

Dear Friends of Coolart,

This is the first issue of our newsletter, which will appear quarterly. We hope to keep you up-to-date with news from Coolart and to advertise any functions or activities planned for the Friends of Coolart. We would also like to hear from you, by way of letters or phone calls, so please send us your comments or ideas which can be published for discussion, or forwarded to the Committee of Management for their consideration. We also hope to hear regularly from the Chairman of the Committee of Management, Gordon Cameron, and the Warden, Graham Pizzey, messages from whom appear below.

The Friends of Coolart Committee were elected at a general meeting of Friends at Coolart on 13th February this year. Members of the Committee are: Tom Blamey, MaryJean Officer, Dick Scotton, Beryl Smith, Liz Tapp, D. Wright, and Marion Taylor (Sec.). The Committee will meet every two months at Coolart to plan projects and functions for the Friends, and to make suggestions and recommendations which go to the Warden and the Committee of Management. Marion Taylor attends the Committee of Management meetings as an observer on behalf of the Friends Committee.

DATES TO REMEMBER

On the last Sunday of every month a stall will be held at Coolart. Proceeds will go to a fund to furnish some of the rooms in the house. Two previous stalls have raised approximately \$350.00.

If you can help with plants, cakes, craft work, knitting, sewing, etc., MaryJean Officer (82 6424) would be very pleased to hear from you. Saleable articles can be brought to Coolart on the day. Please price them clearly.

Sunday, 6th June. Honorary Warden Training Scheme.

Later in the year it is hoped to establish a monthly Friends Day at Coolart on a Saturday, which will be run by and for Friends of Coolart. To enable interested Friends to understand what is involved in coping with these days, as well as the normal Open Days, the Warden will hold a morning and an afternoon training session on Sunday, 6th June. Participants will need to be available for most of the day. They will be divided into two groups - while one group attends a session, the other will be needed to staff the usual Open Day services. Please ring Marion Taylor (03) 568 0253, or Graham Pizzey at Coolart 059 82 1333 if you would like to attend.

LETTERS

From the Chairman, Committee of Management.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to have the opportunity to extend to the "Friends of Coolart" the congratulations of the Committee of Management and to express our appreciation that so many people feel so sympathetically about Coolart that it has been possible to constitute a Committee to extend the "Friends's" interests. A great deal has been achieved in the few years since Coolart Reserve came into existence and I am sure that much more will be accomplished in the years to come, however very little could have come about without the enthusiastic support, both physical and financial, which we have received. I believe that a great deal of the quality which is obvious at Coolart today is brought about by the active involvement of the many people with a feeling of "belonging". I congratulate your Committee on the initiatives that they are taking and feel sure that the future of Coolart is even brighter.

From the Warden. News of Coolart.

At last we have had rain, and Coolart is already looking different. The paddocks are greener, and the newest addition to the Wetland, a large landscaped pool with an island, completed in the week before Easter, has already started to fill, boosted by the run-off from the new carpark.

The old aviary, removed from the garden, has been reincarnated as a small bird hide and erected at the southern end of the Wetland, where it will give a panorama of the duck, dotterels and herons using the lower portions. Now

protected by the high wall of the new pool, these birds are becoming more settled.

A low boardwalk has been constructed across the creek to give access to the new hide. When suitable notices are ready, the new hide will be opened for use. Access will be from the last section of the Woodland Walk, placed in such a way that the hide can be reached without disturbing the birds.

Once new trees are in place, this should be a pleasant addition to Coolart's range of attractions, even though small - holding only about eight at a time. Construction was made possible by a thoughtful donation, \$500 during 1981, by the Native Fauna Conservation Society. It will be officially opened later this year.

ROSTERS

Once again we are asking for help on Open Days at Coolart. The blank roster below covers June, July and August. Please mark those days on which you can help, and return the form to:

(Mrs) M. Taylor,
19 Midlothian St,
Chadstone. 3148.

Two further requests for help - we need someone who can be available on a regular once a month basis between 11.00am and 2.00pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays to help in the shop at Coolart.

- are there any Friends living reasonably close to Coolart who could be available at short notice to help in an emergency on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 11.00am and 2.00pm in the shop.?

OPEN DAY ROSTER

Day	Time	
	10.30am - 1.30pm	1.30pm - 5.00pm
June 13		
June 20		
June 27		
July 4		
July 11		
July 18		
July 25		
Aug 1		
Aug 8		
Aug 15		
Aug 22		
Aug 29		

REGULAR MONTHLY HELP

Please say whether Tues or Thurs and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th week of the month.

EMERGENCY ROSTER

Please say whether Tues. Wed or Thurs. would be preferred.

Tues.

Wed.

Thurs.

NAME

ADDRESS

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TEL.....

Dear Friends of Coolart,

After the first newsletter appeared in May there was some discussion on its format. Some Friends were happy to have an inexpensive duplicated sheet; others believed that a more costly, professionally produced newsletter would be more appropriate. The Committee have decided to do both. The first three newsletters for the year will be duplicated sheets, while the fourth will be a more elaborate publication incorporating some photographs, and, we hope, letters and articles from Friends.

Coolart has now settled into a pattern of opening on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm. Our thanks go to all Friends who offered help on Sundays or weekdays. Sue Pizzey now has a regular team who take care of the shop during the week, as well as a list of emergency helpers who can be called upon if need arises.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, 2nd October is the annual Friends Day at Coolart. Barbecues will be available from 12.00 noon onwards, and the meeting will start at 2.00 pm. The Chairman of the Committee of Management, Mr Gordon Cameron, and the Warden, Mr Graham Pizzey will both have some comments to make on developments at Coolart. Mrs Marion Taylor will report on the activities of the Friends Committee. Members of the 1983 Friends Committee will be elected. If you would like to be a member of the committee please give your name to any member of the present committee. After the meeting some of our more experienced bird observers will take small groups of Friends on conducted bird-watching tours of Coolart.

On Sunday, 28th November, a stall will be held in the stables. Donations of cakes, jams, sweets, plants, craftwork, and items suitable for Christmas gifts or decoration will be most welcome. Please price them clearly.

Photographic Competition. The Committee are planning to hold a photographic competition during spring and summer and to display some of the best entries at Coolart. More details will be given on October 2nd, so start getting out your cameras now.

NEW FRIENDS

We welcome the following new Friends of Coolart who have joined between January and June of this year.

Miss J. Altmann	Miss M. Foster	Mr and Mrs F. McBain
Mrs N. Austin and family	Miss M. Fraser	Mrs J. Mulcahy and family
Mr and Mrs C. Andrews		Ms J. McConnell
Mr and Mrs A. Adair	Mrs C. Guggisberg	Mr and Mrs S. Meyer
	Mr and Mrs S. Greig	Mrs B. Mentz
Mr and Mrs W. Banks	Mr and Mrs K. Gillies	Mr and Mrs C. McNicol
Mrs M. Bailey		
Mrs M. Broughton	Mr and Mrs R. Hampton	Mr T. Osborn
Miss J. Baker	Mr and Mrs J. Henshall	Mr M. O'Rourke
T. and P. Billington	Dr and Mrs S. Howes	
Mr and Mrs M. Brooks	Mr and Mrs K. Heale	Mr and Mrs A. Pallane
Mr and Mrs T. Baker		Mr and Mrs K. Pescod
Mr and Mrs R. Batty	Miss A. Kelly	Mrs B. Page
	Mr and Mrs L. Kerr	
Mrs G. Campbell	Miss R. Kenna	Mr and Mrs J. Ritchie
Mr V. Clucas	Mrs J. Kenna	Mrs L. Roberts
Mr B. Carroll	Dr and Mrs F. Kiel	
		Mr C. Switzer
Ms J. Drew	Master M. Luders	
Mr and Mrs B. Downie	Ms L. Langtree	Mr D. Thomson
Miss M. Dickins	Miss F Leigh	Mr and Mrs K. Tarrant
		Mr and Mrs K. Thompson
Mr and Mrs W. Eady	Mrs J. Morris	Mr and Mrs R. Turner & family

Mrs J. Watts
 Mr P. Webster
 Mr. I. Wright
 Mr and Mrs S. Watt and family
 Mr and Mrs G. Watson and family

Mr and Mrs M. Ziegler

WARDEN'S MESSAGE

This has been the most unusual winter at Coolart for many years. Rainfall is some 120mm below average for the year and the lagoon is still some way below overflow level. (Normally it overflows into the New Wetland during July or early August.

Despite these conditions, breeding by ibis actually started earlier than usual (on June 20), we presume as a result of an isolated heavy rain. Some 30 or 40 nests were started, but when no further rain fell, no further nests were started.

The next development came after August 11, when torrential rain and hail dumped 150mm+ on Coolart in the space of a few hours. The lagoon rose nearly 30 cm, and ibis went into their typical frenzy of display, fighting and jostling for nest-sites.

Probably 100 more nests were started, and the lagoon scene is starting to look more like normal, only if you look carefully you'll see a large difference in size between the young hatched after the first burst of nesting, and those of the later activity.

The drought has had one other effect: it is driving waterfowl out of the island on the traditional retreat to the coasts, and we are the beneficiaries. Consequently we now have good numbers of hardheads, black duck, shovellers and grey teal. There appears to be at least one pair of blue-billed duck, and our resident pair of pink-ears are nesting (in a nest-box) for the second year running. Last year they hatched 9 young.

Songbirds and others are looking and sounding like spring. Spotted pardalotes are renovating last year's burrow on the slope near the Old Buttery, and we have seen and heard the first bronze-ruckoo.

We have received 1,500 young trees from the Forests Commission, (silver banksias, golden wattles, bluegums purple Hardenbergia - sounds colourfull!). These must be planted by early October.

Last week the first of the trial tree-seeding plots near the Beach Track produced the first young she-oaks grown from seed on Coolart. However, we still have to get our methods and timing right before this method succeeds.

So there's a good deal happening.

If the drought has produced any lesson, it's that we must get a bore established (apart from the Warden) to supplement natural run-off and catchment from the paddocks and the carpark.

A bore (cost c. \$5,000) with even a modest flow of good fresh water, would give us some control over levels of water in the wetland and lagoon, and if the quality was good enough, be a backstop for the garden as well.

Any ideas?

Sue and I are off on leave for most of September, but we're looking forward to seeing as many Friends as possible on Friend's Day on Saturday, 2nd October.

STOP PRESS

On Sunday, 12th September for the first time the new carpark was completed.

3/82

P.O. Box 84,
Balyharring. 3926.
15/10/82

Dear Friend of Coolart,

At the General Meeting of Friends on Saturday, 2nd October, it was decided to hold a special working party to plant trees at Coolart. If these young trees are to survive it is important that they are put into the ground in the next few weeks.

Date:- Saturday, 23rd October.

Time:- 9.30 am. It is hoped to start planting at 10.00 am and to work until 1.00 pm.

Please bring your own gardening equipment such as spades, picks, or hand tools, and a pair of gardening gloves. Barbecues will be available from 1.00 pm, so bring your lunch and enjoy a get-together with other Friends. Drinks will be provided by the Committee of Management.

Forthcoming Activities.

Photographic Competition:- the subject to be anything within the boundaries of Coolart Reserve. Closing date:- the last day of February, 1983. Two divisions:- black and white print; colour print, prints to be not less than post card size.

Stall:- Sunday, November 28th, in the stables. Donations of saleable items will be welcome. Please price them clearly.

An Apology.

There have been problems with our mailing list which is produced by the Ministry of Conservation's computer, and we now know that some Friends have not been receiving newsletters, notices, or rosters. If you know of any Friends who are in this situation, or if this is the first communication you have received from Coolart this year, please ring Coolart, 059 82 1333, or Mrs Marion Taylor, 568 0253, and copies of any notices you have missed will be sent to you.

FRIENDS OF COOLART

"A SPRING EVENING AT COOLART"

November 1992

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We wish to advise Friends that on Saturday evening, 27th November, our good friends and supporters the Hastings Rotary Club, are hosting 'a spring evening at Coolart'.

Drinks and savouries 7.00pm - 10.00pm
Art exhibitions will be hosted by leading peninsular galleries
Stroll on the lawns; see Coolart lagoon at dusk

The evening will also feature the return of our favourite musicians - Di Otto, vocalist; Bronwyn Gibbs, flute; Eve Hayes, guitar.

Do come, meet other Friends and Neighbours and enjoy yourself. Dress optional.

Proceeds from the evening will be largely spent on improvements to Coolart. In particular, we hope that the cost of the first stage of our new freshwater bore, for emergency garden watering and for maintaining water levels in the Lagoon and Wetlands areas will be met.

Friends wishing to attend may do so by sending a cheque for the appropriate number of tickets (\$10.00 per head) to :

Mrs Sue Pizzey
Coolart Reserve
Box 84 P.O. Balnarring 3926

Because of the shortness of time, tickets will not be sent out. Your name will be entered on a reserve list and checked off at the Lord Somers Rd gate as you enter. (This arrangement applies to Friends of Coolart and their guests only. Other guests must obtain tickets from Hastings Rotary Club.)

STALL

Come and buy your Christmas gifts at the stall to be held in the stables at Coolart on Sunday, 28th November, from 11.00 am to 4.30 pm. Donations of cakes, sweets, jams, craftwork, and other saleable items would be appreciated. Please price them clearly.

PRE-CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

Have you ever seen the flights of water birds returning to Coolart at dusk to spend the night on the Lagoon or the Wetlands? It's an impressive sight!

On Saturday, 11th December, at 5.00pm the barbecues will be lit in the stables and all Friends are invited to bring a barbecue tea, enjoy a pre-Christmas get-together with other Friends, and watch the evening 'fly-past'.

HELP! HELP!

Tree-waterers are needed to help our newly planted trees survive the summer. If you have a few spare hours on any Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday during November, December, January or February and would like to help, please ring Coolart 059 82 1333

Extra staff are also needed in the shop during the summer holiday period. If you are free during any of the times listed below and would like to help, please ring Mrs Sue Pizzey at Coolart 059 82 1333.

December 1.30pm - 4.30pm on any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday

January (11.30am - 1.30pm)
February (1.30pm - 4.30pm) on any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday