

March 2004

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. P O Box 220 Warrandyte 3113

Massive Autumn Clearance

By Pat Coupar

This one off opportunity should not to be missed. Due to the reduced funding for ongoing revegetation works at Warrandyte State Park, we have been left with a huge surplus of plants in the nursery. The majority of these are in excellent condition, timed for an autumn planting, but cannot be held over the winter months.

We have a large range of plants available for wet and dry areas. These include: trees, shrubs, creepers, climbers, grasses, sedges and wildflowers. There will also be a selection of ferns and orchids for sale. All plants are indigenous and have been grown by Fowspians from local seed stock, root division or cutting material. Most are in forestry tubes, but there will be some larger plants in 6 inch pots. We are offering up to 50% off normal prices.

While on the subject of prices, we have unfortunately found it necessary to increase our prices slightly. This is the first price rise for four years. It has come about partly because of the reduction in funding by Parks Victoria to Warrandyte State. The price rises will come into effect in April.

With the drought now officially declared over and improved conditions on previous years, this autumn should be an ideal time for planting.

The clearance sale will commence on Thursday March 18th during normal opening hours. There will also be opportunities to purchase plants over the weekend of the festival (March 20th/21st). For times and dates see insert in this newsletter.

As usual FOWSP will have our trailer set up for the two days of the festival. There will be books, post cards and planting guides for sale and a range of free posters and pamphlets. Members will be on hand to give information and advice on revegetation, pest plant and animals and local highlights.

If you a free that weekend and would like to help at the trailer or with sales of plants at the nursery, don't hesitate to come along on the day.



What Am I?

I live in the forests of south-eastern Australia, but I frequently visit gardens. I am usually found in pairs. I like to eat seeds, fruits and blossoms, but will also eat insects. Like many of my relatives I am brightly coloured. My name means 'elegant flat-tail'.

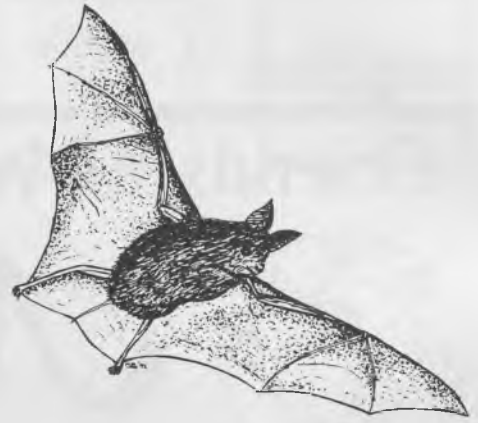
(Answer on inside of back page)

Bat Survey

FOWSP have been invited to take part in a bat trapping survey to be carried out by Rangers at Jumping Creek Reserve. Acting Ranger-in-Charge, Craig Lupton, will be leading the activity. Craig has a particular interest in bats and is very knowledgeable about the local species.

Traps will be set up at dusk on Wednesday March 31st and checked the following morning.

Numbers for this activity will be limited, as too many people could stress the bats. If you are interested in attending please contact the Park on 9844 2659 and you will be given details of time and place.



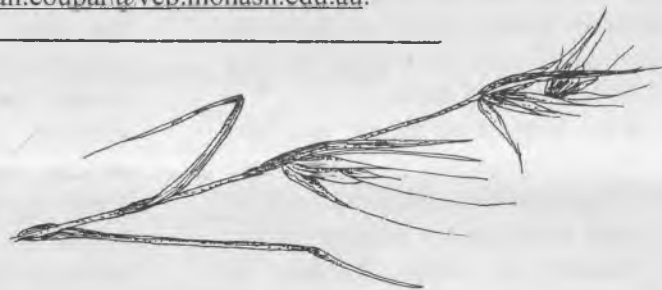
More Contributions Please

There was very good response last year to the segment “**Bush Backyard**” but this has fallen off over the holiday. Please keep your sightings and observations coming in. Remember they don’t have to be confined to the local area, we like to hear about flora and fauna from around the State, the Country and even the Globe!

Also members might like to comment on any new books they have received over Christmas and maybe make some suggestions for additions to the FOWSP library. We would also like to hear about your favourite places for the “**My favourite locations**” segments on road/beach/river or whatever or wherever.

And don’t forget “**My Worst Weed**” is ongoing, even if you have contributed before you are allowed another worst weed!

Contributions do not have to be long or perfectly written, drop us a line or two. Send by post to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or via email at ian.coupar@vcp.monash.edu.au.



Learning How to Care for Your Patch

This workshop, led by Joan MacMahon, will focus on grasses – the good ones and the bad ones. Participants will be able to make a grasses collection from Joan’s block.

Date and Time: Saturday April 3rd at 1.00pm

Place: 101 Bradleys Lane

Bring along some A3 paper, sticky tape, plants for identification and puzzling questions.

Don’t forget to bring along your friends and neighbors.

The grasses that you will discover include: Kangaroo, Weeping, Wallaby, Plume and Spear as well as a couple of more unusual grasses.

Let Joan know on 9844 3213 if you will be coming.



Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2004

1st April - Heath Butler "Snakes in the City"

Heath will explore the topic of "Snakes in the City" and look at how snakes live and interact in the urban environment, as well as shed some light on interesting aspects of their biology/ecology.

Heath is currently working for Zoo's Victoria in the Discovery and Learning section and has recently completed an Honours degree in Conservation Biology on Tiger Snakes in suburban areas around Melbourne.

6th May - Glen Jameson "Stories from the World Parks Congress"

Glen recently returned from the trip of a lifetime, attending the World's Park Congress in South Africa as a representative of the Victorian Rangers Association. He will provide us with a fascinating overview of conservation on a world scale and management issues of the future.

Glen Jameson is currently lecturing in Conservation Management at RMIT and running his environmental consulting business, Literate Landscapes, while on a year's leave from Parks Victoria.

3rd June - David Meagher "Bryophytes - Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts"

Mosses and their allies play an important role in almost every ecosystem in Australia. David will take a closer look at this often overlooked and fascinating group of plants.

David Meagher is a science writer and editor with an active interest in the conservation and ecology of bryophytes. He is co-author of *A Field Guide to the Mosses and Allied Plants of Southern Australia*.

1st July - John White "Bird Friendly Cities"

John will look at the composition and type of habitat in urban woodland parks and open space, its affect on bird populations and how we can help to create bird friendly cities to avoid further species loss.

Dr John White is a Lecturer in wildlife ecology at Deakin University. His recent research has focused on the influence of urbanisation on bird communities.

The seminars are free and no bookings are required.

Supper provided.

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: The Function Room Grand Hotel 120 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. (Melways Ref. 23 E11)

To join us for dinner at the pub before the seminars, book a seat in the Bistro on 9844 1199.

For further information contact:

Cathy Willis on phone: 9840 9122 or cathy.willis@manningham.vic.gov.au

Autumn Clearance Sale

Thursday March 18th 10.00am-12md

Saturday March 20th 1.00pm-3.30pm

Sunday March 21st 10.00am-2.30pm

Important Notice

Please could all those people who have bought plants from the nursery return the empty forestry tubes. We are in desperately short supply

FWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 10.00am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. When there is no scheduled afternoon activity we often go on a spontaneously organised walk. Propagation takes place from 10.00am to 12 midday followed by lunch. No prior experience necessary - there is always someone available to show you the ropes.

The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday 10.00am to 12md and the first Sunday of each month 2.00pm to 400pm.



Important Notice

Please note the nursery is only open for plant sales during the above times. Some members and non-members have been turning up for plants (and advice) outside these hours without prior arrangement. If you find it impossible to come during official opening times please contact the nursery manager first.

Thursday Afternoon Walks

On the fourth Thursday of every month there will be a short walk (about one hours duration) somewhere in the Park. If you would like to attend either bring your lunch and stay on after the propagation morning or meet at the nursery at 1.00pm.

Walks will take place on: March 25th
 April 23rd
 May 28th
 June 24th

Deadline for April Newsletter is March 28th

FOWSP Committee 2004

Pat Coupar	9844 1650	Newsletter Editor
Ray Clarke	9841 8507	Treasurer
Sue Shepherd	9844 3754	Assistant Treasurer
Peter Curry	9844 0958	Secretary
Geoff Speedy	9437 0894	
Lee Speedy	9437 0894	Membership Secretary
Mike Coupar	9844 1650	
Melanie Birtchnell		
Karen Reynolds	9712 0797	
Michelle Hanslow	0402251577	

Wildlife Rescue
Julie Pryor 9722 1117

Market
Marie Krause 9712 0498

Park Office 9844 2659

Nursery Manager 0408800026

Subscriptions for 2004 are now due

To renew your membership to FOWSP for the coming year please fill in the form below and send it to the secretary FOWSP, PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Membership entitles you to one free plant a month from the market stall, 11 newsletters per year and the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities including slide nights and excursions throughout the year.

Thank you for your support.



Name

Address

..... Tel. no.

Family \$20

Single \$15

Concession \$10

Special Membership Offer

Receive a discount if you renew your membership for three years

Single: \$40.00

Family: \$50.00



By B.G

Lupton Leads

Craig Lupton is at WSP for six weeks as Acting Ranger-in-Charge pending the advertising and filling of the position for a six month period. Craig is from Dandenong Valley Parks where he was Team Leader for Environment and Park maintenance. He has also worked at Silvan Reservoir Park and Braeside. Craig has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Management. He has a 20 month old daughter Taya.

Nixon Now

Ranger-in-Charge, Andy Nixon, has been seconded for a period of six months to assist in the rehabilitation of the fire-damaged areas in the north-east of the State. He will be based at Woori Yallock.

"Greens" Gone

The Green Corps has gone after a six month stay at WSP.

Fire Facts

David Van Bockel (now at the Park full time) is the Ranger responsible for 'fire matters'. The project fire fighters team is led by Con Cosmos and they are currently undertaking fire protection and prevention activities.

Friends Fact

Ken Crook and Terry Gallagher were amongst those helping at the nursery on January 15th.

Morning Message

Arriving early at the nursery on Thursday January 15th I spied a typical blackboard list of tasks left for the Thursday helpers: Shown below.

Please sign the book

SALES – first 4 tables only – if not there take orders. Call Josh on 040880026 if any problems.

CUT BACK GRASSES IN SHADE HOUSE
PRICK OUT – PUT TRAY BACK AND LABEL
EVERYTHING

Euc. goniocalyx (all big enough)

Rapanea howittiana

Acacia stricta - 6 boxes

Euc. radiata (all big enough)

Acacia verticillata – 4 boxes

Indigofera australis – 2 boxes

IF that's all done(!) get out:

Themeda triandra (3 trays – prick out all)

Kennedia (all big enough)

Olearia lirata (all big enough)

HAVE FUN

The above chalk message was very neatly done and lined up. Who did it? Cathy Willis who had come in and left about dawn – because Josh's car had broken down, he had to work and couldn't be there that day.

Nursery Notes

Jotted on the 'whiteboard' were the following:

- May – rare planting and walk at Plenty Gorge (Cam and Brendon)
- April/May – rare planting Kinglake (Josh and Stuart)
- Rare planting and day trip Yan Yean Catchment (Cam, Josh ???). To be announced
- Boomers planting TBA (John and Cam)
- Ongoing weed work with rangers TBA

That's for Me. 2,4-D

"Agricultural chemical maker Nu farm will expand its global footprint, buying out the phenoxy herbicides business of German company BASF."

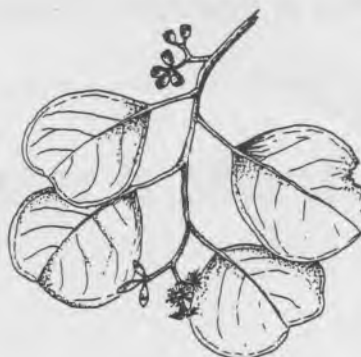
"Phenoxy herbicides are.....used in cereal crops to minimise weed growth and maximise harvest...."

"The BASF product range has six core chemicals, including 2,4-D, an active ingredient of agent orange"

Source: Gabriella Costa, Business Age 15/1/04

Red Box (Eucalyptus polyanthemus)

The dominant tree of Warrandyte's dry slopes
and ridges



Book Review

By Ray Clarke

The Wollemi Pines

The discovery of a living fossil

By James Woodford - science and environment writer for The Sydney Morning Herald.

Published by The Text Publishing Co. (the first edition in 2000)

The Wollemi National Park is an extremely wild and difficult part of the Blue Mountains. It is in New South Wales, west of Newcastle and about 100 kilometres from Sydney.

The pines remained undiscovered for more than 200 years of European occupation, and their exact location is jealously guarded. The pines were accidentally discovered by three very fit and experienced bush walkers when they abseiled into a deep and rugged gorge

During the Permian age, about 290 million years ago, the first conifers appeared on earth, and the Wollemi derived from them during the Cretaceous 144 million years ago. It was then that flowering plants appeared, and the dinosaurs became extinct. Extensive research, mainly in the field of pollens, has determined the family of Araucariaceae to which the Wollemi belong became common and extended from what is now the Antarctic to north of the equator. The Wollemi forests were extensive, but were hit by continental drift, ice ages and geological upheavals and disappeared from the face of the earth. Incredibly, two small stands totally about forty trees in two separate gorges survived. A

further three trees growing from the side of a third gorge have more recently been discovered.

The author's account of the identification, examination and finally the propagation of the pines is fascinating reading. The chapter about the surprising discovery of the unique DNA is absorbing.

Throughout the book you meet very interesting people, bushmen, botanists and scientists, all devoted to the development and protection of the Wollemi pines.

Woodford, having compiled a great deal of information) was eventually allowed to, himself visit the Pines. He was blindfolded until the site was reached. Riding in a helicopter to the gorge, he then jumped from the skids of the hovering chopper onto a ledge and then abseiled in two descents into the gorge.

His description of the gorge is dramatic "Ancient grey vines, some as thick as a tree trunk, hung everywhere...at the bottom of the gorge was a dense rain forest of coachwood, sassafras, lillypilly, possumwood and tree ferns. A little further downstream were towering redgums and grey gums....massive clumps of orchids, like bunches of bananas cling to the wall of the cliff..... We began to head upstream.... here we soaked our shoes, disinfecting them against any possible pathogens which could spread to the Wollemi Pines...."

And then he describes coming on the pines and the peculiar environment surrounding them. The whole book is gripping reading and could well be on the bookshelf of anyone with environmental or scientific bent.

They are now not easy to find. Try the shop in the Botanical Gardens behind the Herbarium. If anyone discovers another supply, please let us know and we shall publish it in the Newsletter.

What Am I?

Crimson Rosella





Surface
Mail
only

Postage
Paid

REGISTRATION BY AUSTRALIA POST

PP 346802 / 0005

If undeliverable please return to
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.
P.O. Box 220
Warrandyte, 3113



Eastern Ringed Xenica

(Geitoneura acantha)

This attractive butterfly can be seen on warm days flying around the bushland during autumn. They are often disturbed from the leaf litter where they like to rest. Their caterpillars feed on native grasses including Kangaroo Grass and Weeping Grass.

FOWSP Membership Form

Name

Address

.....

Tel. no.

Family \$20

Single \$15

Concession \$10

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

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This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

FOWSP 21st Birthday Celebration - 7th December 2003



Clockwise from top left:
FOWSPians enjoy the Raptor display,
Andrew Payne with Peregrine Falcon
- the fastest bird on earth,
Josh, our industrious nursery manager,
Ray, FOWSP's wonderful treasurer,
and the 21st birthday mud cake.





Clockwise from top left:
 After lunch, FOWSPians past & present gather for group photographs
 Andrew with Wedge-tailed Eagle,
 More FOWSPians ...
 ... outside the Folly,
 The Green Singers performing within the Folly.

