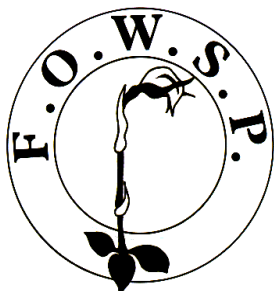


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

New members are cordially invited to afternoon tea at the Folly to meet some FOWSP Committee members and take a tour of the FOWSP Nursery.

Date and Time: Sunday 2nd May 2010
at 2pm

Location: The Folly at Pound Bend,
Warrandyte (see p.6)

RSVP Lindy Gilbert 9844 0106
by 28 April 2010.

Editor's corner

ANOTHER ACTION-PACKED month for FOWSP.

An enthusiastic group from FOWSP and MYLN assisted Bronwyn South from Strathewen Landcare clear weeds from the site of the Strathewen Primary School in late February. See page 3.

On Clean Up Aus Day, Kelly Wooster had organised canoes to clean a section along the Yarra River in Warrandyte. Thirty people had signed up for the gig, including eight members and 20 "future members". Sadly, on the day, threats of hail, thunder and lightning, meant that the canoes were cancelled. In spite of the weather, 14 people stayed to help clean up Taroona Reserve netting 3 tyres, a trolley and ten bags of rubbish (see above R). Kelly even encouraged other walkers along the river to pick up rubbish.



Kelly Wooster and Joan MacMahon with 2 young helpers on Clean Up Day March 7th 2010.

The efforts of many FOWSPians made our presence at the Warrandyte Festival a great success. See report and photos on page 2

See page 4 for Mike Coupar's story of *Three Amorous Nights in Warrandyte*. Hear about our first shared activity with FYVP on page 7. Conrad brings us up to date on Parks management areas (p.8) and much more. Enjoy LR

Deadline for May edition newsletter is Friday 23 April, 2010
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113



Report By Joan Broadberry

FOWSP TOGETHER WITH the whole town, made a gigantic effort on the weekend of the Warrandyte Festival, 20 and 21st March. The nursery was open both Saturday and Sunday, and the FOWSP trailer tucked in beside the Parks Vic tent, maintained a presence at the market all weekend. In beautiful autumn sunshine the festival was a huge success and great fun.

Kel and Belinda reported that over

1000 plants were sold at the nursery, and the trailer took in approx. \$430. Apart from serving customers, the nursery staff used the weekend to restock the sales area, sow grasses and get ready for the coming busy months. I had a chance to clean out and restock the trailer with all the bits and pieces it needs. Most importantly we all got to meet and talk plants with many lovely people.

There are lots of folk to thank. First of all Parks Vic., Warren Murphy coordinating, who booked space for our trailer, towed it to the Reserve, cared for our plants and helped



Artur participating in the Festival Parade



Why was the stuffed koala in the Parks Vic tent wearing eye protection?



Marion and Alison checking one of the huge maps belonging to the MYLN tent next door to the trailer. The maps created a lot of interest

in many ways. Thanks to the twenty-five people who volunteered for the trailer roster. They are listed below. A magnificent effort: for many it was their first time. In particular I would like to thank those who packed up at the end of the day: Lyndy and Ken and Marie and Wolfgang. Jason was a terrific help including making some useful signs with dinky magnetic corners. Josh, as always, put in many hours of hard work and attended to details the rest of us forgot.

Trailer Roster

Helen Riddell, Tim Bedford, Joan Broadberry, Jan Smids, Alan Woolcock, Sybille Ims, Pat Anderson, Jan Falconer, Brian James, Shan Schnookel, Michael Hubbert, Ken Crook, Lyndy Gilbert, Marion Thomson, Alison Thom, Lyn Douth, Marjan Kiewert, Cath Andrew, Mark Hassell, Peter Doughty, Jan Davies, Alice Vernall, Ruth Vernall, Kel Wooster, Marie Krause, Wolfgang Krause.



From left: Jan, Alan, Ken, Lyndy.

FOWSPians attack weeds at Strathewen Primary School site

Report by Linda Rogan

After the devastation of last years bushfires, this area was blackened and appeared lifeless. Now many Eucalypts and seedlings have sprouted and the hillside is covered with plant growth. Unfortunately the fire stimulated a lot of weeds. For those who have been through the fires, it can be nearly im-



Strathewen Primary School site



possible to face this additional scourge.

Guided by local, Bronwyn South, (photo below) at least a dozen FOWSPians and MYLN members turned their hands to clear-

ing the area surrounding the Primary School site of invasive Cootamundra Wattle and other weeds. At the end of the day Bronwyn commented how great it was to look up at the school hillside and see it free of this invader.



John and Fritz

Further follow up weed control is planned by the group on 15th April.



Simon and Artur

Three Amorous Nights

Photos and story by Mike Coupar



Ewing's Tree Frog

EARLY MARCH turned out to be the best breeding opportunity for some of our Warrandyte frogs for a very long

time. The weather was warm and became increasingly humid as an intense low pressure system traveled towards Victoria from tropical Australia. Frogs started to call at sundown well before the rains arrived. Some would have been resident in our Warrandyte garden and some would have moved at night from neighboring gardens to take up their places in and around our pond. The pond is a frog-friendly one for several reasons. It does not have any goldfish which would eat tadpoles; it has gently sloping sides making entry and exit easy and it contains water plants as well as grasses and sedges around the rim for shelter.

When the rain started it continued for three days dispensing a welcome 70mm. Each night until dawn the sounds from our pond intensified as more species began to call and more individuals from each species joined the crowd. The 'orchestra' contained four, or possibly five groups of players. One group were percussionists sounding as if they were hitting a pair of stones together. There was a group that sounded as if each was plucking a banjo string. The remaining two groups were from the 'electronic' section of the orchestra; one sounding 'creeeee creeeee creeeee' for up to 10 times, and the other making a chirping 'crick crick crick' for a long time before pausing.

So, what were these frogs? A near certain answer



Banjo Frog

comes from being able to recognise their calls – this is what the experts rely on when a specimen cannot be sighted or caught. The 'stone percussionists' in our pond were 'Spotted Marsh Frogs' (photo below). Their scientific name is *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*, which is mentioned for interest as it means 'Tasmanian lord of the marsh'. The early taxonomists may not have been aware at the time that it is probably Victoria's most common frog. The banjo pluckers were of course the 'Banjo Frog' (photo lower L), which is another 'marsh', 'burrowing' or 'bullfrog' called '*Limnodynastes dumerili*'. Members of the electronic 'creeeee creeeee creeeee' group were Ewing's Tree frog (*Litoria ewingii*) (photo L) and the chirping 'crick crick crick' group were the Common Froglet (*Crinia signifera*). (photo on email bonus page)

There is an excellent website (<http://frogs.org.au/frogs/of/Victoria>) where you can play the calls of Victorian frogs to tune your ears while looking at the photo and information about the frog you suspected hearing.



Spotted Marsh Frogs

The species calling on those warm wet nights are all common in Warrandyte, which hosts about ten species in all. They knew that it was a great breeding opportunity, with plenty of rain to fill ponds for long enough for their tadpoles to develop. Only males call and the reason for their urgent and loud calls are to attract females. Males grasp their partners around the lower abdomen and fertilise her eggs as she lays them into the water. The collection of eggs, called spawn, is also a useful means of identification. After the three nights of frog bliss we counted 20 floating foamy mats of white spawn which confirmed that the marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* and *L. dumerili*) had indeed enjoyed their amorous nights (see photo). There is little physical evidence for the presence of the other two species, because their spawn is clear and hidden below the surface of the water.

Photos of the Common Froglet and Spawn floating on the pond appear in the email bonus page.

See also Mikes article in the April edition of the Warrandyte Diary Nature section.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2010

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Treasurer

Newsletter Co-ordinator

Secretary

Webmaster
Membership

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9844 2096

Wildlife Rescue **Adriana Simmonds**
9722 2908

Koala Rescue **Julie Pryor**
9722 1117

Market Trailer **Joan Broadberry**
Newsletter 98461218

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

JOIN US on selected Thursdays from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Either meet at the depot (sharp at 9.30 am), or on site as scheduled below:

1st April Tikalara Park Woody weed removal
15th April Strathewen Landcare Weed removal
29th April Stane Brae Cut and paint blackberry

LEARN some vegetation management skills and help improve some special sites in the Park.

Just tag along with the Thursday Activity Group (TAG). Activities are cancelled on Total Fire ban Days

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2010

Held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at will continue at a

new location. Currawong Bush Park- Mel 34 H6

For details check closer to the time on 9840 4405



Wednesday 7th April Phillip Ingamells: *Climate Change and Victoria's Natural Areas.*

Wednesday 5th May Paul George, Field Naturalist Club Victoria, *Fungi the Hidden Kingdom*

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required *Supper provided*

Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

Saturday 17th April -10 am to 12 noon Edendale Farm *Indian Mynah Trapping**

Thursday 29th April 7-8pm. *Frogs* Alistair Knox Park*

Saturday 1st May *Propagating Indigenous Plants* Living & Learning Nillumbik 9433 3744

Sunday 2nd May Waterwatch bike ride*

***Bookings: Georgia Ramsey, Environment and Strategic Planning, on 9433 3210**



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

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

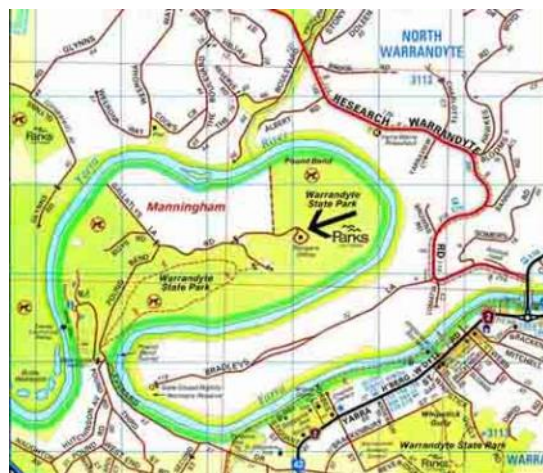
and the first Sunday of each month
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

NEW PRICES

Members \$1.00

Non-members \$1.50 .



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Friends of Yarra Valley Parks

(see article page 7)



We have been invited to join with FYVP on their activity days, usually on a Sunday morning. Now that our rangers' management area extends as far south along the Yarra as Fitzsimmons Lane, we both have an interest in that part of the Yarra Parklands. The FOWSP newsletter will now list FYVP activities that are in this shared area. All will benefit by helping with the work.

Sunday 25 April, 10 am Candlebark—maintenance and planting. Park on O'Briens Lane (Mel22 A12)- follow the signs. Contact Cam via the Westerfolds Park office.

Also see their website: www.yvfriends.org.au

Many Thanks to the March Market Volunteers

New Policy: If on the Friday before the market the forecast Saturday temp. is **over 35°** - the whole market is cancelled.

**Diana & John Baird
Alison Thom,
Arthur Muchow,
Mark and Margaret Hassell
Linda Gilbert & Ken Crook
Peter Curry (delivery & return of trailer)**



No market trailer will attend in April to give everyone a breather

Markets are held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. Volunteers are rostered on in pairs for an hour. If you are interested in being on the market roster for 2010 please email Joan Broadberry: joan.broadberry@optusnet.com.au or ring anytime on **9846 1218**. *No knowledge assumed*

A Treasure in Suburban Templestowe By Linda Rogan



Clive Edington, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook and Cam Beardsell admire the mornings take of tree guards.

THREE LUCKY FOWSPians who chose to participate in the first shared activity with the Friends of Yarra Valley Parks (FYVP) on 28 March at River Glen certainly agree that this former orchard area qualifies as a treasure. While removing tree guards and recycling stakes, we heard the story of how this area, adjacent to the present day Petty's Orchard has fared over the years.

A fertile area along the river, this land was purchased by the Petty family in 1911. Three generations of Petrys ran a standard commercial orchard at a time when water was plentiful and people never envisioned that we would run out of "natural bushland" nor need to look after animals of the bush. Currently the orchard is leased by a family who run it organically.

In 1980's the greater Petty's orchard area was purchased by Melbourne Water and has been managed by them and Parks Victoria since. The area where we worked, River Glen, is adjacent to the current organic orchard. It was once part of an experimental orchard run by Melbourne Water and a few trees remain from this time. However the major revegetation effort with indigenous trees and shrubs began just 5 years ago with plantings 3, 4 and 5 years ago. The photo shows some of the excellent results in the background.

The nearby artificial wetland, originally for irrigation, is now a rich habitat for two types of tortoise, many birds including Lewin's Rail, Rufous Night Heron, and various frogs.

Coincidentally the Apple Tasting Festival at Petty's Orchard was held the same day. Judging by the fact

News from the Committee

- New members welcome event, will be held on May 02 – Lyndy will organize. *Invitation p1*
- Plans for the redesign of the nursery are progressing and will soon be submitted to Manningham for approval
- Thanks to Joan Broadberry for all her work in organizing the roster for Warrandyte Festival.
- A sub-committee (Education and Awareness) has been formed with Lyndy and Jason as members

Nursery Report

On Warrandyte Festival weekend the 20 & 21 March, over 1000 plants were sold at the nursery in addition to those sold at the market trailer

Rangers Report

- Conrad advised that the new boundary changes were well received by Friends of Yarra Valley Parklands as they were by FOWSP. See p8
- Dave Van Bockel was the successful applicant, for Team Leader, having been acting in this role for the last two years. Jodie Davis has returned from maternity leave. The Environmental Team has seen a few changes recently, and roles and responsibilities will be reviewed for each staff member soon
- All staff are busy getting to know their new management boundaries, and some of the issues and values they are now managing
- Pound Bend will have a bit of money spent on it this year, as has just been done at Jumping Creek.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 13 April 2010

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

that cars were parked on both sides of Monckton Rd/ Newmans Rd back to Warrandyte Rd with some people walking in all the way and traffic in and out was at a standstill for some time, it must have been a smashing success.

Check out the schedule on page 6 for the next opportunity to work with FYVP. They are now our partners in the Middle Yarra River Parklands.

Newsletter team this month were:

Linda Rogan
Joan Broadberry
Mel Coupur (Line drawings)

Three Management Areas Become Two by Conrad Arnal

From the 1st of February 2010, the Yarra Corridor within the Northern Melbourne District of Parks Victoria underwent a restructure, and some boundary changes. The geographic management is proposed to be through two Ranger In Charge areas, (RIC areas), as characterised below. These two areas will function as separate work-centres with some shared workspace at the Westerfolds Depot.

Middle Yarra RIC Area

The Middle Yarra RIC area is characterised by predominantly Natural Values Management, however, the RIC area does include some areas where visitor service level is high and will require specialist skills and teams to manage these facilities adequately.

Key parks included in the RIC area are;

- Warrandyte State Park
- Sugarloaf Reservoir Park
- Mullum Mullum Park
- Kinglake Nature Conservation reserve
- Candelbark to Tikalara parts of Yarra Valley Parklands (south of the River).
- Glynn's area of Yarra Valley Parklands (north of the River).

The primary work-centre for the Middle Yarra RIC area will be the Warrandyte office. Some staff attached to the Middle Yarra RIC area may work out of the Westerfolds Office. Additions to the Middle Yarra area have included a new Team Leader (John Rush) and two new Rangers (Cam Beardsell and Janaya O'Dempsey).

Lower Yarra RIC Area

Key parks included in this RIC area include (everything downstream of Fitzsimons Lane):

- Yarra Bend Park
- Yarra Flats Park
- Banksia Park
- Birrurung Park
- Westerfolds Park

The Lower Yarra RIC area is characterised by high visitor use with a focus on Visitor Services and recreation in parks. The high level of service and intensity of use indicates a high requirement for asset management and maintenance. The area has a

lesser focus on Natural Values Management, however various sections of the corridor do contain some areas of high environmental value and will therefore require specialist resources to appropriately manage these values.

The primary work-centre for the Lower Yarra RIC area would be the Yarra Bend office with some staff using the Westerfolds work-centre as their home base.

Also included in these changes will be two new positions that will focus on community engagement and stakeholder management that will create more consistency across the whole of the Yarra Corridor, both within Parks Victoria and also with other agencies such as Melbourne Water, Councils, CFA etc."



Yarra River photo by Joan Broadberry

One result of the management area change is that FOWSP will have the opportunity to share in some of the close Friends group activities. See *A Treasure in Suburban Templestowe* on page 7 for the first such sharing with the Friends of Yarra Valley Parks. Also see activity announcement on page 6 ed.

HELP FOR INJURED WILDLIFE

RACV Wildlife Connect **13 11 11** Same number as Road-side Assist

Wildlife Victoria **1300 0WILDLIFE** or 1300 094 535

Local Area—Adrianne or Julie see p5

"I SPY"

By J.F.



Nursery News

Travels in Tassie

Your regular "spy" Ben, has corresponded from Tasmania where he, and wife Margaret, are enjoying a happy travelling holiday.

Surgical Success Story

It was good to see Keith back at the Nursery recently along with his wife Bev. Bev has been on the sick list for some months now but after one more lot of treatment is expecting the "all clear". Keith expects to be back as regular Thursday contributor some time in April.

Kevin's Catapult

On his first Thursday as a FOWSP volunteer Kevin was helping with one of Gray's weeding expeditions. Apparently Kevin was doing battle with a large unwanted pittosporum when it suddenly gave way and he was sent sprawling down a steep incline. That's one way of throwing oneself into a new venture. I believe Kevin has returned for more. Well done.

Sybille Supplies Sustenance

On a recent Thursday the normal morning tea was supplemented by some delicious leftovers from Sybille's kitchen. They were very much appreciated and all agreed that Sybille should have another dinner party soon.

Relative Recruitment

A newish volunteer herself, Alice Verrell has now recruited her Mum Ruth to the Thursday morning scene. Ruth has a great interest in indigenous flora and will attend when she can.

Festival finds new FOWSP member

Emma Edmonds is a new member who heard of FOWSP through the market trailer. Emma, a Civil Celebrant and mother of two young children, is able to attend on Thursdays at present while her parents are visiting from Spain. Emma hopes to be a regular attendee.

Hot House Horrors

Whilst the new hot house is plainly visible at front of the nursery area, it is still not complete. Those

working on it, mainly Noel, Lee and Brian, have encountered several complications and are now waiting on additional parts, and water supply, before it can be completed and put to use.



Gray inspects the first of the Blue Banded Bee breeding blocks at the nursery. Linda is still on the look out for established nests, usually found in a dirt bank or the side of a mud brick house. See the email bonus page for photos of BBB nests that are occupied

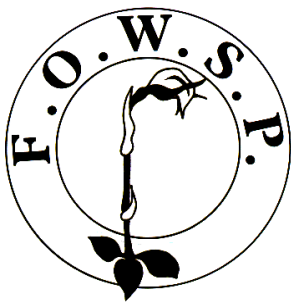
Parks People

Welcome back to Ranger Jodie who has been on maternity leave since giving birth to daughter Lily Grace mid 2009. Jodie is working part-time on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Cam Beardsall, Middle Yarra Resource, is currently committed elsewhere but will also be involved in Warrandyte in the future.

Congratulations to **David van Bockel**. After serving as an Acting Team Leader, Fire and Environment, for some time, his Team Leader position has now been confirmed. He will be one of two team leaders in the Middle Yarra RIC area.





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Ewings Tree Frog resident at FOWSP Nursery
Litoria ewingii

This little fellow was attempting to hide behind one of the plant tubes in early March. His padded toes tell us he is a tree frog and the straight line through his eye with no cross on the pupil differentiates him from Peron's Tree Frog that also lives here. Notice the difference in colour from Mike Coupar's photo on page 4. LR

April 2010 Volume 28 no. 3

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 or existing members with unchanged contact details can use direct deposit. Details: BSB 633-108. Account: 136406907. Account name: friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc. Identify yourself by surname

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus

Frogs and Bees



Two more of Mike Coupars wonderful photos of his sexy frog pond and an inhabitant. Read his article on page 4 and also in the April edition of the Warrandyte Diary. Thanks Mike.



These photos show a Blue Banded Bee entering a naturally made hole for nesting (L) and additional nest holes made by BBBs on the top edge of a nesting brick made to attract BBBs with mud packed into a Besser-brick. The holes away from the edge are manmade.
(Photos by Bob the beeman)

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