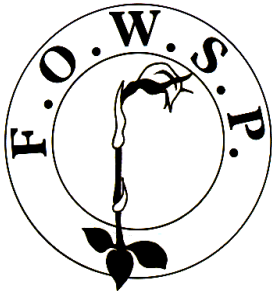


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Editors Corner

ONLY 2 DAYS SHORTER, but February has zipped by twice as fast. An eventful time it has been too.

I was pleased to meet the new Area Chief Ranger, Faye Williams, when she visited the nursery (photo right). Faye will be based at Westerfolds. For those who may not know, Conrad has been promoted to Area Chief Ranger at Woori Yallock. We send our congratulations and gratitude to him for years of support to FOWSP. Warren will be Ranger Team Leader at Warrandyte. Janaya will still be the liaison person for local issues eg TAGS.

Lyndy encourages us to check out the Sea Shepherd experience while it is in port page 2.

A couple of *Strange Creatures* have recently been seen at the nursery. See page 3 to learn a bit about them.

We take a quick look at a prickly plant from Frogland page 4 and visit some Bee Hotels on page 7. The first week of February held many surprises for me. I'll show you a few of the larger surprises on page 8.

A koala sighting in Wonga Park; Joy's wildlife from a bird walk near the Yarra and some visitors to our own bee hotel can be seen on page 9.

While I had great fun filling these pages it would be far better to have different material from a range of authors and observers. So start thinking now about what you can contribute to this news-



Please greet Faye Williams, new Area Chief Ranger for Warrandyte and Plenty Gorge, shown here visiting the nursery. Photo Linda Rogan

letter for next month. Observations on flora and fauna, photos, articles about conservation activities, nursery, ranger and FOWSPians news and such will be welcomed.

For now, I hope you enjoy this newsletter *Linda*

Deadline for April 2015 edition newsletter is

Friday 27th March 2015

contributions can be emailed to [Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au](mailto:Linda.Rogan@fowsp.org.au)
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113



Sea Shepherd - Open for Vessel Tours in Williamstown

Lyndy Gilbert

DID YOU KNOW that fish are being ground up and added to pellet feed for poultry to assist in the production of eggs?

On Monday 26 January, Ken and I visited the SSS Steve Irwin owned by Sea Shepherd Australia, a non-profit conservation organisation protecting our marine environment. This fact about poultry feed was one of the shocking truths revealed by our tour guide.

Sea Shepherd's mission is "to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world's oceans in order to conserve and protect ecosystems and species". They use direct-action tactics to investigate, document and take action to expose illegal activities on the high seas

<http://www.seashepherd.org/who-we-are/>

Their most recent operations have included foiling Japanese attempts in 2014 to harvest whale meat for the Japanese market under the guise of research. Japanese whaling is set to continue in 2015/6 despite the ban imposed by the International Court of Justice. Sea Shepherd crew have also made citizens' arrests of poachers trapping the Patagonian tooth fish, a rare and endangered species. The organisation's other activi-

ties have included removing gill-nets from the Antarctic, collecting data on marine life and researching the impact of gill nets and fishing lines on fish and birds. Investigations show plastics in the ocean are breaking down into flakes which fish and seabirds are ingesting. The Steve Irwin is in port for the next few months and tours will be conducted between 12-4pm on Sundays. The tour is highly informative and it is wonderful to see volunteers who are prepared to put their life on the line to protect our southern ocean. The vessel can be found at Workshop Pier, 82 Nelson Place, Williamstown.



Carol and Linda photographing the stick insect and native bees on Lythrum. Photo by Annette Lyon

Strange Creatures at the Nursery - Linda

SURELY IT WAS A TWIG caught on the *Lythrum* where I was photographing bees. But no, it moved.

I took some time to sort out that this was a Tessellated Stick Insect *Anchiale austrotessulata* and that it was head down on the plant. Only then could I locate the well camouflaged eyes, residual wings and short antennae. Adding to the confusion was that fact that one front leg appeared to be missing. eyes. The eyes and



wing buds are pointed out in the photo details above. Thrilled with this find, I placed it on BowerBird and it now shows as one of 5 records for this species on the Atlas of Living Australia. Their primary food is *Eucalyptus* sp.

The same day Kaye showed me odd horned caterpillars feeding happily on *Acacia dealbata*. It only took a quick look in Pat and Mike Coupar's *Flying Colours* to find that these were the larvae of *Neola semiaurata*. These I took home with six tube stock plants for food. They are known to feed on *Acacia*. They stripped these of foliage within a week but fortunately I could add some cut foliage from my own *Acacia*. On 23rd February the larger caterpillar had changed colour and shape and was



crawling on the side of the cage. I added to the soil on the bottom of the cage, just in time, as it crawled down and burrowed in, I presume, to pupate. The second caterpillar is still grazing on cut twigs of *Acacia*. I will let you know when they emerge as adults.

Photos above from the top are:

- 12 Feb. 1 of 2 caterpillars collected on *Acacia dealbata*, inset false eye on tail end "open"
- 23 Feb. Larger caterpillar changes shape and colour
- Comparatively plain adult *Neola semiaurata* Golden Notodontid Moth, photo from *Flying Colours* by Pat and Mike Coupar.

Prickfoot *Eryngium vesiculosum* - **A Frogland Plant**

It can be difficult to separate native plants from weeds. I photographed this native plant on the edge of the ephemeral pond along the path in Frogland. While the adult leaves are prickly like thistles, juvenile leaves are tubular and rush-like. Currently clusters of pale blue flowers are showing.

Listed as rare and locally endangered in the district in 1999 it occurs in valley grassy forest such as in poorly drained sections along Stane Brae gully. Prickfoot is suitable for a bog garden (where you don't intend to walk bare-foot)



It is from the family Apiaceae which includes carrots and parsley

Linda



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 Watch for 2015 TAGS that currently are being planned.

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.

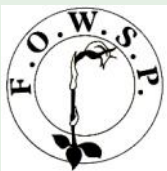
Check the website for any changes at <http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php>

Thurs.	5th March	9am-12 noon	Boys Rd	Succulents, weeding	FOWSP	Easy
Thurs	19th March	9am-12 noon	Gold Memorial car park	Woody weeding	FOWSP	Difficult
Thurs	2nd April	9am-12 noon	Mt Lofty	2million tree, maintenance of planting	FOWSP	Moderate
Thurs	16th April	9am-12 noon	Naughton Ave	Woody weeding	FOWSP	Difficult

Please note TAGS and WAGS will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are deemed hazardous.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2014			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			<u>Nursery Phone</u>	0408 317 327
				nursery@fowsp.org.au
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editor@fowsp.org.au				9846 1218
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jason@parau.com				9722 2908
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor
				9840 1593
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green
				9844 2096
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary	<u>Market Trailer</u>	Caitriona Young
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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 explores 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.

Thursday 26th March 9:30 The Long Ridge For more than 150 years Longridge farm was grazed by cattle. It is now managed by Parks Victoria, and is recovering with regeneration occurring and wildlife returning to the area. It has spectacular views to the north and of some of the prettiest rapids on the Yarra River.

Distance: 5km **Time:** 3hours **Rating:** Difficult

Thursday 32nd April Mullum Mullum Creek Walk along the creek and through bushland saved from becoming a freeway by the Eastlink tunnel underneath. Our Waterwatch Co-ordinator will join us to investigate the water quality of the creek and discuss the findings.

Distance: 3km **Time:** 3 hours **Rating:** Moderate

atings:

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 2 months before the walk date. Meeting points will be provided at the time of booking, to book call 9840 9124 or email

eeadmin@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

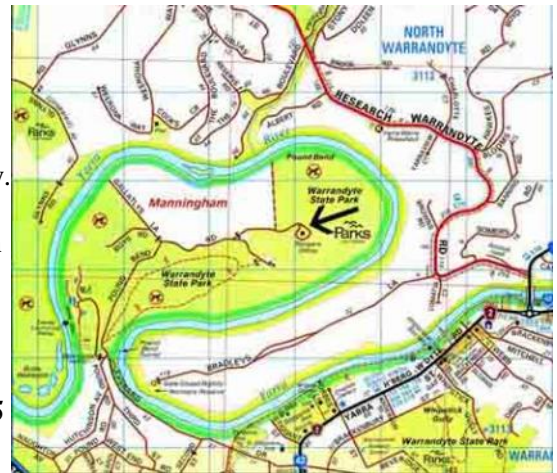
The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday.

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.

Closed Christmas and New Years day. Reopens 8th Jan.2015
Also closed to customers and volunteers on days of severe weather and on Total Fire Ban Days



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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 on 9840 9326. **Bookings:** Natalie on 9840 9124.

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

Wednesday 1st April Seminar *Frogs - constants, colonisers and conservation dependants* presented by David De Angelis Learn about the frogs historically recorded in Melbourne's north-east including some species no longer thought to be present, those most commonly encountered and one or two that are thought to have established recently or been introduced. Threats to species of conservation concern will be discussed, as well as recent research aimed at informing the management of frog habitats in increasingly urbanising landscapes. David De Angelis is an Ecological Consultant.

Field Trip: Frog walk Thursday 2nd April, 6:30pm-8:30pm with Craig Cleeland This walk in the Warrandyte State Park will look at breeding habitat of the Victorian Smooth Froglet and Southern Toadlet. Craig has over 15 years field experience working with Southern Toadlets in eastern Victoria and a strong interest in frog conservation. He was the author of the Frogs of Melbourne booklet and has played a key role in a number of national frog conservation initiatives such as the World Wildlife Fund frogs program. The Southern Toadlet is listed as vulnerable in Victoria and possible reasons for this species' decline will be discussed. Wear warm clothes and bring a torch. Bookings are essential as places are limited.

Bee Hotels at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary



THIRTY EIGHT DEGREES and rising did not stop a room-bursting audience from coming to hear about native bees. Jess Bauman, research assistant for the Green Infrastructure Research Group (GIRG) at the University of Melbourne (photo above and right) gave a presentation and showed us some of the bee hotels currently installed for the Blackburn Lakes Sanctuary research project. Of greatest interest to me was seeing the hotels that had been made with redgum posts and various sized holes. The holes that were 6mm or less had a good percentage of uptake by native bees. (above R) I propose that we make a series of similar nest to try around the nursery and Frogland but am informed that the holes may need to be 10cm deep as they are in the study, so some heavy drilling work will be needed. I'll be talking to our talented tradies and handy persons for help with this project.

Linda

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to Sybille and Brian Ims who transported the trailer to the February market and to Jason Patton who transported it back to the nursery after the market.



Thanks also to those who manned the trailer on that day:

Diane and John Baird, Alison Thom, Marion Thomson, Jan Davies, Jan Falconer, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook.

It being mid-summer plant sales were not large but once again many children received frog posters and information was shared with a number of adults.

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.

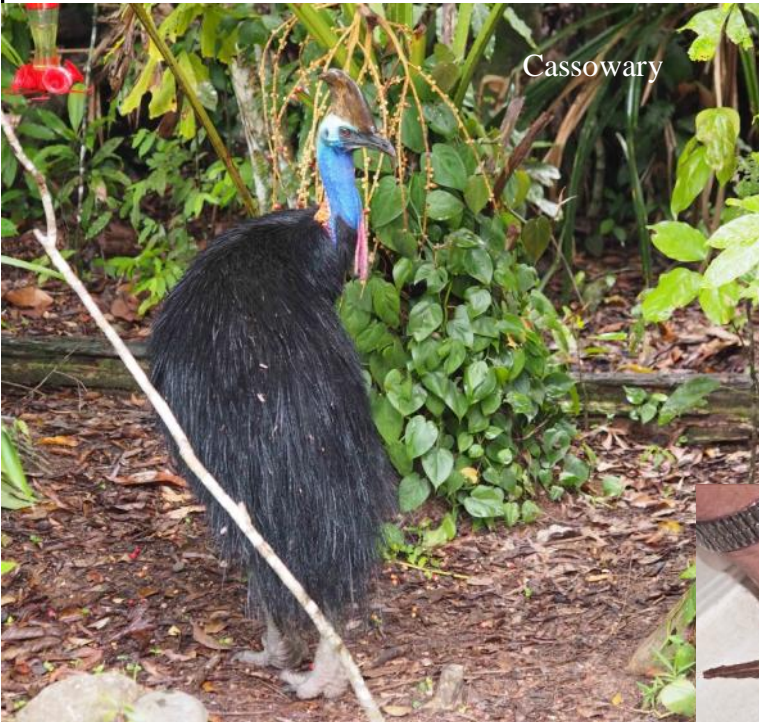
If you are able to help with either transporting or manning the trailer for the March market, to be held on Saturday 7th March, please contact Jan as below

If you are interested in being on the market roster in 2015
please contact Jan Falconer 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email janece5@bigpond.com
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Future market dates are: *Saturday March 7th April 4th 2015 also Warrandyte Festival 21-22 March.*

Amazing week in a Rainforest

The first week of February was full of surprises and excitement for Peter and me in Kuranda. Only a few of the larger ones are included in my photos below. For some of the story see the March Warrandyte Diary Nature Column.



Cassowary



Rhino Beetle



Hercules Moth



Tree Kangaroo



Green Ringtail Possum



Musky Rat-kangaroo

Two Wasps check in at the Insect Hotel



The orange and black Hymenoptera building in the hole on the left had me hoping it could be a bee that is a wasp mimic. Alas Ken Walker told me it is in fact a wasp in the *Paralastor* genus that includes potter wasps. One week later I photographed the funnel it had constructed.

The shiny green wasp above was much smaller and belongs to Chrysididae, family, referring to their shiny bodies the genus name is derived from Greek *chrysis*, *chrysid*-, "gold vessel, gold-embroidered dress". These are parasitic wasps so the fact that it is interested in the hotel may mean that other hymenoptera have already moved in. *Linda*

Koala in Wonga Park

Coincidentally after the article in the FOWSP newsletter - I just had a call from a resident in Stane Brae Court, Wonga Park who was watching a koala sitting in the fork of a Cherry Ballart. It was quite high on the hill. The nearest eucalypts were Yellow Box.

Cathy

Keep your eyes open, it would be lovely to find more koalas around Warrandyte.
Ed.



Joy Hick loves...

..a morning birding walk at Morrison's Reserve near Reynolds Rd.

Here Joy recently photographed this dapper Sacred Kingfisher and a Shouldered Brown Butterfly *Heteronympha penelope*.



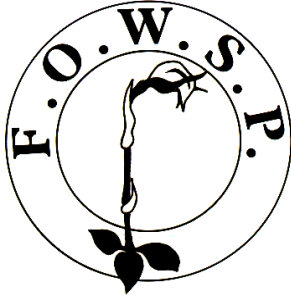
Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 10th March

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

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



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Ewing's Tree Frog *Litoria ewingi*

Irene found this natty little frog between trays in the nursery. It can be distinguished from the Peron's Tree frog by the horizontal pupils. Peron's TF has a vertical cross in its pupil. Both are commonly seen in moist areas of the nursery. The pads on their toes show they are tree frogs.

Ewing's TF call is a gentle Creeee, creee, creee, cree whereas Peron's has been described as a maniacal cackle.
Linda

March 2015 Vol.33 no. 2

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

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Email photo bonus page



Wasp photo by Joy Hick.



Trapezites symmomus Splendid ochre skipper
I have seen 2 in Greensborough in 2 days. Linda



Young wood ducks, like this one, are often seen under the benches in the nursery.



This flat worm, likely a Blue Planarian, was under a board at the nursery. Only the underside is blue
Linda

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