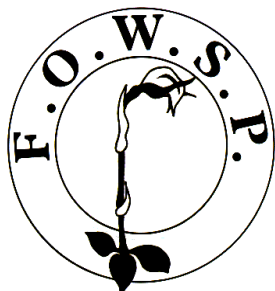


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

What a remarkable year this has been for FOWSP. The smiles on the faces of members who attended the AGM were a testament to this fact. For the benefit of our many members who were unable to attend I have included the happy and informative reports that were presented starting on page 2.

At the AGM, Judy Green was thanked for all her years as FOWSP librarian. Judy will be handing over the task to Gloria Moore who will take over from 2016.

November 15-22nd was the first ever Australian Pollinator Week. This caused a lot of interest around the nursery so we spent some time observing which insects were visiting our indigenous plants. This year in my garden the greatest number of visitors were definitely flies including many hoverflies apparently blown down by the north winds. At first it is not easy to tell some flies from bees and bees from wasps. As a start I have provided a page of attractive or unusual looking flies pointing out their halteres on page 8.



Victorian Christmas Bush *Prostanthera lasianthos*



Judy Green receives some flowers in thanks for all her years working quietly and effectively behind the scenes as FOWSP librarian.

If you have ever thought you might like to have a worm farm, be first to respond to the ad on page 9.

With this Victorian Christmas Bush *Prostanthera lasianthos*, I would like to wish all FOWSPians wonderful holidays full of the enjoyment of the natural world around us and of course the company of those you love.

Linda

**Deadline for February edition newsletter is
Friday 22nd January 2016**

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

From the FOWSP AGM 22nd November 2015



Jason (above right) ably conducted the proceedings again this year.
The essence of the annual reports are presented below.

TREASURER'S REPORT *capably delivered by Lynda Gilbert*

FOWSP has had a good year financially, despite a deficit of \$7,732 which was due to the set up of the Education Centre. This is a wonderful multi-purpose building and we now wonder how we got along without it.

Costs have gone down by half for the newsletter printing and postage; many thanks to Jason Patton for his hard work in encouraging people to receive the newsletter by email.

Those generous people who have donated their IGA points to FOWSP have reduced the catering budget by some \$700, thank you - we are truly grateful.

Overall, we are in a great financial position. The cash in the bank at the end of June 2015 was \$29,207 and we have assets of \$27,496, a total of \$56,703. I think it is an amazing result for a not-for-profit organisation which relies on community support and a few annual grants.

Your committee is continually looking at ways to improve the nursery. Currently, we are applying for a grant for a new automated watering system which will reduce the amount of hand watering currently required. We are always open to any ideas and look forward to your suggestions.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers and dedicated, hard working nursery staff as well as Parks Victoria for their ongoing support of our endeavours to look after the State Parks.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW *charmingly delivered by Gray*

We thank Parks Victoria for giving us a home, support, energy [including electricity] and water for our Nursery. We thank Faye Williams, our area Chief Ranger, and Warren, our Ranger Team Leader [aka The Queen and the Governor General, respectively and respectfully!] for allowing us to play a modest part in making WSP the asset that we treasure.

We thank Cam for TAGs that are unmissable. We not only get a lot done, but go home with our heads reeling from the essence of a course in botany, zoology and ecology being enthusiastically unfolded in one short morning. Somebody here interjected: *Not to mention local history!* Cam has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal - so richly deserved! In his modesty Cam doubted aloud if he should accept the award - I urged him to take it - after all, I pointed out; the medal contains about an ounce of gold, and the dress medal about half an ounce; which may come in handy the way things are going!

At work, where there is Cam, there is the ever-practical Bernie - wielding a crowbar or a chainsaw. Another enthusiastic chainsaw-wielder is our own Janaya. I say '*our own*' because she has so faithfully supported us on our

TAGs and quite a few 'STAGs' [*Spontaneous Thursday Activity Groups*]. For example we recently had a Woody Weeding in Whipstick Gully. We killed many hundreds of 'woodies'; but not all of them, so we decided to return the following Thursday. The '*following Thursday*' was wet, windy and cold, but Janaya, Judith, Lee and other hardy workers turned up all the same!

While the Woody Weeders are wielding weapons; back at the Nursery the rest of the team are busy turning out the tens of thousands of plants that are the main source of our funds. If you've considered coming along on a Thursday morning - do it! It's tremendous fun, you'll be warmly welcomed as well as being rewarded by one of the legendary Morning Teas made by the ever-resourceful Lyndy.

It was Lyndy, too, who organized the recent Sausage Sizzle, which along with our Spring Sale made about \$3000 on a single weekend.

I'm not going to list all the year's TAGs, because you can read about them in our Newsletter - along with lots of other interesting articles - all put together so brilliantly by Linda. It was Linda, too, who put into motion the rejuvenation of Frogland; and once in it was motion, it was Linda who kept up the momentum. Annette will have more on Frogland in the Nursery Report.

This year we had visits from the MPs for both the State and Federal electorates of Warrandyte.

The Hon. Kevin Andrews informed us of grants we could compete for, and after a quick tour he asked me how many members we had: *about 300 Family Memberships, Mr Andrews* and how many plants we had produced this year: *about 50,000*. He said *What a pity plants don't vote*, to which I replied: *Mr Andrews, if plants could vote they'd vote Green!*

The Hon. Ryan Smith came dressed for action, and energetically pitched in to help us with hand-weeding - his PA pitched too! I was greatly charmed to see Hon. Ryan Smith get down on all fours to experience the fragrance of the Scented Sundew!

FOWSP is not just about plants: this year a couple of us were privileged to be invited to participate in the annual Phascogale Count - about which Ranger Kylie will be telling us more - and were able to closely observe Phascogales, Dunnarts and Antechinus.

And although FOWSP's own Pound Bend koala count produced a nil return this year, one of our members has recently spotted a koala elsewhere in Warrandyte.

It is now a year since the opening of our Education Centre and already we cannot imagine life without it. If we took a financial risk investing in this project, it has proven to have been fully justified!

I know I've neglected to give all the thanks that are due, but be assured that we are very grateful for all the help we've had this year. We couldn't have had such a successful year without every single one of your contributions.

Finally I'd like to express our deep gratitude to our Nursery Manager. Organization Theory may say that nobody is indispensable, but it would be hard to imagine a FOWSP without Josh. He combines fine personal qualities with a deep and broad knowledge of our indigenous flora, plus skill and energy that are absolutely invaluable.

NURSERY REPORT *ably and enthusiastically presented by Annette*

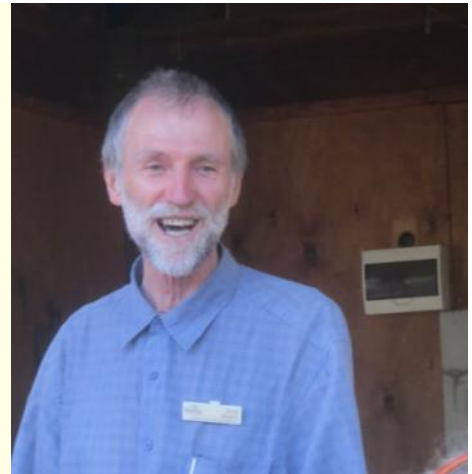
Volunteer attendance this year was in excess of 3750 hours in a wide range of activities including TAGS, planting, weeding, path building and additional fencing and placing the Botanical identification signs in Frogland, organising running the market trailer and other activities that promote FOWSP and the nursery.

A new Wildflower garden has been created for rare plants as well as attracting bees, butterflies, moths and other pollinators

The water plant section was moved and neatly set up and a new stock plant area is fenced to keep out the kangaroos.

Approximately 60,000 plants were produced for Parks Vic, Council programmes, the community and local schools. We are inviting schools to nominate specific projects in 2016 and to apply for their plants in advance. We also supplied orchids and special plants to Museum Victoria.

Many birthdays were celebrated, including some important milestones. Several special sales were held and were very successful. Scout groups have attended planting and propagation days.



Committee member Gray



Nursery Assistant Annette

We welcomed Michelle to the fold as a new staff member, whilst farewelling Sarah Bond who is pursuing another career and we wish her all the best.

Important THANK YOU'S:

- Ranger Collin for keeping the water tank full.
- Rangers Bernie and Cam for their help throughout the year on TAGS and various projects.
- Ranger Janaya for organising TAGS & for being our patient and understanding Parks Victoria Liaison.
- The Committee
- Our wonderful volunteers
- Lyndy for the magnificent diversity of morning teas.
- Members who volunteered with the co-ordination and staffing of the market trailer.
- Our staff, for their dedication to our volunteers & our nursery.
- Many others who quietly work behind the scenes.

RANGERS REPORT *cheerfully presented by Ranger Kylie*

Thanks to FOWSP members for contribution to the park and the greater community. You are all an amazing team of committed individuals.

The restructure of Parks Victoria – staff changes

- Conrad is no longer Ranger In Charge he has moved to Woori Yallock to be the Area Chief Ranger
- Area Chief Ranger for Middle Yarra & Plenty Gorge – Faye Williams
- Ranger Team Leader Middle Yarra is Warren Murphy
- Business Support Officer – Kay Williams is no longer at Warrandyte and has moved to Westerfolds in a district position.
- John Rush – Team Leader Visitors & Community has moved to a district position based at Westerfolds.
- New CEO - Bradley Fauteux, from Canada, was Managing Director of Ontario Parks

OH&S - 2014 Parks Vic conducted a safety review and it was found that we needed to improve as an organisation; we commenced a two-year Safety Improvement Program looking at OHS policies and procedures & providing safety training to all staff.

PV also looking at volunteer safety and incorporating new policies and procedures around this.

Safety Goal = Zero Injuries.

The Good Neighbour Program –

- \$10,000 for rabbit control in the Yarra Corridor
- Riparian weeds at Norman Reserve
- Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle grass
- Boneseed & Spanish Heath in the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve (WKNCR)
- Urban Fringe Weed Management Initiative – money secured to control weeds in WKNCR for a final year.
- Post Burn weed money for recently burnt sections of Glynn's, Koornong, Timber Reserve, Morrisons, 4th Hill, St Andrews, and Pound Bend - provided by MFEP (Melbourne Fire and Emergency Program).



Ranger Kylie

(Continued on page 7)

TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery on alternate Thursdays 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 Sometimes on non-scheduled Thursdays, STAGS (Spontaneous activity groups) will carry out further works.

Watch for the 2016 Schedule in the February Newsletter and on the FOWSP website activities page.

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 COMMITTEE 2016 | | | 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 |
| Lynda Gilbert | 9844 0106 | Treasurer | <u>Park Office</u> | 9844 2659 |
| Linda Rogan | 9435 5806 | Newsletter editor | <u>Newsletter assist</u> | Joan Broadberry |
| editor@fowsp.org.au | | | | 9846 1218 |
| Jason Patton | mobile 0402 121838 | Webmaster and membership | <u>Wildlife Rescue</u> | Adriana Simmonds |
| jason@parau.com | | | | 9722 2908 |
| Cathy Willis | 0427 660 651 | | <u>Koala Rescue</u> | Julie Pryor |
| | | | | 0417587798 |
| Gray Ardern | 0418 190261 | | <u>Librarian</u> | Gloria Moore |
| | | | | 0402 285 005 |
| Caitriona Young | 9844 2842 | Minute Secretary | <u>Market Trailer</u> | Jan Falconer 9844 1226 or |
| | | | | 0419 872 096 email janece5@bigpond.co |
| John Blake | 0418 329 937 | | Facebook Coordinator | Annette Lion |
| | | | | 0414-249-729 |
| Kelvin Watkins | 0488 039 774 | | | |
| Jan Falconer | 0419 872 096 | | 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 February 9th 2016
Venue: Education Center, Pound Bend
Time: 19:30 pm sharp

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday November 7th.

*Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Christine Andell
 Lee and Graham Deacon, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook*



Special thanks to *John Young* 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.

If you are interested in being on the market roster for 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 December 5th, February 6th 2016*



We are still looking for an assistant for Jan who will also be away from time to time. If you can help out, with the organising please contact Jan Falconer as above.

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

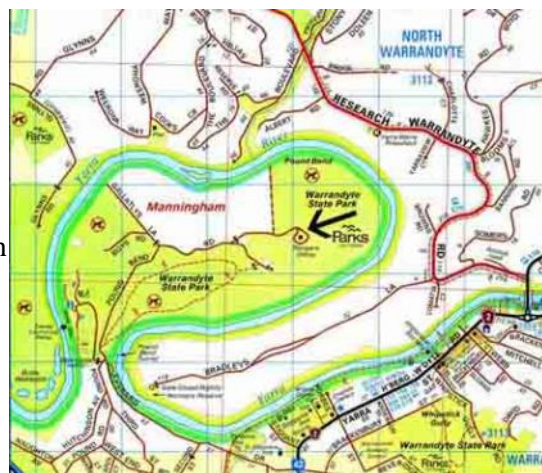
the first Saturday of every month, 9 am to 1 pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) and the first Sunday of each month

2 pm to 4 pm.

Thursday the 24th of December is closed for volunteers but open for sales 9 am to 12 pm

Then closed through Christmas and New Years reopening on Thursday the 7th of January 2016

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 the 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



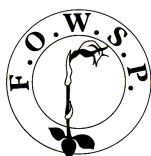
Wednesday 3rd February 2016 Seminar: A bit of Colour in a grey landscape - butterflies in the urban matrix presented by Jesse Kurylo.

An ever increasing human population and a desire to shape the land to suit our modern needs often comes at a price to the many species which call that land home. What about butterflies living within the urban matrix? How many butterfly species use urban environs and what do we know about these species? What resources are they using to maintain their populations and how beneficial are wildlife gardens for butterflies? These are some of the many questions Jesse Kurylo has been trying to answer during her PhD research in Melbourne. Join us to discover the answers to these and other mysteries of butterflies within the urban matrix.

Thursday 4th February Field Trip 10.00am -12 noon: The Great 2016 Butterfly Frolic with Jesse Kurylo

If we have a few weeks of heat, February will be a great season to get out and about with a butterfly net. Join Jesse to learn some of her field research techniques in butterfly habitat identification, appreciation and monitoring methods. Bookings are essential as places are limited. The date for this field trip may be changed if the weather is not favourable for butterfly flight

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



**FOWSP/Manningham Thursday
nature walks
Leader: Cathy Willis**



These walks for 2016 are still being planned for every fourth Thursday from January through November. Information will be on the Manningham Council website from mid January or phone 9840 9129 for information in January.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Meeting points will be provided at the time of booking.

(Continued from page 4)

Student work experience program – we had 3 great university students go through our volunteer program this year. The aim is for them to get experience in most park activities and will hopefully go on to get jobs in the industry and also support us in delivering park programs.

The Green army team worked with us throughout the year. Activities included weed work, reveg, fence removal, track clearing etc. They worked in conjunction with Nillumbik Shire Council

Rare and threatened species program-

- Brush-Tailed Phascogale trapping program – 3 caught this year.

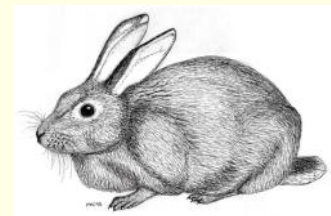


Rangers and a FOWSP volunteer with Antechinus (left) and a Dunnart (right). On this day no Phascogales were trapped but the total was three for the week.

- Dunnart program continue management with installation of pavers and eco burning in biodiversity fences.
- Eltham copper butterfly program – Expecting a good fly out this year after extensive management works to aid the recovery of this species
- Orchids - Threatened species money which will go towards controlling grassy weeds in orchid fences, raising and building of new fences to protect from rabbit & large herbivore grazing.

Pest animal control programs:

- Fox trapping control program in Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve. We also undertake a fox program in the Northern Reserves for Phascogale in conjunction with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Fox trapping & shooting program - A total of 21 foxes have been controlled this year.
- Rabbit control continuing with fumigation and baiting.
- Deer issues on agenda – currently raising orchid fences to restrict deer. Evidence of deer throughout park. They are using corridors to move through area.
- Park signage program, updated park signs at Pound Bend, new dog regulation signs along Main Yarra trail, Koornong and soon to be Mt Lofty.



Fire – The full contingent of seasonal project fire fighters are now on board. They are busy preparing for summer. The slashing program is about to begin. The fire team held a pump school training day here for fire staff in the district to refresh skills on all fire equipment.

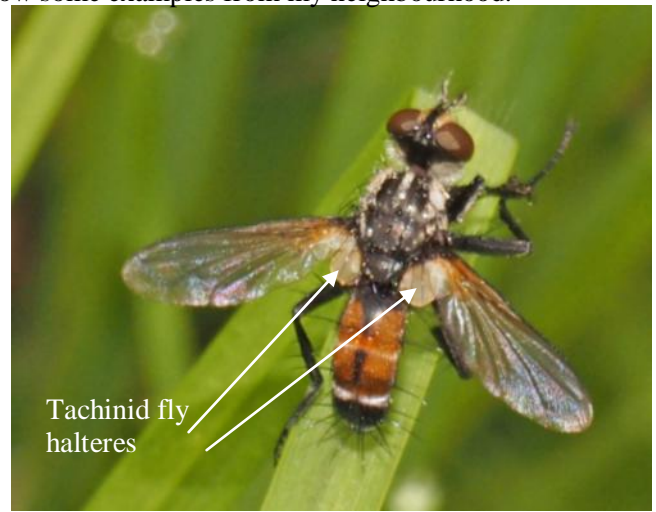
As part of fire management works the Mt Lofty walking track has had extensive works to the section which runs along the river. The track has been widened, re-surfaced and is now safe for driving. This will enable vehicle access in case of fire.

Pollinators: Is this a fly?

FLIES HAVE been particularly prevalent this spring due to warm weather and north winds. Flies are Diptera (from the Greek *di* = two, and *ptera* = wings). Where bees and wasps have a second pair of wings, the hind wings, flies have small knobbed structures called halteres. So if an insect has a single pair of wings and a pair of halteres behind the wings, it is a fly. My photos below show some examples from my neighbourhood.



Lucilia sericata
Green blowfly
haltere (white nob)



Tachinid fly
halteres



American Soldier Fly
Hermetia illucens
halteres



Syrphid fly or
Hoverfly. This one
is a wasp mimic.
halteres



Small-headed fly from
the Acroceridae family
with big halteres



Bibio fly female
The male is thin and
black.
haltere

A Small Fly story ...

On a warm afternoon in late November I was roaming my garden looking for bee activity when I noticed some small flies, of the size that you might easily inhale, swarming around the buds of a blooming Senecio plant. A closer look revealed that they were darting in toward a small garden spider. The spider was dining on an unfortunate insect.

I got a much clearer idea of what was happening when I videoed the action as these guys were very difficult to photograph in flight. (My best try is below)

The video showed these tiny flies attacking the spider but equally they may have been trying to get to the spiders meal.

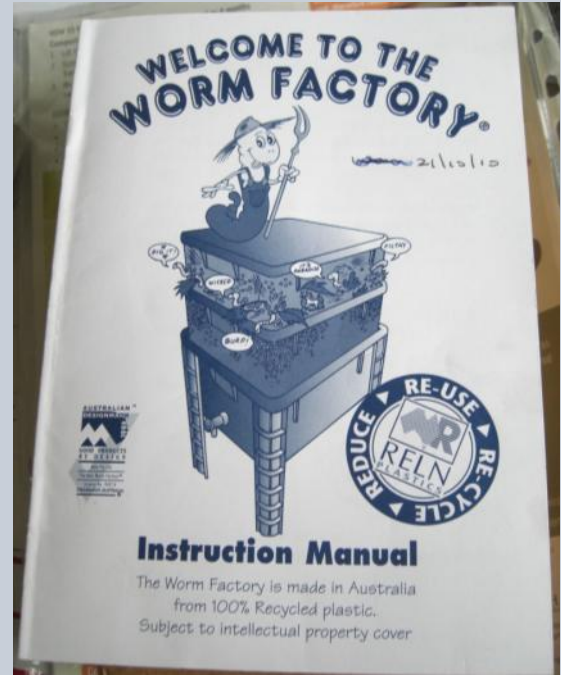
I put my photos on BowerBird and sent my video to Ken Walker at Museum Victoria. While he couldn't elucidate he is putting it to the museum fly expert later in the month. From BowerBird's Daniel Heald I learned that these flies are most likely in a group of frit (not fruit) flies. Daniel suggested that this was a "Freeloader fly, after the spider's leftovers"

I may learn more of the story in the future but for now it is fascinating just to watch these tiny flies attacking the much bigger spider.

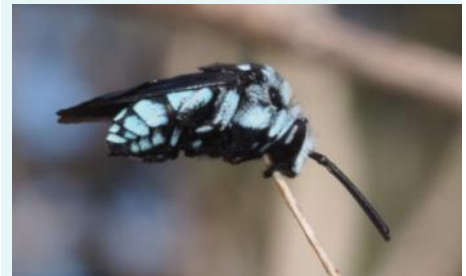
Get your FREE worm farm here (1 only)

I am giving my Worm factory away to a good home. It would have to be picked up from my home in Doncaster. I have the instruction manual and a Reln Worm Bedding Block. The unit does need cleaning.

Contact Carol Page cpage356@gmail.com

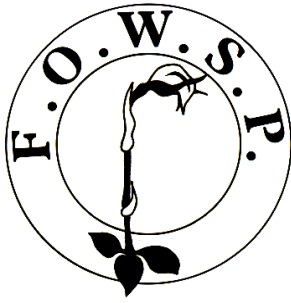


...and a native bee to watch for



I photographed this lovely Neon Cuckoo Bee *Thyreus nitidulus* (above) along Karingal Creek. It is the first I have seen this close to home. As a cuckoo, it lays its eggs in the nest of a Blue Banded Bee where its young eats the food stored for the baby BBB. Where there are Blue Banded Bees there are likely to be Neon Cuckoo Bees, beautiful but lazy members of the same bee group. This one, roosting by holding on with its jaws, is likely to be a male. Let's see who can be first to find one at the nursery.

Linda



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Elderberry Panax with *Leioproctus* bee

This bee in the Elderberry Panax *Polyscias sambucifolia* in Frogland fooled me into thinking it was a masked bee (*Hylaeus*) with its black and yellow colouring. Experts on BowerBird pointed out that the hairy pollen gathering legs on this female prove she is a *Leioproctus* or plasterer bee. For the full story on the insect action on the Elderberry Panax in Frogland see this months Warrandyte Diary Nature column.

Linda

December/January 2015-16 Vol.33 no. 10

Those receiving online newsletters will receive reminders prior to their sub being due.
Those receiving print newsletters please check your address label to see if your subscriptions is due.

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

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Membership (family) \$30
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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.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus page



This large green caterpillar on a Pimelea bush in the nursery seems to have a false face from some angles but the actual head capsule is tucked under and hard to see. It resembles photos of the Black Noctuid moth in Coupar's *Flying Colours*.



This moth with white satin wings and hairy golden leggings was seen on Correa in the nursery. It was identified as *Cryptophasa bipunctata*, a moth that bores into Banksia trees to lay its eggs where the larvae develops and pupates.

For more nursery and Pound Bend creatures of all sizes see <http://www.bowerbird.org.au/projects/3233>

Finally on the right a pair of Lasioglossum bees, one male, one female (hairy legs) rest on a Chocolate Lily on a cool spring morning.

Linda.



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