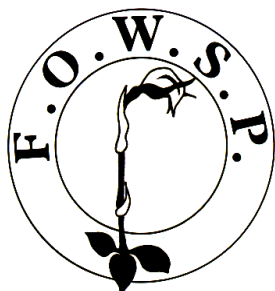


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Editor's corner

SPRING is always exciting and this year, with more than average rains after so many years of drought, is remarkable.

This issue reflects this excitement with Joan Broadberry's photos and article on page 3.

Our AGM will also be remarkable this year. It will occur early on Tuesday 30th November this year. We are particularly pleased to be hearing from highly motivated members of the younger generation on this evening. See page 2.

Check out Lindy's progress report on the book *Rediscover Warrandyte* also on page 2.



The first touch of water for 14 years, where?
See Joan Broadberry's article on page 3



FOWSP guided the children of Warrandyte Primary School in a planting activity on the school grounds for National Tree Day. Their enthusiasm was evident.

See more photos on the email photo bonus page.

On page 4 is a bit about a sweet scented shrub that has been propagated in our nursery that will help revegetation in burnt out areas near Kinglake.

Stephen K shares his families enjoyment of a walk at The Galleries, Mount Buffalo, on page 7.

On pages 8 and 9 Ben of I Spy has outdone himself with photos and his goss.

The email bonus page also features a bit of watery drama captured by Peta Patton at Pound Bend.

As always, enjoy this issue and remember to keep your news, photos and comments coming.

Deadline for November edition newsletter is Friday October 22, 2010
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

FOWSP Annual General Meeting Tuesday 30 November 2010

EARLY NOTICE



Phoebe and Erin playing at the Warrandyte Market

They will be playing for us at the AGM on 30 Nov, from 6.30-7pm.

At the Folly at FOWSP nursery,
Pound Bend

Agenda::

- 6pm** – Annual Report and election of Office Bearers (be prompt and it will be short and sweet)
- 6.30-7.00pm – Phoebe and Erin, (Rudolph Steiner violinists) will entertain you.
- 7pm – BBQ Tea (BYO drinks and meat, salads to share)
- 7.30pm – Presentation by Beaconhills College students on the HELP endangered Leadbeater's Possum project. Four students have been proactive, raising up to \$10,000 to save the possums. They are currently negotiating with Cadbury's in New Zealand to have this possum as a character on chocolate bars. The students also made a presentation at the USA Future Problem Solving Programs Finals this year.

Please put this date in your diary, we look forward to seeing you all there.

Rediscover Warrandyte? Progress report

DISCOVER WARRANDYTE, written by Pat & Mike Coupar, Bruce Bence, David Van Bockel and Gretna Weste was produced in 1993 and was highly sought after. There have been many enquiries over the years for a reprint and the time is now right for the FOWSP Education subcommittee to go ahead and produce an updated volume of this original work.

Preliminary enquiries with local shopkeepers and residents indicate there is great enthusiasm for "*Rediscover Warrandyte*". They would like to see a similar size book, but with more colour pictures so that botanists and day trippers can identify more accurately flora and fauna found in and around Warrandyte.

Suggestions to date for chapters to be included are: local history; aboriginal history; the formation of the parks, the role of parks in today's society; lichens, mosses and liverworts; moths and butterflies; birds; animals; flora indigenous to Warrandyte. Maps would be eliminated and Melways references used to identify locations.

Richard Morton, Bruce Fuhrer, Conrad Annal and Val Polley have offered to write the first five sections. One of the original book designer's, Zoe Murphy, has offered to set out the new book. We are also hoping volunteers will offer to write updated sections on moths, butterflies, birds, animals, indigenous plants, trees and shrubs.

We are now seeking any additional feedback from all our members as to what you would like to see in the new book.

It is anticipated that collation of the material will commence in January 2011, with the aim of publishing the book in time for Christmas 2011. The Stonehouse Gallery has kindly offered to host the launch of the book in Warrandyte and a percentage of the profits will be given to local CFAs.

Please contact Lyndy Gilbert on 9844 0106 for any feedback or suggestions.

Rare Events

Text and photos by Joan Broadberry

NAME VICTORIA'S largest freshwater lake? A rather surprising answer, gleaned from ParksVic literature can be Lake Hindmarsh which is located in the far north of Victoria. I say 'can be an answer' because this lake has not seen freshwater for a long time; it has been dry for 14 years.



Lake Hindmarsh taken from the western side, looking east.

Lake Hindmarsh is dubbed 'largest' not because of volume of water but because of its area. From north to south its bed stretches for more than 22 kilometers, occupying 13 000 hectares. It was last filled in 1996 and once sustained a fishing industry and a water skiing club with over 100 members.

In mid-September I spent a few days camping in the Big Desert National Park and was able to observe a rare sight; flood waters from the Wimmera River flowing strongly into Lake Hindmarsh. A small amount of water entered the lake in 2009 and it is still less than half full. However, there is now a respectable body of water accumulating along its eastern shore and a lot more to come. This return of their lake from the dead, so to speak, has brought hope and optimism to the locals.



The Wimmera River in flood at the Jeparit Weir.

Lake Hindmarsh is surrounded by dry, sandy country, its only significant intake of water being from the Wimmera River. This 278 kilometer long river rises far to the south in the Elmhurst-Ararat area and flows inland past towns such as Glenorchy, Horsham and Dimboola. The Wimmera River terminates in a series of ephemeral lakes, the first one being Lake Hindmarsh. The explorer Edmund John Eyre followed its course in 1838 and named Lake Hindmarsh after the first Governor of South Australia.

On 14th September, 2010, with a carload of fellow field nats, I set out to circumnavigate Lake Hindmarsh. Its western and northern shores were a barren landscape of saltbush, weeds and wattles. Many of the River Red Gums marking the edge of the lake were dead or dying. However, it was marvelous to actually observe moisture creeping slowly across the dry lake bed and to catch the gleam of deeper water to the east. Birds, especially duck species, were in good numbers. Heading south, just past the tiny town of Jeparit, we managed to get close to the place where the Wimmera River, full of swirling flood debris, was gushing over a weir and then into the lake. The Wimmera's surprise spring flow is due to recent heavy rainfall and the release of water from a weir near Stawell. This release was helped by the Wimmera Mallee pipeline, a local water-efficiency project which has reduced the amount of water required for local farms.



Lake Hindmarsh just beyond the weir, looking north.

Water flowing into Lake Hindmarsh is perhaps not quite as big a deal as water filling Lake Eyre. But considering its label as Victoria's biggest freshwater lake, and the time elapsed between drinks, the coming of the water is a major ecological event which I was very excited to witness. It would require much more rain for the Wimmera River to fill Lake Hindmarsh and overflow via Outlet Creek to the currently dry Lake Albacutya and then overflow again into Wyperfeld National Park. This last happened in 1975. It would be a truly once in a lifetime event. But who knows? 2010 is shaping up to be a very unusual year. In January who would have dared predict a female prime minister, a drawn Grand Final, water storages heading towards 50% full and major floods in Victoria!

***Logania albiflora* at the nursery?**

By Linda Rogan

IT WAS ALWYNNE who brought this lovely shrub in our nursery to my attention. It's snow white flowers exude a sweet perfume and beautiful contrast to their dark stems and buds.



These are not found in Warrandyte State Park so I needed to catch up with Josh to learn the story that follows.

It was on a plastering job at a property near Castella that he first noticed this attractive shrub in the nearby bush. As

he couldn't identify it, he took a sample. After consulting several experts he finally came across one who recognised *Logania albiflora*, a plant that is not common in Victoria, but more so in NSW and Queensland. A population was known in the Whipstick area but not much closer to Warrandyte. Armed with this knowledge he returned to the Castella property and collected about 20 small branches with the owners permission. These are the source of the nursery plants.

As Castella is near Kinglake National Park, Josh headed up a search for plants in likely locations within the Park (before the 2009 fires). Three individual plants were located.

The Loganiaceae family has 13 genera, mostly

found in the tropics. Only *L. albiflora* is found in Victoria. This plant is dioecious meaning that there are separate male and female plants, a fact that must be born in mind during any revegetation projects. Past experience has also shown that deer proof fencing is necessary.

Josh reports that all the known locations of this plant in the Kinglake/Costello area were involved in the fires but post fire surveys indicate that most of them survived. An additional location in Kinglake was also found post fire.

The plants that have been propagated within the FOWSP nursery will now be utilised in appropriate revegetation projects and also made available to private people near known locations, whose gardens were burned out by the fires



Many Thanks to the September Market Volunteers

Alison Thom
Jan Falconer
Catriona and John Young
Sue Shepard
Joan Broadberry
Linda Gilbert & Ken Crook
Peter Curry (delivery & return of trailer)



Next markets are October 2nd and November 6th

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*

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2010

Jason Patton **0402 121838** **Webmaster**
 jason@parau.com **& Membership**

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**

OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS

Nursery Manager **Josh Revell**
 0408 317327

Park Office **9844 2659**

Librarian **Judy Green**
 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 the first Thursday of the month from 9.00 am to 12. 30 pm. Either meet at the depot Melways 23C10, (sharp at 9.00 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

Thursday 7th October, 2010 at 9:00am. Weeding of Boneseed at Yarra Brae with Ranger Jennie and Josh Morning tea provided, bring gloves and meet at the nursery 9am as above

Thursday 21st October, 2010 at 9:00am. Planting at Yanakie Block followed by some bird watching, BYO lunch and meet at the nursery 9 am to 2pm

Thursday 4th November, 2010 at 9:00am. **Invertebrate Survey.** Come see what we can find with the Spring Invertebrate Study at Stane Brae, bring your picnic lunch for a day near the old homestead site 9 to 2pm Meet at the nursery

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2010

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

Currawong Bush Park- Mel 34 H6

For details check closer to the time on 9840 9124



6th October *Saving Australia's Threatened Wildlife* with Shauna Chadlowe, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Shauna will discuss how AWC is transforming conservation by using science and innovation to secure the future of Australia's threatened wildlife.

3rd November *Restoring Connections: We are all ONE* with Adriana Simmonds, Wildlife Victoria

1st December *Habitat Gardens* with Jim Robinson, Greening Australia

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**



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NEW PRICES

Members \$1.50

Non-members \$2.00

From Sunday 1st August Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery will be raising their prices. Its been about 3 years since prices last went up, and the cost of running the nursery have risen considerably in that time.

The new prices will NOT apply to plants that are currently on order.

Prices for orders of over 100 plants will be negotiable depending on quantities and species.

The new prices WILL APPLY to TUBESTOCK previously priced at \$1 for members and \$1.50 for non-members

Spring Outdoors in



Sunday 3 October, 10 am-2 pm Discovery Walk Warrandyte State Park Presented by Manningham Council
 Join Cathy Willis to discover one of the less visited and least accessible sections of WSP. for experienced and able walkers. Limited to 15 participants. **Bookings:** Essential, Manningham City Council on 9840 9124

Saturday 9 October, 9 am-10 am Ecology of the Rosanna Parklands Presented by Banyule City Council
 Naturalist Michael Cincotta. **Bookings:** Banyule City Council on 9490 4222

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12, 14, 19, 21 and 26 October, 6.30pm-8.30pm Sustainable Garden Seminar Series
 Presented by Sustainable Gardening Australia and Manningham City Council **Bookings:** Manningham City Council on 9840 9124

Wednesday 13 October, 10.30am -12noon Reusable Nappy Information Session Presented by Nillumbik Shire Council Bookings: 9433 3516

Sunday 17 October, 10am-2pm Blackberry Information Session Presented by Nillumbik Shire Council Bookings: Georgia Ramsey, Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3210

Sunday 17 October, 10am-1pm Discover the Beautiful Parklands of Banyule Presented by Banyule City Council in conjunction with Catholic Walking Victoria and Bush Walking Victoria Bookings: Banyule City Council on 9490 4222

Wednesday 20 October, 8pm Melbourne Wildlife Sanctuary Spotlighting Walk Presented by the Melbourne Wildlife Sanctuary Bookings: Banyule City Council on 9490 4222

Sunday 24 October, 7.30am Breakfast with the Birds Presented by Banyule City Council Bookings: Tom Dowsley on 9846 7601

Thursday 28 October, 10am-1pm Mullum Mullum Waterwatch Walk Presented by Manningham City Council Bookings: Manningham City Council on 9840 9348

The Old Galleries Track Mt. Buffalo

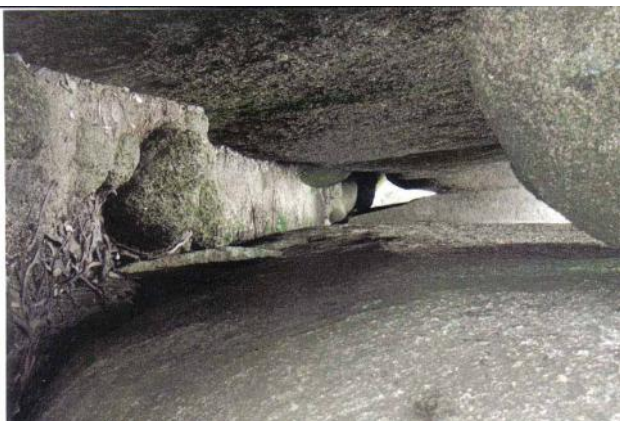
Steven Katsineris

WHILE MY FAMILY were staying at Bright in the Victorian Alps region, we went on day trips to Mt. Buffalo bushwalking. On one such trip we drove to a spot where the Old Galleries walk begins, parked beside the road and set off.



This is an easy circuit walk of about 1km and takes approximately 30 minutes. The Old Galleries Walk is through an area of impressive, huge granite rock formations. Part of the track goes into several passages under and between these multi-coloured rock outcrops.

The start of the track is uphill for a short distance between the striking large rocks, then up a ladder over some other rocks and into narrow passageways. The trail then gets to a big rock overlooking the scenic valley below and after that back under more big rocks. The track continues through a long, spectacular gap between two huge rocks with another large one hanging above. The trail then comes out into a small open area, with a pretty, lush concealed garden of native plants in it encircled by immense rocks. The track carries on through another narrow tunnel under more rocks, then up on a series of stone steps.



(Continued on page 8)

News from the Committee

- Water Watch morning at the nursery on 30 Sept details on our website
- Koala count to be held on 11 November
- FOWSP contact information will be included on ANZ website to encourage future involvement by their corporate volunteers.
- Planting days were held with W'dyte Primary School was very successful. (see photo page 1 & email bonus)
- W'dyte High School on the same day may have spread us too thin.
- Grant applications – Artur, Cathy, Josh and Jodie are putting together the submission for Mel Water 3 year grant for orchard area planting, pest and weed control
- Re- Discover Warrandyte project is progressing well see p. 2
- Kelly organised for us to join a Watsons Creek Biolink planting on 18 Sept.

Rangers Report

- Very welcomed water in the River after the August and September rains, it's been many years since we've seen this much water in the River for consecutive weeks. Apart from trees down, no major damage has been reported in the Park.
- Rangers have been busy in the Park undertaking day to day maintenance, particularly clean ups after the storms.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 12 October 2010

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Koala count coming up soon



November 11

at the FOWSP nursery

Details to follow

Contact Fred close to the date

on 9437 2233

Thanks to Melanie Coupar for use of her drawings.



(Continued from page 7)

Eventually the track comes out into an amazingly beautiful valley enclosed by rocky walls and strewn with more granite boulders amongst tall trees, grasses, ferns and shrubs. This valley is like being in a little lost world. Entering this serene, hidden valley is like emerging into another world, a realm of incredible beauty. A gallery, strewn with awesome, imposing stone sculptures, a collection of nature's works of art rising from the earth amid numerous slender, straight, stark Snow Gums that add to the surreal surroundings. And the woodland is filled with a diversity of lovely plant life and a splendid array of light and colours.

The track winds through the forest valley, past large Mountain Gum trees. The trail meanders in the direction of a huge rocky mountain with a sheer cliff face before turning towards the direction of the road. Along the way we observed a lot of droppings of Common Wombats and wallabies. We also saw several wombat burrows beneath some rocks and logs.

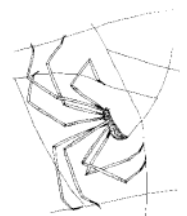
Then the track goes downhill and a little while later we arrive back at the road. What a wonderful experience, roaming through crevices and gaps in those spectacular rocks and then coming out into that delightful, tranquil valley. The Old Galleries Walk is a short, but marvellous wander in the wilderness. A walk that my family enjoyed doing so much we did it again.



Also Spied by B.G. Recently on the Roadside

On the Pound Bend roadside (W.S.P.) Caroline Pilley (below right) in full mask and protective clothing was spraying bridal-creeper and a "little bit of oxalis." The spray used was "brush-off". Caroline is part of a bush crew working for Envirotechniques (contracted by Manningham Council and Parks Vic.)

Further along opposite the depot entrance Sharon Mason (below left) led a crew weeding Ixias. Parallel rope line were laid on the ground about 60cms apart to ensure better guided and through weed removal .(photo above)



“I SPY”

By B.G



September Special

After a morning's work early September, a group of seven, led by Josh, set off on a pre-lunch walk at Tindal's Wildflower Reserve.

The initial purpose was to view *Eucalyptus nortonii* (not mentioned in the 1983 edition of Leon Costerman's *Native trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia* but found in later editions). This tree is related to the Long-leaf Box. *E. nortonii* “has glaucous” buds and fruit (ie. a bluish white powder that can be rubbed off). It is found on poor skeletal soils. Josh commented that this particular *E. nortonii* was to be removed for various road works, but was saved from destruction once properly identified. This reminded I Spy of a situation many, many years ago on a walk led by John Reid (following item)

Pull the Pine?

John Reid, then a “self taught naturalist” (now a qualified botanist) was leading a group on a nature walk somewhere in the Kinglake area and spotted an “out of place” small tree, possibly a garden escapee. Several zealous walkers wanted to pull it out. John dissuaded them until he could verify the plants provenance. It turned out to be unusual for the area, but actually represented the southern most point of its normal distribution and was indigenous.

I recently rang John to remind him of this incident and his influence on myself and on other FOWSP member in particular (guess who) -more about long-legged Warrandyte ants in a future article.

Walk after Work

Viewed on the Tindal's walk were greenhood orchids, tall and otherwise, *Comesperma volatile*, Hardenbergias, Cherry Ballarts, Sundews, Helichrysums, Hoveas, Golden Wattles, *Clematis microphylla*, lots of flowering Spreading Wattles and many other plants. Blue and yellow seemed to be the dominant colours.

People and Plants

- Kate Hamond and baby Rana were helping to prick out lots of seedlings
- Carol Page came as a volunteer to help, but because everyone was so busy it was some time

before Carol was given a task, then she worked enthusiastically for the rest of the morning.

- FOWSP members Michael and Marcine De vinctis (photo below) were ordering 1000 plants, 4 types of grasses and sedges to use for erosion control around their dam. Both are highly qualified in their respective skills.



Flowering is Fascinating

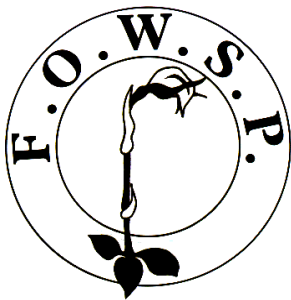
Returning to a “Friends” Thursday activity was Melanie Asirvadem (nee Burchall) Melanie is now two children older and wiser. (Mahli 3 1/2 years old and Ruby ten months old) “and husband Steve is a delight”. Melanie now works at Melbourne Uni School of Land and Environment Burnley campus and is employed as a lecturer in plant recognition and plant systems. According to Melanie, flower ecology is a fascinating subject on which more research is needed.

More Mullum Mullum

A letter appeared in the August 10th Edition of the Maroondah Leader thanking the fifty and more people who turned out in inclement weather to plant trees in the Mullum Reserve on August 1st with the Mullum Mullum Creek Bushcare Group. Two thousand trees were planted. It was probably the last of a series of annual planting in the Mullum Reserve.

Taxonomy of Tax

With all the opinions on carbon tax, the Henry tax report etc, perhaps we should all consider the idea that electricity, gas and fuel costs in large enterprise should NOT be tax deductible. Would this encourage a genuine look at the wasteful practices in our society? And true market forces would then operate to protect our environment? Or another pipe dream? (personal opinion only).



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Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

Is this our most cryptic bird? Sharp-eyed observation is required to spot them amongst gum branches. Their nest is a loose platform of sticks or they may borrow a ready made nest from another bird but tend to return to the same nest in future years. They line the nest with fresh leaves in preparation for egg laying. The 2 or 3 eggs will be incubated by both male and female and hatch in about 30 days. Have you seen a nesting pair in your bush?

October 2010 Volume 28 no. 8

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

Warrandyte Primary School students plant

Kelly shows them how...



...and the
job is done

The river at
Pound Bend
surges with
recent rains.



Thanks to Peta and Jason Patton for this months bonus photos.

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