Newsletter 018 March 1995

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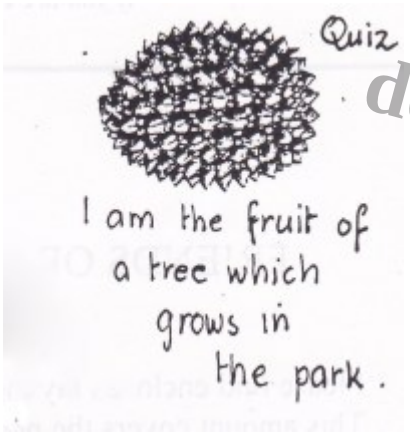
FRIENDS OF CHILTERN PARK INC
Convener E.Collins 057 261 484
Newsletter No 18 March 1995
Dear Friends,

Thereâ??s not much exciting about collecting rubbish but Friends make their own fun! We found a couple of bodies, one old and rusted, at rest deep in the bush complete with tow bar, The other, more recently discarded, someoneâ??s four footed friend no longer wanted and denied a decent burial, Next came the makings of a party. An unopened can of Fosters and a Lions fruit cake sealed in its wrapper and box! Are they that bad? Most of our park junk was ancient while the road junk was distinctly modern.
Searching for junk in the bush Jenny came across what she thought was an old bicycle tyre. It proved to be a living tyre in the form of a Red-bellied Black Snake enjoying the sun and reluctant to move giving everyone very good views. Red-bellied Black Snakes are diurnal. They bear live young which are born in membranous sacs. The young emerge soon after birth and may number from 8 to 40. Black snakes grow
to 1.5 metres in length. Their food consists of frogs, reptiles and small mammals.

Fifteen members worked from 8.00 am until 1pm so lunch at Barnawartha Dam was welcome. After lunch and a meeting, Ranger John guided us around the walk planned for the south bound freeway stop. The walk takes in most habitats found in the park, wanders past some fenced mine shafts on the Attrey Reef, across a gully and around the dam to return to the rest area. When completed it should make a pleasant break for travelers, particularly in spring. An information board will be placed in the rest area explaining the special nature of the park.



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From the meeting:

l.Incorporation is completed. A common seal has been purchased.
2.Election of office bearers and transfer of assets.
Mv.Jenny Reeve,sec. R. Sanderson that S.Bush be public officer. Crd.
Mv, John Reeve,sec J.Walsh that E.Collins be convenor. Crd.
Mv. E.Collins,sec T.Walsh that John Reeve be secretary. Crd. I
Colin Gould offered to be the publicity officer for 1995.
Signatories to the account: Judith Walsh, Pat Roe, Eileen Collins.
Mv.Jenny Reeve Sec.P.Seely that we accept all assets and liabilities of the old association and pass them to the Friends of Chilterrn Park Inc. and that Friends of Chiltern Park ceases to operate. Crd.
3.Letter of thanks sent to Rod Ambrose for dealing with the incorporation details,
4.John Reeve has made an attractive board to hold the meeting notes and notice of meeting date. It is for display in the Environment Centre. Thank you John.
5.The reserve area at the tip has been ripped in readiness for tree planting-when it rains.
6. Ranger John has applied for funding from Vic Roads to apply to the display board, He informed us that CNR historian David Benear has surveyed the historic sites in the area As a result of this survey Bartleys site is to be nominated for listing in the National Estate,
7.We have received a certificate from Clean Up Australia Committee recognizing our efforts in the 1994 clean up campaign.
8,The newsletter from the State Friends Group was tabled.
9.The peppercorn trees at Valley 2 to be trimmed and the branches to be stacked for removal by CNR.

10 Bruce Quin forwarded the permit for nest log work for 1995 along with the Atlas records for the 1994 observations.
11 .John Reeve spoke about the kangaroo survey. Interested persons please contact John on 060331 229.
12.Membership: This will be the final newsletter for those whose membership has lapsed.
13.Membership has reached 52 for 1995,
14.Reminder that the Regent Honeyeater conference is on March 16th at the Golf Club in Chiltern, There are no Regents around at present.
I 5.Dharnya excursion: there are still some vacancies on the bus.
INSECTARIUM OF VICTORIA
On Sunday March 19th a group is visiting the Insectarium .
The Insectarium is situated at Heathcote. The tour starts at lOam. We will leave Chiltern at 6.OOam, The cost of the tour is $8.50 per adult. Children $6.00. Participants tour the insectarium, the nearby Pink Lake to observe insects in the wild and a worm and yabby farm. A group booking has been made. Anyone wishing to join the tour contact 057 261 484 for further details,
APRIL MEETING TEA MEETING
SATURDA Y APRIL 1ST. MEET AT CYANIDE DAM AT 12.00 NOON TEA AT MAGENTA AT 6PM.
The afternoon activities will depend upon the weather, After tea there will be a frog hunt at Greenhill Dam and some spotlighting.
BRING: Lunch, tea, rake, shovel, gloves, secateurs.
1fyou are coming after lunch phone/or details of activity 057 261 484

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FRIENDS OF CHILTERN PARK MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
P.O.BOX 60 CHILTERN 3683
Please find enclosed mv membership fee of $10
This amount covers the period from .lanuary 1 995 until June 1996.
The fee covers the whole family.
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THE INSECTARIUM EXHIBITION

The exhibit has been divided into several sections and guides are always on duty to explain the nature of what's on display.

THE ARTHROPODS

Insects belong to the vast group of animals known as arthropods. Arthropods all have several features in common including a hard external skeleton made up of sections or segments and includes such creatures as crayfish,crabs and lobsters, scorpions, spiders, mites and ticks, millipedes, centipedes as well as the insects themselves. Many of these animals are displayed at the Insectarium of Victoria so that our visitors will be able to see the relationships such animals have to each other.

DIVERSITY OF INSECTS

No other group of animals display such a vast variety of forms as the insects.This portion of the exhibition aims to show visitors how insects can range in size from the huge tropical Eurycnema goliath, one of the worlds longest insects with a body length of 220 millimetres, to the minute Collembola, insects that inhabit the forest leaf litter and soil layers which are so small that one requires microscopic equipment in order to see and study them.

FOSSIL HISTORY

On display are several fossil recreations and models that show our visitors ancient insect species that once flew over the extinct Carboniferous forests 375 million years ago and how some of them still survive today.

LIVING INSECTS

The Insectarium of Victoria has numerous insect colonies on display. These include our observation bee hive, where the life cycle of the hive can be observed and studied, to the unique enclosure housing our colony of Macropanesthia rhinoceros, the worlds largest and most spectacular cockroach species from tropical north Queensland. The most primitive living ants which have a history going back 175 million years in the past are also displayed in our enclosures. Giant leaf insects and butterflies from the tropics are also kept and displayed at the Insectarium of Victoria along with Australia's largest native spider species, the Selenocosmia bird eating spiders of Cape York peninsula.

IDENTIFICATION

The Insectarium of Victoria encourages our visitors to bring insect specimens to the facilities if they require identification. With the aid of our simple to operate computer system, members of the public as well as young children can use the program to identify insects and other arthropods with ease.

INSECT PESTS

This portion of the exhibition describes the impact of pest species by using the plague locust and the introduced European wasp as examples. How the two species can reach and achieve pest status and the various methods used in order to control them are explained to our visitors during the tour. In order to enhance this display, we have constructed a locust diorama containing over 450 preserved Australian plague locusts in order to depict the destructive habits of this pest insect. The European wasp model on display at the Insectarium of Victoria was constructed for the purpose of public education when this pest was introduced into Australia several years ago and is an exact replica of the species concerned, only enlarged by 40 times.

BIOLOGY OF INSECTS

The biology and behaviour of insects is poorly known. Species of even the most commonly seen and encountered insects still hold many secrets yet to be discovered by the observer. Insects exhibit modes of stereotyped behaviour that at times might appear bizarre to us. Why insects display such strange behaviour, with examples of the biology of some local and northern species will fascinate our visitors both young and old alike.

CONSERVATION

The captive management of Australia's insects and other invertebrates is not a subject on which a great deal of textbook reference is available. Knowledge of a species behaviour and living requirements, often unknown until they are held in captivity, can only come from study and research. One 'method' is to gain experience with a closely related but more common species, before the decision is made to take invertebrates into captivity. Limiting stress during capture and transport is vital in some cases. The first days of captivity are critical and survival is assisted by adding special dietary requirements to drinking water and offering a wide variety of natural foods. This may also include the known preferences of the species.Some of the natural foods fed to our various species are as fascinating as any baby formula.

Freshwater crayfish - pellets of cereals and fishmeal.
Scorpions - live beetles, mealworms, slaters, small crickets.
Huntsman spiders - cockroaches, live blowflies, locusts, other live insects.
Bird eating spiders - live mice, immature rats, locusts, large insects and moths.
Giant cockroaches - dried eucalyptus leaves, dehydrated banana flowers, rotting wood.
Myrmecia ants - dissolved fruit sugar solution, sultanas, cake.
Stick insects - selected species of eucalyptus leaves.

OUR PLEDGE

Australia's forests, rivers, mountains and coastline are home to a multitude of insect and other invertebrate species, much of which are found nowhere else on earth. The Insectarium of Victoria is committed to the conservation of all species of native insects and to the education of Australians of the value of their invertebrate heritage. The pressures on insects and their habitats in our modern society are severe. A primary role of the Insectarium of Victoria is to make visitors aware of the importance of wise management of all natural resources and the need for balanced conservation with regard to the often forgotten insect species. As recyclers and scavengers, insects play the major role in maintaining the fine balance of nature. They pollinate our crops, help to create topsoils in arid environments and by way of predation and parasitism, help to control potential pest species. In some cases, they provide a source of food for humans and perhaps more importantly, they constitute the main food items for thousands of species of birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians along with species of mammals. Without the insects of the world, these animals would be forced into extinction.If we are to ensure a secure future for our larger and well known creatures,the goal of all caring Australians must be the protection, conservation and effective management of all invertebrates, and of the habitats on which they depend.

We hope that your visit to the Insectarium of Victoria will be both enjoyable and enlightening.

Issued by
THE INSECTARIUM OF VICTORIA
Head Office R.S.D 2140 HEATHCOTE, VICTORIA.
1994

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Thanks for the memories

There are children growing up today who know nothing but brown skies, poisoned water and asphalt; but when I talk to my parents about their childhood I hear stories about the environment which are very different.

They tell me of drinking from freshwater streams, swimming in clean rivers that ran through our capital cities and of chasing kangaroos out of their back yards.

In the short time I grew up there turned the platypus habitat into a parking lot in just twenty years. I can't imagine the enormous changes which some Greenpeace members must have seen in their lifetimes.

These memories are precious. There is no recorded history compiled of environmental change during this most changing of centuries.

Greenpeace would like to hear these memories. We will record them on a computer database and use them to compare our current environment to its historical state. If you have good, or not so good, memories of the environment as you experienced it growing up then please write to me. In many cases your memories may be all that are left of a cleaner greener world. Please share them with us.

Send your recollections to:
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Heritage Campaign
Greenpeace
PO Box 800
Surry Hills 2010

Category

1. Newsletters

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