



Warringal
Conservation
Society

50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION IN BANYULE

Vol 50/five Sept/Oct 2020

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

COVID-19 restrictions have changed the way we are operating. Check www.warringal.org.au or WCS on Facebook for updates on our activities.

SEPTEMBER MEETING (ONLINE)

Michael Goddard - Environmental Offsets

Michael studied science and law, and works in environmental assessment for both the public and private sectors. He will speak about the state and federal environmental offset systems, which aim to compensate for the loss of native vegetation and habitat for rare and threatened species by preserving or improving vegetation and habitat elsewhere. Michael will provide an overview of rules pertaining to the clearing of native vegetation, how environmental offsets are calculated, and the shortcomings of the current systems. These topics are relevant to the recent approval of the North East Link Project.

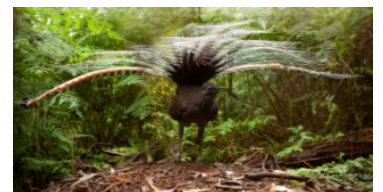
OCTOBER MEETING (ONLINE)

Annual General Meeting

Followed by

The Superb Lyrebird as an Ecosystem Engineer

Alex Maisey from La Trobe University will talk about his research into the important ecological role lyrebirds play as "ecosystem engineers", through their foraging activities in the litter and soil. He will relate this to the impacts of the recent bushfires and outline the implications for forest health and lyrebird conservation.



When operating normally:

**Meetings on first Thursday of the month from 7.30 pm
at the Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverley Road, Heidelberg.
Enter from Buckingham Drive near the Banyule Theatre**

AT A GLANCE

September

Thurs 3rd: Online Meeting - Environmental Offsets*

October

Thurs 1st: Online Annual General Meeting and Lyrebirds*

*See News and Events for more details

Message from the President

Happy 50th Anniversary! 1970 - 2020

Dear Members,

Tick tock tick tock, I am counting down to August 28th 2020, which is the anniversary of our inaugural meeting. Not even a pandemic can dwarf the pleasure I have in writing congratulations to all past and present members as we reach the 50th Anniversary of the inception of Warringal Conservation Society. You will read elsewhere about the first steps, but let me say that I know WCS has worked extremely hard and consistently to honour it's aims in restoration and conservation, public awareness, and advocacy in Banyule and beyond. You should all be very proud of every effort and achievement.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter which is a trip down memory lane. The committee had celebratory events in the pipeline for 2020 but unfortunately, they have been postponed, definitely not abandoned. Thank you for endorsing our plans to hold a party and a planting; and Anthea Fleming is tackling the monumental task of writing a history of the society. We just need to banish Covid-19.

July and August have seen us send off two submissions: the first to the North East Link Project concerning the Templestowe Road Soccer Facilities proposal, and the second was addressed to the State Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria. Both are attached to the emailed newsletter. I have also completed a survey from DELWP looking at our annual volunteer effort, in which we recorded 1960 volunteer hours. A big number indeed. Advocating against the impacts of the North East Link took much time.

Keep safe and well.

Daphne Hards

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 1, 2020

7.30pm (Online - Link will be available to members)

BUSINESS

- 1 Confirmation of Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting
- 2 Annual Report of the Committee
- 3 Financial statements
- 4 Election of members of the Committee
- 5 Annual subscription fee

Who we are and how to contact us

Warringal Conservation Society Inc

PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084

Email: warringal3084@gmail.com

Web: <https://warringal.org.au/>

www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety

Newsletter

Editor: James Deane

Telephone: 8060 8983

Email: wcs.editor@gmail.com

Compilation & Mailing: Heather Smith, Don Stokes

President: Daphne Hards

Telephone: 9497 4831

Planting Coordinator: Heather Smith

Vice President: James Deane

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

Treasurer: Daphne Hards

Telephone: 9497 4831

News & Events

WCS needs you!

The Warrigal Conservation Society has significantly shaped the natural environment in Banyule for 50 years. At the October AGM all committee positions will be declared open. Presently there are six committee members. Of those, three have indicated they can't continue their present commitment and may be resigning. The Society needs skills, interest and enthusiasm to get it through this tight spot. You wouldn't have to do everything and it's certainly not for years. Please have a think about it - have you got a couple of hours you can spare each week/fortnight/month to help? Give Daphne Hards, President, a call or send and email. The Society needs you.

Online WCS Meetings

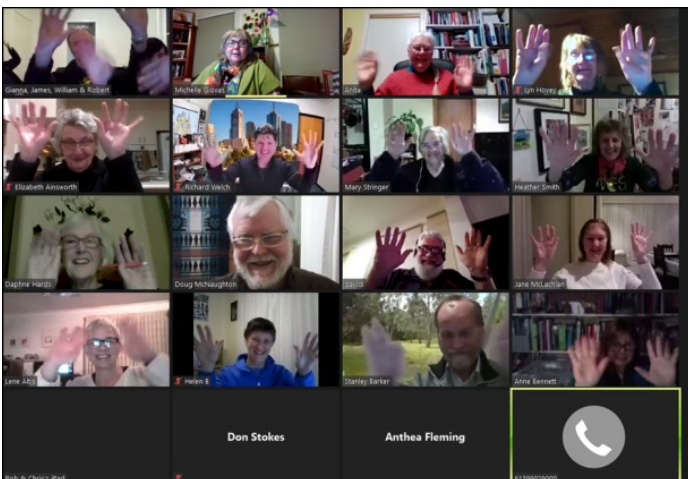
We will be hold meetings online for the foreseeable future using Zoom software (available for free at <https://zoom.us/>). A meeting code will be emailed to members prior to the meeting. If you get a hardcopy newsletter and would like to join the meeting, email or phone us for the code, or check WCS Facebook. Meetings will feature the familiar format of a speaker followed by Nature notes.

Thursday 3rd September at 7.30pm

Michael Goddard - Environmental Offsets

Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting followed by Alex Maisey - Lyrebirds



Online Forum: How the NEL toll road will affect you!

WCS Vice President James Deane is one of guest speakers. Learn how this project will affect you and how you can get involved to push back.

Thursday 27 August from 7.30pm. More details and

to RSVP go to:

https://www.melbournefoe.org.au/nel_panel?utm_campaign=nel_forum_invitation_1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=friendsfoearthmelbourne



Arthur Rylah Institute Legacy Seminar Series

This online seminar series highlights the work of the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research over the last 50 years. Seminar sessions are broadcast by webinar on Mondays 1-2 pm. See <https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/seminars> for details and bookings.

Upcoming seminars:

Aug 31st - Peter Menkhorst - Laying the foundations: wildlife research at ARI, 1970-1995.

Sept 14th - Lindy Lumsden - Marvellous, mysterious mammals: ARI's legacy in mammal research over recent decades.



Friends of Leadbeater's Possum's historic win against VicForests

The Federal Court has delivered final orders for Friends of Leadbeater's Possum's historic win against state logging agency, VicForests that protects the forests subject to the case from logging. See more at: <https://www.envirojustice.org.au/federal-courts-final-orders-in-landmark-legal-win-protect-forests-home-to-threatened-possums-from-logging/>

Welcome to New Members

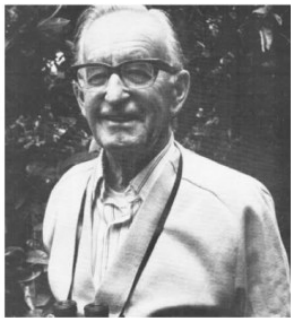
We extend a warm welcome to Richard Welch and family, John Franklin and family, and Kim Davis, and trust that their membership will be rewarding.

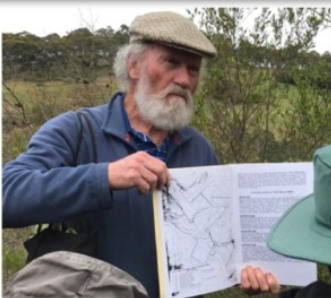
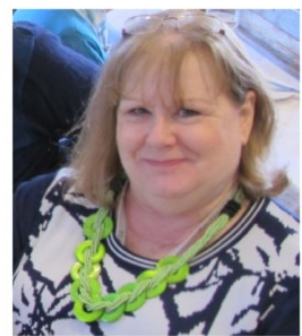
1970-2020 People Power!

A small, very random choice of photos
from many committed volunteers.

Photographers include Anthea Fleming, Brian Fleming, Ian Leith, Karen Rawady, Lene Jakobsen, Heather Smith. With sincere thanks to Anthea, without whom there wouldn't be accessible archives.

People identified in list on following page - if there are any misnamed or there are people you can identify please let the committee know.





See next page for names

1970-2020 People Power – who's who.

[previous pages, left to right, top to bottom]

page1

1. Banyule Oval tree maintenance. Unloading mulch from the City of Heidelberg trailer. January 1981.
2. Keith Holywell labelling trees at Price Park, March 1978.
3. Same event as above – Doug Western at right. Other people unidentified.
4. Howard Jarman.
5. Reg Johnson, Mark Birrell, Sheryl Garbutt and George Paras. Mont Park Rally, August 1991.
6. Carol James (Toomey), Mary and John Hook. Banyule Flats – south paddock ephemeral wetland planting, September 1996.
7. Beryl Jarman and Reg Johnson, Badger Weir field trip, 2009.
8. Reg and Kathleen Johnson. WCS 25th Anniversary dinner at Ivanhoe Town Hall.
9. Jane Westman working at the WCS 25th Anniversary planting.
10. Sue Haymes hammering in plant mat pegs at 25th Anniversary planting
11. Geoff Baker and Sue Course. WCS 35th Anniversary planting beside the Old Shire Offices, 2005.
12. Brian Fleming. WCS 35th Anniversary planting, 2005.
13. Carol James (Toomey), Rosemary Pearce and grandson. Rivergum Walk 2002.
14. Denise and Anthony Fernando. WCS Western Treatment Plant field trip, 2010.
15. Dorothy Davies, WCS 40th Anniversary planting, 2011.
16. Meredith Sherlock, Royal Botanic Gardens: Cranbourne field trip, 2008.
17. Pat Vaughan, Environmental Officer, Banyule. WCS 35th Anniversary planting, 2005.

Page 2

1. Xenia Dennett. 35th Anniversary planting, 2005.
2. Don Stokes and Heather Smith> 40th Anniversary planting, 2011.
3. Irene Kearsy, Margaret Pollock and Mike Ridley. The Briars field trip, 2013.
4. Tom Melican on the mulch wheelbarrow. WCS 40th Anniversary, 2011.
5. Ex-Presidents John D'Aloia and Victor Marks. WCS 35th Anniversary, 2005.
6. Group shot – WCS 40th Anniversary planting, 2011.
7. John D'Aloia, Anthea Fleming and David Legat, Banyule Bushland Management Supervisor. Badger Weir field trip, 2009.
8. Daphne Hards beheading bulrushes. Beverley Road wetland, December 2010.
9. George Paras and daughters. WCS 35th Anniversary, 2005.
10. Group shot – Organ Pipes National Park field trip, November 2019.
11. Dianne Williamson, 2016.
12. Robert Bender, Organ Pipes National Park field trip, November 2019.
13. The fabulous Banyule Bushland Management Team, with Chris Callahan, (left green shirt) and Jim Mead (right). All Banyule Friends Groups celebration 2019. With their unstinting support the Society is able to realise its aims and goals for Banyule Flats.



From the Archives - Our First Bird Report

by **Rob. Marston** - From the second issue of the WCS Newsletter, October 1970

BIRDS OF THE ROSANNA - HEIDELBERG AREA

During the last five years, Doug Western and I have been conducting a regular survey from the Banksia St. Bridge, to where the Plenty River joins the Yarra River, on the birdlife of the Yarra Valley at Heidelberg. The area concerned covers the north bank of the Yarra, about five miles upstream. The habitat varies from forested riverside and open farmland to swampy grasslands.

Although the swamps of the district support large numbers of water-birds, the variety of species commonly seen is rather poor; consequently species such as Ibis, Spoonbills, White-necked and Nankeen Night Herons, and Black-fronted Dotterels are rather rare. The commonest species of water-fowl is the Black Duck; other species such as Grey Teal, Mountain Duck, and Blue-winged Shoveller being particularly rare. Japanese Snipe abound in all the swampy areas during Spring and Summer, with Brown and Stubble Quail only being rarely encountered. The Cattle Egret was initially recorded in the area over two years ago, its numbers fluctuating according to the season.

The raptor most often encountered is the delicately-plumaged Black-shouldered Kite. The Peregrine and Little Falcons [Hobby] are occasionally seen dashing over the country-side. The commonest hawks are the Swamp Harrier, Brown Goshawk and Whistling Eagle [Kite]. The nocturnal birds of prey include the Boobook Owl, Spotted Nightjar* and Tawny Frogmouth.

The Eastern Rosella, Red-backed Parrot, White [Sulphur-crested] Cockatoo, and Galah are the commonest species of parrots, whereas the Blue-winged Parrot, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Crimson Rosella and the Musk, Purple-crowned Little and Rainbow Lorikeets are rare seasonal visitors.

All the common bush birds occur in the Rosanna-Heidelberg region, but the more interesting birds include such species as the Dollar Bird, Sacred Kingfisher, Spine-tailed Swift [White-throated Needletail], Hooded Robin, Flame Robin, Rufous Fantail, Rufous Songlark, White-winged Triller and Brown Songlark. Honeyeaters are poorly represented with few records of such species as Yellow-winged [New Holland], Fuscous and White-naped Honeyeaters, and Bell Miners. The Zebra finch has been recorded only once, but the Red-browed Finch is regularly seen along the banks of the Yarra.

Obviously the birds of an area are dependent upon the quality of their environment, and while this is barely adequate along the Yarra at Heidelberg, much more needs to be done (i.e. environmental studies curbing industrial waste etc.) not only in preserving the area but improving it. In this regard, what we take for granted today, may tomorrow be a luxury.

A note on the Spotted Nightjar. I recall Doug Western and Betsy Lew reporting this observation, and defending it, at a Bird Observers Club meeting. It is an inland bird, and many people suggested they had seen a White-throated Nightjar. Betsy was a very experienced BOC member, and also joined WCS very early. The late Howard Jarman removed it altogether from the Heidelberg Bird List when he edited it.

In 50 years, I have once seen a Dollar Bird and a Blue-winged Parrot. Never a Hooded Robin in our area, but Flame Robins were once common winter visitors. Rufous Songlarks used to be common in grazed paddocks. And 50 years ago, we used to see large flocks of Yellow-faced and White-naped Honeyeaters, moving through the tree tops on their autumn migration. Alas, the Rainbow Lorikeet is no longer a rare seasonal visitor.

ANTHEA FLEMING

Banyule City Council Bushland Management Team Update

During July we experienced some very cold mornings! We've continued our hand weeding at our remnant sites, (Andrew Yandell Habitat Reserve in Greensborough and Wooded Way in Montmorency), chasing the sunshine during the day to warm up.

We again hosted some redeployed Banyule staff, and they have been very grateful to have some outdoor work! This time we had two staff helping us cut and paint a relatively recent coloniser of the Melbourne area - *Cassinia sifton*, at one of our reserves in Greensborough, Alma Brown Nature Reserve. The four of us removed a full ute load of the weed. After much stomping and squashing in the back of the ute, we managed to get it all in.

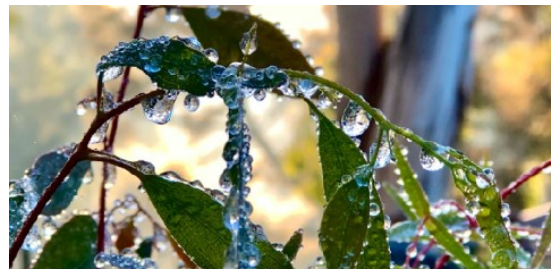
Alma Brown Reserve is 4.9 hectares of remnant bushland and was gifted to Banyule Council as a nature reserve by the late Alma Brown who lived on the property for many years. The reserve also has a conservation covenant with Trust For Nature. The reserve supports a small population of kangaroos and a number of significant plant species including the nationally threatened *Dianella amoena* (Matted Flax-lily), locally threatened *Carex iynx* (Tussock Sedge) and the Victorian rare *Billardiera scandens* s.s. (Velvet Apple-berry). There is small tributary of Diamond Creek that runs through the reserve too. It's a beautiful place to wander through, with many mosaic artworks throughout.

We also did an infill planting with the redeployed staff at our Banyule Swamp East site. A total of 655 plants were infilled into the site. We planted a range

of species to increase the diversity of the site including 30 trees and shrubs, 210 sedges and semi-aquatics, and 340 grasses. We placed most of the trees and shrubs near the new fence to soften the view across the paddock and create a canopy connection to the swamp entry area. We guarded most of these plants to protect them from grazing animals, damage from the weather and easier maintenance for us!

As of writing in the second week of August, Banyule's Bushland crews are working from home in line with the level 4 restrictions. We have plenty of data reporting and planning for the coming years revegetation and weed management plans to keep us well and truly occupied. We already miss being in our reserves and parks, as we both live further than 5 km from most of our reserves, we hope they are being treated with respect. If there is any damage (please contact council to report this) or noteworthy finds, please send them through to us at: Kylie.Damico@banyule.vic.gov.au and Warwick.McCallum@banyule.vic.gov.au

Kylie and Warwick - Yarra 1 Bushland Team



North East Link Update

There is not much good news to report;

Banyule City Council (BCC) recently abandoned its Supreme Court action on the substandard Environmental Effect Statement Process. This was after the three other Councils, Boroondara, Manningham & Whitehorse, had already negotiated deals with the North East Link Project (NELP) for improved complimentary projects. This was on the basis of legal advice saying a BCC win would be unlikely and that the outcome would be unchanged. BCC also believe that they have a "seat at the table" to discuss tweaking the project design with the winning bidder for the Project.

Damaging Early Works are well underway at Borlase Reserve, Yallambie. Site and Worker Amenity sheds have been erected, car parking installed many trees have been removed etc and work to relocated infrastructure services is

underway, including barrelling of Banyule Creek. Works include both day and night time works.

At Community Liaison Group meetings I have asked for information on the Matted Flax Lilly Translocation Plan and on the trees to be removed but so far NELP have declined to give me information as this is checked by the Independent Environmental Auditor before approval by the Planning Minister Richard Wynne – and we should be content that this is sufficient oversight

If you have issues, such as noise, dust, spoil stockpiles, drainage, light pollution or from the Sports oval upgrades at Greensborough College, Ford Park etc the NELP complaints No is 1800 105 105. I am also very interested to follow up with NELP & the Community Liaison Group on issues you might have. Message me on 0419179121.

Michelle Giovias

August Speaker - Dave Legat - Fox Eradication



As Banyule Bushland Management Supervisor, David Legat is responsible (among many other jobs) for the Banyule fox eradication program.

He began with stats: we heard that fox territories can range from around 30 hectares to 750. That fox populations are rapidly increasing in density. On average there are 20 foxes per square km, which means about seven million foxes in Australia, with the highest densities are in Southern states. While it is legal to keep foxes as pets in NSW, in Victoria, red foxes are a declared established pest animal, making it illegal to keep foxes without a permit. Presently there is a \$50 bounty paid for fox scalps.

Since March, Dave and his crew have run two-week trapping events at four sites in Banyule. Six animals (female, male and juvenile) were caught in the Yarra Flats area, near the Banyule Swamp. A second location (a smaller park) yielded two animals, with another six were caught at a third location in Eltham North. In July the team returned to Banyule Swamp where six foxes – five males and one female – were trapped. All were in very good condition.

Foxes are highly mobile and can travel up to 10km per night. Dave found that most of the foxes trapped were not locally resident, that there was rapid re-invasion of cleared areas – in some places as short as 24 hours. This may be due to reduced food available in the CBD due to Covid related food venue closures, forcing animals to spread out further. Possibly due to milder winters and availability of food, their breeding season is longer.

Trapping usually occurs in areas alongside human habitation like parkland and river corridors, so great care must be taken to ensure human and companion animal safety. Traps can only be set in enclosed areas because of the risk of trapping domestic dogs. In the future, areas may need to be fenced first before trapping commences. The crew use traps with soft jaws which are more humane, and

allow the release without injury of non-target species. The traps are laced with a strongly smelling lure product called Outfoxed* which draws the animals to it. Trapped foxes are shot and the dens are fumigated with carbon dioxide.

In conjunction with the trapping team, a contractor is employed to find the dens. He works alone with a trained dog. Foxes use the steep river banks and scrubby terrain to their advantage, making the search very difficult. In the warmer weather, snakebite became a serious risk to the dog, which stopped work until the cooler months.

An eradication management strategy is being developed by Parks Vic, Melbourne Water, DWELP, and a number of councils including Banyule. There is hope that a coordinated approach will get long term results. Effective fox control is best achieved working across a landscape and involving the whole community, rather than just on individual areas.

Managing fox impact is best achieved by timing control efforts to reduce the fox population BEFORE the peak of their impact. For example, baiting/trapping foxes 6 to 8 weeks prior to the breeding season of birds. WCS members hope that the eradication program will eventually prevent the ‘waterbird smorgasbord’ effect of Banyule Swamp.

*Some years ago, WCS invited a guest speaker who had developed a fool proof ‘lure’ for feral animals. It was made by extracting the anal glands of dead target animals and vitamised into a liquid. It was then applied in very small quantities to the traps. The powerful smell overcomes the natural caution of both feral cats and foxes, making them much easier to trap. These lures, ‘Catastrophic’ and ‘Outfoxed’ are sold to conservation agencies all over Australia.

Heather Smith (with notes from Don Stokes)



A young Fox annoying a Kangaroo at Banyule Swamp (Anthea Fleming)

July

James Deane – Rainbow Lorikeet occupying a hollow against back fence of their house at ground level. No offspring yet. A Brush-tailed Possum has visited three times. A fox comes past frequently at night, all caught on camera. Pair of swans back on the Swamp.

Elizabeth Ainsworth – At Badger Creek, heard two Superb Lyrebirds calling first then came upon one calmly scratching in leaf litter and eating.

Lachlan Deane – All the way from Inverloch, saw Superb Fairywren, White-browed Scrubwren, Silvereye, Egret/Heron (probably Little Egret), Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, and at the beach a Pacific Gull and Fairy Terns.

Dianne Williamson – At Banyule Swamp, Swamp Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo mob, White-winged. Chough, magpies. Also seen Grey Butcherbirds which may be nesting and regular sightings of Crimson Rosellas –relative newcomers. Wombat peering out of the shadows at the Plenty River confluence on morning of 22 July (right).



Celia Smith – Four kangaroos and Pied Currawongs

Heather Smith – Adoptive Magpie pet has gone. Eastern Spinebill, thornbills and Little Ravens in garden.

Robert Deane – In Viewbank Hill horse paddock, Red-rumped Parrots.

William Deane – Long-billed Corella and Little Corellas on Somerset Drive oval. Kookaburras waiting for titbits at Tawny Pond.

Gianna Romano – Gang Gangs at Banyule Billabong. Wedge-tailed Eagle at Westerfolds.

Michelle Giovas – Yellow Thornbill in garden, also Grey Butcherbird and lorikeets.

Anthea Fleming – Demolishing Morning Glory with Robert Bender in her garden flats. Pied Currawong, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Australian Wood Duck. 17 Kangaroos, all sizes, sunning themselves in the Boulevard horse-paddocks.

Daphne Hards – In Castlemaine, only exciting visitor to garden was Golden Whistler.

August

Anthea Fleming - sighted a Water Skink. Also a Blue Tongue at Alphington. Also Raven dunking bread in birdbath followed by a squabble between 2 Mynahs and a Wattle bird over the bread, settled by the return of the Raven to claim it.

Anita - Sighted Little Corellas investigating nesting hollows while driving Seagulls away from area. (Anthea had seen Little Corellas entering nesting boxes in the same area in previous seasons)

Daphne Hards - Has planted Matted Flax-lilies at home and so far so good - looking very healthy.

Rob Granter - Sighted Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos in the big Redgum opposite the Riding for the Disabled premises in Viewbank. He also reported a Platypus webinar held today by Melbourne Water - sadly booked out. Also available is an App called Platypus Spot.

Helen Boak- watched a Kookaburra [picture 1] being mobbed by Noisy Miners, also 20 Kangaroos at the Viewbank silos and a Platypus in the Yarra near Bonds Road. An injured possum found on doorstep (hit by car?) [picture 2]. A eucalypt with distinctive bark near Bonds Road [picture 3].

Heather Smith - Saw two Eastern Spinebills at her bird bath, and Brush Bronzewing and Common Bronzewing Pigeons near the billabong windmill. Speaking of Insects served as a reminder to everyone of the present Hatch exhibition [online], Liminal // A shared distance - which features two WCS members, artists Anne Bennett and Lene Jakobsen.

Michelle Giovas - Sighted 2 Eastern Rosellas in Yallambie Park and a Little Wattlebird in the garden.

Lene - Counted 15 Kangaroos at Banyule Swamp and watched one chasing a rabbit away.

Don Stokes - David Gentle reports up to 24 kangaroos visible at the Boulevard.

Celia Smith - Has seen 6 Red Browed Fire Tailed Finches at her place and 12 at Wilsons Reserve.

Nature Notes cont.

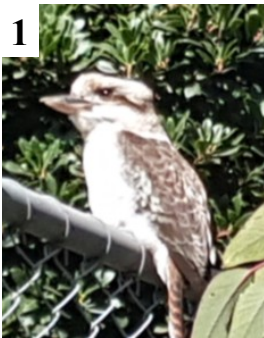
James Deane - 2 groups of White Winged Choughs squabbling at Candlebark Park. Also sighted behind his home Wombats, Musk Lorikeets and Eastern Spinebills. Rainbow Lorikeet still investigating a hollow log on the ground. A Boobook Owl is now calling from Viewbank Hill. Foxes passing behind house about every second night. More than a single individual as judged by a distinctive injury to the ear of one [picture 4].

Robert Deane - Many Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos in the area.

Celia - Many Sulphur-crested Cockatoos in the area.

Maureen- 5 Eastern Rosellas sighted at Salt Creek, also 2 King Parrots.

Jen Chellew - 6 King Parrots on the escarpment opposite Banyule Swamp on 12th Aug., Grey Butcherbird at Warringal Shopping Centre on 13th Aug, Pair of Brown Spinebills in front and backyard (St James Rd). They are regular visitors. Pair of cheeky Eastern Spinebills stealing coconut fibre for their nest in backyard [picture 5]. They are regular visitors/thieves.



Warringal Conservation Society Annual Membership Renewal July 2020 - June 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Special areas of interest: *This helps us when arranging speakers and events.*

Subscription types:

- ☐ Single \$20 ☐ Concession \$15 (seniors/students etc)
☐ Family \$25 ☐ Life subscription \$200

There are three ways to renew:

1. By mail: Fill in this form and mail with your cheque or money order to:
PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084 Victoria.

2. Pay by direct debit:
Acc name: Warringal Conservation Society
BSB: 633 108 Acc no: 143918613
(Be sure to identify yourself as the depositor.)

3. Renew online at:
www.warringal.org.au/about-us/membership
Any queries email: warringal3084@gmail.com

- ☐ I would like to receive my newsletter by email.
☐ Yes - put me on the Plantings notification list.

Nature Notes cont.

Sunday 2nd August.

My neighbour feeds the birds by throwing them left-over bread. A Little Raven had collected a crust, and dropped it into the terra cotta bowl we have as a bird-bath. He left it there to soften, but next thing a Red Wattlebird zoomed in and started to peck at it - and an Indian Mynah tried to see him off. They seemed evenly matched, splashing and flapping. The Raven rushed back and sent them both off. He had a peck or two but the bread was still pretty hard. As soon as he turned his back, two Mynahs came back, but were startled off by a low-level swoop from the Wattlebird. The Raven felt this was too much altogether, so stood in the bird-bath tearing off pieces of crust an inch wide, and swallowed them. The Mynahs complained noisily throughout. Eventually the Raven flew off, carrying the last quarter of the crust, leaving the Wattlebird and Mynahs to squabble over the crumbs.

Ravens often soften food items by putting them in water. As well as bread-crusts, dry bones with a little remaining meat are often softened in this way. I have seen them burgling an over-filled rubbish bin and managing to find pizza crusts and chop bones. I wonder if their sense of smell helps them find the edibles in an untidy tangle of paper, plastic and cardboard boxes.

ANTHEA FLEMING



**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

PRINT
POST

WARRINGAL



CONSERVATION SOCIETY
COVERING THE CITY OF HEIDELBERG