

# Newsletter

Website: [www.fowsp.org.au](http://www.fowsp.org.au)

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc., A0024890C  
PO Box 220, Warrandyte, VIC, 3113. ABN 94 170 156 655

The two pictures (below) were taken at recently at Mt Lofty; the top showing a recent planting by Greening Australia; the lower picture, recent earthworks by the brothers Vombatus. Perhaps a fire refuge shelter? We do hope they consulted the appropriate regulatory authority!



FOWSP Newsletter production team this month were: Jason Patton, Linda Rogan, Mel Coupar (Line drawings). Thanks to all the many contributors!

## Editor's Corner ~ Hi all, and welcome to

my first Newsletter! First-off, my apologies regarding the slight lateness of this edition – we know how we all look forward to our 'rag'. Thank you to Linda for the initial layout work for this edition, though, sadly for me, the data Gods have conspired against me in this instance, hence the delay in publication... We hope you enjoy this edition nonetheless!

Coming up in this edition:

- Josh still conducting interviews for Belinda's replacement (see above),
- Joan B gets busy with the birds and the bees.,
- What's on down at the Nursery, and 'round the district, including the Koala Count, Fourth Hill, Annual Volunteer Lunch, A Rabbit Management Program, and the Manningham Walks and Environmental Seminars.,
- News from the Committee and Rangers.,
- In the Nursery, from Cathy.,
- Eye Spy, from Ben.,
- Something different, a flashback 20 years, with the cover of the November 1993 newsletter.

## Win-win-win - Joan Broadberry

I wrote a piece about Little Wattlebirds in my daughter's garden in Preston earlier this year. Over the last few weeks we have had the pleasure of seeing a Red Wattlebird chick being reared in our own Templestowe garden. To



my ears the repetitive peep of the begging fledgling is a welcome, somehow comforting sound. Every day I have been able to go about my chores with this soothing mantra in the background. I have also had the delight of teaching my little grand-daughter to recognise a baby bird's pleading call.

The adult birds have been in almost constant motion. They seem to fly busily past the windows every few minutes. In fact, as I sit at the computer in the study writing this, adult Wattlebirds have flown up and down the yard at least a dozen times. During the recent, very strong winds it has been extraordinary to watch the young bird's tenacity at hanging onto a wildly swaying branch. It has often been perched quite low, sometimes even at head height. In the morning when I go down our steep driveway to fetch the newspaper, the sun has been at just the right angle, and I have been able to close in quietly and take photos.

I might add that if we had an outside cat, it would not have been possible for this chick to have been reared successfully. Again I refer back to a previous article two or three years ago when I wrote about how I have, (at last), come to the point of responsible cat ownership. We have a much loved, contented cat. But she is an inside moggy with an outside enclosure. The birds are now able to raise their young and we can enjoy the company of both the cat and the birds. A win-win-win for us all!!!

## Joan's first native bee photo

This photo of a native bee was taken at Hattah-Kulkyne National Park in northern Victoria. The nearest town is Ouyen. At the end of September I was camping in the Park, on the Murray River with the Fauna Survey Group of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. We were very busy surveying native animals, reptiles and birds using a variety of techniques, but I managed to get away for a short walk one afternoon. I was delighted to come across a patch of one of my all time favourite flowers, the Poached Egg Daisy ( *Myriocephalus stuartii* ) growing on a sandhill. I noticed a native bee on one of the flowers and, inspired by Linda Rogan, carefully manoeuvred myself into a position to photograph it. My camera is quite ordinary so it was very pleasing to get a credible result. I am hoping that Linda can add some more information.



I hope to be able to write more about the work the FSG are doing and the wonderful experiences we had in Hattah-Kulkyne when I have more time.

*This bee appears to be one of the *Lasioglossum* species of bees. Linda*



# What's On...

## TAGS (Thursday Activity Groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9:15 am for a 9:30 am departure. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle. Contact number: 0408 317 327

### Difficulty Ratings

- Easy: Even terrain, some light lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Few tripping hazards.
- Moderate: Uneven terrain, light to heavy lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Tripping hazards present.
- Difficult: Steep terrain, light to heavy lifting, working in over-grown areas and lots of bending. Many tripping hazards and slippery surfaces present.

Check the website for any changes at our website: [fowsp.org.au](http://fowsp.org.au) and click on "Activities".

[TAGS will be cancelled on days of extreme weather.](#)

- **Koala Count.** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 at 9:15am.  
Grade: Easy. Come along and assist us with our annual Koala Count and see how many we can spot (if any...the numbers have been down) but the more eyes, the better.
- **Woody Weeding.** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 at 9:15am.  
Grade: Difficult - Creek crossings, steep hill. Working alongside Parks Victoria and ACCA on the meandering Andersons Creek, assisting to control woody weeds; different vegetation to be seen here on the south facing aspect of Fourth Hill.
- **Volunteer Lunch.** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 at 12 midday.  
Grade: Moderate – Some cooking of sausages and Veggie burgers may be required. Eating alongside Parks Victoria Rangers, and the occasional Project Fire Fighter. This is the annual FOWSP "Thank you to all Volunteers" BBQ lunch, to well, you know, thank you all for your volunteering efforts throughout the year. You all make our Group a fine example of what can be achieved by a bunch of dedicated individuals. Food and drink provided by FOWSP – any special dietary requirements to Nursery Staff.

## Rabbit Control



Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Rabbit Control Field Day  
*Presented by Banyule and Nillumbik Councils*  
Are rabbits a problem on your property?



This practical and informative workshop will provide landowners with the tools to develop an effective rabbit control program. Learn about: rabbit behaviour; lifecycle and impact; identify options for control and how to plan an integrated control program and see practical demonstrations of control methods in the beautiful context of Amberley by the Yarra River. **Cost:** Free. **Where:** Edmund Rice Centre, 'Amberley', 7 Amberley Way, Lower Plenty (Melway ref. 21 C12) **Bookings:** Call 9457 9816

## Manningham / FOWSP Walks

Leader Cathy Willis



Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. Walks will be paced to appreciate nature.

*Meeting place will be given at the time of booking.*



**Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am. Pound Bend - which tree is that?** There are 12 species of eucalypt growing in Manningham, often collectively referred to as 'gum trees'. So how can we tell them apart? We will see nine of the most common species in this short walk and learn the shortcuts to identifying them.

**Distance:** 2 km. **Time:** 2 hrs **Rating:** Moderate.

**NOTE: No December Walk.**

**Booking:** 9840 9124: [eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au) **Book early - places are limited.**

# 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 pm. 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, 9 am to 1 pm (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 days of extreme weather.**

**Tube Stock Prices (2013):** Members \$1.50, Non-members \$2.00



**Sadly, due to increased costs, price for FOWSP plants will be:  
\$2.50 tube; (\$2.00 for members), from 1<sup>st</sup>, January, 2014 .**

The 2013 Manningham Environmental Seminars  
are held on the first Wednesday of the month.



Many of the seminars will be complemented with field sessions to facilitate broader education on the topics.  
No bookings are required for the evening talks; however, the field sessions must be booked and can only be booked at the seminar.

Seminars start at 7:30 pm in the Chandelier Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte.  
For further information, phone Lyn Meredith 9840 9326.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November:** Identification of Indigenous and Introduced Grasses, presented by Environmental scientist, Dr Graeme Lorimer. Dr Lorimer returns to show you how to identify the wild species that are most commonly encountered locally, with a focus on the ones that are most important in a positive or negative way. This seminar will show you how to recognise important species such as kangaroo grass, wallaby grasses, spear grasses, sweet vernal grass and veldt grasses. It will also explain the important properties of a range of species, both indigenous and introduced. You'll get much more out of this seminar if you also book to attend either of the field trips listed below - bookings are essential

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 9:30 am to 12:30 pm:** FIELD TRIP: Grass identification at The 100 Acres with Dr Graeme Lorimer. Combine either of these identical walks with Dr Lorimer's seminar earlier in the week. He will use wild plants to show you how to recognise dozens of indigenous and introduced grasses as well as a few examples of rushes and sedges. He will also explain their various ecological roles and implications for bushland management. A lot of close inspection is involved and it will help if you take a 10× magnifier. The walk will be a few hundred metres through The 100 Acres in Park Orchards and take three hours, including morning tea (BYO).

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** Moths *presented by Peter Marriott*. There are more than 1000 moth species in Manningham and they form a central part of ecosystems in the area. Beautiful? Yes! Secretive? Yes! Pestiferous? Yes! Fascinating? Absolutely! Each species has its own niche and unique lifestyle and supports birds, bats and other small mammals, various wasps, flies and other insect parasites. Most have their own special plant species but there is much to learn by the careful observer - right in your own garden.

Peter Marriott is the author of the Moths of Victoria series and travels widely in the state investigating the moth fauna.

## FOWSP COMMITTEE 2013

Artur Muchow (Secretary) 0415 383 328  
Lynda Gilbert (Treasurer) 9844 0106  
Linda Rogan (Newsletter editor) 9435 5806  
lindarogan@netspace.net.au  
Kelly Wooster (Social media contact) 9844 2819  
Jan Falconer 9844 1226  
Cathy Willis 0418 142 297  
Gray Ardern 0418 190 261  
Caitriona Young 9844 2842  
Sybille Ims (Market trailer) 9844 1335  
or 0405 500 278 imsb@netspace.net.au

## The AGM is coming!!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, this year's FOWSP AGM will be on 6 pm, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November, at The Folly.

There are currently two vacancies on the Committee of Management – please contact Jason on 0402 121 838, or jason@parau.com, should you wish to nominate for any committee position. Please include the name of a referee – they must be a current FOWSP member.

A new Constitution will be voted in – this is due to governance changes in the amended Incorporations Act.

Following the AGM, will be a BYO BBQ and a spotlight walk.

## News from the Rangers

- Fire Operation Plan 2013/14 – as always, flexible depending on conditions. Included in this plan are: Scotchman's Hill; Tunnel St.; and Tank Track.
- Warrandyte Workcentre crews have been assisting other agencies outside the Park, particularly cleaning up storm damage.

Grateful thanks to Jason for putting this newsletter together while Joan is off pursuing birds on the Ashmore Reef and Linda is pursuing bees near Alice Springs. **Linda**

## OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS

Nursery Manager - Josh Revell  
Nursery Phone 0408 317 327  
nursery@fowsp.org.au  
State Park Office 9844 2659  
Newsletter assist - Joan Broadberry 9846 1218  
Wildlife Rescue – Adriana Simmonds 9722 2908  
Koala Rescue – Julie Pryor 9722 1117  
Librarian - Judy Green 9844 2096  
Webmaster & Membership – Jason Patton  
0402 121 838 membership@fowsp.org.au

Website: fowsp.org.au



## News from the Committee

- Grant received for water tanks. This is for two 3.3kl water tanks. One for spare nursery water, and will be fed from the new shed. The other is for 'potable' (drinking) water when the new 'Resource Centre' building turns up. These should arrive on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.
- Shire of Nillumbik have re-printed their "Nillumbik's Native Fauna" and "Common Weeds of Nillumbik" booklets. They are now available at the nursery.
- Frog posters are in the process of being re-printed.
- Education Resource Centre building transport is still being organised...
- The Nursery was extremely busy over the October sales weekend.



***The large print: The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP.***

## FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Many thanks to those who helped out on the October market:

Diane and John Baird, Marion Thomson, Kelvin Watkins, Christine Andell, Marie Krause, Louise Clear and Sybille Ims. Trailer by 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, Warrandyte. Volunteers are rostered in pairs to represent FOWSP on the information trailer for just one hour. If you are interested in being on the market roster for the future, contact **Sybille Ims 9844 1335 / 0405 500 278** or e-mail: imsb@netspace.net.au *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

**Future market dates are: 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014**

## In the nursery this month

September rainfall was about 25% above average, and as I write, nearly into mid October, showers are forecast for the next week. So, you still have time to do some planting! The nursery has a great range of species, ripe for planting in November; here are some examples...



*Olearia lirata*

**Knob Sedge** (*Carex inversa*) is a small tufted sedge, one of the few that grows away from water, although it does need a bit of moisture over summer. It has bright green grassy leaves and interesting knobbly greenish flowers. In really wet areas, it will run and form dense 'grassy' patches. According to an IFFA (Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association) newsletter, it is a host plant for the caterpillars of the "...tiny glittering Sedge Moths *Glyphipterix* sp. These emerge in spring, flying in shafts of sunlight early in the morning and in the evening when the humidity is high." Who wouldn't want that?

**Snowy Daisy Bush** (*Olearia lirata*) is one of my all time favourites. A very pretty small to medium shrub with soft grey green leaves (pale underneath) and massed white daisy flowers in spring. It occurs along the creek and river banks, but I've found it to be reasonably hardy in a drier garden situation. It is quite happy in a shady spot. Plant in groups or drifts and regularly tip prune for a light screen. I know from collecting the seed in summer that it is well used by a large range of insects. I've also read it's resistant to Cinnamon Fungus.



Another favorite is the uninspiringly named **Grey Everlasting** (*Ozothamnus obcordatus*). This one thrives in dry conditions. A petite little shrub 1m-1.5m, it has small, shiny dark green leaves and brilliant yellow clusters of tiny flowers that remain on the plant from late spring right through summer. Very showy when mass planted, or as a feature in a rockery. Light pruning in autumn encourages bushier growth. It attracts and is pollinated by butterflies, who have the long probing mouthparts to reach into the narrow tubular flowers. Daisy pollen is spiky and sticky, and probably adheres to their legs as well – aiding pollination success. It is also one of many Australian plants referred to as Native Thyme for the aromatic foliage. It is expensive to buy on-line; buy a tube from the nursery instead and plant in your herb garden to attract pollinators.



*Ozothamnus obcordatus*



## In the nursery this month - cont...

**Prickly Moses** (*Acacia verticillata*) is a reliable medium shrub in all but dry, exposed situations, occurring naturally on lower slopes as well as protected upper slopes, where it is smaller and lighter green. In deep soils, it will reach about 4m x 3m. It has fine whorled, softly prickly foliage and a dense arching habit which provides textural interest as well as perfect habitat for a range of small birds. Short yellow cylindrical flower spikes from winter to spring.



*Acacia verticillata* (habit)



*Acacia verticillata*

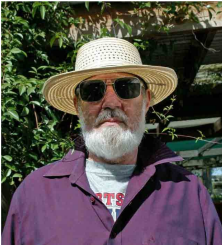
We only have one species of Bottlebrush in the Melbourne area, the **River Bottlebrush** (*Callistemon sieberi*). Like the Snowy Daisy Bush, it is restricted to the creeks and river, but again, once well established, does well in many garden situations. In the wild, it can be a dense large shrub to small tree; in your garden probably no more than 4m and more open. The leaves are dark green but new growth is soft and silvery. Flowers are pale pink to cream, from late spring to autumn. They are irresistible to nectar feeding birds and insects. Makes a good screen in a damp spot. Prune branches just below the flowers at the end of the season.

*Cathy Willis.*



Our thanks to Frank Pierce for pointing out that the hopper, figure 3 on page 2 in the October Newsletter, looks very like Tri-horned Treehopper - *Acanthuchus trispinifer*.





## “I SPY” and photograph

By B.G.

**Early September**, Jan Falconer (looking very neat with her latest hairdo) returned from three weeks in the Simpson Desert, “With a tag-a-long group from Queensland”. Saw very few birds, not much wildlife seen – a dingo, feral cats, camels and a lizard.

**Future for Frogs** - Daniel, 7yo from Richmond was at the nursery with grandfather Fred Rich because Daniel's frog pond was choked with weed plants which had 'matted'. Yes, he's had frogs in the pond and wants new plants for it.

*Here's a Story About 'Minnie' the Mulcher; She is a big green flora pulper; She rides the toughest trails; Minnie has an intake to make short work of snails... A vehicle visitor to the Depot recently was a 'Bandit'. This mulcher is shared with other PV depots in this region.*



**Luke Perry** collected about 180 plants to be used in various riparian locations in St. Andrews.

**Kylie Froud** was looking for stylidium graminifolium (grass trigger plant). Kylie studied at Deakin and completed a 'Psychology and Disability' qualification. She has taught basic horticulture to groups from Eastern Access Community Health (EACH).

**Alison Fisher** collected a batch of plants and wants them “to attract native wildlife, birds animals and butterflies.”

**Howard and Howrd** – Vaughan Howard has just completed his Master of Architecture at RMIT. He's



just completed his thesis on a social housing project near Merri Creek.

Helping was Eugene Howard, buying plants to revegetate for Melbourne Water and 'other people'. Eugene has 'done' Fine Arts at RMIT (Hey, I don't write this stuff! Ed.), and 'majored' in drawing (painting) landscapes.

**Cheerful Children** – Ruby Green and Marcus Green were helping 'Grandma Judy' in the Nursery in early October. Alana was helping 'Grandma Linda' potting up plants 'for my mum'. All were wearing intense blue gloves.



**Brooks to Rivers** – Shane Brooks, an aquatic ecologist, was at the Nursery to acquire “a lot of tubestock for use after blackberry eradication”. Shane studied and completed a thesis on the ecological impact of the Ledergerg Gorge River. He said that “Australian rivers are very resistant to damage.”

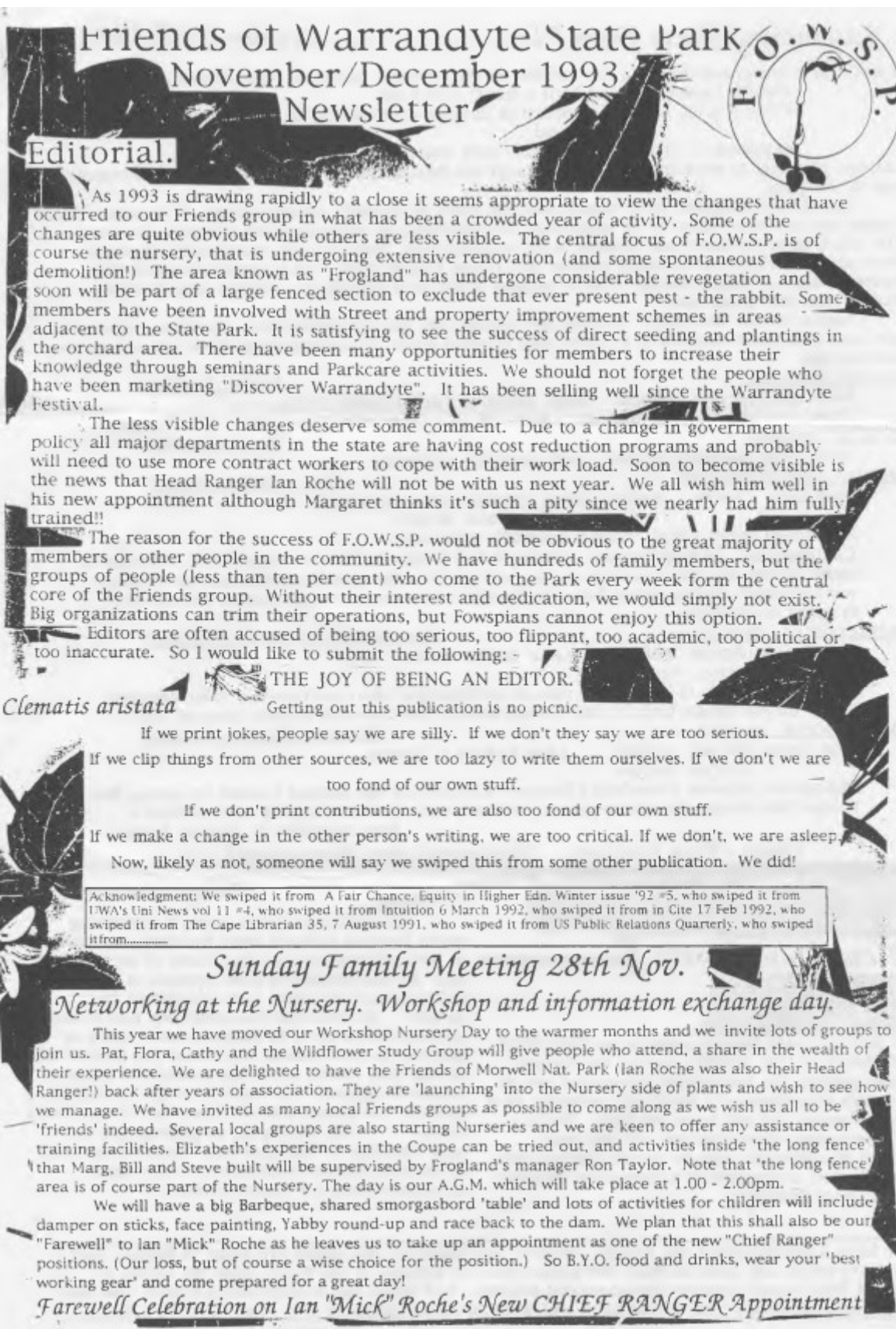
**Ground Cover** – According to Jason: “If we put down an appropriate mineral ground cover (gravel), a building may eventuate on it.”. Members may have noticed the 10m x 10m flat gravel area next to the small hot house and nursery area potting shelter that has suddenly appeared. Is it a square; a courtyard; a piazza; or forecourt? No! It is the appointed place for the long awaited FOWSP Education Resource Centre (FERC). (Hmm, that acronym might need some work! “Has anyone seen Josh?”, “Why, yes, he's in the...never mind, he's in that building”. Yep, definitely an agenda item for the next Committee meeting! Ed.)





# Flashback

The way we were, November 1993... For more archive FOWSP newsletters, go to our website, [fowsp.org.au](http://fowsp.org.au) and click on "Publications", "FOWSP Newsletters" then select the year.



## Friends of Warrandyte State Park November/December 1993 Newsletter

**Editorial.**

As 1993 is drawing rapidly to a close it seems appropriate to view the changes that have occurred to our Friends group in what has been a crowded year of activity. Some of the changes are quite obvious while others are less visible. The central focus of F.O.W.S.P. is of course the nursery, that is undergoing extensive renovation (and some spontaneous demolition!) The area known as "Frogland" has undergone considerable revegetation and soon will be part of a large fenced section to exclude that ever present pest - the rabbit. Some members have been involved with Street and property improvement schemes in areas adjacent to the State Park. It is satisfying to see the success of direct seeding and plantings in the orchard area. There have been many opportunities for members to increase their knowledge through seminars and Parkcare activities. We should not forget the people who have been marketing "Discover Warrandyte". It has been selling well since the Warrandyte Festival.

The less visible changes deserve some comment. Due to a change in government policy all major departments in the state are having cost reduction programs and probably will need to use more contract workers to cope with their work load. Soon to become visible is the news that Head Ranger Ian Roche will not be with us next year. We all wish him well in his new appointment although Margaret thinks it's such a pity since we nearly had him fully trained!!

The reason for the success of F.O.W.S.P. would not be obvious to the great majority of members or other people in the community. We have hundreds of family members, but the groups of people (less than ten per cent) who come to the Park every week form the central core of the Friends group. Without their interest and dedication, we would simply not exist. Big organizations can trim their operations, but Fowspians cannot enjoy this option.

Editors are often accused of being too serious, too flippant, too academic, too political or too inaccurate. So I would like to submit the following: -

**THE JOY OF BEING AN EDITOR.**

*Clematis aristata* Getting out this publication is no picnic.

If we print jokes, people say we are silly. If we don't they say we are too serious.

If we clip things from other sources, we are too lazy to write them ourselves. If we don't we are too fond of our own stuff.

If we don't print contributions, we are also too fond of our own stuff.

If we make a change in the other person's writing, we are too critical. If we don't, we are asleep.

Now, likely as not, someone will say we swiped this from some other publication. We did!

Acknowledgment: We swiped it from A Fair Chance, Equity in Higher Edn. Winter issue '92 #5, who swiped it from LWA's Uni News vol 11 #4, who swiped it from Intuition 6 March 1992, who swiped it from in Cite 17 Feb 1992, who swiped it from The Cape Librarian 35, 7 August 1991, who swiped it from US Public Relations Quarterly, who swiped it from.....

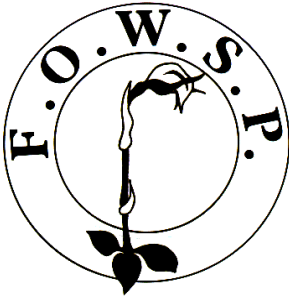
### Sunday Family Meeting 28th Nov.

*Networking at the Nursery. Workshop and information exchange day.*

This year we have moved our Workshop Nursery Day to the warmer months and we invite lots of groups to join us. Pat, Flora, Cathy and the Wildflower Study Group will give people who attend, a share in the wealth of their experience. We are delighted to have the Friends of Morwell Nat. Park (Ian Roche was also their Head Ranger!) back after years of association. They are 'launching' into the Nursery side of plants and wish to see how we manage. We have invited as many local Friends groups as possible to come along as we wish us all to be 'friends' indeed. Several local groups are also starting Nurseries and we are keen to offer any assistance or training facilities. Elizabeth's experiences in the Coupe can be tried out, and activities inside 'the long fence' that Marg, Bill and Steve built will be supervised by Frogland's manager Ron Taylor. Note that 'the long fence' area is of course part of the Nursery. The day is our A.G.M. which will take place at 1.00 - 2.00pm.

We will have a big Barbeque, shared smorgasbord 'table' and lots of activities for children will include damper on sticks, face painting, Yabby round-up and race back to the dam. We plan that this shall also be our "Farewell" to Ian "Mick" Roche as he leaves us to take up an appointment as one of the new "Chief Ranger" positions. (Our loss, but of course a wise choice for the position.) So B.Y.O. food and drinks, wear your 'best working gear' and come prepared for a great day!

*Farewell Celebration on Ian "Mick" Roche's New CHIEF RANGER Appointment*



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***Tetratheca ciliata* Pink Bells**

This low shrub provides scattered colour in spring in Fourth Hill, Jumping Creek and Pound Bend areas. It is likely that the four stamens that usually have no pollen on the outside but do have a circular hole at the top, require buzz pollination such as that provided by some native bees. The hairy leaf margins account for the species name of "ciliata".

**November 2013 Vol.31 no. 9**

**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, VIC, 3113 or renew on the website [www.fowsp.org.au](http://www.fowsp.org.au) with the option of direct deposit payment.

This newsletter should have been printed on recycled paper!

**Email photo bonus page.**



*Spring, in the Mt Lofty area of WSP.*

*Have you noticed that most of the cold days in September fell on a Thursday?? Belinda sure has!*



*From the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary in Kuranda, the latest fashion in railway PPE – eyes in the back of your head.*

Untitled pictures on this page were taken at the old Heatherlie Township site, Grampians National Park, Victoria.

