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FROM THE
PRESIDENT
Patrick
Flanagan

EXTINCTION - THE WORD OF THE YEAR

From my viewpoint, Macquarie Dictionary's word of the year for 2019 should be 'extinction'. Suddenly the word is everywhere, just as Fake News and #MeToo were in 2018.

We added our voice to the Senate committee last year on their investigation of faunal extinction, an activist group in the UK, have called themselves the Extinction Revolution, and even more recently the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services has released its report on global threats to biodiversity and the natural environment and have canvassed the depressing possibility of widespread extinction of natural organisms.

Our submission last September to the Senate Committee on faunal extinction drew on our 20 years of fauna monitoring in the Eastern Otways and noted the decline in small terrestrial mammals we had tracked over that time. Recently, the senate committee has released its interim report (see the link below). While our submission didn't rate a mention in the interim report, I think it was important to add our 2-cents worth. I've skim read the report and, at the risk of getting political, it proposes that the EPBC Act (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) be rescinded and be replaced by an Environmental Protection Commission, to remove Ministerial discretion to identify projects that are exempt (Read Adani, and oil drilling in the Bight). Not surprisingly, the recommendations for change are from Greens and Labour majority members on the committee.

For our part, we should continue our valuable, on-ground work and help protect our special patch. We should also continue to advocate for the environment, as a good in itself and to transmit our values to the next generations.

It is pleasing to know that we have important and influential support. Two important names come to mind, Saul Vermeeren and Dr Mark Norman. Mark, Chief Conservation Scientist with Parks Victoria, was the guest speaker at ANGAIR's recent 50th Anniversary Dinner. He emphasised urgency of action is required to conserve the natural environment with its high level of biodiversity. He also showed us fascinating, high-quality images of Victoria's unique wildlife – small mammals, birds, and marine fauna. We are confident that Mark's leadership and his influence on government decisions will ensure protection of Victoria's parks for future generations.

More locally, our discussions with Saul have given us renewed confidence that the finalisation of the transfer of Alcoa leasehold land to the GONP will be achieved with special recognition of the environmental values of the area and the importance of its conservation.

If we have our way, the Dictionary may have to look elsewhere for the word of the year!

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Faunalexinction/~media/Committees/ec_ctte/Faunalexinction/Interim%20report/report.pdf

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANGAIR – CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FOR 50 YEARS

The Friends of Eastern Otways congratulates ANGAIR on achieving the exciting milestone of 50 years of caring for the local environment, documented so well in the history book *ANGAIR: the first 50 years* compiled by Ros Gibson.

This is a great publication as John Arnott, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, states in his foreword 'it captures the environmental significance, the beauty and diversity of the region and 50 years of extraordinary ecological and social impact facilitated

by this dedicated group of true environmentalists 'down the coast'.

Our group was pleased to join with other conservation minded people to celebrate this

occasion when ANGAIR hosted the 50th Anniversary Dinner, and launch of the book by Geoff Carr, Ecology Australia, at Peppers The Sands Resort Torquay on April 27. As we are all members of ANGAIR this was indeed a shared celebration and it was a great evening.

Dr Mark Norman, Chief Conservation Scientist and Director of Environment and Science from Parks Victoria, was the guest speaker who delivered an awe-inspiring presentation of the riches, challenges and achievements in caring for Victoria's park system. Mark emphasised the importance of local conservationists in caring for the natural environment. **Margaret MacDonald**



Above: Some early arriving Friends at Angair's 50th Anniversary Dinner. Left: Geoff Carr, Ecology Australia speaks with Ros Gibson about the book *Angair; the first 50 years*.





ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDING



ANGLESEA HEATHLANDS PROGRAM

Our autumn weeding program continued on the Anglesea Heathland on March 12, April 9 and May 14. We have had good attendance and we thank the regulars who come along each month and so happily give of their time to care for the national park. It is an enjoyable experience followed by coffee at a local cafe.

In March and May we were pleased to have Chris and Lyn Bull with us on their regular visit to Anglesea. The group of 11 mainly concentrated on removing Coast/Sallow Wattle from the woodland area and we are keen to revisit that area in the coming months.



In April it was a smaller group, but Patrick's grandson James was a great helper removing boneseed seedlings. Boneseed was certainly the target for that session with so many seedlings being found in the area that was burnt in 2018. We also found a colony of mature bushes that were a challenge to us. An exciting find was what we believe to be an extensive patch of Satin Everlasting *Helichrysum leucopsidium* that emphasised the reason we are keen to remove environmental weeds. Unfortunately the flowers were almost finished but we will be on the alert next year.

In May we followed up the extensive areas of boneseed and were helped greatly by a group of Parks Vic staff who attacked the wattles for us. We look forward to some more action by Parks Vic in this area.

WINTER PROGRAM – Anglesea Heathlands

Yes we have decided to stay in the same area – still plenty of challenges!

Tuesdays June 11, July 9 and August 13. Meet in lower end of O'Donohue Rd Anglesea at 9.30am. *Contact Margaret 0412 652 419*



COMING EVENTS



ANNUAL KOALA COUNT

Saturday June 8

Meet at Aireys Inlet Community Centre 9.30am

Contact: Kaye 0408 551 667

Our annual count of Koalas is a fun day out looking for Koalas along Grey River Road at Kennett River, with plenty of opportunity for bird watching too. Bring morning tea, lunch, sturdy footwear and wet weather gear if necessary. And your binoculars.



FUNGI WALK AT LAKE ELIZABETH

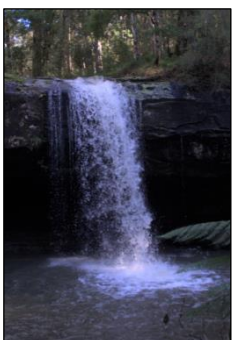
Saturday July 20

Meet at Aireys Inlet Community Centre 9am

Contact: Patrick 0437 561 702

A circuit of 7-8km, from the lower carpark including a circuit of the lake, crossing wetland on a boardwalk, and returning along the northern side. Moderate difficulty on access route.

Lake Elizabeth is close to the village of Forrest. It is a beautiful "perched" lake, formed by a landslide blocking the east branch of the Barwon River in 1952. It provides suitable habitat for birds and a significant colony of platypus. See grassland and wetland areas, Tree-ferns, Manna gums, Mountain Grey gums, Messmates and Blackwoods. Watch for fungi that was a feature of the Friends visit in April 2013. Bring morning tea, lunch, water, sturdy footwear and wet weather gear if necessary.



KALIMNA FALLS WALK

Saturday 17 August

Contact: Alison 0400 570 229

Meet at Aireys Inlet Community Centre at 9.30am

Easy 7.4 km walk to the Lower Kalimna Falls but not the Upper Falls as they are closed for boardwalk maintenance. There should be a reasonable amount of water by August to create the lovely veil of water we can look through from the cave behind. The old timber tramway track follows the fern-lined Sheoak Creek with tall eucalypts and rainforest vegetation with glimpses of the creek. We will continue on the slightly uphill path to Garvey Track which is then mostly downhill back to the Sheoak Picnic Ground. Perhaps we will see some koalas. Bring morning tea, lunch, water, sturdy footwear and wet weather gear if necessary.





TWO RIVERS WALK – KENNETT & CUMBERLAND RIVERS – March 16



It was a very small but happy group that arrived for our first walk of the year. At Kennett River we began with morning tea and leisurely reading the new interpretive displays. The signs are attractive and cover many topics to inform walkers and visitors to the area. We observed lots of birds eventually having a list of 30 species. The family of Swampheens was interesting to watch the four young who seemed to have large bills for their body size. Many Wood Ducks sheltered in the shade of the river-side trees and lots of Satin Bowerbirds were calling and feeding on blackberries, and apples in the neighbouring garden. The Silvereys were feeding on Kangaroo-apples. Only one koala was sighted in what seemed a very suitable habitat with tall healthy trees.

The area is so attractive being lush green with tall tree ferns, currant-bushes still fruiting, glimpses of the rock walls of the narrow gorge and clear running water. We looked carefully for

Rakali, the water rat, in small pools and running water but were unsuccessful. Where the track petered out we sat for a while listening to the babbling water and bird calls high above us – a beautiful natural environment. Growing alongside the track was the Forest Hound's-tongue with tiny white flowers, and when we looked closely we could see, and feel, the sharp spikes on the stem.

After lunch back at the picnic tables we headed for Cumberland River. In contrast to Kennett River there were many more people walking and enjoying the forest, and the campground was full. The tall cliffs bordering the river were impressive. Birdlife was less apparent possibly due to the time of day. A snake was seen sunning itself on the side of the track but was shoed away by a thong-wearing family before we could identify it.

We tasted white Native Elderberry fruits which were quite bitter- not as tasty as the smaller and sweeter Native Currants. After a creek crossing, we reached Jebb's Pool and enjoyed the ambience, the icy cold water and surrounding tall trees. Lizards sunned themselves on the rocks and golden-coloured dragonflies were flitting over the water. It was a very pleasant day discovering two lovely river valleys in our park. **Alison Watson.**



ANGLESEA HEATH WALK – RED RIVER & DENHAM TRACK – April 20

Although it was the second month of autumn the weather was more typical of a summer's day with blue skies and sunshine as we set off on this joint activity walk with ANGAIR to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organisation that was formed in April 1969. At Donna's suggestion we retraced some of the steps from the first 'Get To Know Our Tracks' walk in 1996 that Margaret also led.

The first section of the walk along Red River Track really brought home to us just how badly affected the bushland is by the drought conditions. Dry brown bracken and drooping vegetation greeted us on either side of the track where Margaret identified Scentbark *Eucalyptus aromaphloia* growing. We were amazed however to see a white punk fungus growing on one of the eucalypts. The track is very badly eroded and being cut up by 4WD vehicles and trail bikes that are using the area.



It is one of the tracks that Parks Vic is considering closing and perhaps making a walk circuit in the area.

However as we got closer to the Salt Creek area things did improve and Kaye spotted a banksia in flower - the first flowering plant we had observed and Margi then found a spray of pink heath so all was not lost. A little bit further along and the Propeller Plant *Spyridium vexilliferum* was flowering quite extensively. We had morning tea and a rest at the intersection of Red River Track and Denham Track and then set off along Denham Track.



The Twisted Beard Heath *Leucopogon glacialis*, a feature of the walk in 1996 showed that it was not concerned with the dry conditions and was really spectacular with its white fluffy flowers and spirally twisted leaves. There were good views across the Otways as we made our way out to No2 Rd. Turning into No 2 Rd we walked on the roadside and verge as we made our way back to Bald Hills Rd to where we had started the walk at Red River Track. We then looked for a shady spot to sit and enjoy our lunch. It was indeed a great day to be outdoors and it shows that even in the extremely dry conditions there is beauty to be found and admired in our wonderful environment. The plant list that we compiled included approximately 60 plant species. Thanks to Donna for listing the species. **Donna Lannan and Margaret MacDonald.**



FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

BRISBANE RANGES VISIT – May 18

After early voting we gathered at Anakie Gorge and were greeted by three yellow robins. The Friends group swelled to seventeen including Colin and Wendy Cook and their two children Kristen and Owen who were our hosts for the day. Colin gave a brief history of the Brisbane Ranges National Park and the Friends group.

The Brisbane Ranges was declared a National Park in 1973 encompassing 1132ha. Additional land was added to the Park in 1995 and again in 2010 and 2013 with the Brisbane Ranges National Park now covering a total of approx. 8906ha. Timber had been used to provide mine props during the gold years and also for fencing and firewood over many years, with the surrounding area taken up as farmland.



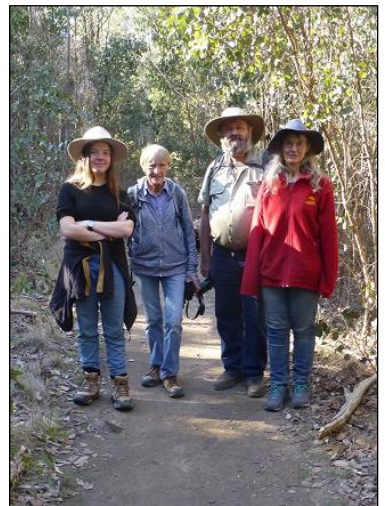
In 2006 there was an intense wildfire throughout the park and due to many years of drought following, it took a long time to recover. As a result the Friends group started a fauna monitoring program after realizing there was a lack of data available and has been developing a nest box program monitoring the Brush-tailed Phascogale population. For more information see the Friends website

<http://www.fobr.org.au/friends/projects/phascogale-project> or the SWIFFT website

https://www.swiff.net.au/cb_pages/team_brushtailed_phascogale_project.php

There were many birds to identify in this part of the Park as we made our way along the Anakie Gorge track, including lots of beautiful Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters. We saw the hand constructed stone weir, pipeline and brick tunnels which were constructed in the 1880s to supply water to Geelong from the Stony Creek reservoir. Colin had photos showing the original work, and reconstruction after extensive flood damage in 2011.

After an enjoyable lunch at Stony Creek Picnic Ground we headed back at a faster pace enjoying the company of the group. The younger Cooks marvelled at the water left from the recent



downpours - an extremely unusual sight in this dry environment. Many tiny fungi were observed once we started looking carefully and tiny plants and mosses were emerging after the rain. Although we only saw one section of this great National Park it was a most enjoyable experience, and we thank the Cook family for sharing it with us. It is always interesting to hear about other National Parks and the Friends groups who volunteer to help look after them. **Alison Watson.**



Top: Friends of Eastern Otways with Friends of Brisbane Ranges at the start of the Anakie Gorge Walk. Above right: Walking through regrowth revegetation burnt in 2006. Above left: Lunchtime at Stony Creek Picnic Ground. Below left: Viewing the rocky gorge. Below right: Colin Cook explaining some of the history to the group.





MOTH BIOSCAN AT SHEOAK PICNIC GROUND



Above: Moths to the light. Below: Margaret & Hugh, and two of the varieties of moths attracted to the lights during the Bioscan.

On March 23 some of the Friends attended a public biodiversity survey of moths of the Otways. Known as a BIOSCAN, the evening was hosted by Museums Victoria at Sheoak Picnic Ground in Lorne. From experts in the field like Marilyn Hewish we learnt the names of each of the many moths attracted to the light.

It had been a warm day, and there was even a sprinkling of rain earlier which I thought would encourage some nocturnal insect activity. The experts weren't happy with the breeze though, which they said often corresponded with a lack of activity.

Despite the wind, for us laypeople it seemed there was an incredible variety of moths and other insects on display. We had a close look at many species, and the kids (all of which were out way past their bedtimes) had a great

time looking through magnifying glasses at this oft-hidden world of life, and certainly didn't want to go home to bed. **Peter Crowcroft.**



SWIFFT VIDEO CONFERENCE – BEES, WASPS & ANTS

Margaret and Kaye attended the SWIFFT Video Conference held on 4 April 4 when Dr Ken Walker, Museums Victoria, introduced the Order Hymenoptera (bees, wasps and ants).



About 120 million years ago, bees evolved from wasps. Flowering plants (Angiosperms) evolved approx. 160 million years ago and a group of wasps became vegans – and we call them bees. Australia has approximately 1,700 native bee species. Ken spoke about the importance of bees as pollinators, the threats they face and how we can learn about them through citizen science.

The second presentation titled *Why you should love wasps: An introduction to Australian native parasitoid wasps* was delivered by Erinn Fagan-Jeffries, Ph.D student, University of Adelaide. She spoke about common groups of wasps in our environment and her research on wasps which parasitise caterpillars. The positive role of wasps in the environment, particularly as biological control agents. Ants as environmental ambassadors. Peter Muller explained the



importance of small reserves and remnant vegetation as refuges which can support a viable population of native ants. His project helps to raise community awareness of ants, and how to identify the various forms and styles of ant mounds.

In the final presentation, Karen Retra, co-founder of Wild Pollinator Count suggested that relatively little is known about the thousands of native pollinator insect species in Australia. She encouraged people to observe and record pollination taking place and the interactions between pollinators and flowers, so the data can be entered onto a website. **Kaye Traynor**



ON A HOT DAY ...

It was a scorching hot day in March and I knew the school would not want their grade 3's going on a walk out in the bush, so when I got the call I wasn't surprised: 'Pete, we need to cancel today ... we'll just get the kids watching a movie.' 'Well' I said, 'I could come and do some activities at school with small groups of kids while the others watch movies?'

I rummaged around the garage and found some large plastic containers, got a shovel and headed outside into the oven to the Anglesea Primary School. On such a hot day it was easy for the kids to understand the need that animals need fresh water too. Our small groups headed to the corners of the school yard and dug in our containers. We filled them with water, and added bridges and sticks for perches and escape routes.

Then I had a brainwave and got Patrick on the phone. 'Have you got any cameras lying around at the moment?'' Yes, of course he did! We set them up on the Friday after school, and collected them on Monday morning. It was incredible to see how much usage our bird and animal baths had over the scorching hot weekend. When I presented the photos to the whole school assembly, the kids were thrilled.

Species seen: Currawong, Magpie, Crimson Rosella, Red Wattlebird, Eastern Yellow Robin, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, Spotted Pardalote, Brown Thornbill, White-eared Honeyeater, Blackbird, Fox, Rabbit. **Peter Crowcroft**

Top: White-eared Honeyeater & below, a Red Wattlebird.





SPOTLIGHTING IN THE PARK - JUNIOR RANGER HOLIDAY FUN



Parks Victoria's Junior Ranger program provides fun, park ranger-led activities for children aged six to twelve and their families aimed at encouraging kids to get outdoors and explore Victoria's amazing parks. During the recent school holidays the Friends of Eastern Otways once again helped implement a spotlighting activity at Moggs Creek with Carlie Bronk and Claire Miller, two local Parks Vic Rangers.

Patrick with his grandson James, and Pete and Ellen with Hugh and Ollie joined the four families who had registered with Parks Vic for the evening activity, so we had a large number of children who met at 6pm at Moggs Creek picnic ground just as it was getting dark. Patrick and James already had the fire burning and it was the focal point as the visitors arrived.

After a short introductory talk about listening and looking, the group set off along the circuit trail observing marks on trees and listening to a few birds saying goodnight. We got some really good calls from the Yellow-bellied Gliders but unfortunately we were not able to track them down. Some of the group observed some scorpions but there certainly wasn't much action in the forest that night. Towards the end of the walk keen eyes did pick up a creature with a black tail very high up in one of the eucalypts – perhaps a Glider or perhaps a Brushtail Possum!

We walked the whole circuit enjoying the experience of being out in the dark of the forest. As we neared the picnic ground we could smell the smoke from the fire that Claire was minding and were pleased to have a hot cuppa or a cordial on our return. Toasted marshmallows really went down well with the kids.

Margaret MacDonald

Left and above: Lots of children enjoyed the evening activities.

Top right: Toasting the marshmallows.

Right: Listening to Carlie are Claire Miller & Pete Crowcroft



 **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome new members Mathieu Vaupres and family from Irrewarra and Justine Holmes from Torquay to the Friends of Eastern Otways.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION – CAN YOU HELP?

The Friends of Eastern Otways has offered to support Peter Crowcroft (our esteemed Vice President and Education Officer for GORCC) and Matt Russell (our much-valued Liaison Ranger) with hosting MacKillop College, Werribee, during their outdoor education program from late May until mid July. The students will be staying at the Moggs Creek Guide Camp. Matt and Pete have planned sessions to remove weeds from along the internal coastal dunes at Moggs Creek where the Eels carried out some weed removal a few years ago. Class sizes are about 24 students max with students working in smaller groups. There are 14 sessions when assistance is required, mostly on a Friday morning. If you could help with any of the sessions please email Margaret or Patrick: margmac@iprimus.com.au, prflanagan@gmail.com



Above left: Members of the Friends and Angair enjoy morning tea at the intersection of Red River Track and Denham Track during the joint Anglesea Heath Walk on April 20. Above right: Friends weeding in the woodland area on the Anglesea Heathland on March.


VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENT FRIENDS NETWORK

The Victorian Environment Friends Network exists to help represent the common interests of all Friends groups in Victoria. The Friends of Eastern Otways is an affiliated member of the VEFN and work in conjunction with Parks Victoria to help care for our Great Otway National Park.

In April, two of our committee members Kaye Traynor and Marg MacDonald participated in a VEFN forum that was held in Geelong where several Friends groups came together to share information about activities and discuss ideas for strengthening Friends groups. Some of the groups represented were Friends of Edwards Point Reserve on the Bellarine Peninsula, Friends of Pt Richards Reserve Portarlington, Friends of Buckleys Falls, Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve and the Geelong Field Naturalists Club. The informal network discussion allowed contacts to be made for possible visits to some of these areas and thus share in the activities being carried out.

Christine Connelly, a lecturer in Environmental Science at Victoria University whose recently completed PhD explored the effects of urbanisation on Eastern Yellow Robins, gave an informative talk on *Embracing Change* and the importance of vegetation corridors to the survival of fauna species. We are so privileged to have the Eastern Yellow Robin as a common resident in the Otways.



 **MAMMAL SURVEYS**



On Tuesday, May 14, we removed the last camera from a site where we have been monitoring a Southern Brown Bandicoot in a gully west of O'Donohues Rd and north of the Great Ocean Road. This is the site of a prescribed burn in April, 2018. We first observed her in October, 2018 and she has been a regular visitor to our cameras since then. Early camera footage showed a female with young in her pouch. These are the most extended sightings of this species in the 20 years we have been monitoring. Previously we have had at most, one or two frames of a SBB on our cameras. We wish her well. Recent shots show that her pouch seems less full, which we hope means her young are growing elsewhere.

In mid April we put 6 of our cameras off Harrison's Track North, where we hope to find evidence of the White-footed Dunnart, and if we are really fortunate that of the New Holland Mouse. Fingers crossed, as solid evidence of the NHM hasn't been obtained around Anglesea since 1983. More recent findings from Parks Vic have contained pictures of a Dunnart in the area. Here's hoping!

In March we submitted our final annual report to the Ethics Committee that gives us approval to do the camera monitoring, using baits. In that report we noted that in the previous 12 months we had carried out over 800 camera days of monitoring using over 30 cameras in six locations and had captured images of 18 species (15 native and 3 feral). We also noted that we had processed over 20,000 frames which represent 100s of visits to the camera sites. Next year we will re-apply for ethics clearance so we can continue the camera monitoring.

More recently we applied for a continuation of a wildlife permit to put our cameras in the GONP and other public lands. Just last week, we were informed that the permit has been renewed for another three years. **Patrick Flanagan**

Hello Friends,

I hope that everyone is well and enjoying the mixed bag of weather, glorious autumn days and a taste of chilly winter, that we have had recently. It was good to have rain, and I am hoping that there is more to come. I am sorry that I was unable to make it to the last couple of Friends of the Eastern Otways meetings and sessions due to other commitments, hopefully you will soon see a lot more of me.



Which leads nicely into....

I have been very lucky to be appointed to a permanent position as a Ranger with Parks Victoria based in Lorne. As some of you know I recently completed a two-year contract and was hoping for an on-going position. Thank you to all the Friends and the kind words, plus the campaigning on my behalf. I look forward to working with the Friends on a permanent basis and I am always available if anyone requires assistance or has any inquiries.

Jamieson Campground is still shut for a much-needed upgrade, we hope to have it open at the start of October in time for the summer period. The new upgraded campground will cater for a variety of camping, have a toilet, and a new viewing platform. Also, work on the new walking track to connect Jamieson Campground with Separation Creek is about to begin with the last of the cultural heritage assessments nearing completion.

I should also mention that seasonal closures are coming soon for the Great Otway National Park. The 13th of June is the date this year on which we will shut the gates to our lesser used 4WD tracks and give them a much needed rest for the winter.

Our team has just wrapped up an off-track motorbike compliance operation, with the assistance of our DELWP colleagues and Victoria Police. This operation targeted illegal behaviour, off-track riding on public land, and riding in the water catchment. However, our authorised officers also witnessed a variety of other offences, including illegal camping and fires.

As always, our off-track motorbike compliance operations successfully used authorised DELWP and PV riders to carry out the operation, who are pictured at right. It is worth mentioning that with each of our targeted operations, we have noticed that there has been a reduction in illegal behaviour plus we encounter more riders doing the right thing. Which for us is a win!



In the Anglesea Heath a large-scale study of Cinnamon Fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is underway. This study will provide a clear picture of the current infestation size, and potential spread of this damaging pathogen. This study will also provide Parks Victoria with a set of management recommendations, and we hope we can better deal with Cinnamon Fungus in future. This huge task is being undertaken by Barb Wilson and Mark Garkaklis who are well known to everyone in the Friends of the Eastern Otways. I must say that they have already provided us with a lot to think about as land managers.



The Anglesea Parks team have been busy finishing off the new Demons Bluff walking track, which was a reroute of a section that was deemed unsafe by engineers who studied the erosion that has undermined the track. Pictured at left are two of our Rangers hard at work Mike Gerl and Felix Marshall.

Also, I would like to thank all the Friends of the Eastern Otways members that made it down to the Otway Bioscan community presentation in the Wye River Surf Lifesaving Club, pictured at right. I know that it was hard to get down there with the ANGAIR dinner on the same night, but I will endeavour to share any of the published material that is produced by the Bioscan team if the Friends are interested.



For those you who didn't hear about it, the Otway Bioscan was a collection of studies on a range of topics across the Otways conducted by the Melbourne Museum. These topics included palaeontology, water insects in the Otway rivers and the very popular moth study. On a personal note, I think from all the presenting scientists that I spoke to, the biggest takeaway was the richness in diversity that exists in the Great Otway National Park, which is always a good reminder of why this area is so special. I hope that you are all inspired to head out into the cold this winter and see some diversity in the Park.

Thank you once again to everybody for helping us look after the Great Otway National Park, Matt Russell, Ranger, Lorne.