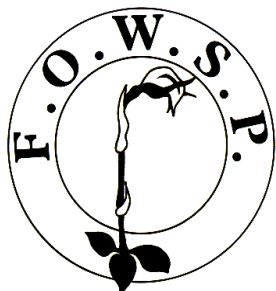


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
 ABN 94170156655/ACN A0024890C

Editor's corner

By Linda Rogan

HOPE, WE ALL need hope. Especially at this time, when so many have lost so much.

We gain hope in many ways. An important way is doing things for other people and other animals.

Our rangers and project fire fighters have been involved directly in the fire fighting efforts. Some photos they took when things slowed down can be found on our website.

Animals have been stressed by the prolonged drought and extreme heat even prior to the bushfires. Water sources in our gardens have become increasingly important. See p.2 for some animals benefitting from members gardens.



Adriana Simmonds and Julie Pryor have been particularly busy with stressed animals and are also starting to receive some animals from the bushfires. One of Adriana's baby wombats is seen in the photo on the left. They are also accepting donations of second-hand sheets, soft blankets and doonas for use with wildlife. Nearby sewing groups are making up pouches for orphaned marsupials. Contact Julie or Adriana to arrange drop off of soft usable bedding or to arrange care for injured wildlife. They will refer you on as necessary. (see p5 for phone numbers)

Above: Artur and Noel put the finishing touches to a possum nesting box. A number of boxes are being made by Fowspians. Those not needed by our local carer, Adriana Simmonds will be sent along to the depot being established by Manningham Council short and longer-term supply for wildlife carers throughout the local area.

This edition includes many things that give me hope. .



Photo by Cathy Willis

Deadline for April edition newsletter is Friday, 27 March
 contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
 or posted to FOWSP, PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

What is happening in members' backyards?

Reported by Joan Broadberry

WELL, ONE OF THE THINGS going on in one Fowspian's backyard is photography. The booklet *Native Splendour*, (see p4 for review) is packed with colour photos, some of which I discover were taken in nursery volunteer, Julie Bishop's backyard. This is the story as related to me by Julie. Twenty or more years ago when Julie's Warrandyte house was built she joined FOWSP and went on a steep learning curve on indigenous plants. Her garden now consists of 100% Warrandyte indigenous all from the FOWSP nursery. As part of Manningham Council's *Indigenous Garden Land Management Course*, a bus trip was run to view local gardens. Julie's was one of these gardens. Last spring a photographer asked her permission to take some shots and lo and behold several of those photos have turned up in the second edition of the booklet *Native Splendour—A Gardening Guide to Manningham's Local Plants*. On page 5 is a *Hardenbergia*, in full bloom. Page 10 shows a beautiful natural garden sculpture. Plants around Julie's pond appear on page 18 and on the facing page is a lovely landscape taken at the back of her house.

But there is much more happening in this backyard. On page 20 of *Native Splendour* is a photograph of one of Julie's nest boxes. She has installed about a dozen, (making most of them herself), and sugar glider families have moved in. Their nocturnal antics give her much entertainment and joy.



Photo by Julie Bishop

Water is provided in several places in Julie's garden and last week she photographed a large echidna soaking in her frog pond. She was worried it might have drowned, but it hopped out and then in again for another soak.

Julie went on to describe some of her backyard bird-

bath activity. Rainbow lorikeets always back into the water, and hang onto the edge with their beak, in order to keep their heads up as they bathe. Tiny pardalotes risk it with the magpies in the bigger bird bath, showing off the reddish-brown under their tails as they bend deeply to reach the water.



Photo by Lauren Smids

There is also something intriguing going on in the Smids backyard. Jan reported finding mouse-like droppings in her porch area. A few weeks ago in the late evening her daughter spotted about 15 small bats clumped together, clinging to the brick wall near the porch ceiling. Jan mentioned them to ranger Jodie, and learned they were insectivorous micro-bats. They use echo-location for navigation and hunting. The species is likely to be *Nyctophilus geoffroyi*, the Lesser Long-eared bat.

The tiny bats are now resting at night in two other spots on the east side of the house, but are always gone by morning. There is a dam nearby, buzzing with insects, so these totally nocturnal animals are probably using the shelter of the house to rest between feeding flights. The bats must roost during the day in some, as yet undiscovered, crevice.



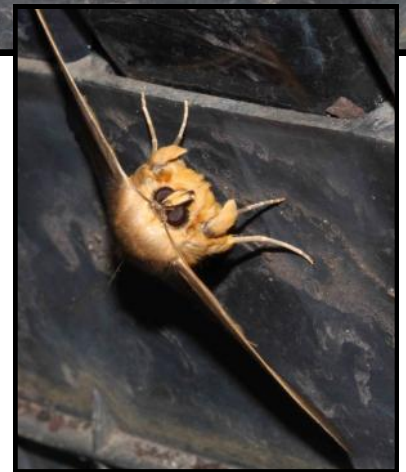
Many thanks to those who helped put together this newsletter

 Linda Rogan
 Joan Broadberry
 Mel Coupar (Line drawings)
 Julie Pryor (Collation)
 Martyn Hiley (Labels)

Three moths at the nursery Text and photos by Linda Rogan

The nursery is a great place for wildlife, in this case, moths.

The first was photographed on the day we made the trip to Lake Mountain, on the fence at the nursery. Peter Marriott tells me it is almost certainly *Epicoma contristis*. The other possibility *E. tristis* would be less common in our area. The young caterpillars may



to identify. I have noticed the photo in Pat and Mike Coupar's book *Flying Colours* and remembered its rather unattractive name the Old Lady moth. Or Granny moth. Mel thinks this might be because of the cross look on its face.

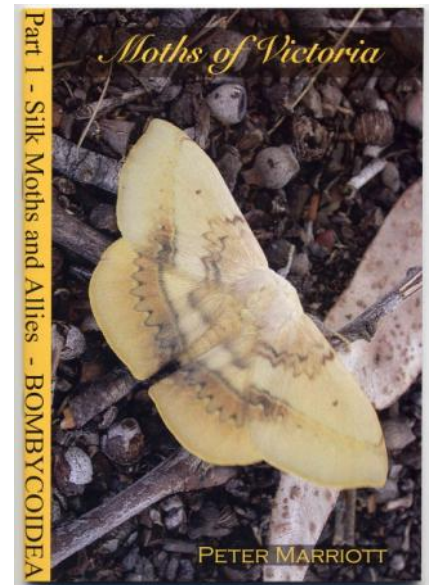
What do you think?

be seen following one another, each following the silk thread of the one before. We will have to watch for the caterpillars next season.

The second is a smaller moth that I believe is designed to blend into bark. It was nearly invisible where it landed on the end of a weathered board on the workbench in the nursery. It shows up well on the wet gravel. I have yet to identify its family.



A number of us have recently purchased Peter Marriott's *Moths of Victoria* Part 1-(photo below). Unfortunately for me, part one doesn't extend to the above moths. Still it does provide a lot of information and excellent photos for \$12. I, for one, am waiting for part two. Wwww address for the order form is below

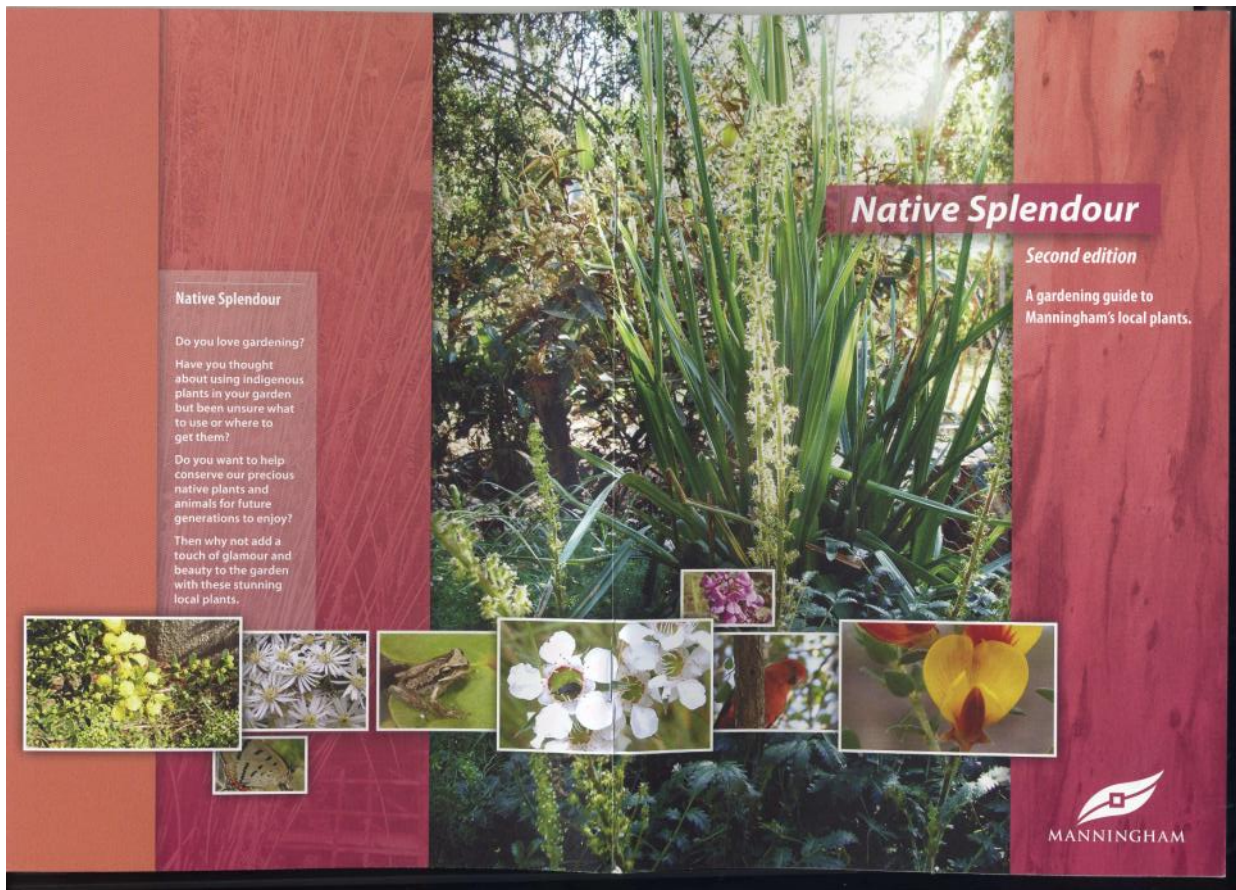


<http://staff.it.uts.edu.au/~don/larvae/logos/victoria01.pdf>



Please let us hear what's happening in your backyard! Editors

The largest and showiest of the three was the easiest



***Native Splendour* – A Gardening Guide to Manningham’s Local Plants. (2nd Edition 2009) Reviewed by Joan Broadberry**

I know I am not alone. I now have to steel myself before I go out into my Templestowe garden, especially the north side. It’s a small loss compared to those of Black Saturday, but our huge, old, spreading *Melaleuca* cracked in recent winds. The stump is 85cm, (nearly 3 feet), in diameter. Far too big for a suburban block I know, but what marvelous shade it has given our northerly aspect for the 27 years we have lived here. I have no idea of its age, but would guess well over 100 years. The ancient tree was taken out just before the terrible heat of the last few days of January. The plants that were protected by its massive, umbrella like branches just shrivelled up. So did many other plants, especially the non-indigenous. But I also lost indigenous plants and realized I had not taken enough care to choose those uniquely suited to local soils and climate and had not done enough homework on the aspect they required. My hands are itching to replant. But the trees and shrubs we regrow on our north side to provide the shade of the future, must tolerate full sun and shallow soils. Many other gardeners are also seeking similar knowledge.

Providence, in the guise of the Manningham City Council, has provided an opportune answer to our gardening woes. The second edition of *Native*

Splendour: a free booklet designed to help local gardeners find plants that are perfectly suited to our climate and soils, has just been released. It was distributed at the nursery a few days ago and I fell upon it, just soaking up its 80 pages of great advice. Fifty local indigenous plants are profiled with colour images, descriptions, size and cultivation notes, and a further 50 species are presented in summary. *Native Splendour* is clearly laid out, beautifully illustrated, well researched and covers a host of topics, e.g.

- 10 reasons why indigenous plants are good for our gardens
- where to buy indigenous plants (of course FOWSP nursery is top of the list)
- four pages of tips for successful planting.
- advice on garden design
- comprehensive lists of plants suitable for screening, native lawns, rockeries, ponds etc., etc.

Manningham has printed 30 000 copies of *Native Splendour* so you should be able find it easily at libraries, community houses, Parks offices, FOWSP market or nursery. Contact Manningham Council Environment Team ph 98409326, email eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au. The first edition is also available as a download at www.manningham.vic.gov.au. (In the *search this site* box I entered “Publications” and then clicked on environmental publications.)

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

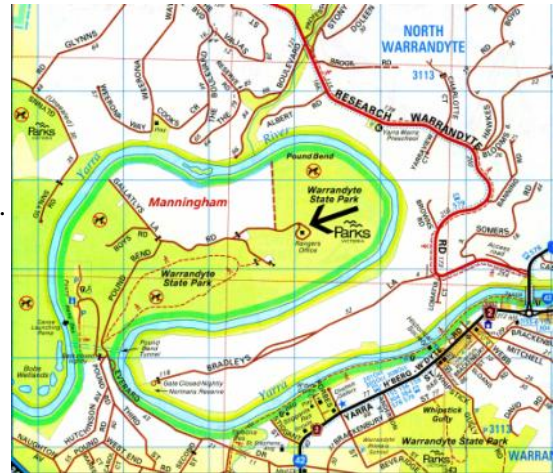
The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday.
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and the first Sunday of each month
2 pm to 4 pm.

**Nursery is closed to volunteers and the public
 on Total Fire Ban Days**

NEW PRICES

Members \$1.00

Non-members \$1.50 .



Copyright 2008 Melway Publishing Pty Ltd
 Reproduced from Melway Edition 36 with permission

Sunday Walks 2009

This educational series of interpretive nature walks takes you into some of Manningham's most inspiring and interesting bushland. All walks are free but **bookings are essential** as places are limited. Each one commences at 10.15 am. It is important to note that walk lengths and difficulties vary, and times and distances are an estimate only. Appropriate shoes, hat and clothing, and a water bottle are required, as is food on longer walks.

April 5 Waterwatch on the Mullum Mullum with Nigel Philpot, Manningham City Council

Walk through some of the best bushland along the Mullum Mullum Creek and test the water quality along the way.

May 3 To be announced.

Bookings: Kay Toussaint on 9840 9348 or email eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

Thursday Walks 2009

If the weather is suitable and there is enough interest, walks may be held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1 pm after lunch. Meet at the nursery, Pound Bend Rangers depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10). Walks will last approximately 2 hours. No need to book, but remember there is no definite program for these walks.

Enquiries to Josh Revell 0408 317327

**Is your subscription
 due?**

*Lynda Gilbert
 Honorary Treasurer*

Thank you to all those who have recently paid their FOWSP membership for 2009. Each newsletter address label has a note, "Subs and a date" printed on the lower left corner. This is the date when your FOWSP subscription (\$20 or \$10 concession per family), is due. I would ask all members to get into the habit of checking this date and responding by sending in their sub when it has expired. In this way you will not miss any newsletters. FOWSP subscriptions used to become due on the 1st January. However, the system was changed to rolling renewals to be fair to those joining through the year. It is an historical fact that many people's membership is due in January, so

PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABELS.

A membership form is printed on the back of every newsletter

(From) The Spotted Pardalote. By Steven Katsineris

Spotted Pardalotes are intermittent visitors to our garden on the northern fringe of Melbourne, usually in the autumn and winter. We see them quite often in small groups and on occasion in pairs, mostly foraging among our tall Eucalypts and sometimes in the lower undergrowth. While some Spotted Pardalotes live in the mountain forests all year round, many others are altitudinal migrants that leave the high ranges and migrate to the adjacent lowlands, usually in the colder months.

These beautiful and endearing birds are a sheer delight to encounter as they flit about from branch to branch among the trees and shrubs. They are very active, but sometimes sit still long enough to be observed close up for a few moments before they flutter off again. They also visit the birdbaths and containers



Young Pardalote at the bird bath. Photo by Linda Rogan

of water we have put out in the garden, and, as some of these are near the house, my family and I can at times see them clearly. We take great pleasure in the visits from these lovely, colourful and petite birds.

I have also caught sight of these Pardalotes around other parts of Hurstbridge in the thicker gullies and especially among the denser vegetation along the Diamond Creek. They spend most of their time in the tree canopy feeding. I think that the considerable re-planting efforts next to the creek and in the surrounding area has contributed substantially to these pretty creatures being around the area more regularly. They are one of Australia's smallest birds and are seldom seen, but are more often heard.

Editor: Spotted Pardalotes have a distinctive three note bell-like call. Some interpret it as "Sleep ba-by"

News from the Committee

- Plans are in process to donate \$5000 of FOWSP funds to bushfire relief.
- Diana Kategiannis will be helping us draw up a plan to improve the nursery functioning and safety.
- Due to various risks it was decided that the nursery will be closed for customers and volunteers on days of total fire ban
- VEAC submission went in on time and will be available on the website. Thanks to all who spent hours working on it
- We welcome Lynda Gilbert as the new treasurer.

Rangers Report

All rangers and project fire fighters have been heavily involved in bushfire response. (see I Spy p.10)

Nursery Report

More than 40,000 plants will be produced for the coming season.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday April 8, 2008

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

We offer our deepest sympathy to Marie and Wolfgang Krause on the death of their daughter and her partner in the bushfires at Kinglake.

From the FOWSP
committee and Friends

It is suggested that any tributes be in the form of donations to the bushfire relief effort.



Photos: Cathy Willis

Precious Water
by Joan Broadberry

When I go to the nursery, I always take time to check on the water level in the dam near the Folly. It is my personal barometer of the drought. The other day to my amazement it was looking very full. When I asked Josh, he told me a small, but intense thunderstorm had rained just over our dam. Pull the other one!!

In fact, the increased water level is due to a massive water relocation exercise conducted by the local CFA, Manningham Council, Parks Victoria and Toll Transport. Many of you would have read about it in the February Warrandyte Diary p6.

In one day, nearly 600,000 litres of precious water was transported from Preston to the depot, by two B-double tankers. The tankers made many trips and directed the water into the dam via two giant water slides borrowed from Manningham, (called flushers). From the above photo it looks like some wet splashy fun was had amid all the hard work.

The water is invaluable for local wildlife and is an important reserve in the event of fire. *More details in "I Spy"*.

THANK YOU TO ANNETTE LION



who has filled in at the nursery while Mel has been on maternity leave adjusting to life with lively young Sam.

Annette's smiling face will continue to be seen on Thursdays as a volunteer and she will be filling in as needed at other times.

“I SPY”

By B.G



PARK AND RANGERS

Kinglake National Park Work Centre has been destroyed and several of the staff there have lost their houses.

STRIKE TEAM

Jodie Davis said that most of the WSP staff had gone to fight fires as one big strike team, leaving very early each day and returning late. Currently, (Tuesday 17th Feb.), they are holding the fire at Buttermans Track, where Kinglake and Warrandyte meet. Yesterday, 16th, they were somewhere in Whittlesea; they have all been working in the Kinglake complex.

“All the staff at Warrandyte State Park have been involved in some way.”

In the field are Conrad Annel, David Van Bokel, Aiden O’Dempsey, Colin Bromley, Justin Welander, (all rangers) and the PFF team with Con Kosmos Daren Keenan, Adam Carnegie, Matt Harrington and Brad Simpson. In the support team are Jodie Davis, Kylie Tenace, David Moore and Kay Williams

KOALA CARING

Julie Pryor, (Koala Rescue 97221117) has three koalas in care from the Kilmore area. Julie said that Derek Fairley and Stuart Turner, (vets), have been a great help. Derek and locals are collecting leaves for food and, “Manningham Council have been fantastic”. The Council when requested rapidly supplied extra bins to take the material left over. Other materials are being stockpiled for down the track when further help for koalas is needed.



BODY BEAUTY

According to Sarah at the Eastland Body Shop, their Eastland staff are looking at involvement in animal aid and, “rebuilding the wildlife”. In general the Body Shop Company will be donating products for people and, “doing a fund raiser”.

WATERWISE

Early February, 600,000 litres of water were moved from a dam in Preston, (where a new housing estate is being built). Organised by the CFA the water was transferred to the WSP dam near the Folly. See further p.8

PARK CLOSED

On Total Fire Ban day in the central fire district, Warrandyte State Park will be closed.

FOLLY FRIDGE

The refrigerator in the Folly is “finished”. It needs to be replaced. If you have a spare fridge with freezer in good working order contact one of the committee.

WEATHER WARNING

Due to the excessive period of heat, five of my biros have dried out, whilst writing these paragraphs.

A WALK IN THE FOREST

By the time you read these pages, the Maroondah Branch of the Australian Plant Society will have held its February walk. But, due to the heat, it will have been held indoors on Sunday 22 February 09, visiting the Forest Gallery at the Melbourne Museum in Carlton.

Entry to the museum costs \$8, but is free for anyone with a Seniors Card.

Website: www.museumvictoria.com.au and click on “forest Secrets.

ABBOTT ON ANTS

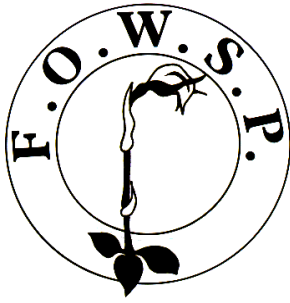


On Friday 20th March 09, at the Australian Plant Society Maroondah, Dr Kirsti Abbott will speak on “*Interaction of Ants*

with Australian Plants”. Venue: Manchester Unity Hall, 8 Main St. Blackburn, near the Blackburn railway station.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Annette Lion is cooking meals for people she knows who have been adversely affected by the fires.



Print
Post
346802/0005

Postage
Paid
Australia

**REGISTRATION BY AUSTRALIA POST
PP 346802 / 0005**

If undeliverable please return to
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.
P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



Bursaria Fairy Moth

Nemophora sparesella/chrysolamprella by Linda Rogan

Less than 1cm in body length, this tiny moth reflects silver, copper, pink or green in the sunlight. Male's antennae are 4 x their body length and they fly in swarms above the Sweet Burseria flowers on a sunny day, like male birds at a lek. Females lay eggs in the Bursaria flowers so that the eggs are enclosed in the seedpod. The early larvae feed inside the seed pod.

Note the end of the antenna!

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no.

Email

Membership (family) \$20
Concession \$10

Newsletter by email (tick box)

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus



Rainbow lorikeets, photo by Noel Gaskett



Photo by Cathy Willis



Photo by Linda Rogan

A better Spotted Pardalote photo, at our birdbath. (see page 7)
Too late for the main edition. LR



Photo by Linda Rogan

A native wasp, *Abispa splendida* I think but <15mm. See the March nature column in Warrandyte Diary for its story.

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