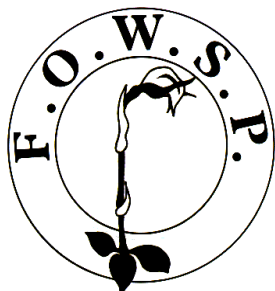


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

HAPPY 2012 FOWSPIANS!

The combined FOWSP Entomological Society light trapping event on 13th Dec, was a great success with 38 attendees including members of each group and visitors. A total of 51 species were attracted and photographed and, in due course, identified. One of these, a Black Geometrid *Melanodes anthracitaria*, made an attractive hair ornament for Lydia (photo below). Several species will soon appear on the FOWSP website. Thanks to all who made this event run smoothly and especially to David Van Bockel, who spoke to the group about fire management planning in WSP and also Marilyn Hewish from the Entomological Society who spoke about light trapping and how the results are used in publications such as *Moths of Victoria*. More photos, email version only, on p 11.

Frogland is benefitting from ongoing attention.



David Van Bockel spoke to all about the many facets involved in fire management planning. The whole VB family joined in the evening

The top section is relatively weed free and many more plants are in the ground. Details page2. Alwynne regales us with tales an expedition to Beenak with the Fuhrers, page 3..

The nursery has plenty of plants for those tough dry spots in the garden, page 4. Jason helps keep the nursery running smoothly with up to date technology, page 7. Belinda tells us of some of the changes resulting from the 2011 volunteers survey, page 8.

Our best wishes to Olive are also on page 8 and Ben presents the results of his sleuthing on page 9

We hope to hear about the successful Park Orchards Primary School Art competition outcomes from December in the next newsletter.

Please keep us posted on what's happening in your backyard and enjoy this newsletter. *Linda*

Deadline for March edition newsletter is Friday 24th February, 2012
 contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
 or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

What has eaten the Indigofera, Linda?



THIS CRY greeted me when I arrived at the nursery on December 1st. Nearly a whole tray of seedlings had been defoliated by tiny green caterpillars (photo left).

I noticed the caterpillars were tended by

ants and decided to take six caterpillars home to confirm my suspicions as to what they were. I had some Indigofera growing at home and so only had to feed them for 7 days before the first one stopped eating.

Two days later all six had pupated (right).



On Dec 19th butterflies emerged

over a 24 hour period and were, as I thought, Common Grass Blues, *Zizina labradus*, the smallest of our local blue butterflies (photo below). And the Indigofera? The two that I took home with the caterpillars had fully recovered just in time to be defoliated by hail on Christmas Day. They recovered once again as you can see below. Tough little plants.



One of the recovered Indigofera seedlings

Frogland Progress

Linda Rogan

FROGLAND has received some extra attention in January since scheduled TAGS don't start until February. A recheck and removal of Blackberries in the core area and removal of a thick thistle patch near the replanted area will greatly improve the chances of the survival of the indigenous plants.



Keen workers in Frogland, above & below

The early summer rains allowed late planting. We replaced each large thistle with one Po-maderris or Correa.

We will continue our efforts at least once a month this year. Come join the fun in Frogland.



Rumex bidens, a Frogland plant that is rare in this area.



Ask Gray about this photo.

Outing to Beenak

Alwynne Buntine

IN LATE October 2011, Irene & Bruce Fuhrer and myself set out to find some unusual and rare plants in the area between Launching Place and Laber-touche. It was a beautiful spring day, the sun shining in a clear blue sky. The kind of spring day that this year is almost as rare and unusual as the plants we hoped to find. These included *Lindsaea microphylla* (the lacy wedge fern), *Grevillea barklyana* and *Boronia muelleri*.

Leaving the Warburton highway at Launching Place, we travelled towards Powelltown. Several kilometres along the road we turned into a logging track and drove into the forest at the foot of Mt. Beenak. Finding a pull-off to get ourselves out of the way of any logging trucks that may also be using the road, we parked and started walking. Bruce assured us that this was a good place to look for the Lacy Wedge Fern as the road verges were quite damp. There were many plants flowering and it was enjoyable looking at them as we walked searching for the fern.

Grevillea alpina was flowering and the plants were up to 2 metres high in places. *Oxylobium arborescens* (Tall Shaggy Pea) covered a lot of the sheltered hillsides. Past its full flowering but still out sufficiently to enable us to see how stunning it must look when the hill-

sides are covered in its yellow flowers. (See Bruce Fuhrer's Wild Flowers of Vic page 96, image 340) Lower down, *Tetratheca stenocarpa* (Long Pink Bells), was blooming profusely. Its tall stems of large pink bells spreading along the roadside embankments. It is endemic to



Victoria and localized to near Healesville and Gembrook. It grows in open forests and tall mountain forests. The flowers are showier than our local *Tetratheca ciliata* with its delicate little pink bells that seem to hide amongst the leaves.

After walking for a time, Bruce found the Lacy Wedge Fern and drew our attention to it. This un-



usual fern is relatively widely distributed in East Gippsland but is rare and localised in the rest of the state. However it grows selectively in the Beenak area and we were lucky enough to find it. Its natural habitat is heathland and open forests. Oddly enough, in suitable areas that have been excavated by man, it also survives. It is often hidden in the undergrowth and possibly supported by it. Being aptly named, it is indeed an attractive small lacy fern with delicate clustered fronds 30-40 cm height. These are quite erect but often droop at the tips.

We had hoped to see two other plants as well but time didn't permit on this occasion so they will have to be our aim on another trip.

Newsletter team this month were:

Linda Rogan

Joan Broadberry

Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

From the Grass Roots (at the nursery) by Kel Wooster

SUMMER IN WARRANDYTE is a tough one when it comes to planting. As the Warrandyte topsoil is predominantly clay soil, it can dry out quickly, even after all the rain that we have had. Finding a plant for that hot spot in the garden can be tricky, so here are some suggestions for plants that can hold their own and beat the summer heat.

Why not try a drift of Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*? This tufted perennial grass produces distinct large red-brown spikelets of flowers, which occur on branched stems to 90cm through the warmer months from November to March. It is best planted in groups, can be used as an edging or displayed in rockeries and needs minimal water once established. The interesting foliage of green to grey which dries to an orange brown in summer can be planted in full sun or part shade.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens reports in 2004 that Kangaroo Grass itself is not endangered as a species, but that it grows in Temperate Grassland communities, which have been declared as threatened in Victoria. They further state that the grasslands are under threat due to loss and fragmentation through inadequate land management practices and as Kangaroo Grass does not tolerate heavy or continuous grazing, it can be a useful indicator of the level of disturbance in an area.

As a summer special the nursery has trays of Kangaroo Grass for \$40—(that is 50 plants) or \$1 per tubestock, so hurry in while stocks last



Kangaroo Grass in bloom, photo by Linda Rogan

Some other summer flowering plants that the nursery currently have in stock which can tolerate the dry spots are :

Bursaria spinosa -Sweet Bursaria - Shrub or small tree to 6m. Spreading, prickly shrub. Benefits from pruning. Flowers attract butterflies

Teucrium corymbosum -Forest Germander - Open shrub to 1m. Small shrub with aromatic grey leaves. Good for dry areas. Benefits from pruning

Convolvulus erubescens- Pink Bindweed -Creeping perennial to 2m.

Poa sieberiana var. sieberiana - Grey Tussock-grass - Tufted grass, stems to 80cm. Prefers drier areas.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2011

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& Membership**

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OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS

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Wildlife Rescue **Adriana Simmonds**
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Koala Rescue **Julie Pryor**
9722 1117

Market Trailer **Sybille Ims**
For contact see FOWSP committee

Librarian **Judy Green**
9844 2096

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

JOIN US on the first Thursday of the month from 9 am, TAG workers only—(other volunteers 9.30 am), to 12.30 pm. TAG workers 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

2nd Feb Glynn's Road works with Ranger Cam Beardsall. Wear boots or gaiters due to snake hazards.
14th Feb 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 at 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.

Thursday 23 February 9.30 am Currawong Bush Park and Mullum Mullum Creek Walk
Distance: 6.5km Rating: Moderate

Thursday 22 March 9:30 am Pound Bend Ridge and Yarra River walk
Distance: 3.5kms Rating: Moderate

Walk meeting points will be available at time of booking.

Places are limited and **bookings are essential**: 9840 9124 or eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au.

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

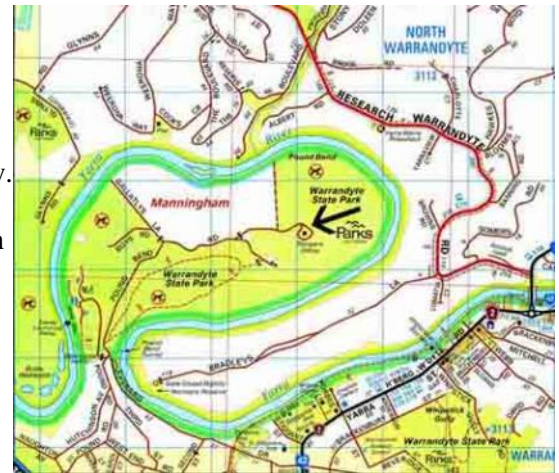
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

Wednesday 7th March - Controlling Indian Mynahs with Julia Gibson and 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*



Nillumbik

Sunday 19 February 10 am – 12 noon **ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY WALK AND TALK** at the Pauline Toner Reserve, Eucalyptus Road, Eltham (Melway 22 C6). Meet at the information shelter. Bring your hat and wear sturdy boots.

Cost: Free

Bookings: Environment and Strategic Planning Administration on 9433 3316



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER



Thanks to those who helped out on 3rd December-

John and Diane Baird, kindly opening the trailer
Marion Thomson and Jan Smidts, Lyn Douch and Sybille Ims,
Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crooks kindly locking up again
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 2012, 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 February 4th, March 4rd.*

Jason keeps us up to the minute

"AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, for some years now, the Committee of Management of FOWSP have been using on-line admin tools, to more efficiently manage the day-to-day operations of our organisation.

Late last year, the nursery laptop experienced some *issues* which resulted in the re-loading of its operating system and software. One database on the laptop, was for nursery plant orders; the software for which was going to cost us over \$600 to replace. So, the decision was made to re-write the orders database and include it in our admin pages. This also means that nursery orders can be checked and amended at any time, not just when the nursery is open and Thursday tasks can be better planned, with the likes of an instantaneous 'To be propagated' list.

With re-writing of the nursery orders database, to a web-based design, it was worthwhile to setup a wireless network at the nursery, using our existing 3G internet connection and a wireless router. This means that multiple (internet) devices can use the one connection, such as the waterproof and portable device seen in the photo below.



Here we see Josh Revell, our nursery manager, proving he is keeping up with technology, by using the new tablet to review a customer's nursery order - __ or was it the red 6 on the 7?"



News from the Committee

Redesign of nursery - Plans for the new building have been approved by Manningham Council. The building will be built on site by students of Holms-glen TAFE after the academic year begins. The building will then be trucked to Warrandyte.

TAGS for 2012 are now being arranged.

Membership packages for new members - It was agreed that a package of information would be given to all new FOWSP members. Sybille Ims has undertaken to compile a suitable package. It was also suggested that members be encouraged to consider giving FOWSP memberships as gifts to family and friends.

Market trailer - Plans are underway to improve the look of the trailer and to provide more information for enquirers.

FOWSP 30th birthday celebrations - Planning has commenced for a celebration to mark 30 years since FOWSP commenced. More information as plans progress.

Members' Survey feedback - Considerable discussion took place about the recommendations made in the survey carried out by Belinda Christie in 2011. Most of the recommendations have now been implemented. See also page 8.

Next Committee Meeting	
Date: 14 February 2012	
Venue:	Ranger Station, Pound Bend
Time:	19:30 pm sharp

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

FOWSP 2011 volunteer survey

By Belinda Christie

IN EARLY 2011 a questionnaire was distributed to FOWSP volunteers (n=25-35) and members (n=184) seeking their opinions on FOWSP volunteer activities and opportunities. Questions were based on three themes: preferred times for volunteering, preferred volunteer activities, and preferred days to volunteer. Completed questionnaires were collected from 45 respondents, or >21.5% of the population of FOWSP members and volunteers: 60% were completed online, 40% completed by hard copy.

Recommendations from the report are currently being implemented. They include:

- trialling weekend volunteer activities,
- making use of a volunteer activity board listing jobs 'to do' at the nursery and
- seeking closer engagement with the Parks Victoria Rangers.

FOWSP wishes to thank all those who were involved in piloting, editing and of course participating in the questionnaire. Your opinions are extremely valuable.



Goodbye to Olive and enjoy your special island.

WE ARE USED TO SAYING GOODBYE to Olive some time in June and welcoming her back around September when she returns with tales of happy times in her travels or just spending time at her holiday home on Coochiemudlo Island, just out from Victoria Point, SE of Brisbane. One Thursday this January she quietly let us know that she has sold up her local home and now will be permanently located on Coochie.

Ben once commented that Olive has been a member as long as he has, "maybe 19 years". A look at a couple of the old FOWSP newsletters that Olive recently donated confirms she had been a member before 1987 and was a committee member in July 1989.

Amongst many other things, Olive has shared snippets with us over the years: In Sept '03 Oxalis was her worst weed in her Victorian garden and even smothering her Bulbine Lilies.

In March 2006 she had photographed a frog sitting on a solar lamp with her new digital camera. (below left)



In May '07 she shared her sightings of Crimson, Star and Long-tailed Finches, Yellow Orioles, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Red-backed Kingfisher, during a rather wet trip through the outback.

Olive has promised to keep in touch so we can look forward to more snippets from Coochiemudlo. Our best wishes go with you.

“I SPY”

By B.G



Botanical Bouquet

Outside the rangers office at the depot there is a native garden planted several years ago by rangers and volunteers.

It has now settled down after the drought and is full of interesting plants—the local *Banksia*, *Xanthorrhoea minor* (about to flower), “Curry” bushes, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, Grass Trigger Plants, *Microleana stipoides*, *Wahlenbergia sp.* and *Hardenbergia sp.* Hanging over it from a nearby Eucalypt is *Amyema pedunculata*, a red flowering mistletoe. (below)



Stall Shifters

Diane and John Baird always do the 8:30 am “shift” on our market stall, opening up and setting up. Ken Crook and Lyndy Gilbert always do the 11:30 am “shift” and then pack up the trailer. Peter Curry always picks up and returns the market trailer.

Electronic eye

A motion detector has been used to record movement by frogs, a bush rat and a buff-banded rail (bird) in Frogland.

From Foster

Bernie Van Lith is a new ranger at WSP working with Warren Murphy (Environmental Team Leader). Bernie originally from Foster, started with the Forestry Commission.

Skills for School

Students from Heatherwood School have been learning to do plant propagation. Annette has been teaching them the basics. Eight students arrived by bus, led by Mark Wray-McCann and Irene Hilton (staff). Present were

Matt T., Stephanie, Kimberley, Eathan, Daniel, Yasha, Matt D. and Ben.

Much Miscellanea

- On the 13th December 2011 the Entomological Society joined some FOWSPians and interested locals for an evening of light trapping insects, mainly moths. See p1.
- Head Ranger Conrad often walks along the tracks in the park looking at our feathered friends.
- Kelly was seen “dunking” a lamington in her morning cup of tea! Probably celebrating her promotion to supervisor of the bush crew at “Indigenous Design”.
- The DSE has a system for identifying hazardous trees that need protection work prior to a fire.

House Homilies “*ABOUT THE HOUSE*” issue 43 December 2011 Published by the Department of the House of Representatives Email news@aph.gov.au

Excerpts below:

“Dodgy leaf matter and live insect pathogens found in apple imports from New Zealand have sparked calls for a review of Australia's quarantine measures.... By 18th August 2011, just a day after the all-clear was given, seven permits had already been issued to New Zealand orchardists. Later that month a live-insect pathogen and potentially fire-blight carrying leaf-matter had already been found in on of the consignments” (Page 6)

“Legislation requiring food manufacturers to state whether palm oil is present in a product has been rejected by a majority report of the House of Representatives Economics Committee (Page8)

“John Edwards from the Clarence Environment Centre agreed the supply problems for the timber industry were mostly self-inflicted and said more should have been done decades ago on growing native hardwood plantations”

Prom Profile

Jan Falconer visited Wilsons Prom early December 2011. Jan says “walks are severely limited.”

“Over the Tidal River Bridge you can go right, but not left. Lilly Pilly track is open as is Mt. Bishop, but there has been a landslide there.”

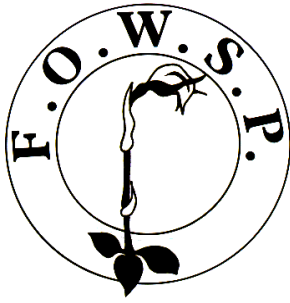
*Note: The situation may have changed over the Christmas period.

Petunia in a Patch

From a distance I SPY saw a bright blue, purple blouse in the midst of some low shrubs. It was volunteer Kate Hammond kneeling in the midst of a cluster of *Indigofera australis* close to the ranger office at WSP—collecting seed for propagation.

Member Mel

Mel Cykner is joining FOWSP. She has a certificate in Horticulture and Landscaping. Mel hopes to come more frequently. She has an ABN, but is currently working for a company in Melton.



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Harlequin Bee *Hylaeus elegans*

Sometimes mistaken for a wasp because of its bright yellow markings, this bee is about 1 cm long and is one of the most attractive of the masked bees. It is one of the solitary nesting bees that lays a single egg in each hole, sometimes using the abandoned tunnels of longicorns beetles. This one was photographed on a Eucalyptus tree near the Yarra River in January.

LR

February 2012 Vol 30 no. 1

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no.

Email

Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$10

Newsletter by email (tick box)

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

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus

More photos from the BBQ and light trapping on 13 Dec



Sciapus sp.
Longlegged fly
Dining on smaller fly
Photo Ken Gosbell



Black Geometrid
Melanodes anthracitaria



Antlion adult from the family Myrmeleontidae photo Ken Gosbell



Hemerobiidae lacewing Photo Joshua Grubb



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