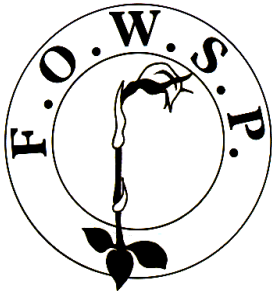


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Time has flown in May and the chill in the air has not slowed down activities at FOWSP.

But first of all, the smiling face on the right; meet Jeff Millott who will be working at the FOWSP nursery. He is replacing Sarah who is heading off to work in Africa. Please help make Jeff feel welcome.

TAGS are going full speed ahead. On page **two** learn a bit about the history of Stane Brae as well as how the revegetation project is progressing.

And why is Janaya all smiles while she digs in the mud in the photo on the right below. Clues to the answer are found on page **three**.

Orchids feature on page **four**, both those that are for sale at FOWSP and those in artwork by the late botanical artist Beverley Graham.

The usual schedules of TAGS, seminars and nature walks are found on pages **five**, **six**, and **seven**. Also thanks to our wonderful market trailer volunteers listed on page **seven** but more are always needed for the future. Don't miss the announcement of a special seminar to aid would-be wildlife carers on page **nine**.

Pages **eight** and **nine** are devoted to wildlife of various sorts and bring us some news of Pat and Mike Coupar.

Once again give a thought to what you can write for the next newsletter and enjoy this one.

Linda



Jeff Millott, the new nursery assistant at FOWSP



It appears that ranger Janaya enjoys a good play in the mud, at least when it is for a good cause. See page three for details.

Deadline for July/August 2015 edition newsletter is

Friday 26th June 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

FOWSP Gives Plants a Chance at Stane Brae

MANY YEARS AGO at Stane Brae we helped Cam plant out an enclosure for *Acacia brownii* and other rarities. These plants did well until the deer and kangaroos discovered them. Many of the plants were then browsed to the ground and only the prickliest survived.

In order to give the plants a chance, Bernie and Cam recently raised the fence to such a height that these animals can no longer get in; and we FOWSPians were invited to help re-plant this site, now named 'Weebill', after the tiny resident bird (photo R).



Weebill deer and roo exclusion enclosure at Stane Brae



Starting the days planting

It was a joy to see how successful our previous re-vegetation efforts have been - and how timely they have proven to have been: we got those thousands of plants in before the explosion of the 'roo population, and before the invasion by the deer. Many of those little tube specimens are now sturdy saplings, too tall to be at risk from browsing.

During this tour we learned that Stane Brae has had a long



A bonus surprise, Carol photographed *Lasioglossum Parasphecodes* cf. *lactium* on a patch of *Senecio pinnatifolius* brightly blooming at Stane Brae.

pastoral history, having been surveyed, cleared and fenced by 1867. We saw the site of the original homestead, which was burnt down in the 1962 fires. Several

large oak trees and an Atlantic cedar mark the spot. Closer to where we had been working there had been a more recent house - this site is marked by a large Wonga Vine and a Sheoak.

We also learned that Stane Brae, Yarra Brae and Jumping Creek Reserve were used as a training camp for the Army and Air-force during and after the Second World War. These contiguous parcels of land are now part of Warrandyte State Park - in fact it was the struggle to have these places preserved that brought FOWSP into existence all those years ago!

On this beautiful sunny Autumn day we planted some 200 plants and after a delicious morning tea - thanks Lyndy! we still had time for a tour of Stane Brae.



Planting out the Brae (hillside)



Cam and Gray, on the tour, pause to reflect at the memorial bench for a past ranger, Matt LeDuc.

Our thanks to Cam and Bernie for a great TAG, and to Kay and Janaya for passing on information about the history of Stane Brae.

Gray

All photos by Carol Page

Fitzsimons Wetland TAG May 14th

This was a combined planting day by FOWSP, Friends of Yarra River Parklands, Manningham Council and park rangers. The wetland is a popular carp fishing spot.

The day started with a bit of chilly drizzle but soon workers took advantage of the coat tree (below L) as they stripped off layers in the autumn sunshine.

The soil was wet and the banks were slippery but still the planting proceeded apace. After warning us all to take care Janaya cheerfully dug right in (Photo front page). Plants included: *Lythrum salicaria*, *Mazus pumilo*, *Mentha australis*, *Carex chlorantha*, *Cyperus gunnii*. Lyn Meredith also pointed out native plants already on the site such as *Lythrum hyssopifolia*.

Thanks to Cathy who not only arranged for funding for the plants but also added a splash of colour on the day with her pink gum boots and red head-band (photo R, her beanie is lost?).

Linda



Terrestrial orchids for sale at the nursery



SEVERAL YEARS AGO, orchids were unavoidably threatened by events such the Jumping Creek bridge construction and FOWSP was allowed to rescue several species of terrestrial native orchids. These would otherwise have been destroyed. Many of these orchids are used in revegetation projects and displays such as the Forest Gallery at Museum Victoria. A few easy to cultivate species can be sold through the nursery. Currently three of the more easily grown and multiplied species are for sale. These are the Blunt Greenhood *Pterostylis curta* (photo above right), Dainty Bird (Wasp) Orchid *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* (photo above left), and Onion Orchid *Microtis* sp. These orchids are most easily grown in pots and require special care and freedom from slugs and snails to be successfully reintroduced into the bush. For details on cultivations, ask at FOWSP.

Thank you to friends Colin and Mischa Rowan for providing the above photos. *Linda*



BEVERLEY GRAHAM (1932-2010) was a well-known botanical artist from Caulfield south, a founding member of Botanical Illustrators group and member of Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens since 1988.

Amongst much other work, Beverley had designed and painted the seven Federation floral plates for Franklin Mint in 2001.



FOWSPians were lucky enough to have a close look at some of the art in her sketchbooks in May when Josh brought them in. They had been purchased by his mother at auction and passed on to Josh. Photos here show *Lyperanthus suaveolens* (L), *Pterostylis nutans* and *Pterostylis*

aff. *plumosa* (above R), all of which bloom within Warrandyte State Park. *Linda*

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

<p>Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Peter Rogan, Jason Patton Mel Coupar (Line drawings)</p>

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday 9th June 2015
Venue:	Ranger Station, Pound Bend
Time:	19:30 pm sharp

TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.00 am for a 9.15 pm departure. . 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.	11th June	9am-12 noon	One Tree Hill	Aggies and Pittos weeding	FOWSP	Diff
Thurs	25th June	9am-12 noon	Three Bridges	Planting	FOWSP	Easy
Thurs	9th July	9am-12noon	Mullum Mullum Cr.	Woody weeds and planting	FOWSP	Mod.

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>

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

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 every Thursday.

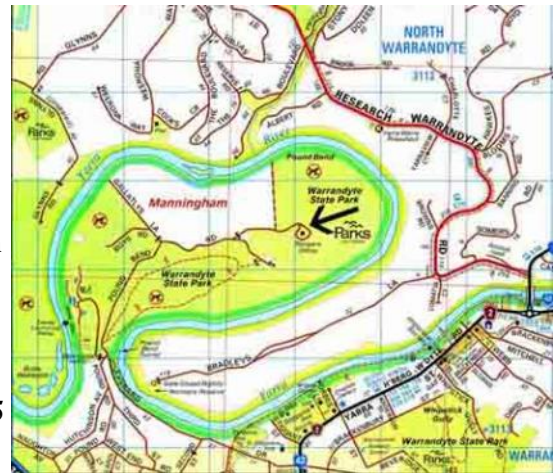
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) and the first Sunday of each month

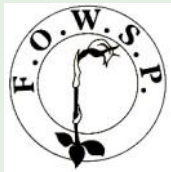
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

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



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FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of educational and interpretive nature walks explores some of Manningham's most inspiring and interesting bushland. During the first half of 2014 we walked sections of the Yarra River through Manningham. In the second half of the year we will explore some of the tributaries on both the north and south sides of the river.

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 25th June 9:30 Koornong Block This section of Warrandyte State Park is directly across the river from Manningham's iconic Jumping Creek Reserve, offering beautiful views from the other side of the river. Fungi and mosses abound on the sheltered rock track edges. Distance: 3km Time: 2.5 hours Rating: Difficult

Thursday 23rd July 9:30 Glynn's Wetlands From the high ridge looking across the river to Pound Bend we descend through the Glynn's old farm on to Bob's wetlands. Here we pass some of the deepest holes in the river under the almost vertical Naughton's cliffs. Distance: 4km Time: 2.5 hours Rating: Moderate

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

eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

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.



Seminar Venue: Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte

Time: 7.30 pm

Enquiries: please phone Lyn Meredith on 9840 9326.

Wednesday 3rd June 2015 Seminar: Geoscience Sites - what they are, why we need them and are we taking care of them Dr Neville Rosengren has spent much of the past 40 years identifying sites of geological and geomorphological significance across most of Victoria (and elsewhere). In this presentation, he will describe the concept of geoheritage sites, a methodology for their identification and evaluation, and present a case for greater recognition and legislative protection. Case studies from varied environments will be presented with particular reference to the intriguing nature of the Yarra River and Yarra Valley.

Thursday 4th June 2015, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm Field Trip: A Tortuous Course! The Gorges of the Yarra with Dr Neville Rosengren This field trip will visit sites of geomorphological significance of the Yarra's tortuous course from Warburton to Warrandyte. Many of the gorges of the Yarra will be sighted. Bookings are essential as places are limited.

Wednesday 1st July 2015 Seminar Avian Evolution presented by Travis Park

The past few decades have revolutionised our understanding of the evolutionary history of birds with spectacular finds from Asia that have allowed palaeontologists to determine that birds evolved from small theropod dinosaurs. But what proof is there that this is the case? Bones provide a plethora of evidence, but are their other lines of evidence? Monash University PhD candidate, Travis Park, will provide an insight to evidence that reveals the amazing fact that dinosaurs are not extinct at all, but rather soar above our heads every day.

Download the schedule through **March 2016** on <http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/walks-and-seminars> or pick up a copy at the FOWSP nursery.

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER



Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday May 2nd.

*Jeff Cranston, Jan Falconer, Gloria Moore, Linda Rogan,
Kelvin Watkins, Peta Cumming, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook*

Special thanks to *Jason Patton* who transported the market trailer.

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. We still require one or more person/s to regularly roster on to transport the trailer.

Please consider whether you can be on the market trailer roster for in 2015.

Contact Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email janece5@bigpond.com

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Future market dates are: *Saturday June 6th, July 4th, August 1st 2015*

Three small insects at the nursery in May



First, upper left is another view of the mystery insect that appears on the back cover. It is less than 2mm in size. In the photo above, some of you will be able to tell that it is not a leaf hopper at all but a type of shield/stink bug.

Both leaf hoppers and shield bugs are “true bugs” in the order Hemiptera but from different families. When I put the photos on BowerBird, they were quickly picked as a member of the shield/stink bug family Pentatomidae, possibly Horned Stink Bug.

Secondly, lower left, is a Dotted Paropsine Leaf-beetle *Paropsis atomaria* that feeds on Eucalypts. The early instars are often seen in clusters on gum tree twigs or leaf tips.

Thirdly and by far the most exciting to me, a colourful native bee investigating the potting soil in a Senecio tube, perhaps looking for a home. This was exciting because it is a member of a genus and species that were new to me, *Callomelitta picta* and it is one of few seen in the cooler time of year. The hairs on her hindlegs that can carry pollen, prove she is a female. For more on this story see the June Warrandyte Diary nature column.

Linda

Werribee Mansion on the 16th May. The PV event was arranged by Bernice as part of “Volunteer Week”. There were representatives from a number of the PV associated Friends groups. We were granted free admission to the Mansion, and access to a portable audio device containing dialogue describing parts of the Mansion. For lunch, down by



the Mansion's Farmstead, we were greeted by a sausage sizzle. The afternoon's entertainment was supplied by the occupants of the Werribee Zoo, to which, we were granted access.

JASON

Letter To the Editor

WE HAVE JUST BEEN READING the latest FOWSP newsletter which is as interesting as always. Lovely to see photos of everyone, especially Olive and her daughter.

We just thought you'd be interested in our experience with a small-eyed snake here in this remote FOWSP campus at Mallacoota. A couple of months ago, I (Pat) was emptying some compost into one of our bins and glimpsed something moving - first thought it was a rather large earthworm, but it disappeared very quickly. I called Mike and together we managed to unearth it amongst the compost and transfer it to a bucket. We then used long tongs to take out the compost. Lo and behold a snake we had never seen before. It was very active and flicking its tongue. We delved into our books and consulted an expert friend who confirmed it was a small-eyed snake (see photo).



Also interested in the bush rat photos. We certainly get them here because they love our veggies!

We were in Melbourne very briefly a month ago for a dental visit and ran into Jason and Peta who took us on a tour of Frogland (looks fantastic) and also we saw inside the new building - very impressive, congratulations to all concerned.
Pat and Mike Coupar



Wildlife Caring Seminar- an Introduction to Possum Rehabilitation
by Adriana Simmonds

Have you thought about becoming a carer but not sure where to start? This seminar is aimed at volunteers interested in learning more about becoming a wildlife carer, particularly caring for possums. It would also be a very valuable refresher for existing carers.



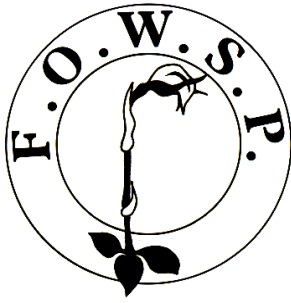
Information covered on the day will include: - basics of setting up a shelter; equipment; assessment; husbandry; hygiene; rehabilitation; record keeping and releasing; dealing with the public, vets, council, parks etc and balancing caring with family life.

The seminar will include time for questions and discussion.

Adriana has over 10 years experience as a wildlife carer in Wonga Park, and has worked in various roles for Wildlife Vic including as an educator and mentor.

- ★ **When:** 9:30am – 3:00pm Tuesday 23rd June
- ★ **Where:** Conference Centre, Currawong Bush Park, 277 Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Melways Ref: 34 H6
- ★ **Cost:** \$10 – payable to Adriana on the day (cash only) to assist with her wildlife rehabilitation activities.
- ★ **Morning tea and lunch** will be provided.
- ★ **Registration:** email eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au or call Cathy Willis





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Tiny mystery insect

Annette brought me this tiny insect on a leaf at the nursery. From this angle we both thought it might be a horned leaf hopper but it crawled instead of hopping. See page eight for the rest of the story.

Linda

June 2015 Vol.33 no. 5

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$15

Newsletter by email (tick box)

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 page



Peron's Tree Frog :*Litoria peronii* can be identified by the cross in its eye.



Have you ever seen a tidier shed? (Photo Right) Thanks to those who accomplished this task.



An unknown insect (wasp?) has created this exquisite little pot to pupate within. Gray saved three of these little pots for me and I will keep them to see what species emerges. In the meantime, our first-aid blanket needed a wash.



The lovely *Senecio pinnatifolia* that attracted insects on the TAG at Stane Brae (see p. 2) photo Carol Page



Finally Jason and Kelvin relax in the newly created "Josh's Beer Garden" after completing the loop section of the Frogland pathway.

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