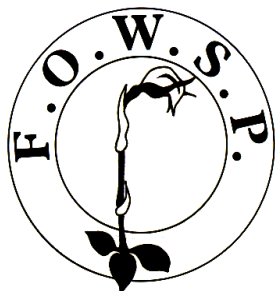


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

AT THE NURSERY in March it has been all about preparing plants for the Warrandyte Festival weekend. Early in the month pricking out of plants was the priority. The week before, it was preparing plants for sale with individual tags for each tube, tidying up the trailer and the nursery.

As I write the Festival has just finished and we have an early photo and report back on page 4. We may have more detail in the May bulletin.

Thanks to all for a tremendous effort.

One of our volunteers, Joy Hicks lets us know what its like participating in the Melbourne Megabat Count p. 2.



Our staff are resourceful photo below by Cathy W. Our volunteers are dedicated and cheerful photo above L Rogan



Gray tells us how Bernice Dowling lent a hand at a recent Boys Rd TAG on p. 3.

Cathy gives us news from the recent committee meeting on page 7.

We hear from FOWSPians close and far away on p. 8.

See how we are attacking the Frogland Boardwalk Dilemma on p.9.

There is a lot going on at FOWSP and the nursery. Whatever your skills, there is always plenty to do.

The newsletter is a good way to let FOWSPians know about your conservation activities and passions so keep us posted. *Linda*

Deadline for May 2014 edition newsletter is

Friday April 25th 2014

contributions can be emailed to Linda.Rogan@fowsp.org.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Grey headed flying foxes by Joy Hick



Taking part in the monthly count of Melbourne's bats, or more correctly, Grey-headed Flying-foxes, is indeed a highlight.

Near dusk, in the golf club car park, a loyal band of 'counters' assemble for the allocation of count sites. The aim is to have several people counting at each site then an average count is calculated.

Numbers vary each month and sadly many dependant juveniles were lost during the recent spell of hot weather. In February the count total was 35,000.

The bat count is part of a research project being undertaken by Melbourne University.

Anyone is welcome to join in the count and even if you can only manage a few times each year your assistance in the project would be welcomed.

Next bat count is April 9th.

For more information see megabatcount.wordpress.com.

Photos above and below from the Melbourne Megabat Count website.



Flying Foxes Dying across Australia

Lyndy Gilbert also noted a story about flying foxes dying in the extreme January heat this year in an online newspaper *The Conversation*.

The article said at least 45,500 flying foxes (were) dead on just one extremely hot day in southeast Queensland. All three species – Black, Grey-headed, and Little Red Flying-foxes – were affected, but the tropical Black Flying foxes accounted for 96% of the dead.

Heat related deaths of the Grey-headed Flying-fox were also noted in the Melbourne area.

For more of this story see:

<http://theconversation.com/killer-climate-tens-of-thousands-of-flying-foxes-dead-in-a-day-23227>



Heat relief: On hot days, flying foxes - like this Grey-headed Flying-fox, dip their bellies into water to cool down. Photo Nick Edards, [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

BERNICE AT BOYS RD TAG BY GRAY ARDERN

FOR THE FIRST March TAG we had the pleasure of the company [and hard work] of Bernice Dowling who is the Parks Victoria co-ordinator for all 80+ Friends Groups, state-wide.

Bernice had intended to leave us at morning tea time, but having got her teeth into the task of tree-guard removal, she stayed on for the whole TAG - in spite of having been stung by jumping-jacks!

We were proud to be able to share the absolutely delicious [and abundant!] morning tea that Lyndy provided.

We not only gathered up hundreds of tree-guards, but cut and dabbed quite a lot of woody weeds - *Acacia prominens*, *A. longifolia*, and even a cheeky Italian Buckthorn. More easily dealt with were some *Polygala myrtifolia* [lets hope the last, after so many follow-ups!] and a few Coto-neasters.

Happily there was no evidence of any *Vinca major*, [Blue Periwinkle] so after perhaps seven follow-up blitzes we may have got rid of the damned thing from this site, at least!

In spite of the dryness and browsing by kangaroos, the planting is now a successful mix of species, with a good range of plants of varying heights. As our plants grow, their shade and their uptake of water and nutrients will make it increasingly difficult for the weeds to re-establish - at least, that is what we trust will take place!

Nevertheless, the key to successful bush regeneration is summed up in six words: Follow up! Follow up! Follow up!



Bernice, hard at work with Lauren and Gray. (above)

Lyn, Carolyn and Lauren with some of the loads of tree guards gathered up at Boys Rd site.

Photos provided by Bernice Dowling but we are not sure who shot the photo above.



Stop Press - **Report from the Festival** by Lyndy Gilbert

You will be pleased to know that a total of \$2376 was raised at the Festival from the trailer and the nursery over 2 days.

The breakdown is as follows:

Trailer: \$1015. This included 2 membership renewals \$30; sales of raffle tickets \$22; plus a donation of \$10. Nursery: \$1361 including two online payments of \$300. What a great result! This money will be very helpful in reducing the gap between our income and our cost of producing and maintaining the plants.

There were more sales at the trailer than in previous years due to the professional presentation. Each plant was individually labelled stating provenance; pictures and text; and the enthusiasm of all our volunteers, especially Caitriona, who put in an enormous number of hours to oversee the Festival stall to ensure everything ran smoothly. I was surprised by the constant stream of visitors to the trailer at the Festival, far more than in other years. Thanks also to Josh and Cathy for their huge amount of preparatory work prior to the Festival to ensure a great variety of plants were available for the weekend.

Thanks again everyone.



TAGS (Thursday activity groups) & WAGS (weekend activity groups) 2013

Join us at 9 am (TAG workers only) on the 1st and 4th Thursdays of the month. Either meet at the nursery (9 am sharp for a 9:15 start) or on site by arrangement. **LEARN** some vegetation management skills while improving special sites in the park. Please remember to **WEAR** appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle. **Contact number: 0408 317 327**

Day	Date	Time	Site of Activity	Activity undertaken	Difficulty rating
Thurs.	3rd April	9am	Mt Lofty	Planting maintenance	Moderate
Thurs.	17th April	9am	Naughton Avenue	Woody Weeding	Difficult
Thurs.	1st May	9am	Glynns Reserve	Planting and Maintenance	Easy
Thurs.	15th May	9am	Kinglake old dairy	Planting Acacia	Moderate

Difficulty ratings:

Easy: Even terrain, some light lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Few tripping hazards.

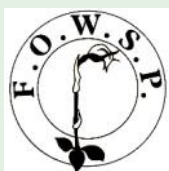
Moderate: Uneven terrain, light to heavy lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Tripping hazards present.

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 <http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php>

Please note TAGS and WAGS will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are deemed hazardous.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2014			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			<u>Nursery Phone</u>	0408 317 327
				nursery@fowsp.org.au
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lindarogan@netspace.net.au				9846 1218
Jason Patton	mobile 0402 121838	Webmaster and membership	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds
jason@parau.com				9722 2908
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor
				9840 1593
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green
				9844 2096
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary	<u>Market Trailer</u>	Caitriona Young
				9844 2842/0411478410
				thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk
John Blake	0418 329 937		<u>Facebook Coordinator</u>	Kelly Wooster
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774			
Sarah Qualtrough	0431 268 344			
			Website: www.fowsp.org.au	



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday Nature Walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of educational and interpretive nature walks explores some of Manningham's most inspiring and interesting bushland. Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. All times and distances are approximate.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date.

Meeting points will be provided at time of booking, to book call 9840 9124 or email eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

9.30 am Thursday 24 April Mt Lofty circuit

Starting at the sacred Wurundjeri Bukkertilbul dreaming site on Brushy Creek, we head up to the highest point of Manningham that has a view of the river, where we overlook the start of the Warrandyte gorge. Distance: 5kms Rating: difficult (some steep sections)

9.30 am Thursday 22 May Candlebark Park to Beasleys Nursery

A gentle stroll along the river flats that have provided an abundance of ecological resources for millennia, and still support a wide range of native fauna and flora, and an organic orchard. Distance: 5kms Rating: easy

NOTE: this walk will involve a 5km shared car shuttle as the walk is one way

Ratings:

Easy – Flat or undulating well formed tracks/paths with low tripping hazards.

Moderate – May include some moderately steep or narrow sections or have higher tripping hazards.

Difficult – Includes steep and/or narrow sections, slippery sections, or high tripping hazards.

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

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Joan Broadberry, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

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

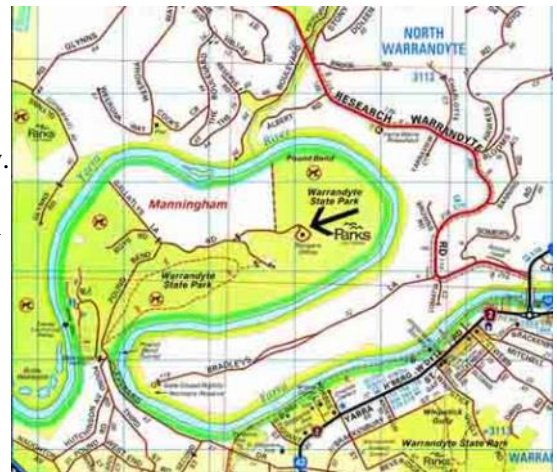
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

Prices 1st Jan..2014 note change from 2013

Members \$2.00

Non-members \$2.50



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Manningham City Council Environment Seminars

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 RSVPs must be provided for the field sessions at the relevant seminar.

Venue: Chandelier Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte **Time:** 7.30 pm



Wednesday 2nd April 2014 Yarra - Source to Sea presented by Dr Neville Rosengren

This seminar will outline the geological and landform history of the Yarra River and its major tributaries - from the forests on the northern slopes of Mount Baw Baw to the delta growing into Port Phillip. It will detail the character of the valley in Manningham in the context of the entire river system. Neville will describe the geomorphology of the Yarra valley and explain how the varied geology and tectonic and volcanic history has shaped the present landscape. **Field Trip: Thursday 3 April 2014, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm OR Friday 4 April 2014, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.** Dr Neville Rosengren will provide an insightful and accessible description of the geology of our region. Thursday's tour will showcase Silurian and basalt geological features ranging from Yarra Bend Park to Mt Lofty. The Friday tour will be particularly appropriate for those who attended the Yarra Bend/ Mt Lofty tour in May 2013. Friday's tour will focus on the Brighton Group with relevance to Manningham's connection to the shoreline sediments in the late Miocene to Pliocene. You must attend the seminar in April for a place on the field trips. BYO lunch. Bookings are essential.

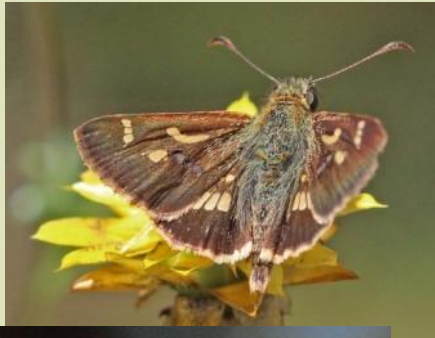
Wednesday 7th May 2014 On the trail of giants Australian's largest trees by Brett Mifsud

Most of Australia's landscape consists of arid land, on wafer-thin topsoil, baked by searing hot summers. However, in parts of the south-eastern edge of the continent, ample rainfall, fertile soils and a mild climate have allowed the much maligned eucalypt to grow and evolve to become the tallest and largest flowering plant on the planet.

Despite their impressive size, most of these giants remain virtually unknown to the public, even though many are close to Melbourne and Hobart. This presentation will showcase some of our magnificent remaining trees and look at their importance, both ecologically and culturally.

Barred Skipper *Dispar compacta*

Male, back cover p10, and 1st photo below with marked pale barring on the hind wing.
Female 2nd and 3rd photos below lacks hind wing barring.

**February Committee Meeting reported**

by Cathy Willis

•Kelvin and co inspected the Frogland boardwalk and it definitely needs replacing. A gravel path is the preferred option.

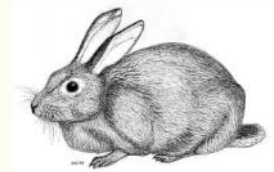
•The Treasurer reported that finances are down as usual for this time of year due to low plant sales over summer, however the account is still healthy.

•From the Nursery report – Belinda's last day will be March 27th.

•Many arrangements in place for the Warrandyte Festival including new plant labels to be made and Mel Coupar's line drawing cards to be for sale.

•Ranger's report – Aidan, acting RIC, gave a comprehensive report including recent and planned burns; fire deployments; works in progress at 6 sites to enhance visitor experiences; rabbit baiting program underway; grant applications and weed control for Blackberries and Chilean Needle Grass.

•Volunteer Lauren Mueller attended the meeting as a visitor and agreed to taking over some of Kelly's duties with social media liaison.

**Next Committee Meeting**

Date: Tuesday 8th April 2014

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on 1st March

Diane and John Baird;
Jeff Cranston and Marion Thompson
Jan Falconer and Caitriona Young;
Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook.
and Artur who picked up and returned the trailer



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 2014 please **contact** Caitriona Young
9844 2842 or 0411478410 thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Future market dates are: Saturday 5th April, Saturday 3rd May

Letters To FOWSP

The dirt from Coochiemudlo

I am still enjoying your newsletter although it makes me somewhat nostalgic. However, I am helping at the Indigiscapes Nursery near Capalaba, though it means a ferry, a bus and about a half kilometre walk to get there and the same in reverse to get home, which seems much harder! I am learning a lot and wish I had been more hands-on at FOWSP.

The Coochiemudlo Bushcare has a little nursery here on the island. We are a very small group and have some successes and some failures, but it's a wonderful feeling to be working with people so committed to our local flora. We are getting a few plants back into the environment and into some gardens.

There is also a very active Coastcare group which was set up after our beaches were torn apart by cyclone "Oswald" when it stopped being a true cyclone and became a raging storm right down the east coast. We had big working bees to replant reconstructed dunes which sustained further damage with every high tide. There has been tremendous growth of Beach Spinifex and other trailing plants such as *Ipomaea*, *Hibbertia Scandens* and *Carprobotus*. They are now capturing some of the sand that the tides move in and out.

So much for island activity. I must mention my bee experiences. I have been watching for native bees and have observed at least two species visiting my *Hibbertia sericia*. I have tried to photograph them, but they are so small that it's hard to identify them. However, I have also seen a very large bee (I thought it was a bumble bee) in a very beautiful local plant called *Melastoma* (its species' name is *mala-bathricum* - isn't that awful?) Anyway, the bee was identified as a Great Carpenter bee by one of my associates at Indigiscapes. He also observes it in his *Melastoma*. No, I didn't have my camera with me, so no photo.

Yours with love
Olive Walters



Lovely to hear from you. You are so lucky to observe the Giant or Yellow and Black Carpenter Bee. I photographed this one at Elim Beach some years ago.

Linda

Jumping in with both feet

Thursday mornings were the highlight of my week when we set up the Nursery. My years with FOWSP were some of the most satisfying things I ever did. I also have a large and messy collection of Photos in an album. I will sort and label these and you can have a NOT so raggedy album. There are photos of the men building the Nursery and the Folly and some of the earliest projects and trips. My late husband Ian was involved at every level of these projects. I meant to do this before we came to Avoca but we were so busy.....

And it was so sad leaving Warrandyte after my 30 years. (The first thing we ever did after moving to Warrandyte was to jump in feet first to the Friends!)

Very fond regards to the committee and "all who sail in FOWSP",
Margaret (Burke) Armstrong

Gliders in Doncaster East?

Hello FOWSP,

I've been a member on and off over the years and have always found the newsletters a fabulous resource on local flora and fauna. I went to deal with the pesky rats in the roof over the weekend only to discover their habitat was being shared with an unrecognisable marsupial...When I saw the white underbelly and their jumping (gliding) rather elegantly between trees I was utterly puzzled.

Ours is an unusual block shape and we have around 25 mature trees growing - all Aussie natives on a fifth of an acre. All plantings are from the 70s and I rather like the look of them so they have remained. The children are chuffed and have told their friends at primary school about their latest 'pets'. Though I've said they are not pets and rather we are sharing a back yard and we must leave them alone. I think we are rather fortunate as I glimpse the lights of the Coles carpark at Tunstall Square from my bedroom window but in the foreground I have the silhouettes of these gorgeous little creatures who have found a place to feel safe. Heaven help any cats I find around.

As my neighbours are constantly on at me to pare back my native trees so they aren't shaded out (as opposed to two story developments!!) I'm rather happy to find some wildlife of significance in Doncaster East. Who should I call so that their small population can be formally recorded? Appreciate your assistance.

Allison Troth

The above is selected information from Allison's 2 emails. Her first thought was that these looked like Feathertail Gliders but it has been suggested they could be Sugar Gliders. She is hoping for more observations over the weekend and maybe to capture a photo for identification and will keep us posted.

Linda

Frogland dilemma by Linda Rogan



1. The boardwalk in Frogland has deteriorated and become unsafe with many boards rotten and brittle and many stumps deteriorated. The cost for replacement would range from than \$5000 to \$10,000 for materials.



2. This set Jason's and Kelyvn's brains into action puzzling how best to reopen Frogland .

3. The first step was removing a few of the planks to assess the integrity of the under structure. Unfortunately many of the stumps were seriously deteriorating and few of the planks were suitable for reuse.

4. Looking at the stringers remaining after the planks were removed from one section, it dawned that they might be ready made to accept a dirt and rock pathway. All that was needed was adequate drainage in places and filler planks under some of the higher areas.

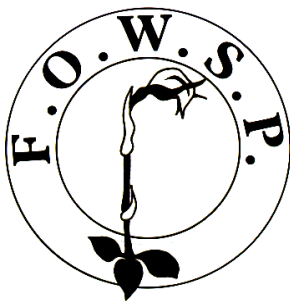


The rangers also offered their help and advice and it was decided to use a specialised matting underneath to assist drainage and then fill to level with rocks, soil and gravel.

This will give us a non skid all weather surface and, best of all, we can utilise available materials.

We will need a bit of human power to barrow the fill the last few metres to its place in the track. All help will be appreciated. Watch for a call to arms.





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Barred Skipper Dispar compacta

This butterfly was on the *Xerochrysum* at the nursery. It's larvae feed on *Poa tenera*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Gahnia* and *Lomandra* species. Eggs hatch in late Autumn and the larvae construct a shelter from a rolled leaf near the base of a foodplant. They emerge at night to feed. They grow slowly in winter but more quickly in late spring and pupate in December. There is one generation completed each year. Information from Ross Field's, *Butterflies Identification and life history Museum Victoria Field Guide*. See also photos p. 7

April 2014 Vol.32 no. 3

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 \$15

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.

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Email photo bonus page

Joan Broadberry and Carol Page visited Heron Island, off Gladstone Queensland in mid-March. It is a small atoll on the Barrier Reef, that somehow managed to support a resort, a Queensland Uni Research Station and a National Park.

Photos, clockwise. Black Terns flying out to feed at dawn. Heron Island Jetty. Guided walk at low tide in the lagoon, Green Turtle, Giant Shovel-nosed Rays, Black Noddy Tern, Black-tipped Reef Shark. (The last 4 photos taken from jetty.)



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