



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Editor's corner



UNSEASONABLY WARM weather has kept many butterflies in the air this April, including the Common Imperial Blue and the Saltbush Blue. Rains have brought out many Autumn moths. Like the insects, FOWSPians have continued a high level of activity.

Thursday volunteers have been tutored by Josh in plant division and whipped through a large number of pots of Dianella, (photo right) more than quadrupling the number of plants.

The previous week Cathy Willis instructed eager workers in taking cuttings and many new Correa plants have been started on their way. Correa are notoriously slow in taking root, a fact that is reflected in their higher price at the nursery.

In addition to official TAG activities, usually on the first and third Thursday, a small group has spent time on a couple of days removing the tree guards from our ongoing Boys Rd project (see page 3)

Joan Broadberry brings us photos and a story about a 'different type of farm at Werribee'. Page 2

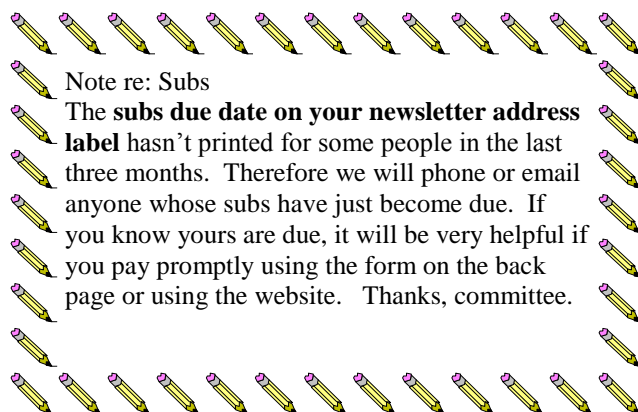
A photo essay on page 4 brings us the second half of the story of the Painted Apple (Acacia) Moth and moths feature again on page 8.

FOWSPians join with Friends of Yarra Valley Parks activities and others take a walk with Ken Crook on page 7.



Ben is back from Tasmania and keen to give us all the goss.

Remember to send news of what's happening in your backyard and photos as well for next months newsletter and take time to enjoy this one. L.R.



Note re: Subs

The **subs due date on your newsletter address label** hasn't printed for some people in the last three months. Therefore we will phone or email anyone whose subs have just become due. If you know yours are due, it will be very helpful if you pay promptly using the form on the back page or using the website. Thanks, committee.

Deadline for June edition newsletter is Friday 21, 2010

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113



A Rather Different Type of Farm.

by Joan Broadberry

IN EARLY MARCH I had a Big Day Out. Leaving home at 7 am and returning about 6 pm. I had a great time at one of my favourite places. It has several names. *The Farm*, *The Western Treatment Plant* (WTP), an older name, *Werribee Sewerage Farm* or just *Werribee*.

Are you thinking, yuk! Is this poor demented person so desperate for distraction she gets up in the morning and visits the sewerage works? And then writes about it!! It's ok, perfectly understandable, but let me assure you that for a birdwatcher a Big Day Out at *Werribee* is pure bliss. Eighty or ninety species of birds can be almost guaranteed, in particular waterfowl and waders. Yuk is not an issue. Think of my day out as a visit to an extensive wetland, much of it irrigated farmland, but also consisting of a network of waterways, ponds, lakes and shoreline, that provide a haven for tens of thousands of birds. Over 270 bird species have been recorded in total, with many

breeding. Much of *The Farm* has been declared A *Wetland of International Significance* under the Ramsar Convention.* Private visits are allowed only under permit from Melbourne Water.

How is all this possible? In brief, WTP, some 11,000 hectares in area, processes waste via a lagoon system. The effluent is passed slowly through a chain of man-made ponds, allowing naturally occurring bacteria to consume biodegradable matter. Treated waste is then discharged into Port Phillip Bay under an EPA license. The Werribee Agriculture Group, a separate business unit of Melbourne Water, manages the grazing of cattle and sheep on over 8500 hectares of irrigated pasture.

The Farm attracts an amazing array of birdlife including thousands of migratory waders that fly 12,000 kilometres and more to avoid the harsh northern winter. Brolga, stilts, terns, dotterels, birds of prey, herons, grebes, crakes, bittern and many species of duck are just the start of the count. Waterfowl can be present in huge numbers. The day of my visit we saw thousands of Shelduck, and up to 50,000 rare Pink-eared ducks have been recorded at one time.

Being flat with no buildings, WTP is one of the few places near Melbourne where the sky rules. The dramatic profile of the You Yangs (illustrated top left) is a spectacular backdrop. Images of clouds formations reflect in the lagoons. Skeins of ibis, swans and pelican weave across the sky. You are not mistaken; I *am* waxing lyrical over a sewerage works! Despite the fact that most Melbournians don't know it, Melbourne has on its doorstep one of the Australia's most significant wetlands.

*The Ramsar Convention, (1971) is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.



Nestboxes and waterfowl on Lake Borrie



Warrandyte Primary School School children planting in 2009



TREE GUARD REMOVAL

A SMALL BUT ENTHUSIASTIC group of Thursday morning FOWSPians have been spending some time recently removing tree guards from plantings in the Boys Road area. The success rate from three successive plantings in this area has been excellent and the once barren landscape is beginning to look a little more like the bushland it once was.

Further planting to extend the revegetated area will be held on **27th May, 10th June** and **27th June**.

I like to reflect on Gray's word he shared with us all in a newsletter last July 2009:

(Regarding) "the Boys Rd neighbourhood, (in Warrandyte)- when I was just old enough to notice, had but two houses - the old Berens house, almost up against the northern boundary of Pound Bend Reserve, and a fascinating junk-yard in what is now known as Gallatlys Lane.we used to apply that name to the lane that ran along the Reserve's northern boundary. Little of that lane remains except for some of the fence-posts. By the time the neighbourhood was acquired for inclusion in the Park there were about six houses - each of which is persistently memorialised by its own sweet weed-suite". Ed.



The area in April 2010

Painted Apple (or Acacia) Moth Part 2 An "Attractive" Female

By Linda Rogan

LAST MONTH I showed my photos of the **male** *Teia anartoides* caterpillar, cocoon, and adult moth. This month, features the **female**.

About 11 am one morning, I was greeted by the sight of a plump, blond creature, more than 2 cm long and mostly covered with golden hair reminiscent of a golden retriever but hardly resembling a moth as I knew it. She hung on tight to her cocoon. I took her outside as suggested by Pat and Mike Coupar. Within moments a male moth with golden under-wings was fluttering against my forearms. It seems

I had picked up some pheromones while transporting the female. By 11:12 am his plume-like antennae had led him to the female that was the source of the pheromone scent trail. Soon two more males arrived.



Male and female mating

There had been one mating and all three were in close attendance when she started elongating



Face view of male and female Arrows point to the base of the antennae on females head

her body and greenish hairless bands showed between rows of fur.

I noted that she was already in the process of laying tiny white eggs. (photo right) The attentive courting continued until the last male left at dark and I think that egg laying continued into the night. The more eggs she lay, the smaller she became.



At one week she appeared barely alive. On day 18, I returned from a week away, and was surprised to find that the female had withered away to about 1 cm, and the eggs were gone. (photo R) What had become of the rest of the eggs? Inside a mesh container, inside the house, I didn't expect they had blown away on their silk parachutes as they would do in nature.



Fortunately nature photographer Rudie Kuiter had been observing and photographing the same creature and his newly hatched caterpillars appear below. His excellent eight page .photo essay in pdf form is available from him at

rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au



FOWSP COMMITTEE 2010

Martyn Hiley	9844 4547	FOWSP contact
martyn@hiley.cx		
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer
Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter Co-ordinator
lindarogan@netspace.net.au		
Kelly Wooster	9844 2819	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary
Cathy Willis	0418 142297	
Gray Ardern	0418 190261	
Jason Patton	0402 121838	Webmaster
jason@parau.com		Membership

OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS

<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
	0408 317327
<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green
	9844 2096
<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds
	9722 2908
<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor
	9722 1117
<u>Market Trailer Newsletter</u>	Joan Broadberry
	98461218
Website: www.fowsp.org.au	

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

JOIN US on scheduled **Thursdays** shown below from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. TAG activities will be held twice a month for this year. Either meet at the depot (sharp at 9.30 am), or on site (by arrangement). 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

13th May Help Strathewan Landcare with post fire weeding

27th May Boys Road planting

10th June Boys Road planting

Contact Martyn Hiley 9844 4547

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2010

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

Currawong Bush Park- Mel 34 H6

For details check closer to the time on 9840 4405



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

Wednesday 2nd June Brett Free on his Antarctic expedition

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required *Supper provided*

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

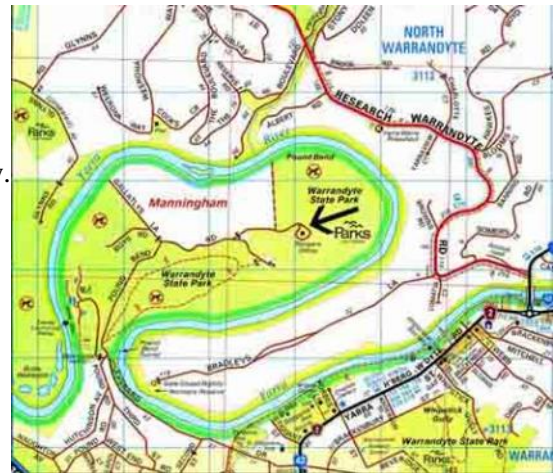
The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday.
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and the first Sunday of each month
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

PRICES

Members \$1.00

Non-members \$1.50 .



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Important Nursery Notice—return of trays and tubes

Would all members who have obtained plants from the FOWSP nursery please make sure they return the empty forestry tubes and more importantly the **black plastic tube holder trays**. These trays are specially made and have been bought by FOWSP at considerable cost. This request is especially relevant to those who have purchased plants in large quantities. They can be returned to the nursery any weekday between 8 am and 5 pm or on the first Sunday of the month between 2 pm and 4 pm.

Friends of Yarra Valley Parks

Now that our rangers' management area extends as far south along the Yarra as Fitzsimmons Lane, we have a mutual interest with Friends of Yarra Valley in that part of the Yarra Parklands. The Friends Group's next working bee is **Sunday 23 May 2010**, 10 am to noon - details can be found on their website in early May: www.yvfriends.org.au See also report p7.



FOWSP Warrandyte Market trailer

Market volunteers have enjoyed a well earned break from duties in April
 but will be back in full swing on 1 May and 5th June



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*

FOWSPians assist Friends of Yarra Valley Parks (FYVP)

LOUISE and Linda enjoyed working with this enthusiastic group of Friends at Candlebark



Park near O'Briens' Road. on Sunday 25th of April.

Efforts to restore indigenous vegetation and link areas of best indigenous cover began in 1992 when the Candlebark Tree indicated by the arrow in the photo below was a lone tree on this hillside.



This days planting included *Bursaria spinosa*, *Pomaderris prunifolia*, *Acacia pycnantha*, *A. implexa*, *Melicytus (Hymenanthera) dentate*, *Allocasuarina verticillata* and in the moist area, *Melaleuca ericifolia*.

The mornings work was rewarded with a welcome cuppa.



HELP FOR INJURED WILDLIFE

RACV Wildlife Connect **13 11 11** Same number as Roadside Assist

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

Local Area—Adrianne or Julie see p5

Templestowe Walk Monday 19 April 2010 By Lyndy Gilbert

KEN CROOK LED a happy band of wanderers, mainly from FOWSP on a delightful walk through Templestowe, via the banks of the Mullum Mullum Creek. The weather was perfect and the place deserted, except for a few cyclists, whom we soon left behind as we entered the park leading to the Templestowe Hill Climb beside the Domain Wetlands. We were accompanied by a long-time Templestowe resident, Simon Kearney, who recently donated 40 acres to Parks Victoria near Tikalara Park.

Simon knew many historical facts about the first landowners. The most well known was Captain Charles Newman who originally owned 10,000 acres at Pontville. He was cruel to the Aborigines, poisoning them and chasing them off the land. Newman's three room house has been preserved, but it is in a state of disrepair.

From 1951 to 1987, the Templestowe Hill Climb was very popular, attracting crowds of up to 20,000 people, and provided a training ground for racing drivers such as Stan Jones and Reg Hunt. Simon ran an animal farm in that area until 1985.

After we had climbed "The Wall", we skirted the Mullum Mullum Creek until we reached the confluence of the Mullum and the Yarra River, a place of significance to the Wurundjeri people.. Our short lunch break over, we continued along the Yarra, admiring the magnificent river views, then passing a quarry that provided gravel for the Myer building in Bourke Street. There was an abundance of water birds and kangaroos and lots of evidence of foxes, rabbits and wombats.

On completion of the circuit, we had a very pleasant afternoon tea at Beasley's Nursery.



Ken Crook with walk participants

News from the Committee

- TAG activities will be scheduled twice a month this year.
- We will not schedule weekend work days but encourage members who wish, to join in with activities of nearby groups such as MYLN and FYVP.
- A scanned copy *Gardener's guide to Indigenous Planting in Warrandyte and Surrounding Areas* in .pdf form is on the website under publications. A searchable, interactive version by Jason is nearly complete and will be launched soon .
- Library book lending policy will be altered to allow books to be kept for one month, instead of 2 weeks. Members are reminded to return their books by this time.

Nursery Report

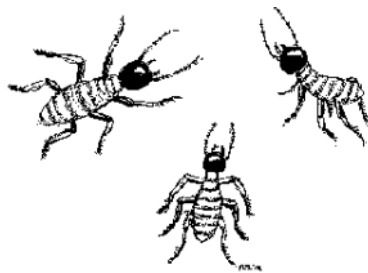
- The replacement propagation house is in use.
- Tutorials on taking plant cuttings and division have been held
- A large and enthusiastic contingent of FOWSPians has attended each Thursday. (Watch for the group photo next issue)
- Volunteers are being tutored in making plant cuttings and divisions.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday May 11, 2010

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



Newsletter team this month were:

Linda Rogan
Joan Broadberry
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)
Jason Paton mailing list

Also at the Nursery in April

By Linda Rogan

COREY helped grandparents Betty and Alfred Mason weeding plants in the nursery and stopped his work long enough to see what Alana had in the box. What was in the box? See the photo below, a large



male ghost or rain moth (a Hepialid moth). Closer inspection showed that the moth had tripectinate antennae and



was therefore identified as *Trictena atripalpis*. Photo on the right shows another of

the same species found at the nursery the next week on Acacia tubes.

For the full story on this type of moth and other insects whose larvae are called Barti Grubs see the Nature column in the May Warrandyte Diary.



"I SPY"

By B.G



April Activity

A lucky group of 13 people gathered around listening intently while Cathy Willis explained and demonstrated the art/skill of propagating various indigenous plants. Phrases like "rooting hormone", "honey is anti-bacterial" and "liquid hormone" flowed freely while cutting material was stripped of leaves.

Supervisors snap-shots

Belinda was there as usual, on the computer, handling enquiries and money. Josh was walking around showing a fine pair of browned leg calves and Jason was photographed looking at "Red Box" in pots. He was actually disguised as a mottled green leaf.



Feather Flock

Martyn spent time telling I SPY the details of the birds in his garden: Yellow-faced Honey-eater, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Butcherbird, Grey Fantail, Striated Thornbill and many others.

On the other wing Olive Walters told of her recent encounter at O'Reillys with an Alberts Lyrebird out in the open. At Badger Weir picnic ground, Olive saw both male and female of the Superb Lyre Bird.

Member Mending

Ray Kluger is recovering well from the operation on his left hip and Beverley Jardine is well on the way to recovery.

Junior Jottings

Nine year old Alli from the Village School at North Croydon was telling me how she loved "animals and plants and nature"

Jais was obtaining plants and brochures and Melissa from Camelot Rise Primary School was supervising her father Shane who was acquiring shrubby wattles.

Sitting, Standing and smiling

James Johnston was taking photographs of the general aspect and activities of the nursery for FOWSP. The photographs will be put on a CD and given to Kelly (perhaps for the website). A whole group of friends took time off to collect chairs etc. for a group photo. It was just like a school class photo (Look for it in next issue). Sadly James is a Collingwood supporter, but we hope the photo is coloured and not in black and white.

Community Cooperation

Sybill, Secretary of IMX, from the Warrandyte Community Support Group, thanked the Friends for the effort put in on Saturday 10 March. Over two hundred plants were put in all around the Community Centre. The original coordinators were Bev Hansen and David Dyson.

Bus from Brunswick

During the last week of school term one, a small bus travelled East visiting Currawong Bush Park and Birrarung Park (M32H3) and then the year 8/9 students enjoyed pies at the Warrandyte Bakery. This was followed by a drive to Pound Bend. They were treated to a highly impressive viewing of the Pound Bend Tunnel and Yarra River. Early in the 2nd term their teach, Ralph Gotlib explained the real story behind the cutting of the tunnel. So all in all, the group from Sydney Road Community School Brunswick, had a real discovery day.

Greenhouse a Goer

The replacement propagation house is up after much innovative work by the group involved.

Cultural Corner

Brian James has successfully auditioned to act in the *Wizard of Oz* at the Karralika Theatre (September/October 2010)

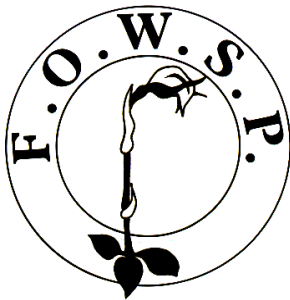
Dimboola will be "done" at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute. One of our FOWSP members actually attended a real wedding in Dimboola.

Many Moths

One Thursday recently Joan B and Linda R gave a short talk on ghost moths and goat moths. See page 8 for more moth activity at the nursery

Piece of Pie

The Green Wedge Strategy is currently being reviewed by Amanda Bradley. Various consultation are being held with the community.



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Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

This bird was observing FOWSPians who were removing tree guards at Boys Rd near Pound Bend parking area. His dark brown ear patch and brown eye and mostly brown wings help to distinguish him from his Blue-winged relative that is found further north in Australia. Also his chuckling call can lead to infectious laughter while his Blue-winged cousin call is an "appalling mechanical cacophony." LR

May 2010 Volume 28 no. 4

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

Pound Bend Critters

This tiny but beautiful **Green-blotched Moth** clung to a fern pot in the nursery, the green blotches on it's wings perfectly matching the leaves on the nearby ground cover.



This colourful caterpillar was removed from one of the Acacia verticillata plants that had been planted at Boys Road. When I approached it quickly retreated into the silken shelter on the left. With a little luck we will see the adult soon. Pat and Mike identify it as *Salma pyrastis* or **pyrastis moth**.



This **koala** was surveying its realm from one of the tallest Eucalyptus trees in the Pound Bend picnic area while FOWSPians were busy removing tree guards.

Pupae of the **Painted Acacia Moth** (see page 4) photos by Rudie Kuiter from his excellent eight page .photo essay. It is available from him, at no cost, in pdf form at:

rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au



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