



Newsletter 025 October 1995

Description

FRIENDS OF CHILTERN PARK INC
Convenor: E. Collins 057 261 484
Newsletter No. 25 October 1995

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Dear Friends,

The revegetation project at the Chiltern Landfill area and the adjacent reserve is now

complete. A small band worked over the weekend of the October meeting to achieve the target. The hillside should look fantastic in a few years time if the growth of last year's planting is any guide. The picnic spot at Donkey Hill provided a pleasant outlook for an enjoyable and well earned lunch. After a short meeting some members went off to eradicate weeds while others went in search of some elusive Regent Honeyeaters. This is a great time of the year in the park for if you can't find the birds you're

after the plants provide an interesting alternative. â??

New plants are still turning up for our list. The most recent one being Golden Tip, Goodia dicagine, the small flowered form of Golden Tip found in inland situations. It seems to favour damper areas. Further plants have been found in a strip of vegetation along the railway line near Frogs Hollow. The sun orchids and bush peas along the railway reserve were quite spectacular, as were the two

fledgling Regent Honeyeaters being fed by an overworked Dad. It seems some ill befell the female. Echidnas are very busy turning over ant heaps. Lucky observers may see them waddling through the bush or crossing a track. I watched one drinking from a pool in a drain. Its beak just touched the surface of the water and with the nostrils remaining above the surface it quietly drew water into its mouth. Echidnas are solitary animals. Hollow logs, stumps and forest litter provide them with shelter.



Litter of a different kind presents the collector with a problem or two. While old rubbish in the park is unpleasant to look at for humans the fauna of the park see it in a different light. An old muffler pipe becomes the home of a black snake, sheets of rusty tin are roofs for ant colonies, while lizards, skinks and bull ants seem to find every pile of old tins available. As one friend constantly reminds me it's of historic significance, leave it. Another argues that it is only visually offensive and has no effect on the environment. What do you, the reader, think? Remember we are not talking about the litter of the present . ly.

around the park:

1. Regent Honeyeater nesting is still in progress although the success rate to date is very low.

Predation

and weather are thought to be the two main factors affecting breeding. Many pairs have rebuilt only to fail

again. One pair built three nests only to lose their nestlings at 5-6 days old.

2. New signage will be appearing throughout the park. The Reference Area will be identified and some tracks will become management tracks only.

3. The revegetation areas are already showing signs of recovery. Grasses and peas are germinating. The rain, that is falling as I write this, should ensure their survival .

4. The Grass Trees, *Xanthorrhoea australis*, are flowering very well, the spikes are tall and imposing and extremely attractive to Hover Flies, Bees and Honeyeaters.

5. Wildflowers continue to be spectacular. Milkmaids, *Burchardia umbellata*, several species *Caladema* of

which the Musky *Caladenia* is the most common and Showy *Podolepis*, *Podolepis jaceoides* are at their

best at present. The Tiger Orchids, *Diuris sulphurea* the last of the "Donkey Orchids" are beginning to

flower. The spikes of this orchid are often over fifty centimetres tall. The flower is a clear yellow with dark

brown markings.

6. Extinction Processes and Fauna Conservation in Remnant Box and Ironbark Woodland. DCNR, in conjunction with Monash University and the Museum of Victoria, is looking at mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and selected invertebrates, { spiders, ants and beetles } within the park. Information will be gathered using pitfall traps, spotlighting, bird censuses, bat trapping and hair tube surveys.

Waxhatchlings

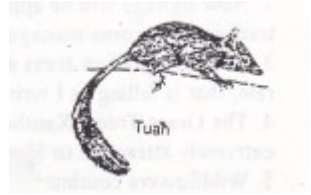
From the meeting:

1. Friends have applied for a DCNR grant for fencing materials to enclose two significant areas of remnant

vegetation. . .

2. Expenses of \$ 31.65 associated with the preparation of the grant were passed.
 3. Concern was expressed at proposals to site landfill areas adjacent to the park.
 4. Notice of the Friends of Warby Ranges Walk Track opening on October 14.
 5. Steve and Arlene sent apologies for Saturday and worked on Sunday to plant trees.
 6. Discussion re November activities. It was decided to begin work on the Cootamundra Wattles along the easement using the cut and paste method. The few surviving exotics at Magenta and Frogs Hollow would also be dealt with. , .
 7. During September and October there have been many visitors to the park. On one Sunday there were over 100 people from four different groups visiting Cyanide Dam. Obviously the word is getting through that Chiltern is a great place to visit. .
 8. Members from 15 conservation groups attended the Box Ironbark Conference held at Kooyoora Caves Park near Inglewood. Concern was expressed about the continuing degradation of Box Ironbark woodlands. Tours of the district underlined the habitat destruction through mining, logging, clearing and the harvesting of mallee for Eucalyptus oil. A Box/ironbark Alliance was formed for the purpose of supporting efforts to preserve the remnants of this most abused forest type. Guides, including Leon Costermans, led bird, wildflower and spotlight walks.
- Items of interest: . â??.
1. Appointment of a Land For Wildlife Extension Officer with DCNR. James Blackney has taken up this position. James has been a ranger on Churchill Island and has carried out survey work with DCNR.
 2. Roadside Assessment in Chiltern and Rutherglen areas of Indigo Shire.
- Since the Indigo Shire assessment did not extend to our area an application was sent to the Roadsides Conservation Committee of Victoria seeking funding to carry out the survey in this area. RCAC indicated that they may be able to supply limited funding. If you are interested in helping to carry out this work please contact me. A training workshop will be held in mid-November. If this project goes ahead it will be a shire project and liability for the volunteers would be covered by the shire.
3. There is a proposal to use the Oaklands clay quarry for a regional tip. As you will see from the reprinted article it has generated much interest.
 4. It has been suggested that signage be placed on the Hume Freeway as it leaves Wodonga to indicate that the Chiltern Park Rest Area is close at hand. Travellers south have been noted picnicking along the freeway probably unaware that the Chiltern facility exists. This will be pursued.
 5. Recent Publications: These may be of interest to members. .
- Orchids of Victoria by G. Backhouse and J. Jeanes
Mammals of Victoria, Distribution, Ecology and Conservation. Edited by P.W. Menkhurst
Trees of Victoria and Adjacent Areas by Leon Costerman. This is a pocket field guide packed with information. ,
- NEXT MEETING**
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 Tue
AT MAGENTA MINE ?{â?}. **TIME: 9.00AM** .

For those who wish to do park improvement we will be removing Cootamundra
Wattles
from the Easement above Magenta. Bring gloves, secateurs and a pruning saw if
you have
one. Lunch will be at FROGS HOLLOW at approximately 12.30pm.
The bush is at its best come along and enjoy it. .
. Information: 057 261 484 .



Category

1. Newsletters

Date Created

2012/12/31

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