



WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

High Summer Newsletter

Volume 46/one

January/February 2016

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 6.30pm

The February meeting will be preceded by a picnic style dinner so that everyone can catch up after the holiday break. Old Shire office from 6.30pm. Bring a plate to share. Meeting and speaker to follow at 7.30pm

Rebecca McIntosh - The Threat of Plastic Debris to Seals and other Marine Animals

The number of marine species affected by marine debris has increased by 40% between 1997 and 2012. Included in this tally are over half the world's seal species. From 1997 to 2013, 363 Australian fur seals were identified entangled in marine debris at Seal Rocks, near Phillip Island Australia; approximately half these seals were captured and released – likely saving their lives. Trawl net (36%), monofilament line (21%), and bait box packaging strap (10%) were the predominant entanglement materials; most frequently entangling pups and juveniles (together 88%). Plastics are highly persistent in the ocean and despite a drop in fishing effort in Bass Strait, the number of entangled seals at Seal Rocks has not reduced over time.

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

**Enter from Buckingham Drive near the Banyule Theatre and
Greening Australia. Melways map 32:D3. All Welcome**

AT A GLANCE

February

Thursday 4th: Picnic dinner 6.30pm

General meeting at 7.30pm —speaker Rebecca McIntosh - Marine Debris and marine life

Sunday 14th: Banyule Flats Night Walk (See news and Events)

News & Events

Banyule Flats Night Walk

Sunday 14th Feb, Somerset Drive car park (Melways 32F2), 8.30pm for 8.45 start

Members and friends are invited to join WCS on our spotlight walk on Sunday 14 February. Leaving from the Somerset Drive car park in Viewbank (Melway ref: 32F2) at around 8.30pm, we will walk quietly along the Yarra Trail, spotting interesting creatures as they leave their homes to begin a night of foraging. The walk will be about 1 - 1 1/2 half hours. RSVP by email: elephantstamp@optusnet.com.au

Trip report—Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands and Waterways Estate

For the 2015 end of year outing WCS went on tours of wetlands at Edithvale-Seaford and the Waterways housing estate.

The Edithvale-Seaford wetland is a remnant of a much larger swamp system, much of which has been drained and used for housing. The wetland is valuable habitat and prevents flooding by absorbing runoff. We were given a tour by the Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands and then visited the elaborate Discovery Centre.

We then went to the Waterways housing estate where a large area has been dedicated to a series of wetlands. We were taken through the area by ecologist Damian Cook, who was instrumental in planning and delivering the wetlands. Damian explained the principles involved in setting up and maintaining a viable and diverse series of wetlands. On the way back to the bus, a Snipe flew by and Egret was seen hunting in the shallows.

Thanks to Daphne Hards and Heather Smith for organising the outing, the Banyule Bush Crew for providing the bus and Dave for driving.



Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands



Waterways Estate

Who we are and how to contact us

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News & Events cont.

RACV renews call for the Northeast link road

The February edition of the RACV's member publication *Royal Auto* contains an three and a half page article titled "Ring of Ire" that reiterates the organisations calls for the Metropolitan Ring Road to be connected to the Eastern Freeway. This connection is proposed to go through either Banyule or Nillumbik. The article says that Banyule Mayor Craig Langdon wants the road to run through Nillumbik, and that Nillumbik Mayor Bonnie Hattam wants it to go through Banyule. The wisdom

of continued road building, and the environmental consequences of a link are given very little space in this article. The RACV is well-resourced lobby group with a single-minded focus on road building. The Northeast link project will damage valuable parks and bush land in either Banyule or Nillumbik and absorb funds that could be devoted to non-road related transport projects. WCS members who disagree with the RACV's position should write to the media and politicians.

2016 duck shooting season declared

Australia's native waterbirds are in serious trouble. Yet despite a long term decline in their numbers (currently the second lowest on record) across eastern Australia, despite wetland areas being the lowest on record and breeding of waterbirds also at the lowest on record, the Victorian Government has tragically announced a full 3-month recreational duck shooting season from March 19th to June 13th with only superficial restrictions. See: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/dry-conditions-lead-to-changes-to-2016-duck-season/>

For political reasons, the Government has put Victoria's 0.4% of duck shooters ahead of the majority of Victorians who want this barbaric activity stopped. Our native waterbirds are the innocent victims in a political game and will pay with their lives. It is horrible and outrageous!

See Channel 9 news (January 23, 2016): <https://youtu.be/ixrQE4sRCH4>

Who will be there for the native waterbirds? Coalition Against Duck Shooting will be, as they have been for the last 31 years. The RSPCA will be present, providing veterinary care for the wounded birds. A range of other animal welfare, conservation and wildlife organisations will be also be there. Laurie Levy has been banned from all hunting wetlands for six months. Lyn White from Animals Australia has stepped up to the task of spokesperson.

Members are again asked to keep up the pressure on our MPs until this disgraceful and barbaric activity is banned in Victoria. Please contact these politicians and voice your concerns:

The Hon Anthony Carbines, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, 56 Beetham Parade, Rosanna. 3084.

anthony.carbines@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Hon Jaala Pulford, Minister for Agriculture, Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002 - jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Hon Lisa Neville, Minister for the Environment, Level 17, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002 - lisa.neville@parliament.vic.gov.au

Premier Daniel Andrews, Level 1, 1 Treasury Place, East Melbourne, VIC 3002 - daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

In December last year, the Society wrote to Premier Daniel Andrews, Ministers Jaala Pulford (Agriculture) and Lisa Neville (Environment), and local Member Anthony Carbines (Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment) calling for a moratorium on duck shooting. We received an uncommitted reply from Minister Pulford in early January. John D'Aloia is corresponding with Anthony Carbines regarding a meeting seeking his support in talking with Minister Pulford. We really hope progress will be made about this matter with Anthony, who is also a valued member of our organisation.

Celia Smith



Freckled Duck

Nature Notes December 2015

Dianne Williamson - King parrots and a Black-Faced Cuckooshrike

Lene - blue tongue lizard

Gianna Romano - Turtle on track near Banyule swamp, Echidna in Westerfolds Park

William Deane - A tiger snake near the Yarra

Jane Crone - A Tawny Frogmouth and 3 babies, Butcher Bird with 2 babies

Robert Bender - bat boxes, young bats and mother eating placenta

Daphne Hards - During the first week of November 30mm rain fell after a long dry spell, and Daphne dashed out to Beverley Rd wetlands in Warringal Park to check the frog activity. It was not a big night but Brown Tree Frogs and Striped Marsh Frogs called in the centenary wetland, and Spotted Marsh Frogs were heard in the southern ponds under the pines. Also 5 Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos near Heidelberg Rd

Penny - nest box project for sugargliders etc., boxes in Rosanna parklands

Daphne Hards started Christmas Day with a special trip to Banyule Swamp. What a beautiful peaceful morning. The water level was down which suited waterbirds such as Black-winged Stilt and Black-fronted Dotterel. 26 species of birds were observed, all oblivious of a young fox sniffing round the margins. Pacific Black Duck, Hoary-headed Grebe and Dusky Moorhen all had young. The highlight was seven Latham Snipe, still present since Breakfast with the Birds in late October.

Dusky Moorhen with 2 young, Buff-banded Rail and a Spotless Crake were seen at the Grotty Pond also on December 25th.



**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



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