



Secretary: Ellen Doxey, PO Box 502, Aireys Inlet, Victoria 3231
 Mob: 0404357011 Email: ellen.doxey@gmail.com

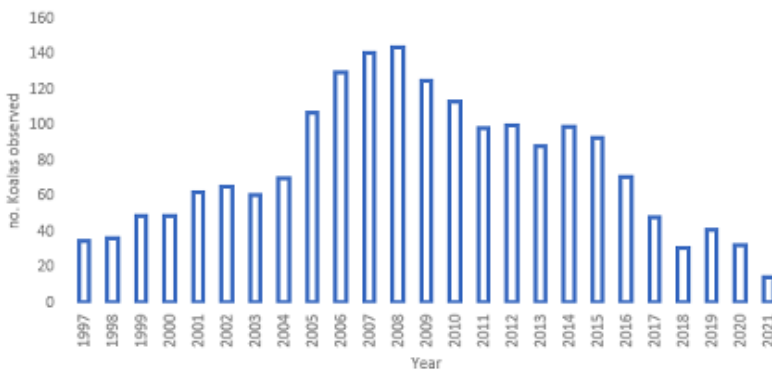


**FROM THE
 PRESIDENT
 Peter
 Crowcroft**

Hi Friends

I hope this Newsletter finds you well, and that in between periods of social interaction and movement restriction you have been able to get out and about in the National Park and any places of natural beauty that you connect with. Since the last Newsletter, the Friends have been able to run activities such as the Koala count and a trip to the new and fantastic Wildlife Wonders centre in Apollo Bay. We even managed to get some of the weeding sessions with MacKillop College to happen! Each of these are written up in this edition for your perusal.

Koala Count Results



INTERPRETING THE KOALA SURVEY RESULTS

This year marked the 25th consecutive year that the Friends have counted the number of Koalas at Kennett River, on the same walking route at the same time of year. '07 and '08 were bumper years, with around 140 Koalas seen by the observers. This year was our lowest count at 14, just 10% of those previous highs. (See report on page 3).

So, how can we interpret the Koala count graph? Firstly, let's keep in mind these aren't scientific results and we can't extrapolate and make sweeping statements about the Koala population. However, there is certainly a trend downwards over the last 13 years of the observed Koalas at our one sample site, so what might the cause be?



Rainfall data

I looked at rainfall data from the Bureau of Meteorology, thinking perhaps drought and flood conditions might neatly match up with our Koala sightings. Perhaps they might show an inverse relationship, given that we saw the most Koalas during famous drought years. But the rainfall statistics didn't really show that.

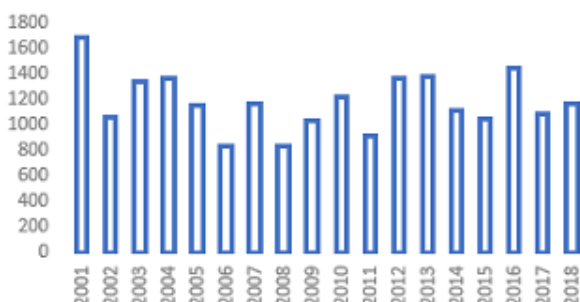
I'm not sure about you, but I think that is pretty inconclusive, or the devil is in the details with monthly rainfall affecting Koala movements. Perhaps looking at the rainfall in the months leading up to the Koala count would possibly give some more clues? However, there are other factors in play, such as bushfire. The most radical drop in number has been since the 2016 Christmas bushfires. Whether Koalas actually perished or (more hopefully) they have moved from the area chasing the luscious regrowth, we don't know.

The introduction of Koalas to the Grey River Road area took place in 1977, when 50 were brought from Philip and French Islands. We assume there was an existing population. Other relocations included 37 to Aireys Inlet, and 448 from Cape Otway, where all the forage was eaten, killing the trees - to various sites in the Great Otway National Park.

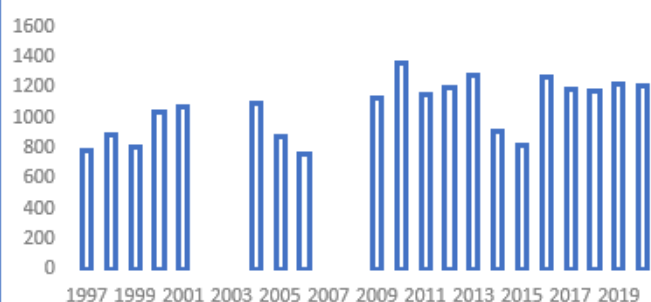
Another suggestion I've heard is that the lower sightings match up directly with the increasing age of the eyes that are looking for them. I discount this hypothesis, anyone walking with the Friends will note their eyesight is as sharp as ever! **Peter Crowcroft.**

Left: Above and below: The graph showing the number of Koalas counted by the Friends each year since 1997. Searching for answers in rainfall statistics didn't reveal any correlation either between drought or higher rainfall and decreasing numbers counted.

Lorne Annual Rainfall



Apollo Bay Annual Rainfall





Above: Some of the group admiring Striped Greenhoods. Below: Slaty Helmet Orchid.



WEEDING ON THE ANGLESEA HEATHLANDS

The Winter weeding program did not go exactly to plan but two successful sessions were held on the O'Donohue Heathlands. Our third planned for August 10 was replaced with a planting session. See report on page 7.

Our first session on June 8 saw us concentrating on a large infestation of Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera* near our patch of Striped Greenhoods *Pterostylis striata*. Some of these bushes were very big, and it was hard to believe that they had escaped our notice on previous visits to this section of the heathlands. It did not take us long to attack this infestation and the bushes were soon removed. The Striped Greenhoods were in full bloom, so we were able to admire these orchids which are rare in our district.

On July 13 we worked in the area near the site of the Angahook Fingers *Caladenia maritima*, an endemic orchid species critically endangered in Victoria. This is the only known population so we are very anxious to protect its habitat. Our main focus was on the hybrid Coast Wattle/Sallow Wattle *Acacia longifolia sp.* that was scattered throughout this area of the heathlands.

We were given some bonuses for our efforts - we discovered some early Slaty Helmet Orchids *Corybas incurvus* in flower, and some of the group saw Ghost Fungus *Omphalotus nidiformis* growing in a moist area. Paul returned with his camera in the evening and took a time exposure displaying the remarkable green glow. **Margaret MacDonald.**

SPRING WEEDING PROGRAM

Tuesday September 14 & Tuesday October 12

O'Donohue Heathland

Time: 9.30am.

Meet: O'Donohue Road close to Great Ocean Road

Tuesday November 9

Near Gravel pits on Mt Ingoldsby Rd 9.30am

Meet: Harvey St near Noble St at 9.30am

Contact Margaret 0412 652 419



Above: Walking back through the heathland after the June weeding session.

Left: The Ghost Fungus in daylight.

Right: And by night on a time exposure photograph taken by Paul.





FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

ANGAIR SHOW

A modified event is scheduled for September 18-19. Friends of Eastern Otways usually offer support with running the Show. If this event goes ahead ANGAIR will require additional assistance with marshalling and cleaning. To help contact ANGAIR 5263 1085.

This year the online Nature Show will run alongside and complement the Wildflower & Art Weekend. An additional theme for this year is Protect, focusing on the many threatened habitats and species of flora and fauna in the area. It will be available from Sept 9. www.angairnatureshow.org.au



COMING EVENTS

WILDFLOWER WALK

Saturday October 16

Meet at Angair 9.30am

Contact: Margaret 0412 652 419

BYO Morning tea and lunch

Yan Wirring Mirr Loop - 4.5km

Requires moderate fitness.

Named in consultation with Wadawurrung and meaning 'walk, listen, look', the Yan Wirring Mirr track passes through diverse ecosystems. Enjoy a feast of wildflowers and spectacular views from Bunjil Mirr Lookout over the Anglesea heath.

5 MILE TRACK WALK

Saturday November 20

Meet at Aireys Inlet Hall 9.30am

Contact Alison 0400 570 229

BYO Morning tea and lunch.

A walk along a tree-lined forest track with some steady climbs, crossing the Little Erskine River twice. There are many interesting flora species to see including the critically endangered Wrinkled Buttons *Leiocarpa gatesii*.

REMEMBER – Covid rules can change fast. Please register for walks in case numbers are limited.



ANNUAL KOALA SURVEY – June 19

With cloudy skies and rain threatening, 11 people met at Aireys Inlet Hall to travel to Kennett River for morning tea. Two more people joined the group and we drove up to the National Park to the starting point of the walk. Welcome visitors included Penelope, Donna, Ed and his son James. When the walk commenced at 11 am, we couldn't help commenting on how lush and green the forest is at this time with plentiful new growth and dense foliage especially on the eucalypts.

Spotting Koalas certainly presented a challenge for us this year. There were far fewer numbers, and on the first section of the walk we counted only 10. After lunch the return walk along the powerline track yielded four more, making a total of 14 for the day.

It was however an enjoyable walk. A number of bird sounds heard along the way, among them were Rufous Bristlebirds, Grey Shrike Thrush and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. We noticed a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles flying fairly low above the trees just ahead of the group, while grazing kangaroos kept their distance in front of us along the ridge.

The numbers this year were disappointing. It's very likely we missed seeing some as they may have been feeding amongst the dense clusters of leaves. Another reason could be that, because of the weather, they had moved further down into the valley. On the whole, it was a worthwhile effort and everyone seemed to enjoy the outing. **Kaye Traynor**





VISIT TO WILDLIFE WONDERS – July 31

The Friends were finally able to make our 3-times postponed trip to the Wildlife Wonders Conservation Park on Saturday July 31. The seventeen members (in two groups) who attended the activity were all united in their praise for the Centre and were pleased we had persevered and had finally got to see it.

Lizzie Corke and Shayne Neal (who also run the Conservation Ecology Centre at Cape Otway) have created a very special area to showcase the incredible floral and faunal diversity of the Otway Ranges and have constructed a space that is safe for its native inhabitants, and stunningly attractive, scenic, informative, functional, very welcoming and approachable for its two-legged visitors. Particularly noteworthy is the use of timber from trees found in the Otways to construct furniture in the Admin/Café/Bookshop and to pick out the track and construct boardwalks and railings for much of the length of the 1.4 km trail.



Above: Otways timbers are used to great effect in the beautifully-designed, meandering paths and boardwalks through the Park. Below: At the Research Station Ollie compares his wingspan to a Royal Albatross.



The guided tour traverses a very nice mix of different land types from (regenerating) temperate rainforest, tree-fern filled gullies, heathy woodland and open grassland (with spectacular views of the Southern Ocean and Cape Otway). Local woods (not always indigenous) are used to great effect along the beautifully-designed, meandering path.

These different vegetation types provide suitable ecological niches for its different fauna, that include Bettongs, Southern-brown Bandicoots, Red-bellied Pademelons, Red-necked and Black Wallabies, Long-nosed Potoroos, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Koalas. Birds, of course are abundant. A partial list includes (resident) Emus, Kookaburras, Eastern Yellow Robin, Grey Fantails, Pied Currawongs and Ravens.

The facilities provided are fantastic and range from the knowledgeable guides, through the radio earpieces that deliver the Guide's commentary, to the binoculars provided to help visitors to spy the Koalas (and birds) high in the trees.

The Research Station, where you can learn about research projects in the Otways, gives a very good idea of what goes on in the park after dark, using a series of networked remote-sensing cameras scattered throughout the park.

Lizzie and Shayne are to be congratulated on developing such a special showcase for our local flora and fauna and, Covid-permitting, they will achieve their goals of introducing out-of-area and international visitors to what makes the Otways so special and supporting their ongoing research at the Conservation Ecology Centre.

Patrick Flanagan



Above: An inquisitive Emu and a Long-nosed Potoroo. Below: Watchful Eastern Grey Kangaroos (and joey).





Above left and centre: Fallen flowers from a Blue Gum and a creamy-white spray of Bootlace Bush. Right: A beautiful spot for morning tea at the Swallow Cave and the Sheoak Falls viewing point.

SHEOAK FALLS/SWALLOW CAVE WALK - August 21

As I write this report the day after our walk, I must say we were just so lucky to carry out this activity before the pandemic shutters came down once again. It was a small group that came together at Sheoak Picnic Ground to walk the Swallow Cave and Sheoak Falls track.

As we meandered along the shady section of the Sheoak Creek valley we admired the vegetation along the sides of the track - just so many ferns, mosses, lichens, liverworts and fungi, and even one sole greenhood in bud, probably Mountain Greenhood *Pterostylis alpina*. We were enthralled with the calls of the birds as they echoed through the valley. The Crescent Honeyeater was particularly vocal. Tall eucalypts towered overhead and we were able to identify some of them from the fallen fruits and flowers that the birds had obviously enjoyed and dropped to the ground – Manna Gums, Mountain Grey Gums and Southern Blue Gums. The flowers from the Blue Gums were spectacular.

The Bootlace Bush *Pimelea axiflora* was in bloom and its almost lacy-like appearance looked so attractive with its creamy-white flowers against the long green open foliage. The tough fibrous bark along the slender branches was used for string by Koories and early settlers. Sections of the track were lined with stands of Balm Mint-bush *Prostanthera melissifolia* and a few early mauve flowers were appearing.



This will be a delight in spring with its visual appearance and perfume permeating the environment. Another unfamiliar plant the Austral Mulberry *Hedycarya angustifolia* was coming into flower with its small clusters of flowers starting to open at the top of the branches. The mature yellow or orange fruit that will develop is like tiny mulberries.

This very pleasant track followed the creek through regrowth forest, recently burnt sections and woodland. As we walked along we could hear the creek flowing down the gully and eventually were rewarded with good views of the cascades. Crossing the creek a few times we made our way to the viewing point for the Sheoak Falls at Swallow Cave where we had late morning tea as we watched a few swallows, or were they martins, flying around the opening of the cave. .

Having been informed that the lockdown began at 1 pm we made our way back to the picnic ground for lunch before returning home with memories to reflect on and treasure for the next few weeks. **Margaret MacDonald.**



Above left and left: Spots of purple from some early-flowering Balm Mint-bush. Eucalypts resprouting after fire. Below centre: Austral Mulberry. Below right: One of the many very vocal Crescent Honeyeaters.



MACKILLOP COLLEGE COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

As reported in our last Newsletter, Friends of Eastern Otways, Friends of Moggs Creek and Parks Vic Rangers planned an environmental program at Moggs Creek with Year 8 students and teachers from MacKillop College. The aim was to involve the students in caring for the local environment in which they share when at the Guide Camp at Moggs Creek each year.

Unfortunately, the pandemic shutdowns proved a major obstacle to implementing the program in May and June, but nevertheless five sessions were completed with many changes to dates. We thank the volunteers and Rangers who were so flexible with their commitments to the program. We saw approximately 200 students with their teachers heavily involved in caring for the Moggs Creek environment.

Three sessions were held on the coastal heathland at Moggs Creek where the students helped so much with implementing our program funded through the Australian Government's Wild Otway Initiative to control weed invasions in the valuable coastal heathlands.

Our last session that had been delayed until August 4 was particularly successful with the students removing large quantities of environmental weeds that had been cut by contractors in areas that were too difficult for volunteer involvement. The students formed a magnificent team and it was amazing to see the results of their efforts – pulling up the cut vegetation and stacking it in areas for mulching. We congratulate each and every one of them.

We certainly would have had great difficulty completing this task without them and the students can be proud of their achievements. We had very strong support from Parks Victoria Rangers on that day and we were also pleased to welcome Madeleine Slingo from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority who is managing the Government grants for the Wild Otway Initiative to the activity.

We are hopeful that this combined environmental program with MacKillop College will continue in 2022, and that it will be a much easier one to implement. The Friends of Eastern Otways and Friends of Moggs Creek would like to thank the Parks Vic Rangers who have been so supportive of the program giving invaluable assistance at each session. **Margaret MacDonald.**



Top: Parks Vic Rangers and volunteers at the Moggs Creek environmental weeding project.

Above: Maddie from CCMA with MacKillop College teachers Sarah and Troy.

Right: The students with Friends volunteers and Parks Vic Rangers at work in a beautiful environment.



REPAIRING THE ENVIRONMENT

Neglected for management over many years, the Anglesea Heath, which is now part of the Great Otway National Park, has many degraded areas that Parks Victoria is keen to see rehabilitated. Some non-essential tracks have been closed to conserve the valuable flora and fauna that are found in the district. Volunteers have been invited to participate in this important project, and both ANGAIR and the Friends of Eastern Otways have helped by planting indigenous flora species on a track off Shiny Eye Track close to Forest Road.

Instead of our planned weeding day on August 10, the Friends group made its way out to the site where 12 of our members joined with Parks Vic Rangers, Ruby and Kat. By forming humps, the track had been prepared for closure. After an introductory talk by the Rangers, our keen volunteers were enthusiastic to get to work and were soon busily planting trees, shrubs, grasses and other low-growing plants and placing tree guards to protect the young plants from grazing animals. In a very short time 300 plants were in position and the Friends were able to admire their efforts. We all enjoyed the activity – it was a change from weeding. It was great it rained that evening and our young plants would have been given a great start for survival in their new environment. **Margaret MacDonald.**

Top: Parks Vic rangers Katrina and Ruby explaining the project. Volunteers go to work. Below: Assembling the tree guards. Ethan drilling holes for planting. The task is complete and the track closed.



CANDID CAMERA – There's one! Lunch during the Koala Count. Look what I found - Striped Greenhood Orchids.





PLATYPUS IN OTWAYS WATERWAYS

Following reports of Platypus in Otways waterways around Lorne, which has brought delight and excitement to many in the region in recent weeks, we thank Meredith Jelbart for her special article for our Newsletter on the work of the Australian Platypus Monitoring Network. The wonderful photos are by Michael Prideaux.



There have been many sightings of platypus in local waterways. Earlier this year the Australian Platypus Monitoring Network set up a survey group to collect data at one particular point in one of the rivers. Out of 176 scans, a platypus has been spotted 81 times.

Being primarily nocturnal, platypus are most active, and easiest to see, early in the morning or late in the evening. On the surface they float, paddling a little with their front feet, then they will duck dive to forage. The rings of ripples (*pictured at left*) spreading out around the head of the animal in some of the photos are apparently produced as grinding pads in its cheek pouches masticate aquatic insects, freshwater shrimps into a fine paste. 'They have a rather inelegant chewing style, not unlike a cow.' (Melody, from APMN)

The ear slit can be seen. The light-coloured patches beneath the eyes are to suggest to predators that their eyes are open, when in fact platypus swim with closed eyes.



Platypus are particularly active and visible in spring, when they are mating. Sightings have been more frequent recently than they were in autumn. Some monitors in the team have seen two platypuses at the same time, one a little larger than the other. They have both 'camping' burrows and more serious nesting burrows from 3-6 metres long.

Platypus can live to over 20 years. As the young grow to maturity, they seek their own territory, around 5k from their original home.

So it is to be hoped that there are other platypus sites along rivers in the area. APMN would be interested to hear of any sites in the Eastern Otways, where platypus have been seen, and where other monitoring teams might be organised. Contact Geoff or Melody: system@platypusnetwork.org.au





DEAD AND SHRIVELLED FROGS – WE NEED YOUR HELP

Authors - Jodi Rowley, Curator of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Biology at the Australian Museum, and Karrie Rose, Veterinary Scientist at the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health - Taronga Conservation Society Australia at the University of Sydney. Article published in *The Conversation* July 29 2021.

Over the past few weeks, we've received a flurry of emails from concerned people who've seen sick and dead frogs across eastern Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. One person wrote: 'About a month ago, I noticed the Green Tree Frogs living around our home showing signs of lethargy & ill health. I was devastated to find seven of them dead.' Another wrote: 'We previously had a very healthy population of Green Tree Frogs and a couple of months ago I noticed a frog that had turned brown. I then noticed more of them and have since found numerous dead frogs around our property.'

So what's going on? The short answer is: we don't really know. How many frogs have died and why is it a mystery? We're relying on people across Australia to help us solve it.

Why are frogs important?

Frogs are an integral part of healthy Australian ecosystems. While they are usually small and unseen, they're an important thread in the food web, and a kind of environmental glue that keeps ecosystems functioning. Healthy frog populations are usually a good indication of a healthy environment. They eat vast amounts of invertebrates, including pest species, and they're a fundamental food source for a wide variety of other wildlife, including birds, mammals and reptiles. Tadpoles fill our creeks and dams, helping keep algae and mosquito larvae under control while they too become food for fish and other wildlife.

Many of Australia's frog populations are imperilled from multiple threats, such as habitat loss and modification, climate change, invasive plants, animals and diseases. Although we're fortunate to have at least 242 native frog species in Australia, 35 are threatened with extinction.

A truly unusual outbreak

In most circumstances, it's rare to see a dead frog. Most frogs are secretive in nature and, when they die, they decompose rapidly. So the growing reports of dead and dying frogs from across eastern Australia over the last few months are surprising, to say the least.



Above: Peron's Tree Frog are among the most reported of the sick and dying species.

While the first cold snap of each year can be accompanied by a few localised frog deaths, this outbreak has affected more animals over a greater range than previously encountered. In this outbreak, frogs appear to be either darker or lighter than normal, slow, out in the daytime (they're usually nocturnal), and are thin. Some frogs have red bellies, red feet, and excessive sloughed skin.

The outbreak is widespread and generally the rather common Green Tree Frog *Litoria caerulea* seem hardest hit in this event, with the often apple-green and plump frogs turning brown and shrivelled. It's the ninth most commonly recorded frog in the national citizen science project, FrogID. But it has disappeared from parts of its former range. Other species reported as being among the sick and dying include Peron's Tree Frog *Litoria peronii*, the Stony Creek Frog *Litoria lesueuri*, and Green Stream Frog *Litoria phyllochroa*.

So what might be going on?

Amphibians are susceptible to environmental toxins and a wide range of parasitic, bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens. Frogs globally have been battling it out with a pandemic of their own for decades — a potentially deadly fungus often called amphibian chytrid fungus.

This fungus attacks the skin, which frogs use to breathe, drink, and control electrolytes important for the heart to function. It's also responsible for causing population declines in more than 500 amphibian species around the world, and 50 extinctions.

Curiously, some other frog species appear more tolerant to the amphibian chytrid fungus than others. Many now common frogs seem able to live with the fungus, such as the near-ubiquitous Australian Common Eastern Froglet *Crinia signifera*. But if frogs have had this fungus affecting them for decades, why are we seeing so many dead frogs now?

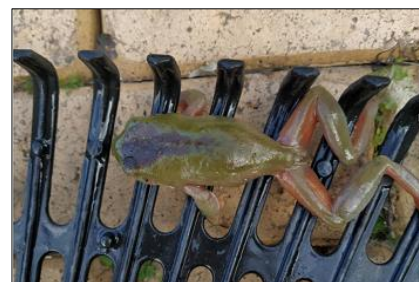
Below: The dried husk of a Green Tree Frog.



Well, disease is the outcome of a battle between a pathogen (in this case a fungus), a host (in this case the frog) and the environment. The fungus doesn't do well in warm, dry conditions. So during summer, frogs are more likely to have the upper hand. In winter, the tables turn. As the frog's immune system slows, the fungus may be able to take hold. Of course, the amphibian chytrid fungus is just one possible culprit. Other less well-known diseases affect frogs.

To date, the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health (ARWH) has confirmed the presence of the amphibian chytrid fungus in a very small number of sick frogs examined from the recent outbreak. However, other diseases — such as ranavirus, myxosporean parasites and trypanosome parasites — have also been responsible for native frog mass mortality events in Australia. It's also possible a novel or exotic pathogen could be behind this. So the ARWH is working with the Australian Museum, government biosecurity and environment agencies as part of the investigation.

We need your help to solve this mystery. Please send any reports of sick or dead frogs (and if possible, photos) to us, via the national citizen science project FrogID, or email calls@frogid.net.au.



Above: A shrivelled Green Tree Frog.
Below: Iconic Green Tree Frogs are hard hit by the mystery outbreak.



Above: A Common Eastern Froglet – the species appear more tolerant to disease.

Hello Friends,

I hope that everyone is ready for another spring on the Surf Coast. So far, we have had a quiet and muddy winter in the Great Otway National Park, whilst it has been an excellent opportunity to see some fantastic fungi in the wet forest. It will be nice to see the wildflowers on show in the Anglesea Heath in spring.

SOUTHSIDE VISITOR AREA PT ADDIS

Firstly, I would like to start off with some exciting news that the team at Anglesea has obtained funding through the Diverse Area Landscapes Project to upgrade the Southside visitor area at Point Addis. The works apply to the Southside boardwalk and lookout platform, including making the lookout to be all abilities access. We are excited to offer a site that can be enjoyed by all.

This upgrade will also include walking track improvements. The Anglesea team have been working with the Wadawurrung to reconsider the cultural walk to reflect their culture. As I am sure the Friends would agree this will be a popular walk, and we hope to have some great signage to match. There will also be some much-needed maintenance, which will include resurfacing and working on some of the problem washouts.



Above: Upgrading at the Southside Visitor area at Pt Addis includes the boardwalk and all abilities access to the lookout.

RANGER KATRINA



I have sad news that Friends member and favourite Ranger Katrina Lovett (*at left*) will be leaving her position on the Surf Coast, where she has been a Team Leader and Acting Chief Ranger for over 15 years. Fortunately, she is not going too far and will be working as a Planning Officer with the Wild Otway Project out of the Lorne Parks Vic office. You can look forward to her article in the next newsletter about the Project which is aimed at enhancing biodiversity in the Otway landscape. I will leave Katrina to go into further details, but I can say is that she is already helping researchers and scientists do some exciting and interesting work in the Otways.

BEACH ACCESS

I feel like this is a standing item for the winter Ranger report, but here we go. Winter swell is once again offering its fair share of problems for our infrastructure. Currently we have two beach access

sites closed due to damage. Both O'Donohues Beach Access and Cumberland Beach Access have had the stairs compromised and are very unstable, which means that we have had to shut the sites. The team have had engineers to assess the damage to the stairs and we hope that we can come up with some suitable solutions soon.



Above: Winter damage to beach access is on ongoing issue, with both O'Donohue's and Cumberland stairs closed.

NEW WALKING TRACK

I thought that this would be a good chance for an update on the new walking track between Kennett River and Wye River. This new walk will continue on from the walking track from Jamieson campground to Wye River. This new section from Wye River to Kennett River will offer locals and visitors to the park an extra opportunity to enjoy this beautiful stretch of forested coastline. Most of the walking track has been formed and shaped. However, there are a few final aspects yet to be completed, unfortunately late winter is often the wettest time in the Otways and will offer a few challenges. We hope the walk from Kennett River to Wye River will be open by summer.

WEED WORKS

There is always an explosion of growth in spring in the Great Otway National Park. Unfortunately, with the good species we also get weeds. I work on a project called the Otway Eden, which acknowledges the rich biodiversity of our landscape and aims to protect it from invasive plants, specially new and emerging weeds.

So please keep sending me pictures of weeds you find when out on walks - it is a big landscape and all help to protect it is appreciated. Many of you may know but in the last few years we have been battling South African Weed Orchid (*left & right*). I have included my email if you would like to report any weeds.

Matthew.russell@parks.vic.gov.au

In spring the Friends are planning to hold two weeding sessions in O'Donohue's to protect our famous Orchids. I encourage you all to join. **Matt Russell, Ranger, Lorne.**

