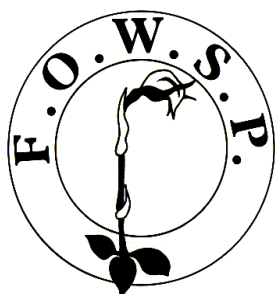


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Reminder the FOWSP Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be conducted **Sunday November 18th, 2012, at The Folly, Pound Bend, commencing at 12 midday**. Prime business is election of committee, no special issues. Details previously posted and or emailed to members.

Followed by the **30th Anniversary Celebrations**

- Delicious lunch provided by FOWSP from 12.30 pm
- Wildlife shelter presentation,
- Wildlife displays and activities for kids
- Behind the scenes Nursery operations,
- Multimedia displays of FOWSP through the years,

RSVP numbers for catering: email

fowsp.org.au/fowsp30th.php or

Phone 1300 764422

Editor's corner

OCTOBER HAS BEEN an exciting month and with the AGM and 30th anniversary celebration, November will be even more so.

Sybille, Jason and Gray have spread FOWSPian knowledge amongst the eager students of Park Orchard Primary, see page 2. On the same page, Linda talks about an extraordinary effort to initiate freesia control at the top of Glynn's Reserve.

A covenants celebration in the Warrandyte Gorge catchment area is revealed by Cathy Willis. Find out why this is important on page 3.

Joan Broadberry takes us on a king-sized Rock Orchid adventure on page 4. On the same page is some information about FOWSP member Gayl O'Connor who shares her Carnaby experience with us as guest nature writer in November's Warrandyte Diary.

There is much of interest happening at the nursery revealed on page 7 and 8.

Ben comes through in an important new role as "I PHO-

TOGRAPH, being the only one with a camera snapping at the bitter sweet event that had Pat and Mike with such big grins and me nearly in tears in the photo below. Page 9 reveals the occasion.

Keen to hear from you for the December newsletter,
Linda



**Deadline for December/January 2013 edition newsletter is
Friday 23rd November 2012**

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

FOWSP at Park Orchard Primary

From notes by Sybille, Jason and Gray.

Artur and Sybille represented FOWSP at the Manningham Community Connections Showcase at Templestowe Heights Primary School earlier this year. School teachers in the Manningham area learned what organisations and services are available to support them in sustainability education and projects in the local vicinity.

As a result FOWSP was asked to assist Park Orchards with running a basic Biodiversity Audit organised by Carolyn Shurey, Sustainability Facilitator at Ceres. The Audit program is part of the Landlearn curriculum and all student work sheets and methodology are included in the program. For further information see <http://www.landlearn.net.au/>



Sybille, Jason and Gray took on this project.

Gray states, "School has changed quite a bit since my days at Warrandyte School No.12. The class we visited was encouraged to work co-operatively in groups, but the teachers [yes, plural!] had no trouble gaining all the children's attention when needed."

A briefing by Carolyn included a discussion of the distinction between *native* and *indigenous*. Each group was given a work-sheet and a tablet [no, not an aspirin] and assigned to survey one variable with assistance from one of the visitors. Gray's group dealt with "Environmental Weeds,"

Gray states, "My group was very enthusiastic, and the boy with the tablet took excellent photos; accurately captioning them as he went along. I talked so much that we finished up running from site to site in order to get the work done in time. It was impossible not to talk at some length, because the students' questions were so interesting that they deserved detailed answers. Along the way we saw a planting of FOWSP plants, which

were thriving, evidence that the school is able to keep on with a project and build on the initial enthusiasm. If the students learnt half as much as I did, I'd be satisfied that it had been a successful day!"



Left: Sybille assisting students with a Biodiversity audit. *Above:* Some of the enthusiastic students who participated in the project. Photos supplied by the school.

Attacking Freesias at Glynn's Road Linda Rogan

ON THE LAST THURSDAY of October, three FOWSPians helped me initiate an attack on an infestation of freesias at the Glynn's Rd. entrance to Glynn's wetland reserve. During what would otherwise have been lunch, these three assisted in the removal of seed heads, many of which would have soon been released, spreading up to several hundred seeds per plant.

Peter had previously helped me delineate the infested area and mark it with red tape. This will help us judge progress in control and let us know if any further spread occurs in future years. The area was about 30 sq square meters in extent. Removing the seed heads will limit any spread by water-born seeds this season. Early next season it will be necessary to spray the growing plants just at the stage where the stems are beginning to elongate and it is anticipated that follow up will be required for several years.

Freesias produce several hundred seeds per plant and birds may spread them to relatively intact bushland.

Freesias also spread by bulbils that are found along

(Continued on page 3)

Covenant celebration

Cathy Willis

ON A RECENT SUNDAY morning close to 20 people gathered for a walk around a lovely local 25 acre bush property. It was a crisp morning with the Golden Wattle in full bloom and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo (recently returned from its northern winter) trilling above. Our circular route wound down through Yellow Box and Candlebark to the Swamp Gum lined creek, and then back uphill, through heath, wildflowers, tussock grasses and Red Box.

We had come to celebrate the property receiving a Trust for Nature conservation covenant. Covenants are registered on the property's title and legally bind current and all future owners of the property to protect and manage the land for biodiversity. Put simply it means that this patch of significant bushland, including vulnerable vegetation communities and species, is now protected from development and destruction for all time, even if the planning zones are changed and the property is sold.

Not all properties are eligible to receive a covenant. They must be in good condition with a diversity of flora and fauna and minimal pest plants and animals. In this case the owners have worked hard on strategic land management actions for nearly 10 years to improve the ecological integrity and have been well rewarded. Apart from a massive reduction in weeds, there have been some exciting finds. These have included the first local record for the Small-eyed Snake (photo below) and several locally rare plant species. The property supports over 115 indigenous



Small-eyed Snake *Photo Cathy Willis*
Cathy states this particular snake is quite small, "compare to grass stems" but Museum Victoria states they will grow to 50cm. and are venomous. However they are shy, moving mostly at night, so are seldom seen.

plant species and a similar sized bird list.

Every covenant is individually tailored and may apply to part or all of a property. Generally land-owners are forbidden to develop the land, graze animals or clear vegetation on the covenanted area. Restrictions also apply to domestic animals and non-indigenous plants.

The walking group was made up of local environmental community members including many from FOWSP and landcare committees. The owners of two other local Trust for Nature properties were there to welcome the newly covenanted owners to the 'family'. Some of the Manningham environment team who have worked with the owners and a Trust for Nature representative joined in the celebration.

We all enjoyed a toast over a BBQ lunch on the lovely deck looking out across the hills. It was a chance to catch up with others perhaps last seen at a working bee or the nursery. I think we all shared a great satisfaction in the knowledge that this little slice of the Warrandyte gorge catchment is in safe and secure hands.

(Continued from page 2)

the stems as shown in the photo below. Therefore great care must be taken with any plant material removed.

Thirdly underground corms produce new cormels. New corms have contractile roots that draw them deep into the soil where they are safe from drought and bushfires.

Without control, its just a matter of time until the freesias spread down the drainage line into the best part of the reserve.

Thanks to Gray and Jason and special thanks to Kelvyn who was on his first Thursday work session.,



The pointers show where some of the bulbils that will become new freesia plants are located.

Photo Linda

Shall I take to the Water or Climb the Rocks? Joan Broadberry.

IT'S COMMON NAME is the King Rock Orchid. (*Dendrobium speciosum*). A worthy title as this orchid rules over other Australian native orchids in size, presence and even with its intoxicating perfume. *Dendrobium speciosum* is in a class of its own in the orchid world. It grows on sun drenched rock faces along the east coast of Australia. Its clumps of thick fleshy pseudobulbs with their tough leathery leaves can be several metres wide.

In spring, up to 100 heavily scented, cream to pale yellow flowers are borne on many long racemes. A spectacular sight. Unfortunately this orchid has fallen victim to illegal collection and is now rare. I have long hoped to see this leviathan of the orchid world in flower in its wild, natural habitat. Recently, thanks to FOWSP and in particular Pat and Mike Coupar, I achieved this goal.

In September the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria organised a week exploring the Mallacoota area staying at the Adobe Flats, Karbethong. The flats are a few doors from Pat and Mike Coupar's house and it was great to be able to catch up with them. Knowing my interest in native orchids they reminded me that the King Rock Orchid can be seen. mouth of the Merrica River in the Nadgee Nature Reserve NSW.

Orchid on cliffs near the Merrica River

. Photo Martyn Hiley



And most importantly it was exactly the right time for it to be in flower. Pat has already written about the orchid in the Dec/Jan. 2008/9 FOWSP newsletter. You can easily find her article with precise directions to the location, on the FOWSP website.

I was determined to see the orchid. No-one else in our group was interested so I set out alone but with plenty of advice from Pat and Mike. The route into the Merrica River mouth is an easy four kilometre walk along a well marked track. As I emerged onto a tiny beach at the inlet I immediately spotted the creamy white patches of the orchid in bloom on the cliffs about 500 metres away. However, there was a problem. The river ran deep and wide and I was reluctant to wade across and risk my camera. The only alternative was to climb along the rocky shore, but it looked difficult. Water or rocks? I decided to give the cliff a try and see how far I could get. Luckily I soon came across a patch of the rock



Looking towards the Merrica River Mouth.

Photo Joan Broadberry

orchid, invisible from the beach but with a scramble, just reachable. I was euphoric that my quest had succeeded.

Postscript: A few days later in Melbourne Linda received an email from Martin Hiley, who now lives at Mallacoota. He too had made the walk into the Merrica River mouth, had forded the river and enclosed some beautiful photos of the King Rock Orchid for the newsletter.

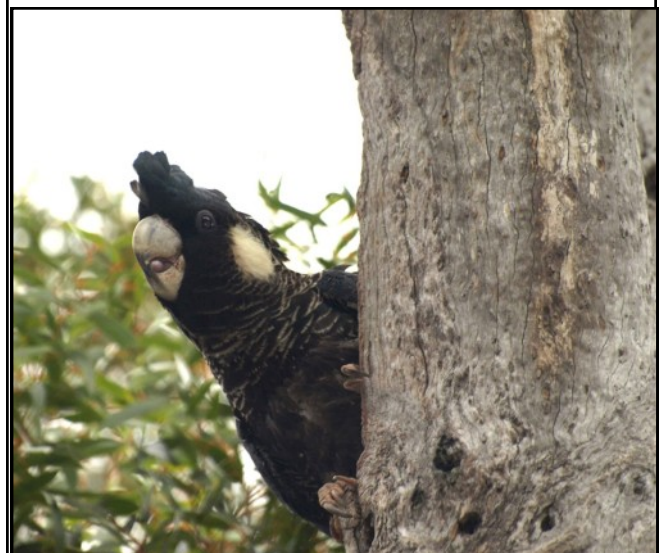
FOWSP member Gayl O'Conner volunteers with Birdlife Australia

IN SEPTEMBER 2012 GAYL participated in Birdlife Australia's survey of the endangered Carnaby's Black-cockatoo in WA. The population of this large cockatoo that is endemic to south-western WA has declined in numbers by over 50% in the past 45 years.

Read Gayl's story as guest writer in the Nature column of the November Warrandyte Diary.

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

Photo by Gayl O'Conner



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Sybill Ims 9844 1335 or 0405 500
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Market trailer

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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

15th November Glynn's Wetlands maintenance of areas of previous plantings. **Grade:** Moderate

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 22nd November , 9:30 am Candlebark to Beasley's Nursery Walk. Walk Distance: 5 kms Time: 3 hours Rating : Easy This walk will involve a 5 km shared car shuttle.

Note that there will be no nature walk in December.

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



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, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) *and*

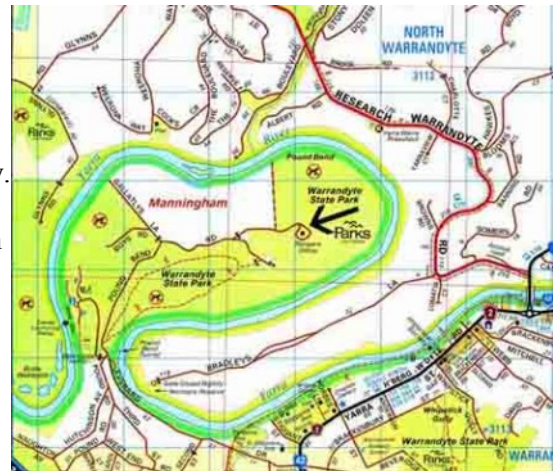
the first Sunday of each month

2 pm to 4 pm.

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

Prices 2012

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 7th November *Botany and ecology of Grasses* with ecologist Dr. Graeme Lorimer

Wednesday 5th December *Living with Tuans and Gliders in Wonga Park* local naturalist Alistair Trill

For full details check closer to the time on 9840 9124

Nillimbik

Thursday 15 November, 7 pm-8:30 pm *Exploring Wildlife with Waterwatch* Presented by Healthy Waterways, Waterwatch and Nillumbik Shire Council. Please bring torches, walking shoes, weather appropriate clothing and drink. **Cost:** Free

Where : Meet at Oxley Bridge, Helley Road, Bend of Islands (Melway 24 F1)

Bookings: Millumbik Shire Council on 9433 3316.



INVITATION TO TRY CANOEING

Often wondered what canoeing or kayaking was like? Have the kids just returned from camp raving about how much fun *they* had? Had your curiosity piqued by watching how successful our Olympic Kayak Team was? Has the Murray Marathon ever interested you?

If so....Join us at Canoeing Victoria's FREE COME & TRY Day on Saturday 17th November 2012 with a 45 min paddling sessions starting at 9.00 am and finishing at 4.00pm - bookings essential.

Venue : Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimons Lane Templestowe – Melways Ref: 33 F1

Ring the office to secure your spot or have a look at our Website:

Tel : 8846 4120 / <http://www.vic.canoe.org.au/>



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



Above and below: The wall of the original greenhouse come down. Watch this space for the new Education Centre. *Photos by Ben*



Mascots for the market trailer:
Wallace the Roo
and Palin the
Platypus.

Photo Jason



News from the Committee

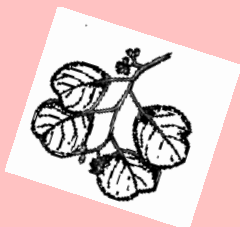
- AGM and 30th Celebration to be held on 18th of November 2012 (see p.1)
- New watering system up and running in the new igloo.
- Re-jigged watering system in the orders area completed.
- Pressure pump installed in the Nursery to regulate water flow when the supply tank is running low.
- Another inmate for the FOWSP trailer - Wallace to join Palin in attracting the punters to our trailer. See photo above.
- Original greenhouse being demolished to make way for the new Education Centre, which has been nearly four years in the making. (Photo left)
- Speaking of the new Education Centre, apparently the roof was being installed last week.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 13 November

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on 6th October- John and Diane Baird, kindly opening the trailer Marion Thomson and Brian James, Christine Andell and Peta Cumming, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook kindly locking up again
Trailer delivery and retrieval: Peter Curry

A special thank you to Kelly Wooster who coordinated the trailer roster.

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 **Sybill Ims 9844 1335/0405 500 278**
imsbs@netspace.net.au *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

Future market dates are: Saturday November 3rd, December 1st.

Give me some summer lovin, and a bit more texture in the garden?

AS WE HEAD into the traditionally drier and hotter months of the year it seems that not a lot is flowering. However sometimes inconspicuous grasses and their tall seed heads stand their ground over summer.

Grasses for the drier areas include:

***Dichelachne crinita* -Long-hair Plume-grass, a** loosely tufted perennial grass, with ornamental seed heads to 1m which occur from October through to March. A interesting indigenous plant which ads a bit of texture to the garden



Plume-grass photos thanks to Friends of Westgate Park



over summer. It naturally occurs in grassy dry forest e.g. on ridges, hill crests and slopes of Fourth

Hill, The Common, Timber Reserve and Professors Hill, and in herb-rich foothill forest e.g. Fiddler Gully at Fourth Hill.

***Poa sieberiana* var. *sieberiana* - Grey Tussock-grass** – a small tufted grass, with stems to 80cm. Prefers drier areas with full sun or only partly shaded, great for a rockery or bank.

Other species which can handle the heat and have interesting often fluffy and ornamental seed heads over the summer periods include Stipas and Danthonias

An adaptable grass is ***Microlaena stipoides* - Weeping Grass** - Rhizomatous perennial grass, stems up to 1m. Quick growing, will readily self-seed and can be mown. Likes full-sun, part-sun, or shady spots with well drained but moist soils..



And for the wetter areas:

***Poa ensiformis* Sword Tussock-grass** This dense rhizomatous tussock-forming perennial grass, has stems to

1.5m and prefers moist areas in full to part sun and will also readily self-seed. Note: Distinguish from *P. labillardierei* by its usually purplish leaf sheath. Some uses can include low borders, banks, or around wetlands and ponds.

***Poa morrisii* -Soft Tussock-grass** - Soft tussock grass, stems to 90cm. Positions: Full-sun, Semi-sun. Soil Types: Dry, Well-drained. Uses: Hedges/Borders, Banks, Rockery/Cottage.

***Eragrostis brownii* - Common Love-grass** - Tufted perennial grass, stems to 40cm. Occurs in riparian forest e.g. the low level floodplain terrace at Mount Lofty and Yarra Brae, and in seasonal wetland. Not to be confused with weedy Panic veldt grass (*Ehrharta erecta*)



Grasses can be ordered from the nursery and are available in tubestock and cells (approx 50 plants for less than half the price and great if you have larger area to fill). *Kel*

Diuris orientis or Wallflower Orchid photographed by Jason in the nursery in October.



"I PHOTOGRAPH"

By B.G



number of rangers as well as many of the nursery regulars. The rangers also presented a painting of a Pardalote.

Thanks to Lyndy for the beautiful cake. It disappeared quickly at morning tea. (Care was taken to avoid eating the cardboard letters and butterflies).

Goodbye and farewell to Pat and Mike

People made a special effort to be at the nursery on Thursday 25 October knowing it was Pat and Mike's last day at FOWSP as Warrandyte residents.

Josh gave words of appreciation that were seconded by many. Mentioned were Pat's years of editing the newsletter, establishment of Frogland, and both actively campaigning for the park including a blockade of a bulldozer.

Well-wishers included John and Bev Hanson, and a

Ben took the photographs and with the help of Belinda, downloaded them directly onto the nursery computer, making it possible to meet the newsletter deadline the next day. Thanks Ben

Linda



Email photo bonus page



Fruits of much weeding effort that has occurred at Scotchmans Hill: *Diannella* buds to chest height, a wonderfully thick patch of *Pterostylis nutans* Nodding Greenhood (photographed by Rachel Smith), and a patch of Purple Beard Orchids also bearing fruit as can be seen by the swollen ovaries. Photo by Jason



This snake was sighted on the roadside near where we were removing freesia seedpods at the end of Glynn's Road. (Page 2) Jason's first sight of an Australian snake I understand.



A recent trip to western part of Victoria to search for rare orchids resulted in two very different photos of red spiders. The arachnid is most likely from the Nico-damidae or red and black spider family, a family found only in Australia, NZ New Guinea and nearby islands. The orchid is *Caladenia Formosa*. The Elegant Spider Orchid. Photos by Linda



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