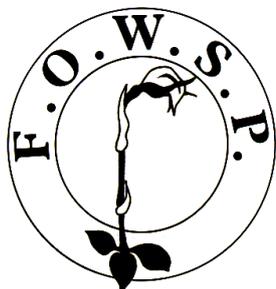


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

THE EARTH is saturated with moisture, the days are getting longer and warmer. Very little propagation is taking place at the nursery but that does not mean things are slowing down. In fact everyone is out in the bush frantically busy. For everything there is a season and now is just the right time to put our carefully nurtured tube-stock into the ground. It is planting season!

So much has been happening recently I have found it very difficult to keep up, let alone report, on the myriad of FOWSP activities that have taken place in the last two months. Grateful thanks to all those folk who sent in news, wrote reports and took photos. This newsletter absolutely would not have been produced without you. My main difficulty has been squeezing in all the great copy. Yet I know some events have inevitably been unrecorded, and for that I apologise

Sil Iannello has proven once again that pictures are better than words on p.2, with a wonderful photo essay of the recent TAG at Christmas Hills Rifle Range Reserve.

Lyndy Gilbert brings us up to date with the annual art competition at Wonga park primary school on p3 and also provides an account of FOWSP's first Sunday planting and the ANZ Bank planting. (p.4)

Linda Rogan and her husband Peter have been off exploring the wide brown land. She writes of a visit to Gray's camp in Kuranda, far north Queensland on page 3. Linda will be back in the editor's chair next month.

Steven's letter on the fate of our precious Green Wedges on p4, also appeared in *The Age* newspaper.

Also on page 4, Kel spreads the word about the great work being done by the Thin Green Line Foundation.



Belinda and many others admired the display of *Hardenbergia*, harbinger of spring, at the nursery entrance. See also p10.

September is always a month packed with activities. I often wish it could have twice as many days. On pages 5, 6 & 7, we list some of the coming events. Check the FOWSP, MYLN and Council websites for much more.

One of my favourite places in Melbourne I is Boln Boln Billabong in Bulleen. It was a special treat to be part of a Manningham guided walk there in July and to soak up some of its history and unique atmosphere. On p7, Carol Page has written up this visit, paying special attention to the vegetation.

Plant of the month just has to be *Hardenbergia violacea*. It is featured on the front and back pages.

Best wishes to all, *Joan Broadberry*

Deadline for October edition newsletter is Friday 23 September, 2011
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

18th August 2011 State park nursery pound bend depot TAG: Acacia Howittii



On our way to protect *Acacia Howittii* (sticky wattle) on Christmas Hill **Rifle Range Reserve**, by building a fence enclosing a section of bush with this native plant to protect it from wild deer.



Six volunteers from the friends of Warrandyte (above) assisting parks Victoria staff member Cam Beardsall (right)



Last but not least collecting *Acacia Howittii* to take back to the nursery for propagating. (left)



Acacia howittii is listed as rare in Victoria, Ed

Thanks to Sil Iannello who put this picture essay together from what she called "yesterday's big day out at Christmas Hills Rifle Range."

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER



Thanks to those who helped out on 2nd July and 6th August
*John and Diane Baird, Catriona and John Young, Ken Crook,
 Lyndy Gilbert, Joan McMahon, Sybille Ims,
 Marie and Wolfgang Klaus, Joan Broadberry.
 Trailer delivery and retrieval: Peter Curry*

The Warrandyte market is always held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm at Stiggants Reserve. Volunteers are rostered in pairs to man/woman the FOWSP information trailer for just one hour

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 3rd September, 1st October*

.WONGA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING 1 JULY 2011 by Lyndy Gilbert

FOWSP ATTENDED assembly to give prizes to Wonga Park Primary students who won the art competition at Wonga Park Primary School. The intention of the competition was to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our river and its wildlife by putting litter in the bin.

We are grateful to Melbourne Water for providing grant funding for this competition. \$450 was given to the School Principal, Julie Crawford, to purchase books on the environment. 8 prizes to the value of \$200 were awarded to winners from Grade Prep to Year 6.

Wonga Park PS was delighted to be involved and further collaboration is taking place during National Tree Day and Wonga Park's annual fete. I would like to thank in particular Matt Macreadie and Liz Kearton from Wonga Park PS, Ian Penrose from YRKA for his wonderful presentation and Sybille Ims, Jason Patton and Peta Cumming from FOWSP for their enormous enthusiasm, encouragement and commitment. (Winners shown below)

Refer FOWSP website www.fowsp.org.au competition pages to see the wonderful, colourful drawings with smart slogans such as "I wish happy fish", "Keep rubbish away and save the day" The next competition will be held at Park Orchards Primary School towards the end of the year



Subject: FOWSP Art Competition

THANKS so much for giving our school the chance to be part of the Save the Yarra River competition. The children loved it and it certainly gave an opportunity to spell out the need to take care of our environment especially our waterways with a focus on the Yarra. All of the art work is now on display in our new building which we moved into after the holidays.

Please thank everyone involved in the art competition for all their work. The children loved their prizes.

Thanks once again
Liz Kearton, Art Teacher, Wonga Park PS

Provenance (or how local is local?) by Cathy Willis

prov-e-nance [prov-uh-nuh ns, -nahns]—*noun*
place or source of origin: *The provenance of the ancient manuscript has never been determined.*
(from dictionary.com)

THE FOWSP NURSERY grows a wide range of indigenous (local native) plants. Although many of these are also indigenous to other parts of Australia, we only grow ours from locally collected seed and cuttings. We also only market our plants to the local area. This may sound rather restrictive and exclusive, not to mention detrimental to our potential earning capacity from nursery sales! So what's the point? Its all to do with provenance.

I'll use one of our best known and loved nursery staples as an example. Blackwood, *Acacia melanoxylon*, is an attractive small tree. In Warrandyte it prefers mid to lower slopes on deeper soils and reliable moisture. But its natural range is from Bruny Island off the southern Tasmanian coast, to near Adelaide in the west and near Cairns in the tropical northern. That's quite a variety of climates, soils, rainfall and habitats for one species.

How does Blackwood thrive in such a wide variety of conditions? Why wouldn't we use we seed from drier area populations to produce plants that would grow better on our harsh, dry hilltops? Like many things in life its never that simple!

Within a species there can be a huge range of genetic diversity, and populations from different provenances will have different characteristics. Sometimes this is obvious, such as slightly different flowering time, flower colour, or leaf size.

But it may also be invisible to us. In different areas this may be the ability to withstand snow, or heat and drought, or flooding. Each population will have a unique set of genetic characteristics that allows them to succeed in their unique habitat. "Polluting" this gene pool can have wide ranging ramifications and affect their 'durability'. As with biodiversity generally, we should aim to preserve as much diversity as possible to give every species the best chance of long term survival through the ability to adapt.

So what is the danger of planting a tropics bred plant near Adelaide or Hobart? Genes of the tropics bred plant

(Continued on page 4)

Letter - *Green Wedges are far too important to be further fragmented.....*

Dear Editor, I remember being told that when the train line was connected to Hurstbridge people would come from Melbourne to walk around and pick flowers from the districts Wattle Trees. Well, people still come to wander about our walking tracks, to rest and experience the ambiance of the natural world in all its splendour.

Melbourne's Green Wedges regions are far too important to be further fragmented by more excessive housing development. The bushland and the towns of rural/urban fringe areas are marvellous places to live or to come and visit. Having these wild places, yet a short distance from the centre of Melbourne with the mountains, forests, small towns and farms and with the wonderful array of wildlife and plants, we have the best of both worlds. It is a diverse region full of wonder and beauty. And it is a tranquil, wonderful and exhilarating place to be.

The Green Wedges are also very important for the hundreds of thousands of people from inner Melbourne and elsewhere who come here for recreation to bushwalk, cycle, observe wildlife, picnic, go kayaking, boating, visit wineries, galleries, the national parks, farmers markets, community markets, the country towns, fairs and festivals, mountains, waterfalls and other activities

The people who live or come to visit have a common objective to leave the city and the crowds, to be outdoors, to slowdown and connect with nature. Humans really need to getaway from the urban areas to untamed natural places to keep sane and healthy in body and spirit. Such places uplift and inspire and rejuvenate people. This unique region is also environmentally essential for the health and well being of the city of Melbourne. But too much growth would ultimately destroy this vital habitat, which has countless benefits for the people of Melbourne and beyond.

Steven Katsineris, Hurstbridge

Kel writes—“I have recent come across Sean Willmore's great work of helping out rangers worldwide who put their life on the line. I would like to spread the word.”

The Thin Green Line Foundation supports the families of Park rangers killed, and prevents further ranger deaths, on the frontline of conservation around the world. Thin Green Line Foundation and documentary is the result of Melbourne based ranger Sean Willmore's dream to share the stories of park rangers from around the world and in doing so support the families of rangers killed whilst protecting wildlife in their selfless fight for conservation that is occurring globally.

With over 150 rangers killed in one park alone in the DRC, whilst protecting mountain gorillas, THERE ARE OVER 1000 RANGERS families worldwide awaiting our support form The Thin green Line foundation .

TGLF already supported 60 families, supplied \$10,000 USD emergency money to Congo, 1000 mosquito nets for rangers in Uganda and DRC, and the TGLF board has recently approved support to a further 40 families of rangers killed in Africa and South America, as well as preventative measures to prevent further ranger deaths. www.thethinggreenline.info/

*“If you would like to contact the ranger/film maker behind this project to book for presentations or further info and sponsorship opportunities, please email Sean Willmore: **sean@thinggreenline.info** I will put my copy of the documentary DVD in the FOWSP library.”*
Kel W

(Continued from page 3)

could infiltrate a population, causing it to ultimately lose its drought tolerance in more arid areas. These sort of climate differences are obvious, but are not the only considerations. Even locally, one side of Melbourne has dramatically different soils and parent rock; us in the north east on ancient eroded sedimentary silurian, the west on more nutrient rich volcanic basalt. And what if the species relies on a specific pollinating insect that emerges later or earlier in different locations, and therefore isn't present when the plant flowers? That could result in no viable seed for future generations.

Just how local is local? There are many different opinions on this. Mine is that it varies enormously depending on the type of plant and there aren't really hard and fast rules. Species with light and fluffy seeds (eg daisies and some grasses) can travel in the wind over longer distances. Other grasses and things with burrs such as Bidgee-Widgee, *Acaena novaezelandiae* would naturally stick in animal fur and get transported that way, likewise berries by birds, lizards etc. Riparian (riverside) species can have their seeds carried in the water.

There is a current view that to account for climate change we should be planting species from warmer areas, or local indigenous species from a warmer provenance. Personally I don't agree as we don't really understand what might result. Species have evolved over millennia and have been through all sorts of climatic variation before. I think we should be putting our efforts into ensuring we have wide, viable habitat corridors that connect across the continent so that species – and their genes – have the ability in the long term to migrate across the landscape if necessary, as they have done in the past

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 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

Thursday 15th September: Woody Weeding Grade: Moderate. Woody weeding at Scotchman's Hill, Warrandyte. No experience necessary and morning tea provided, please bring weather appropriate clothing and water. 0408317327 for more info.

Thursday 6th October Water Watch at Pound Bend with Trish 0408317327 for more info

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 Wattles and Wildflowers 9.30 am Thursday 22 September

Warrandyte State Park's Fourth hill shines in spring. From tiny orchids and colourful scramblers to tall wattles, there will be plenty of colour, diversity and delicate beauty on this circular walk from the ridge top to the creek and back up again.

Distance: 3.5kms Time: 3 hours Rating: difficult

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 Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) *and*

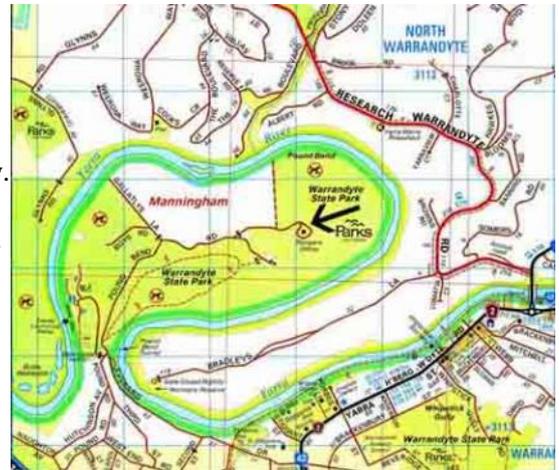
the first Sunday of each month

2 pm to 4 pm.

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

Prices 2011

Members \$1.50 Non-members \$2.00



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Manningham Environmental Seminars

are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at the **Warrandyte Community Centre**,

168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 3113 Mel Ref. 23 F11

For full details check closer to the time on 9840 9124

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required *Supper provided*

Wed 7th Sept.—*This session will discuss diversity and distribution of herbivorous insects and spiders on Box Mistletoe and its host, Eucalyptus trees.* Anna Burns Monash university.

Wed 5th October—*Protecting our Seas and shores.* Simon Branigan, Victorian National parks Association.



Selected events from the Nillimbik Environment Program

Sat 11th—Sun 12th September—*Australian Plants Expo.* 10 am—4 pm. Adults \$5, concession \$4. Eltham Community Centre 801 Main Rd. Eltham Melway 21J6 Aust Plant Society 9439 7228

Sun. 18th September—*Planting an Indigenous Garden*—9.30 am—12 noon, Edendale Farm, Gastons Rd. Eltham Melway 22A1 Cost: \$20 includes morning tea. Bookings 9433 3744

Wed. 28th September—*Our Bushland Animals and Birds.*—1 pm—3 pm. An opportunity to look, touch and learn about a diverse range of animals and birds. Michael from Black Snake Productions. \$5 per family. Edendale Farm, Gastons rd. Eltham. Melway 22A1 **Bookings essential 9433 3711**



OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Bushcare Major Day Out. Sunday 11th September, 2011 at 10:00am. Grade: Easy - Easy access for people of all ages and abilities. Come along for some re vegetation activities down by the Yarra at the Orchard Track in Pound Bend, Warrandyte. To assist with Bushcare Week Woody weed control and planting will be carried out along the old Orchard Track, Pound Bend which will be followed by a free BBQ Meet at the Rangers Depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melways Ref 23 C10) Artur on 0415383328 for more info

● **Water Watch Morning. Thursday 6th October, 2011 at 9:15am.** Grade: Easy. Come along to help assess the Yarra Rivers health and see what water bugs we can find! No experience necessary and morning tea provided, please bring weather appropriate clothing and water. Meet at the nursery Melways 23C10, finish 12:30 call 0408317327 for more info

INCREASE IN FOWSP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES 2011

From 1 September 2011, FOWSP membership fees will increase to \$30 per family per annum. The concession rate of \$10 per annum will remain the same.

This is the first increase in membership fees since 2003, and it is unavoidable as our newsletter is now costing around \$2,700 to produce per annum. There are also basic costs of \$5,000 per month to run the nursery, even with the wonderful assistance of our happy band of volunteers. This covers salaries, superannuation, Workcover, taxation, public liability, soil, tubes, labels, fertilizer, nursery repairs and maintenance.

For further information, please contact Lynda Gilbert 9844 0106.



Annette went through some propagation basics and then participants went off to do hands on with Kel.

Ambius are an indoor plant specialist firm. They believe that plants have many wellness benefits, e.g. helping to improve air quality and promote feelings of positivity for those who work indoors. “greener on the inside”

News from the Committee Nursery Report

Very successful weekend tags with Kelly. Facebook very successful in attracting volunteers.

The bus trip to Badgers Creek caused problems with the TAG—only 2 people were available to assist with the removal of fencing at Osborne Peninsula.

Josh requested that 50 star pickets and cleats be purchased to protect species on One Tree Hill. .

Indigenous Design has approached FOWSP for plants for Melbourne Water planting.

Josh to investigate a new nursery on the Research Rd which is selling plants to Council.

The ANZ event illustrated the need for procedures to handle issues such as parking, briefing, crowd control, first aid. Numbers to be limited to 60. A Ranger to be involved with large groups in future.

A TAG will take place at Lower Plenty, near Bonds Rd. There are plans for an Indigenous interpretive garden near the wetlands.

Rangers Report

Viewing platform at Mt Lofty had been vandalised and would be replaced with a bench.

Contracts for 2010/11 being finalised and planning is commencing for 2011/12.

Green jobs available for TAFE students for 6 months, weeding and planting

*** Next committee meeting, Tuesday 13th Sept 2011 Ranger Station Pound Bend**

FOWSP SKILLS WORKSHOP JB

ON THURSDAY 18th August—FOWSP conducted a workshop for the group, *Ambius* .



The 14th Mullum Mullum Festival
10th -11th September, and 17th -18th September
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mulfest/>

Starting off with a bike ride on **Saturday 10 September**, the festival will be officially opened on **Sunday 11th September** by Luke Chamberlain, Victorian Forest Campaigner for The Wilderness Society, at Yarran Dheran Reserve, North Mitcham. The opening day will provide a variety of events from the local indigenous community and other performers as well as an indigenous BBQ and walks and talks for both adults and children.

Bolin Bolin Billabong by Carol Page

On 23 June a group of FOWSP/Manningham nature walkers met near Bolin Bolin Billabong in Bulleen. Our leader was Hayden Hater, Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator with Parks Victoria. The billabong was once a rich source of food and place of ceremony for the Wurundjeri people. Europeans used the land as a dairy farm, and it was acquired by Parks in the 1980's. Bolin Bolin Billabong retains many ancient River Red-gums and a special atmosphere. Despite being only metres from busy roads and suburbia, it is a peaceful bush remnant, where it takes only a little imagination to evoke the fires, voices and activities of a Wurundjeri camp from pre-European times.



Parks Victoria, together with Greening Australia, Friends of Yarra Valley Parks and local school groups have been responsible over the years for revegetating this wonderful area of Yarra Valley Parks. It was good to see so much water in the Billabong, and the plantings were thriving. Unfortunately so were the weeds in certain areas but they do provide habitat and seed for birds and help stabilise the soil. The more serious included *Paspalum dilatatum*, *Erhartia erecta* (Panic Veldt Grass), *Hedera helix* (English Ivy), *Pennisetum clandestinum* (Kikuyu), *Tradescantia albiflora* (Wandering Jew), and *Vinca major* (Blue Periwinkle).

The *Melycitis dentata* (Tree Violet) was in bud and when flowering this tiny blossom will perfume the area. We were told that the rare *Amphibromus fluitans* (Graceful Swamp Wallaby grass) was growing across the road in the area used by Trinity Grammar School – unfortunately we did not get to see it. Other Native grasses we did see however were *Poa ensiformis* (Purple sheath Tussock Grass), *Poa labillardierei* (Common Tussock-grass), and *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping grass) and a *Danthonia* species (Wallaby Grass). Some other grasses that have been planted include *Hemarthria uncinata* (Matt Grass) and *Bothri-*

ochloa macra (Redleg Grass). *Dianella longifolia* (Pale Flax-lily), and *Lomandra longifolia* (Spiny-headed Mat-rush) were well established as were some *Senecio* species, including *Senecio minimus* (Shrubby Fireweed). *Mentha australis* (River Mint) will be flowering in the spring and through summer but the foliage imparts a delightful fragrance. Apparently the local aboriginals used the leaves to flavour food and as a decoction for coughs and colds.

The *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria), *Coprosma quadrifida* (Prickly Currant Bush), *Rubus parvifolius* (Small-leaf Bramble) and the invasive weed, *Lycium ferocissimum* (African Boxthorn) all provide habitat for small birds such as our Superb Fairy-Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*), White-Browed Scrubwren (*Sericornis frontalis*) Red-Browed Finch (*Neochmia temporalis*) and the introduced but now uncommon in the suburbs, the humble House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). The *Eucalyptus camaludensis* (River Red Gum) is the dominant Eucalypt, and the *Gynatrix pulchella* (Native Hemp) was flourishing along the pathway. Other flora included *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood), and *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle), *Pomaderris aspera* (Hazel Pomaderris), *Pomaderris racemosa* (Cluster Pomaderris), *Indigofera australis* (Austral Indigo), and some *Pelargonium* species.

It is a credit to those who laboured so hard to reintroduce so much of our very special plant life that unfortunately some people take for granted. It was a most interesting walk.



Manna Gum by Simon Horsburgh—an interesting feature of the area are sculptures. The one above represents a Manna Gum flower and is found at the number 1 on the map. *Eel* by Cameron Robbins, can be found at no 2 on the map. and is pictured on our bonus email photo page 11. JB

Letter from Gray's Camp Kuranda July 2011

WE WERE GREETED along the roadside by Gray wearing weeding gloves (and a bit more), looking very relaxed and happy. As he guided us down his long and nearly concealed driveway, we were also greeted by two birds, the Spectacled Monarch and the less common Pied Monarch.

I was amazed how his property, once cleared for grazing was now clothed in rainforest. A few exotics trees and palms remind of the former owner. Clustering bamboos were planted early to stop erosion. At ground level the vegetation is a mix of exotics and indigenous including grasses, ginger and ferns that are native. When we reached his "Concrete Tent" the sound of a sizable creek and small waterfall was music in the rainforest. It's hard to imagine a more picturesque spot.

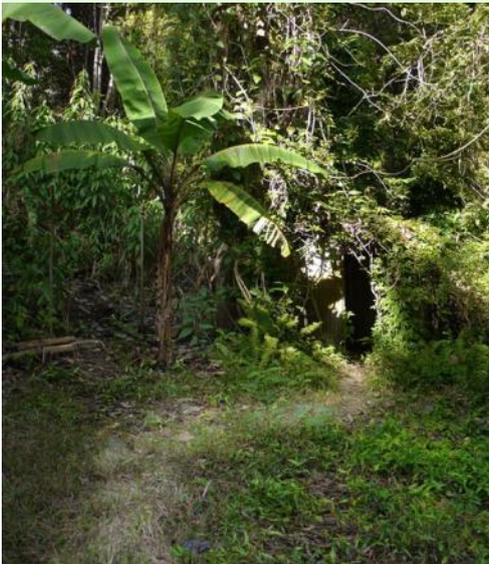
From our Jayco we can see an active Scrubfowl mound and wake in the morning to the mewling of Catbirds.

I'm not the first one to wonder how Gray will be able to bear parting with this hideaway so close to the heart of Kuranda Village. But his plan is firm if not urgent, to sell when potential new owner/s and guardian (and also the price).is right

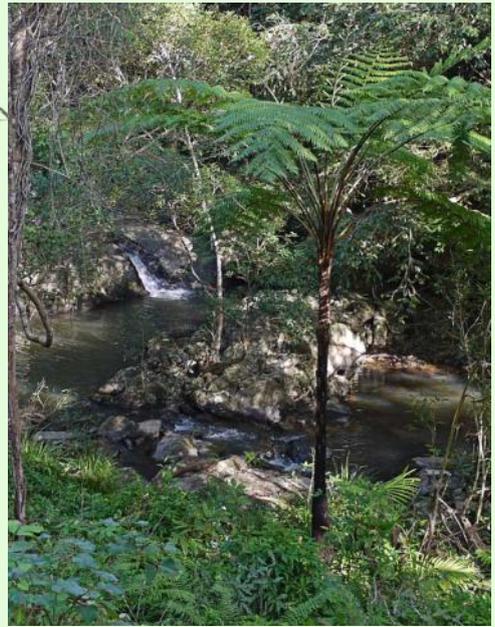
In the meantime Peter and I feel very privileged to share a few days in this living sculpture that Gray and nature have created over the past 35 years.

The Loo with the View, (see below) a vine covered long drop is a work of art that owes much of its charm to nature. Bathing in the creek (sans soap of course) stirs tribal memories and when the sun comes out, so do butterflies: Small Green-banded Blues, orange Rustics and Common Grass-yellows for a start.

By the time this letter reaches the newsletter, we too will back and looking for spring weather , *Linda Rogan*




 Jewel Spider
 ← **Loo**
View →
 Small Green-banded Blue
Psychonotus caelius

Ken and Kelly, still smiling after a whirlwind winter of plantings



PLANTINGS, PLANTINGS - July/August by Lyndy Gilbert

KELLY WOOSTER kindly organised the first FOWSP Sunday planting at Boys Road. People turned up despite the overcast and cold conditions. 80 plants were put in the ground with tree guards and the area was tidied up followed by afternoon tea at the Nursery. Kelly has arranged a number of Sunday plantings in August and September. We look forward to seeing you there. Look for details on the website, facebook and the FOWSP newsletter. (see page 6, Bush Care Major Day Out, Sunday 11th Sept)

Thursday 4th August about 50 volunteers from the ANZ bank arrived at the nursery by bus to plant (with FOWSP volunteers) nearby in the Lower Orchard Track. They have done similar work on two previous visits. Artur estimated 500—700 plants would be in the ground. We

would like to thank them for their commitment and acknowledge the ANZ bank for allowing this to happen on a working day. We also thank them for including FOWSP volunteers in their lunch arrangements. (Photos at the bottom of this page)



More photos from Orchard Track plantings. Work started in July 2011 see below:



ANZ put in a major effort.....



And the area is being transformed with the help of many groups...



Thanks to the following:
ANZ
Green Corps
CODE GREEN with Victorian medical students (more on this next month)
And many other wonderful volunteers



“I SPY”

By J.F.



Badgers Weir by bus

One wintery Thursday some 15 people, with Fred at the wheel, set out for Badgers Weir to see what they could see. Along the way the countryside looked magnificent after all the rain, and the trees along Badgers Creek were all looking at their best. On the walk up to the Weir several bracket fungi were spotted and photographed, but the highlight was the song of many lyre-birds that resounded through the bush.

Lunch for some was in the Healesville Park and for others in the bakery, and afternoon tea was taken in the Yarra Valley Dairy on the way home. A very pleasant day.

Some sightings old and new

Gray Ardern made a brief appearance at the nursery after his winter sojourn in North Queensland and before taking off on a walking trip in Central Australia.

Welcome back to an old face – Rob Littlewood has returned after an absence of a couple of years of living and working in Central Queensland.

A rare occurrence – a Thursday morning with no Alwynne – apparently packing for a holiday.

A group of senior students from the Whitefriars College attended the nursery one Thursday morning for some instruction on indigenous plants. Someone commented that morning tea was rather light on that day. The students certainly seemed to enjoy themselves.

Fantastic Feedback for FOWSP

Warrandyte High School teacher, Tracy Wood, called at the Nursery to pick up some plants. It happened to be morning tea time so Tracy took the opportunity to tell everyone about the very successful planting program at the High School. This year 300 plants were added by an enthusiastic group of year 7 students and as this is the third year that Tracy has supervised the plantings she says the area being planted is starting to look really good. Tracy said the quality of the plants is excellent.

Orchard Planting – 21st July

On a cold and wet Thursday morning a keen group of planters, made up of FOWSP members and a Green Corps group, began planting the old orchard site on

the river flats to the east of the Parks Depot.

History of the site

This land was originally cleared by the Houghton family in the early 1920s for use as orchards – mainly apple and pear trees were planted. In 1934 the Yarra flooded and the land was inundated. However, its use as an orchard continued until the 1980s, by which time the property was in the ownership of the Wagner family. Many uses were suggested for the land when the Wagner family disposed of it, but it was eventually acquired by Parks Victoria. The re-planting of the site has been planned for some time.

The plantings

The restoration of the old orchard site is a partnership between Melbourne Water and Middle Yarra Land Network. Phase one of the project is to plant and establish over-storey plants such as manna gums (*eucalyptus viminalis*) swamp gums (*eucalyptus ovata*) and blackwoods (*acacia melanoxylon*), in order to shade over the weeds (see below). Phase two of the project, the planting of the lower storey plants, will be commenced once the over-storey plants are established.

What is Green Corps?

Green Corps is a partnership program between Holmslen TAFE and Max employment. The program provides training for young people between the ages of 18 and 24 in Certificate 2, of the Conservation Land Management course. The students are from the Box Hill campus, where the four day a week course includes a strong practical element. The students have participated in a number of plantings for Parks Vic, and particularly enjoy working with Ranger Cam Beardsall. He, in turn, values their hard work.

Chris and Mim (the course leaders) report that previous graduates of the course have been very successful in gaining long term employment in a variety of areas at the conclusion of the course.





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***Hardenbergia violacea* (Purple Coral-pea)**

This photo was taken at the FOWSP nursery in early August by Vicki Hooper. Hardenbergia in its natural form provides ground cover or scrambles up shrubs to about 2 metres. Cultivars are more vigorous than the bush form and present a significant risk to the wild population through genetic pollution.

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FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

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Happy workers from Boys Road plantings on National Tree Day 2011

Look for more photos of FOWSP activities on the FOWSP website photo gallery.



Above :*Eel* by Cameron Robbins—see p9



Left: Nursery workers, Marion, Alwynne and Irene hard at work producing cuttings. Photos. J. Broadberry

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

**Email photo bonus
Winter travellers page**



Jason says "Welcome to Wellington....(NZ north island)"
Photo 14 August 2011 and below 15 August "..(stop) or else..."



While Jason was experiencing a real NZ winter, Linda and Peter were removing Neem trees, and Rubber Vines from the AWC property in north Queensland.