

# Friends of Eastern Otways

(Great Otway National Park)  
Inc. A0030273B



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August 1, 2013

**From the President**

*Rachel Faggetter*

In June I was fortunate to travel the Tanami Track from Alice Springs to Halls Creek, and then on to Broome via Fitzroy Crossing and Derby. We camped for three nights in Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary which I was very keen to visit. In 2000, like many other members of Birds Australia I contributed to a fund to buy this property as a big opportunity to conserve biodiversity and threatened species. It is now run in partnership with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, looking after 2,620 square kilometres, or over 2560,000 hectares.

The Newhaven rangers have removed the cattle, and are working with the Ngaliya people to plan fire management strategies, as well as efforts to get rid of weeds and the ferals. We met up with a Northern Territory aerial camel survey and they reported that the North is plagued by up to a million camels. They eat everything and trample everything and smell terrible. Newhaven staff are faced with a huge job, but already the difference is apparent. Vegetation is growing strongly following a good wet season, and bird life is vigorous and varied, notably Bustards and heaps of honeyeaters.

We listed 123 species of birds for the trip, but sadly saw few animals, and not a single emu on the whole 2500km trip. An Aboriginal elder at Lake Gregory near Mulan told us that the load of damage done by feral camels, horses, cattle, goats, cats and dogs makes life very difficult for most ground birds and mammals. Yet out there at Paruka, an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) we saw brolgas dancing and prancing by the lakeshore, and then flying in formation over our camp. Not to mention huge flocks of budgies fizzing up out of the spinifex. Once an area receives protection, even a relatively small amount, wildlife can stage a comeback, and the spirit lifts a little. And now we can look forward to our long spring.

## FAREWELL TO TWO SPECIAL FRIENDS

Since our last Newsletter we have lost two of our very valued members, Ian Leslie and Mike Traynor. Both have been members of the Friends' Committee over a long period of time, and both have made a great contribution to our group, being awarded Life Membership of the Friends of Eastern Otways in February 2011.



### **Ian Leslie 9 August 1926 – 9 May 2013**

Ian was elected treasurer of the Friends at the first Annual General Meeting in 1995, and continued in this position until February 2011. We remember so much of his contribution to the Friends. His involvement in our earlier weeding activities, his participation in our bush walks (with his maxim of "*never get separated from your lunch*"), the mammoth task of washing and counting the money collected each year in the Erskine Falls donation box (usually over \$1000 dollars), his attendance with Netta at our end of the year celebrations and his assistance with manning the Friends' stall at the annual ANGAIR Show. We miss Ian and we just want to say thank-you for the contribution he made to the Friends' group. We know that Netta and the family miss him very much and will rely on their memories as they pick up the threads and go on with their lives. Our best wishes are with them all.



### **Mike Traynor 22 November 1929 - 22 June 2013**

Mike took on the role of President of the Friends' group in February 1997 and continued in this position until forced to retire due to his deteriorating health in February 2011. He was a great president showing leadership and encouragement in a wide variety of activities. His profound knowledge and interest in the animal world was shared passionately. To watch Mike interact with young children discussing animal specimens was indeed a privilege. He participated and led so many of our activities including mammal surveys and our annual koala surveys at Grey River. We thought we knew all about Mike. We knew that he had been at the National Museum of Victoria, that he was a great taxidermist, and that he and Kaye had created many wonderful displays throughout Victoria, but the tributes at his funeral service made us realise just what his immense contribution to the natural world has been. Through it all Kaye has been his partner and his support, and our best wishes are with her and Mike's children at this sad time.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### **Environmental Weeding** Contact: Margaret 5289 6326

Tuesday, August 13 Tuesday, September 10 Tuesday, October 8 9.30am-11.00am Contact Margaret 52896326

#### Tuesday, August 13 Anglesea River Site

This will be our last effort on this site for the time being. There is still an area of Boneseed that we have not managed to remove on the edge of the river as recent rains had caused the river to rise denying us access last month. We suggest that you bring gumboots so that we can complete the project.

*Meet at Riding Club site in Coalmine Road at 9.30am*

#### Tuesday, September 10 and Tuesday, October 8 Anglesea Heathlands

Our focus for the next few months will be back on the Anglesea Heathlands on O'Donohue Road where our main target is the Coast/Sallow Wattle. We have almost completed working up the gully. On Monday, July 22 ANGAIR members gave us a helping hand and we reached the Grasstree area at the top of the gully where there are some Anglesea Grey Gum trees *Eucalyptus litoralis* growing. We found quite an amount of young Boneseeds where more mature plants had been removed, and to our delight many terrestrial orchid leaves were emerging. It will certainly be an area worth keeping an eye on. There is still a huge quantity of wattle and Coast Teatree growing on the western side of the gully that needs our attention.

*Meet at corner of O'Donohue Road and Great Ocean Road at 9.30am Following all of these sessions we will visit one of the local coffee shops in Anglesea. We would certainly welcome some more helpers.*

### **Mammal Surveys** Contact: Kaye 5263 2011

Mammal surveys using our remote cameras and sometimes hairtubes are usually carried out following Committee meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. We are always pleased to welcome any people interested in our indigenous fauna to participate in these activities. On August 13 we are planning to perhaps visit the Anglesea River Site where we have carried out our Caring for our Country Grant project over the last two years. We are aware that the Southern Brown Bandicoot is inhabiting the area – there have been sightings of both the animals and their distinctive diggings and we are keen to catch a picture on camera. Another alternative is Eastern View where a fuel reduction burn is intended in the near future. Please make contact to find meeting place and approximate meeting time.

### **Kalimna Falls Walk** Saturday August 17 Contact: Joe 5289 6498 9.30am – 2.00 pm Meet at Aireys Inlet Hall (Bring morning tea and lunch)

This walk takes you into the fern gullies of the Great Otway National Park encouraging you to step back in history as you follow the route of the old timber tramway used for transporting timber to the Lorne Pier back in the 1890's and up to the 1920's when logging ceased in the area. At times the track goes through the tramway cuttings, and in certain areas some of the original tramway sleepers can be seen. An historical marker has been erected to remind us of earlier days.



A few very large trees that escaped logging can still be seen amongst the younger forest.

The Falls, although not large usually have water flowing over the undercut rock ledge following rains.

Lower Falls 2hr - 6.25 km circuit  
Upper Falls 3hr – 9 km circuit

### **ANGAIR Wildflower Show**

Saturday, September 21 & Sunday, September 22 10.00 am – 4.00 pm  
Anglesea Hall McMillan St Anglesea

As members of the Friends' Group are also deeply committed to this annual event, we are requesting that as many as possible help with the preparation of the Show on Thursday, September 19 and Friday, September 20, and also with the running of the Show during the week-end. Our Friends' display will be focusing on the birds of the Anglesea River and nearby Heathlands with photos of birds by Marg Lacey, a bird photographer, from Aireys Inlet.

*If you feel you have some spare time on any of these days, please contact Margaret 5289 6326*

**Wildflower Walk in Brisbane Ranges** Saturday, October 19 *Contact: Margaret 5289 6326*  
(Daylight saving commences on October 6, so it is an early start)  
9.00 am – 3.00 pm Meet at ANGAIR Natural History Centre at **9.00 am** (Bring morning tea and lunch)

Although we know that we have a wealth of wildflowers in our own area, we thought that for this year we would venture a little further afield and perhaps find some different flowers, including terrestrial orchids, to admire. We are not too sure just which section of the Brisbane Ranges we will explore, but we will make some investigations prior to the visit.

**Mammal Survey in Forrest area** Saturday, November 16 *Contact: Kaye 5263 2011*

9.00 am – 2 pm Meet at Aireys Inlet Hall at 9.00am (Bring morning tea and lunch)

We have not chosen the site at this stage, but are hopeful that Trevor Pescott, who lives near Forrest, may share some of his special sites with us. We will be using our remote control cameras cameras and hope for good results.

### **End of Year Celebrations**

Saturday, December 14 Combined activity with ANGAIR Inc.

Early diary entry – details in next Newsletter

## **INFORMATION REGARDING FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER**

### **Mammal Surveys**

Our mammal surveys over the past few months have concentrated on the National Park area near Gundrys Road. We have used both remote cameras and hairtubes.

The results have not been wonderful but we always get excited when we capture any images of our great wildlife, not quite so exciting when we capture Black Rat as happened on our last survey.



Records for the area are Agile Antechinus, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Black Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and domestic dog. We were thrilled with our image of two echidnas obviously with a male echidna keen to follow his female companion. Mating occurs in July and August.

### **Cumberland River Walk May 18**

***THE INTREPID SEVEN GET TO THE CUMBERLAND CASCADES*** (Report by Lachie Richardson)

It had rained off and on for about a week and the Cumberland Track beside the Cumberland River was on the Friends of Eastern Otways program for May 18th. The morning dawned with drizzly rain and as the track necessitated four river crossings it was doubtful if Cumberland Cascades could be reached with safety.

The walk started from the Cumberland River Camping Ground in light rain but the forest was fresh and damp with a thrush running along the track in front of us. At the first river crossing, the river was running fairly swiftly but after some deliberations we decided to cross to get at least to Jebbs Pool. As most walkers got wet boots at this river crossing, the party continued on past Jebbs Pool as the boots could not get any wetter. The second, third and fourth crossings were a little more challenging, but as we were all experienced hikers we were confident in our actions.



The last 350 metres to the cascades were even more challenging as correctly stated by the walk notes. Lunch was taken on a large rock with a delightful view of the Cascades in full flow.

Returning, possibly due to tiredness, river crossings became harder and some lost their balance and ended up with more than wet boots. Arriving back at the coast, the walkers were glad they had accomplished a delightful walk through the Cumberland Gorge.

More exciting photos can be viewed at [Angair.org.au](http://Angair.org.au) under Other Conservation Groups Friends of Eastern Otways with thanks to ANGAIR.

Intrepid seven minus photographer



## **Koala Survey Grey River Road June 15 (Report by Kaye Traynor)**

We were very fortunate to have a fine and sunny day for our annual Koala Count. With so much rain in recent days we fully expected to be walking through showers and cold winds. Twelve people came along for the count which started at the Great Otway National Park sign on Grey River Road. For the first section of the walk there seemed to be fewer koalas and we thought they may have moved further down the hillside. However as we progressed the numbers increased.



The general condition of the forest eucalypts was good. There were however signs of over-browsing on some of the trees, especially those growing along the lower side of the ridge. Many of those trees had died.

Along the way we saw other local wildlife including two Red-necked Wallabies, two Wedge-tailed Eagles, Yellow Robins and large numbers of Pied Currawongs. At the top of the hill where we had lunch, we heard the unmistakable sounds of a Rufous Bristlebird.

We were also witness to a territorial dispute involving two koalas. One was lying in a prone position along a fairly thin branch, while another one sat a little way apart on the same branch. As we watched, the larger male moved aggressively towards the younger, vulnerable one until it could move no further and looked to be in danger of falling several metres to the ground. Eventually the male retreated, and climbed higher up the trunk. An international tourist joined us and was also able to watch the drama unfold which is a rare treat as in most cases, during the day, koalas are inactive and most of the ones we see are curled up asleep. We managed to count a total of 88 koalas, all adults, apart from one independent juvenile, and another much younger one on its mother's back. It was a very pleasant walk, in good weather, and everyone enjoyed the day.

## **Presentation of Birds of Anglesea River & Nearby Woodland Anglesea Primary School June 25**

As part of our Caring for our Country project on the Swampy Riparian Woodland and Heathy Woodland restoration on the Anglesea river, the Friends had asked Marg Lacey, a bird photographer from Aireys Inlet, to prepare a visual presentation of the birds of the area.



On June 25 some of the Friends came along with Marg to the Anglesea Primary School to share this presentation with the Year 3 to Year six students. Two sessions were taken – Years 3 & 4; Years 5 & 6 for about one hour each.

Marg had first prepared an activity where the children were asked to write down all the birds they knew in the area and these were grouped in graph form on one of the walls of the multi-purpose rooms. We were really astounded with the amount of information these young children had. From memory the Year 3 & 4 children came up with about 45 species. There was a bit of cheating from the Year 5 & 6 children who were only too willing to copy names from the younger students' efforts!

Marg then presented the laptop presentation that was just excellent – first the water birds, and then the woodland birds. In hindsight it would have been better to concentrate on one of the habitats, and presented the second one at a later date. But hindsight is always a good teacher. We felt that we have created an interest in both the teachers and the students, and hopefully the teachers will carry out further activities with the students.

The Community Action Grant Project has now been completed and the final report submitted.

## **July Activity July 20 Werribee Zoo**

Our apologies to anyone who was inconvenienced by our cancellation of this event. It really seemed to be a comedy of errors, and made us realise that more thought needs to be put into activities that are that little bit different. We had originally intended visiting the National Museum of Victoria but with Mike's deteriorating health and Kaye's caring for him it just seemed too difficult to organise. We then changed to the Werribee Zoo without too much thought for what the weather would bring in July. If we had asked people to register for the excursion, we would not have had one member standing in the wet and cold at Werribee when the event was cancelled. Our sincere apologies.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Healthy Parks Healthy People Grants 2012/13 Biodiversity Grant

Unfortunately as a result of budgetary cuts we were not successful with our application for the Parks Victoria grants for community groups to carry out biodiversity protection management works on three of our usual environmental weeding sites:- Moggs Creek Heathland Hillside (in conjunction with Friends of Moggs Creek) Gilbert Street, Aireys Inlet (tip site following Ash Wednesday bushfires) and Anglesea Heathlands Gully area on O'Donohue Heathlands. We had requested a total of \$7,060 as this grant was for a two year period. This money was mainly to be spent on employing Conservation Volunteers Australia personnel to work with the Friends group and other contractors to carry out more technical work of chainsawing and mulching.

We have however received a grant of \$2,468 for these projects to be spent only on materials outlined in our application, but as we did not request any materials we will have some considerations to make.

### Caring for our Country Community Environment Grant 2013-14

We have applied for additional funding of \$8500 to continue work in the Heathy Woodland restoration adjacent to Anglesea River but we are not at all optimistic with this application. We also joined with ANGAIR, GORCC and other conservation groups in the area in a much larger application for funds to ensure cross tenure coastal biodiversity management of the coastal areas within the Surf Coast Shire. There has been no announcement regarding these applications to date.

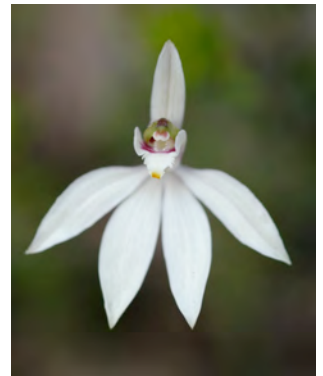
### *Caladenia maritima* Angahook Pink-fingers or Angahook Caladenia

We are thrilled to have been advised that the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Department of Sustainability and Environment has listed this taxon as a threatened species under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

This orchid was first discovered on the Anglesea heathlands in 1998 and is known from only one location where it grows on well-drained, dark grey sandy loam.

The Friends of Eastern Otways carry out annual surveys to monitor the reproduction and recruitment of the species.

The **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988** is an act of the [Victorian](#) government designed to protect species, genetic material and habitats, to prevent extinction and allow maximum genetic diversity within the state of [Victoria](#) for perpetuity. It was the first Australian legislation to deal with such issues.



### Sallow Wattle/Coast Wattle Control Survey

As we have reported in previous Newsletters surveys have been carried out on the Anglesea Heathlands over three years in an attempt to determine if any of the most common herbicides sprayed on the foliage can be effective in controlling this devastating environmental weed. Other methods of control used were mulching and hand removal using cut and paint method.

The results have now been analysed by Parks Victoria scientific staff, and two members from the group will be discussing the results of the research with Parks Vic staff on Monday, August 26. As the Friends have been heavily involved in this monitoring exercise, we have been invited to attend the session. We will be very interested to hear the results of the research.

### Flax-leaf Broom *Genista linifolia*

Although we are not aware of the existence of this environmental weed within the Great Otway National Park, we nevertheless would like to inform you that this is one of the newly declared Weeds of National Significance (WoNS). It is however very prevalent in the area, especially at Aireys Inlet where some of the streets are just lined with the species. It is easily recognised by its silvery grey-green leaves, formed in three leaflets and bears yellow pea flowers in late winter and spring. It is just coming into flower at the present time.



It is a prolific seeder and forms a large seed bank that will remain in the ground for many years. The seed is dispersed by wind and animals and so it is a real threat to the nearby national park. We encourage people to take action to keep it under control. Seedlings are easily pulled up by hand. Cut and paint stems of larger shrubs with a systemic herbicide.

## GOODBYE TO LINDSAY

The Friends of Eastern Otways would like to take this opportunity to wish Lindsay Murnane all the best for the future on his retirement from Parks Victoria.



Lindsay was the Friends' Liaison Ranger with Parks Victoria for a period of eight years (2000-2007) when Zan McCoy took on his role.

Lindsay was very interested in the historical aspects of the Park and was keen to work with Lachie Richardson in locating and documenting some of these interesting sites.

He knows the Park well and was able to guide us to many places for our mammal surveys, joining in many of them and thus encouraging this aspect of our program.

We enjoyed Lindsay's company and learned a great deal from our interaction with him. Some of our members will be able to join in the Parks Vic farewell BBQ to celebrate his retirement on Friday,

August 8 at She Oak Picnic Ground.

Thanks for your support Lindsay, and best wishes for this new stage of your life.

## RANGER'S REPORT

Compiled by: Carlie Bronk

Project planning for 2013/14 financial year has kept many staff busy throughout July but other programs have continued to operate.

### **Visitor Facilities:**

Urquhart's Beach Access: The access which was used to launch personal watercraft and allow emergency vehicle access to beach was washed away several months ago as the result of high tides and storm surges. Last week Lachie "re-sculpted" the boat ramp so access to the beach for PWC's is now re-instated.

Roading: Anglesea Heath: Road-works (primarily grading and drainage works) will continue from now through to December.

Asset Condition Ratings: We have been updating our asset system recently to highlight the condition of our key assets/ facilities throughout the Anglesea Heath and Great Otway National Park.

### **New Holland Mouse Research:**

Barbara Wilson (Scientist from Western Australia – previously from Deakin University) has been back to the Great Otway National Park to continue her search for the elusive New Holland Mouse. Her first visit was very disappointing with small mammals just not being found in the area where the New Holland Mouse was previously known to reside.

Barbara was back in early July to undertake her research in the second quadrat. Unfortunately still nothing. We would like to assist her with her work by placing some cameras for a month or two in the research area.

### **Otway Eden**

Invasive weed species management has been carried out throughout the Park. During 2012/13, 653 weed infestations covering 463ha were treated in the Great Otway National Park (GONP), Otway Forest Park (OFP), Anglesea Heath, Port Campbell National Park (PCNP) and other Crown Land reserves as part of Otway Eden. Forty-one separate weed species were treated within the project area ranging in infestation size from individual plants covering 1 sqm to significant infestations covering hectares. The focus was on "high impact weeds"

### **Monitoring and data analysis**

Data collected from the pest plant monitoring protocol site within GONP near O'Donohue Road, Anglesea, was analysed by Parks Victoria staff from the Research and Management Effectiveness Branch in June. Presentation of the data to local staff and the community is scheduled for August 26.

### **Marine News**

Many of you may have seen Parks Victoria's work with Museum Victoria at the 12 Apostles on channel 9 news recently. Pete Hay and Natasha Johnson (Ranger Port Campbell) joined researchers from Museum Victoria to capture the marine life" along 20 kilometres of coastline, including 12 Apostles Marine Park. This was something that had never been done before. The trip certainly did not disappoint with a diverse array of invertebrates to be found in a spectacularly colourful environment.