 2019 WCS Prize. Daphne and James attended the award ceremony at La Trobe University. Thank you to our members and visitors who make a gold coin donation at meetings and who purchase monthly raffle tickets – this is the money we use for the annual \$500 WCS Prize and the rental for the Old Shire Offices.

Following statements to a Banyule Council meeting from WCS, FOB and others, a meeting of stakeholders was held to discuss the Terms of Reference of the Banyule Environment Advisory Committee (BEAC).

Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) are in essence permits for logging. To support our submission to the Victorian enquiry on Regional Forest Agreements we have sent letters to 19 State and Federal Ministers and shadow Ministers. We have called for an end to the logging of old-growth forests and the creation of the Great Forest National Park.

The Committee has reviewed a planning application for Banyule Flats Pavilion and discussed matters with the BCC Planning Officer. The building will be extended towards the playing fields, but not increased in height. There will be improved disabled access parking and access. A condition of the permit will be painting in muted natural colours. Two trees in front of the pavilion will be removed but there are plans for additional revegetation of the area. The Committee decided not to submit an objection. We have asked to be consulted about future upgrades of the car park which is subject to a different approval process.

Five WCS members have now attended the BCC's Defibrillator Training seminars. It is reassuring to

have this equipment and we hope that it won't be needed but if it is, please leave the operation of the equipment to medical professionals and those who have done the training. You can assist by phoning for an ambulance, if requested to do so, and maintaining a calm atmosphere.

We are monitoring a current VCAT case related to a proposal for removal of a large Manna Gum at Diamond Village shopping Centre.

Daphne and Heather have prepared a display on WCS in the Ivanhoe Library foyer.

North East Link

Daphne, James and Michelle accompanied the IAC on a bus tour of the NELP area on 12 July. Unfortunately the program was altered and the planned visit to Banyule Flats was not included. The IAC do have plans to visit the area. We have requested that they also do a site tour at SAB to view the vegetation to be removed, including the site of earlier offsets, the Banyule Flats escarpment, and Rivergum Walk.

NELP hearings commenced last week and will continue until mid-September. Members were invited to observe the proceedings. There are already 138 additional documents, mostly NELP technical reports and expert witness statements on the website, so it is very challenging for our WCS and FOB NELP teams to keep up with these in addition to attending the hearings. Daphne, James, Michelle and Dianne are ensuring that we have a WCS presence at each day of the hearing and we are preparing questions for cross examination of the experts.

Dianne Williamson
1 August 2019

Committee Nomination Form for 2019 AGM



Warringal Conservation Society

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2019-2020

I, _____ hereby nominate _____

For the position of _____

Signed: (proposer) _____

Signed: (seconder) _____

I, _____ hereby agree to accept the above position if duly elected

Signed: _____

All signatories must be full financial members of Warringal Conservation Society
Contact the Secretary if you wish to lodge a Proxy vote: warringal3084@gmail.com



Warringal Conservation Society

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Signed: _____

All signatories must be full financial members of Warringal Conservation Society
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August Speakers - Rewatering Yarra Billabongs

Andrew Mellor and Sarah Gaskill from Melbourne Water brought us up to date on efforts to rejuvenate Billabongs along the Yarra River.

Andrew discussed Melbourne Water's roles including: water supply, sewage, flood management, and improving the health of waterways. Melbourne Water operates in an area that with 5 major catchments, over 24000km of rivers and creeks, and 2 bays. The 2018 Healthy Waterways Strategy includes initiatives to rejuvenate billabongs along the Yarra River.

Sarah spoke of the importance of billabongs to plants, particularly River Red Gum, and animals like turtles snakes lizards and eels. Billabongs are also important sites for human interactions with nature.

Billabongs have suffered since European settlement. They were often drained or used as rubbish tips. Water flows through the landscape have been changed by dams, agriculture and industry. Natural flooding of the Yarra has been greatly

reduced and this has robbed billabongs of the water that sustains them.

Banyule Billabong has a brick and earth wall that was built to retain water pumped by the windmill for cattle. This wall stops water flowing into the billabong from the river, meaning that it rarely fills.

Melbourne Water used pumps and a generator to fill the Billabong from the Yarra in 2017. It held water for about 3 months and drowned the vegetation that had grown up in the absence of regular inundation. There was a boom in the local frog population. Banyule Billabong is likely to be filled with pumps again later this year. In the long term it is hoped that the inlet can be remodelled so that flooding can be achieved without pumps.

Locally Bolin Bolin Billabong has also been filled by pumping and Annulus Billabong is soon likely to be flooded for the first time in many years.

James Deane

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 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:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Mobile:

Special area of interest:

Where did you hear about us?:

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

July 2019

Doug Mc Naughton - Reported two Wedge-tailed Eagles over Salt Creek in Rosanna

Celia Smith - 12 Wood Ducks

Anthea Fleming reported on her visit to Annulus Billabong (see report on pg 4)

James Deane - Hobby on a dead tree on Viewbank hill. It was being mobbed by Magpies and Cockatoos.

Morning of Thurs 18th July - A large male Kangaroo was chased over Viewbank hill and onto Banyule Road by an unleashed tan Staffordshire terrier. The Kangaroo broke its leg jumping a fence into the Banyule Native gardens and was put down later that day. Dog was being walked along the Main Yarra trail and the owner was oblivious to the damage that it caused.

William Deane - Gang Gang Cockatoos

Robert Deane - Red-rumped Parrots and a Grey Butcher Bird

Gianna Romano - A New Holland Honeyeater by Darebin Creek in Preston

August 2019

Dianne Williamson - Fungus on tree Swamp wallaby, Black Cockatoos, wombat digging at planting site but hit concrete

Robert Deane – Boobook owl on log in Yarra and a Barn owl

Robert Bender – At Wilson Reserve: A Tiger Snake while weeding, 4 Gang Gangs eating Silver Princess seed pods, Yellow Robins that had been banded as chicks 7.5 years ago

Jane Crone – A pair of Eastern Spinebills in Eaglemont, Cockatoos eating nut grass, Ravens, Wood Ducks

Daphne – Gang Gang Cockatoos

Don Stokes – Platypus at Plenty River junction with the Yarra

James – 3 Echidnas at Bonds Road

Maureen McNaughton – Salt Creek National Tree day - over 1000 trees planted.

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

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



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