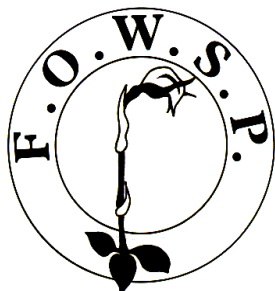


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

If some of the photos in this newsletter have strange colours it may be because I am working under the handicap of a poorly performing laptop while we travel in NSW and Queensland. With a little luck it will reach members without delay.

This is another issue with a lot of smiles. On page 2 Janaya sounds as if she is all smiles about the results of the Heads Road/Mullum Mullum project and FOWSP's part in it.

Tim Entwisle's smile graces page 3 and he has pleased FOWSPians by sharing some of his insights into our local seasons one Sprinter day.

Some of our smiling new members are featured on page 4. Carol's whimsical story about Mr Saunders may also bring a smile on page 7. On page 8, Gray entertains us with his description of some welcomed visitors to FOWSP nursery, Frogland and Parks Vic at Pound Bend. Speaking of Frogland, on the same page is a photo of a new sign for Frogland that certainly makes me smile.

Then there is page 9 where some birthday hijinks are featured. The last item is a bit of an update on the VCAT hearing for the proposed service station that is of great concern to many FOWSPians. We hope the



Smiles from the Gray and Bill See p. 8 to see the rest of the story.

*Early notice AGM Sunday 13th November 2016
5pm Sharp, Followed by a guest speaker
Drinks and nibbles
and BYO everything BBQ
More information will be in the October newsletter*

Deadline for October edition newsletter is

Friday 24 September 2016

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

FOWSPians' important part of huge project at Heads Road/Mullum Mullum

Heads Road/ Mullum Mullum is located at the western portal end of EastLink (Mullum Mullum tunnel) and this section is managed by Parks Victoria. Early December 2015, Middle Yarra Warrandyte's Fire and emergency team undertook the mammoth project of removing over 100 mature Pine (*Pinus radiata*) trees from Heads Road. This action recognised the need to manage the environment under the Melbourne Fire & Emergency Program (MFEP). It was reducing the fire risk by creating fuel breaks as well as removing some fairly significant weed species. This involved the use of forestry mulching machinery and equipment. The crew worked effectively and carefully to maintain as many significant habitat trees and pockets of good vegetation as possible. (Thanks to contractor: Eddy Woods and crew).



Across the summer season of 2016 Josh (nursery manager), Janaya (ranger), and several volunteers (Gray, Lee, Graham, Dave, Brian and others), over several days, collected seeds and cuttings throughout the Heads Road, Huggins, Beckett Rd and Chaim Ct areas of Mullum Mullum Park, with a plan to start the revegetation process and healing of the now moonscape landscape.



The dedication of the Nursery volunteers and staff is recognised and appreciated. As thousands of seeds and cuttings came flowing in, the Nursery staff and volunteers put in hundreds of hours cleaning and storing seeds, and producing cuttings for propagation for the Mullum Mullum Heads Road planting. Over 4000 plants have been produced for this site. The volunteers worked tirelessly also producing plants for Beckett Rd (previous/June newsletter edition), Petty's Wetland (1200 plants), Happy Valley, Pound Bend and Jumping Creek as well as for regular orders and sales - a fantastic effort! These were mainly *Lomandra*, *Microlaena*, *Eucalyptus*, *Acacia* species.



Prior to the planting season, Janaya, volunteers and the three student volunteers, moved thousands of stakes & plastic mesh guards to the Heads Road site.

TAG's were scheduled across June and July for a jam packed planting season. After a somewhat slow start at Heads Road, due to the extremely thick layer of pine mulch in places, the volunteers made a good start putting in the first couple of hundred plants. Field Service Officers (FSO) & Project Fire Fighters (PFF), brought along some machinery to scrape away thick layers of mulch for planting and manually removed mulch, where it was too wet for the machine.

The dedicated volunteers continued over the next two weeks to get almost 3000 plants into this space, assisted by the AON insurance team (photo R) doing their annual community work, and joined by both Warrandyte fire teams & rangers. The last 1400 plants were planted by Green Army and FOWSP volunteers in August in inclement weather.



Thank you to all those involved in this project so far. The Nursery teams: TAGs, seed collection & propagation teams, nursery staff (Josh, Michelle, Annette and Kaye) Middle Yarra-Warrandyte Fire & Emergency team, Ranger team, community and student groups, and contractors. Special thanks to John Cunningham, Mike Cusack, Luke Perry, Aidan O'Dempsey, Aaron Domeyer, Robert Box.

Janaya (contact ranger for volunteers)



Tim Entwisle spruiks Sprinter and Sprummer

Tim is a highly respected scientist, scientific communicator and botanic gardens director. He took up the role of Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in March 2013, following two years in a senior role at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and eight years as Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney. Tim is an Honorary Professorial Fellow in the School of Botany at The University of Melbourne and has been a Visiting Professor in the School of Biological and Biomedical Science, Durham University. He is an expert in freshwater algae (a genus, family and order of algae were named after him in 2014) but has a broad interest in all plants and related life forms (e.g. he edited and

wrote for the 4-volume Flora of Victoria). In 2014 Tim published *Sprinter and Sprummer: Australia's Changing Seasons*, challenging the use of the traditional four seasons in Australia.

Professor Tim Entwisle came for morning tea at FOWSP and spoke to us about his insights into Australian seasons. Tim readily admits he is not the first, nor the only one, to depart from using the European four seasons in Australia. Each Aboriginal community in Australia has their own seasons numbering from 2 to 13, but most commonly six. These seasons are usually marked by various natural events such as the eel spawning, wattles seeding or rains starting. As such the seasons are flexible on slightly different calendar days each year.

Tim was pleased to inspect the Middle Yarra Timelines Calendar (MYTC) and sees this as another well thought-out effort to make sense of the seasons as experienced in the Warrandyte area.

We might ask why do we need to have seasons at all? Tim believes that they help us to take notice of what is happening around us, to better observe changes in our natural world.

Two areas where Tim believes there is a particular disconnect with the European seasons are in winter and spring. He suggests that it would better reflect reality labelling winter as the months of June and July. In general he sees a change in August and September that he likes to call Sprinter, with elements of both winter and spring. This reflects such events as the peak Wattle blooming in August, and a rapid increase in the number of plants flowering generally. This time is 'early spring' in the MYTC. Similarly he sees October and November as a mix of spring and summer – typified by flowering trees – that he dubs Sprummer. His short autumn (April and May) is peak fungal fruiting season.

Tim does note that there are some changes in natural events that will prove to be a reflection of climate change. There is some concern this may put plants and animals at risk where they depend on each other – e.g. insect pollinators emerging with temperature and plants flowering because of day-length.

At the Melbourne Gardens (in South Yarra), steps are being taken to plant for the future: e.g. long lived trees will be planted that should thrive in conditions predicted for 2090. Also much is being done to increase the garden's use of storm water runoff. At present 40% of water for the garden is obtained from storm water and the aim is to increase this to 100%.

Many thanks to Tim for sharing his insights with FOWSP at the nursery.

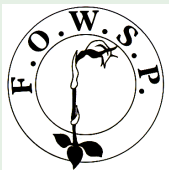
Linda

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These 6 keen new members one day in August. All quickly became involved in projects at the nursery.



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 22nd September Middle Yarra Timelines Spring Equinox As early spring slips into true spring, and at the peak of the wildflower season, we will wander around two of the highest and best known wildflower points in Warrandyte. There will be a short drive between the two. **Please note that you must attend the Middle Yarra Timelines Revisited Seminar on the Wednesday 22 June to be eligible to book and attend this field trip.**

Distance: 4km **Time:** 3.5 hrs **Rating:** Moderate

9:30 am Thursday 27 October 2016 Yarra Brae to Jumping Creek Through the Heart of the Gorge Nature Walk

Follow the Yarra River downstream through one of the most remote and least accessible parts of the Warrandyte Gorge. This walk involves a creek crossing and off track walking, but the reward is well worthwhile.

Distance: 8 km **Time:** 5 hours **Rating:** Difficult

Further Information: Please bring your own lunch and ample water. This walk involves a car shuttle from the meeting point to the start of the walk.

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.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2016			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			Nursery Phone	0408 317 327
			nursery@fowsp.org.au	
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	editor@fowsp.org.au			0402 285 005
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	jason@parau.com			9722 2908
Annette Lion	0414-249-729	Facebook Coordinator	<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Advice only Julie Pryor
				0417587798
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				9844 1226 or 0419 872 096
			trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary		
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		<u>Manningham Council Rep</u>	Cathy Willis
	legality@bigpond.com			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 September 13th 2016
Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time: 19:30 pm sharp

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.

Thurs	1 Sep	9:00-12:00	Yarra Brae	Woody weeding boneseed	Difficult	FOWSP
Thurs	15 Sep	9:00-12:00	Nilja and Alexander Rd	Weeding	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	29 Sep	9:00-into pm.	Northern Reserves	Wildflower walk	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	6 Oct	9:00-	Gold Memorial	Woody weeding with ACCA	Moderate	FOWSP & ACCA

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.

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

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.

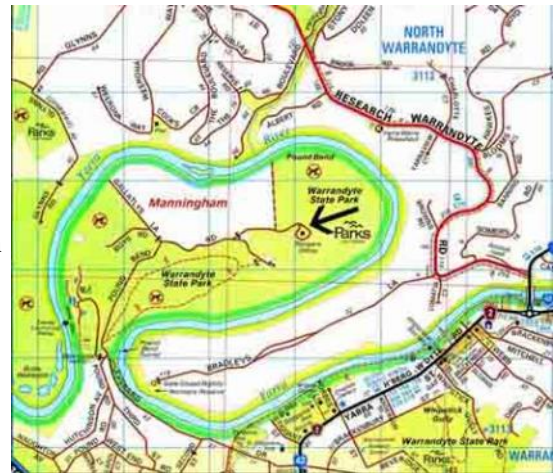
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

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:** 7:20 pm for 7.30 start pm

Enquiries: Lyn Meredith, 9840 9326



Wednesday 7th September 2016 Melbourne Water Platypus Monitoring with Josh Griffiths Melbourne Water's Urban Platypus Program has monitored platypus populations in local waterways for 20 years. Wildlife ecologist Josh Griffiths conducts much of MW's platypus survey work. He will present on the survey findings and discuss this unique animal's biology, ecology and conservation status. Josh has worked extensively on this species in Victoria and Tasmania.

Wednesday 5th October Drones - A tool for Good not Evil with Rob Gratton Technology is playing a greater role in how we collect biological information. The cost and size of electronic components have decreased considerably over the last five years. The latest piece of equipment getting a lot of attention, often for the wrong reasons, is Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), commonly referred to as 'drones'. Drones come in the form of multiple rotor helicopters, fixed wing aircraft and watercraft.

Drones have been used to count waterfowl, whales and seals, to monitor nesting activity, to assess vegetation health and to map surface water and vegetation, to name but a few of their uses. Rob Gratton will provide project examples of this technology and discuss the benefits and limitations.

Saturday 8th October Field Trip Drone monitoring in the field. Bookings and attendance at the seminar are required.

Have you met Mr Saunders?

Mr Saunders aka *Metura elongatus* or Large Bagworm came into my life in the afternoon of 15 June this year. His casing was 13cm in. length and decorated with twigs. He was in full view at eye level on an exotic *Thuja*



occidentalis. The temptation proved too great for me to leave him be. I thought maybe I could witness his life cycle. He was still attached to the vegetation when I gave him a new home, a large plastic food container with a gladwrap perforated cover. He appeared content (anthropomorphic I know), having periods of activity and rest – even attaching himself to the plastic film at times. I gave him fresh food every few days. Then, on the afternoon of 28 June, 13 days after he had taken up residence with me I almost stepped on him – he had made his way from the kitchen table top into the lounge room, a distance of 9m 52cm horizontally and 780cm vertically!!!!

At that point he acquired a new name, Mr Houdini-Saunders. He had chewed a hole in the gladwrap and made his escape. I understood the message and later in the evening took him outside. Fortunately, the same plant is growing next door against my front fence and brick post. I left him in the container but nuzzling into the bush assuming he would attach. The following morning he hadn't moved, but 2 hours later had disappeared. Further daily searches have failed to find him.



Now, I have named him male for convenience, but at that stage in his life he could easily have been female. I suggest you follow the link for

interesting information on the lifecycle including images of male and female moth <http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/psyc/elong.html>

Also, Joan Broadberry wrote an excellent article in the The Victorian Naturalist October 1999 Volume 116 (5)

Carol



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday in July and/or August 2016

***Diane and John Baird, Lee and Graham Deacon, Alison Thom, Jeff Cranston, Fiona Williams
Jan Falconer, Caitriona Young, Christine Andell, Kim Cope, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook***



Special thanks to ***John and Caitriona Young*** 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 2016
please contact **Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au**
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are: *Saturdays, September 3rd and October 1st 2016*

Maroondah APS visit the nursery on a chilly August day

EIGHT HARDY INDIGENOUS-PLANT MAVENS turned up to visit us, rugged up against the cold and wet. After giving them a warm welcome we [Kelvin, Jason and Gray] showed them the Native Bee Garden and the Ranger Station Garden.

While we were oohing and aahing there [in Botanical Latin of course] Ranger Colin Bromley invited us all into the Office, where he gave an impromptu and amusing account of the life of a Ranger at WSP. The expertly stuffed [as in taxidermy] animals and birds were of great interest to our visitors.

Next came a visit to Frogland, which duly impressed, and then Annette gave a very informative talk on the running of the Nursery - did you know that our staff unblock the sprinkler jets by using a bike-pump? I didn't!

It might have all been Greek to other than us plant-geeks, but the Botanical Latin continued to flow like molten lava during our afternoon tea. Among the assembled talent - which included our Bev Hanson - we were able to deal with almost all of the questions we were asked. I'm pleased to report that one tentative ID was subsequently confirmed by visitor Bill Aitchison who patiently keyed out the plant in question.

To our very great surprise Bill presented FOWSP with a generous donation! Surprised we were, but very appreciative of this kind gift!

Visitors like these good people are welcome any time - especially, as we pointed out, on a Thursday morning. The hook was baited by a description of a typical Lyndian Morning Tea!

Gray



Speaking of Frogland, look what is new...



This exquisite sign appeared on the Frogland gate in my absence. Thank you Jason for sending the photo. I can hardly wait to get back and see it with my own eyes.

The thanks for the beautiful sign is due to our resident FOWSP artist Carolyn Noel.

Linda

Irregularities in the winter birthday celebrations

Firstly in the photo below, one of these good ladies who celebrated has a birthday in January. Best wishes to both regardless!

Secondly, by the time I reached the cake (below right) it appeared someone was trying to hide the identity of the person who was 'celebrating' attaining another year of maturity. A quick look around revealed the culprit (right).



CONCLUSION OF THE VCAT HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED SERVICE STATION & CONVENIENCE STORE, WARRANDYTE

The VCAT hearing for the proposed petrol station and convenience store on the Harris Gully round about which commenced in 2015, continued into 2016 with 5 days of evidence in April. The case finally concluded with three more days at VCAT, 26-28 July. The final day was taken up with Mr. Tweedy QC (for the Applicant Platinum King) summarizing his client's case for almost 3 hours whilst directing the VCAT judges to agree with the Applicant's case. Points he raised included the following:

- There are plenty of precedents for service stations near residential areas.
- The lighting wasn't a problem, neither was the noise as there were only 2 residents who would be impacted upon by these issues.
- Andersons creek was so degraded, it wasn't worth saving.
"The landscape in Warrandyte was going to change, it was inevitable - people had to accept that." The developer would remove 6 trees "of little ecological value", because the service station landscaping would offset these trees and enhance the land.
- Other submissions are misguided.
- This is a state road.
- Floods can easily be controlled with drains and kerbs.

During the rebuttal from the Manningham City Council and concerned Warrandyte residents, Carolyn Noel of FOWSP outlined the impact of light on local frogs' breeding habits - thank you Carolyn. Other respondents noted that there was a lot of information missing from the evidence relating to the environmental risk from chemical spills into Andersons Creek, impact of signage and lighting, traffic hazard management on the concourse and at the roundabout, bushfire emergency plans, flood mitigation, residential amenity and neighbourhood character.

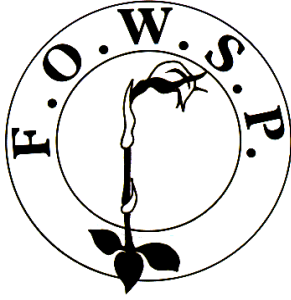
If the service station goes ahead, then MCC will impose 65 conditions that will have to be met before the service station is permitted to open.

A VCAT ruling is expected by the end of September 2016.

Lynda Gilbert



Also see Jeff Cranston's wrap-up at warrandytecitizens.org/blog/wrap-on-the-final-vcat-hearing-day.html



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***Hakea decurrens* Bushy Needlewood**

This Hakea in the FOWSP garden was blooming beautifully in August. I was fascinated to notice the fruits from last year's blooms still carry a filament that makes the nut appear, to me, like a chubby horned toad with a curled tongue.

Peter reminded me that the uneven drying of the two colours of wood seen inside the nut create the force that causes the nut to explode open, expelling the winged seed. This species can be found in the grassy dry forests such as upon Fourth Hill.

September 2016 Vol. 34 no. 7

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



Sights of Toorale National Park near Bourke NSW.
 Clockwise from upper left: Native pea flowers that were blooming profusely; curious emus amongst the wildflowers; pea flowers along the ditch; Peter attracting the curious emus.
 Below right: Joy Hick's lovely fungus photo

Below some of the red-tailed blacks of Bourke:



JOY HICK "FUNGI"
 mikespics@networkten.com.au



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