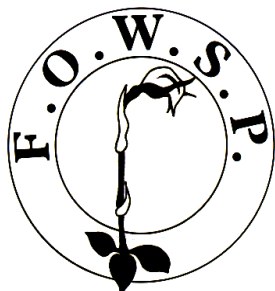


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

LATE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, spring at last and life in all its diverse forms is bursting forth. Recent rains means our early season's plantings are doing well and indigenous plants are reappearing in some of the previously cleared bits of bush. Of course the weeds are also taking full advantage of the conditions so there is no shortage of work to be done.

On page 2 read how medical students along with Weekend Activity Group (WAG) and National Tree Day celebrators have progressed the revegetation of the Boys Road site in July. Note also the next opportunity to join forces with the Bushcare's Major Day-out is on September 9th. Don't miss reading about the Orchard Track history on the same page.

The photo on this page and notes on page 3 show us that members did not hibernate during the inclement winter weather, but continued revegetating parklands while only the glorious blooming of the Golden Wattle reminded of spring to come.

The Manningham Community Connections Forum gave FOWSP the opportunity to reach the next generation via the local schools. Thanks to Sybille and Artur. More on page 3.

As usual some FOWSPians travelled over the late Autumn and winter months. On page 4, Pat Coupar shares a whale of an adventure. Oth-

ers are hoping to share some wonderful experiences in the future. (Back cover has a sneak preview from Joan B)

See page 7 for Kel's words about some of the wonderful wildflowers available from the nursery this spring and also for reports from the committee, rangers and nursery.

Pages 8 and 9 bring us some early gift suggestions from FOWSP and Ben's unique ruminations in I SPY.

Once again, a jam packed issue. Remember to let us know about your observations and activities involving our wonderful bushland. Enjoy, *Linda*



Deadline for October edition newsletter is Friday 21st September 2012
 contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
 or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

More Planting at the Boys Rd site



SUNDAY THE 29TH OF JULY, the combined workforce of Weekend Activity Group and National Tree Day celebrators (with people attracted from near and far), came together and gave nature a hand.

Planting was the order of the day, doctors orders in fact, as a fair contingent of the group were medical students from the organisation *Doctors for the Environment Australia*, a voluntary organisation. They are part of an international community who “stand up for global issues that threaten the future of humanity”. While aiming to use their scientific and medical skills to educate governments, industry and the public, DEA “endeavour to highlight the medical importance of our natural environment. To our patients we try to provide a role model in the care of the environment for this is part of a preventative health ethos”.

So as the kookaburras laughed in nearby Manna Gums, holes were dug, indigenous tubestock planted, stakes hammered in and guards put into place (important as the Swamp Wallabies and kangaroos call this site home). Plants selected for the Boys Road site were chosen from the species list appropriate to the relevant Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) for this site (as surveyed by Cam Beardsell, Parks Victoria). FOWSP nursery propagated the plants sourced from neighbouring remnant vegetation.

It was a great way to spend the day: bringing back the bush at a very local level. And it was great to see so many people coming to help out. Luckily the rain held off until the end of our planting session (and the plants were going to be watered). The rain didn't stop the delicious BBQ proceeding, with Chef Jason Patton on hand (a big thanks). *Kel*

Next Weekend Activity Group is Sep 9th in combination with Bushcare's Major Day-out.

Join in Bushcare's Major Day-out

TO BE HELD at the old Orchard Track, Warrandyte State Park, Pound Bend on **September 9th** at 9am.

Spend the morning by the Yarra River, amongst the kookaburras and kangaroos and learn some bushland management techniques in an easy, relaxed environment. Meet at the depot at 9am. And join us for a free BBQ at 1pm.

Please bring drinking water, sturdy boots and weather appropriate clothing. RSVP to the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery on 0408317327

See below to learn about the history of the Orchard Track area of the Warrandyte State Park. Help to restore this area closer to its original natural state. This is being made possible through funding from a Melbourne Water grant, a Manningham City Council Small Community Grant and the hard work and dedication of FOWSP members.

For more information please contact
myln@netspace.net.au or
info@bushcaresmajordayout.org

History of the old Orchard Track

THE ORCHARD TRACK area has seen some hard work throughout its time. The Wurrundjeri people originally used the area and oral evidence suggests that it was an important part of the Walkabout and Dreamtime routes and a traditional trading and meeting place for larger corroborees, until 1841. Then 460 hectares of land was set aside at Pound Bend for an Aboriginal reserve. The gold rushes in 1851 and the increasing white settlement disrupted the aboriginal way of life and many traces of their history. In 1861 only 40 aboriginals remained of the Kulin Nation (most of Victoria). They were pushed further afield by the increasing numbers of white settlements in the Melbourne area and were moved to a Healesville Reserve (Coranderk).

The gold rushes of the 1800's saw many men trying to strike it rich in Warrandyte. The hills were quickly cleared of vegetation and timber to fuel the many crushes which extracted gold or the wood used to prop up mine shafts. The early settlers in the area also saw the value of the land, and it's rich alluvial river terraces, this time for growing fruit and vegetables. The names Henry Stiggant, Old Bill Houghton and the Day family are all still associated with the area at Pound Bend.

The circle continued, in 1932 with Loveday Ellen

(Continued on page 8)

TAG'S Winter NEWS

CRIPES, talk about intrepid!! FOWSP/Parks TAG activities almost always seem to go ahead, even in unfavourable weather conditions. August the 9th was a case in point. An 'unofficial' TAG planting at *Boomers Reserve* took place even though the day was awful.

It was described to me as, "freezing with almost constant drizzle." Cam, Kylie, Bernie, Janaya, Lyn, Mel Danielle, Sarah and others just took on the weather as an extra challenge and planted out 450 tube-stock, mainly grasses and dianella. When the plants were in, I hear these hardy folk did not immediately race back to shelter, but got stuck into some weeding.

On Thursday 16th August, armed with directions supplied by Kel, I walked into the Timber Reserve at the end of Webb St. Warrandyte hoping to catch up the TAG group as they took their morning break. The weather was cool, but by the standards of the current Melbourne winter it was quite a nice day. The profuse booming of Golden Wattle all around me was just spectacular and a group of White-winged Choughs were foraging on the path, keeping just ahead as I walked. After about half an hour I had seen no sign of anyone and headed back to the gate. Then came a faint sound of chopping. I cocked my head and listened. There it was again. About a minute later I came across Carol working a few metres off the path. Gradually Bernie, Danielle, Cam, Josh and Gray materialized out of the bush. Their task that morning was eradicating woody weeds. The main targets being *Acacia longifolia* (Sallow Wattle), *Acacia Floribunda*, Western Australian Bluebell creeper (*Sollya heterophylla*) and of course the usual suspects, Pittosporum and Boneseed. This TAG is an ongoing weeding project following up work done about 12 months ago.

Joan Broadberry



Manningham Community Connections Forum

ON THURSDAY 9TH AUGUST, Artur and I represented FOWSP and MYLN at this forum held at Templestowe Primary and organised by CERES. The function was for teachers in the region to meet local providers and community groups who would support them in sustainability education and projects at their schools. A number of providers were there and talks were given by Ian Penrose from *Riverkeepers*, Manningham Council promoting the advantages of walking to school and Melbourne Water spoke about the benefits of drinking tap water.

The teachers showed great interest in FOWSP's Presentation.
Sybille Ims



Newsletter team this month were:

Linda Rogan
Joan Broadberry
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Swimming with Whale Sharks

By Pat Coupar

THURSDAY MAY 31ST 2012. Today we swam with Whale Sharks at *Ningaloo Marine Park*. It was an awe-inspiring experience right up there with trekking to see Mountain Gorillas in Uganda, sitting beside Chimpanzees in Tanzania and playing with Sea Lions in Australia.

8.30am. We boarded our boat at Tantabiddi wharf a few kilometres south of Exmouth and just north of the Cape Range National Park. After a general introduction from our young crew we were taken to an area of stunning coral bommies inside the lagoon so that the crew could assess our swimming and snorkelling capabilities. During our half hour in the water Mike and I had a great sighting of a full grown, Black-tipped Reef shark cruising around beneath us. These sharks are very common around coral reefs and, although completely harmless, did freak out a number of our fellow snorkelers!

Back on board, we motored on out through the reef for the real thing. It wasn't long before the first Whale Shark was reported by the spotter plane. Earlier we had been divided into two groups of ten. Mike and I were in the first group and first in the water.

The theory was, the captain positions the boat in front of the approaching Whale Shark and when the our guide shouts 'Go, go, go' we all jump in at the same time and form a line to watch the giant fish as it swims towards us. In practice, it was chaos with ten pairs of frantically flailing flippers creating a maelstrom of bubbles. But, miraculously, once everyone sorted themselves out we got our first sighting of a Whale Shark. Unbelievably huge, unbelievably spotty



and unbelievably close. As it circled our group we had a head on, side on and tail on view of the gentle grey giant.

Over the next few hours we had seven swims with Whale Sharks with many unforgettable moments. I will try to put into words just one encounter – our last – that encompasses them all.

By the end several people have opted out so we are a small group and more organised. At the call of "Go, go, go" I jump in. At first I can't see anything but the deep navy blue water. Suddenly out the gloom, just below the surface, comes a Whale Shark – enormous mouth agape - heading straight in my direction. It turns, I turn and then, incredibly, here I am swimming alongside the biggest fish in the world. I am totally absorbed by its physical presence, unaware of anyone else close by. It is just me and the Whale Shark and I am surprised how easy it is to keep pace with this sea giant.

I don't know how far or for how long we have been swimming side by side. Just as I am wondering how much longer before we are told to stop swimming

and return to the boat, the Whale Shark makes the call. With a sudden flick of its powerful tail the creature, like some mystical phantom, slowly, dives disappearing into the fathomless blue depths of the Indian Ocean, leaving me with memories of a rare privilege indeed.

Yes, I swam with Whale Sharks.



FOWSP COMMITTEE 2012

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Market trailer

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9722 1117

Librarian **Judy Green**
9844 2096

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

JOIN US on the first and third Thursday of the month from 9 am, (TAG workers only), to 12. 30 pm. Either meet at the Parks Victoria Depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10). (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 6th September at 9:15 am. *Hochkins Ridge Reserve* Removing woody weeds Grade: Moderate.

Thursday 20th September 9:15am *Queenstown Cemetery, Smiths Gully Road* Weeding and wildflowers Grade: Easy.

Thursday 4th October 9:15 *Russell Road Area*, Grade Moderate.

Morning tea and tools are provided unless otherwise stated. Please bring weather appropriate clothing and drinking water along. Contact the nursery on 0408 317 327 for more information regarding the Thursday Activity Groups.

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 27th September, 9:30am Hillcrest on the Mullum Walk This bushland gem was saved by the building of the Mullum Mullum tunnel, achieved through lobbying by local environment groups. Spring is the ideal time to appreciate the beauty of its wildflowers and the importance of the habitat link to the Yarra River. Distance: 2.5km Time 2 hours Rating difficult (includes some steep narrow sections) Meeting points will be available at time of booking.

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

HELLO MY PRETTIES,

Springtime is upon us and here are some of the pretty little things we have at the nursery at the moment:

Brachyscome diversifolia Tall Daisy (right)
 Perennial herb to 50cm. Attractive tufted daisy. Best planted in groups. Can be divided. Prefers well drained soils. (Listed as Vulnerable in 1999).



Leucochrysum albicans Hoary Sunray (below)
 Tufted perennial herb to 30cm with yellow paper flowerheads from Nov to March. Needs well drained soil. Ideal for dry conditions. (Listed as Endangered in 1999).



Brachyscome multifida Cut Leaf Daisy
 10 to 40cm low spreading perennial, flowers lilac-mauve in Spring and Summer Needs moist soils, tolerates dry conditions once established. (Listed as vulnerable 1999).

(Continued on page 8)

News from the Committee

- **New FOWSP Education Building** –Contract for construction by Holmsglen to be drawn up prior to the semester break.
- **FOWSP Gift vouchers** for plants and for membership will be available this year before Christmas.
- **Warrandyte Primary School Tree Planting** was a success and Fowsp’s help was appreciated.
- **The National Tree Planting Day** on a Sunday attracted , International Students, Medical Students and others (see page 2)
- **Manningham Community Connections** Thanks to Sybille and Artur (see page 8)
- **IGA Rewards Program** Members may nominate FOWSP at the beneficiary of these rewards.

Nursery Report

- **Orders in 2012** Some orders are not picked up despite deposit taken and customers being contacted and are therefore returned to the sales area.
- **Planting** –1200 plants have been planted by FOWSP this season without outside grants. The aim is to plant 2000 in the park each year.

Rangers Report

- **Current industrial action** has ceased as pay Issue is with Fair Work Australia
- **Parks Vic budget** similar to last year, - currently planning actions.
- **Jodi has returned** from maternity leave working Mon- Wed and Janija Wed-Fri.
- **Guidelines for Mountain biking** in parks are being drawn up- selecting suitable sites
- **Inductions for OHS** are needed for FOWSP Nursery staff and contractors when working in Park. Parks has a booklet with guidelines.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: 11th September 2012

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER: Thanks to those who helped out this winter

6th July

*John and Diane Baird, kindly opening
 Peter Kennedy and Marion Thomson
 Caitriona and John Young
 Lindy Gilbert and Ken Crook , kindly closing
 Trailer delivery and retrieval: Peter Curry*

4th August

*John and Diane Baird, kindly opening the trailer,
 Jan Falconer and Sybille Ims.
 Christine Arundell and Jan Smids
 Lindy Gilbert and Ken Crook, kindly closing up*



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. Please contact Sybille if you would like to assist at any time. New volunteers are always welcome **Sybille Ims**
9844 1335/0405 500 278 imsbs@netspace.net.au *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

“I SPY”

By B.G



Worms warping

"The plough is one of the most ancient and most valuable of man's inventions; but long before he existed the land was in fact regularly ploughed and still continues to be thus ploughed by earthworms. It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organised creatures." Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882) from "*The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Worms*", (1881) Ch. 7.

Quoted in the 16th Edition of Bartlett's "*Familiar Quotations*"

Looking after linear parks

"Manningham Council is spending \$1.51 million maintaining and improving open space and linear parks during 2012/13"

Igloo investigation

So there was Jason, a very regular helper at the nursery, inserting 10 gauge x 16 mm self tapping screws into the leg extensions of the open mesh tables in the new igloo. During which he was interviewed by newsletter assistant editor, Joan. See photo p.8



Disabled Dianellas?

Merrilyn (originally from Nhill near the Little Desert National Park) was supervising her adult daughter (from Montmorency), removing the wheelchair from the back of the car so that there was room for the many *Dianella revoluta* plants they had bought. Jane said, "We both are at the Depot to pick them up because we couldn't find them anywhere else....There needs to be a flat surface at the disabled parking area so that there is easier access to the nursery bench where the purchasing and bookwork takes place."

Nurturing nature

Reaching my 78th year, I can only say what a wonderful place the Park is and the people who nurture it.

Stock and barrel

Jan (the 'other' Spy) came back in mid-July from the Canning Stock Route Relay and also crossed Australia on the Gunbarrel Highway, ending up in Wiluna.

Haircut for a Grevillia?

Kay Williams has had a short haircut. Jason said it was her 'summer coat'. Josh said it 'looked good'. Did you know there is a Grevillea carrying the name 'Kay Williams', (not related)? It is a small shrub coloured yellow and pink.

Flora for food

Brent was acquiring plants at the nursery for the first time in his life, selecting ferns and low-growing shrubs which attract birds and feed Sugar Gliders. His adviser, Frederick, two years old plus, was playing with the six cyclops toy trucks and bulldozers. Brent has just finished his Ph D in Irrigation Technology and Management at Melbourne University.

Research revealed

The *Napoleon: Revolution to Empire* exhibition ends on the 7th of October at the NGV. But apart from the bloodshed and the greed of the military and the aristocracy, it was the descriptions of the incredibly extensive, but mainly ignored, involvement of the French of that era in the study and recording of Australia's indigenous flora and fauna that caught my eye.

On display are original folios of A3 and A2 size, with descriptions and drawings, including names like *Labillardiere*. These arose from the return of two ships to France in 1803 and 1804 laden with floral and zoological specimens from Baudin's scientific expedition. There is also the mystery of Baudin's final disappearance. The botanical history displayed was in itself well worth the visit.

Gone to grass

Joan and Brian have just come back from a trip to Lawn Hill and surrounds. *Story next month.*

Provenance not proven

Irene Fuhrer's carrot and walnut cake which requires an eight inch square tin

Ingredients: 2 1/4 cups grated carrots (+/- 2 carrots)

3/4 cup chopped walnuts

3 eggs

1 1/4 cup brown sugar

2 cups oil

vanilla essence

1 1/2 cups plain flour

1 1/2 tsps bicarbonate of soda

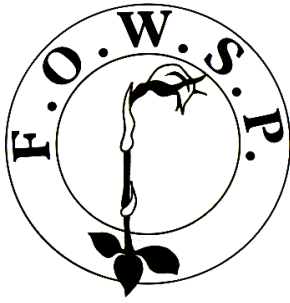
1 tsp cinnamon

1/4 tsps nutmeg

Method: Grease and line tin. Combine eggs, sugar, oil and vanilla and beat until smooth. Stir in carrots and walnuts. Add dry ingredients and combine them well. Pour into prepared tin and bake in a moderate oven.

I cook the cake on 160 deg. c. for approximately 30 to 40 minutes.

Guess which subject area Irene used to teach in?



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Flinders Poppy (*Pimelea decora*).

While on a recent holiday in Western Queensland, I came across an unusual plant known locally around the town of Hughenden as the Flinders Poppy. It blooms profusely in the dryer months of the year, creating beautiful rivers of red along roadsides and in adjacent paddocks. Initially I thought it to be a weed. However a little research proved it, to my surprise, to be a native wildflower.

Joan Broadberry.

Vol 30 number 7 September 2012

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



It's hard to hate weeds when they bring such beautiful parrots such as this Blue Bonnet seen at Kidman's Camp Bourke, NSW in late June.

All photos by Linda Rogan

The squawk of the Purple Swamphen made it's presence known at Glynns in August 2012



Rainbow Lorikeets (above) were staking claims on nesting hollows in Glynns Reserve beside the Yarra in late August 2012

Cockies made a big fuss about this hollow nearby.



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