

COOLART NEWSLETTER No. 1/85

Dear Friend of Coolart,

We hope you all had a very happy Christmas and we send our best wishes for a prosperous 1985.

EXHIBITION OF PRINTS

Do drop in at Coolart during January and see the exhibition of prints on display in the two gallery rooms upstairs. These include Gould, Audubon, and Mathews bird prints and some historical prints.

JAZZ NIGHT. FRIDAY, 11TH JANUARY, 1985.

The Rotary Club of Hastings are holding their annual evening at Coolart on Friday, 11th January, 1985. This will take the form of a jazz evening. Details of cost of tickets and times may be obtained by phoning Coolart 059 82 1333 early in the new year.

COLOURED SHEEP BREEDERS DAY AT COOLART, SUNDAY, 27TH JANUARY.

This should be a very interesting day for all visitors to Coolart. Various breeds of coloured sheep will be exhibited and there will be displays of craft activities.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1985

These are now due and payable. Please use the slip at the bottom of this sheet. Cheques should be made out to 'Coolart Committee of Management' and may be returned with your roster sheet or sent directly to:- Coolart Reserve.

P.O.Box 84,
Balnarring. 3926.

OPEN DAY ROSTERS. FEBRUARY TO MAY 1985

If you can help at Coolart during this period, please fill in the attached blank roster and return it as directed.

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FRIENDS OF COOLART SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1985 MEMBERSHIP

Name.....

Address

.....

I enclose a cheque for \$ in payment for 1985 subscription to the Friends of Coolart

Membership categories (please circle the appropriate category)

Single	\$10.00	Life (single)	\$100.00
Joint (Husband and wife)	\$15.00	Life (joint)	\$150.00
Family	\$20.00		

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* FRIENDS OF COOLART NEWSLETTER *
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* No. 2/85 *
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Dear Friend of Coolart,

We hope you like our new style newsletter. Later, when a Coolart logo has been chosen, a more elaborate heading will be designed. Enclosed with the newsletter you will find the blank roster sheet for open days from June to September and on the back of the sheet a list of special projects and activities. Please mark those days and times when you can help at Coolart and/or mark any special projects which interest you. Fill in your name, address, and phone number, and post the sheet as directed.

SATURDAY OPENING

The Committee of Management is planning to open Coolart on Saturdays as well as Sundays, at least during the coming spring and summer. There is a demand for Saturday opening and it is hoped that the increased revenue will allow us to employ an Assistant Warden. As with Sundays, Friends' help would be needed for the gate, the hide, the shop, and possibly the plant shop, but there are no immediate plans to serve teas on Saturdays. The Committee would like some idea of the extent of the help which could be available. If you would be prepared to volunteer for some Saturday duty please mark the space 'Saturday Roster Duty' on the Projects sheet.

FRIENDS' SPECIAL PROJECT

With the agreement of the Committee of Management, the Friends' Committee has decided that any funds raised from stalls, etc, as well as profits from teas on Sundays will be used to buy one or more wheelchairs for use by elderly or disabled visitors to Coolart. The stall on Easter Day raised \$180.00 for this project.

AUDITORIUM/BIRD OBSERVATORY

Be sure to inspect the new auditorium/bird observatory as soon as possible. This splendid mud brick and timber building overlooking the Wetlands is complete except for seating and blinds which will be installed shortly. Both this and the construction of the herb garden were financed under the C.E.P. scheme. The official opening is planned for early November and Friends will be advised of the details in the next newsletter.

LIBRARY

The Committee of Management is setting aside \$300.00 each year to build up a reference library for Coolart. A subject profile and a list of suggested titles have been prepared. Some books have already been bought and may be consulted in the Friends' room.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (Note also the tree planting dates in the Warden's Report)

Saturday, 7th September, 11.30 am - 5.00 pm. Young Friends of Friends Day. Friends are invited to bring their children, grandchildren, or other young friends to a BYO barbecue lunch which will be followed by a program of activities and projects suitable for primary and secondary levels. There will be no admission charge for your young guests, and we hope that some of them will learn to enjoy Coolart and understand its importance.

Saturday, 21st September. Wildflower Walk in Long Forest Mallee (between Melton and Bacchus Marsh). Friends of Coolart are invited to meet Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee, and join them for the day in a walk through the Long Forest Mallee to see the wildflowers. Further details will be supplied later, and we hope that as many Friends as possible will attend this first joint activity with another Friends group.

Saturday, 12th October, 11.30 am - 5.00 pm. Friends of Friends Day.

Bring your friends to Coolart as our guests for the day. There will be no admission charges for visitors accompanied by Friends. Pack a barbecue or picnic lunch and enjoy a walk and some birdwatching from the new observatory or the Minsmere hide.

Our friends from Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee will be guests of the Friends' Committee for this day.

REPORTS

Sheep and Wool at Coolart. Sunday, 27th January. (Jean Hodgson)

A most successful day was arranged by the South East Region of the Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders Association.

One of the features of the day was a talk by Lorraine Cole of Merricks on 'The History of Sheep and Wool on the Peninsula'. No one could more capably say a few words on that subject - a most interesting talk.

From 11.00 am onwards spinning groups gathered in the gardens to display their handcrafts and demonstrate their spinning. There were also demonstrations of felt-making, dyeing, and carding wool.

The activity in the shearing shed created great interest and at times there were as many as 60 people to see Peter Lott shear the sheep and talk about wool. A display of fleece and garments and rugs made from various breeds on the Peninsula was also of interest.

The co-operation of the Warden and his staff was much appreciated by the organisers. 682 visitors came to Coolart on the 27th, and \$1,836 was banked.

Second Friends of National Parks Conference. Tidal River, April 20/21.

(Marion Taylor)

Although Coolart is not a National Park we have much in common with the many groups who make up the Friends of National Parks, and for this reason I was invited to speak on the organisation and function of the Friends of Coolart. Friends of 27 National Parks were represented, (Dorothy Morrison, Ian and myself from Coolart), and each reported on their activities and plans.

On the second day we joined in general discussion on common interests and problems, and I am very pleased to report that the Friends of Coolart were considered to be amongst the most active and successful of the Friends groups.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Is there anyone among the Friends who has experience in primary/secondary curriculum development? Coolart is planning a series of educational programs to be used by visiting school groups or for children's holiday activities. The Educational Sub-committee of the Committee of Management has devised an educational policy for Coolart, and is working on strategies to implement this. They would welcome assistance from experienced teachers who are willing to develop short, educationally sound programs related to the science/environmental science syllabus for years 5 - 8.

If you have this experience, and some time to spare, please tick the space on the project sheet marked 'Educational Program Development'. You may also like to add a comment outlining your background in this area.

We have applied to the Education Department to have an environmental studies teacher seconded to Coolart, but it may be some time before we know if the application has been successful, and we would like to make a start on these programs as soon as possible.

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accompanying roster sheet are blanks to be filled in by any interested Friends. I'm sure that leaders will emerge from the groups to organise and co-ordinate working bees on days that suit the group members. The following tasks are suggested as a starting point, but if anyone has any other special interest, please don't hesitate to let us know on the roster sheet.

1. Guides

The Committee formed an Education Sub-committee last year with Marion Taylor, John Vince and myself given the task of looking at ways to improve our education and interpretive services for school groups and the public. By offering more activities and holiday programs we should be able to increase revenue and further improve Coolart's facilities and the habitats. We are hoping to be able to advertise specific programs during Christmas school holidays with activities such as guided walks and even birdwatching classes. Con Vogel, the Project Officer with Westernport Awareness Program, is a teacher and experienced interpreter and has offered to train volunteers as guides. An opportunity too good to miss! All those Friends with speaking skills or birdwatching experience are invited to help. Don't be shy: advice and guidance are here.

2. Propagation

The new greenhouse will soon be operating and volunteers are sought for seed collection, gathering of cuttings, and growing. We'd like to grow all our own trees from local seed and to produce herbs and plants from the garden for sale in our Plant Shop. Calling all "Green-thumbs"!

3. Treeplanting

With the thousands of trees piling up in the greenhouse and shadehouse, we'll need lots of planters. Perhaps other tasks for this group would include transplanting of wetland vegetation too, reeds, water ribbons and the like.

4. Historical Items

Tucked away in various states of repair are old farming equipment and blacksmith's gear, all of which could be on display and create more visitor interest. Restoration work is needed: rust removal, painting etc.

Once again, Linda and I would like to express our gratitude for the Friends' support and assistance over the past year. I am certain that, with spirit and enthusiasm and the enormous potential of Coolart, we can create an area second to none in value for both people and wildlife.

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* FRIENDS OF COOLART NEWSLETTER *
* No. 3/85 *
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Dear Friend of Coolart,

Enclosed with this newsletter are two blank roster sheets for the months of October 1985 to January 1986 - one for Saturdays and one for Sundays. As before, please mark the days and times when you can help, fill in your name, address, and phone number, and post the sheets as directed.

Special Projects

Thank you to all those who offered to take part in the special projects listed in the previous newsletter. We have been slow in getting these activities under way, but you should receive more information quite soon. If anyone who hasn't previously indicated interest would like to be involved in any of these projects - Education Program Development, Coolart Guides, Plant Propagation, Treeplanters, Historical Item Restoration, Week day Help on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays, Needlework groups making Lavendar Bags - please note down which projects on the back of one of the roster forms and return it to the address as directed.

Plant Shop

We hope to be able to open the plant shop during spring and summer, so please start bringing all those seedlings and cuttings you have been caring for during the winter.

Exhibition

Students from the Art/Design classes at Holmesglen College of TAFE have been working on designs for a new Coolart logo. Their work will be on display in the two gallery rooms at Coolart. The Committee of Management is offering a prize for the logo considered most appropriate to Coolart.

Christmas Shopping

Have you thought of doing your Christmas shopping at Coolart? The shop has an excellent range of cards, stationery, calendars, books, and other gifts, and one-stop shopping is so convenient. To help you make a choice we will be sending out a price list early in November.

Coolart Broadcast

Friend of Coolart, Dorothy Morrison, will be speaking about Coolart on channel 3SCB, Southern Community Broadcasting, at 9.30 am on Monday, 2nd, Wednesday, 4th, and Friday, 6th September.

Observatory Opening

The new Observatory will be opened by the Minister for Conservation, Forests, and Lands, Ms Joan Kirner, at a late afternoon function to which all Friends of Coolart will be invited.

The date will be towards the end of November and invitations will be sent out as soon as we receive confirmation from the Minister.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Young Friends of Friends Day - Saturday, 7th September, 11.30 am - 5.00 pm

Bring your young friends to Coolart and enjoy a day together with other Friends. Barbecues will be ready from 12.00 noon, so pack a chop, or a sandwich, and join in the fun.

Programs suitable for various age groups (from 3+ upwards) have been arranged between 2.00pm and 4.00pm and we hope that Friends as well as their young guests will take part. However, if you prefer, just wander quietly around and enjoy Coolart.

Wildflower walk in Long Forest Mallee - Saturday, 21st September

If you are interested in joining the Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee in this wildflower walk, bring a cut lunch and be at the corner of Long Forrest Road and the Western Freeway (see map below) at 10.45 am.

Friends of Friends Day - Saturday 12th October, 11.30 am - 5.00 pm

In previous years this has been a popular day for picnics and barbecues with your special friends who can visit Coolart free of charge as your guests. Apart from the Warden's talk no formal program will be arranged, so you are free to show your friends the sort of things you enjoy at Coolart.

Annual General Meeting - Sunday, 10th November, 2.00 pm

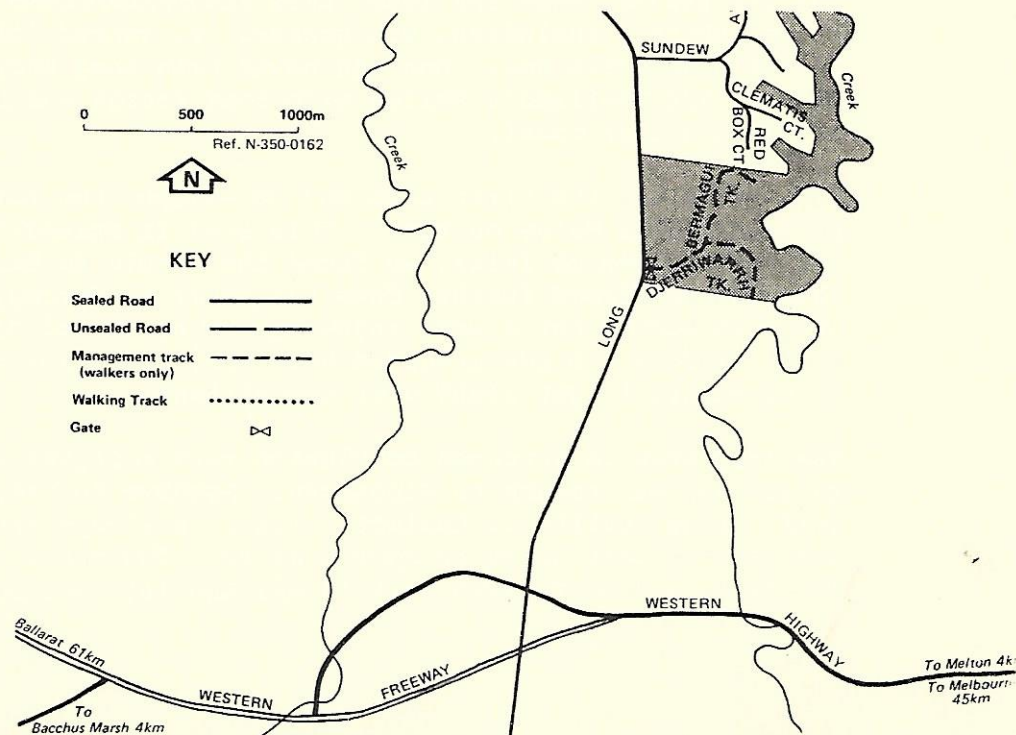
We would like to see as many Friends as possible at this meeting - the first AGM to be held in our new observatory/auditorium. Nomination forms for the Friends' Committee will be sent out later, together with our annual report and minutes of the 1984 AGM.

Christmas in the Stables - Saturday, 14th December, commencing at 5.30 pm

As well as a BYO barbecue, carols in the stables and a Christmas supper in the house, we are planning a spotlight walk around the reserve to see some of the small nocturnal animals which live in the area.

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LONG FOREST
FLORA RESERVE
Melway Map 255
G 1 - between
insets 218 and 114



WARDEN'S REPORT

Holidays over for this year, Linda and I are back at work, refreshed and ready for the excitement of another year. Our special thanks must go to all those Friends and Committee members who kept things going so successfully during our absence.

Marion has asked me to report on our holiday and I'm more than happy to share our experiences. We had five weeks in Singapore, Malaysia and southern Thailand, combining total relaxation with some birdwatching.

If anyone is travelling to or stopping over in Singapore, it's a must to visit the Jurong Bird Park. A fabulous collection of birds from all over the world, including scarlet ibis. Too much to describe here, so we'll leave the guide book in the Friends' Room for your leisurely perusal.

After three days shopping in busy, high-rise Singapore we headed for Penang and the beach. It was about 32° every day and we soon discovered that a sun-tan can quickly become painful. We soon decided to leave serious sun-baking to "mad dogs and Englishmen" and the other sun-tanned European tourists.

Leaving Penang, we then moved north into Thailand to Koh Samui, a large island off the east coast of the isthmus. Eight days of swimming, reading, eating and relaxing in one of the most beautiful settings imaginable. It's a hilly island with curved white beaches and rocky headlands, covered in coconut palms and inhabited by delightful people. The locals think they are on a good thing there and have voted against an airport and hotel development, so maybe Koh Samui will not become like Bali. Accommodation was very simple - a thatched timber cabin with cold shower and rudimentary bathroom, all for \$3.50, with a restaurant nearby.

Well, to prevent total laziness setting in, we launched ourselves back on to public buses for the trip south towards Malaysia. This stage provided one of the highlights of our journey - a visit to Thale Noi bird sanctuary near Phattalung in southern Thailand. Run by the Forestry Department, the sanctuary was centered on a huge shallow freshwater lake almost covered with rushes and water lilies with pink and white blooms as big as dinner-plates. We hired a boat and pushed our way through the plants and saw quite a few birds, many of which we couldn't identify. Some we could were purple swamphens, bronze-winged jacanas, sarus cranes and cotton pygmy-geese. I'd love to be there in the wet season, when the lake rises and becomes home to huge breeding colonies of waterbirds, including, you guessed it, sacred ibis. 132 species have been recorded at Thale Noi. One can never have long enough, and with time ticking by, we left Thailand's smiles with some regret and travelled by train to Malaysia's east coast.

Kota Bahru was the first stop and we enjoyed the local crafts and demonstrations of traditional Malay culture. This area is staunchly Muslim, and contrary to our conceptions of Islam, we found the people to be friendly and welcoming. This was confirmed further down the coast at Marang, a sleepy fishing village where we stayed for a week enjoying the beach and coral islands and the superb fresh seafood. Birds abounded here too, and twice saw a pair of sea-eagles in courtship flight right over the village!

The trip drew to a rushed conclusion with a flying visit to the old Portugese Melaka and our return to Singapore. Goodbye to tropical warmth and back to cold, rainy reality at Coolart. But it's always nice to be home and Coolart must be the best place to come home to. The place looked lovely and green to our eyes, and we arrived back to all the ibis nesting.

There's not too much to report on that's happened since the last newsletter. The main thing is the completion of the observatory and, by the time you receive this, the audio-visual will be operating. There were problems with all the rain getting into the mudbricks and with a rapidly rising water level approaching the building, but the diligence and prompt action of Robbie and the staff prevented any damage at all.

I must finish, so a quick thank you for the beaut response to the special projects proposed in the last newsletter and, now that we're back, we'll be in touch very soon.

REPORTS FROM FRIENDS

Mt Martha Park (Bruce Benton)

The old pine plantation on the top of Mt Martha was recently cut down and sold off for wood chipping, and the proceeds of the sale helped to purchase 5000 seedlings of indigenous manna gums, sheokes, and wattles, in the ratio of 3 manna gums to every 1 other species.

Mornington Council had no funds to allocate for hiring of labour, and appealed for volunteers.

Over a period of 9 working bees, members of the Mount Martha Community Association, Mount Martha Field Naturalists, and the Society for Growing Australian Plants worked hard and efficiently, and completed the job on August 10.

A pamphlet issued by the council is displayed on the notice board in the Friends' room. The planted area is hatched in red.

It may also be of interest to Friends to know that snow gums are natives of the Mornington Peninsular, known as White Sallee or *E. Pauciflora*. If you refer to the pamphlet you will see where an excellent stand of these trees can be found.

Binoculars for Friends (Beryl Smith)

Mrs Mary Franks, a B.O.C. member who has enjoyed a number of visits to Coolart has presented us with a pair of binoculars.

It has been decided to make these available only to Friends and friends of Friends.

You will find them in the glass-fronted bookcase in the Friends' room. When you forget your binoculars or want to borrow them for your visitors, make use of them and please return them to the Friends' room.

Environmental Teachers' Association Conference. (Marion Taylor)

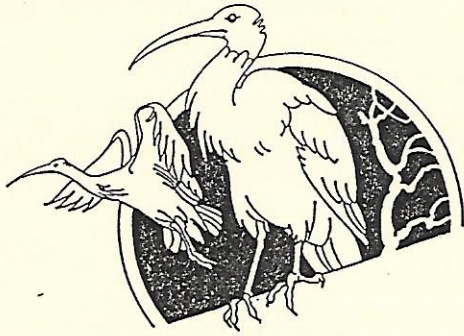
There was great activity on Friday, 16th August, when groups of teachers attending this conference at the Somers School Camp made Coolart their base for field excursions.

As the warden was away on annual leave John Cunningham and I acted as leaders for various groups. John's theme was the historical aspects of Coolart, while I led parties who looked at the range of habitats provided on the reserve. There was great excitement when the plover who has been nesting on the bank in front of the Observatory hatched the first of her four chicks during one of our sessions.

A Friend in China. (Marion Taylor)

Some of you will remember David Pattinson, a Friend who acted as interpreter when Chinese artist Siqing Zhou was at Coolart at the end of 1984.

David has been awarded a two-year scholarship to study in China and is now at the university at Jinan in Shantung Province. Congratulations, David!



Friends of Coolart

NEWSLETTER No. 4/85

Dear Friend of Coolart,

As this is the final newsletter for 1985 the Friends' Committee would like to thank all of you for your unfailing help and support during the year, and to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Observatory Opening

Are there any Friends who could help prepare savouries and sandwiches between 12.00 - 3.00 pm at Coolart on November 23rd? Casual staff are to be employed to serve the food and drinks, but the Friends' Committee have agreed to do the preparation. If you can help please ring Marion Taylor on (03) 568 0253.

Sheep Shearing - Saturday, 9th November

The shearing shed at Coolart will be the scene of great activity when sheep from local owners are shorn throughout the day.

An additional focus of interest will be the many old cars arriving at Coolart at the end of a rally drive.

Plant and Produce Shop Opening- Saturday, 9th November

Gifts of plants, produce, home-made cakes, biscuits, and jams, gardening magazines and old stamps would be welcomed.

Annual General Meeting - Sunday, 10th November

The agenda, minutes of the previous meeting, nominations forms for the Friends' Committee, and proposed guidelines for elections are enclosed. The Friends' annual report is included in this newsletter. Please make an effort to attend.

Christmas in the Stables - Saturday, 14th December, at 5.00 pm

Please note the earlier starting time for our Christmas function. As well as the BYO barbecue, carols in the stables, Christmas supper in the house, and a spot-light walk at the end of the evening, a botany walk has been arranged to start at 5.00 pm.

ANNUAL REPORT - FRIENDS OF COOLART - 1985

The Friends' Committee. At the 1984 Annual General Meeting the following were appointed to the 1985 Friends' Committee: Mrs J. Eabry, Mr G. Enting, Mr M. Ferguson, Mr R. Hargreaves, Mrs J. Hodgson, Mrs D. Morrison, Mrs B. Smith, Mr I. Taylor, Mrs M. Taylor. Mr B. Benton did not seek re-election.

The committee has met six times.

Functions arranged by the Committee. Christmas in the Stables; Easter Day Plant Shop and Stall; Young Friends of Friends Day, Wildflower walk, Friends of Friends Day.

Projects with Committee and Friends' involvement. Plant shop; furnishings and curtains; rose garden; newsletters; Coolart reference library (Friends have donated titles); Friends of National Parks Conference (M. Taylor was invited to speak on the organisation and activities of the Friends of Coolart); working bees and tree-planting; herb garden; observatory; exhibitions and displays; Saturday opening; special interest groups, Environmental Teachers' Association Conference (M. Taylor and J. Cunningham acted as group leaders); 3SCB broadcast (D. Morrison spoke on Coolart).

Friends of Coolart. Friends have responded generously to the many demands made on them in 1985 - in particular the need to provide staffing on both Saturdays and Sundays. There has also been a good attendance at working bees to plant trees and herbs, clear undergrowth, and restore historical items. Individual memberships number approximately 280, and new Friends are joining every day.

M. Taylor. Convenor.

From the Chairman of the Committee of Management.

You will have received with this newsletter a formal invitation to the official opening of our new Bird Observatory by the Minister of Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mrs Joan Kirner, on Saturday, 23rd November. This is a special day in the history of Coolart and we sincerely hope you will be able to join us in the celebration.

In addition to an opportunity to present the great strides that have been made in the development of the Reserve in the past years it will also be an opportunity to publicly thank the many people who have made this possible.

We have been fortunate to obtain a new exhibition of Nature Printing by Dr. Eric Hochberg, the Science and Humanities Scholar for 1985 at the Museum of Victoria, which is to commence early in November.

Dr. Hochberg is Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and we are excited that we have obtained this spectacular exhibition and urge everyone who is able to come to Coolart before Christmas to do so.

We are hopeful that Dr. Hochberg will come to the Reserve over 23/24 November to give a practical demonstration of the skills involved in this form of illustration. May I also take this opportunity to recommend to you the shopping list which is also included with this new-letter, of items available at our shop for Christmas shopping. Linda will be delighted to receive your order and we look forward to seeing lots of Coolart car stickers and T-shirts in evidence over the holidays.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank all of the Friends sincerely for their wonderful support over another year. We would not be able to achieve the progress that has occurred without the continuing help from so many supporters.

Gordon Cameron. Chairman.

General Reports

Young Friends of Friends Day - Saturday, 7th September.

After a barbecue lunch about fifteen young friends joined Steve and Brian on the Woodland Walk. Orchids, a variety of birds and some nests were seen. Following afternoon tea the group produced 'Come to Coolart' posters and finished the day with a visit to the Observatory and a chance to examine and discuss with Brian a variety of birds nests.

Our thanks to all who helped, especially young teachers Judy and Meredith.

Wildflower Walk - LongForest Mallee - Saturday, 21st September.

Seven Friends of Coolart joined Friends of Werribbee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee for a very enjoyable day during which many orchids were seen. Friends were delighted

to observe several pairs of wedge-tailed eagles in flight and to note a number of their nests. An unexpected bonus in the afternoon was a two-hour walk through the Werribbee Gorge, led by Mr J. Myers, Education Officer for the area.

Friends of Friends Day - Saturday, 12th October.

The fine sunny weather encouraged many Friends and their friends to enjoy a pleasant relaxed day at Coolart. We were especially pleased to welcome as our guests about twenty Friends of Werribbee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee. The day included a BYO barbecue lunch, drinks provided, a walk led by Assistant Warden, Brian Thomas, a talk and a screening of the new AV program in the Observatory.

Logos Award.

The Committee of Managements's award of \$100 gift voucher for the logo considered most appropriate for Coolart was made to Holmesglen College of TAFE art student Sharon McNamara. All students who submitted entries, as well as members of the college Art Department were invited to attend the presentation at 4.00 pm on Saturday, 26th October, at Coolart. Wine, Cheese, and fruit juices were served to guests and their friends.

The logos have been on display in the two gallery rooms at Coolart.

(The logo at the head of this newsletter is not the winning entry. It was designed by bird artist Margaret Tout.)

Coolart Guides.

There will be a short meeting of Friends interested in the Coolart Guides project immediately following the AGM on 10th November. If necessary the Friends Committee meeting scheduled for this time will be delayed to allow members to attend the Guides meeting.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Doesn't time fly. The big day for the official opening of the observatory by the Minister approaches and preparations are well under way. We hope that as many Friends as possible will come to enjoy what should be a very special occasion.

We could not have had better weather this spring, despite the need for more rain. Early rain and a warm September have produced terrific growth in the garden and everything is flowering. We've planted about 250 annuals, timed to bloom for the opening, so it should look wonderful.

Bird activity has been wonderful this year, and I suspect that it has taken two years for them to recover from the big drought. Last year, insect populations exploded and caused considerable damage to new trees and in the garden. But this year, with so many more birds, insects are hardly a problem.

The ibis nested a month earlier this season and are now nesting a second time. We estimate that the number of nests is up 10% and that the survival of young birds could conceivably double last year's. For the first time, straw-necked ibis are nesting, and we wait with baited breath to see whether they are successful.

Another thing we've noticed is the natural regeneration occurring in and around the coastal woodland this year. Natural manna gum and banksia seedlings have popped up in several locations, most notably in the bush dam paddock near the B.O.C. hide. And to the Warden's delight, dozens of sun orchids are in bud in the same area, and a single green-comb spider orchid has emerged in the tea-tree by Merricks Creek.

But not everything has been rosy. The manna gums near the start of the Woodland Walk have been severely damaged by koalas this year. Following advice from Graham Pizzey, we've done a great deal of work installing steel guards and removing weeds, especially pittosporum. At one stage, there were 17 koalas eating about 40 trees, but now most have moved on, and with spring weather, most of the trees are producing epicormic shoots and look to be on the way to recovery.

I'd like to bring a few things up to date; changes occur so quickly. The Committee has appointed Brian Thomas as Assistant Warden and he is currently working Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Brian is a F.O.C. and Secretary of the Peninsula Birdwatchers Club. He is fitting in very well and I hope you can all meet him soon.

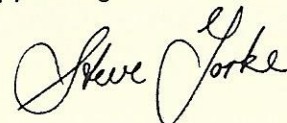
Since August 31, we have been opening to the public five days each week, from Saturday to Wednesday, 11 am to 5 pm. Visitor numbers and revenue are up, and we expect that development and improvement will accelerate.

Earlier, we had agreed that Friends could visit Coolart when closed on Mondays and Fridays. With the recent changes, Coolart is now open to Friends seven days each week, but please accept that the house is closed Thursday and Friday for cleaning and a day off for Linda and I. To avoid embarrassment, please, whenever you visit, notify the Friend on duty or, on Thursdays and Fridays, one of the staff. If you bring friends along, they are expected to pay, unless of course you can persuade them to join the Friends.

Since the last newsletter, the audio-visual show for the observatory has been completed. It is an excellent presentation, and we hope you can all view it on opening day.

The propagating shed is now finished and ready for growing from seed and cuttings. Seed I collected from manna gums, swamp gums and sheoaks back in June has been sown and there are literally hundreds of seedlings to be potted soon. 22 Friends have volunteered for propagating work, a fabulous response, and will shortly be hard at it.

I haven't been able to write everything here, too much happening for that. But come and see for yourselves; you are always welcome.



NEW MEMBERS - 1985 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Mr R. Johnstone, Heather Beaton, Margaret Denis, Henry Wabinski, Mr and Mrs Collins, Mr and Mrs Lawrence, Chris and Fiona Colquhoun, Mr and Mrs J. White, Mrs L. Kentwell, Mrs G. Middleton, Mr and Mrs Wright, Mr and Mrs M. Cohen, Mr and Mrs M. Letho, The O'Connor family, Wilma Dennis, Mr and Mrs B. Norton, Mrs Patsy Hohnen, Mr and Mrs Rogers, Andrew Shannon, Mr and Mrs J. Mitchell, Jill Scurfield, Andrew Perry, Annie Gillison Gray, Mr and Mrs W. Eggert, Mr and Mrs Berry, Mr and Mrs J.S. Ride, Mr and Mrs S. Jasinkas, Mr L. Harris, Roslyn King, Mr and Mrs T. Grant, the Altmann family, A. Swinbank, Mr and Mrs A. Owen, the Rennie family, Mrs Noonan, James Wilson, Jeanette Pollock, Kath Harden, Mr and Mrs J. Taylor, John Browning, Karen Dew and family, Mr and Mrs Coombes, Mrs M. Fryer, Beatrice Devlin, Tracy Smith, Andrew Stewart, Rev. and Mrs Mills.

MEMBERSHIP AT SEPTEMBER 30

Life members	Individual		27
	Joint	41	82
Members	Individual		92
	Joint	86	172
	Families	30	120 est.

FRIENDS OF COOLART

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 1985

Present:

Friends Committee: Marion Taylor, Jo Eabry, Beryl Smith, Jean Hodgson, Dorothy Morrison, Randolph Hargreaves, Mat Ferguson, Graham Enting; 43 Friends; G. Cameron - Chairman, Coolart Committee of Management; S. Yorke - Warden; L. Yorke - minutes.

Apologies:

J. Browning, K. Dew, S. Barnett, E. & P. Grant, P. & C. Wright, G. & S. Pizzey, G. Quillinan, M. Morse, W. Dennis, C. Carnall, D. Coon, M. Madder, J. Leigh, B. Pullen, J. Elderton, M. Fraser.

Minutes of 1984 Annual General Meeting

Accepted as a true and correct record.

B. Smith/G. Enting

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Friends of Coolart Annual Report

Circulated in newsletter no. 4/85.

Coolart Committee of Management Report

Gordon Cameron, Chairman of the COM reported the following:

The Wetlands Observatory was successfully completed in April 1985. It was designed by Andrew McCutcheon from the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands; Lyon Lyon and Hilbert, architects, did the working drawings, but the most credit goes to Steve Yorke who supervised and worked with the Community Employment Program labour, most of whom were unskilled.

There has been a problem with over-browsing of manna gums by koalas, so most of these trees have been guarded to allow regrowth. Another problem has been the destruction of some swamp paperbarks by ibis.

G. Cameron has written to the Commissioner of Taxation requesting that donations to Coolart be tax deductible if Coolart is classed as a museum. As yet there has been no reply.

G. Cameron reported that hopefully the Coolart COM will be incorporated within the next 12 months.

An application for another Community Employment Program (CEP) project for developing the Panhandle area has been submitted. An officer from the CEP Secretariat who visited Coolart some months ago suggested that we also make application for funds for rebuilding the bridge and employing an education officer.

The reference library is well under way and G. Cameron thanked those who had made contributions of books. More books would be purchased this year. G. Cameron thanked M. Taylor for her efforts in collating various articles.

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The Committee has decided to set aside at least \$500 per year to purchase appropriate furniture for at least two rooms in the main house. A plan of what is required needs to be drawn up first.

G. Cameron thanked all the Friends for the invaluable support of the past year and said that the hours they worked were worth about \$40 000 if we had to employ people. Our Government grant is \$85 000 and revenue raised is about \$50 000, so Friends' contributions are extremely valuable.

G. Cameron said that he was extremely pleased with the response to special interest groups. They included restoring the old machinery and farmyard, propagating and guides.

Finally, G. Cameron once again thanked all Friends and especially M. Taylor and J. Eabry who organise the rosters. He also thanked the staff - Steve, Linda, Robbie, Frank, Mick and Brian and said that Coolart is very fortunate to have them working here.

Warden's Report

Steve Yorke firstly thanked all Friends of Coolart for their invaluable help. He reported on all the jobs and projects the Friends had been involved in, including herb garden, removal of noxious weeds, koala control, gardening, transplanting of reeds into upper wetland, tree planting, tree watering, restoration of farmyard, propagating, landscaping, etc. More than 1000 hours of Friends' time has been spent on working parties and many more hours spent manning the gate, shop and making and serving teas. Teas grossed \$3250, the shop turned over \$18 000 and \$35 000 was taken in admissions.

S. Yorke reported that this had been a good year, especially for bird breeding, natural revegetation and the successful completion of the wetlands observatory.

Future projects for Coolart include redirecting the woodland walk to include the bush dam hide, more displays, and hopefully the acceptance of a CEP project to revegetate the Panhandle area, creating more wetlands and possibly a saltmarsh to attract orange-bellied parrots.

Once again S. Yorke thanked the Friends.

Friends then asked some questions.

D. Morrison asked if the plants in the herb garden were going to be relabelled. S. Yorke replied that there was a detailed plan in the garden walk guide.

I. Taylor asked if the tea-tree in the coastal woodland was going to be removed. S. Yorke replied that it was planned to rebuild the woodland to its original state. This would take a long time and tea-tree would have to be removed gradually as it provides so much cover for birds.

Jim O'Brien asked if a decision had been made on the placement of the ticket box. S. Yorke said that the COM were looking into the matter further. M. Taylor said that there was a proposal for a new exit road.

Friends of Coolart Committee

1. Guidelines for elections

M. Taylor read out the guidelines which were previously circulated and after some discussion the guidelines were changed to read as follows:

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- (1) Any financial member of the Friends of Coolart is eligible to nominate, be nominated as, or vote for, member/s of the Friends' Committee.
 - (2) The Friends' Committee shall consist of not less than six members who will normally hold office for twelve months.
 - (3) Committee members are eligible for re-election/re-appointment.
 - (4) Vacancies which occur during the year may be filled by co-option.
 - (5) Nomination forms giving the names and signatures of the nominator, second, and nominee must be given to the convenor by the beginning of the AGM.
 - (6) If an election is necessary the names of all nominees will be displayed in alphabetical order and members present at the meeting will be asked to vote by writing the names on blank voting papers supplied at the meeting.
 - (7) All votes cast will be of equal value and membership of the Friends' Committee will be decided by a simple majority.
2. Election of Committee
- M. Taylor read out the following nine nominations for the Friends' Committee: Bruce Benton, Jo Eabry, Graham Enting, Mat Ferguson, Randolph Hargreaves, Dorothy Morrison, Beryl Smith, Ian Taylor and Marlon Taylor; and it was agreed that these nine people make up the Friends' Committee for 1986. M. Taylor thanked Jean Hodgson for her help on the Friends' Committee.

General Business

1. M. Taylor asked Friends to reply to the invitation to the observatory opening on 23 November, 1985.
2. M. Taylor mentioned the exhibition of nature prints and fish rubbings on until 22 December 1985 and the demonstration by Dr Hochberg on 23 and 24 November. G. Cameron mentioned that Dr Hochberg will exhibit his Australian work at Coolart from after Christmas to the beginning of February 1986.
3. D. Morrison has tapes of talks she did on Coolart on 3SCB radio station.
4. There is a meeting for Coolart guides after AGM.
5. B. Smith asked about access for the disabled to the toilets as mentioned in last year's minutes. S. Yorke said that there was a toilet in the main house which the disabled could use. He also reported that a ramp to the Minsmere hide had been constructed.
5. Arch Dailey asked if there should be a special information place.
G. Cameron said that this had been brought up at a COM meeting and is still in the planning process. S. Yorke reported that signs are being improved and a large map of Coolart will be completed soon.
6. Jean Hodgson asked why the Friends had not been consulted in the choice of the new logo and why they had not been consulted on the opening of the two extra rooms upstairs as she thought that the two carpeted rooms were not in keeping with the rest of the house. A suggestion made by several

Friends was that these two rooms be incorporated into the flat. G. Cameron said that these two rooms could be used for exhibitions. Some Friends felt that they were too small.

On the logo, G. Cameron said that it had never been suggested at a COM meeting to consult Friends on a choice of logo. He said it was a difficult matter to decide when Friends should be consulted for their views.

R. Hargreaves felt that Friends were only consulted when there was work to do.

7. Mary-Jean Officer said she thought that the curtains in the Grimwade room were stunning and also said that she felt a change room was required by Friends on working parties.

8. J. Eabry gave a vote of thanks to Linda Yorke for being so helpful to Friends on duty.

M. Taylor gave a vote of thanks to Friends for their friendliness and a vote of thanks to Steve and Linda Yorke.

B. Smith gave a vote of thanks to M. Taylor.

Meeting closed at 3.40 pm.