



WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## *High Summer Newsletter*

Volume 47/one

Jan/Feb 2017

*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 \$15,  
Family \$20  
Pension/student/  
unemployed \$10  
Life \$150

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.

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

### **First Meeting of the year picnic style dinner 6.15pm**

The February meeting will be preceded by a picnic style dinner so that everyone can catch up after the holiday break. Dinner will be organized by the committee for a small fee (\$10 Adults, \$5 Children). Proceeds are to cover costs and fund operating expenses. Meeting and speaker to follow at 7.30pm

### **Trevor Edwards - No such thing as a free lunch? Deception in the pollination of some Australian orchids**

Dr Trevor Edwards is a Lecturer in the Department of Ecology, Environment and Evolution at La Trobe University. He is a South African expat with expertise in plant reproductive strategies, conservation, biogeography and evolution of flora.

**Meetings on first Thursday of the month\*  
from 7.30 pm at the Old Shire Offices,  
60 Beverley Road.**

**(\*picnic dinner from 6:15pm before Feb meeting )  
Enter from Buckingham Drive near the Banyule Theatre and  
Greening Australia. Melways map 32:D3. All Welcome**

## **AT A GLANCE**

### *February*

**Thursday 2nd:** Picnic dinner 6.15pm, (\$10 Adults, \$5 Children).

General meeting at 7.30pm - Deception in the  
pollination of Australian orchids

**Sunday 5th:** Twilight Nature walk at Banyule Flats (See news and  
Events)

## News & Events

### World Wetland Day Twilight walk at Banyule Flats

Sun 5th Feb – 7.30pm – walk at Banyule Flats for world wetland day – Meet at Somerset Drive carpark in Viewbank (Melway ref: 32F2) for a twilight walk led by WCS members – Open to public, no need to RSVP – bring a torch for the walk back and mozzie repellent.

### 2017 Duck Shooting Season Announced

The Victorian Government has announced a recreational duck shooting season for 2017. This is in spite of the results of the annual aerial survey by Professor Richard Kingsford, and the team from the University of NSW, showing that waterbird numbers are at their lowest in 34 years and that game species are well below long term averages.

The Blue-winged Shoveler has been removed from the 'hit list' this year due to its seriously low numbers; but each shooter will be allowed to kill 10 birds per day for the full 3-month season, which opens on Saturday March 18 and closes June 12. WCS members believe the recreational shooting of native waterbirds is an outdated, violent and cruel activity that should be replaced with a nature-based wetlands tourism industry.

Victoria's natural wetlands, many of them RAMSAR listed, have teemed with rare and beautiful birds in the past. They offer daytime vistas and night skies that cannot be found elsewhere in the world. They are treasured by visitors from crowded countries where such places no longer exist. A thriving, nature-based wetlands tourism industry is the way of the future. It will not only revitalize country towns, but will protect the financial future of

regional Victorians, and the financial future of the generations to come.

In 2017, once again, WCS members will join rescuers from the Coalition against Duck Shooting and other groups to help the wounded birds on March 18th. Details and information for interested volunteers will be put up on the WCS Face Book page in early February. Any members who can join us on shore and be observers of this barbaric event are very welcome.

*Celia Smith*



*Pacific Black Duck. Photo: Ian Montgomery*

### Greetings to the Montmorency Field Naturalists

WCS was delighted to receive a donation and note from the Montmorency Field Naturalists congratulating us on our efforts. Thanks for the positive feedback.

## 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:** John D'Aloia

Telephone: 0478739288

**Vice President:** Anthea Fleming

**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: Margaret Pollock, Heather Smith, Don Stokes

**Planting Coordinator:** Heather Smith

**Committee:** John D'Aloia, Anthea Fleming, Celia Smith, Daphne Hards, Dianne Williamson, Penny Grose, Doug McNaughton, James Deane.



## News & Events cont.

### Filling of the Banyule Billabong

A Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Banyule Council initiative saw a substantial amount of water in the Banyule Billabong for the first time in several years. The Billabong has suffered because regulation of the Yarra and changes to the surrounding hydrology means that it no longer receives regular flooding. This project is part of a trial to gauge the amount of water to rehabilitate the Billabong.

Water was pumped from the Yarra River into the Banyule Billabong for a week in December 2016. The amount of water required meant that heavy machinery, a large generator, pumps and pipes had to be set up. The pumping site was just near the old windmill on the southern side of the billabong.

After a week of pumping the water had reached a depth of about 1.8m as indicated by a gauge in the northern part of the billabong. In the following weeks there was a distinctive smell of rotting vegetation and the sound of lots of happy frogs and birds. The water has since receded substantially but many of the seedlings and thistles that had established on the billabong floor have drowned.

The Banyule Billabong is home to many species including the Growling Grass Frog and the threatened plant species River Swamp Wallaby Grass and Ferny Azolla. It will be interesting to see how this trial goes and whether environmental watering will be continued.

*James Deane*

*Photos by Daphne Hards and Gianna Romano*





## Nature Notes



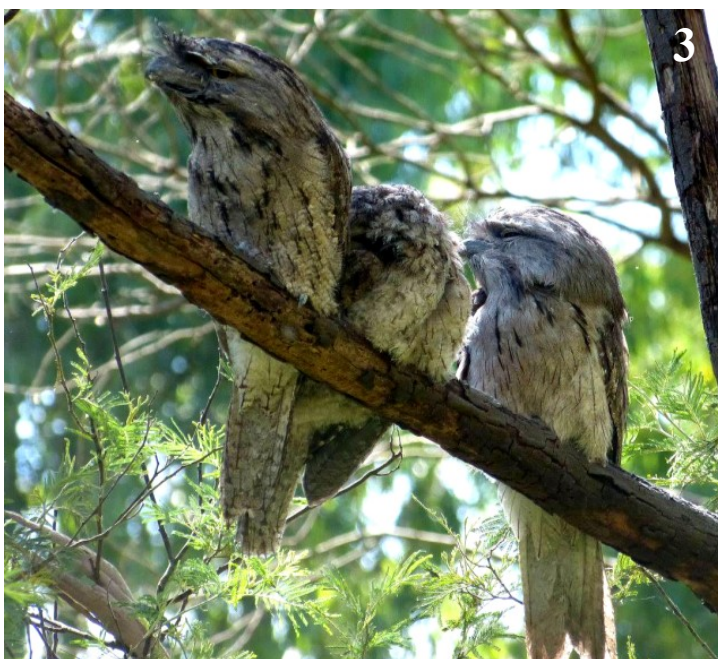
1

### Observations by Anthea Fleming - November/ December 2016

1. Young Powerful Owl at Wilson Reserve
2. Echidna at Banyule Flats near the fence on the western side of Banyule Swamp
3. Tawny Frogmouths at Banyule Flats



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than a paper copy in the regular mail**

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

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



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