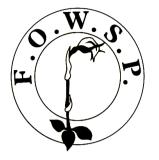
Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113 ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

Editor's Corner

December was wonderful. FOWSPians enjoyed the fruits of their year's labour (p. 8), but were also sad with the need to wish Kel, (photo R) farewell and also happy birthday. A beautiful cake was baked by Cathy while Annette helped with the decorations. Kel leaves us with a goat story on page 9.

Cathy and Josh held a popular grass ID walk in December. Carol tells us about things she learned from the walk on p. 3.

Does FOWSP have a new spa?? Find out on page 7. It's obvious that 2015 is already off to a moving beginning.

While on page 7, be struck by Joan Broadberry's brilliant photo and report of *Beauty on the Streets*.

Don't miss Josh's photo on p.10 of an unusual and beautiful North Warrandyte animal. See p. 2 for a reminder to look out for the wildlife when the days turn hot and also to see how you may be able to help with the market trailer. Take time to check out the upcoming activities, seminars and walks listed in this newsletter. So keep up the good work, keep us informed as you do so and enjoy the newsletter.

Linda



Cam Beardsall has been awarded an OAM! For service to conservation and the environment in Victoria.

FOWSPians are delighted to have someone so deserving honoured in this way.

Deadline for March 2015 edition newsletter is Friday February 21st 2015

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Remember to provide Water for Wildlife

Last year Cathy Willis wrote, "DURING THE HOT WEATHER we have been leaving shallow dishes of water out for the birds and other wildlife, leaving a stick or rock in the bowl for little skinks to scramble out on if they fall in. It has been very rewarding watching mixed flocks of small birds – Silvereyes; Superb Fairy-wrens; Spotted and Striated Pardalotes; White-browed Scrub Wrens and Grey Fantails, flitting in and out of the water. Despite there being several bowls placed around the garden, they ignore most and gravitate to the one most surrounded by plants of different heights and habitats, a good lesson in wildlife friendly gardening!" Water will be essential again this February and March.



Possum drinking on Cathy's deck Photo: Cathy Willis

"If you do find an animal on the ground and can get close enough to catch it, it is certainly unwell. ...It's not enough just to give it some water, as it takes several days to rehydrate successfully. Remember even a cute little possum is a wild animal and will try to defend itself, including from a well meaning human. Wear gloves and throw a towel or blanket over it before handling." Cathy said.

Remember to check Adriana Simmond's website http://www.humanseeds.com.au/Wildlife Vic for heaps more information. It states "When encountering animals affected by hot weather, please contact your local wildlife shelter or vet or call

Wildlife Victoria's emergency phone service: 13 000 94535

for further assessment and treatment". Put the number in your phone now!. While help arrives or to transport wildlife to a shelter or vet, please place the animal in a safe container in a cool, well ventilated, dark and quiet area. Offer water and place a wet towel on top to help cool it down.

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER REPORT

The first Warrandyte market for 2015 will be held on Saturday 7th February and as usual the FOWSP market trailer will be in operation on this day and on the **first Saturday of each month** for the year. The Trailer is an important marketing tool in bringing both FOWSP and our indigenous flora to the attention of the wider population. Future dates: 7th February, 7th March, 4th April.

Transporting the trailer

A volunteer, or a roster of volunteers, is required to tow the trailer from the nursery to the market at 7.00 am on market day. FOWSP has privileged access to the site so there is no waiting in line.



The trailer is collected between 2.00 and 4.00 pm on the same day and returned to the FOWSP nursery. If you are able to help with this, either as a one-off or on a permanent basis, please contact Jan Falconer on 0419 872 096 or email <u>janece5@bigpond.com</u>

Manning the trailer

Our trailer is manned from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm with volunteers rostered in pairs for just one hour. First timers are always paired with someone more experienced. If you can help for one hour on Saturday February 7th please contact Jan Falconer as above.

December 2014 Market

THANKS TO CAITRIONA &JOHN YOUNG WHO TRANSPORTED THE TRAILER TO AND FROM THE DECEMBER MARKET.

THANKS ALSO TO THOSE WHO MANNED THE TRAILER ON THAT DAY:

DIANE AND JOHN BAIRD, JAN DAVIES AND GLORIA MOORE, JAN SMIDS AND JAN FALCONER, LYNDY GILBERT AND KEN CROOK.

As might have been expected plant sales were not a priority so close to Christmas but many children received frog posters and many information booklets were distributed to adults.

Jan Falconer

-- Early summer grasses ID walk

OF COURSE it was fully booked with a long waiting list. Was it the lure of Cathy Willis and Josh Revell or the thirst for greater knowledge? As usual they had prepared well, and the lucky group were issued with comprehensive illustrated notes and a copy of Manningham's Weed identification booklet, a valuable resource. The notes covered the indigenous Manningham species we were likely to encounter as well as a useful page of grass-part diagrams.

Before we set off we were told a worthwhile mantra -



Josh and Cathy surrounded by keen enthusiasts.

Photo Carol Page

Sedges have edges-Rushes are round-Grasses are hollow

We were then given examples of each to examine: ligules at the junction of grasses blade and sheath, being highlighted.

On the walk we looked at examples of the *Poas – P. ensiformis* Purple-sheath Tussock-grass, P. labillardiere Common Tussock-grass and P. sieberiana Grey Tussock-grass. In particular, where each was likely to be found in the landscape –for example *Poa ensiformis* almost always on creek or river banks.

Josh described the flower head of *Themeda triandra* Kangaroo grass, a very distinct species and we noted the sparsely hairy ligule.

Microlaena sp. Weeping grass make a great lawn and spread by seed and rhizome – we saw examples in a fenced off area.

We handled the seed head of Austrostipa rudis ssp. rudis Veined Spear-grass. The flowering stems can grow to 1.2 metres. Our native Spear grasses can be confused with the introduced weedy Nasella nesiana (Chilean Needle-grass), but the latter has a distinct collar at the base of the awn.

A couple of Rytidosperma sp. Wallaby grasses were identified – They are important Kangaroo food and moth and Beetle larvae feed on the roots and leaves.

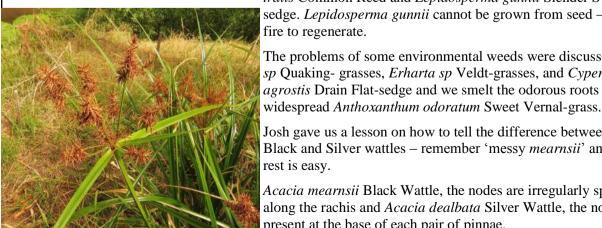
We looked at examples of both male and female Lomandra longifolia var.longifolia Spiny-headed Matrush, Cyperus lucidus Leafy Flat-sedge, Lomandra filiformis ssp filiformis Wattle Mat-rush, Phragmites australis Common Reed and Lepidosperma gunnii Slender Sword-

sedge. Lepidosperma gunnii cannot be grown from seed –it needs fire to regenerate. The problems of some environmental weeds were discussed, Briza sp Quaking- grasses, Erharta sp Veldt-grasses, and Cyperus eragrostis Drain Flat-sedge and we smelt the odorous roots of the

> Josh gave us a lesson on how to tell the difference between the Black and Silver wattles – remember 'messy mearnsii' and the rest is easy.

Acacia mearnsii Black Wattle, the nodes are irregularly spaced along the rachis and Acacia dealbata Silver Wattle, the nodes are present at the base of each pair of pinnae.

It was a rewarding few hours and opened the door for further re-Carol Page search.



Cyperus lucidus Leafy Flat-sedge Photo Carol Page

Koala Contact

I had a brief chat with Julie Pryor in January 2015. She states she is still keen to be the local contact for any reports of koalas, injured or healthy, although she can only actually take care of young, furless babies.



Julie is planning to organise a state-wide koala count for November 2015.

She reports that she has had no koala sightings reported to her for the past 2 1/2 years although she understands one has been heard, on occasion. She would be interested to hear of any confirmed sightings in the Warrandyte and nearby area at any time of year.

Linda



A Goodwill Wine opportunity, FOWSP Thursday Christmas Break-up. Photo Linda Rogan

Goodwill Wine is good for FOWSP's wealth

Using the funds donated to Goodwill Wine through the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal, David Laity started a business selling wines as a way of paying forward to others, the support and generosity shown to him by charitable organisations and the public after the catastrophic February bushfires . David goes directly to the vineyards to find some of the best value, boutique wines Australia has to offer. He has built a reputation based on a steadfast commitment to quality, and passes on 50% of his profit margin to the charity or non-profit organisation.

Goodwill Wine uses beautifully personalised FOWSP labels. To date, David has raised over \$100 for FOWSP from sales of wine to our members and \$107,670 for various charities overall.

Please go to the website http://www.goodwillwine.com.au/ to order good quality wine or call David Laity, Goodwill Wine, 0408 794 723

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Joan Broadberry, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

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

TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.15 am for a 9.30 pm departure. WAGs meet at times given below, at the nursery beforehand or at the specified location. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle. Contact number: 0408 317 327

Thurs	s. 5th Feb	9am-12 noon	Lower Orchard Track	Weeding caper spurge	FOWSP	Easy
Thur	s 19th Feb	9am-12 noon	Three bridges	Maintenance	FOWSP	easy
Thur	s 5th Mar	9am-12 noon	Boys Rd	Weeding succulents	FOWSP	easy

Difficulty ratings:

Easy: Even terrain, some light lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Few tripping hazards.

Moderate: Uneven terrain, light to heavy lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Tripping hazards present.

Difficult: Steep terrain, light to heavy lifting, working in over-grown areas and lots of bending. Many tripping hazards and slippery surfaces present.

Check the website for any changes at http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php

<u>Please note TAGS and WAGS will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are</u>

deemed hazardous.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2015			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Nursery Manager Nursery Phone 0408 317 327 nursery@fowsp.org.au	
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u> 9844 2659	
Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org	9435 5806 .au	Newsletter editor	Newsletter assist Joan Broadberry 9846 1218	
Jason Patton mobile 0402 121838 jason@parau.com		Webmaster and membership	Wildlife Rescue Adriana Simmonds 9722 2908	
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		Koala Rescue Julie Pryor 0417 587 798	
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Librarian Judy Green 9844 2096	
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary	Market Trailer Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email janece5@bigpond.com	
John Blake	0418 329 937		Facebook Coordinator Annette Lion	
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774			
Sarah Qualtrough	0431 268 344		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	

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



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of educational and interpretive nature walks explore our local bushland. Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. All distances and finishing times are approximate.

9:30 am Thursday 26th January 2015 *Bulleen Park and Bolin Bolin Billabong*. An easy, shady walk under the River Red Gums along the river flats and around the billabong. This area is an ancient Wurundjeri meeting place, more recently dairy farms, and now provides a balance between recreation and conservation. **Distance:** 4 km **Time**: 2.5 hrs **Rating**: Easy. with short sections of narrow track..

<u>9:30 am Thursday 26th March 2015</u> *The Long Ridge.* For over 150 years Longridge farm was grazed by cattle. Through management by Parks Victoria, it is now recovering with bush regeneration and the return of wildlife. The ridge offers spectacular views to the north, and the rapids are some of the prettiest on the Yarra. Distance: 5km Time: 3.5 hrs **Rating**: Difficult

Ratings:

Easy – Flat or undulating well formed tracks/paths with low tripping hazards.

Moderate – May include some moderately steep or narrow sections or have higher tripping hazards. **Difficult** – Includes steep and/or narrow sections, slippery sections, or high tripping hazards.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings open NOW. Meeting points will be provided at the time of booking, to book call 9840 9124 or email

eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

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.

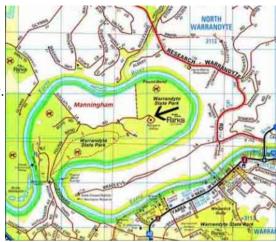
NURSERY OPENING HOURS

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

Closed to customers and volunteers on days of severe weather and on Total Fire Ban Days

Prices: Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50



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Manningham City Council Environment Seminars

The Environmental Seminars are held on the first Wednesday of the month.

Many of the seminars will be complemented with field sessions to facilitate broader education on the topics. No bookings are required for the evening talks; however, RSVPs must be provided for the field sessions. Due to popularity of the field trips, bookings are limited to 3 field trips per person. **Bookings open now.** You must attend the corresponding seminar to keep your field trip booking.



Venue: Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte **Time:** 7.30 pm

Enquiries: For more information, please phone Lyn Meredith, 9840 9326. Bookings: Natalie, 9840 9124.

Wednesday 4th February *Nature Photography* - Some mistakes, you might like to try yourself - presented by Ian Moodie.

In this illustrated talk, from a strictly amateur's perspective, Ian will touch on some of the photography lessons he has learnt the hard way. Ian is the Education and Assets Co-ordinator for the Parks Wide department at the City of Whitehorse and has been taking photos concentrating mainly on the natural world for more than 50 years. During this time Ian has made just about every mistake in the book when it comes to getting the elusive 'good shot'.

Wednesday 4th March Seminar/Field Trip *Let's go "batty"* for Australasian Bat Appreciation Week presented by Rob Gration.

This evening seminar and field trip will focus on the mysterious micro bats that grace our evening skies and shy away from the day. Rob is an environmental scientist and educator who will share his copious knowledge on these little bats. This seminar session will run for approximately 1.5 hours, be followed by supper and, subject to weather conditions, continue with an outdoor inspection of a harp trap.

Field Trip also 4th March 9:30 - 10:30

Rob has relevant approval and ethics certification for trapping and recording faunal data and should prove to be a wonderful weeknight sab'bat'ical. Please feel free to wear fancy dress in celebration of Australasian Bat Appreciation Week. No bookings required and please bring torches if participating in the harp trap inspection.

The FOWSP Spa?



Carolyn's partner Don, (upper R), was "on holidays" but worked very hard. Here he is preparing the spot for the next bath. I think only frogs and plants will use this spa. However, while moving some of the plants, Don found a brown grass mantis (Photo R). later identified as a young *Archimantis latistyla*. This is the largest of the grass mantis species and may grow to 110cm.

Beauty in the Streets Joan Broadberry

I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE who, over the last few weeks, has been admiring and photographing the spectacular blooming of the Albany red flowering gum. *Corymbia ficifolia*, (previously known as *Eucalyptus ficifolia*), is one of the most commonly planted street trees in Melbourne. Its name comes from the Latin *fici*, of figs and *folium*, leaf, referring to the leaf shape. It is native to a very small coastal area of Western Australia to the east of Walpole about 430 km Southeast of Perth. In nature *Corymbia ficifolia* prefers infertile, sandy soils but it is readily adaptable to most temperate locations. Although one could argue that our street trees should be chosen



from local species, the Albany flowering gum has been selected because it is hardy, moderately fast growing, and rarely gets large enough to require pruning. *Ficifolias* are bird attracting, being magnets to honey eaters and lorikeets. There is usually a cacophony of bird calls emanating from the foliage, particularly in the early morning or late afternoon

Corymbia ficifolia is not really a "gum" but a bloodwood. Its flowers can be any shade between pale cream, through pink, to red, orange or crimson. These colours glow with an astonishing iridescent brilliance. I have read that the reason for this 'showiness' in that the tree mainly grows in spring, which means that the flower heads, which blossom in late summer, are outside the bulk of the foliage and are thus highly visible. Ficifolias are also said to flower heavily only every second year, and this surely must be the year.





Kel's Goat Story

Missy was our beloved kid, given to my housemate on his 21st birthday. A friend bought the 10 week old goat off gumtree, thinking it was a suitable present for a student living on a small suburban block in Western Victoria! She was a lovely goat, who, much to my delight, took a particular liking to the *Sweet Pittosporum* planted by our landlord in our backyard. After she consumed the plant and many others, her attention turned to more valued items like our couch. Sadly, it was decided Missy needed a larger backyard. Nevertheless, Missy demonstrated an interesting fact; that most things are palatable to a goat, including invasive plant species.

Incidentally, someone with a lot more experience in indigenous plants and habitat rehabilitation than myself, made a similar observation many years ago. Colin Arnold, previously a manager of Green Link nursery in Box Hill, initially used goats to control gorse on a property in Victoria, and realized their potential to improve habitat quality. He has since started a goat grazing for conservation business called GrazeAway, and is refining a technique of grazing in trial sites throughout Eastern Melbourne. I have been measuring changes in flora composition at a new site in Manningham - established in conjunction with Deakin University, which is subject to a pulse grazing regime by goats. Preliminary results of the trial, and a discussion on grazing technique is presented here.

Site

The 0.4 hectare site is located in the Mullum Mullum Linear Park Reserve, adjacent to the Mullum Mullum creek, near Heads Road, Donvale. It is a low quality site, and was chosen for its composition of ground flora species; where invasive species English Ivy, Angled Onion and European Blackberry are dominant, with indigenous grasses *Gahnia radula* and *Lomandra longifolia* present to a lesser degree. *Coprosma quadrifolia* represented the majority of middle stratum, with occasional *Bursaria spinosa* and Acacia spp. individuals present.

What occurred

Prior to goat introduction, a 1.2m fence was erected, soil nutrients measured, and percentage cover of ground-level species estimated in 32, randomly placed 1m² quadrats. An average of 6 adult Boar-cross goats was grazed for 2 days a week, over a four week period in September this year.

Changes in plant composition

Grazing reduced the cover of English Ivy (-73%), Angled Onion (-70%), and Blackberry (-97%) whilst indigenous grasses *G. radula* and *L. longifolia* were less impacted, remaining intact in similar abundances to pre-grazing levels. *Coprosma quadrifolia* shrubs and smaller *acacia spp*. were readily consumed by goats.

Results from the initial graze demonstrate the preference goats have for some weed species over indigenous grasses; this element is central to the potential of goat grazing for rehabilitating areas. Non-target damage was a negative aspect of grazing at this site, however, net positive outcomes for the ecology of the site is possible despite impacts on desirable plants. Naturally, regrowth of all species is expected, and follow-up grazes will be undertaken periodically over the next few years. A studies in Victoria and NSW show that repeated grazing by goats eventually leads to mortality in *blackberries*, but less is known about other species present. Long term success of grazing regimes may rely on revegetating, because an initial graze that removes woody weeds creates space that may be colonized by grassy weeds depending on site characteristics. Indeed, future observations will provide more relevant information on the effectiveness of grazing in improving site quality than the percent reductions in weed species shown here.

General discussion

Like other weed control methods, **goat grazing is inherently destructive**, **and is a tool that must be applied selectively and carefully to be of benefit.** Obviously, grazing is not likely to improve conservation value if goats are left to completely defoliate an area. Using a pulse grazing technique is essential, and although refining this technique is a work in progress, there are clearly several factors that should be taken into account when using goats to manage heterogeneous plant communities. These can be split into three categories; site characteristics - plant species composition, soil chemistry and seed bank, goat characteristics - size, age, breed and previous dietary experience of goats, and, grazing regime - stocking rate, timing (season), duration and time between grazes. Understanding these parameters is essential, for example, it was noted that using smaller, younger goats may have reduced the impact on *Comprosma quadrifolia* and younger *acacia spp*.

Colin Arnold is one person who has considerable knowledge of 'goat grazing ecology' and has developed a method involving the establishment of indigenous grasses under an ongoing pulse grazing regime. This method is currently being implemented at other sites in Campbells Croft Reserve, along the Dandenong Creek, where results appear positive. Longer term observations will provide more suitable information on the success of the Mullum Mullum Creek site.

The Editor wishes to point out that **casual** keeping of goats for weed control has not been recommended here. Wherever goats are kept they must be secure from the possibility of escape into native bushland. Feral goats are a major environmental problem in parks and bushland and ensuring that they will not be inadvertently released into the bush even during bushfire conditions is essential and fraught with difficulty.



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North Warrandyte's own white kangaroo

Josh has photographed this beautiful white kangaroo found with its family mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroos

Macropus giganteus.

As its eyes are dark, not pink, it is not likely to be albino. It may rather be a genetic strain that appears from time to time but seldom has its genes passed on to young. The white kangaroos are more vulnerable to predation than the more concealed grey colours, especially when very young. This one appears to have survived long enough to be past predation by eagles, owls and foxes but still could be in danger from packs of uncontrolled dogs if there are any in the area.

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

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Email photo bonus page



Annette and her girls relax at Thursday break-up with Barry, Jan and Brian LR



Granny Moth Dasypodia selenophora found by at the nursery. LR



Chrysomelidae nymph of a leaf beetle at the nursery LR

Joy Hick Photo-

graphed these young Willy Wagtails near Mt. Korong, Wedderburn in November 2014.

Lyn Meredith, Environmental Land Management Officer for Manningham, collected the colourful caterpillar (right). She raised it to emergence as the beautiful Sparshalli moth Trichiocerus sparshalli also shown. Caterpllars feed on

Eucalyptus and other Myrtaceae.

Photos Lyn Meredith.



Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows: editor@fowsp.org.au