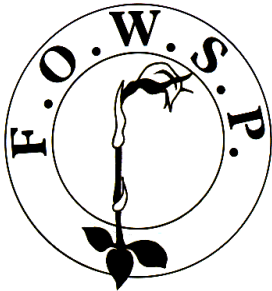


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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



Deadline for February edition newsletter is Friday **January 25, 2013**
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

A Look at FOWSP history



*Expanded notes
from a talk by Val
Polley on the 18th
November 2012*

Setting the scene:
(Some people present would not have been born in 1982)
Australia in 1982
Malcolm Fraser was PM;
John Cain's Labor government came to power after 27 years of Liberal.NP;

'Man from Snowy River' film was released;
South Melbourne became Sydney Swans and Carlton won the flag;

It was the time of the Franklin Dam protests with the blockade led by Bob Brown;
There was a severe drought, one of the worst in Australian history (led to Ash Wednesday fires in 1983);

Commercial whaling ended;
Oh and Ian Thorpe was born.

Warrandyte State Park in 1982 - Initially it was just Pound Bend, Jumping Creek, and Black Flat but by 1981 had taken shape with the addition of parcels such as the Common, Timber Reserve and Fourth Hill. By 1982 lots of work waiting to be done, areas neglected over decades.

An inaugural meeting was held at Getsons – where the Community Centre now stands. It must be remembered that at that time there were not the Friends Groups we are so familiar with today. It was a newish concept.

Ranger Kris Reinertsen was behind the move supported by the Warrandyte Environment League and interested residents. I was there and so was Glen Jameson.

Geoff Durham from Victorian National Parks Association and some Friends of Organ Pipes (FOOPs - the very first friends group) both spoke on the transformation by this group on their weed infested barren parkland. They showed slides of the improvements and raised interest.

The meeting agreed to form Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) with two coordinators (Jeff Osler and Mike Duff) and it set a date for the first

working bee. Two working bees I remember.

Fourth Hill pine trees – the park we know today was very different back then. It was covered with pine trees that had seeded out from the school plantation. The first working bee was to cut and remove the large trees and pull out seedlings where possible. Geoff Durham remembers it well as do I, though I doubt it would be possible under today's Occupational Health and Safety Rules.

Another memorable work day was pulling out rubbish from the Common. For years rubbish was dumped in mines and on public land (*Time Team* would have a wonderful time) so there were car bodies,



building rubbish etc to be dragged out and removed.

At this time arrangements were fairly informal with the next working bee date set at a working bee. After a time attendances declined so Mike Duff called a crisis meeting and FOWSP was reborn.

Glen Jameson and Peter Van Dijk became coordinators and their time was memorable for:

A program set on yearly basis so members knew what was planned and where.

Covering a range of activities from weeding to construction.

Visiting all areas of park so members became familiar with their park..

Socialising at the end of the work with billy tea (Glen could swing a mean billy) and home-made fruit cake.

Starting the newsletter and designing the logo.



Indigidytes –information leaflet by Glen on our indigenous plants. It again must be remembered at that time it was still difficult to buy Australian native plants let alone indigenous ones.

People coming from all over Melbourne – one man even came from Thomastown by pub-

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 2)

lic transport, a feat difficult even by today's system..

Memorable working bees include: clearing the tunnel and air shaft at Geraghty's mine; removing blackberry from the Island near the bridge; annual onion weed pull at Gold Memorial; stabilizing and brushing a bare steep hill climb slope on Fourth Hill; building steps at Gold Memorial.



Participation in the festival with floats, masks and performances. Campaigning to save Stane Brae and add it to the park (partly successful) Holding AGMs at Stane Brae for some years.

Then Glen went on an around Australia tour. Margaret and Ian Burke took over. Under their watch FOWSP assumed a more educative role.

Margaret's people skills grew membership to great heights
 There was a revamped newsletter with Ian's philosophical contributions
 An emphasis on education and information
 The nursery was started at this time.
 Frogland was installed



The Folly was built
 Other friend's groups were started, Stony Creek, The Chase, Professors Hill
 Then in the early 90s The Coupars (Pat and Mike) became coordinators. In their time FOWSP Strengthened and prospered
 The nursery expanded and became a focal activity.



A range of activities & re-vegetation work was undertaken.
 There was an increased range of activities, film evenings, walks and talks
 The market trailer was introduced providing a link into the community
 Books were produced and data collected: *Flora of Warrandyte*, *Discover Warrandyte*. *Flying Colours*, *Green and Gold* and a range of informative leaflets

Over past years FOWSP has continued to prosper under an ever enthusiastic and committed committee. A scan of recent newsletters reveals the breadth and extent of its activities. Listening to the report at today's AGM revealed more exciting plans underway. FOWSP has also moved into the digital age.

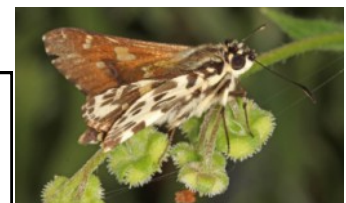
What I've loved to watch is how succeeding committees advance FOWSP in different ways and how it has grown. It is one of the largest and most successful friend's groups. Who would have dreamt at that first meeting that FOWSP would become such a success (we would have taken photos and kept notes!)

I believe it is the park itself which provides the reason for FOWSP's longevity. It has been also been well served by a committed and dedicated staff over the years as well as the support of FOWSP and the community. I consider myself very privileged to have lived in close proximity since its inception.

Thank you to all those Fowspians (and you know who you are) who over the past 30 years have built, weeded, cleared, dug, planted, watered, photographed, written, baked, organised, explored and protected our park. Happy Anniversary.

Val Polley

Spotted Sedge-skipper at the nursery. See back page for information.



FOWSP COMMITTEE 2012

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Linda Rogan 9435 5806
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Kelly Wooster 9844 2819

Artur Muchow 0415 383328

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Gray Ardern 0418 190261

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Sybille Ims 9844 1335 or 0405 500 278 Market trailer
imsbs@netspace.net.au

**Webmaster
& Membership**

Treasurer

Newsletter co-ordinator

**Social media contact;
facebook**

Secretary

OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS

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Park Office 9844 2659

Newsletter assist **Joan Broadberry**
9846 1218

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9722 2908

Koala Rescue **Julie Pryor**
9722 1117

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), 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

Scheduled TAGS activities will resume in February 2013

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars

And

FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Not held in December, watch for the 2013 schedule



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on 3rd November-
Alison Thom and Sybille Ims, kindly opening the trailer
Marion Thomson and Gayl O'Conner, Christine Andell and Tony Oliver
Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook kindly locking up again
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 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 2013 please contact **Sybille Ims 9844 1335/0405 500 278**

imsbs@netspace.net.au

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Future market dates are: Saturday February 2nd, Saturday March 2nd 2013

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.

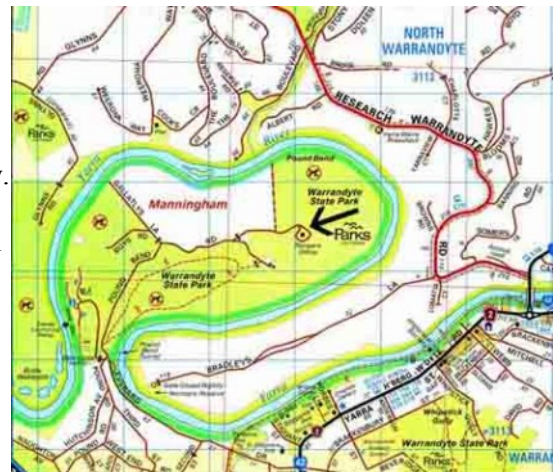
NURSERY OPENING HOURS

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 2012

Members \$1.50 Non-members \$2.00



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The 20th December is last open day this 2012. The nursery will be closed on Thursday Dec 27 and reopens on Thursday January 3rd. It will not be open on the first weekend of January.

The Year in Review (from AGM)

by Gray Ardern

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday 8th January 2013
Venue:	Ranger Station, Pound Bend
Time:	19:30 pm sharp

Well, it's been another great year for FOWSP.

Our biggest project this year has been our new building - our Education Centre.

Let me tell you how it came to be built:

It all started back in 2008 when we received a letter from long-time member Ray Clarke suggesting a re-vamp of the Nursery. Then the architect Diana Crawford offered her services *pro bono*. Diana cast a critical eye around the Nursery and came up with a plan for its redevelopment. The redevelopment was needed because we now have so many members in the same old space. On Thursdays we are all squeezed in between plant-growing areas and the store-room. The store-room is bulging with tools, office equipment and seeds. It is far too small, and it is trying to do too many different things - *and* it is in the wrong place.

Fortunately Parks Victoria gave us a small building, and that is going to be our new shed. That took care of one of our needs, but at present our Nursery Manager has no office. Josh has to share part of a bench in a busy (and windy) passage-way in the Nursery - and poor Belinda has to perch amongst the propagators with the lap-top! It was obvious that a more suitable space is needed; and at the same time we also need somewhere to house our Education Programme.



That 'somewhere' is our multi-purpose Education Centre. The frame is up, the roof and guttering are on, and you can see a snap of it on the left. No you can not see it on site yet, because it is being built at Holmsglen TAFE - but all being well, you will see it here in the New Year.

The apprentices at Holmsglen built the Rangers' Office, and as you can see they made a beautiful job of it; so we felt that that was a good recommendation.

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

(Continued from page 6)

We compared their quote with a couple of local builders', and this proved that having Holmsglen TAFE do the job was not only socially useful, but competitive in price. We'll need to paint the building ourselves - we'll let you know when, so that you can wield a brush or roller if you wish.

As for furnishing the building - we were fortunate in getting a grant from the Commonwealth for basic furnishing.

So that is our big project - but there were others:

- We completed the Boys Rd planting - the Boys Rd site is adjacent to Pound Bend Reserve, so do have a look - it is looking fantastic at the moment - the little seedling wattles we put in are now tall saplings covered in blossom. And don't be shy about pulling a few weeds. As with all our plantings it is a matter of 'follow up, follow up and follow up'.
- The Lower Orchard Track Planting is coming along well, too, in spite of the attentions of the kangaroos. Once again we had enthusiastic assistance from the ANZ Bank - all of 60 volunteers



from the ANZ turned up one morning recently!

- We also had volunteers from the Swinburne University Exchange Programme - they came and worked on 3 days - and from Bushcare.
- We do thank those organisations and their volunteers - they got such a lot done!
- You all know about our TAGs - or Thursday Activity Groups: we go out to work in the Park, usually with Ranger support. Well this year we have added WAGs to the TAGs. WAGs are Weekend Activity Groups. These came out of the survey that Belinda designed. The survey showed that many members wanted to be able to do good works in the Park on weekends - so Kelly organised and ran the WAGs, and successfully applied for a grant from City of Manningham to help defray our costs. Thank you Manningham, for this;

and for a lot of other assistance during the year.

We also thank Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria for valuable cash grants for these projects. Help from Parks Victoria hasn't been limited to grants: we also thank Parks Victoria - and Conrad, our Ranger-in-Charge - for allowing us to play a small part in making Warrandyte State Park the wonderful asset that it is. We thank him and his hard-working staff for all the help and support we have had this year.

We also thank Jason for installing the new Nursery irrigation system and the web-based Nursery Orders System.

Thank you Lyndy for making delicious morning-teas for our Thursday volunteers, week after week - and thanks Ken for delivering them.

Thanks Sybille for baking amazing cakes for Volunteers' birthdays too!

Thank you Peter Curry for continuing to tow our trailer to-and-fro every Warrandyte Market day.

A final thank you, and a very heartfelt one it is too - to Josh, our Nursery Manager, and his staff. It is no exaggeration to say that without Josh FOWSP would be much the poorer, in every sense. Josh's knowledge, energy and skill result in the production of a very large number of indigenous plants. These plants are propagated mainly for planting-out in the Park, but some of them are exchanged for donations. It is these donations that give FOWSP a degree of financial independence. And it is this financial independence that enables us to take on major projects such as the Education Centre.

I know that I have neglected to give all the thanks that are due, but please forgive, and be assured that we really are grateful for all the help we have received this year. We couldn't have had such a productive year without every single one of your contributions.

Thank you one and all!

You may have noticed Jeremy Loftis-Hills videoing the proceedings at the 30th Celebration. He states, "I am recording material for a short report on WEL/FOWSP. If you have picture or illustrative stories on these organisations, please contact Jeremy so he can fill out the program, via this email address.
jeremy@netspace.net.au



Friends of Warrandyte State Park: Still Growing Strong

First of all a big thank you to the five members of the 30th Anniversary planning committee: Jan, Sybille, Lyndy (beautiful cake and so much more), Jason and Gray have been working for months on this occasion. And thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of this celebration.

It was wonderful to meet some of the founders, only names to me before. Thanks to all of them for the determination that kept FOWSP going through the rocky early years. Like the sturdy poles in the nursery, they have given us a wonderful foundation to build upon.

And grow we have. In 1982, the 7 founders produced around 5,000 indigenous plants in the first year of FOWSP under primitive conditions. Now, the growing band of enthusiastic volunteers, work under shelter in an irrigated nursery. In 2012, the nursery provided employment for 4 part time staff and together with 20-30 volunteers grew an average of 60,000 plants. These dedicated volunteers arrive in all weather (except total fire ban days) and whether they propagate plants, weed and maintain the area at the nursery or revegetate in outlying areas of the park, these volunteers are the heart of FOWSP. They are a wonderfully talented and diverse group, each contributing in their own way and providing mutual friendship and support to each other and to the rangers of WSP.

FOWSP looking to the future.

We look forward to the arrival of the new multipurpose education centre in 2013; ongoing and increasing support for the weekend activities; continued support for Thursday activities, and a renewing flow of young volunteers sometimes responding to our presence on Facebook.

We will need all these and more to meet the challenges of supporting the rangers in maintaining and increasing the biodiversity and natural wonders of our park area in the challenging years ahead. The strong base handed down by our predecessors and the enthusiasm and skills so readily contributed by our members give me great confidence that the challenges will be met in a positive way.

I was delighted to have been given the task of delivering the last words of the day, leading up to the ceremonial cake cutting. As newsletter editor for 5 years and member for 8, I felt a neophyte at this gathering. FOWSP and FOWSPians mean a great deal to me, so my thank you to all is personal.

I was delighted that Margaret (Burke) Armstrong, one of our founders could cut the cake. (photo page one).

Our founders were presented two crystal glasses engraved with the FOWSP logo and the years 1982-2012 to show our heartfelt gratitude for all their hard work getting the Friends group up and running.

Presented were:

Val Polley
Glen Jamieson
Tim Ferguson
Margaret Burke
Doug Seymour



Also presented were:

Geoff Durham from the VNPA who gave valuable advice on how to set up the Friends group;

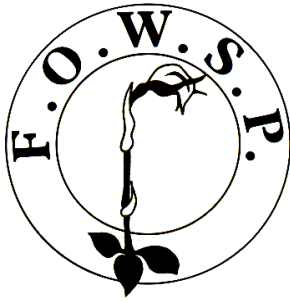
and special guests Pat and Mike Coupar who have come all the way from Mallacoota to be here today. Together with David van Bockel they have produced a publication Flora of Warrandyte, which is extremely valuable classification of the plants to be found in the Warrandyte State Park and innumerable other contributions

Linda

PS thanks to all whose photos contributed to this issue..

Tim Ferguson (left)
Geoff Durham and Val Polley admire the stick insects. (below)
Margaret Burke Armstrong (below right)





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Spotted Sedge-skipper *Hesperilla ornata*
This lovely skipper is striking with its black and cream underwings. Wing upperside is the orange, yellow and brown we are more accustomed to. Braby lists it as generally uncommon and local and I believe it is present at the nursery this spring because of the sedges we are growing and planting including the *Carex fascicularis* that had been uncommon in the Warrandyte area but is now plentiful in Frogland.

December 2012/January 2013 Volume 30 Number 10

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

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