

# Friends of Warrandyte State Park

## Newsletter

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

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

### Editor's Corner

FOWSP is made up of people who care about park conservation and bushland rehabilitation.

Sadly in April this year we mourned the passing of Joan MacMahon, one who cared a lot and worked with skill and conviction for FOWSP and the Warrandyte environment over many years. FOWSPians who knew and loved Joan have shared some of their thoughts in Memories of Joan MacMahon on page 2.

People continue to enthusiastically support TAG activities around the park on alternate Thursdays. See who was tagging recently at Mount Lofty on page 3.



A gold leaf cake for Belinda baked by Sybille see page 9 for the reason. (above) Ranger John does give a fig about FOWSP volunteers (below left).



Ben's popular I SPY is back on page 8 and we find out the reason for the gold leaf cake on page 9.

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Joan MacMahon and also to all the diverse FOWSP volunteers who contribute as Friends in so many ways.

All together, we make FOWSP the vibrant force for local park and bushland conservation that it is.

My thank you to all. Linda

**Deadline for June 2014 edition newsletter is**

**Friday 23rd May 2014**

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan [lindarogan@netspace.net.au](mailto:lindarogan@netspace.net.au)  
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113



## Memories of Joan MacMahon from FOWSPians compiled by Linda Rogan.

SO MANY FOWSPians are very saddened by Joan's passing on 15th April 2014 and wish to offer sympathy to her family while remembering happier times and Joan's huge contribution to FOWSP over the years.

I first met Joan in 2008 when she volunteered to assist two relative newcomers, Joan Broadberry and myself with the editing of the FOWSP newsletter. A quick look through some of the old newsletters has made me aware that Joan helped with the newsletter for many prior years in the 1990's and had written many fine articles herself.

In 1990 it was noted that "Joan MacMahon has begun making- carry and shopping bags from used calico flour sacks donated by Peter at the local Health Food Store. (to sell)... at the Market and they will contain a collection of Green — information as well, plus free seed, a plant voucher from FOWSP." Cathy Willis says "she had a very creative and artistic side".

A note in 1992 states "Joan and Ken MacMahon are hard at work with the final editing (of) *Discover Warrandyte*." Pat Coupar remembers her work in helping to edit *Discover Warrandyte* "as you can imagine she was meticulous getting all the details right - so important in the final product."

Her name appears as leader of many walks and activities throughout the 1990s. Ben Gotlib's shares his thoughts of one in particular "Joan led a small group on a walk to a sparse hilltop in Warrandyte. Near a flowering golden wattle Joan explained, in less than half an hour, the relationship of the geology, soil type, altitude, local weather and flora and fauna, in the clearest way. I've been on many walks with highly knowledgeable people but this was the most inspiring."

One project that must have been particularly close to her heart was the Norman Reserve fern gully near the end of Bradleys Lane. Notes on a 1997 morning activity tell us, "Once this area was choked by Ivy, Pittosporum and Cotoneaster. After several 'Friends' and Green Task Force working days almost all weeds have been removed."

Josh says "Joan was always full of enthusiasm and new ideas both for FOWSP and the nursery". Cathy Willis remembers her inquisitive nature, seeking to understand why one species was different from a similar one, or why a seed didn't germinate.

"She was a highly valued committee member, enthusiastic worker and well respected for her ecological insights. Her knowledge and friendship were greatly appreciated by the group, as was her passion for our bushland, both locally and across Australia," Cathy adds.

Margaret Burke wishes to share the following:

Joan joined FOWSP, not long after Margaret & Ian Burke began stewardship. It must be close to 30 years ago. We met when she visited the Market Stall and immediately 'clicked'. The MacMahons joined FOWSP and Joan became a regular



Joan (above) A highly skilled bushland manager , with an understanding of ecology and deep love for the local bushland.

Joan (left below, right bottom) with other FOWSPians in happier times



(Continued on page 3)



## Tagging Mount Lofty by Gray Ardern



APRIL'S FIRST TAG was to Mt Lofty, with Ranger Cam Beardsell, to do maintenance work on the latest planting there.

Fenced in or fenced out? FOWSPians peer through the protective fence where Banksia propagated by FOWSP were growing at Mt Lofty. Photo by Janaya

About 20 years ago I lived for a year at Bend of Isles, on the other side of the Yarra from Mt Lofty. At that time there was very little vegetation other than grass, which was grazed by agisted horses, which I used to

watch from my veranda. There were [and still are] a couple of sugar gums [*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*] - a South Australian ring-in, and one huge Red box [*E. polyanthemos*] which had grown so much that it was being strangled by its sturdy wire tree-guard. I waded the river

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(Continued from page 2)

member. In fact so keen about Warrandyte were they, she and Ken, with youngsters Daniel & Rowan actually moved here from Heidelberg, their new home a neighbour of the Park.

From the beginning she was involved, and joined in with true conviction. Joan had a great many practical and intellectual skills. She and Ian Burke enjoyed discussing environmental matters. He wrote the 'Editorial' in the FOWSP Newsletter for years. Joan always had something to say about each edition. She was never afraid to give an opinion. Ian liked and respected her views. She was a woman of passion and commitment.

Joan understood the delicacy and intricacy of the Warrandyte habitat and was a dedicated FOWSPian. To her, Norman's Reserve was an especially valued place. Indeed her home abutted the walking track. At that time, the Park reserves north of the riverbank - were a low priority in the Rangers work schedule. After all they were supposedly in such good order! Joan helped set up a little FOWSP sub group working around 'Antechinus Swamp' and Normans Reserve where volunteers helped her perform 'minor' miracles.

Joan studied horticulture, and later, with her garden management business, was able to influence many locals to manage their gardens as extensions to nearby parkland. She was often employed as a weed contractor with Pat Coupar, under David Van Bockel's guidance.

They did critical weed management for the Osborne Landcare Group, using funding from grants.

Margaret Burke remembers a day when Joan was working with a particularly difficult group of school kids, (some of whom seemingly felt like a press gang who should 'naturally' play up). Without Joan, Marg (would have) felt like calling a halt - but the trouble-makers were attached to either Marg or Joan and all the others soldiered to a very happy conclusion at Wombat Creek. Having lent the group her dressmaking shears to cut shade cloth for the project however, Marg was horrified that they were 'lost'. Joan was even more horrified and helped sift through every bit of the mulch. Alas, the shears were never recovered!

Joan also joined the Landcare members as a volunteer, for Wednesday weeding at WSP's Wombat Gully - to help make it the delight it is today.

Margaret says, "When I wander alone along the riverbank or through the many project areas throughout the Park, I know Joan's spirit will be there. Many memories of travail and triumph will walk with me and elicit fond thoughts of my quite unique, precious friend Joan."

Vale dear Joan.

FOWSP would like to remember Joan through a planting day in her honour later in the year, perhaps at Pound Bend.

(Continued from page 3)

**Tagging Mount Lofty continued**

with wire-cutters and liberated this fine tree. Today it is surrounded by its progeny; and the whole area is now liberally clothed in trees and bushes, both planted and spontaneously emergent.

The planting we worked on with Cam was part of the 'Million Trees' project,' and in spite of the drought, we estimated an 85% success rate to date. Each planting-spot had been treated with herbicide, which helped reduce competition from weeds. Degraded pastures are often difficult sites to re-vegetate because of competition from weeds. Tall tree-guards had kept the plants safe from browsing by the large resident kangaroo population but now it was time for us to remove the guards.

At morning tea, which we enjoyed on top of Mt Lofty [thanks Lindy!] Cam pointed out and named the topographic features stretching from Mt Monda to the distant Lysterfield Hills. He also sketched the history of Mt Lofty, from its ownership by racing-car driver Bob Jane, through its acquisition by the Board of Works for the never-built Yarra Brae Dam, to its eventual hand-over to Parks Victoria - something the early FOWSP vigorously campaigned for!



Golf Course in the background at Mt Lofty TAG Photo by Janaya

A TAG with Cam is always absolutely packed with interesting information, and the Mt Lofty TAG truly lived up to our keen anticipation!

### **TAGS (Thursday activity groups) 2014**

**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**

<b>Thurs.</b>	1st May	9 am	Glynns Reserve	Planting and Maintenance	Ranger	Easy
<b>Thurs.</b>	15th May	9 am	Koornong	Woody weed, boneseed	Ranger	Difficult
<b>Thurs.</b>	5th June	9 am	Yarra Edge PB	Planting	FOWSP	Moderate
<b>Thurs.</b>	19th June	9 am	Lower Orchard Track	National Tree Day planting	FOWSP	Easy

#### ***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](http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php)

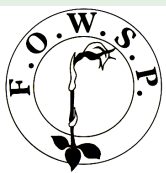
**Please note activities will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are deemed hazardous.**

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2014			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
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	lindarogan@netspace.net.au			9846 1218
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	jason@parau.com			9722 2908
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Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774			www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-Of-Warrandyte-State-Park
Sarah Qualtrough	0431 268 344		Website:	www.fowsp.org.au

#### FOWSP Amended Constitution

All members, please note that Consumer's Affairs Victoria states that the association's rules are to be read in conjunction with (the attached) letter and the relevant model rules.

All this can be found on the FOWSP website at <http://fowsp.org.au/publications>



## 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.

#### 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.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Meeting points will be provided at time of booking.

To book call 9840 9124 or email [eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au) **Book early as places are filling fast.**

**Thursday 22nd May 9.30 am Candlebark Park to Beasley's Nursery.** A gentle stroll along the river flats that has provided an abundance of ecological resources for millennia, and still supports a wide range of native fauna and flora, and an organic orchard. **Note:** This walk will involve a 5km shared car shuttle as the walk is one way. Distance: 5km Time: 3 hrs Rating: easy



## 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

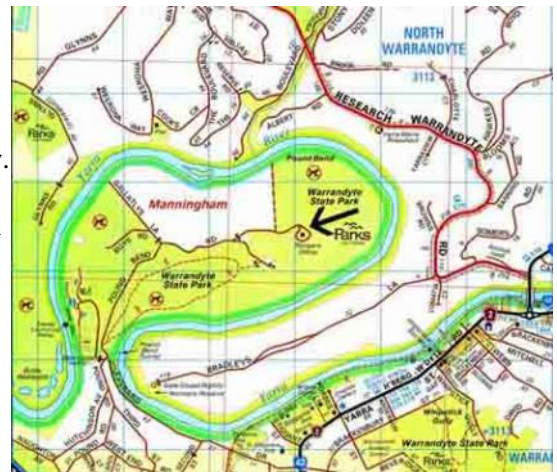
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

### **Next Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday 13 May

**Venue:** Ranger Station, Pound Bend

**Time:** 19:30 pm sharp

## Manningham City Council Environment Seminars

*The 2014 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 7th May On the Trail of Giants - Australia's Largest Trees** presented 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.

**Wednesday 4th June 2014 Mistletoes - indicators of ecosystem health and diversity** presented by Anna Burns In this seminar, Anna will describe the diversity and ecological roles of mistletoes in Australia, including their interactions with animals and host plants. Mistletoes provide food and shelter for birds, mammals and invertebrates and contribute to nutrient cycling. These parasitic plants can also be indicators of ecosystem health because over-abundance of mistletoes indicates and imbalance in nature. Anna will present part of her PhD research in this seminar.

## The Men and Women of FOWSP do enjoy a well deserved cuppa

IT HAS BEEN WONDERFUL to see the large numbers of volunteers working at the nursery nearly every Thursday. This also means a large number of cups to be stacked, carried to the ranger's kitchen, washed, dried and returned. Sometimes the tray are fairly heavy.

First of a big THANK YOU to the few people who have quietly taken on this task, some for many years.

However, more volunteers are needed to share this task. Otherwise it may get left to our staff whose

time should be spent with the important care of the plants and the nursery.

My suggestion is that each of us who have enjoyed a cuppa, when you see the cups piling up at the end of morning tea, grab a friend and take a turn at the clean up before putting your working gloves back on. This way each person should only need to help with this task once every month or so.

LETS ALL LEND A HAND.

LINDA



## FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

An extra big THANK YOU to those who helped out in April, some for both the market and the festival!

**April market:** Diane and John Baird; Jeff Cranston; Jan Falconer; Jan Smids; Peter Kennedy; Lyndy Gilbert; Ken Crook.



The following people 'manned' the trailer for the **festival days**:

Diane and John Baird; Janice Davies; Lyn Moore; Lauren Mueller; Jan Smids; John and Bev Hanson; Jeff Cranston; Geoff Speedy; Lyndy Gilbert; Ken Crook; Marion Thompson; Jan Falconer; Caitriona and John Young; Kim Cope; Marie Krause. Barrie Hick.

John Young delivered and picked up the trailer each time.

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 June or July 2014

please contact (for June and July only) **Sarah Qualtrough** 0431 268 344 [saireyspice@hotmail.com](mailto:saireyspice@hotmail.com)

other months :Caitriona Young 9844 2842 or 0411478410 [thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk)

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

**Future market dates are:** Saturday May 3rd, and Saturday June 7th



## "I SPY" Returns



Sign recently seen at the nursery.



### Working with Dad

Six y.o. Paige was at the nursery helping her father Jarrod work. Paige said, "I'm doing some work with my 'annoying' Dad." "digging out bridal creeper" behind the fernery. A Collingwood supporter, her favourite plant is "chocolate lilies"

Jarrod (ex Melbourne Water) will be working with Habitat Land Management. He has a Diploma of Natural Resource Management from Swinburne Lilydale.



### Into 6' Pots



Volunteer Daniel was helping Richard Thompson putting *Pterostylis concinna* into 6 inch pots (2 seedlings in each pot). Daniel has experience in carpentry and is a Geelong supporter.

### Future Spy ?

Hopefully Carolyn Noel (*below*) will be providing some articles of general interest for the newsletter. She said "on



a Mt. Lofty TAG, there was a tall gentleman, standing with the group and pointing out all the features places of the local area and on to the ranges in the distance. She particularly enjoyed the activity. (We now know Cam Beardsall was the tall gentleman)

Also in the photo with Carolyn, Faye (right) was working pricking out at the tables. In the background is Joan Broadberry is tending to *Poa labillardieri*.

### Ken and Lyndy snapped

Stalwarts Ken and Lyndy were snapped working in the "plant stock area" removing weeds and dead leaves from the pots. (*below*)

*continued p 9*





## Belinda is worth her weight in gold



BELINDA'S SMILING FACE has been lighting up the nursery for at least 7 years as an excellent member of the dedicated part-time nursery staff team. Now, having finished her degree, she is moving on to other things.

She promises that we will still see her from time to time as she picks up indigenous plants for her new property near Warrandyte.

We couldn't let her get away without wishing her all the best in the years ahead.

Josh presented her with flowers (above left). New staff member Sarah, whom Belinda has been training, can be seen in the background with the colourful headband.

Lyndy provided a scrumptious morning tea as usual, (see photo front page), and Sybille's gold leaf cake was outstanding (photo above).

Annette and beautiful 2 year old Luna came in specially to wish her well (below). Luna and mum were looking forward to the lunar eclipse on April 15th. Luna also enjoyed the figs on offer from Ranger John's tree.

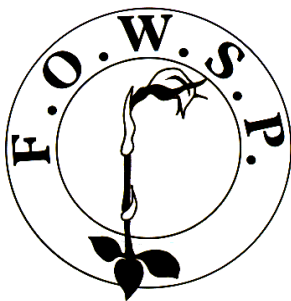
*Linda*

### *I Spy continued*

#### **Diggers of a Different Sort**

Helping Linda dig holes in the small tubes and putting in small seedlings, was Alana. She is 9 y. o. Four years ago when asked what she was doing at the park, she said "mummy said I had to come to look after Grandma Linda". Pictured below, they are preparing to do some serious weeding. Alana is also a Collingwood supporter and her favourite plants are roses.





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**Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivacea***

Listed as a sporadic winter visitor to WSP and sighted at Jumping Creek in 1987 and 2011. The males whip like call is quickly answered by the females "choo, choo" and it is usually heard before it is seen amongst the shadows in the wet forest.

This one was photographed at Mimosa Rocks State Park NSW where several were frequent campground visitors in April 2014, so a better chance for a photo. *Linda*

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**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](http://www.fowsp.org.au) with the option of direct deposit payment.

*This newsletter is printed on recycled paper*



**Email photo bonus page**

MIMOSA ROCKS N. P. on the NSW south coast was full of wildlife in April 2014, much of it around the camp-site.

Photos by Linda , top: Eastern Yellow Robin, juvenile White-bellied Sea-eagle, middle clockwise: Tiger Beetle *Cicindela upsilon*, Correa Chefs Cap *Correa baeuerlenii*, young grey roo, one of a large family that visited the camp but didn't beg for food.

bottom: Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*, Fruiting Cycad



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