Warringal Conservation Society

SUMMER 2026 Volume 57/1 **JANUARY/FEBRUARY**

Since 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.

NEW AND RENEWING!

The Society is pleased to welcome new member Gianni Montalto. Thank you for your support. We look forward to meeting you in person at a meeting, working bee or activity soon.

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

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

BRETT MIFSUD: GIANT TREES

Australian eucalypts, particularly Mountain Ash, are some of the tallest trees in the world. However, logging and fire means that exceptional examples approaching 100m in height are rare.

Brett Mifsud is a big tree legend with over 30 years' experience finding and studying big trees in Victoria and Tasmania. He will talk about locating, climbing and measuring big trees, their biology and conservation.

Thursday 5th February 7:30pm at the Old Shire Offices, Heidelberg. ***All welcome***

COMING UP

FEBRUARY

Thursday 5th: General Meeting from 7.30pm at the Old Shire Offices – Big trees.

MARCH

Saturday 14th: Night Walk - leaving 7.30pm from the Somerset Drive Carpark at Banyule flats. See Pg 2.

WCS ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/WarringalConservationSociety

WCS ON INSTAGRAM

@warringalconservationsociety

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: Vacant

Planting Coordinator: Rob Granter

Committee: Anthea Fleming, Michelle Giovas, Doug McNaughton, George Paras, Judith Venebles

ACTIVITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2025 MULCHING

On December 2025 WCS finished activities for the year by spreading mulch on native plantings at the end of Yellow Box Terrace. This embankemt features fabulous restored native habitat established and nurtured by local enthusuasts Brian, Amanda and Martin. The energetic team got through the job quickly. We reflected on another successful year over a cup of tea and some cake. The plants will appreciate the protection the mulch provides during the hot weather we are having now.

UPCOMING EVENT – BANYULE FLATS NIGHT WALK

Saturday March 14th – 7.30pm at Banyule Flats. Meet at the bottom of the Somerset Drive Carpark close to the Main Yarra Trail. Everyone is welcome to attend. Feel free to bring your own small torch to help with walking in the dark. We will have leaders with spotlights for finding wildlife. Please wear sturdy footwear and consider bringing mosquito repellent. Duration of approximately 1-1.5 hours covering 2km on dirt and gravel tracks. No guarantees, but animals that we may see include, possums, gliders, wombats, wallabies and Tawny Frog Mouths.

SPEAKER REPORT DECEMBER 2025 - ICELAND

WCS member Jen Chellew spoke about a recent trip to Iceland with her partner Richard. They spent 2 weeks travelling the ring road that circumnavigates the country.

Waterfalls were a prominent feature of Jen's presentation since Iceland in known as the land of 10,000 waterfalls. Waterfalls shown were amazing in terms of the volume of water, height and complexity. The Skogafoos waterfall has a drop of 60m making it one of the highest in Iceland. The Seljalandfoss fall (right) has a path allowing visitors to walk behind the falls. Jen and Richards visited many other spectacular falls during their trip.

Iceland's landscape also features mountains and glaciers, volcanos and moss filled lava fields. Hot springs are common and were a welcome contrast to the cold weather. During the night there were excellent views of the Northern Lights.

Jen noted that Iceland is a great place for birding and reported seeing several species of goose, swans and an Eider duck. She concluded her talk by show a BBC video of barnacle goose chicks leaping from a cliff top nest and performing a semi-controlled freefall, bouncing off rocks to join their parents below (https://youtu.be/rxGuNJ-nEYg).

HAVE YOUR SAY: REMAKING THE ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE REGULATIONS

The last few months have seen the massacre of many of our street trees in the name of powerline clearance (See photos). Have you found this destruction and resulting loss of shade and habitat distressing?

How and when trees are trimmed or removed around powerlines is determined by a Code of Practice under the relevant state legislation. Every 5 years the Code is reviewed and now we have the opportunity to align with the current scientific knowledge and local and interstate experience.

This is your chance to have your say on what changes should be made to the safety regulations for trees near power lines. Go to the Engage website and do the survey or write a submission. **Feedback closes 23 February 2026**.

https://engage.vic.gov.au/electric-line-clearance-regulations

*The overwhelmingly endorsed recommendation from the government's own expert review committee comprised of industry and technical experts including botanist and ecologist, Dr Greg Moore OAM, is being opposed by Electricity Safe Victoria (ESV), under portfolio Minister Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Climate Action. **Despite 6 months of interaction no explanation has been offered. We need action on this now!**

For more about the proposal: https://makevictoriagreener.org.au/improving-urban-tree-management/

Heather Smith

WARRINGAL PARKLANDS SINKHOLE

An 8-meter-wide sink hole appeared in a sports field at Warringal Parklands on the 5th of January. It was caused by North East link tunnelling and has been filled with concrete.

The sinkhole itself did not damage the local natural environment, but it highlights the complex geology and hydrology of the area where tunnelling is occurring. As discussed during public consultation during planning for the project, the long-term effects of changes to underground water movement and levels are difficult to model.

Pre-European River Red Gums on Rivergum walk are above the tunnelling route and will be at risk if the water table in this area drops significantly. Hopefully this is something that is being monitored and remedial action (e.g. watering) will be taken if required

NATURE NOTES DECEMBER 2025

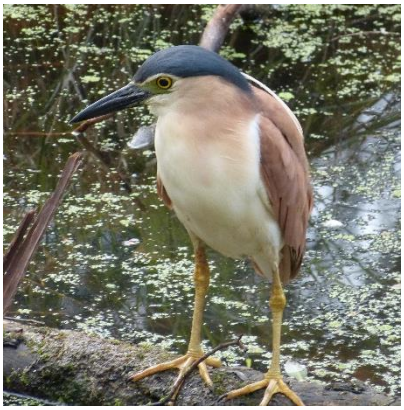
James Deane saw an Owlet-nightjar in a tree on the Main Yarra trail near the Rosanna Golf course

Heather Smith reported that Magies have been eating her blue Dianella berries.

Jen Chellew reported a Boobook at Rosanna, and a Bluetongue lizard. She also saw a Gang Gang at Cherry Street Nature Reserve .

Robert Bender reported on Wilson Reserve. Kreeft's Gliders moved into a new nest-box after 13 years. In the bat-boxes, the population reached a record high, with new-born babies - total 130. Possibly this resulted from very heavy spring rains. Perhaps regular roosts were too wet. Gould's Wattled Bat predominated - one had been banded in 2017. A male White-striped Freetail Bat was recorded - the first since 2014. Breeding Eastern Broad-nosed Bats and Large Forest Bats were seen - the first since 2005. (These records show the great value of keeping records over many years).

Anthea Fleming saw a pair of Blotched Bluetongues mating on her back grass, and a Nankeen Night-heron at Wilson Reserve. She showed photos of a confident Echidna met at Gresswell Forest, and from the Western Treatment Plant some Cape Barren Geese and a nesting Brolga.



If not delivered return to: PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084

Warringal Conservation Society