

# 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



Many hands are involved in rebuilding the Frogland pathway. Left to right they are cutting the Geotech (John), gathering rocks for the edging (Jason and Gray) and laying down the foundations (Kelvin and Brian.) Photos by Linda

## Editor's corner

As can be seen by the photos above, the rebuilding of the pathway in Frogland is underway. And plenty more is happening.

Alwynne lets us in on the secrets of growing Banksias from cuttings on p. 2.

Joan shares an unexpected pleasure on Lake Mountain on p.3.

Barrie Taylor describes a May TAG at Glynns on p. 4.

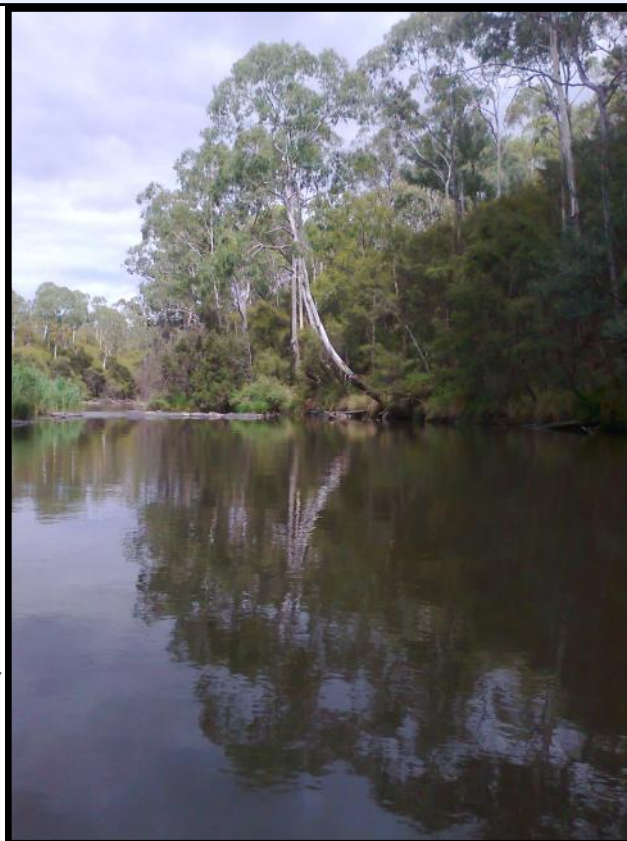
Arts and nature feature in Nillumbik with its Botanical Arts Group advertised on p.6 and Kim Tarpey's Walk, Talk and Print event from May summarised on p. 7.

Cathy lets us know what has been discussed at the last committee meeting on p. 7.

In spite of difficulties, Ben has not forgotten us and provides his photos and insights on p. 8.

Mike Coupar shares a composite photo and news of the Grey-headed Flying Foxes in 'coota on p. 9 and Linda answers Josh's question about what would chew on Isotoma on the same page.

Enjoy reading about FOWSPians activities and keep us posted on yours. *Linda*



Kel's photo taken near Bend of Isles on the Yarra

**Deadline for July/August 2014 edition newsletter is**

**Friday 20th June 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

## Banksia from cuttings? Impossible!

by Alwynne Buntine

HEREBY HANGS A TALE. As many people know there's a small stand of *Banksia marginata* that grow on some cliffs along the Yarra River inside the bounds of the Warrandyte State Park. Unfortunately, the seeds they produce are few and very often infertile. Collecting them requires Josh to be a rock climber or an ab-seiler, neither of which is particularly satisfactory, so it was suggested that we try to grow them from cuttings. (*Flora of Melbourne* says you can).

The first effort was tried many years ago. It was a nursery activity. We all made cuttings, and those that grew were eventually planted in the area near the office and the nursery. Sadly, only one survived and it grows in the front, "newish" garden at the nursery. The others met their demise thanks to the eating habits of the kangaroos and the deer.

No more Banksia cuttings were tried until about three years ago when Josh was asked if we would try again as the Rangers wanted to establish them elsewhere in the park. They needed 100 or more and promised the trees would be planted in a kangaroo and deer proof area. So the task began for Marion King and me to, once more, try our "skills" at growing Banksia from cuttings.

The first lot of cuttings were planted in our usual propagating medium of gravel. However, this was totally unsuccessful. What to do? We'd done it once before so what was different? Marion and I then remembered that the last time, instead of gravel, we had used

ordinary native plant potting mixture.

The first year we started the cuttings in late February and continued taking them every 3 or 4 weeks until the end of May, keeping checks on which months produced the best results. We have



*Banksia marginata* blooming in the nursery garden.  
Photo: Linda



Marion displays one of the well- rooted cuttings above. More Banksia cuttings below.  
Photos by Alana R and Linda.

found these are March and April, allowing for seasonal variation of course. It's very pleasing to pot up the new Banksias from the cuttings we've taken and though we don't produce large numbers because of insufficient stock plants, our totals are growing and now we have more than one tree from which to collect cuttings.



Last year during a visit to the park by Prof. Tim Entwistle, the Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Marion and I were potting up the Banksias. He was very interested and intrigued to know that we had such success with them. Josh's latest report on those that have been planted out, is that all have survived and some are now about 1 metre in height.

Josh says, "We will not be selling Banksias but we will be planting them back into the park. We have already put 50 into Mount Lofty." Ed.



## Mother Nature - Generous and Unexpected

Joan Broadberry (Photo of me, right was taken by Carol Page)



face of the track with our footprints. The trunks and branches of the trees, piled with snow on only one side, told the story of the wind direction. Where-ever we looked there was beauty. Tiny, orange fungi with snowy caps. Fern fronds, only recognisable by their shape. Piles of white crystals heaped on leaves. Patterns of light and dark. Anything coloured, especially red buds or berries showed up in startling contrast against the pale background. (See photo below). Those with cameras, (and most field naturalists enjoy photography), tried hard to capture a little of Mother Nature's lovely gift.



ON THE WEEKEND of 3rd and 4th of May Carol Page and I were staying at Marysville as part of a gathering of Field Naturalist Clubs from all around Victoria. These get-togethers take place twice a year in autumn and spring. We were in total about 100 people. The host club was Upper-Goulburn Field Naturalists. With their fund of local knowledge they had organised a great program including walks, waterfalls, lyrebirds, rare plants, fungi, speakers and much more. The weather was showery and overcast. However, the brooding mountains, autumn colours, green, fern-covered landscape and warm hospitality made up for indifferent weather. I am happy to report, five years after the fires, that the township of Marysville appeared picture postcard perfect in her red and gold autumn dress.

Early Sunday morning a group of us set off on the short drive up to Lake Mountain. Stopping to take in the view, we could see the devastation left by Black Saturday. Stretching into the distance, hillside after hillside was covered with white, dead tree-trunks. However, the forest is slowly regenerating and the understorey of shrubs and ferns is lush and thriving.

The road climbed steeply as we neared the summit; but something was odd. The foliage was not green enough. Was it frost? As we drove further it became obvious. The top of the mountain had received an overnight dusting of snow. I was not the only excited person. There were wide smiles all round and the odd snowball went flying. We oldies momentarily slipped back into childhood. As I got out of the car I felt a nip in my fingers. Oh no, I thought, no gloves! But all was well because I did have a spare pair of socks that made cosy mittens.

We set off on the short walk to Echo Flat, soon realising that we were the first to disturb the pristine whiteness. We almost hesitated to mark the crisp, fresh sur-

Sometime later, while we were on the return path, it began to snow. The soft flakes seemed to melt as they settled. The flurries of wet snow soon turned to light rain and gradually the thin, white layer on the trees and bushes began to disappear. Snow still clung to nooks and crevices but the magic was gone.

Snow on the Snow Gums! It was a delightful experience, even more so for being totally unexpected. The overnight temperature in Marysville had not seemed particularly low. More photos, email version p.11.





## Tagging Glynns with Cam by Barrie Taylor



THE TAG TEAM plus Janaya's student group were escorted to Glynns for Thursday 1st May's working bee/planting. We descended through the steep Red box slope to the river flat which has been undergoing a transformation from dairy farm paddock to a healthy riparian zone and wetland, under the careful and intense management of Parks staff.

We felt privileged to participate. The several hundred carefully chosen plants (which included *Carex fascicularis*, *Leptospermum obovatum*, *Acacia verti-*

*cillata* and *Poa ensiformis*) were soon in the ground. Hopefully we didn't tread on anything valuable.

Cam and Bernie then treated us to a tour of the wetlands, where careful management over 25 years has produced astounding recruitment resulting in an almost pristine Yarra river wetland where previously existed a river bank lucerne paddock.



Cam and taggers unload plants (L) and later look up while stopped for morning tea at Glynns (above). The photos also show the Eucalypts, mostly planted in the 1990s, that now clothe the slopes above the wetlands. Photos by Linda

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

**TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.15 am for a 9.30 pm departure. WAGs meet at times given below, at the nursery beforehand or at the specified location by arrangement. 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>	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
<b>Thurs.</b>	3rd July	9 am	Boys Road	National Tree Day planting	FOWSP	Moderate
<b>Thurs</b>	17th July	9 am	Yarra Edge Pound Bend	Planting	FOWSP	Moderate

### ***Difficulty ratings:***

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

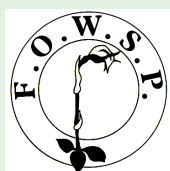
**Moderate:** Uneven terrain, light to heavy lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Tripping hazards present.

**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
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter editor	<u>Newsletter assist</u>	Joan Broadberry
	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. During the first half of 2014 we walked sections of the Yarra River through Manningham. In the second half of the year we will explore some of the tributaries on both the north and south sides of the river.

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 distances and finishing times are approximate. **No walks in June 2014**

### 9.30 am Thursday 24th July - Diamond Creek – Hohnes Hill and the Yarra confluence

From its headwaters south of Diamond Lake, the Diamond rolls through forests and farmland, is joined by the Running and Arthur's Creeks to meet the Yarra at Eltham. Hohnes Hill overlooks the floodplain and is an endangered Eltham Copper Butterfly reserve.

**Distance:** approx 3.25kms **Time:** approx 2.5hrs **Rating:** moderate (mostly flat and easy, one 'moderate' section)

#### 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. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date.** Meeting points will be provided at the time of booking, to book call 9840 9124 or email [eeepad-min@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:eeepad-min@manningham.vic.gov.au)

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

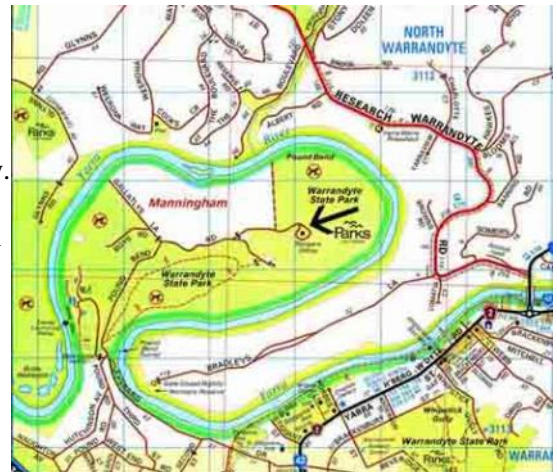
2 pm to 4 pm.

**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



Copyright 2008 Melway Publishing Pty Ltd  
Reproduced from Melway Edition 36 with permission

### Botanical Art Group

Learn more about the local plants in your neighbourhood with this exciting group – open to anyone from beginners to professional artists. Bring your preferred paints, pencils etc. or if you are new to art there will be some materials there for you to try. This is not a class, but a chance to get together with likeminded people to practice and share skills.

**Date:** Meet on the 2nd  
Saturday of each month.

**Time:** 1pm-3pm

**Cost:** Free

**Venue:** Edendale, 30 Gastons Road, Eltham (Melway 22 A1)

**Bookings:** 9433 3316 or [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/EnviroEvents](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/EnviroEvents)



## 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 be booked in advance by phoning 9840 9326**.



Seminars start at 7.30 pm in the Chandelier Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte.

For further information phone Lyn Meredith 9840 9326

**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.

**Wednesday 2nd July 2014 Fungi - diversity, roles, management and conservation of a healthy fungal community** presented by Dr. Tom May, Senior Mycologist at Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens.

**Thursday 3rd July, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm Field Trip:** Fungi foray with Dr. Tom May. Dr May will lead a fungi foray through Jumping Creek Reserve and Warrandyte State Park. This will be an opportunity to search for fungi in the field and learn about their ecological roles and how to identify them. Tom will also introduce methods for setting up survey plots for fungi. Booking essential **and you must attend the seminar on 2nd July.**





Sue Penrose Collagraph Print  
with gold leaf was created at this event

## WALK TALK PRINT

The Walk Talk and Print workshop, took place over two Sundays in April and was a wonderful success. The event was organised through Nillumbik Shire Council's Environmental Department.

The first Sunday comprised of a conducted walk through Bunjil Reserve in Panton Hill where participants gathered materials to assemble a collagraph plate. On the second Sunday, printing took place from the plates, in artist Kim Tarpey's studio.

Kim Tarpey, painter, printmaker and ceramic artist, (and FOWSP member) has provided a commentary on this activity with photos of some of the collagraphs that were created. To see this and future Nillumbik environmental events see:  
nillumbik.vic.gov.au under Environment/ news activities  
events /Fringe Focus newsletter Edition 4, 2014



## May Committee Meeting

reported by Cathy Willis

### From the Nursery Report

- Plants sales have been very strong this month, especially over the market weekend
- Sarah Bond has successfully taken over from Belinda Christie in the nursery
- FOWSP received a donation of 10 cubic metres of potting mix from the Flower and Garden Show
- A number of orders have been returned to stock as customers have been contacted 3 times and have still not picked up the plants

### From the Rangers Report

- Brush-tailed phascogale trapping has recently been carried out to monitor populations. Four animals were trapped and released
- Cameras will be mounted throughout the Park to monitor wildlife

- Project firefighters who have been based at Warrandyte over the fire season finish at the end of May
- Interpretive signage on the Wurundjeri people will be erected at Pound Bend by the end of July and Melbourne Water has provided a grant to carry out conservation work on a Wurundjeri eel trap near Laughing Waters.

### Other Business

- FOWSP will receive a grant from Melbourne Water to carry out revegetation along the river bank at "Three Bridges" north of the Pound Bend Picnic Area
- After various delays it is likely the new education centre will arrive at the nursery within the next few months

### Next Committee Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday 10 June

**Venue:** Ranger Station, Pound Bend

**Time:** 19:30 pm sharp

## FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday May 3rd

Diane and John Baird, Janice Davies, Kelvin Watkins, Peter Kennedy, Caitriona Young, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook.



John Young took the trailer to and from the market

Val Raverty organised the plant boxes along with the nursery staff on the Thursday prior to the market.

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  
other months :Caitriona Young 9844 2842 or 0411478410 thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

**Future market dates are:** Saturday June 7th, and Saturday July 5th

## "I SPY"

By B.G..



### SEEN FROM A 'HIDE'

A pair of Field Naturalists were seen at the nursery recently in May. Alan (strong in maths) and Hazel (also strong in maths) both belong to the Ringwood Field Naturalist Club.

### MORE MOTIFS AVAILABLE



Depicted are some of the showy aprons available for nursery workers (FOWSP). There is quite a range of flora and fauna designs available. Anonymity of the three models has been maintained at the request of those modelling. I can't recall their names. According to Josh there is a list of motifs on a wall at the nursery.

### MID MAY MOMENT

Sarah, our newest part-time nursery helper was seen carefully checking tube stock - a long and detailed task. Sarah recently graduated at Monash with a Science & Education Degree. Her major was in Biology.



### NOT FORGOTTEN

More snippets from the past six months will eventually be revealed re:  
Bagging of green stuff  
an interview with Carol  
other park visitors  
Etc. etc. etc.  
New writers for I Spy?

### MEN AT WORK

Recently sighted at the depot were man-people unloading stakes and later holding up, then fixing the sides of the empty pot storage area. Can you recognise them, if not, ask Artur or Gray?

### DEMAND RESPONSE ENABLING DEVICES = DREDS

New air conditioner models will enable some energy companies (via the Smart meter) to remotely switch your A/C unit off to handle demand, reducing the need for more infrastructure - "and that means savings passed on to consumers". (Do we really believe that!? I Spy) Source Choice.com.au October 2013 p.67.





## Grey-heads in Mallacoota



Pat and I were very interested to read Joy Hick's article (April newsletter) about counting Grey-headed flying Foxes and Lyndy Gilbert's information about how they are dying in record-breaking summer heatwaves. We now live in Mallacoota so we thought that our fellow FOWSPians would be interested to know how these largest of our Australian Fruit bats are faring in this far flung corner of the state.

The forests of Far East Gippsland are prime habitat for Grey-headed Flying Foxes. Last year they started to arrive here in Mallacoota in early January and by mid February their numbers had increased to about 3000. Their camp was located in a gully close to the shore of Mallacoota's Bottom Lake. Then a mass flowering of Bloodwoods oc-

curred, which attracted many more bats. By late March Tony Mitchell, who is the Biodiversity Officer at DEPI at Orbost estimated the camp was as large as 11Ha. Pat and I were amongst 19 locals who Tony tutored in the technique of bat counting. All counters were ready when the main stream of bats started to fly out silently from their camp as the light faded. They flew out over a calm lake which was back-lit by the rising moon in a stream about 200m wide for more than 40 minutes – it was a remarkable sight. Tony estimated the number to be around 80,000. It is impossible to photograph such a wildlife spectacle, so I took a picture of the fly out over the lake and superimposed a few shots of individual bats that I had photographed flying during the day. (Image above)

The bats are back in their camp this April, but the number seems to be less than last year. This is possibly because the Bloodwoods are not all flowering as they did last year rather than losses due to heatwaves. This is why bat counting for research is important to answer these questions.

Mike Coupar

### Planting for Joan MacMahon

Thanks for the lovely newsletter (May 2014). As a Bradley's Lane friend of Joan's, I would very much be interested in the planting day.

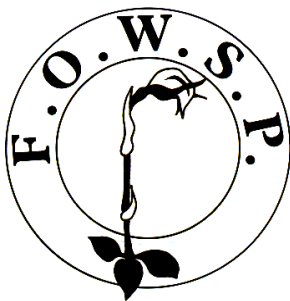
Please keep me posted.

thanks,

Jozica

Josh was wondering what caterpillar this was feeding on the *Isotoma* plants as this plant has irritating sap that can cause temporary blindness with eye contact and is said to be poisonous to stock. I took the caterpillar home and it pupated within 24 hours in the top of its cage. On 23rd May the lovely Green-blotched Moth emerged. I have photographed this moth in the nursery before but we didn't know what was its larval food plant. It was known to feed on *Lobelia* and *Verbena*. I now find that *Isotoma* is in the same subfamily as *Lobelia*, a listed food plant. (*Isotoma* is not indigenous in WSP). Linda





Print  
Post

346802/0005

Postage  
Paid  
Australia

**REGISTRATION BY AUSTRALIA POST  
PP 346802 / 0005**

If undeliverable please return to  
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.  
P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



***Acacia ulicifolia* the  
Juniper Wattle**

This is one of the Acacias blooming in May where it has been planted near the nursery. In Warrandyte it usually blooms from June to September so provides some winter colour as well as being a prickly barrier and good bird refuge. Its scientific name refers to having foliage similar to *Ulex* (gorse).

It was listed as rare and localised within the district in 1999 and is found on Fourth Hill, Timber Reserve and The Common. *Linda*

**June 2014 Vol.32 no. 5**

**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

Joan's photos  
See story on p. 3



Kel's photos

Left: a frog at Wonga Park

Right: Lichen on a tree near the Bend of Isles area on the Yarra.

Kel says "I would like to research the yellow moss/lichen a bit more, do you know much about it? It is very bright and something that amazes me".



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