Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

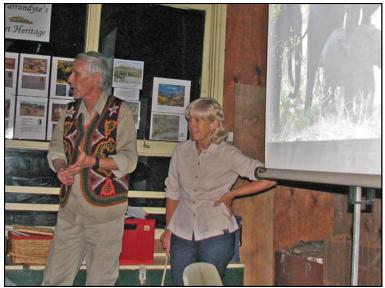
Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Editor's corner

THERE IS NO DOUBT that FOWSPians have continued to be busy over the month of November. Many of my regular correspondents have been too busy to put pen to paper in time for the newsletter.

Nevertheless, this newsletter is jam packed with snippets and photos. Starting at the back, on page 9, Ben's I Spy will educate and bemuse. Kel and Cathy will enlighten you about some special plants available at the nursery on page 7 with a particularly lovely photo of *Pomaderris lanigera* in a garden setting.



Joan Broadberry has provided photos from the AGM, above and on page 3.



On page 2, I share a bit of 'November at Glynns Reserve' as my holiday greeting to all.

Jason's photo of the Fire Safety exercise on 27 November is a reminder to us all to be bushfire prepared.

Remember to RSVP for the light trapping evening—see page 3.

Have a pleasant summer break and don't forget to send

your snippets, articles and photos for the newsletter by January 20th. And enjoy this one.

Línda



Deadline for February edition newsletter is Friday 20th, January 2012 No newsletter for January contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Glynn's Reserve in November Linda Rogan

In November Glynn's Reserve is absolutely bursting with life A flutter of male Common Brown butterflies rises from gully to hilltop. Here and there are Lilac Grass Skippers, a male Caper White, a glowing Dusky Blue and a Dainty Swallowtail. Near the wetlands, the first Imperial Blue Butterfly has emerged.





Beetles, red and blue or green and gold, Flower Scarabs, orange and black with long spiny legs,

Tumbling Flower beetles, shining black with pointy tails.

In a Kunzea blooming by the river, a legion of Soldier Beetles mostly mating

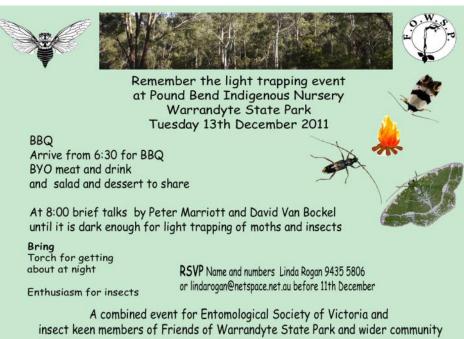
Even the flies impress,

with green eyes and golden hair, Long legged Flies with metallic green sheen And Bibio flies are everywhere, females yellow and orange but male mostly black, looking like a different species.

Native bees are beginning to show up resting on yellow dandelions or feeding on Kunzea nectar.

I too am seduced by the warmth of the sun after rain, and I am in my element.

Linda



From the AGM November 15th 2011

Neither the frogs chorus nor the rain showers could dampen the spirits of FOWSPians at the AGM, BBQ and the thrilling visit to Africa via the small screen. Jane (Pat) and Mike kept us on the edges of our seats with tales of some very extraordinary Chimpanzees. For those who couldn't get to the AGM, Pat had a very special encounter with a chimp which may have associated her with the famous primatologist Jane Goodall, hence 'Pat/ Jane'. Many thanks to Jason who chaired the meeting. See nursery report page 6 & Rangers report on page 8.



Photos: left, the Van Bockel family at the AGM. Below, Jan Falconer, (and Kel), cleverly taking the AGM minutes on a laptop.

Thanks to Joan Broadberry for these photos & page



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on 5th November: John and Diane Baird, Brian James, Jan Falconer, Marie Krause, Sue Shepherd, Lucy Gow, Sybille Ims, 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. If you are interested in being on the market roster for 2011/12, please ring Sybille Ims **9844 1335 or 0405 500 278** or email imsbs@netspace.net.au. *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

> **Future market dates are:** Saturday December 3rd & February 4 No market in January

TAG 17 Nov 2011

By Linda Rogan

WHAT can I say, "A comedy of errors" perhaps?

First error: I discovered a fallen tree blocking a rather steep and narrow section of Salters Rush Rd thinking I had yet to reach the turn to Rifle Range Road. Of course I called Gray's mobile to let the group know why I hadn't yet arrived, only to find they were not yet at Rifle Range either.

Second error: I assumed when I heard they would then come through on Buttermans Track that meant they would enter RR from the gate off Buttermans Track.

I backed down Salters Rush Rd with minimal difficulty and turned around on a wide part of the road. As I started the return trip on SR I noticed the road sign "Rifle Range Road". I had obviously missed my turn. "Oh, well," I thought to myself, "They are going to Buttermans Track entrance so that won't be a problem." Only when I reached that entrance and found no one there did I have second thoughts. Another phone call was answered but my hearing was impaired by a persistent backup beep and sounds of general confusion. Only then did it dawn on me that Salter's Rush must be another alternative for reaching RR Road, from the Buttermans Track side.

Eventually everyone reached the Buttermans Track gate and all entered for an interesting drive across a creek with a rather steep exit bank.

Third error: We had reached the work site where fence building was to begin, when it was noticed that the last car with a young couple who wished to leave early was not at the end of the line. A quick walk back to the creek crossing found no sign of them, but as we wondered where they could have gotten to, they came casually down a rather steep track saying, they must have "missed a turn." A good reminder that "always wait for the car behind at every intersection" applies even (especially?)in the bush. With minimal further delay, fence building began (although it was nearly lunch time.)

This was a particularly important deer exclusion fence. There have been Sambar deer feral in this area for some time but the last bush fire destroyed many fences on deer farms and now Red Deer are becoming predominant. Prior to the deer, this area was rich with Acacias especially *Acacia leprosa* (broad leafed see right) and *A*

lanigera. Since the last bush fires, however, deer grazing has devastated new seedlings and only one *A leprosa* capable of producing seed remains in the Rifle Range area and another at one Tree Hill. I wonder why the deer do not seem to have the same devastating effect on the "weedy acacias" that are escapees from previous horticultural practices? In addition to deer, the indigenous Acacia have been threatened by weedy Acacias such as *A howittii*, and *floribunda*. These not only hybridise with each other but also with the indigenous ones. While most of us were involved in measuring and stringing wire and the onerous stapling of fencing to wire, others planted 20 healthy *A leprosa* to act at a future seed bank in our 12 x 12m (more or less) deer exclusion fence. The fence should also allow other desirable seedlings to survive.

Gray, one of the few amongst us confident to pick the ring-ins from the thin leaved locals, set off to "murder weeds".

The fence was finished but Gray did not answer our "co-ees, (I'm rather proud of the volume of my cooee). nor our car horns. Some of us had to head home not knowing how his story ended. It turned out he was too absorbed in eliminating a patch of *Acacia floribunda* seedlings to hear our calls but did hear Cam's final toot and both returned home feeling a good deal had been accomplished..



Acacia leprosa Cinnamon Wattle Mimosaceae



Shrub or small tree to 5m July-Sept Significant in the Melbourne region (Beardsell, Beauglehole, Cheal *et al.*) District status: vulnerable District abundance: rare and localised

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2011

OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS

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Linda Rogan lindarogan@nets	9435 5806 pace.net.au	Newsletter Co-ordinator	<u>Newsletter</u> Jo	oan Broadberry 9846 1218
Kelly Wooster	9844 2819	Social media contact; facebook	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u> Ad	riana Simmonds 9722 2908
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Koala Rescue	Julie Pryor 9722 1117
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		Market Trailer For contact see FOW	Sybille Ims SP committee
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green 9844 2096
Jan Falconer	9844 1226			
Sybille Ims 9844 or email imsbs@r	1335 or 0405 500 netspace.net.au		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	

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*

1st December Bird-watching with one of the rangers at the depot at Pound Bend. TAG activities for 2012 -to be announced

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 Please note there will be no walks in December and January 2012 due to holidays

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

Wednesday 7th December- *Mistletoes: Indicators of Ecosystem Health and Diversity* with Anna Burns, (rescheduled from October)

Wednesday 1st February- 2012 Ecology of Kangaroos with Bryan Walters of Ecoplan Wednesday 7th March - Controlling Indian Mynahs with Max Caithness of Yarra Indian Mynah Action Group



For full details check closer to the time on 9840 9124

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required Supper provided

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 **Closed for holidays on 29 December**

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 <u>2 pm to 4 pm.(excludes January)</u> Closed Saturday and Sunday in January as no market day

Nursery is closed to customers and volunteers

on Total Fire Ban Days

Prices 2011 Non-members \$2.00

Members \$1.50

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Nursery Report - Josh Revell (from the AGM)

- ·A very successful year with around 40/45,000 plants being propagated
- ·Manningham bought over 1,000 plants for giveaways at their sustainability seminars and to schools.
- ·Continuation of the 50 free plants to local schools program
- ·TAG's have been successful including the planting of rare plants back in the northern reserves
- ·Melbourne Museum received a range of spe-• cies for their rain forest gallery
- ·Since the computer died, concise plants totals are not available, but over 4,000 plants have been planted in the Park, including grant sites and Tree Day.
- ·Belinda has been involved in different days like Planet Ark and it is good to have interests outside Warrandyte.
- ·Donations including benches, pots, heat beds and tools and plants were received from Joe Wilson, Jane Pammer and Michael De Vincentis and plants were received from Alan Noy.

Some have been used as giveaways to entice people to nursery

- ·Fred ran two bus trips this year one to Badgers Weir and one to Cranbourne Gardens
- •There were several informal walks which were well attended. Some members attended the Manningham walks on the 4th Thursday of the month. •Thanks go the following:
- ·Conrad and Parks Victoria staff for their support with TAGs and their over-all help and cooperation.
- ·Belinda, Kelly and Annette for the great job they do in balancing sales, volunteers and their nursery work.
- •Artur for his efforts in arranging TAGs and for organising the day with 65 ANZ Bank employees
- Jason for being the on-call IT person
- ·Jason and Kelly for making FOWSP "out there" ٠
- ·Lyndy for her great job as treasurer and for providing morning teas
- ·To the committee and to all volunteers for their Thursday efforts.

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



Message from Kel at the nursery

Looking for a plant for that constant damp-wet spot in the garden?

The nursery currently has plenty of stock of Carex fascicularis or Tassel Sedge, a densely tufted sedge which grows to 1m and occurs in a wide range of vegetation communities including riparian forest, riparian scrub and valley grassy forest. In 1999 the



district status for this species was listed as vulnerable and the district abundance was Rare / Localised (Beardsell, Cheal et al.). The majority of species in Warrandyte are found in moist sites and along watercourses e.g. the banks of the Yarra River. It has green cascading flowers throughout January, February, March, April, October, November & December which are butterfly attracting and food for caterpillars

Looking for a plant for that tricky spot in the garden that gets full sun? Or one that flowers purple in August? Or a species which attracts Skipper Butterflies? Why not check out our amazing on-line planting guide at http://fowsp.org.au/planting_guide.php

Also from the Nursery

By Cathy Willis

The nursery currently has four of our six local Pomaderris species in stock. Two are locally rare, and a third considered vulnerable in Victoria. They are generally reasonably adaptable to soil type and position. All are very attractive garden shrubs, and can form a dense screen or hedge with regular light pruning. All flower in spring.

Hazel Pomaderris *Pomaderris aspera* 3-6m x 3-4m. Widespread in the south and east of the state from near coastal to the sub-alps. Locally it grows along the river, but tolerates short dry spells in the garden. Graceful habit with large soft leaves and creamy sprays of flowers.

Smooth Pomaderris *Pomaderris elliptica* 2-3m x 1-2m. Another species more common in Gippsland, usually in moist lowland and foothill forests. Originally propagated from a single plant in Jumping Creek Reserve at its most westerly occurence. Leaves are dark, shiny and rounded, flowerheads bright yellow.

Round-leaf Pomaderris Pomaderris vacciniifolia 2.5-3.5m x 1-2m. Vulnerable in Victoria. Endemic to a small area of the Yarra, Plenty and Yea River catchments, including a single slope of the Pound Bend escarpment. Small round leaves and creamy flowerheads.

Woolly Pomaderris Pomaderris lanigera 1.5m x



1.5m. Occurs in dry lowland forests in the east of the state, with a small outlying westerly occurrence near Bend of Isles, immediately north of the river. Large soft ovate leaves with stunning bright lemon rounded flower-

Pomaderris lanigera in Photo Cathy Willis

Committee Report

- **Redesign of nursery** Architectural drawings will be provided to Manningham Council to enable this matter to progress.
- **Members' Survey feedback** Belinda Christie has provided an extensive report which will be analysed and discussed by the Committee.
- MYSF Sustainability Expo Fri 28th Oct -Doncaster - Sybille Ims attended this City of Manningham function where schools are invited to participate in the design of a new green building for their school. FOWSP's topic was biodiversity. 80 students from 10 Manningham schools attended.
- **Market Trailer competition** Warrandyte High students will be asked to participate in a competition for a design to adorn the back of the trailer with perhaps an I Pod for a prize.
- **Thanks** to Joan Broadberry for organising the Market trailer for 2011 and to Sybille Ims for taking on this task for 2012.
- Park Orchards Art Primary School competition - A teacher information brief has been prepared. Melbourne Water has provided \$450 which will be used to purchase library books for Park Orchards Primary and the City of Manningham gave \$400 for 21 students' prizes. A \$20 voucher will be first prize and sustainability bags will also be given as prizes.
- Jason Patton is in the process of scanning Newsletters back to 2000 for inclusion on the Website.

Next Committee MeetingDate:January 10th 2012Venue:Ranger Station, Pound BendTime:19:30 pm sharp

<u>Letters To the Editor</u>

Dear Artur, **Subject:** VNPA Caring for Nature Day

Ranger's Report - Conrad Annal

At the FOWSP AGM Conrad remarked: that there have been many changes during the year, including a new Prime Minister, a new Victorian government, a new Minister for Parks, a new CEO for Parks Victoria with a resultant restructure, and a new Chairman of Parks Victoria.

He then thanked FOWSP which he acknowledged as an organisation with an amazing reputation, both within Parks Victoria and within the community: a testament to the longevity of the group and the accumulated knowledge of the members.

Conrad said that Parks Victoria would not be able to achieve as much without the large number of volunteer hours provided through FOWSP.

He thanked the Committee, not only for their work at meetings but for their behind the scenes contributions and he especially thanked Josh and the nursery staff for all their hours of paid and unpaid work

News from Jason

- Wireless hotspot is now at the Nursery to enable Nursery staff to amend nursery orders and assist customers with advice and photos of plants
- .New nursery orders system being finalised. This new system allows orders to be remotely monitored and amended. This means that all is not lost when the nursery laptop crashes.
- We're *looking* at developing a / some FOWSP App for smartphones, etc. So we're after ideas of what to include,

be they plant information, WSP Parks walks, whatever. Also, if any of our members has any experience in programming said apps - it would save me picking up ANOTHER language.

I would like to thank the Friends of Warrandyte State Park for giving some of our members the opportunity to give something back to the Park last Sunday

It was a small number of members in the working bee but they seemed to do quite a bit a work and I hope their contribution helps the Friends Group cope, in a small way, with all the work that has to be done. Jason's leadership was much appreciated and please pass on our thanks to him.

After what looked like a disaster with the weather on Saturday, the Sunday turned out to be wonderful and we all enjoyed being in such a lovely spot beside the Yarra. All the very best to all members of the Friends Group.

Reg Elder Convenor VNPA CFND Picnic

Page 9



By B.G



Do Koalas Count?

Ranger Warren Murphy led five people on a koala count on the 3rd November this year. Lynda Moore (one of the "counters") said "We saw one, it was a male". How do you know? "You can tell from the head profile." The group covered the Pound Bend area and along that section of the Yarra River. Lyn, originally from Ogilvie, Tasmania has completed a B.Sc., majoring in Botany and Zoology at the University of Tasmania.

Member Murmers

- Sadie and Rocky Cheng visited the Depot. Sadie said, "I love plants" and is coming to help again.
- Kelly Wooster has been to Stradbroke Island to celebrate her birthday; 1981 was obviously a good year.
- Annette's 14th anniversary came and went recently. Which anniversary, marriage of course.
- With a big smile on her face, Annette announced that she has expectations for mid April 2012.

Frogland Three

Pat and Mike Coupar and Olive Walters laboured mightily to clear away all the growth covering the wooden boardwalk and the entrance gate



Members Moving

• Olive Walters, one of our longest "serving" members, and husband Andy are leaving Melbourne to live permanently on Coochiemudlo Island in Morton Bay near Brisbane. Olives interest in birds started a long time ago at Rosanna Golf Course and she has become an avid birdwatcher. Olive was last seen working in Frogland as well as weeding plants in tubes.

• Pat and Mike Coupar are putting their Warrandyte residence on the market mid-2012 and will eventually be ensconced in Mallacootta.

Broadberry Back from the Birds

Joan Broadberry has returned from bird-watching in the "South-west of WA and along the Birdsville Track."Joan saw 10 new species of birds on these trips and so far, 674 bird species in Australia

Bees and Birds

Linda Rogan was recently "off with the Bees" in WA. Marion King is also a dedicated bird-watcher.

Positive Preparation

The project fire fighters (PFF) team of six has two new members, Andrew Brastrup and Tom Fricker. According to Ranger Aiden O'Dempsey, they are preparing for the slashing programme and on the special "fire day", 27th November will be working in the district with other emergency services in varying roles.

Remember: the Depot will be closed on TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS (Code Red)

Acacia Activity

Ranger Cam Beardsell and a group of six volunteers visited the Rifle Range to carry out the planting of a sub-species of *Acacia leprosa*. This particular wattle is the Large-leaf Cinnamon Wattle– var. *uninerva*. (Story page 4.)

Football Followers

Dick Thomson and Sue Shepherd greeted one another in early November with a "give me five" gesture. The truth is out. They are both Geelong Football Club followers!

Male Matters

- Lee has been "fixing the banana bends in the nursery store room, "just turn them upside down".
- Jason has recently installed several LED floodlights in the nursery work area. ("Please wear appropriate safety gear and avoid sunburn!")
- One hot house now has a summer hood.

Guarantee to be Gutted

"The secretary of the Department of Sustainability and Environment...would be able to exempt a logging project from the requirements of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, which protects the state's endangered and threatened species" "Luke Chamberlain said, "It puts us on a par with governance of logging practices in Indonesia." *Page 5, Age 3rd November 2011. (Tom Arup)*



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The Lilac Grass-skipper Toxodia doubledayi

This Grass-skipper is at the southern extremity of its range near Melbourne. Further north the caterpillars feed mostly on *Oplismenus sp.* tropical beard-grass or basket grass but are known to survive in captivity on

Weeping Grass *Microlaena stipoides*. The larvae hide in shelters they make from silk and leaves in the daytime and come out to feed at night. I have seen and photographed them for the first time at Frogland and also across the Yarra at Glynns Reserve.

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

	FOWSP Membersh	ip Renewa	l Form
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Membership (family) Concession	\$30 (from 1 September 201) \$10	1)	Newsletter by email 🗌 (tick box)

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or renew on the website <u>www.fowsp.org.au</u> with the option of direct deposit payment.

FOWSP Newsletter

Email photo bonus



Jason says "Will someone please help this woman?"



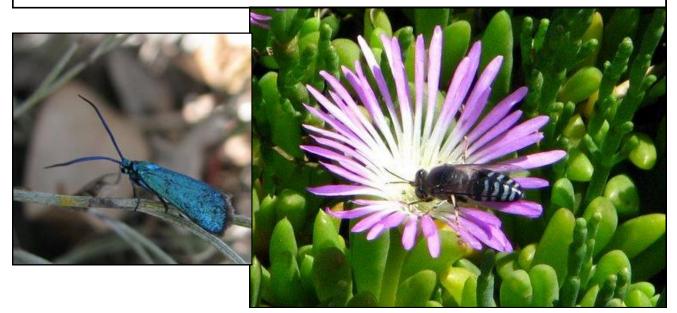


Weeds and overgrowth have been cleared from the gate and boardwalk at Frogland Bens' photo above and See *I Spy*



Not a frog but a mole cricket from Frogland attempts to burrow between Josh's fingers. Notice those front feet that are specially adapted for digging

From her post op bed, Carol Page has sent us these lovely photos: Left a Foresters moth at Little Desert and right of a wasp (perhaps) on pigface taken on Phillip Island. We wish Carol a speedy recovery



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