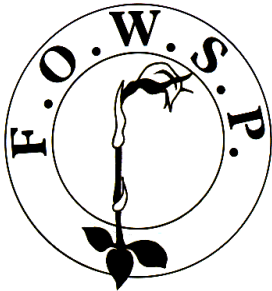


# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



## 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/Incorporation No. A0024890C

### Editor's Corner

After a mild autumn we have certainly been plunged into deep winter. Perhaps I am feeling the cold more than usual because renovations mean that most of our house has been open to the weather for the past four weeks. Now the inner walls are in but there are still some significant gaps.

Certainly winter weather has not dampened spirits amongst FOWSPians, as can be seen amongst the smiling faces photo right and on p. 9. Who wouldn't be smiling after enjoying one of the morning teas catered by Lyndy.

Birds have a high profile in this newsletter with a report by Kim Tarpey on the recent local seminar by Birdlife Australia to hone birdwatching skills. See p. 2.

Some of my questions to Carolyn Noel have inspired her to put pen to paper or rather fingers to keyboard to share some of her wonderful bird experiences in her Warrandyte garden on p. 3.



The winning smiles for the month of June:  
Carol and John



One of many things to smile about at the FOWSP nursery in June, *Corybas fimbriata* from a rescue some years ago at Blue Tongue Bend.

On p. 4 Gloria suggests taking home a copy of a DVD by Pat Coupar of the Osborne Peninsula from our library for some warm winters viewing but there are only three copies for loan so get in early. I agree, it's well worth enjoying.

Page 8 features feedback from Lyndy on a successful High Tea to benefit the Warrandyte Character Protection Fund and a reminder of the Dinner Dance on 17 July that is booking fast.

The email bonus page is filled with fungi and winter creatures and an orchid.

Enjoy and remember to keep sending in your news from FOWSPians.

Linda

**Deadline for September edition newsletter is**

**Friday 26th August 2016**

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

## For the Love of Birds



Binoculars up Photo by Cathy Willis

THE WEATHER PROVIDED an unseasonal high when this talk and walk took place. Thirty-three bird enthusiasts of varying levels of experience came to expand their skills in bird identification at Currawong Bush Park. The first session on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June had filled quickly and a second was offered on the following Saturday.

Kerryn Herman, from Birdlife Australia was the facilitator for the event. She talked to us about binoculars for observation, recommended books and phone apps available for bird identification. The apps provide images and bird calls. These were well demonstrated on our field trip as Kerryn played them to help identify the little birds flitting in the understorey. She stressed that they **should not be used** in such a way in springtime, as nesting birds can be disturbed.

Our talk went on to bird identification techniques with Kerryn projecting bird silhouette types such as honey-eaters, water birds, small perching birds and birds of prey. She then went on to show us images of local birds and a few others as well.

The question of Noisy Miners came up in discussion with reference to the disappearance of small birds in back yards. Habitat changes in response bushfire fear, is a contributing factor to the success of the Noisy Miner. Kerryn related that they prefer a habitat where they can secure a vantage point so the elimination of understory works to their advantage. The increase in the number of birds that prey on small birds was also discussed. Noisy Miners defend their nests against these predators and that gives them further advantage over birds that are reliant on healthy understory to secure the safety of their nest.

After a very yummy lunch we went outdoors. First to make its presence known and giving us the opportunity to test our binocular skills was a domestic pigeon, looking very content up a gum tree. A Welcome Swallow put in a brief appearance and then we saw a raptor that Kerryn identified as a Brown Goshawk. Our leisurely walk continued to a dense thicket of under growth where we sighted many small birds including Eastern Spinebills, various thornbills and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. The cockatoos put in an appearance screeching a warning as a Wedge-tailed Eagle came into view. Then the cockies gave chase. Toward the end of our walk, a scrubwren darted across the path and we all stood quietly hoping for a glimpse.

The lucky people who attended the Saturday session sighted a Pink Robin in the same area.



Cocky acrobats from Kim's yard

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Birds from Carolyn's garden

FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS I have been at home, working quietly in my studio, and as a consequence I have developed a more intimate relationship with the comings and goings from my garden (1/3 acre). I see quite a few small birds, which I have been told, is unusual as the smaller birds tend to like to stay down in the valleys and my garden is near the top of 4th Hill.

I am very fortunate to be in very close proximity to the bush of Warrandyte State Park on three sides. To the left is the Whipstick Gully Quarry, behind me is Anderson Creek and Geraghty's mine and on the right is Scotchman's Hill.

The first bird that I noticed was a Brown Thornbill that fell in love with itself in one of the big wardrobe door mirrors waiting to be recycled into a mosaic work. Every afternoon at about 4 pm it would come and sit on a large garden broom and sing whilst he faced himself in the mirror. I know very little about Australian birds and so asked hubby, who has had a passionate interest since childhood, what kind of bird it was and thus commenced a new interest for me.

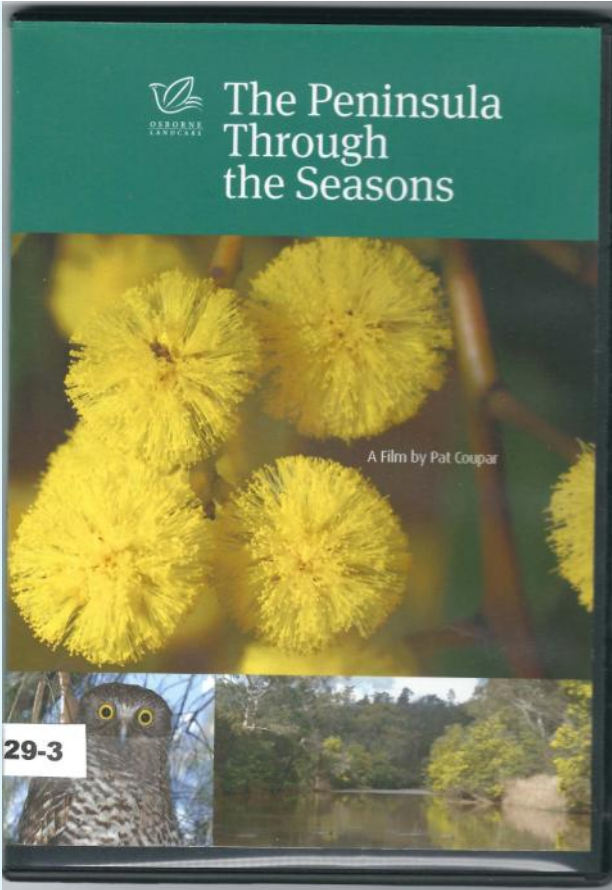
At about the same time we had another visitor acting in a strange way. A tiny but very pretty bird started tapping at its reflection in the kitchen window. Hubby once again identified this little fellow as a Spotted Pardalote. He had decided to rid himself of the rival in the glass. We discovered that the pair were nesting in the clay embankment underneath our deck. I was lucky enough to witness them on the day that their two offspring learnt to flitter backwards and forwards between two branches in my garden building confidence until the family flew off. I have not seen them since but we await their return.

Next came a whole bunch of little flittery, twittery birds. They arrived in the trees outside the studio in a group, flitted around twittering and were gone almost before they could be seen. All I managed to observe were very small, olive green backs, fawn breasts and tiny beaks. Hubby suggested Silver Eyes but when we looked them up in one of his bird books they were not quite right. Many weeks of debate followed until I described them to hubby's daughter Tori (Bachelor of Environmental Science/Environmental Management) and she identified them as Weebills.

One of the gems of my garden is a huge old rambling Wonga vine. Until recently it intertwined with a bird net over one of the ponds, across a pergola, over part of my roof, and tried valiantly to take over a gum tree that grew above it. I was happy with the status quo until I was told, by someone whose knowledge I respect, that the frogs wouldn't mature if they never saw the light of day. Plus in an extreme fire area like Warrandyte it's probably not a good idea to have a vine covering part of your roof. So we have recently built a new pergola for the Wonga to sprawl over and flipped it off the roof and cut it back very heavily. I'm not too worried about the vine as we didn't disturb the roots and I have no doubt that by the end of this summer it will once again be sprawling over its new pergola, reaching for the roof of the chook pen, that gum tree and the possum net over the vegie patch. I mention this because in the course of this work we found a wonderful little nest hanging from one of the tendrils of the Wonga vine deep in its shady interior. After looking up the likely builders of this superb construction in Michael Morcombe's *Field Guide to Australian Birds* I decided it is most likely a Weebill nest (it could be a Brown Thornbill however). It is tiny inside and lined with red feathers. Most of you will know that Weebills and Thornbills do not have red feathers so the bird that built this nest



(Continued on page 7)



*Bookchat with Gloria*

**“THE PENINSULA THROUGH THE SEASONS” - a film by Pat Coupar**

As well as books, journals and magazines, the FOWSP library houses a selection of interesting DVDs. This one makes for most enjoyable viewing, which would be a pleasant way to spend a little time when it’s too cold to venture outdoors.

The Osborne Peninsula is a special place cared for by a special group of people – the North Warrandyte (Osborne Peninsula) Landcare group. See the Yarra River, the plants, animals, birds and insects through the changing seasons in this 23 minute film. Also join the Landcare volunteers as they plant, propagate, weed and celebrate a successful year (2010-2011) on the Peninsula.

All the flowers, insects and reptiles are listed on the back of the cover in the order in which they appear in the film, so you can identify them as you enjoy the magnificent photography and listen to the birdsong and sounds of the bush.

There are three copies of this DVD available for loan – reference number is TA 2129.

**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.

<b>Thurs</b>	7th July	9 am-12:30midday	Petty’s Wetland	Planting	Easy	FOWSP
<b>Thurs</b>	21st July	9 am-12:30midday	Nilja	Maintain reveg area	Easy	FOWSP
<b>Thurs</b>	28th July	9 am-12:30midday	Butterman’s Track	Planting/maintenance	Easy	FOWSP
<b>Sunday</b>	31st July	10:00am	Enquire for details	National tree day planting	Easy	FOWSP
<b>Thurs</b>	4th August	9 am-12:30midday	Hochkins Ridge	Woody weeding Sallow Wattle	Moderate	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
			<u>email nursery@fowsp.org.au</u>	
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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
			<u>email trailer@fowsp.org.au</u>	
Jeff Cranston			<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, Gloria Moore  
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

**Next Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday July 12th 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 6th July Yarra River - Which way shall I go?** What determined the course of the Yarra River - from its earliest times until today? This presentation and field trip by geologist Dr Neville Rosengren will investigate why the river is where it is - from the catchment scale to the shortest reach - using circumstantial, speculative and hard evidence.

**Field Trip Thursday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm The Course of the Yarra River** Bookings are essential, please email [eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au)

**Wednesday 03 August 2016 Saltmarsh Ecology** Coastal saltmarsh is scattered along the Victorian coast from the far west to the far east. They were particularly well developed in the Port Phillip Bay to the Bellarine Peninsula region but about 50 per cent of these saltmarshes have been lost to development.

Geoff Carr is a leading expert on Victorian saltmarshes and will discuss the ecological vegetation classes now recognised, the saltmarsh flora, ecology and conservation status. Our saltmarshes are among the most diverse in the world, and with high endemism in the flora.



## 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.

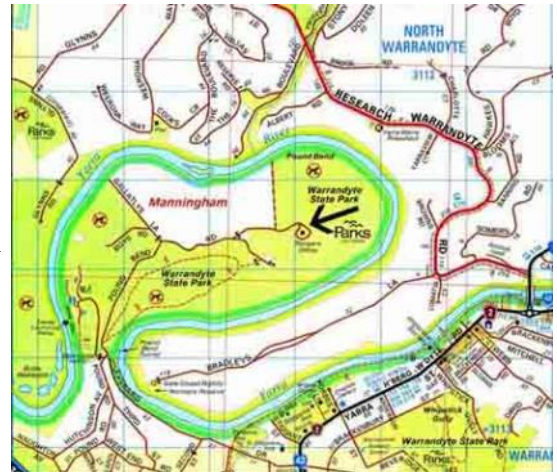
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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.

Thursday 28 July 2016, 9.30 am Bucks Reserve, White's Orchard and the Mullum Mullum Creek explore this lesser known section of the Mullum habitat corridor, including the wild west facing slopes east of the creek. Please note that there will be some off track walking.

**Distance:** 4 km **Time:** 2.5 hours **Rating:** Difficult

Thursday 25 August 2016, 9.30 am Whipstick Gully Wattle Identification Wander At the peak of wattle season we will ascend Fourth Hill and seek out the wattles that grow in the harsh stony hills, before returning along the river to see the moisture loving species. **Distance:** 4 km **Time:** 2.5 hours **Rating:** Difficult

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](http://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.

*(Continued from page 2)*

Funding for this event was granted to Manningham Council from the Victorian Government's "Community Volunteer Action Grants 2015"- Future – proofing threatened species and their habitat within the Middle Yarra River catchment.

Kerryn Herman, our facilitator for the sessions has a PhD in zoology from the University of Tasmania where she studied the Black-headed Honeyeater.

BirdLife Australia is Australia's longest running conservation organisation, established in 1901 as the Royal Australasian Ornithologist Union (RAOU) and is still going strong today. The organisation is the Australian partner of BirdLife International. It aims to provide conservation and advocacy for Australia's birds (and their habitat). They work with a range of stakeholders, volunteers and a membership base to undertake their work.

*Kim Tarpey*



What are these tiny creatures with bunny-like faces? See p. 8

has **not** , been using its own feathers for lining, rather it has been gathering the red breast feathers from a parrot for this task. The nest has insect cocoons that look like small mud wasp nests attached. I'm not sure whether the mud wasps have moved into this dark dry place once the birds left or if they have been built into the nest by the bird itself. The Field Guide states that Weebills attach spiders' white egg sacks and caterpillar casings to their nests; has this little fellow started a new fashion? The bird that built this nest is very adaptable and has woven the nest together with pieces of shredded plastic drop sheet and moss. Once the Wonga vine grows back it will provide a safe shady haven for the small birds once again.

I am very privileged to be visited by so many beautiful birds and since hearing that they may be disappearing from the area I have put some thought into why they might choose to come here. I have no doubt that my two trickling frog ponds are the main attraction, particularly in summer.

*Carolyn Noel*



## FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 4h June 2016  
***Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Lyn Moore  
 Lee and Graham Deacon, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook***

Special thanks to ***Peter Curry*** 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 July or August  
**please contact Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email [trailer@fowsp.org.au](mailto:trailer@fowsp.org.au)**  
*First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

**Next market dates are:** *Saturdays, July 2nd 2016 and August 6th 2016*



## Many FOWSPians enjoyed the High Tea to benefit the Warrandyte Character Protection fund

SEVENTY-TWO of the 74 people booked, turned up for this event. The hall at the Uniting Church looked magnificent, with white tablecloths, beautiful crockery, flowers from Bev Hanson's garden and pretty cakes.

The place was buzzing and everyone had a good time, with plenty of food and endless tea and coffee. Julia Mohr, the singer/keyboard player was quite superb - she kept everyone entertained for two hours. What a talented lady!

The raffle raised \$556 which was a great result for two bottles of wine (generously donated by Jason Patton, thank you), the FOWSP plant voucher, two Cocoa Moon vouchers, a massage voucher from Tiffany Black at Muscle Magic and a cookbook.



As tasty as they were beautiful, the High Tea cakes

Overall, the High Tea raised \$1511, after expenses, for the Warrandyte Character Protection fighting fund. Thanks again to FOWSPians for their generosity.

The dinner dance at the RSL on 17 July is booking out fast. Sixty-six tickets have already been sold. There are wonderful prizes to be had worth over \$300 each, including a weekend at a holiday cottage near the beach, studio photos, and some heirloom handmade serving boards, with more prizes coming. Please let know Lyndy Gilbert 9844 0106 , if you wish to attend.



Answer for p. 7 : Springtails! See email extra for more information about the fungus.



**Jalluka Landcare in Pomonal installs nest boxes made by FOWSP**

‘Last month Bob Wallace of Project Platypus, with assistance from Jallukar member Neil Macumbe, installed all of the small nest boxes. ...Our Powerful Owls boxes are to be installed in the future when we have decided on a safe way of lifting and installing them as they are heavy, large and awkward to handle....’Most of the boxes were made by the ‘Friends of Warrandyte State Park’. Their construction was organised by our member Fred Rich who also supplied the materials’. from *Pomonal Community News June-July 2016*



**What ever the weather FOWSPians cheerfully gather at the nursery**

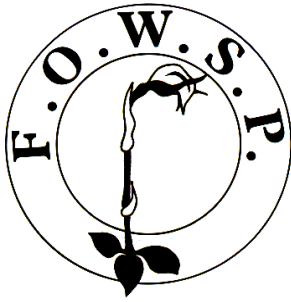


FOWSPians at the nursery on May 5th

Photo by Josh



And a smaller, colder but no less smiling group on 23rd June; deep winter has set in.



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**Lichen or Fungus?**

Perhaps yes to both. Bruce has kindly explained that certain fungi have a symbiotic relationship with a single celled algae or a cyanobacteria. These fungal species can not live without their symbiote. The algae, however, can live independently of the fungus. This agaric, now called *Lichenomphalia cromacea*, is one of a handful of basidiomycota with gilled fruiting bodies that is lichenised.

It is very common in the Warrandyte area and elsewhere on bare earth that is colonised by the slimy algal component. Like all fungi and lichen it has an essential role in the ecosystem although not associated with a specific plant. *Linda*

**July-August 2016 Vol. 34 no. 6**

**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**



Above Further to the springtails on p. 7, Bruce suggests in the absence of pine trees are nearby, this fungus is most likely a local species *Amanita xanthocephala* rather than the exotic Fly Agaric *Amanita muscaria*.



Left and below. The Slender or Graceful Parasol fungus *Macrolepiota clelandii* Fourth Hill near Wildcat Gully. This is widespread in temperate regions. 15 June 2016



Many interesting fungi have been appearing in Frogland since June rains. On the left is an *Amanita* species that is likely to be *umbrinella* common along the southeast and southwest coastal areas.

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