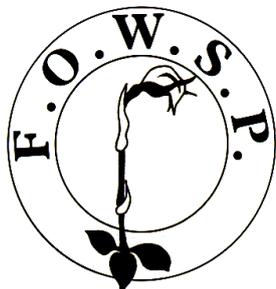


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

IT WAS A PLEASANT surprise to see Martin Hiley's smiling face again at the end of April. (below) He joined Gray and Simon (right, another smiling worker) for a few hours dedicated to grubbing out the variegated *Vinca major* or Blue Periwinkle that grew in a thick patch around the garden tap near the old house site in Boys Road. We will need to follow up this spot as any small bits left underground will surely grow again. It is amazing to see how our many planting and weeding bees in this area are bringing back the native bush.

As promised, Pat and Mike's sea lion adventure is brought to you on page 2. On page 3 Alwynne also sets a marine mood with her poem, *The Coast on a Winters Day*.



Lyndy Gilbert tells of cooperative work with Wonga Park Primary in an effort to improve the plight of the Yarra River, (page 3).

On page 4 Kel provides her thoughts on cork and other things and I introduce the hatchlings from a Praying Mantis ootheca.

On page 7, the potted life history of a Heliotrope Moth.

Page 8 and 9 are filled with activities and tidbits about FOWSPians and Rangers; around the nursery, the park and beyond. The cold and slightly dreary weather is no deterrent for these sturdy souls, each doing their bit to give the biodiversity of Warrandyte a hand. Although the weather is cold, the enthusiasm is warming.

Keep the good news and photos coming and enjoy this newsletter. *Linda*

Deadline for July/August edition newsletter is Friday 24 June, 2011
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Swimming with Sea Lions

By Pat Coupar
Photos Mike Coupar

LATE MARCH 2011. We have come to South Australia's Eyre Peninsula to swim with sea lions. We are camped on the edge of the Spencer Gulf, 22 kilometres south-west of Port Lincoln, in the Lincoln National Park.

It is 6.30 am. The sky is still in night mode – clear and star-studded. Forty minutes later, as dawn lightens the eastern horizon, the sea mist rolls in. Not again! For the past eight days the sky has been unseasonably grey and the temperatures unseasonably low – the sun glimpsed only on rare occasions. But the forecast for today is fine and sunny.

7.45 am. Still cloudy as we arrive at Port Lincoln marina and board our boat Adventure Bay Charters. For the next hour, as we motor south on calm seas, I frequently look to the sky for signs of clearing, but the cloud remains low and swirling. As we near our destination off the far southern tip of Lincoln National Park, wet suits are handed out. I am so occupied with struggling to get into the full length, skin-tight suit that I don't notice that a) we have anchored off Hopkins Island, and b) the sky has miraculously cleared.



A large group of sea lions are basking on the sandy beach of this wilderness reserve. They note our arrival. One eager young pup, up on his front flippers, bounds into the water to meet us. Others soon follow.

There are only seven on us on this tour that can take up to 20 - small numbers are such a bonus on an activity such as this. The next 60 minutes are memorable, as all close encounters with wildlife are – a rare privilege.

Complete with snorkel, mask and fins, we slip into the water. The sea lions come to us. They want to play - you can see it in their huge, round, dark eyes.



They roll and twist, dive and surface, performing acrobatic flips, somersaults and graceful swirls. When I clumsily copy their antics, they love it, immediately showing off their superior underwater skills with delight. At times these aquatic puppy dogs simply swim up to me, roll over and lie on their back, watching all the time. One large older female is content to rest on the sand at the bottom of the 3 metre deep water. I hang above her motionless, buoyed by my wet suit looking down at her as she looks up at me. Amazing.

In all we spend an unforgettable hour in the water with these gentle inquisitive creatures, it leaves me on an adrenaline high that will last for days just thinking about it.

Facts about Australian Sea Lions (*Neophoca cinerea*)

- Among the rarest sea lions in the world.
- Population estimated to be around 12,000 – considered to be endangered.
- Sea lions breed every 18 months – one year in mid-winter, one year in mid-summer.
- Pups have a 23% mortality.
- Sea lions belong to the eared group of seals that includes fur seals.
- It is thought seals (and sea lions) evolved from an otter-like carnivore found in the North Atlantic millions of years ago.
- Predators include sharks, killer whales and humans (trawl nets etc).



Engagement with Wonga Park Primary

THE FRIENDS of Warrandyte State Park, Parks Vic, Melbourne Water and Yarra Riverkeeper Association are working with Wonga Park Primary School to raise awareness the importance of protecting our environment. Flora and fauna are dying from the impact of rubbish in the Yarra River. Ducks are ingesting plastic and platypuses are drowning from being caught up in rubber bands and fishing lines.

Sybille Ims and I were delighted to meet Matt Macreadie and Liz Kearton of Wonga Primary to discuss a working relationship with the school. It was great to be part of a culture that is open to suggestion and encourages students to think in terms of the five “Es” – Engage; Explore; Explain; Elaborate and Evaluate. What an incredibly powerful model to teach future generations! It contrasted so strongly with my draconian primary school days - learning by rote the three “R’s” – reading, ‘riting and ‘rithmetic – all with the use of force - usually a cane on the legs or a ruler across the knuckles if I made a mistake! This school is about mutual appreciation and respect, caring for each other and developing a strong community.

Liz is planning to create a “mini” Yarra River, complete with river stones and a billabong in front of the school, surrounded by flora representing each of the climate zones - desert, temperate, tropical and sub tropical. Just recently, a greenhouse and a chook house have been installed.

The School currently has an Artist-in-Residence, Mary-Lou Pittard. Together with Liz, she has produced a mural (above) which represents the school and its connection to Melbourne. Every student contributed to this wonderful work of art. If you wish to assist Wonga Park students with planting from 9-12 on National Tree Day on Thursday 21 July, please call me on 9844 0106.

Lyndy Gilbert, FOWSP Treasurer

Mural by Artist in Residence, Mary-Lou Pittard and with assistance from Liz Kearton



The Coast on a Winter's Day

Rocky cliffs stretch beyond the point standing like sentinels guarding the shore, waves crashing at their feet.

White tipped waves reflecting the grey of the sky, shooting spray heavenwards as they hurl themselves on to the rocks.

Water running down the steep furrowed walls of the cliffs making instant waterfalls that fade as quickly as they start, waiting for the next onslaught from the waves.

Clouds scudding across the sky allowing brief glimpses of a pale sun that shines on steel grey waters for an instant and is then hidden from view once more.

Birds hanging as though suspended wrestling against the wind. Like hang-gliders they launch themselves from the cliffs, rising and dipping trying to stay aloft. Then surrendering to the wind, return to the cliffs again.

Biting winds, cutting the air and stinging the eyes of the walkers along the cliff top path who pull their jackets closer to keep the cold at bay while turning back from whence they came to walk another day.

The wind blows on, the waves still roar and the grey-ness still pervades. Until at last the tide turns, the wind abates and calm returns to the shore.

Alwynne Buntine





Will there yet be mantids? By Linda Rogan

I COLLECTED this ootheca or egg case (left) on 9 April 2011 and brought it home hoping to see a hatching of Praying Mantis. On 28 April 2011 I was excited to see tiny black insects but puzzled to see them hopping about and noticed a long filament longer than their bodies extended behind. With a macro lens I was able to photograph the tiny wasps below, apparently parasitoids of mantids.

A friend who raises Praying Mantis amongst many other interesting critters has said to keep watch on the ootheca. Any surviving young mantids will emerge about 8 weeks later.



I'm keeping my fingers crossed. It may well be the same species as the one on page 10 back cover.

A word from Kel

OK SO IT'S NOT INDIGENOUS to Warrandyte but I am sure many people have come across the Cork Oak tree (or more likely the products it supplies to the world) in their time. So if you do fancy a tippie (or pinning things on boards!) here are a few interesting facts about Cork Oak Trees

Corks are derived from the bark of the tree.

They must be 25 years old before their first harvest.

A further 9 years must pass before another harvest can be made this helps to ensure that cork is a sustainably-harvested resource.

They are grown mainly in Portugal, northern Africa and the Western Mediterranean.

Cork Oak trees provide valuable habitat for a wide variety of birds and wildlife.

If you do have an abundance of them, wine and champagne corks are able to be recycled. Organizations such as The Friends of the Zoos Foundation have to date saved in excess of 43 million corks from landfill and have been sent for recycling!

The corks are sent to manufacturers where they are recycled and used in products such as floor tiles, horse-float mats, boat decking, kindergarten flooring, and inners for hockey and cricket balls. This recycling saves money by reducing imports of material (approximately 550 tonnes of cork is imported into Australia annually). But don't dismay, all the plastic and metal wine stoppers can also be recycled as well. So, save your corks, plastic stoppers, and aluminium screw tops from wine bottles, and bring them in to the Melbourne Zoo when you next visit. They can be dropped in specially marked bins at either entrance. Corks can also be dropped in at Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo. The Ranger Depot has a collection box and you can also drop your cork collections into bins in most Dan Murphy Liquor Stores across Melbourne.



Happy drinking, whoops I mean recycling!

Info from www.fotz.org.au and www.planetark.com.au/

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2011		OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Jason Patton jason@parau.com	0402 121838	Webmaster & Membership	<u>Nursery Manager</u> Josh Revell 0408 317327
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u> 9844 2659
Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au	9435 5806	Newsletter Co-ordinator	<u>Librarian</u> Judy Green 9844 2096
Kelly Wooster	9844 2819	Facebook and email contact	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u> Adriana Simmonds 9722 2908
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Koala Rescue</u> Julie Pryor 9722 1117
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Market Trailer & Newsletter</u> Joan Broadberry 98461218
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		
Jan Falconer	9844 1226		Website: www.fowsp.org.au
Sybille Ims	9844 1335 or 0405 500 278		

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

JOIN US on the first Thursday of the month from 9 am, (TAG workers only), to 12. 30 pm. Either meet at the depot, (sharp at 9:00 am for a 9:15 start), 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

2nd June Boys Road planting
16th June Boys Road planting
7th July Glynn's Road planting

Fowsp/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. Meet 9.30 am **at the venue**. Walks held on the 4th Thursday of each month

These walks are paced to allow us to appreciate the natural history along the way.

Call or email Natalie 9840 9124 eepad-min@manningham.vic.gov.au

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL as places are limited: request meeting place information at booking PROGRAM

Thursday 23 June 9.30 am, Bolin Bolin Billabong

Join Hayden Heta, Aboriginal Heritage Coordinator Parks Victoria on this stroll around magical Bolin Bolin billabong, traditional meeting place of the Wurundjeri people. Learn about their lifestyle and Bolin's special significance.

Distance: 2kms Time: 2 hours Rating: easy (flat walk)

Thursday 28 July 9.30 a.m One Hundred Acres

The One Hundred Acres is a valuable haven for wildlife in this predominantly suburban area. It provides a safe link across the Park Orchards Ridge for remnant species to move between the Mullum Mullum and Andersons Creeks, and ultimately to Kinglake National Park.

Distance: 2.5kms Time: 2.5 hours Rating: moderate

The Heliotrope Moth

Utetheisa pulchelloides by Linda Rogan



Remember the caterpillars that were devouring the Hounds Tongue growing beside the potting soil at the nursery in early March?

Two of them pupated on about 24th of March and so far only one has emerged. On 27th of April, after 35 days of pupation, I found this one fluttering in the jar. I was interested to see that the hind wings are a blue grey colour rather than white as described. I understand now why they sometimes look blue in flight.



News from the Committee

- Planting at Wonga Park PS 21/7. Sybille and Lyndy are organising volunteers, tools, plants, stakes, tree guards, certificates, media etc. and state all is in control so needn't be discussed next meeting.
- Planting Orchard Track. Lyndy states Andersons Creek Primary are enthusiastic about being involved (Grade 3/4) on 11 August
- Jason is doing a mock up of new membership brochures

Nursery Report

- Saturday opening has meant more plant orders are being picked up.
- Deposit on trays is meaning fewer are lost
- Utilising the Folly for some activities is helpful
- Josh is looking at starting hours for volunteers on weekends
- First aid courses for staff need to be updated
- Museum has picked up their plants
- Free mothers day plants created good will.

Rangers Report

- Congratulations to Janaya and Aidan on new baby boy.
- Jody is also expecting near the end of 2011.
- Welcome to new staff member Ranger Bernie Van Lith
- Interviews for team leader position to be carried out soon.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 14 June 2011

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on 7th May-
 John and Diane Baird,
 Sybille Ims, Alison Thom,
 Ken Crook, Lyndy Gilbert,
 Brian James, Joan Broadberry.
 Trailer delivery and retrieval: Peter Curry



The Warrandyte market is held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm at Stigants Reserve. Volunteers are rostered in pairs to man/woman the FOWSP information trailer for just one hour. If you are interested in being on the market roster for 2011 please email Joan Broadberry:

joan.broadberry@optusnet.com.au or ring anytime on **9846 1218**. *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

Future market dates are: *Saturday June 4th, July 2nd*

Photos from TAG at Koornong by Carol Page

See *Keeping the Koornong Clean with Cathy* p10



Consulting THE book for Fungi in Stanbrae. See Walk after Work p.9. Fungi below, photographed by Cathy Willis, are most likely *Entoloma viridomarginatum*. Page 67 A field guide to Australian Fungi by Bruce Fuhrer



Also **Koornong** from the net: 'Contextual history in the latter part of the 19th century'

An early experiment in progressive education in Victoria was Koornong School, founded in 1939 at North Warrandyte. The school was designed by Best Overend

It was fitting that Victoria's first free-thought school had buildings in character with its pupils. J C Neild founded Koornong in 1939 on the progressive educational technique established on the Continent. Pupils, who voted their own laws, and suffered no compulsion and littler restraint, did as was expected of them. As the years passed they grew up naturally, unself-conscious and self-sufficient to an extent that was almost alarming in those so young. And meanwhile so grew the buildings. Classrooms, administration block, theatre and dormitories are all houses separately in light wooden shells scattered at random between the trees of a gully at Warrandyte. Koornong School closed in 1946.

Ken Crook thinks the building in photo left was a canoe shed. Watch for his upcoming VNPA walk in this area on 2nd September.

“I SPY”

By J.F.



Fighting the freeze with a fire in the Folly.

On the last few cold Thursday mornings FOWSP volunteers have been found doing their normal chores in the Folly with the fire burning. The flickering flames make for a cosy welcoming look even if the overall warmth factor is marginal.

Among those pricking out or doing cuttings, Lee and Noel were spotted painting posts in National Parks Green. They are to be used by Alwynne as alphabetical markers in the nursery.

Rangers Roundup

New Baby – A very big welcome to Janaya and Aidan O’Dempsey’s baby boy born recently.

New Face - Bernie Van Lith is a welcome addition to the Ranger staff at Warrandyte. Previously from Lysterfield Bernie’s current role includes environment and visitor services.

A process to appoint a replacement for David Van Bockel is underway but no appointment as yet.

The burning program has ceased for this year, although some fuel break works are continuing.

A phascogale trapping programme, ongoing for some ten years in the One Tree Hill area, has recently finished.

Walks after Work

One recent Thursday afternoon saw a small group of enthusiasts following Josh in a fungi finding and identification walk in the Stanebrae area. Armed with Bruce Fuhrer’s book they were able to identify most of the many fungi they saw. One of the most exciting being a dark blue-green fungus known as *Entoloma viridomarginatum*. (Photo p.9)

Keeping the Koornong Clean with Cathy

A keen group of weeders met Cathy to tackle Cape Broom one Thursday morning recently. Cathy was so excited about getting this job done that she took time off work to do it. Starting at the top of the hill we were extremely pleased to see the regeneration of many species that has taken place following a fuel reduction burn in 2009. As we worked our way down the side of the hill we removed a few woody weeds including small Pittosporums, Boneseed and an occasional small Blackberry. But it wasn’t until we moved lower down the hill that the extent of the Cape Broom invasion became clear. After all the rain the soft soil made pulling the pests a simple task and it wasn’t long before a very satisfying result was obvious. (Photos left)

At the end we were rewarded for our efforts with a hot cup of Jerusalem artichoke soup (thanks to Josh’s Mum for bringing them in the previous week) to warm up our chilly fingers.

Home from Hospital

Word has it that Keith Jardine is home from hospital and doing very well after recent surgery. We look forward to seeing your smiling face back on deck soon, Keith.

Home from Holidays

Italy - Welcome home to Lee, who recently travelled to Italy with his wife. In spite of almost being the victim of a 15 year old girl pickpocket, (seen by another woman and chased off just as the hand went into the pocket), they enjoyed their stay. The first part of the trip was an organised tour during which they visited many well-known tourist areas in Rome, Florence, Pisa and Venice, etc. They then continued on their own, making the most of the wonderful weather and visiting many more places before heading for home.

New Zealand - Your correspondent has recently returned from a walking holiday in New Zealand. The weather was wonderful and the scenery superb on all four walks undertaken, i.e. the Milford Track, the Routeburn Track, the Abel Tasman Track and the Queen Charlotte Track. The big disappointment was finding out the devastating effect that European settlement has had on the wildlife of New Zealand. Big efforts are underway to redress the problem at many levels. One of the most obvious we saw was the proliferation of feral cat and stoat traps in the bush. On some walks the traps were every hundred metres, on others every 200 metres. Of course they must be checked and emptied regularly for the program to be effective and this is an expensive exercise. On only one track, the Queen Charlotte, the work was being done by a volunteer group, and therefore the traps were cleared more regularly.

Dam Good

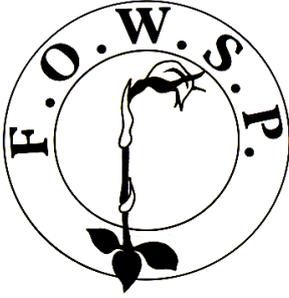
Has anyone ever seen the folly dam looking so full and so wonderful?

Welcome to Workers

Two new volunteer faces have been spotted at work in the Nursery recently.

Gwenda Waite calls herself an “irregular regular”. That is to say that while she is still working part-time she will come when she can. Gwenda is looking forward to renewing her acquaintance with FOWSP having been encouraged back through her friendship with former neighbours and FOWSP regulars, John and Caitriona Young.

Jenny Chandler heard about FOWSP from pamphlets seen at Manningham Council. She was looking for local volunteering opportunities and being a very keen gardener herself as well as living within walking distance of the Nursery, FOWSP was immediately appealing as an option. Jenny hasn’t been disappointed and is hoping to bring her husband along in the future.



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**



The False Garden Mantis
Pseudomantis albofimbriata

This is the most common mantid in Australia. It can be identified by the dark marks on the inside of its forearms. This voracious female is known to decapitate her partner during mating.
See also p.4.

June 2011 Volume 29 no. 5

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

Email photo bonus

This small spider was found in the potting mix at the nursery. ID is unknown but it looks a bit like a Wolf Spider. Does anyone have a better idea of its identity?



Steel-blue Saw Fly larvae photographed by Bruce Fuhrer in the high country this January

An adult Saw Fly species also photographed by Bruce Fuhrer.



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