

Werribee Wag-tales

June/July/August Newsletter, 1999

Editor Shirley Cameron

Vol. 4 No3

97412997.



Congratulations Rohan Bugg, awarded the first Wyndham Quality Community Plan Platypus Award for the environment. Rohan was described in the Banner June 10 '99 as Wyndham council 's flora and fauna expert. Rohan met us at Cobbledick's Ford on June 1st and our birding really came alive. We ambled along the river while Rohan described the interesting trees in the area. The rare exotic *Osage Orange*, native to America where its branches were used to make bows and arrows; then the Gippsland escapee, the *Blue Box*, how did it get in the River? There is one *manna gum*, the tree chosen by koalas, the next nearest is at Toolern Vale. Lots of 'mongrel' weeds! A steep walk up the escarpment revealed the interesting valley once used to quarantine cattle fording the river on the way to and from the Western District.

Little left of the Cobbledick family home, some bluestone walls remain and there is evidence of the well, typical of wells built in the Western District. The Cobbledicks are buried in the Werribee Cemetery. Rohan is also a valuable source of Werribee history. Birding was great, Red-browed Firetails were skipping about but the antics of the female and male Flame Robin captured most attention.

Birds Seen at Cobbledick's Ford June 1st. 1999

Little Eagle	Eastern rosella	Flame Robin	Mistletoebird
Kestrel	Blue winged parrot	Golden whistler	Welcome Swallow
Masked Lapwing	Red-rumped parrot	Grey Shrike Thrush	Tree martin
Spotted Turtle Dove	Superb Fairy wren	Magpie-lark	Zebra Finch
Galah	White-browed Scrubwren	Willie Wagtail	Gold Finch
Corella	Yellow-rumped thornbill	Australian Magpie	Silvereye
Sulphur-crested cockatoo	White plumed Honeyeater	Little Raven	Common Blackbird
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	New Holland Honey-eater	House Sparrow	Common Starling

Newport Lakes, Altona Beach, Cherry Lake May4 1999.

Starting from the usual spot, the convoy of 11 bodies in three cars wended its way along Sneyds Road, Point Cook Rd., Central Avenue and Queen Street then along Altona Beach to Millers Road before turning into Mason Street and finally stopping at Newport Lakes. David and his wife met us there in the carpark. Gil and Val joined the group a short time later. Some of the group left at Altona Beach to go their separate ways while the remainder went to Cherry Lake for lunch and a walk along the lake before returning to Werribee. A total of 50 different species were recorded for the day. The darter, pied oystercatcher, and singing honeyeater were a new species for some. C. Dennis & C. Popham.

Birds seen on route, at Newport Lakes, Altona Beach and Cherry Lake May 4 1999

Black Swan	Great Egret	Masked Lapwing	New Holland Honeyeater
Mallard	Little Egret	Pacific Gull	Magpie-lark
Pacific Black Duck	Straw-necked Ibis	Silver Gull	Grey fantail
Grey Teal	Royal spoonbill	Rock pigeon	Willie Wagtail
Chestnut Teal	Marsh Harrier	Spotted Turtle Dove	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Australasian Grebe	Kestrel	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Australian Magpie
Hoary-headed Grebe	Purple Swamphen	Superb Fairy wren	Australian Raven
Darter	Dusky Moorhen	Spotted Pardalote	Tree Sparrow
Little Pied Cormorant	Black-tailed Native hen	Red wattle bird	House Sparrow
Pelican	Greenshank	Singing Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
White Faced Heron	Black-winged stilt	White plumed Honeyeater	Common Blackbird

July	August	September	October	November
Friday 16 th . Community Bus Depart 8-30am From Centenary Hall To Werribee Gorge. Contact S. Cameron 97412997.	Tuesday 3rd Depart 8-30am From Centenary Hall To Hovell's Creek near the You Yangs. <i>Leader Rohan Bugg?</i> Contact Shirley Cameron 97412997	Tuesday 7th. Depart 8-30am From Centenary Hall To Williamstown , Jawbone Reserve. Merrett/Crofton Drive. Friends of Wetlands: R. Leppitt 93976415 Contact; C. Popham 97415006	Friday 8 th . Community Bus Depart 8-30am From Centenary Hall To Organ Pipe N. P.. Fiona Smith re video. 93901082. Contact S.Cameron. 97412997.	Tuesday 9th Depart 8-30am From Centenary Hall To Western Treatment Leader. <i>Martin Hulzeboch</i> Contact Shirley Cameron 97412997.