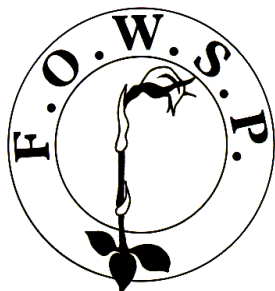


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Editor's Corner

There hasn't been a lot of rain in April but there has been enough to encourage us to plant in Frogland, where we can provide some follow-up watering as necessary. It has also been enough to encourage the weeds to show themselves so weeding will now be a weekly chore. Additional helpers are always welcome. It's a lovely place to spend some time. See what's new in Frogland on P. 3.

Read what Kim Tarpey found when visiting Burnley Gardens recently. More than native grasses caught her eye on p. 2.

Lyndy reminds us how the IGA points are supplementing our delicious morning teas p. 7.

On page 8 Lyndy also gives us an update on the recent VCAT proceedings and lets us know what further help is needed.

Check out page 9 to see what our TAGGERS/STAGGERS discovered during a recent mornings work together with members of Andersons Creek Catchment Area Landcare Group (ACCA). More than just woody weeds.

Enjoy this issue of the FOWSP newsletter and be thinking about what photos, articles and observations you can send in for the next one.

Linda



New member Fiona and stalwart member Brian enjoyed planting in Frogland. See page 3 for information about new plantings.

Deadline for June edition newsletter is

Friday 27th May 2016

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

Day Trip to Burnley by Kim Tarpey

IT WAS ONE OF THOSE Google searches - you know, when one site leads to another. I was looking up the Burnley Sure Crop Tomato. My mum always swore by the variety and lamented that she had not been able to purchase seedlings, or seed for a number of years. It was at Whittlesea that I spotted seedlings on sale by a vendor who was obviously a keen gardener. They were individual seedlings in trays that you pushed out leaving the plants without containers. I bought 4 for my garden and 2 for my mum, carried them home in newspaper and potted them up straight away. They grew and cropped prolifically and this led to the search on the origins of the variety, which I discovered was Australian and around the time of the Second World War.

During my Internet search, references to the Burnley Gardens caught my eye. I investigated further and found the Gardens were open to the public. The information on the Australian native grasses walk particularly interested me. We have for a number of years now been trying to convert our garden to indigenous grasses and I was keen to see how the professionals had tackled it. Though our front garden is established cottage with old deciduous trees and heritage roses, our back yard was only couch grass. It was with little conscience that we removed the tenacious grass and started our conversion using kangaroo, wallaby, *Microlaena* and *Poa* grass species.

Australia day turned out to be the perfect day for our adventure; the college was closed and picnickers had set up tables in the gardens. We first explored the exotic section. Large trees such as kauri and hoop pine gave shelter to the planting of shade lovers. We remarked on the sawdust covering the windy paths, so soft under foot. The identification labelling of plants was much appreciated too. There is a sunken garden with a water feature where the first head master's house once stood. The college building is architect designed, built in the 1960's and fortunately remains true to its original design. I was pleased to see the Gingkoes and the Wollemi pine. I'm a bit of an enthusiast of Gondwanaland plants.

Eventually we stumbled into the Australian Section of the gardens. First to catch my eye was the wallaby grass, I think but it was not labelled, planted intermittently with *Wahlenbergia*. The creamy yellow of the dry grass so sparse with little flecks of the blue flowers was a welcome site and put in my mind the contrast with traditional lawns that require so much water to keep them green through summer. This native grass was so sparse it wouldn't be considered a fire threat. This planting combination was also used on one of the experimental roof top gardens that cap sections of the college building. We walked onto a section of *Themeda triandra* kangaroo grass and then *Poa labillardieri*, still green, growing in a shaded area of the garden.

At home our *Poa labillardieri* grows prolifically in winter, we cut it once at the beginning of summer as it dries. It was probably not the wisest choice for our north, west back yard, but we were beginners back then. The cut grass does make great mulch for the veggie patch however and we use it in the nesting boxes for the chookies. We just leave the *Microlaena* growing in the shade of the ironbark; it remains green enough from the occasional rain in summer.

As you walk through the native section of Burnley, endemic grasses, rushes and sedges are displayed to advantage as decorative features and I particularly liked the little creek set into stones with the tassel rush and surprise, surprise! *Gahnia*, doing particularly well. Indigenous butterflies and other insects have made their home in the garden.

Dry can be beautiful, it is a shame that there is little understanding of indigenous grasses. The current practice of destroying our endemic grasses and shrubs as a fire prevention measure and by overgrazing is causing erosion. When hay is brought in to feed hungry livestock it introduces pasture grasses into, what was, pristine bushland. These introduced grasses are selected for their proficiency and abundance as feed. Their density contrasts in comparison to the sparseness of the native grasses that grow naturally under the trees in a forest.



Bottlebrush Sawfly *Pterygophorus cinctus* on grasses at Burnley Gardens Photo by Kim Tarpey

Planted in Frogland so far this Autumn 2016

A little bit of rain in April has encouraged the Frogland team to get some planting done in areas where we can provide follow-up watering. Included are:

- Grevillea rosemarinifolia* 6
- Acacia ulicifolia* a clump of 10 near a mature plant
- Senecio linearifolius* 2 (photos right)
- Dillwynia* species 1
- Goodia lotifolia* 3
- Hibbertia porcata* 3 (one large beside 2 planted last year)
- Chrysocephalum semipapposum* 2
- Indigophora australis* about 10 seedlings from a seed tray (photo below centre)
- Stylidium graminifolium* 6
- Brunonia australis* 6 (photo below left)
- Banksia marginata* 2
- Xanthorea australis* 1 medium pot (near where a small one survives from 3 planted last year)



The *Senecio linearifolius* are a long flowering species and excellent food source for native bees such as this *Lasioglossum calophyllae*.

All planting holes were filled with water to be soaked up prior to planting. In most places the soil was quite dry and often hydrophobic. In many places we had to first cut away old carpet that was originally put down for weed control possible in the late 1990s. Some of these carpet were from manmade fibres and were nearly intact and difficult to cut. Litter and soil on top of these carpets means that they no longer serve to discourage weeds.

While planting we noticed that some of the earlier plantings of *Craspedia variabilis* were looking healthy and *Leptorhynchus* plants were beginning to show some leaves. Of course the recent showers have also encouraged the weeds so weekly weeding of Frogland will be needed from now until late spring.

Thank you to all the FOWSPians who contribute to looking after Frogland.

Linda



If you can't get enough of environmental activities, the **Victorian National Parks Association**, of which FOWSP is a member, is looking for enthusiastic folk to assist with the following.

Saturday 7 May – bone-seeding at Mornington Peninsula. Contact Terese Dalman 0413234130 or email teresedalman@gmail.com for more details.

Sat-Sun 14-15 May - Friends of the Prom Working Bee. This weekend will be spent planting trees, surveying animal habitat or track clearing. Contact Deb Henry 0409338182 or email dhen9086@bigpond.net.au for more details.

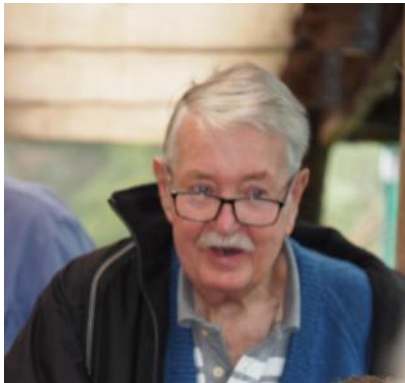
Sat-Sun 25-26 June - Hindmarsh 19th annual tree planting. Free camping, entertainment and meals. Contact Terese Dalman 0413234130 or email teresedalman@gmail.com for more details.



Boneseed photo J.R.Hosking and further information from link below:
<http://www.weeds.org.au/cgi-bin/weedident.cgi?pl=plant.tpl&card=S08>

Reference: VNPA Bushwalking & Activities Program, Autumn 2016.

Welcome back Keith



Keith returned in time for a Birthday Boston Bun that drew a smile. It was great to see him looking fit and happy.

Acacia leprosa outgrows its guards



These thriving *Acacia leprosa* planted near the nursery last season are just waiting for someone to remove their redundant plant guards.



Female Boisduval's Autumn Moth
Oenosandra boisduvalii photo Reiner Richter.
Compare with the male on the back cover.

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	5 May	9:00-12:00	Fiddler Gully	Fencing	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	19 May	9:00-12:00	Lower Orchard Track	Maintenance and weeding	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	2 June	9:00-12:00	Lower Orchard Track	Planting	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	9 June	9:00-12:00	Mullum Mullum Beckett Road	Planting	Easy	FOWSP

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
			email nursery@fowsp.org.au	
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659 or 8427 2132
Linda Rogan	9435 5806		<u>Newsletter assist</u>	Joan Broadberry
	editor@fowsp.org.au			9846 1218
Jason Patton	0402 121838	Webmaster and membership	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds
	jason@parau.com			9722 2908
Annette Lion	0414-249-729	Facebook Coordinator	<u>Koala Rescue Advice only</u>	Julie Pryor
				0417587798
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Librarian</u>	Gloria Moore
				0402 285005
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary	<u>Market Trailer</u>	Jan Falconer
				9844 1226 or 0419 872 096
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
John Blake	0418 329 937		<u>Manningham Council Rep</u>	Cathy Willis
				0427 660 651
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, Peter Rogan and Jason Patton
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday May 10th 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. Info and bookings:** <http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/environment-seminars>

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

Enquiries: Lyn Meredith, 9840 9326

Wednesday 4 May, 7.30 pm Wurundjeri and land management presented by Uncle Dave Wandin

Wurundjeri elder Uncle Dave Wandin has been working with indigenous land management teams for the conservation of significant cultural heritage and ecologically rich sites and will describe past and recent works with a focus on current effort by the Narrap Team at the Yarra River eel trap site. Bookings are not required for this seminar.

FIELD TRIP: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Tuesday 10 May, 10.00 am – 12 noon Presented by Dave Crawford

Dave Crawford is an educator of ecology and traditional Aboriginal culture. Dave will lead us on a walk and provide a workshop for participants to try their hand at some traditional skills such as string making. Please note, you must attend Uncle Dave Wandin's seminar to be eligible to attend and keep your booking for this field trip.

Wednesday 1st June 2016 Predator - prey ecology and trees Ecologist Dr Jeff Yugovic will discuss the complex nature of predator-prey ecology in south-east Australia, and how to spot and reverse the associated decline of trees within the Melbourne area. For more information before the this seminar, you can read [Dr Yugovic's online discussion paper](#).

Thursday 2nd June 2016 10 am - 12 noon Trees in Manningham Field Trip

Bookings are essential, please email eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au



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.

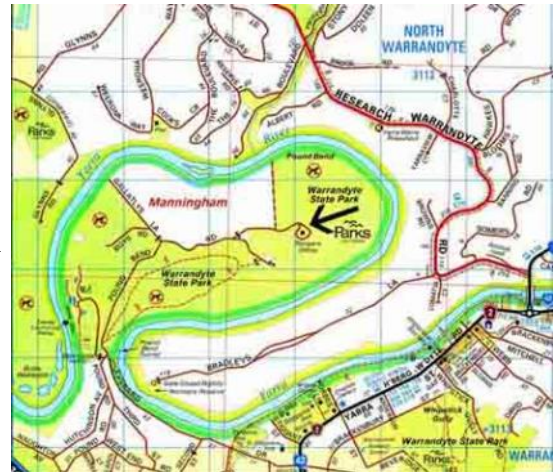
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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.

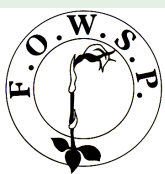
Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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



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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.

All distances and finishing times are approximate.

Thursday 26 May 2016, 9.30 am Candlebark Park to Beasleys Nursery Nature Walk This walk will be 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. This walk will involve a 5km shared car shuttle as the walk is one way. **Distance:** 5 km **Time:** 3 hours **Rating:** Easy

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. Information and booking: 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.



Its time to look out for the Autumn Greenhood *Pterostylis aff. revoluta*.

Also blooming in the bush are the Sharp Midge Orchid *Corunastylis despectans*, the Tiny Greenhood *Pterostylis parviflora* group and Parson's Bands *Eriochilus cucullata*.

Linda



IGA SUPPORTS COMMUNITY GROUPS

Julie Quinton, owner of IGA in Warrandyte, is kindly giving back to the community. Goods may be purchased in-store with accumulated points. One point is allocated for every \$1 spent at IGA

For those who are not familiar with the points system, please talk to any IGA staff member in Warrandyte, fill in a form (example attached) and request that your points be allocated to our not-for-profit community group.

You will receive a bar coded tag to be used with each grocery purchase and your points will automatically be awarded to FOWSP.

These points are being used by FOWSP to provide tea, coffee, cakes and sandwiches for the hardworking volunteers who give up many hours of their time to help with the nursery work and assist the Park Rangers.

New volunteers are most welcome to join in any Thursday morning from 9.30am onwards and morning tea is at 11am.

Lyndy Gilbert

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 2nd April 2015
**Jan Falconer, Alison Thom, Jeff Cranston, Marion Thompson
 Christine Andell, Lorraine Roth, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook**

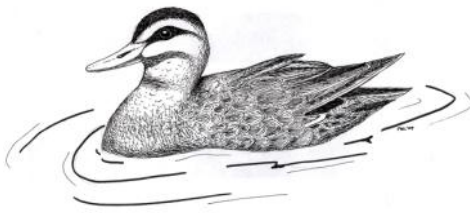


Special thanks to **Caroline and Don Noel** who transported the trailer to market and **Charles Morrison** who transported by to the nursery.

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, 7th May 2016 and 4th June 2016*

Birds or ...

**PROPOSED SERVICE STATION & CONVENIENCE STORE,
HARRIS GULLY ROUNDABOUT, WARRANTYTE VCAT CASE STILL ONGOING**



Picture from: www.onegum.eu

Warrandyte people who love the environment are horrified to think that a petrol station and convenience store, similar to the one above, may possibly be built on Andersons Creek at 1-5 Yarra St, with entry and exit on the Harris Gully round-about. There are so many reasons not to have it there: it is a fire and congestion hazard; petrol and diesel will inevitably spill into Andersons Creek and thence into the Yarra River; native vegetation and fauna will be changed forever – including the removal of 6 protected Yellow Box trees at the entrance to the station; there will be rubbish, noise and lights 24 hours per day at one of the major gateways to Warrandyte. It is zoned residential and families have lived there in peace for more than 40 years.

The developer Platinum King did not agree with Manningham City Council's refusal to issue a permit for the service station and convenience store and the case is currently being heard at VCAT. Objectors to the development include Manningham City Council and many individual Warrandyte residents. Representatives of key Warrandyte groups gave verbal and video evidence at the hearing on 11th and 12th April, including FOWSP (thanks to Carolyn Noel), Anderson Creek Catchment Area Landcare Group (ACCA), Warrandyte Climate Action Network (CAN), Yarra River Keepers and the Warrandyte Community Association (WCA). Petitions with over 1800 signatures were tabled prior to the case being heard.

There was so much paperwork that the case ran over the 5 days allotted to it (11th-15th April 2016). The hearing is now rescheduled for the week of 25th July for three days. As a result, funds are again required to be legally represented by Warrandyte Character Protection Group's barrister, who is offering a heavily discounted rate. *If we all just put in \$10 - the equivalent of two mugs of coffee at our favourite café - it would help to pay the legal bill. If you can help, please give a donation to the Warrandyte Character Protection Group at the Warrandyte Bendigo Bank.*

BSB no: 633 000

Account no: 155176894

Thanks to all those FOWSPians who have been so supportive, it is very much appreciated.

Lyndy Gilbert

Woody weeding with ACCA reported by Artur



WHEN FOWP'S TAGGERS AND/OR STAGGERS head out for a morning's work, you never know what will happen.

Such was the case on April 7th when eight able FOWSPIANS went to our annual woody weeding on Fourth Hill with ACCA. Over the last years we have been quite successful in eliminating lots 'woodies' but there are always the ones that got away. This time we tackled the area from the top of the hill instead of coming from the creek. We formed groups of two or

three and quickly got separated. Even the cooes were sometimes not answered. Thankfully we had mobiles handy.

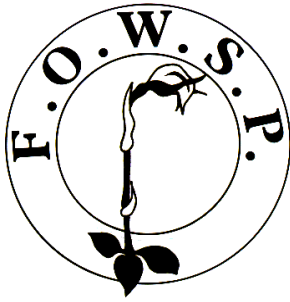
We set about removing pines, pittosporums, Japanese honeysuckle, tobacco tree and bridal creepers.

Lee alerted us to an nearly mature Powerful Owl that was spying on our movements. In our excitement we were only able to get a poorly silhouetted photo but still it proves what was seen (photo bottom).

Two members could not help but collect antiques to aid their car collection, (photo above).

The icing on the cake was the delicious morning tea prepared by Lyndy and enjoyed by all. (photo right).





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Boisduval's Autumn Moth *Oenosandra boisduvalii*

Watch for this moth at this time of year. Its larvae feed on various Eucalypts but what is most remarkable to me is the marked differences between the colouration of the males, as seen here, and the female see page four.

Linda

May 2016 Vol. 34 no. 4

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.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

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IN THE NURSERY

Top left a tiny ladybeetle *Coccinella transversalis*. Like many lady beetles, it feeds on a wide range of aphids as well as other small insect species.

Top right, a lovely pot of *Corybas hispidus* blooming in the nursery. This is a much larger form than our three local *Corybas* species. It is being grown for Museum Victoria display.



Spider right, came to FOWSP with a north Warandyte member who asked for ID. I am awaiting results from BowerBird.

Birds right, Bush Stone-curlew. The story of these four young birds has been submitted to the Warandyte Diary for May.

Below, a native bee rescued from a watering can in late April. Nice to know they are still around in spite of the cool nights. *Linda*



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