

## **WERRIBEE OLDER ADULT BIRD WATCHERS - our official name**

---

DATE: JULY 1ST MONDAY  
BIRDS OF WERRIBEE - Rohan Bugg  
AT: Val & Gilbert Pickersgills  
47 Slattery Street, Werribee  
Phone 9741 1641  
TIME: 7.30pm  
COST: \$2-00

Rohan Bugg - local bird watcher, excellent photographer. Rohan will show us where to find birds in Werribee. I met Rohan at Bunges Hole on morning, he actually whistled up 5 Eastern Shrike Tits! I saw Crimson Rosellas, Pied Cormorants, a Darter, and wrens all in about 10 minutes. There are Mistletoe Birds, Black Shouldered Kites, Nankeen Night Herons and other birds nearby. Cattle Egrets roost at Bunges.

### **Let either Gilbert or Shirley know if you are coming by June 29th.**

I registered our group with the City of Wyndham so we could be eligible to use the Community Bus and we have been successful in getting the bus for October 8th - we were to go to the Brisbane Ranges that day but suggest we go to Linton - its further away.

### **What's at Linton?**

Clarks Sanctuary, south-west of Ballarat, Vic, has been developed primarily to preserve and increase bird numbers. Over 1000 acres are now managed for the benefit of the birds. It is a great place for birdwatchers to visit, and to stay but the birds come first! It is a magical spot in the Spring. Amongst the many special birds sometimes seen (not simultaneously!) are Powerful Owl, Speckled Warbler and Painted Honeyeater.

Creation of bird habitat - Clarksdale Sanctuary developed from an idea in the mind of a very special man. Starting in 1967, Gordon Clarke and his friend set about the task of improving bird habitat in the "Bird Paddock" - planting wattles, grevilleas and an expanding host of native species to attract birds and provide food and shelter. He also created extensive areas of water. The push forward by Gordon was relentless, and his vision always extended beyond the task at hand.

Clarksdale Bird Paddock - In 1975, to give security to his great project, Gordon donated to the BOCA the Bird Paddock (31 ha), Golden Lake Paddock and Jubilee Paddock, plus a generous endowment via a trust and the Linton Trust was formed.

The first ranger was Roger Thomas. David Coutts has been working part time in the Sanctuary for a number of years, and until their retirement Mary and Phillip Richmond put untold hours of care into the project.

---

### **COMING EVENTS:**

DATE: AUGUST 6TH - SALTWORKS  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 3RD - BRISBANE RANGES  
DATE: OCTOBER 8TH - LINTON



# You Yangs Regional Park

The granite tors of the You Yangs rise suddenly and dramatically in the Werribee lava plains. Although only 352 metres in height they dominate the landscape such is the featureless nature of their surroundings and are clearly identifiable from the bayside of Melbourne and beyond.

This distinctive area of about 20 square kilometres was called Ude Youang, or Wurdi Youang, by the Aborigines, meaning big hill on a plain. Its abrupt and vivid presence makes a wonderful setting for a wild park offering walking, climbing, distant views and the observation of birds and geological features.

**History:** The granite blocks were uplifted some 320 million years ago, intruding into older, sedimentary bedrock. Through erosion, the overlying sediments have been removed, exposing the characteristic hills. Over a long period, weathering of the granite has produced stoney, clayey soil. A few volcanic mounds can be seen to the west, in particular the Anakies, three scoria mounds 16 kilometres away.

Matthew Flinders was the first European to climb the You Yangs, in 1802. From the highest peak he had a view over the plains which were open as far as the site of Melbourne.

The park is recovering well from the 1985 fire which burnt 80 per cent of its vegetation.

**Attractions:** Natural rock depressions in the granite were chipped deeper by the Aborigines to retain water and can be seen at Big Rock and throughout the You Yangs. But it is the rugged scenery, the granite tors and the extensive views that are the main attractions.

An island among farming country, the You Yangs abound with wildlife. It is one of the finest birdwatching spots near Melbourne, with over 200 species – half of Victoria's 400 species. Sulphur-crested cockatoos, eastern rosellas, sacred kingfishers, honeyeaters and birds of prey are commonly seen. Mammals include kangaroos, sugar gliders, brushtail and ringtail possums and bats. Bird and animal lists are available at the visitors centre. The centre, built in granite, is styled after early buildings in the district, and houses a display about the You Yangs.

**Activities:** The park caters for picnicking, bush walking, orienteering, horse-riding and cycling. For those who wish to remain in their cars, the 10 kilometre great circle drive passes sugar-gum plantations, native manna gums and through an area infested by South African boneseed.

There is a choice of walks. Flinders Peak walk is a 1.5 kilometre climb to the summit. Saddleback walk is 4.5 kilometres and begins at the turntable, circling Flinders Peak. Big Rock walk is only 150 metres from Big Rock picnic area and allows views of Anakie, the Brisbane Ranges and the dominating Flinders Peak. Big Rock deserves its name. It is 30 metres high, contains 200,000 cubic metres of rock and weighs over 300,000 tonnes.

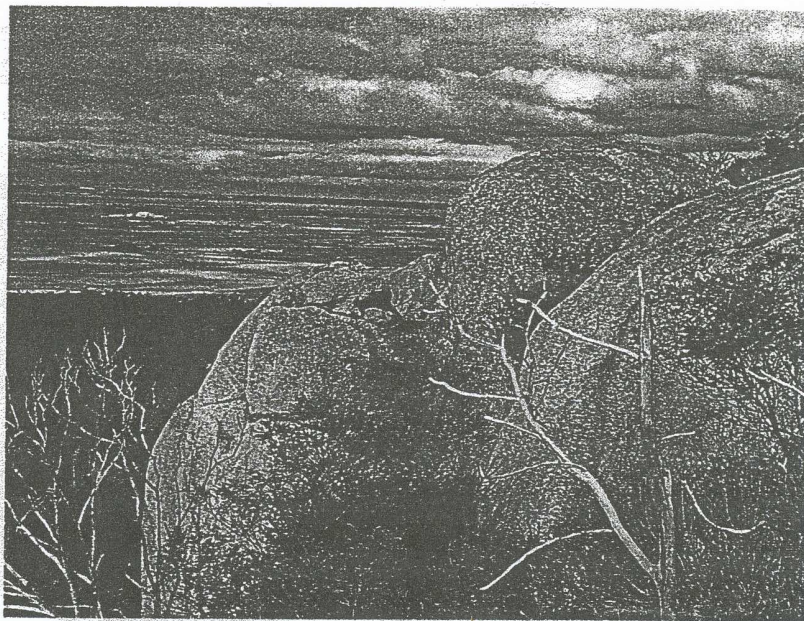
Autumn and spring are the best times to visit.

## PARK POINTS

**Access:** Branch Road, Little River. From Princes Freeway via Little River or Lara.

**Size:** 2025 ha.

**Open:** Information Centre 8am-4.30pm Monday to Friday. 10am-5pm weekends



**Admission:** Fee charged.

**Facilities:** Parking, toilets, visitor centre, picnic areas, barbecues, fireplaces, water, viewing points, paths, scenic drive, horseriding tracks.

**Restrictions:** Dogs on leash. Fires only in fireplaces. Keep to the walking tracks. No mountain bikes on walking tracks. Horseriding only on tracks. No camping.

**Manager:** Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

**Queries:** Ranger-in-charge, You Yangs Regional Park, Branch Road, Little River, 3211. (PO Box 131, Lara). Phone (052) 82 3356.

Granite and greenery – the wild tors of the You Yangs

