



WEEKEND

Despite wet weather on Saturday, those who participated in the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park activities over the weekend went away satisfied.

Whilst heavy rain fell on Saturday afternoon, former Victorian governor and athlete John Landy outlined his life story. Ornithologist Simon Starr and BirdLife Echuca District secretary Keith Stockwell gave an illustrated presentation on local birds of prey and local historian Helen Stevens gave an illustrated presentation on the early European history of the Terricks area. The Terricks bush band led by Ian Mellier entertained visitors between presentations and the catering team provided a free afternoon tea.

Prolonged heavy rain meant that only 100 metres of a kilometre of a dilapidated fence was removed. Tree guards were made but could not be placed around recently-planted shrubs because of sloppy unsealed roads.

Bird-watchers were able to complete their early morning birding session in the forest before the rain set in. Led by members of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, a free coach tour to Mitiamo rock and the Mitiamo Cemetery area went ahead. But subsequent coach tours had to be cancelled because of the heavy rain and boggy tracks.

On Friday evening, Anthony Gallacher spoke of the plans and work of the Loddon Landcare Network. Parks Victoria Ranger Mark Tscharke then gave a report on the condition of the Park and some of the management challenges presented by some recent additions. Gunbower area resident Audrey Dickens then gave an outstanding presentation about her family's recent outback trek.

On Saturday evening, following the group's annual general meeting, Echuca nursery proprietor Ashley Elliott gave a presentation about the wildflowers of the national park.

The Hawks

The colour of brown and gold
Falling leaves in the autumn sun
On grand final day packed with people
Sun shining through the trees
Brown and gold Guernseys
The striped brown and gold couch
Watching the Hawks on the news
Eating all the butter popcorn

By Tegan McIntyre EL P-12 Yr 5

Community Kept Informed

On Wednesday 17th October Navarre Minerals held a community information night at the Dingee Hall. The meeting was well attended with people coming from a wide area. The company gave a comprehensive presentation on the exploration they are doing in the area. They gave information about the air and water drilling and the positive results they have found. These results were compared with geological data from the gold mining areas of Ballarat and Bendigo. They illustrated their information with maps and diagrams. Our correspondent, a local farmer found it most interesting and came away much better informed and with a positive attitude. He said the speakers were very approachable and seemed to have good rapport with the farmers involved.

Initial drilling is done on the road verges and farmers are only approached for permission to go on their land if there is a high probability of good results. Navarre have exploration sites at 'Raydarra', the old Frederick the Great mine at Sebastian, and their most promising site 'West Tandarra'. At 'West Tandarra' at a depth of 30 metres there is a gold bearing quartz seam which goes for a depth of another 30 metres. If a mine is established it will be open cut. Before this extensive environmental impact studies must be done and the company must ensure it will be a viable proposition. The company say it will be a minimum of 3 and possibly 10 years before a mine is established. Most mines take 10 years from first exploration to mine establishment. The company started exploration



in the area in 2006 and have spent \$7 million so far.

Navarre Minerals is only a small company of about 10 people. They are interested in employing local labour. Wendy McCormack from Dingee is working part time in field assistance sampling soil that comes out of the ground. Wendy said some local farmers had been given jobs such as fence and gate repairs and filling in holes.

At the meeting people from Bridgewater and other places outside the local area were concerned about the effect mining could have on the ground water. Others were concerned about the negative effects left behind after mining in other areas around Bendigo. There was a woman there from Cohuna from the "Lock the Gate Alliance" encouraging farmers to try to prevent mining companies coming onto their land. Most negative comment seemed to come from outside the local area

Our local farmer came away from the meeting much better informed about the process and confident that the company was trying to do the right thing by the local community.

During a recent password audit by a fortune 500 company, it was found that an employee was using the following password:
"MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento"
When asked why she chose such a long password, she rolled her eyes and said:
"Hello! It has to be at least 8 characters and include at least one capital."
On reflection, that almost makes perfect sense.

The Wheels of Life

