Warringal Conservation Society

LATE WINTER 2025 Volume 56/4 **AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER**

From 1970 Warringal Conservation Society has been an active and effective steward of Banyule's environmental heritage.

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung as traditional custodians of the land on which we live and meet, and pay respect to past, present and future elders.

Keep up to date on our activities by visiting our Facebook page or website: www.warringal.org.au

Newsletter printed courtesy of Kate Thwaites MP, Member for Jagajaga.

General meetings are now bi-monthly.

See you all in February, April, June, August, October and December.

Meetings are the first Thursday from 7.30pm at the Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverley Rd, Heidelberg. Enter from Beverley Road. **All Welcome**

NEW AND RENEWING!

The Society is pleased to welcome new members Sophie Barret, Mark Andrews & Family and Brian Daniells - thank you for your support. We look forward to meeting you all in person at a meeting, working bee or activity soon.

Remember membership fees for 2025/26 are due by July. You can renew online or use the form on the back page.

WCS ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety

WCS ON INSTAGRAM

@warringalconservationsociety

AUGUST MEETING

MIKE CLARKE: Managing fire for wildlife: it's not rocket science, it's way more complex than that!

Mike Clarke, Prof. emeritus of Zoology, Ecological, Plant and Animal Sciences at La Trobe University, Bundoora. Following catastrophic fires, like those last summer in the Little Desert and Gariwerd (Grampians) National Parks, there are often calls for more frequent and extensive prescribed burning to lessen the impact of future wildfires. In his talk Mike will unpack some of the complexity of managing our highly flammable bushland to conserve its unique wildlife, using examples drawn from his research group's studies across southern Australia. He'll highlight the critical importance of up-to-date, place-based, local knowledge to inform sound management.

COMING UP

AUGUST

Thursday 7th: General Meeting from 7.30pm

Saturday16th Night Walk, See Pg 2.

Sunday 24th: Hand weeding activity. See Pg 2.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 14th: Hand weeding activity. See Pg 2.

OCTOBER

Thursday 2nd: AGM (see Pg 4) **and General Meeting** (speaker to be confirmed)

THE WCS TEAM AND HOW TO CONTACT US

Warringal Conservation Society Inc
PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084

Email: warringal3084@gmail.com
Website: www.warringal.org.au

Instagram: @warringalconservationsociety
FB: www.facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety

President: James Deane

Treasurer: Leonie Pope

Secretary + Newsletter: Heather Smith

Planting Coordinator: Rob Granter

Committee: Anthea Fleming, Michelle Giovas, Doug McNaughton and George Paras.

PLANTING REPORTS – WEST PADDOCK AND WARRINGAL PARKLANDS

The second planting for the 2025 season was on Sunday May 25th between Alan Noy wetland and the Banyule Swamp. We planted and guarded 250 plants to extend and expand a wildlife corridor from the wetland toward the Banyule Swamp.

Our third planting was on June 22nd on the south side of Banyule Swamp, linking it to the 20 year old Bird Observers planting on Banyule Creek. We planted guarded and watered-in 200 plants.

The fourth planting was July 20th at Warringal Parklands and we planted and guarded 186 trees and shrubs with the aim of linking Warringal Swamp to the Yarra.

As always, an extra special thankyou to Warwick, Sam and Eliza from the Banyule City Council for their wonderful planning, site preparation & ongoing support.

UPCOMING WEEDINGS

Sunday 24th August and Sunday 14th September Hand weeding and infill planting at previous planting sites. Locations to be announced (see WCS Facebook and Instagram).

NIGHT WALK

Saturday 16th August – Meet at Banyule Flats / Somerset Drive Carpark, Viewbank at 5pm for the walk starting at 5.15pm. 1.5hr duration. Wear sturdy footwear and warm clothes. We are aiming to see gliders leaving their nest boxes at dusk and then look for possums and wombats. There are good numbers of wombats at Banyule Flats and we hope they cooperate.

CAN YOU HELP WITH SOCIAL MEDIA?

Warringal Conservation Society is seeking someone to help us create social media content, grow our online community and increase our membership. Are you good with social media and have a passion for the environment? If you would like to help please get in touch via email or our website

VALE CELIA SMITH

We are very sad to report that our friend Celia Smith passed away from the effects of breast cancer early on July 5th. A WCS member for over 16 years and a valued member of the Committee for at least seven, she was always available to help out. Whether it was hosting a general meeting, helping on the WCS stall at the annual Kids Arty Farty Festival or herding primary school kids when WCS hosted a children's morning at the Banyule Flats. More recently we will all miss Celia's quiet presence at our general meetings her invaluable help at keeping WCS members and social media updated on some of the major wildlife campaigns that she was part of – particularly Coalition Against Duck Shooting.

Celia was a very quiet, private and compassionate woman with a tenacious and determined voice which courageously spoke out against the cruelty of recreational duck shooting. Totally dedicated to the cause of banning duck shooting and wildlife rescue In Victoria for many years, she participated in the opening weekend of duck shooting/rescue for about ten years. Daphne Hards accompanied Celia to Kerang, northern Victoria in 2013 and 2014 where they had on-shore duties of logging every rescuer as they entered and later exited the water. Safety of volunteers, some from Sydney, was high priority. Sadly, Celia never saw ultimate success.

Her love and commitment to all animals was apparent in the various other groups of which she was a member including Project Jonah; the Franklin River campaign, Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses and The Wilderness Society.

Celia will be very much missed by all at the Society.

Heather Smith

TREE HOLLOW ACELERATION PROJECT

WCS occasionally auspices projects that align with our aims. A recipient of the Banyule 2024/25 Environment grant was member Judith Venables. The aim was to accelerate the formation of tree hollows in large red gums, on both public and private land bordered by Bonds Road and the Yarra River. The goal was to increase the availability of tree hollows for native species and enhance the biodiversity of this area. Over March 2025, arborists accelerated or created 43 new hollows in six large red gums and cameras were installed.

Judith reports that while no birds or creatures have taken up residence in any of the hollows, there have been plenty of inspections. Most recently, increased interest from Rainbow lorikeets, Eastern rosellas (left), Eastern Ringtail Possums (right), Galahs (centre) and even the odd optimistic Sulphur-crested cockatoo. There has been Scaly-breasted lorikeets and possibly an Australian owlet-nightjar investigating the hollows as well. Hopefully this prime real estate will start to fill as Spring rolls around. *Heather Smith*

GUEST SPEAKER REPORT

JUNE > BRIAN DANIELLS

Brian is the Assistant Principal at Bundoora Secondary College. He has a background in agriculture and aquaculture came to speak to about the College's science, agriculture and sustainability programs. Brian also brought along three students who provided an account of their experiences.

The secondary College has about 550 student and offers unique opportunities for certificate studies in: Conservation and ecosystems management, Rural operations, and Animal care. Grant funding has been obtained to fund facilities including livestock (goats) housing, reptiles, bees, food cubes, a market garden, a plant propagation area and a native fish hatchery (see photos below). A farm café is on the way. Students also work and learn in nearby Gresswell forest and other local reserves helping with revegetation, waterway improvement and water quality monitoring.

Turtle camp is a yearly school excursion where 20 students spent four days and three nights at Cohuna to study turtles in the RAMSAR listed Gunbower wetlands. Three students who had recently been on this trip enthusiastically related their experiences. They got to work with Graham Stockwell, a local citizen scientist and turtle expert. The species the students studied was the Broad-shelled turtle. These are a very large, long-necked turtle (females up to 5kg) and a threatened species. One of the biggest threats these turtles face is nest predation by foxes. Foxes routinely dig up nests and eat the eggs meaning that recruitment of young turtles is very low. Chicken wire was used to cover nests to stop foxes digging them up. Two nests containing 42 recently hatched turtles were also located. These young turtles were released into the water to save them a dangerous overland journey. Students also had the opportunity to do fish sampling for Purple-spotted Gudgeon and Southern Pygmy Perch.

It is inspiring to see the great sustainability and environmental programs that are on offer at Bundoora Secondary College and heartening to hear that they are being enthusiastically embraced by students.

James Deane

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

The 2025 Annual General Meeting will take place at the beginning of our October meeting.
Short and sweet from 7.30pm!

All committee positions also become available, and we are looking for enthusiastic people to nominate for committee positions. It is rewarding and satisfying and only a few hours a week will continue the role the Society has played, and is playing, in the protection and restoration of the Banyule environment.

To nominate or for more information, email the committee at warringal3084@gmail.com

Passionate about Banyule Flats, bushland and wildlife? Join us on the Warringal Conservation Society Committee.

NATURE NOTES - JUNE 2025

Rob Granter - Crimson Rosella in the birdbath (right)

George Paras – Gang Gang Cockatoos

Jane Crone – Ivanhoe Park – 80+ Galahs on the grassed area.

Martin Short – Powerful Owl heard Calling at Banyule Flats / Warringal Parklands

Robert Bender

- Tiger snake [1] under a mat of ivy. Robert has been clearing ivy from trees near Phillips Fox billabong at Yarra Flats.
- Wilson Reserve – Pobblebonk frog [2] near the old swimming hole. Kapok vine. Sword sedge being overgrown by Winter Chery,
- Yellow Robins [3] and Scrubwrens [4]. Bronzewing Pigeons [5], Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos [6]
- Grey Fantails [7]
- Dead rat at Horseshoe bend [8]
- Crimson Rosella [8]
- Dusk Moorhen family [9]
- Golf course –White Ibis [10] and Black Ducks [11]

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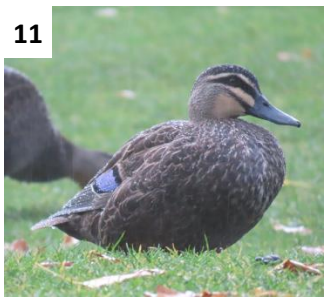
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NATURE NOTES CONTINUED

James Deane – Movies of nest box monitoring at Bayule Flats. 10 boxes checked. 4 had Krefft's Gliders and one had Ring-tail Possums. This monitoring uses a nest box camera funded by a Bendigo Bank community grant. Below left: a view of the operator from the pole mounted camera on the way up to a box. Below right: Krefft's Gliders in residence.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2025/26 WERE DUE IN JULY

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. Renew online at:
www.warringal.org.au/about-us/membership

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

Any queries email: warringal3084@gmail.com

☐ I would like to receive my newsletter by email.

☐ Yes - put me on the Plantings notification list.

If not delivered return to: PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084

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