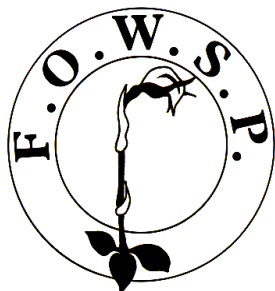


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

Editors Corner

Welcome back in 2016!

Firstly, on p.2 & 3, we look back at the close of 2015 when more than humans attended the end of year nursery BBQ.

Secondly we welcome Gloria's first instalment of *Bookchat* to acquaint us all with the contents of the FOWSP library p. 4.



What were Linda and Carolyn up to on a hot morning in December??See p. 7 for the answer

Page 7 lets you know what Linda and Carolyn have been up to.

Kel and Kelvin have each contributed something valuable to the Education Centre, pictures are on p. 8.

What has come from grubs that were found in the orchid potting mix in February 2015? At least part of the answer is on p. 8.

Peta Cumming tells us about her first visit along with other FOWSPians to Adriana Simmonds wild-life shelter in January. See page 9, and photo right, and find out why such a visit is always a treat. We look forward to further contributions from Peta in the future.



As always, TAGS, nature walks and seminars are available in 2016 and listed on pp. 4-6.

So jump into 2016 with us and start planning how you can contribute to the newsletter this year.

Linda



We are still looking for an assistant to work with Jan and fill the roster when Jan is away. If you can help out, with this pleasant task please contact Jan Falconer
Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email janece5@bigpond.com

Deadline for March edition newsletter is

Friday 22nd February 2016

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

Wildlife and volunteers attended the Nursery Christmas BBQ



IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING that FOWSP nursery staff and volunteers enjoy the opportunity to kick back and enjoy the beautiful surrounds that we all have had a hand in recreating at Pound Bend. Although they slipped away without appearing in photos, we were pleased to have many of the Parks Vic staff lunch with us as well.

The food was up to its usual high standard with variety guaranteed



by so many contributors.

It was a wonderful day for observing our diverse wildlife as well.

Not everyone was aware that the Folly's resident Ringtail was tucked into the rafters above the diners. When I noticed and stopped eating to snap a photo. At this point one of our long term, skilled and venerable volunteers noticed a few damp spots on the knees of her trousers. This anointing was not particularly appreciated and was followed by much reshuffling of chairs.



Resident Ringtail Possum that anointed unsuspecting diners

More welcomed were the usual contingent of tree frogs that take up residence in stacks of plastic chairs and plant trays and are invariably exposed during preparations for any social gathering. We commonly see both the Ewing's and the Peron's Tree Frogs. See the photos below for a refresher on which is which.



Peron's Tree Frog *Litoria peroni*
 AKA: Emerald-spotted Tree Frog, Laughing Tree Frog, Maniacal Cackle Frog Note the emeralds spots and the cross in the pupil of the eye.



Southern Brown Tree Frog *Litoria ewingi* AKA: Brown Tree Frog, Ewing's Tree Frog, Whistling Tree Frog. Note the white lip and lack of cross in the pupil of the eye.

Perhaps the most remarkable of the creatures that were unsuspecting guests (or hosts) to this break-up BBQ were safely tucked away inside the cupboard in the Folly. I was let in on the secret late in the morning and with Cathy's assistance opened the cupboard only instantaneously for a quick snapshot. The result is below.

The cupboard was sealed except for a gap in the doors less than 30mm wide so these sugar gliders must have really squeezed in. *Linda*
 Thanks to Joan B. for the lovely people photos.



Surprise and concealed residents of the Folly cupboard.

Bookchat with Gloria

WOULD YOU LIKE to read about the impact of climate change? Find out how to construct a nest box? Or perhaps you're interested in learning how to attract frogs to your garden.

A lot of FOWSPians may not be aware of the existence of the FOWSP library – a valuable and somewhat under-utilised resource for the use of all members.

Last year the library was relocated from the Rangers' office to the new Education Centre at the nursery. It contains approximately 350 books as well as a large number of journals, magazines and tapes covering a wide variety of subjects including environment, local history, flora and fauna, birds, bush food and gardening.



Gloria Moore the new FOWSP Librarian

You can check out the titles on line via our website - <http://www.fowsp.org.au/>

Click on "Who We Are" in the main menu, then select "Library" from the drop-down list.

Members can borrow books for up to one month (with the exception of some Reference books which must stay in the building. These are clearly marked with a red sticker). It's a self-service system – just record your name and contact details in the Loans Book – then mark off when the items are returned. Whatever your field of interest, it's likely you'll find something suitable for you.

So next time you visit the nursery, browse through the shelves and avail yourself of this excellent facility!

TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.00 am for a 9.15 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.

Thurs	18th Feb	9:00-12:00	Three Bridges	Maintain reveg area	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	3rd March	9:00-12:00	Boys Road	Maintain reveg area	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	17th March	9:00-12:00	One Tree Hill	Weeding sensitive area	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	7 April	9:00-12:00	Gold Memorial car park	Woody weeding with ACCA	Moderate	FOWSP & ACCA

Check the website for any changes at <http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php>

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

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2016			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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jason@parau.com				9722 2908
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				0417587798
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Librarian</u>	Gloria Moore
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary	<u>Market Trailer</u>	Jan Falconer 9844 1226 or
				0419 872 096 email janece5@bigpond.co
John Blake	0418 329 937		<u>Facebook Coordinator</u>	Annette Lion
				0414-249-729
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774			
Jan Falconer	0419 872 096			
			Website: www.fowsp.org.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, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday February 9th 2016
Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars

The Environment 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. Due to the popularity of the field trips bookings are limited to three field trips per person. You must attend the corresponding seminar to keep your field trip booking. **Bookings now open.**

Venue: Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte **Time:** 7.30 pm

Enquiries: Lyn Meredith, 9840 9326

Wednesday 3rd February 2016 A bit of colour in a grey landscape – butterflies in the urban matrix presented by Jesse Kurylo An ever increasing human population and a desire to shape the land to suit our modern needs often comes at a price to the many species which call that land home, but what about butterflies living within the urban matrix? How many butterfly species use urban environs and what do we know about these species? What resources are they using to maintain their populations and how beneficial are wildlife gardens for butterflies? These are some of the many questions Jesse Kurylo has been trying to answer during her PhD research in Melbourne. Join us to discover the answers to these and other mysteries of butterflies within the urban matrix.

Followed by a field trip the next day:

Field trip: The Great 2016 Butterfly Frolic with Jesse Kurylo

Thursday 4th February 2016, 10.00 am – 12 noon

If we have a few weeks of heat, February will be a great season to get out and about with a butterfly net. Join Jesse to learn some of her field research techniques in butterfly habitat identification, appreciation and monitoring methods. Bookings are essential as places are limited. The date for this field trip may be changed if the weather is not favourable for butterfly flight.



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 every Thursday.

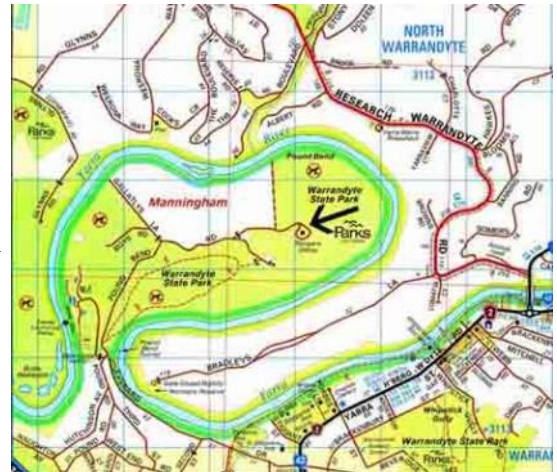
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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.

Closed Christmas and New Years days.

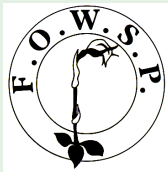
Also closed to customers and volunteers on days of severe weather and on Total Fire Ban Days



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Prices: Members \$2.00

Non-members \$2.50



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of free nature walks will explore various sections of the Yarra River from the eastern end of Manningham in Wonga Park downstream to Templestowe.

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.

9:30 am Thursday 25th February 2016 Blue Tongue Bend Loop nature walk. This circular walk will follow the management track over the ridge at Blue Tongue Bend at Jumping Creek Reserve in Wonga Park and then return along the river. Stunning views, rare plants and an old chapel is to be discovered along the way.

Distance: 4km **Time:** 3 hrs **Rating:** Difficult

9:30 am Thursday 24th March 2016 Jumping Creek to Warrandyte Bridge Nature Walk On this walk, follow the river downstream, over the escarpment and then onto alluvial flats, through an old orchard and past some gold mining heritage in Warrandyte.

Distance: 3.5km **Time:** 3 hrs **Rating:** Difficult

Note that this walk will involve a four kilometre shared car shuttle as the walk is one way.

All distances and finishing times 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 can be made online and are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date. www.manningham.vic.gov.au/nature-walks

The meeting place will be provided at the time of booking.

Please note that nature walks will be cancelled on a day of Total Fire Ban or extreme weather warning as Parks Victoria will close all local parks.

Bee Business, of course



IT WAS GREAT to have Carolyn back in December to stimulate further progress in the pollinator's wild-flower garden. Not only were many barrow loads of mulch spread about (thank you to Jason and all who helped with this) but also two bee home posts, made earlier in the year, were erected. They had been sitting in the Folly for some weeks and it appears that many creatures took up the opportunity to move into many of the holes that had been drilled. I suspect that most of these will turn out to be native wasps but the holes should attract more bees in their new position and bees don't hesitate to make use of homes previously used by wasps. We will keep you posted. *Linda*



We are still looking for an assistant for Jan who will also be away from time to time. Also needed are people to join the roster to transport the trailer to and from the Market and the Warrandyte Festival in 18-20th March 2016

If you can help out, with either or for more information please contact Jan Falconer as below.

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 5th December 2015
*Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Jan Smids
 Christine Andell, Kim Cope, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook*

Special thanks to *Jason Patton* who transported the market 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 December or in 2015
 please contact **Jan Falconer 0419 872 096** email janece5@bigpond.com
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are: *Saturdays, February 4th 2016 and March 4th 2016*



Improvements in the Education Centre



Kel's coat rack made from recycled materials has been installed.



As has Kelvin's beautiful desk top made from recycled timber.

From the Orchid Potting Soil in 2015



These grubs were found in the orchid pots during repotting in early February 2015. I took them home and put them in a pot with some excess Acacia tubes.

On 9th December 2015 the day after I had watered the pot, four of these beetles Spotted Flower Chafer Beetles *Neorrhina punctata* emerged. I'm not sure whether or not the hairy grub is just an earlier stage of the white one on the right as I have read the grubs for this beetle are white. This beetle was released at the nursery on *Lomatia myricoides* that was blooming on the day of the BBQ.



These unidentified tiny beetles had also emerged from the same pot on 9th December. *Linda*



Spotted Flower Chafer Beetles *Neorrhina punctata* and presumed grubs of this species.

An Afternoon with Wildlife Carer Adriana Simmonds

Peta Cumming

A GROUP OF FOWSPians and a few friends, travelled to see Adriana Simmonds' wildlife shelter, "Tierra Madre" [Spanish for Mother Earth] in late January. On her website, 'Human Seeds', the purpose of the shelter is clearly defined "...to offer a safe, loving and caring place to native animals in difficult situations, so they can get better and are well prepared to go back to their real home in nature." Everything about this place is aimed at fulfilling that purpose. We spent an interesting three hours with her, hearing about her early days at the property and the reason for her links with FOWSP i.e. she needed to plant 'the right plants', for wildlife and, at FOWSP, she found them! She still visits FOWSP, for replacements when required, and she is visited by other FOWSP members, who sometimes have a rescued native animal that requires her special and loving service.



On Adriana's 'native lawn patch', the attendees were introduced to the shelter, the 'Human Seeds' context and heard about gaining 'Land for Wildlife' status for the property. One can see her wonderful achievements throughout the garden-every plant adds to providing 'natural environment' for local, and visiting, wildlife.

Adriana loves the look of topiary and has used it to wonderful effect on the slope at the rear of the house with indigenous plants.



Some of Adriana's rescued babies. Every resident is named, and the 6 young people in the FOWSP group were all privileged to be able to name a baby for Adriana: 5 young possums required names, so each of the girls in attendance named one, and a Blue Tongue lizard who was named by, and after, the boy in the group. What a great honour for us - to help naming some furry friends. We wish them all good health, and speedy, safe releases. Another beautiful furry resident. We were able to get up very close to several of Adriana's babies, and some were patted and stroked.



The babies and youngsters that we saw all looked very content and 'at ease' in Adriana's care.

The entertaining and informative afternoon finished with a walk around the rear section of the property.

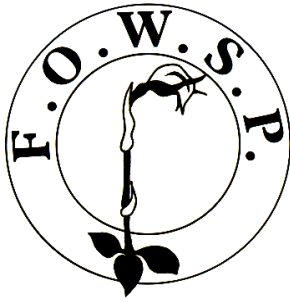
We all learned a lot from our tour. Adriana is one very passionate, knowledgeable, and active wildlife carer, and hopefully, we can all do a few little things to improve the circumstances for animals on this planet. Thank you so much Adriana, for the work that you do, for making us so welcome at your place and allowing us to meet your babies. Since 2007, FOWSP has been honoured to include Adriana as one of our members.

Her website includes a 'chapter' on indigenous planting, specifically for wildlife, and is full of gorgeous photos taken at her 'resort'!

See: www.humanseeds.com.au OR check the FOWSP Links page.

Adriana explains to the group how the larger, transition cages operate. Possums acquire their own nesting box at this stage and this goes with them at release time.





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P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

This bird flew toward us stopping in the stag above as we walked along the Karingal Creek. It must have considered us a threat as it's screeching and rapid wing fluttering was aimed directly at us. There are lots of parrots in the area and the competition for nesting hollows must be fierce.

Linda

February 2016 Vol. 34 no. 1

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



Two colour forms of the Six Spined Spider *Austracantha minax*. Left is the usual form photographed at Frogland and right is the dark or melanic form photographed near Portland.



Above L two very small grasshoppers involved in adult behaviour.

Above R Mating wasps with a wingless female grazing on the cap of a *C. ficifolia* bud or perhaps trying to remove it.

Berries on the Elderberry *Panax *Polyscias sambucifolia**, the plant in Frogland that featured in the December article for the Warrandyte Diary. Although the berries are said to be edible I suspect they are more likely to be appreciated by Currawongs than people.



Photos by Linda

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