

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

JULY MEETING*

Robert Bender - Bats at Wilson Reserve Ivanhoe

* QR code scan in and masks required.

Robert will speak about his long term microbat study. The bat box project at Wilson Reserve was initiated in 2000 after success at the Organ Pipes National Park. The first bat arrived in Feb 2005. Since then there have been 5,400 microbats captured representing 6 species. The lives of individual bats have been followed from birth to death, providing insight into their breeding, lifespan and social structure.

AUGUST MEETING

Pam Whiteley - Monitoring Wildlife Health

Pam is a veterinary scientist from the University of Melbourne who coordinates Wildlife Health Victoria: Surveillance, a collaborative network to improve the health of endemic mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian populations in Victoria. She will talk about her work investigating diseases and conditions affecting our native animals.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Environmental Conservation and Restoration

Mark Bachmann is the Principal Ecologist and Manager of Nature Glenelg Trust, a not-for-profit organisation that does environmental surveys, consulting and restoration work. He will speak about small mammal ecology, private land conservation, wetland restoration, and the design/implementation of novel conservation programs.

General meetings:

Held on the first Thursday of the month from 7.30 pm at the Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverley Road, Heidelberg.

AT A GLANCE

July

Thurs 1st: General Meeting - Microbats (Old Shire Offices)*

August

Sun 1st: 50th Anniversary Planting/National Tree Day*

Thurs 5th: General Meeting - Wildlife Health (Old Shire Offices)*

September

Thurs 2nd: General Meeting - Conservation & restoration

Sun 12th: Planting at Frog Bog, Banyule Flats*

*See News and Events for more detail

Message from the President

Dear Members,

In the last newsletter I noted that we would gather near the Banyule Swamp in June for a 50th Anniversary planting. Unfortunately this was not possible and we will try again on Sunday August 1st (see News & Events/Upcoming Plantings).

While working out the wording for a 50th anniversary plaque, I had a look at the plaque near Possum Hollow playground celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Warringal Conservation Society. It says “*The twenty five manna gums (Eucalyptus viminalis) planted in this area on 11th Nov 1995 commemorate the 25 years of caring for the environment by the Warringal Conservation Society 1970 to 1995.*” The Manna gums are now large trees. Just upstream there are 40 rapidly growing River Red Gums that we planted to celebrate our 40th anniversary. Our 50th anniversary planting will continue this fine tradition.

James Deane

News & Events

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday 1st July at 7.30pm

General Meeting (Old Shire Office).

QR code scan in (or manual if this is not possible) & masks required due to covid-19 regulations

Roberts Bender from Friends of Wilson Reserve will be speaking on long term microbat studies at Wilson Reserve Ivanhoe. Followed by Nature Notes.

Thursday 5th August at 7.30pm

General Meeting (Old Shire Office). Pam Whiteley from the University of Melbourne will be speaking on keeping track of Wildlife Health in Victoria. Followed by Nature Notes.

Thursday 2nd September at 7.30pm

General Meeting (Old Shire Office). Mark Bachmann speaking on environmental conservation and restoration. Followed by Nature Notes.

Upcoming Plantings

***** Sunday 1st August - WCS 50th Anniversary Planting / National Tree Day *****

10am - 12noon. Come and celebrate 50 years of WSC (and National Tree day) by planting next to the Banyule Swamp. The planting site is not far from the Somerset Drive Car Park at Banyule Flats. See the location below.



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

President: James Deane

Telephone: 8060 8983

Vice President:

John D'Aloia

Treasurer: Daphne Hards

Telephone: 9497 4831

Newsletter

Editor: James Deane

Telephone: 8060 8983

Email: wcs.editor@gmail.com

Compilation & Mailing: Heather Smith, Don Stokes

Planting Coordinator: Rob Granter

Committee: Anthea Fleming, Daphne Hards, Doug McNaughton, James Deane, John D'Aloia, Rob Granter.

Sunday 12 September - Planting at the Frog Bog
 10am - 12noon. The Frog Bog site is at Banyule Flats not far from our previous planting at Tawny Pond. Enter from the Somerset Drive Car Park as shown below.



Tawny Pond planting report

On Sunday 16th of May over 20 enthusiastic participants planted in excess of 400 plants at Tawny Pond. It was the first event organised by our new planting coordinator Rob and a great success. Thanks to Kylie and Eliza from the Banyule Bush Crew for their support.



Studley Park Gum Project

The Studley Park Gum (*Eucalyptus X studleyensis*) is a naturally occurring hybrid of the River Red Gum and Swamp Gum that is listed as endangered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water. The North East Link Project will largely destroy the last existing viable stand of the Studley Park Gum at the Simpson Army Barracks. To compensate for this loss, Studley Park Gum are being grown from seed collected at the Barracks and will be planted at fenced sites on Parks Victoria managed land in Westerfolds Park (Manningham). This project is part of a management plan developed by the North East Link Project for the 2019 Environmental Effects Statement hearing. Mature Studley Park Gum that are destroyed at the Barracks (estimated number 52) will be replaced by planting tube stock or saplings at Westerfolds Park, with allowances made for sapling deaths. Young Studley Park Gum that are lost will not be replaced. Will these plantings recreate the self-sustaining Studley Park Gum population that exists in the Barracks? This is unlikely and was removed as a stated aim of the plan during the hearing. The Studley Park Gum will be an interesting addition to Westerfolds Park. However, a managed planting of Studley Park Gum in Manningham will not replace the unique self-sustaining population that will be lost in Banyule.



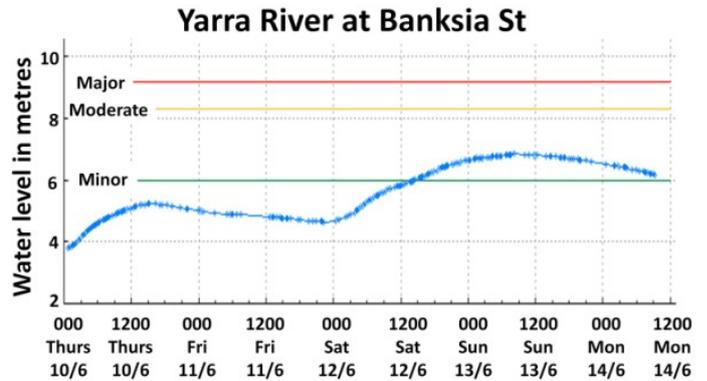
The Yarra Reconnects with its Billabongs

In early-mid June, rain in the upper catchment of the Yarra caused the river to rise several metres over the course of a week (see graph on right). By the weekend of 12th and 13th June the river had exceeded minor flood levels and spilled into many of our local Billabongs. During the day of Saturday 12th there was a trickle of water running through the pipe in the wall between the Banyule Billabong and the Yarra near the windmill. Later that night a torrent of water rushed through a gully at the other end of the billabong and flooded it completely (photo 1). As a point of reference, the base of the Windmill was under water on Sunday morning (photo 2). A photo of the suspension bridge crossing the Yarra at Finn's reserve (photo 3) also illustrates how high the water was.

Elsewhere along the Yarra, Bolin Bolin, Banksia (photo 4) and Montpelier Billabongs flooded.

Unfortunately Annulus Billabong in Ivanhoe was one of the few local billabongs that did not get any water.

James Deane



Yarra water level data from the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology.



1



2



3



4

May Speaker - Katja Gutwein - Wombat Mange

Katja Gutwein from Wombat Mange Management spoke at our May General Meeting. Wombat mange is a skin condition caused by mites. It causes loss of hair and inflamed lesions (see photo on right) that can ultimately kill a wombat if not treated. Treating wombats requires repeated application of medication to kill mites, something that is easier said than done in the case of a wild animal. A long pole can be used to pour medication onto more approachable wombats. Burrow flaps that tip their contents on a wombat's back as it passes are used otherwise. The good news is that these methods can be very successful. Wombat Mange Management provide free advice and kits to assist people to treat wombat mange. Banyule Flats has a good population of wombats that appear to be free of mange at present. Further upstream, wombats in

Candlebark Park have been badly affected.

Many thanks to Katja for delivering such an informative talk. For more information on wombat mange see the Wombat Mange Management website: <https://mangemanagement.org.au/>

James Deane



Mange (Wombat Mange Management)

June Speakers- Paul Davis and John Milkins- Biodiversity & Water in Banyule

Our June General meeting featured two excellent speakers from the Banyule City Council: Paul Davis (Biodiversity Officer) and John Milkins (Environmental Operations Coordinator).

Biodiversity in Banyule

Paul discussed key biodiversity programs.

- 1) Weed management strategy - This aims to identify and control weeds using efficient, targeted and appropriate techniques. Weeds have been prioritised and categorised depending where they occur and the threat they pose. The council has recently developed a Weed management strategy document that is available at https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/download_file/view/2340/925
- 2) Biodiversity monitoring - Baseline data is being gathered to allow changes in flora and fauna to be monitored over time. Key indicator species will include the Powerful Owl, Swift Parrot, Sugar Gliders and Platypus .
- 3) Gardens for wildlife - This is a partnership between the council and community that involves residents, businesses and schools. It aims to create and connect habitat.
- 4) Major project advocacy - This involves oversight and trying to achieve better environmental outcomes for major projects like the North East Link. Advice is provided regarding offset plantings and dealings with threatened species.

Water management in Banyule

John then spoke about water projects, some completed, and others that are ongoing components

of the Councils 2019-23 Water Plan.

John explained storm water harvesting projects, showing examples at Chelsworth Park and Kalparrin Gardens. These systems remove rubbish, sediment, heavy metals and excessive nutrients. This improves the quality of water entering our waterways, and provides water to maintain sports fields. Maintenance is required because rubbish is trapped has to be removed and disposed of several times a year. 18 tonnes of rubbish (mainly plastic) was removed from the gross pollutant trap at Chelsworth Park in a single session. Sediment ponds also accumulate silt and heavy metals that needs to be cleaned out every few years.

Other water-related projects considered were:

- Wetland monitoring including the example of a blue-green algal bloom at Banyule swamp due to high nutrient levels and warm conditions.
- Rewatering of Billabongs.
- Rain gardens, like the one at Somerset Drive carpark, which trap runoff and remove nutrients.

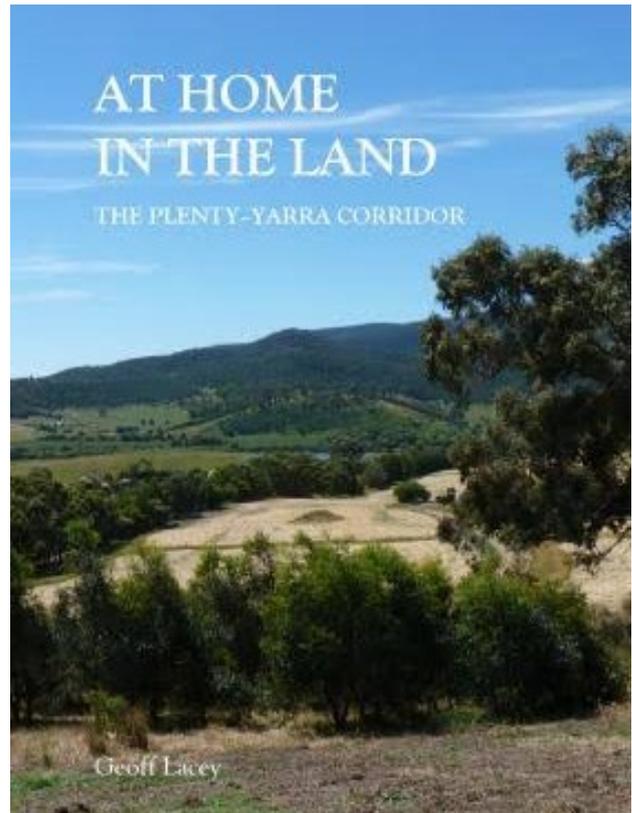
John finished by outlining plans for remote real time monitoring to detect the all too common release of industrial pollution into Darebin Creek. This monitoring will allow breaches to be detected and traced so that they can be followed up by education and/or penalties.

Thanks to Paul and John for speaking. We are lucky to have such knowledgeable and committed people working to maintain and improve the environment in Banyule.

James Deane

A new book by Geoff Lacey - *At Home in the Land - The Plenty-Yarra Corridor*

Geoff Lacey is a Warringal Conservation Society member, an author and an advocate for the Yarra River Corridor. This book follows his previous titles *Still Glides the Stream: the natural history of the Yarra from Heidelberg to Yarra Bend* (2004) and *Reading the Land* (2008). *At Home in the Land* discusses our relationship with the natural environment and its ecological networks. It considers the Plenty River corridor to its junction with the Yarra, and then downstream along the Yarra River until the Merri Creek. There are photos illustrating the landscape discussed and detailed maps of the study area. Community groups who have worked to restore the river corridors, including the Warringal Conservation Society, get a mention. Many of the areas, plants and animals that Geoff discusses will be familiar to members. Anyone who has been for a walk in the bush with Geoff will know of the delight he takes in exploring and documenting our river corridors. This infectious enthusiasm is captured in his writing. If you would like to buy a copy of *At Home in the Land* (\$25), contact Geoff at glacey@unimelb.edu.au or phone 94894784.



Nature Notes

May

Doug McNaughton – A spate of dead animals at Salt Creek/Rosanna Parklands including 3 Tawny Frogmouth and several introduced long-tailed black rats. May be due to rodent poison.

Daphne Hards – Stayed at Kath Johnson's block near Nagambie – habitat declining but 30 bird species seen. Heard something that sounded like a woman screaming – masked owl or a barking owl? Also Eastern Spinebill, Spotted Pardalote and Ravens.

Anthea Fleming – A young Butcher bird [1] with its father [2] at Wilson Reserve. A Bronzewing Pigeon [3] at Wilson Reserve. A Wingless soldier fly. A captive Superb Fairy Wren [4] and a Banded Land-rail [5] at the Melbourne Museum.



Nature Notes cont.

Simone Giuliani - A family of Ring-tail Possums on the front veranda in Viewbank (right).

James Deane -Brush-tail Possum with young on its back walking along the back fence in Viewbank.

Rob Granter – Tawny Frogmouth in front yard in Viewbank. Early morning fog at Banyule flats and the swamp. Tasmania: Creepy Crawly walk – beautiful Beech forest west of Maydena.; Twisted sister walk with giant *Eucalyptus regnans*; Horseshoe falls in Mt Field Park.



June

Daphne Hards - Eastern Grey Kangaroos at horse paddocks at Yarra Flats.

Heather Smith - Wombat at Fannings bend.

Robert Bender (at Wilson reserve) - Fungi including: Wood Blewitt, Puffballs, an Anemone stinkhorn. Animals including: Sugar Gliders, Yellow Robins, Wombat, Smooth froglet. Plants including Drooping mistletoe, Bridal creeper, Chilean Needle grass, Arum Lily, Morning Glory. *Steatoda grossa* - a relative of the Red Back spider.



James Deane - On a night walk at Banyule Flats organised by the Banyule Council - A Sugar Glider, a wombat, Grey-headed Flying Fox, many Ring-tail Possums, and 2 Tawny Frogmouth.

Gianna Romano - Australian Shelduck on the Main Yarra trail near the Rosanna Golf course. Could fly but not afraid of humans (right, middle).

Dianne Williamson - Wildflowers in central Australia after recent rain (right, bottom). Three Swamp Wallabies with a joey at Banyule Flats.



Warringal Conservation Society Annual Membership Renewal July 2021 - June 2022

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.

Don Stokes, Daphne Hards, Anthea Fleming, Rob Granter, Doug McNaughton, Gianna Romano, James, William and Robert Deane - Kapok Vine (nasty weed) on the edge of the Banyule Billabong (right). Fruit were removed and vines poisoned.



Anthea Fleming - An Earth Star fungal fruiting body (below, not yet open) in the front yard. An Eastern Spinebill. The Banyule Billabong full of water after recent flooding (below, right) with Wood Ducks, Black Ducks and Frogs in abundance.



Would you like to receive your newsletter by email rather than a paper copy in the regular mail
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