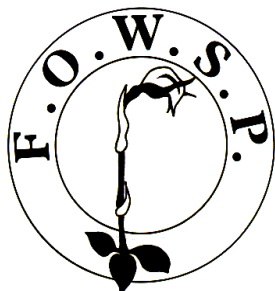


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/ACN A0024890C

Editor's corner

Somehow April has slipped away too quickly. The Festival in March, New Members' Tea, April 1st (page 2 & 3), Easter and suddenly the month is finished. As usual FOWSP has been busy throughout.

A new banner (below and page 2) was painted for the Warrandyte Festival.

One Thursday, six keen volunteers accompanied me on a walk into Glynn's Reserve with a couple of large patches of Boneseed in our sights. Read more about this



FOWSP trailer manned by happy volunteers at the Warrandyte Festival

on page 4. Kel tells us about River Lomatia from the nursery on page 7. A cautionary tale of Myrtle Rust is found on page 8 and on the same page I reveal a close wildlife encounter.

We'd like to hear from you next month. Enjoy,
Linda

Deadline for June edition newsletter is Friday 25th May, 2012
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113



FOWSP Artists Emerge for Festival

By Sybille Ims

THE NEW FOWSP BANNER is flying high opposite the police station in Warrandyte.

Thursday the 1st of March provided yet another activity for volunteers. Kelly Wooster, Alison Thom and Lyn Moore were found enjoying painting the banner down in the folly. Discussions about colours and tones were heard amongst the laughter during painting. The scene depicts different flora and fauna of Warrandyte, even a phascogale. (Photo left) Fortunately the paint dries quickly as side two also had to be painted and the deadline was close.

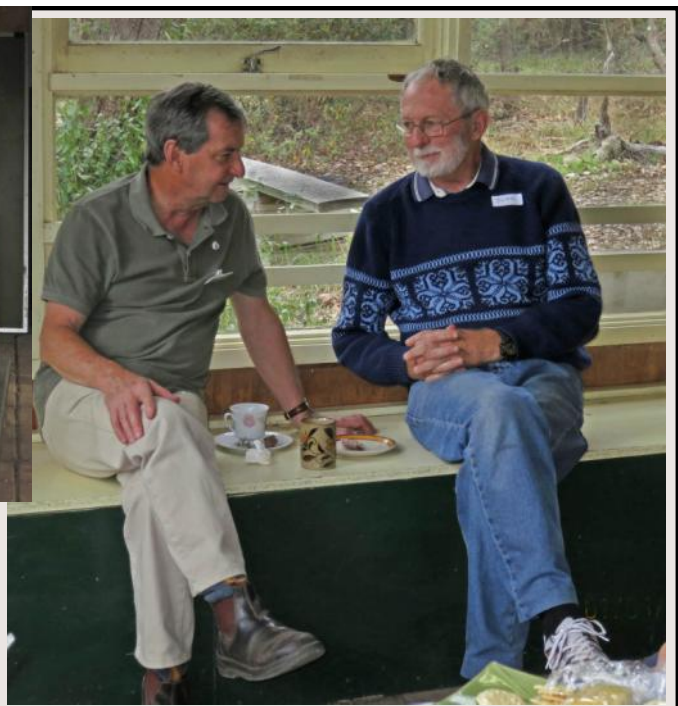
Kelly and Sybille got together on Friday afternoon to paint the other side. Kelly wished to showcase our wildflowers, so copies of *Native Splendour* and a few plants were brought down to the folly to be still-life models. A beautiful bold hardenbergia and a striking correa were selected to represent our wildflowers. (Photo p.1) Again the sound of laughter filled the air as we selected and sketched our designs, and undertook the challenge of mixing the colours and painting. While we painted down at the folly, we were fortunate to share this special spot with kangaroos and ducks that came to make use of the waterhole, not concerned about our presence

Thanks to Kelly who liaised with the Festival committee to organise a new banner for FOWSP.

We hope many members saw our banner flying proud over the last few weeks around the Warrandyte Festival.



Lyndy and Sil, Ken and John, all relax at the new members' tea.



New Members' Tea April 1st 2012

By Lindy Gilbert

WE ARE DELIGHTED to report that 24 people have joined FOWSP in the past 6 months. We were very pleased with the response to our invitation to come to afternoon tea to meet the nursery staff and FOWSP committee in an informal setting. The weather was perfect, with lots of wildlife around, including large numbers of ducks skimming the water and kangaroos bounding all around us. Sybille made a special panacotta with native river mint on a base of crushed chocolate biscuits. It was very popular and such a good illustration as to how native plants can be used to make food taste different and interesting. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much, it was great to see them all chatting away on a variety of subjects. Little Tilly charmed us all with her serious brown eyes and cute little face. Sil was very pleased to forge links with Bev and John Hanson which will assist her in completing an assignment for her diploma in environmental studies at RMIT. The next morning tea will be held in November 2012



Tea is enjoyed by Belinda, Tilly, Sybille, Bev and Helen

Lyndy's chocolate cupcakes were a hit with Tilly



Fiona and Janaki are welcomed by Cathy



Weeding at Glynn's Reserve in Autumn 2012 - Time well spent. By Carol Page

IT'S AMAZING what can be accomplished by a small band of willing workers even before they knew of the chocolate biscuit and cheese portions that Jan had secreted for morning tea.



It was a weeding foray, but as we headed for a large patch of Boneseed we were sidetracked by quite a large Cootamundra Wattle in full bud – not to be deterred, the boys, Simon and Grey, lost no time in removing it with what I thought were quite inadequate pruning saws.

Some of the Boneseed (Photo left) had reached a good size but was much easier to handle than the area of dangerously prickly Gorse that we came upon later. Boneseed is native to South Africa and Gorse is native to the Iberian Peninsula. Both have become a real menace in suitable conditions in Australia. Simon discovered a bull ant's nest at the

base of a Gorse plant but carried on purposefully with his digging even though he did sustain a bite or two.



We removed some Bridal creeper but made no dint in it as it was widely scattered throughout the area. There were a couple of very large patches of Purpletop Verbain some over a meter tall, most with their mauve flowers still emerging (Photo left)– too much for us to handle–certainly a job for the Super Rangers!

Throughout the morning Common brown butterflies kept us company most looking very ragged at this stage of their life cycle. Linda looked in vain for her Impe-

rial Blue on *Acacia mearnsii*, but there were a few Honeybrown Beetles *Ecnolagria grandis* on leaves to catch our eye.

We took our morning tea break at one of the lower ponds near the windmill, sitting in comfort on the edge of a short rickety wooden walkway. The pond was pretty much covered in red *Azolla pinnata* – this native floating fern is a food source for waterfowl, fish, insects, worms, snails, shrimps and crustaceans. There were a couple of Dusky Moorhens in a corner taking advantage of it. However, scattered amongst the *Azolla pinnata* were the brightly coloured yellow flowers of Bladderwort *Utricularia australis*. (Photo right) Linda ventured to get her feet wet and picked a flower with a tiny amount of the root system so we could examine the bladders with a hand lens. Ask Linda to tell you how they function. (or see Nature article in the March Warandyte Diary)



The boys also tackled Prunus and Fruit trees and as a bonus a mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroos stopped briefly to look at us, then bounded effortlessly away. They certainly had more energy than we did at the end of a satisfying morning.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2012

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nursery@fowsp.org.au

Park Office 9844 2659

Newsletter assist **Joan Broadberry**
9846 1218

Wildlife Rescue **Adriana Simmonds**
9722 2908

Koala Rescue **Julie Pryor**
9722 1117

Librarian **Judy Green**
9844 2096

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

JOIN US on the first Thursday of the month from 9 am, (TAG workers only), to 12. 30 pm. Either meet at the depot, (sharp at 9:00 am for 9:15 start), or on site by arrangement. LEARN some vegetation management skills and help improve some special sites in the Park. Just tag along with the Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

Activities are cancelled on Total Fire ban Days

Thursday 3rd May *Koornong*. Grade: Difficult, watch our for wombat holes. A morning of weeding one of the most picturesque areas in the park alongside the Yarra.

Thursday 17th May *Watsons Creek Planting with the rangers*. Grade: easy-some uneven ground.

Thursday 7th June *Orchard Track Revegetation activity*

No experience necessary but please bring drinking water and weather appropriate clothing. The morning tea, tools and gloves will be provided. Meet onsite at 9.30 or at the nursery at 9.15. Call 0408 317327 for more details

Weekend Activity Group (WAG?)

Saturday, 5th May at 10:00am **Grade: Easy** Propagation

Come and learn how to propagate the indigenous plants from your local area. There will be seed sorting, seed sowing, cuttings of plants, pricking out and general nursery activities. Call Kelly on 0439 612571 for more details

Saturday 2nd June at 10:00am **Grade: Moderate** Come and give nature a hand-following up recent plantings at the Boys Rd site in the Pound Bend area of the park. We are now going to tackle the weeds and undertake some site maintenance. Call Kelly on 0439 612571 for more details.

No experience necessary, as there is always someone there to show you the ropes. Meet at the Depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte. (See directions and map top of page 6). Weekend Activity Group project is supported by Manningham City Council's Community Development Grant Program

APS Yarra Yarra NATIVE PLANT SALE and Propagation Sessions.

6th May, 10am - 3pm. Cnr Main Road and Brougham St, Eltham, Vic.

Huge range of natives, unusual species, grafted plants and indigenous plants too. Good prices. Propagation sessions begin at 12 noon - from seed, cuttings and grafting.

Parking in Brougham St. Organised by Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra

Contact Jill 0394397228, or apsyarrayarra@gmail.com

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~apsyarrayarra>

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 9.30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. Propagation takes place from 9.30 am to 12.30 midday.

No prior experience necessary -

There is always someone available to show you the ropes.

NURSERY OPENING HOURS

The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday.

9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

the first Saturday of every month, 9 am to 1 pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) and

the first Sunday of each month

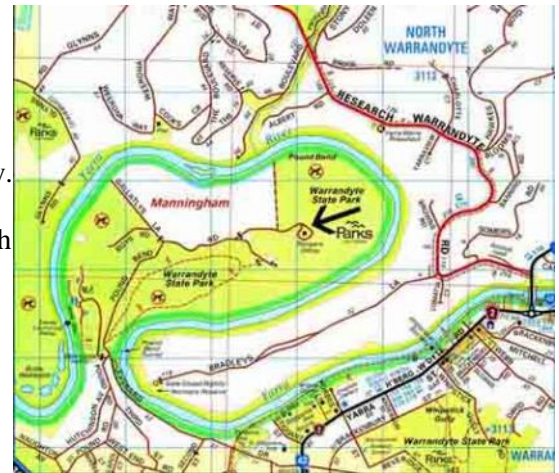
2 pm to 4 pm.

**Nursery is closed to customers and volunteers
on Total Fire Ban Days**

Prices 2011

Members \$1.50

Non-members \$2.00



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Manningham Environmental Seminars

are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at the **Warrandyte Community Centre**,
168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 3113 Mel Ref. 23 F11

Wednesday 2nd May - Remnant Bushland in Manningham with ecological consultant,
Dr Melanie Birtchnell

Wednesday 6th June Manningham's native vegetation loss with ecologist
Kathy Himbeck, Abzeco

For full details check closer to the time on 9840 9124



Nillimbik

Saturday June 2nd 10 am – 11:30 am World Environment Day. *Its all about you.*
Learn 10 easy things you can do...

Venue: Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham (Melway 22A1) Cost: Free

Bookings: Environment and Strategic Planning Administration on 9433 3316



Fowsp/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. Meet 9.30 am **at the venue**, (*disclosed when you book*). Walks held on the 4th Thursday of each month
These walks are paced to allow us to appreciate the natural history along the way

Thursday 24 May—9.30 am Stane Brae This walk will travel upstream along the Yarra River from Jumping Creek Reserve, toward the original Stane Brae farm dairy. Learn about the area's revegetation projects over the past 20 years.

Distance: 4km. Time: 2.5hrs. Grade: Difficult (includes some steep and narrow track sections)

Places are limited and **bookings are essential:**
9840 9124 or eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au.

More from the Grassroots (at the nursery) by Kel Wooster

It looks like Melbourne weather is being its usual self again with chilly mornings being felt for some Thursday nursery propagation mornings recently. As usual these spells have been followed by a couple of tempting warmer ones, but who can keep up? I know that I can't. I do know it is a good time to get into some planting, both to keep warm and to get the plants into the ground, giving them a little head start before the real cold sets in. If you are looking for something a little bit ornamental to plant or to revegetate that stream/ riverside area of your property, the nursery currently has some River Lomatia in stock. Over summer the creamy flowers of the **River Lomatia, *Lomatia myricoides*** caught my eye a few times. It would be a nice garden plant. This small and attractive tree (up to 5 metres, yet a little bit slow growing), is ideal for moist, well drained clay/ loam soils (preferably along watercourses), in a semi to fully shaded area and it is frost tolerant. Look out for them growing along the Yarra's edge, especially along the rapids at Mt Lofty and Yarra Brae. (Photos below)



River Lomatia *Lomatia myricoides* leaf above, flower right. Photos from Flora of Warrandyte



From the Committee...

The April Meeting was cancelled as many committee members were away for Easter.

A small group met to address issues raised by concern about the Review of Native Vegetation Management Framework in Victoria as signaled by the VNPA.

Watch for an article on this topic in the next Warrandyte Diary in May

Next Committee Meeting

Date: May 8th 2012

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER



Thanks to those who helped out on 7th April-

Louise Clear, Brian James, Richard Lee, Peta Cumming and Sybille Ims, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crooks kindly locked up again
Trailer delivery and retrieval: Artur Muchow

The Warrandyte market is held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm at Stiggants Reserve. Volunteers are rostered in pairs to man/woman) the FOWSP information trailer for just one hour. If you are interested in being on the market roster for 2012 please contact **Sybille Ims 9844 1335/0405 500 278** imsbs@netspace.net.au *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

Future market dates are: *Saturday May 5th, June 2nd*

Reproduced from April 2012 edition of
Kunzea, APS Maroondah

Myrtle Rust on a Black Stallion

“A lady living near Canterbury Road, Blackburn, has been found to have the Myrtle Rust in her garden hedge.

Lophomyrtus x ralphii ‘Black Stallion’ is a cultivar originating from *Lophomyrtus x ralphii*, which is a NZ native plant. It is often used as a hedging plant, growing to about 2m high.

She contacted DPI and soon had the DPI, fully suited, in her yard taking samples. She has been told that she has the “worst reported case in Victoria”. She does not work in the industry, and has no contacts in the nursery business or bushland areas.

She has been instructed to either remove all her very advanced hedge or to spray it every two weeks - (with two small children around!).

The bad news for the Blackburn Creeklands is that Myrtle Rust can become airborne under certain situations, so the Creekland plants could be affected very soon.

Keep your eyes peeled, and report anything suspicious to DPI.”

Please see: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/forestry/pests-diseases-weeds/diseases/myrtle-rust/what-does-myrtle-rust-look-like> or else the photos that are displayed at the nursery.

What's happening in your backyard in autumn?

We would love to hear from you, a paragraph or a page, photos welcome. Contributions can be mailed to FOWSP, P.O. Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or preferably emailed to Linda Rogan, lindarogan@netspace.net.au

Newsletter team this month were:
Linda Rogan
Joan Broadberry
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Too Close for Comfort

Linda Rogan

I donned a pair of knickers, fresh out of the laundry basket, only to feel something prickling my left buttock. A grass seed I thought. Between my finger pads, the prickly thing wiggled and I dropped it on a basket.

It looked like a knot of black cotton, peppercorn sized, but it jumped. I realised this was the jumping spider I had lost track of, in the laundry basket. (Photo below)



It's from the family Salticidae and they are known as the “Tigers of the spider world” This one had a shiny chestnut brown colour on the top of its abdomen, with light brown hairy flanks..

It raised its abdomen as if to make a show or to look bigger..(Photo below)

I had a small itchy lump to show (or hide) for this close encounter so was glad to read they are not



venomous. I haven't been able to put a name to it but was fascinated as I scrolled through the Australian Salticidae on the *Spiders of Australia* in search of something similar. Of special note on this site was the colourful Peacock Spider. Have a look yourself on the following site.

<http://ednieuw.home.xs4all.nl/australian/Spidaus.html>

“I SPY”

By B.G



Plant for Park Orchards

Harrison, age 6 (“nearly seven, eight more days) and Aston age 3 (“also nearly four) were helping dad, Garry from Park Orchards to select plants at the nursery.

Plant Purchases

Tony and Pamela from Warrandyte North were also acquiring plants in tubes. Pamela helps one day a week with “Birdlife Australia”, a new organisation formed from the former Birds Australia and Birds Observation and Conservation Association (BOCA) . They were also renewing their FOWSP membership.

All Active

What does that large group of members do at the depot every Thursday morning?

Typical tasks allocated one Thursday were:

- Cut back Rubus and make cuttings
- *Correa glabra* cuttings
- Weed 6 inch pots (*Dianella* and *Lomandra*)
- Prick out –see whiteboard
- Weed office garden
- Sow *Lomandra*
- Sort sowing ,mix?
- Copy plant labels
- Sort *Dianella* seed.

And written on the notice board:
Jason or Linda—Call Cathy 9840****

and work in Frogland.

Apropos Previous Piece

The white-board list—(indicates number of trays of seedlings which are to be replanted into tubes.)

Spyridium parvifolium– all

Hakea decurrens-all

Poa sieberiana all

Allocasuarina littoralis

Callistamon sieberiana

Melaleuca ericifolia– all

Drawn to Drawing

Nursery helper Kelly is planning to attend a week-end class in Botanical Drawing at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

Help is at Hand

Kay Williams is currently helping as a nursery assistant, on a part-time basis.

Persons with Prior

Lyndell and daughter Bethany (15 Y.O.) were purchasing plants. Both used to come as volunteers in FOWSP when Bethany was a small child.

Bethany wants to be a psychologist or counsellor (possibly child) She also like mathematics no doubt an interest “caught from her mother.

Fit Fox

A very fit, trim and slim fox was seen on the Pound Bend Road about 100 metres past the Pound Bend Park entrance. It looked, then calmly “walked” off to the Gallatly Lane area.

Snack Seekers

During mid April European Wasps kept visiting the Friends at morning tea—no doubt drawn by the “sweets” being eaten.

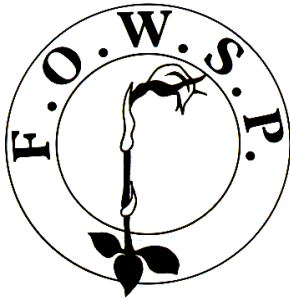
Josh Not Jesting or Provenance Paramount

“I talk and you listen” was the advice given to your I SPY reporter as a group of nursery helpers ended the morning activities with a significant talk on plant and seedling labelling. See next issue for an uncensored version!



Flax Lily
Dianella sp.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP



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Black-shouldered Kite

A Black-shouldered Kite is a smallish grey and white raptor with distinctive black crescents on its shoulders. It can perch conspicuously on a highpoint, but is more often seen hovering over cleared areas hunting for insects, small rodents or reptiles. It ranges over the whole of Australia. Joan Broadberry

May 2012 Volume 30 no. 4

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family) \$30 (from 1 September 2011) Newsletter by email (tick box)
Concession \$10

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or renew on the website www.fowsp.org.au with the option of direct deposit payment.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus



Tailed Emperor in Castlemaine shares a drink with European wasp on April 20. Learn about this butterfly in May's Warrandyte Diary.



The Scarlet Greenhood *Pterostylis coccina* Photographed at Wulgulmerang, north of Buchan, April 2012. This autumn blooming greenhood is extremely localised in Victoria but more widespread in NSW.



This dragonfly made it difficult for me to photograph it. Therefore photos above and close right are by Peter Rogan.

All other photos this page are mine.



Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows:
lindarogan@netspace.net.au