

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

SEPTEMBER WAS A MONTH OF NEW FACES and long-time FOWSPians returning. It is a pleasure to see them all. Below, Michelle, our new nursery assistant, had a smile for the camera when I met her. I have yet to catch up with some of the other new faces.

Carol Page provided some excellent photos of Cam and the pollination of *Caladenia rosella* on p. 2. Good news from Belinda is on the same page. If you haven't been to the nursery on a Thursday you may find Lyndy's invitation for a cuppa hard to resist. Lyndy has really outdone herself this month with a report on the Inland Botanic Gardens p. 3, other items



Pat and Mike Coupar (photo right), over from Malla-coota and with them Margaret now well enough to be with us. Ben was there as you can see on p. 8.



This is Michelle mentioned on p. 9 in September newsletter.

and photos and particularly her report on concerns about the proposed petrol station in Warrandyte p. 9. I think we will need to make her an official FOWSP reporter.

Caitriona is another excellent reporter of TAGs p. 4 and she reports a koala as well. Carol's photo provide the proof.

Lately exciting reports of Platypus sightings in Warrandyte have been coming in p 9.

Let us know when you have news, photos, articles or snippets to add and enjoy the newsletters.

Linda



Notice to all FOWSP members: The AGM will be held on Sunday 22nd November at 5:00 pm. In addition to the selection of the Committee of Management, there will be a special resolution for changes to the Constitution. Special resolutions are listed on p. 3



Deadline for November 2015 edition newsletter is

Friday 23rd October 2015

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

Caladenia rosella

DID YOU READ Janaya's report of the TAG on 20th August at Morrison's reserve (September newsletter p.8)?

Here are two of Carol's photos of Cam lovingly carrying out the hand pollination of *Caladenia rosella* that was mentioned in that report.

This is part of an integrated recovery program for this orchid. *Linda*



NURSERY VOLUNTEERING - COME FOR A CUPPA!

IF YOU ARE KEEN TO LEARN more about plants indigenous to Warrandyte, a unique opportunity is available through volunteering at the FOWSP nursery every Thursday from 9.30-1.00. The FOWSP nursery is located at the end of Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte, beside the Park Rangers' office.

You will get to meet our dedicated staff and long-time helpers who are willing to share their valuable knowledge with you - and you will be doing your bit to help the environment. Volunteers propagate plants, sow and collect seeds, build possum boxes, weed and revegetate the parks, go on guided nature walks with experts and provide support to the Rangers and much more.

A great variety of food to please all palates is provided for morning tea at 11am. Part of the cost of food is covered by the donation of IGA points from our members. Thank you to all those who have donated points, it has made a big difference to our budget.

We would love it if you could donate your IGA points to FOWSP, and would be pleased to talk to you about volunteering. If you require further information, please contact us at info@fowsp.org.au or call 1300 764422.



Belinda Christie's new role at Swinburne University



Belinda Christie is a delightful, engaging person and the FOWSP nursery had the pleasure of her company for eight years whilst she completed her environmental science degree and doctorate in Environmental Sustainability, at Deakin University. We were so sad to see her go!

Belinda is currently a research fellow and teacher in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at Deakin University where she has been working for over nine years. Recently, another exciting challenge came up at Swinburne University. On application, she was appointed to the position of Post-doctoral Research Fellow in the Faculty of Health, Arts and Design. The role involves looking at different food composting systems, measuring how much carbon they emit and fitting recycling models to urban forms. She will be involved in community consultations throughout Victoria and the results of her research will lead to more effective ways of composting.

We are thrilled that Belinda was successful in her application. She will be working at Swinburne University from early October.

Congratulations, Belinda, and good luck with your new endeavour. Keep in touch and let us know how your research is going. *Lyndy Gilbert*

VISIT TO THE INLAND BOTANIC GARDENS, MILDURA

Words and photos by Lyndy



IF YOU ARE VISITING Mildura or Wentworth, take time to visit the Inland Botanic Gardens. It is the first semi-arid botanic gardens in the Southern Hemisphere. There are exotic plantings grouped by geographic region, including plants native to Africa, Europe, Asia, North and South America, New Zealand and Australia. The Gardens also feature a large rock garden and a magnificent rose garden consisting of 1600 colour-coordinated plants.

The Magenta in the Gardens Historic shearing Shed is available to hire for functions such as wedding receptions, conferences, and celebrations. Garnpang is an historic, mid-19th century grazier's homestead that has been rebuilt in the Gardens as a visitors' centre. There is a bush chapel for weddings, and summerhouses provide shelter in each of the regional gardens.

In 1983 a grant was used to engage one of Australia's best authorities on botanic gardens, John Wrigley, to develop a master plan. Over the following five years a site was selected, land acquired and \$200,000 raised. Planting of the 150 hectare site commenced in 1991. An information gazebo has been erected as well as tea rooms and a shop selling local products. For those who can't walk long distances on the self guided walk, there is a large train which takes visitors around the gardens.

The well laid out walking trail is now maintained by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens. I was fascinated by the works of art hidden amongst the trees and shrubs which were so attractive – some made of brush fencing, others of pebbles and tin, pictured above.

Some 15 years ago, the Friends started to remove weeds, planted understory indigenous plants including *Atriplex nummularia* (saltbush), *Clematis microphylla* (old man's beard); *Dianella revoluta* (flax lily) and *Myoporum parvifolium* (creeping boobialla). There are over 20 different species of wattles, and the gardens contain rare and endangered plants such as *Acacia acanthoclada*, *Prostanthera aspalathoides*, *Calostemma purpureum*, *Mycrocybe multiflora* and *Grevillia pterosperma*. The gardens are full of lovely surprises and well worth a visit.

Special Resolution for vote at the AGM (*Sunday 22nd Nov - 5 pm*)

That the following changes be made to the Constitution (the additional words are in italics)

5. Membership

5.1.1 All persons who have an interest in the Warrandyte State Park and its vicinity, *and that interest is consistent with the FOWSP Objectives 3*, are eligible for membership.

5.1.2a Memberships which are either new or not continuous in subscription, shall be subject to Committee approval. Upon approval or rejection the secretary shall notify the applicant of the decision with as little delay as possible. In the case of rejection, any payment made with the application shall be returned to the applicant.

TAG to Fiddler's Gully Thursday September 10th

by Caitriona Young

PLANTS, implements and water in our backpacks, our group zigzagged its way down Fiddler's Gully in search of *Craspedia variabilis*. The recent decrease in numbers of wildflowers was causing concern and we hoped to support the small population of *Craspedia* in the gully with plants from seeds grown from the same population at the nursery. We were also to note any other interesting plant species on the way.



Further down, we discovered a group of 17 *Craspedia* in a stand of messmates. We soon had an additional 70+ bedded down and watered in sheltered spots in the mossy ground. We were surrounded by bird song. Birds seen and heard included the Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, Eastern Yellow and Crimson Rosellas, Golden Whistler, Spotted Pardalote, Blue Wrens and a Yellow Robin.

In the depths of the gully, Cathy was excited to discover a stand of Musk Daisy Bush (*Olearia argophylla*). Their number and extent were carefully noted.



We planted the rest of the *Craspedia*, making a grand total of about 150 plantings. The gully was sprinkled with sundews, donkey orchids and *Hardenbergia*. *Pterostylis* and *Caladenia* were also spotted and a locally rare *Pterostylis alpina* (Mountain Greenhood) was much admired (Carol's photo back cover).



Possibly our most unexpected find was the koala nestled in a tree overhanging the path. To make the scene even more idyllic, a Wedge Tailed Eagle soared overhead. Photos here and back

cover by Carol Page

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.

Thurs.	1st Oct	9am-12 noon	Sugarloaf	Maintenance and fence removal	FOWSP	Moderate
Thurs	15th Oct	9am-12 noon	4thHill Whipstick Gully	Woody weeding	FOWSP	Difficult
Thurs	29th Oct	9am-12 noon	School/Cemetery Tr	Woody weeding	FOWSP	Difficult

Contact number: 0408 317 327

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>

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2014			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
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jason@parau.com		membership		9722 2908
Cathy Willis	0427 660 651		<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor
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				9844 2096
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				thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk
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Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774			
			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

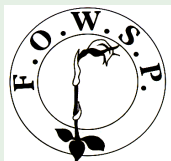
Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan,
Joan Broadberry, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 13th October 2015

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



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.

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

The October Walk is already booked out.

9:30 am Thursday 26th November 2015 Pound Bend - Grasses. Do grasses all look the same to you? Come on a short walk to learn how to distinguish between grasses, sedges and rushes, and how to recognise some of the more common local grasses. **Distance:** 2 km **Time:** 3 hrs **Rating:** Easy to 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.

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.

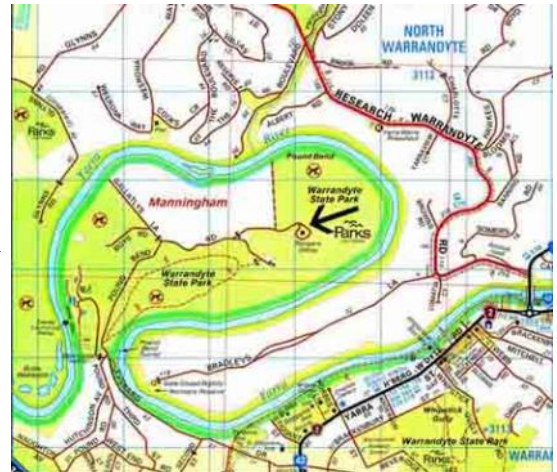
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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.

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



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

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 or bookings please phone Lyn Meredith on 9840 9326.

Wednesday 7th October - Introduction to Australian Native Bees presented by Jess Baumann

This seminar will focus on Australia's unique bee fauna, comprised of about 1,700 species that are mostly solitary and do not form hives. In greater Melbourne alone, 150 different species can be found. Learn about what they look like, where they live and their social behaviours, and find out how to encourage them into your garden and become involved in citizen science. Jess Baumann is part of Melbourne University's Green Infrastructure Research Group which is doing work on native bee populations in urban areas.

Wednesday 2nd November - A Half Century of Observation over 100 Acres Reserve presented by Murray Bouchier

Naturalist Murray Bouchier has been keeping birdlife records of the 100 Acres Reserve and Park Orchards for 55 years. In that time many changes have been observed and recorded. Murray will discuss the sighted changes in vegetation composition and share his observations of faunal and avifaunal species diversity as a result of these changes. Murray is a dedicated and experienced naturalist with membership to the Bird Observers Club of Australia, the Victorian Ornithological Research Group and member of the 100 Acres and French Island National Park friends groups.

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.



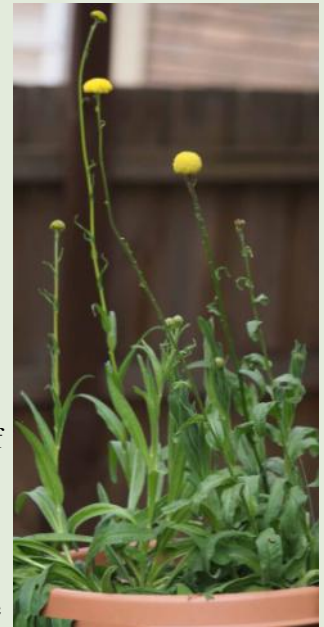
Orchid Sales



Pterostylis nutans

Thank you to Noel for once again, taking some of the FOWSP orchids to the APS Yarra Yarra Native Plants Expo in September. This year FOWSP netted \$200 from the sales.

Orchids, such as the Blunt Greenhood on the left, are still available for sale at the nursery



Craspedia variabilis

Marie maintains Frogland

I was thrilled to see how clear of weeds the core area of Frogland appeared when I returned in September. Thanks to Marie and others for keeping up the weeding over the winter month.

More willing weeders are always welcomed and we are hoping to do some weed burning and planting of *Craspedia variabilis* in the next few weeks *Linda*

Quinton's IGA BBQ and Spring Sale day

Lyndy reports that the day was a great success. The total for the day from nursery and the sausage sizzle was \$2915.60.

Many thanks to selfless volunteers: Caitriona, John Y (who also brought down the market trailer) John B, Linda Rogan and Ken for helping out at the Warrandyte IGA sausage sizzle and the trailer selling sausages and plants and answering questions. Special thanks to Lyndy for organising the day.

Thanks to all our wonderful staff for their hard work at the nursery - Josh, Michelle, Annette, Kay - and Cathy who worked as a volunteer.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday **September market trailer roster.**

Trailer: John Young

Volunteers: Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Alison Thom, Caitriona and John Young, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook.

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 November, December or 2016 please contact **Jan Falconer 0419 872 096** email janece5@bigpond.com
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Future market dates are: Saturday November December 6th, February 7th 2015

Smiles at the FOWSP nursery



IT WAS GOOD TO SEE KEITH back at the nursery recently after his illness. His "non-birthday" was celebrated 8 months early (or four months late) . He was a good sport to blow out the candles and go along with it. (Thanks Lyndy)

Lyndy, (right) had prepared her usually fantastic spread plus the lovely cake and her granddaughter (below left) was keen to make sure the candles had a second blow-out as well.

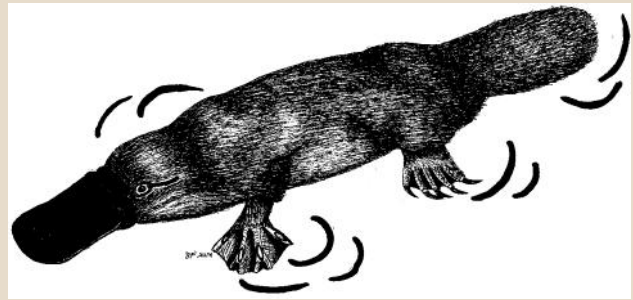
The same day, Jan Tindale (below right) a long-time FOWSPian who remembers volunteering at the nursery when it was only a table under a tree, dropped by for a few plants.

Photos by Lyndy and Linda



Platypus sightings

MARJORY BURGESS HAS lived near the river in Warrandyte for 45 years. She is always watching for platypus as she crosses the bridge. This year for the first time she and her husband have seen platypus twice in August. The first was a single one earlier in August. The second sighting was of two swimming on the surface at the same time, on the rainy Thursday after the heavy rain at the end of August. She said the river appeared quite muddy that day. She said “It was quite a thrill to see these platypuses at last.”



Meanwhile at FOWSP nursery, Annette Lion reported that she and her girls have seen a platypus at least five times in recent weeks. This has included mornings about 9:20 when walking to the co-op and she was about 50m uphill from Second St and Everard Dr.

On one occasion she mentioned this to Gray as he jogged nearby and he went down to riverside and was able to see where its burrow was located.

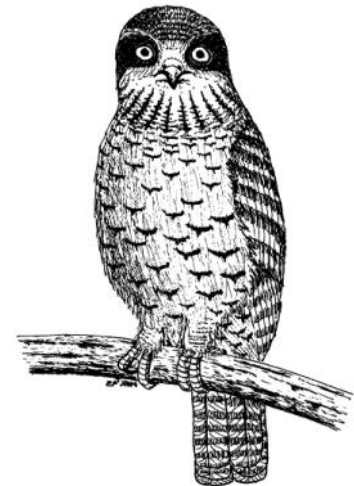
Those who live close by should have a good chance of sighting this platypus. I haven't seen it yet.

Linda

THIN EDGE OF THE GREEN WEDGE – TREES OR SERVO?



Proposed service station in Yarra St - where are the trees?



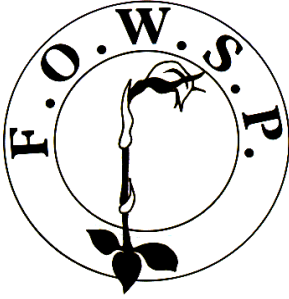
THE GREEN WEDGE is again under threat with the proposed removal of mature Yellow Box trees on Yarra St to make way for entry and exit points for a service station off the round-about. A Toorak developer purchased a parcel of land on the Harris Gully round-about in 2009, zoned as Residential. When no one would purchase the blocks because of the flood plain associated with Andersons Creek, Platinum King applied in 2013 to build a 7/11 type service station with 6 pumps and a retail outlet which would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Manningham City Council objected to the development and it is now at VCAT. The hearing is due to start on 19 October 2015.

Andersons Creek forms a short native corridor to nearby Fourth Hill State Park and the Yarra River. Several endangered native animals are severely at risk including the Brush-tailed Phascogale, the Powerful Owl and the Speckled Warbler if it proceeds. As well, pollution from 24 hour light saturation, tree removal, emission contamination etc. threatens insects, nocturnal birds and other animals, including frogs.

You can help stop this inappropriate development by:

- See the plans as follows: <http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meeting-28-july-2015>.
- Join or donate to the group in opposition to this: warrandytecharacterprotection@gmail.com
- Sign a petition at: <https://www.change.org> under the title Help Protect the Bush Character of Warrandyte from a 24/7 Petrol Station.

Lyndy Gilbert



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Pterostylis alpina Alpine or Mountain Greenhood
Photo by Carol Page from TAG at Fiddler's Gully
see p.4

This orchid was listed as rare and localised in the Warrandyte district, significant and endangered in the Melbourne area. It is a colonising orchid that can increase vegetatively from tubers and may be found in large numbers where it occurs.

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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.

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Email photo bonus page

Have you seen these strange growths called Witch’s Brooms? Carol’s 2 photos (right) from a recent walk with Cathy. Carol found the following information: A **witch's broom** or **witches' broom** is a disease or deformity in a woody plant, typically a tree, where the natural structure of the plant is changed. A dense mass of shoots grows from a single point, with the resulting structure resembling a broom or a bird's nest. For more detail look up Witch's Broom on Wikipedia.



(Above) Josh checks for Dunnarts under the tile that makes their home. *Photo by Carol*

(Right above) Iridescent beetles mating photographed by Linda in WA. Not yet identified on BowerBird.

(Right) The colour version of the photo composition that accompanied Linda’s nature article in September Warrandyte Diary.



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