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

IF YOU are like me, you may find the darker shorter days of June and July can get you down. Joining in a working party with other FOWSPians can be a perfect antidote. See details on page 2. And this year there are weekend activity groups (WAGs) as well. See page 5 for schedule.

Kel from the FOWSP nursery tells us about wetland plants available at the nursery on page 3.

Page 4 invites you to book the FOWSP 30th anniversary celebration in your diary, and reminds us of earlier celebration/fundraising

They arrived clean, full of energy and enthusiasm...





....and like Ranger Cam Beardsell, maintained a smile to the end of the morning. See why on page 2.

events.

Some of you will be aware of the difficult time rangers are having arriving at a fair workplace agreement with the government. Find out more about this and why the committee supports their action on page 7.

Page 8 is a mix of good news about our archived FOWSP newletters and troubling news in updates on the Myrtle Rust and the deaths of lorikeets.

Page 9 brings an eclectic mix of snippets and stories from I Spy.

Remember next newsletter will be September as the editorial staff are taking a winter break. Enjoy and keep sending your photos and articles. Linda

Deadline for September edition newsletter is Friday August 25th 2012 Note no newsletter in August 2012 contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

YARRA - MULLUM MULLUM TAG 14 JUNE 2012 Carol Page

IT WAS PERFECT weather for hard work and the small band of Fowspians were soon busy under Cam's watchful eye.

We were planting downstream of the confluence of the Yarra River and the Mullum Mullum Creek. Two almost adjacent areas had been prepared a few weeks ago, displacing the numerous rabbit families that had made their homes in the piled soil left behind from the Main Yarra Trail track works. Perfect conditions, for rabbit warrens. Don't let memories of *Watership Down* by Richard Adams cloud your thinking. The resident bunnies were indeed feral and very destructive.

"Published in <u>1972</u>, *Watership Down* was Richard Adams' first novel, and is by far his most successful to date. Although it was initially rejected by 13 publishers before eventually being accepted by Rex Collings Ltd, *Watership Down* has never been out of print, and was the recipient of several prestigious awards. It is <u>Penguin Books</u>' bestselling novel of all time." (Taken from Wikipedia)



The rabbit warrens have been levelled and the ground compacted in preparations for planting.

even deer.

Cam decided the layout and some Rangers who arrived later made sure that the *Acacia melanoxylon* was well away from the trail, so that when they fell because of their short lifespan, the path wouldn't need to be cleared

We planted around 300 plants including: Lomatia myrcinoides River Lomatia Chrysocephalum semipapposum Clustered Everlasting, valley form Melicytus dentatus Tree Violet

(Continued on page 3)



Wetland Winners

LOOKING for something to soak up those swampy areas or to create your very own frogland? It is a great time to start up a frog pond and create some habitat areas in preparation for attracting some local

frogs. You can create a wetland habitat or frog pond in your very own backyard by simply digging a hole and lining it with a waterproof material, such as heavy black plastic, old laundry tubs or clay garden pots which lay on a bed of sand. The best position to attract frogs is in a partially shaded area which is sheltered from wind. Frogs do have certain requirements when moving in, these include, but are not limited to:

- Rocks and logs around the edges of the pond for shelter.
- Native plants of various heights in and around the pond in order to protect themselves and their eggs. (Some frogs also require sedges or grasses hanging over into the water on which to lay their eggs)
- No fish present in the water. (They eat the tadpoles)
- An area fenced off from pets and young children could be a good idea too.

Here are some suggested plants to attract the frogs to their new home.

- *Carex breviculmis* Short-stem Sedge, a tufted sedge to 20cm which has a light green flower August, September & October
- *Carex fascicularis* Tassel Sedge, a densely tufted sedge to 1m.
- Flowers from October to April Photo right.
- *Carex iynx* Sedge Densely tufted sedge to 60cm.Flowers: September to February
- *Dianella tasmanica* Tasman Flax-lily Tufted or rhizomatous perennial herb to 1m. Robust tufted lily. Prefers moist shaded areas. Has small blue flowers from August to February.
- Mazus pumilio Swamp Mazus, photo below, a perennial mat-forming herb to 5cm which likes the wet



elow, a perennial mat-forming herb to 5cm which likes the wet areas. Has small purple flowers from October to March. The District status for this plant in 1999 was listed as vulnerable, while it was also found to be significant in the Melbourne region (*Beardsell*, *Cheal et al.*)

For more information on the calls of local frogs and how to become involved in Melbourne Water frog surveys without even leaving your own home visit http:// frogs.melbournewater.com.au/ Kel



(Continued from page 2) Eucalyptus viminalis Manna Gum Bursaria spinosa Sweet Bursaria Callistemon sieberi River Bottlebrush Acacia melanoxylon Blackwood Poa ensiformis, Lomandra longfolia, Coprosma quadrifida Prickly Currant Bush

We felt it was another very successful and rewarding Tag and hope to be part of the team to revegetate the second area

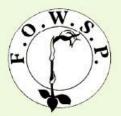
Five FOWSPians and ranger Cam, well satisfied with the mornings work. *Thanks to Janaya for this photo.*



8 8 8

ADVANCE NOTICE!

Put this in your diary now



Thirty Years on - And still going strong!

Come and celebrate the 30th milestone for FOWSP. Great activities for the kids. Lunch provided.

> Date: Sunday 18th November 2012 Time: 12.00-3pm Location: The Folly, Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10)







Who remembers the Butterfly Ball?

This was taken from the FOWSP newsletter from October 1989 and I found it thanks to Jason's scanning of all available newsletters for the FOWSP website. You can now search these newsletters on line.

See page 9 to help us with missing copies

FOWSP Newsletter

Cathy Willis

Gray Ardern

Jan Falconer

FOWSP	COMMITTEE 2012
-------	-----------------------

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2012			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Jason Patton jason@parau.com	0402 121838 n	Webmaster & Membership	<u>Nursery Manager</u> Nursery Phone nursery	Josh Revell 0408 317 327 @fowsp.org.au
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	Park Office	9844 2659
Linda Rogan lindarogan@nets	9435 5806 pace.net.au	Newsletter co-ordinator	<u>Newsletter assist</u>	Joan Broadberry 9846 1218
Kelly Wooster	9844 2819	Social media contact; facebook	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u> Ad monds	lriana Sim- 9722 2908
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Koala Rescue	Julie Pryor

Librarian

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

Market trailer

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 5th July Orchard Track Revegetation activity Grade: Easy—Site is accessible by car if necessary.

Thursday 19th July Anderson's Creek woody Weeding Grade: Difficult

0418 142297

0418 190261

9844 1226

Sybille Ims 9844 1335 or 0405 500

278 imsbs@netspace.net.au

Thursday 2nd August at 9:00 am. Planting near Pound Bend Nursery Grade: easy

Thursday 6th September at 9:15 am. Hochkins RidgeReserve Grade: Moderate.



Weekend Activity Group (WAG)

Supported by a Manningham City Council grant

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park welcome everyone to attend. No experience is needed and sites are easily accessible for all ages. Please bring drinking water, wear sturdy boots or shoes and weather appropriate clothing. Please call 0408 317 327 to confirm your attendance and for meeting point information.

Sunday 1st July, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Pound Bend Reserve tree planting and site maintenance

Sunday 29th July, at 9:00 am. Pound Bend area Planet Ark National Tree Day Planting and site maintenance. Grade: easy

Saturday 4th August at 10:00 am Pound Bend Nursery. Learn propagation of indigenous plants

Sunday 5th August at 9:00 am Pound Bend area Extended Planet Ark National Tree Day Planting and site maintenance. Grade: easy

Sunday 5th August at 2:00 pm. Pound Bend Nursery. Learn propagation of indigenous plants Grade: Easy.

Saturday 1st September at 10:00am. Morning of weeding by the Yarra River. Grade: moderate

Manningham City Council's grant program is to facilitate and support non-profit community organisations to develop projects, programs and events, which benefit and meet the needs of the community.

To find out more about Planet Ark's National Tree Day, please visit treeday.planetark.org, call the Hotline on 1300 88 5000 or visit your local participating Toyota Dealership.

9722 1117

Judy Green

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

9844 2096

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

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

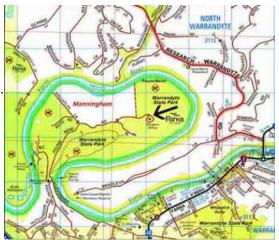
No prior experience necessary -There is always someone available to show you the ropes.

NURSERY OPENING HOURS

The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday. <u>9.30 am to 12.30 pm and</u> the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) and the first Sunday of each month <u>2 pm to 4 pm</u>.

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

Prices 2012Members \$1.50Non-members \$2.00



Copyright 2008 Melway Publishing Pty Ltd Reproduced from Melway Edition 36 with permission

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 4th July: *Cultural Conservation of Turtles in the Barmah-Millewa Forest*, with Katie Howard, Department of sustainability and Environment.

Wednesday 1st August: Shorebirds and Benthos at the Western Treatment Plant with Danny Rogers, Arthur Rylah Institute.

Wednesday 5th September: Melbourne Turtle Study with ecologist Dr. Andrew Hamer

For full details check closer to the time on 9840 9124



MANNINGHAM



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**. 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 26th July, 9.30 am Timber Reserve and Fiddler Gully Walk Distance 3.5km Time 2.5hrs Rating: Moderate (includes some steep sections)

Thursday 23 August, 9.30am Hochkins Ridge Walk Distance: 3km Time: 2 hours Rating: Difficult (includes some steep narrow sections.

Places are limited and **bookings are essential**: 9840 9124 or <u>eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au</u>.

Sat 11th August 2-4 pm Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare group (JCCLG)- Join us in building nest boxes for Tuans at Currawong Conference Room/ Carport area. Contact Tracey 0403 739938

Nillimbik Environmental Events

Sunday 29th July: National Tree Day. Bookings: Contact Environmental Works Unit on 9433 3121



Wednesday 29th August: Indigenous Plan Propagation. Bookings: Contact Living & Learning Nillumbik on 9433 3744.

FOWSP committee has received a letter from our local rangers expressing appreciation of Friends Group volunteers and explaining their current position in the dispute for a fair workplace agreement.

The letter notes that from the individual park perspective

- The number of staff has been reduced
- Budgets have been significantly cut
- An increased focus on fire management and flood recovery has increased staff workloads.

FOWSP notes this has occurred at the same time that the management of additional parklands has become the responsibility of Warrandyte office.

Working closely with our rangers, we have seen the growing pressures under which they work and understand their frustration with the present offer of a workplace agreement that fails to cover the increase in cost of living.

The committee unanimously supports the current action taken by our rangers, and suggests that others who share this concern respond by joining the campaign at www.fairpay4fairwork.com

<u>and/</u>or writing directly to the Premier: Ted Baillieu, Level 1,1 Treasury Place, Melbourne or <u>ted.baillieu@parliament.vic.gov.au</u>

and Ryan Smith, MLA, level 17, 8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne or <u>ryan.smith@ parlia-</u> <u>ment.vic.gov.au</u>

News from the Committee

•**Thanks** to Alan Noy for the donation of a heat bed that will aid the nursery in raising seedlings earlier in the season.

•**Thanks** to Lyndy, Sybille and Jason for undertaking this successful school based activity for the past three years. Due to other priorities and no further funding, this will not be pursued this year.

•Review of Native Vegetation Management

Framework Artur has contacted VNPA and Jason has liaised with WCA who are arranging an audience with Ryan Smith. We will now await announcement of the consultation process and will communicate with other groups as appropriate. Quick action may be needed once the consultation begins and our letter could form the basis of a submission

Nursery Report

•Volunteer attendance numbers are down probably due to season and the weather.

•Late requests have been received for plants that we cannot produce at such short notice.

•New greenhouse to replace the aging one. Jason will get final quotes for completed greenhouse commercially installed.

•Nest boxes are needed in parklands for tuans and possums. FOWSP will assist with construction.

Rangers Report No report has been received due to industrial action by PV Rangers See column left.

Next Committee Meeting			
Date:	July 10th 2012		
Venue:	Ranger Station, Pound Bend		
Time:	19:30 pm sharp		



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on 2nd June-John and Diane Baird, kindly opening the trailer Marion Thomson and Michael Hubbert, Jan Smids & Marie Krause, Sybille Ims kindly locking up again Trailer delivery and retrieval: Peter Curry

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 July 7th, August 4th and September 1st

FOWSP Newsletter

Dear all

In response to a request from a Nth Warrandyte Wildlife Refuge I am attaching a flyer regarding a disease which is killing lorikeets. (Summarised below).

Sick and dead birds have turned up around Melbourne. It is important to report any discovery of dead or diseased lorikeets to Pam Whiteley at the University of Melbourne- Vet Science facultyon 0400 119 301

It is also extremely important not to feed native wildlife as it is apparent that the disease affecting the lorikeets is being spread through backyard feeding stations.

If you find dead lorikeets please carefully bag and dispose of them to avoid further contamination and phone Pam with the no. of dead birds and the location found.



Healthy Rainbow Lorikeet feeding on pollen

Please be alert to any sign of diseased or dead lorikeets and remember if you feel the need to feed our wildlife then plant local indigenous species which provides not only food but habitat and shelter.

Regards, Ruth Rankin

Myrtle Rust Update

Department of Primary Industries - 16 May 2012

In recent weeks, several myrtle rust detections were made outside the metropolitan Melbourne area - at Ballarat, Shepparton, Tynong North and East Gippsland.

As of 11 May, there were 60 detections in Victoria and the disease has recently been found on several additional species.

It is expected that fewer detections will be made during the coming winter months, but there is a potential for the disease to flourish during spring.

The focus of the myrtle rust program remains on management and monitoring to minimise its spread and impact.

In Victoria, myrtle rust has now been found on:

- Acmena smithii (Lilly Pilly)
- Agonis flexuosa (Willow Myrtle)
- Austromyrtus dulcis (Midgen berry/midyim)
- Backhousia citriodora (Lemon-scented Myrtle)
- Callistemon 'Harkness' (Bottlebrush)
- Callistemon 'King's Park Special' (bottlebrush)
- Callistemon viminalis (Bottlebrush)
- Chamelaucium uncinatum (Geraldton Wax)
- Eucalyptus olida (Strawberry Gum)
- Lophomyrtus x ralphii Black Stallion and other varieties
- Metrosideros carminea (Red rata)
- Metrosideros collina (Fiji Christmas Bush)
- Metrosideros excelsa (New Zealand
- Christmas Bush)
- Myrtus communis (Common Myrtle)
- Syzygium anisatum (Aniseed Myrtle)
- Syzygium australe (Lilly Pilly/Scrub Cherry)
- Syzygium paniculatum (Dwarf Magenta Cherry).

News from the Interwebs from Jason

As part of our 30th anniversary celebrations later this year, we've scanned all of our Newsletters as searchable .PDFs.

These are available on our website, under 'Publications'. There, you'll see a 'Search' section, but you can also find a particular newsletter, or other document by clicking on one of the three headings on that web page.

We've only been able to scan those Newsletters that are in our library below is a list of those missing. Of-course, it maybe that for one reason or another, there were no Newsletters published for these months.

IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY OF THESE, or any information as to their existence, can you please let me know at:

jason@parau.com, or 0402 121838.

- 2004 February
- 1995 February & March
- 1989 July

п

- 1988 November & December
- 1987 All months EXCEPT October and November
- 1986 to 1982 All months.
- - The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not nec-п essarily reflect those of FOWSP

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

"I SPY" _{By B.G}

OILS AIN'T JUST OILS

June 8th, a very large 12 wheeled truck entered the Depot area. On the side of its "enclosed" body was the sign "CHEMSAL" - Waste management and recycling. Hung neatly at its back was a small forklift. On the back of the body was a large diamond shaped sign, coloured grey and with the word TOXIC printed on it. It had arrived to remove unknown chemicals and old oils found in the park. Ranger Warren Murphy, the environmental land and water team leader, said, "the job has far more to it than you may think".

FLORA PHOTOS

Interested in entering an amateur photography completion using Australian native flowers as the theme? Apply to Australian Native Plant Photographic Competition before 1st July 2012. Diamond Valley Photographic Society at the invitation of Australian Plant Society Yarra Yarra. <u>www.dvps.org.au</u>

SARAH AND SON

Sarah Q. was putting potting mix into tubes in order to prick our *Goodia lotifolia* plants. Accompanying Sarah was her 4 month old son Oliver, helping by sleeping.

WATERY WALK

Mid-June Bruce Fuhrer led a fungi walk in the Sandy Bay/Black Flat area. At least half a dozen people turned up in spite of inclement weather and "closed gates" The walk ended up at the river but the BYO afternoon tea was curtailed because of rain. Nevertheless "there was a lot of interest in the fungi.

RETURN TO REALITY

As a 12-14 Y.O. I used to spend a penny on the bus from Carlton to visit the Museum and Art Gallery then located in Russell St, City, behind the State lending library. I used to wander for hours looking at the thousands of "pinned moths, dioramas, Pharlap, mechanism, stuffed animals and the many paintings in the Art Gallery.

When the new Museum opened near the Exhibition

Building (Carlton) I didn't visit because most people I spoke to said "empty spaces, not up to what it was. Last May we did visit the Museum in Nicholson Street and were so impressed. It is now what a museum should be.

FOREST FLORA AND FAUNA

The forest display at the museum is excellent. One section was a live mass of greenhood, helmet and bird orchids, the result of a rescue ahead of a bull-dozer.

RETURN TO RIO

Twenty years ago I spoke to a young person who had been to the RIO Conference on the environment. She said then that she and a small group had approached a business leader at the conference trying to change his attitudes to environmental damage. The response was "Well, if you are wrong in your opinions, then it won't matter, but if you are right, I'm going to have a first class ride until the end." We hope the 2012 Conference in Rio is better than that.

RANGERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Ranger Janaya O'Dempsey, is back after 12 months maternity leave (Spencer 13 months) and was supervising two work experience students Zoey from Mooroolbark college and Cody from Luther College.

COOCHIEMUDLO CONTACT

Long time FOWSP members Olive and Andy Walters have just shifted to Queensland. In spite of a wrist injury, Olive has joined a group, (*The Press Gang*), which has been pressing and cataloguing the **island's** indigenous flora and identifying fungi. The Redland's Council has established an indigenous nursery and provided meeting rooms. Olive says, "we should have made this move years ago". Still Olive, it was our gain to have had you longer in FOWSP.



BITTEN OFF MORE THAN IT COULD CHEW (OR SWALLOW?) a story from Olive

I looked out of my bedroom door one morning and saw a Torresian Crow eyeing what looked like some crumpled grey cloth on the ground. Mystified, I walked out to look and the crumpled cloth turned out to be a Carpet Python mid-meal. At first I thought it had supped on a crow or magpie but closer observation proved that the black protuberance was in fact the wing of a fruit bat! The python eventually swallowed the whole animal, its mouth returned to normal and it slithered off very slowly with a bulge in its middle. *Photo above*



PP 346802 / 0005

Print Post 346802/0005

Postage Paid Australia

REGISTRATION BY AUSTRALIA POST

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

Common Heath *Epacris impressa*

Raindrops on white heath flowers brighten Warrandyte's winter. In WSP the white form is most common. Propagation by seed and cuttings is difficult so we seldom have plants available through the nursery.

A student from Latrobe Uni is planning a research project to look at what its pollinators are and if types of pollinators, (birds/bees/insects), have a preference for the different colours (white/pink/ red).

The pink flowered form is Victoria's floral emblem. Línda

July and August 2012 Volume 30 number 6

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

	FOWSP Membersh	ip Renewa	al Form
Name		-	
Address			
Telephone no			
Membership (family) Concession	\$30 (from 1 September 201) \$10	1)	Newsletter by email (tick box)

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

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus



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