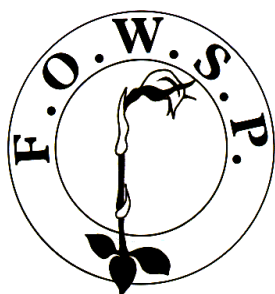


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

What wonderful response I have had from members making contributions to the November newsletter.

Fiona, a first-time writer for FOWSP, features a charming story about a family of Wedge-tailed Eagles in North Warrandyte on p. 2.

Some wonderful words from Carolyn about the Pollinators' Garden she and others are creating appear on p. 3.

Gloria gives us another fascinating peek into an item from the FOWSP bookshelf on p. 4.

Carol finds a few tidbits from around the nursery that are shared on p. 7.

Page 8 is a real winner full of good news and deserved congratulations for Sarah, Lyndy and Caitriona and John.

Lyndy keeps us all informed with her report of a recent meeting with staff from Melbourne Water p. 9.

These things and more make FOWSP the wonderful group it is. Keep sending in your contributions, and enjoy this newsletter. *Linda*



Everyone loves opening a package. See what Sarah found in hers and more GOOD NEWS on p.8.

AGM Sunday 13th November 2016

5pm

*See p. 9 for special resolution to be voted upon
 Followed by time to socialise with Friends
 Drinks and nibbles
 and BYO everything BBQ, salads to share*

*Relax and catch
 up with Friends*

Deadline for December edition newsletter is

Friday November 25th 2016

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

FEATHERY OUTCOME OF A WILDFLOWER WALK

ON THURSDAY 22 September, Glenn Jameson and Cathy Willis led a great walk around Tindals Wildlife Reserve and Fourth Hill. As always, these walks sidetrack me from any earlier plans for the day and I go wandering around my block all afternoon, looking with different eyes to see what new plants I can find.

I was checking the far end of our block in North Warrandyte for orchids, eyes on the ground as usual when I walked into a dead branch. Not an unusual occurrence. But this time, as I fell backwards, I looked up to see a large and completely unexpected ball of white fluff in the trees across the valley. A head emerged from one end of the fluff, and then another head from the other end. Now I'm a plant person rather than a bird person but even I knew this wasn't an orchid.

We've known about the Wedge-tailed Eagles' nest in the valley for at least 15 years. At first it was a largish platform of branches in a somewhat spindly Manna Gum growing at the base of a creek valley. Over the years the nest has grown steadily larger but fortunately the tree has kept pace and managed to support what is now a massive edifice of sticks and branches.

We've often watched the two eagles soaring over the block and one year we did see them flying with young – a single young eagle that time. This year there are two chicks in the nest and they appear to be thriving.

On that first sighting in September, the chicks were largely covered with white down and a few dark wing feathers. They seemed to be taking it in turns to be active around the nest. We watched one moving around the platform, feeding on something left by the parents (from our angle up the valley side we could only see the chick pecking down at something and then standing upright with red staining on the white down on its face) and once flapping its small wings. Meanwhile the other chick was largely immobile down in the nest. We wondered if that was a weaker chick but the two then swapped roles; the first settling down for a rest while the second fed and wandered around the platform.

The chicks had noticeable markings on their backs when settled down in the nest with wings folded. These appeared almost as an owl-like face with feathers outlining what appeared to be a face, dark eye spots and a beak. We've assumed this might counter-balance the completely non-camouflaged nature of their otherwise white and fluffy appearance. That day we saw one of the adult birds flying up the valley with a rabbit in its claws but it flew straight past the nest without visiting the chicks.

We went back for another look on the following Sunday. It was astonishing how fast they were changing, appearing darker in colour but again displayed the one resting/one active pattern of activity. A mixed flock of Pied Currawongs and Magpies was around that end of the valley, with a cacophony of calling and flying around the nest. The chicks seemed unconcerned by all the noise and activity, behaving much as they had before.

One of the adult eagles flew back up the valley and, without visiting the nest, settled in a tree about 50 metres away watching the chicks and other birds. The magpies spent the next 30 minutes diving and harassing the adult eagle who eventually flew off with two magpies chasing it. It was interesting that the Currawongs and Magpies didn't swoop or physically harass the chicks and that the chicks appeared to take no particular notice of the parent.

Over the next 10 days, a number of FOWSP members came over to see the chicks and take some photos. The photo on p. 3 was taken on October 6th. By this stage the chicks had continued to grow and darken, and were spending more time moving around the nest platform.

After the high winds on Sunday 9th we went down to check, worried how the chicks survived the gale. No need to be concerned! They were doing just fine; now spending a fair bit of time exercising their wings and one jumping in the air while flapping its wings. There was more preening behaviour than we'd seen earlier but then they have more feathers to preen. One chick was still slightly smaller and had lots of white down on its face while the other had only traces of white down around its beak.



Eaglet calling on 22 September Photo by Lyn Hawkins



Eaglets on 6th October Photo by Joy Hick

all four eagles in the air above North Warrandyte soon.

Whenever we visit, they take absolutely no notice of us sitting on a log on either side of the valley at about nest level and watching what is going on through binoculars. Similarly deer, kangaroos and wallabies move around the valley beneath the tree and the chicks seem oblivious to it all. We've seen the two adult eagles wheeling in the sky above the nest but haven't managed to see them deliver food or visit the nest.

Stop Press: October 20th, 5.30 pm

Have just seen an adult eagle with the first of the young flying over the house. The young eagle is flying in low circles, a bit uncertainly, but becoming more confident. Has just soared higher and headed south. We're hoping to see

Fiona Williams

The recently established Pollinators' Garden

Recently whilst working in the pollinators' garden (the area under the gum trees behind the shaded area that houses our native orchids), I heard the quiet but repetitive call of a Rocky River Frog (*Litoria lesueuri*). It got me thinking that FOWSPians might like to hear what else is happening in the garden.

At present it is abuzz with tiny hover-flies (photo right). They really love the *Senecio* (the little yellow daisy) that has been flowering non-stop for many weeks. I notice that it is easy to miss these little visitors so I recommend you stop for a few minutes and really look at their comings and goings. I have seen people come to look at the showy display of this pretty wildflower and ask its name. This gave me the idea of labelling some of the flowers. You might notice some labelled sticks appearing over the next few weeks to help you to identify favourites.



Common Hoverfly *Melangyna viridiceps* on Senecio photo by Carolyn

I'm pleased to report that many of the ideas that brought the garden to life are becoming a reality:

- to bring food to the bee houses in the hope that our native pollinators would move in,
- to create a display of native wildflowers showing the public that our wildflowers can create a colourful display that can rival any introduced cottage plants,
- a place to put some of our rarer species for future propagation: the *Acacia brownii* are currently flowering.

The salt bush in the garden was recently given a summer pruning by visiting cockies, hence the wire cages around the little wetland areas – to stop them nipping the flowers off the trigger plants. We should get a lovely show of Rock Isotoma very soon and there is a *Velleia paradoxa* Spur Velleia, with its first flower. I could go on and on about the spring attributes of this special little area but I would rather invite you to sit for a minute or two on the *Microlaena* lawn and see what you can find for yourself.



Spur Velleia with its first bloom photo by Carolyn

Carolyn Noel

Bookchat with Gloria

ALONG THE TRACK with CROSBIE MORRISON¹

Philip Crosbie Morrison (1900-1958) was a naturalist and science journalist, whose life and work reflected a desire to help people gain an understanding of science as a part of their everyday lives. He encouraged his audience to observe and wonder at the natural world, confident that a desire to preserve the environment for the benefit of future generations would follow.

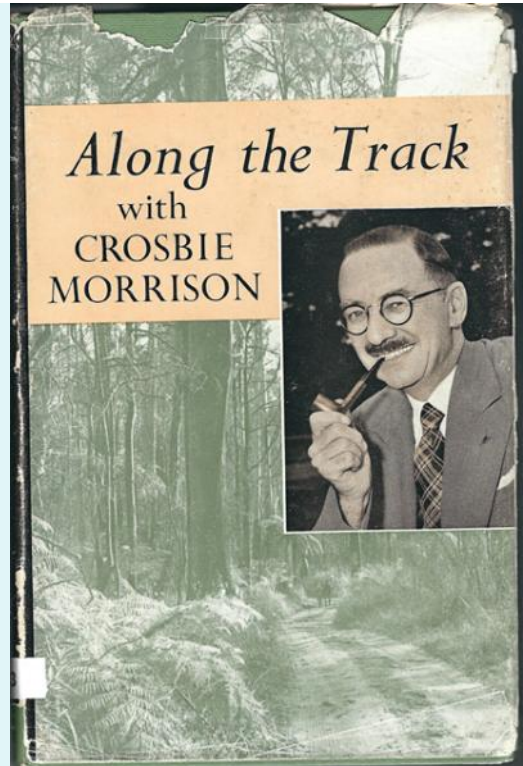
He worked as a journalist after graduating in zoology from Melbourne University in 1925. His articles and photographs were widely published and included school and nature notes and reports on scientific issues. He was also a popular public speaker and a lecturer on natural history to the Australian armed forces during the Second World War.

During the 1940's and 1950's he became Australia's best known naturalist. As a journalist with commercial radio and the Australian Broadcasting Commission, he made regular national nature study broadcasts to schools and other radio listeners for 20 years. He was also editor of WILD LIFE, a magazine which fostered interest in Australia's natural history and conservation, from 1938-54. After the war Morrison played a key role in promoting the establishment of National Parks in Victoria. He was the foundation president of the Victorian National Parks Association and was appointed Director of the National Parks Authority in Victoria in 1957.²

As reported in last month's Newsletter, Ken Crook generously donated his collection of WILD LIFE magazines 1938-1947 to the FOWSP library. Along with those nine volumes, Ken gave us a copy of the book *Along the Track with Crosbie Morrison – a Selection from his Nature talks* – compiled by Crosbie's wife, Lucy Morrison in 1961, three years after his death.

This book covers a multitude of topics including fossils, marsupials, bats, birds, earthworms and snails, reptiles, fungi, ferns, orchids, creatures of sea and shore, spiders and insects. It is delightful, easy reading for all ages and is available for loan from the library – Reference No. EN573.

1. Published by the Australian Science Archives Project 1997
2. Australian National Herbarium - April, 2015



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	3rd Nov	9:00-12:00	Koornung	Woody weeding	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	17th Nov	9:00-12:00	Whipstick Gully	Woody weeding	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	1st Dec	9:00-12:00	Mt Lofty	Maintenance	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 and extreme weather conditions.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2016			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			Nursery Phone	0408 317 327
			email nursery@fowsp.org.au	
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter Editor	<u>Newsletter assist and Librarian</u>	Gloria Moore
	editor@fowsp.org.au			0402 285005
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			
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary	<u>Market Trailer</u>	Jan Falconer
				9844 1226 or 0419 872 096
				Email: trailer@fowsp.org.au
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 November 8th 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.**



Wednesday 7th December 2016 Powerful Owl Research Deakin University Honours student Nick Bradsworth, will be presenting his exciting research on Australia's largest owl species the Powerful Owl. With an increase in human population and urban areas, it is important to completely understand the home range and habitat use of cryptic species such as the Powerful Owl, to ensure our co-existence. The owls that Nick will be focussing on, include pairs within the City of Manningham.

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

The nursery will no longer be open on weekends from November though to March inclusive.

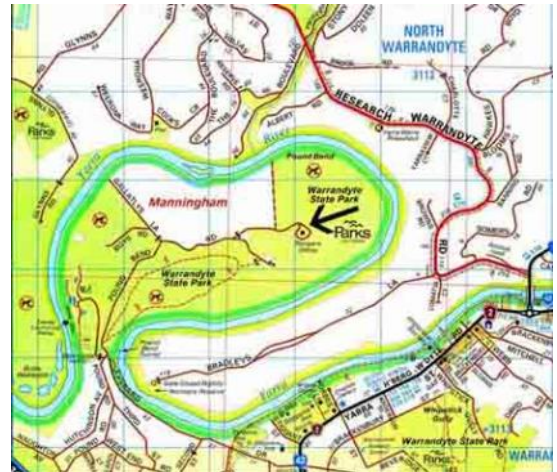
Weekend openings are expected to resume on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April 2017.

- the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) - April to October only.
- the first Sunday of every month, 2pm to 4pm - April to October only.

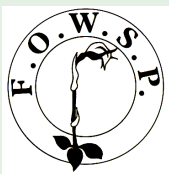
Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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

Prices: Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50



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



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 24th November 2016 Grass identification nature walk at Pound Bend Do all grasses look the same to you? Would you like to be able to tell a grass from a rush or a sedge? On this walk learn how to tell the common indigenous grasses apart.

Distance: 2km **Time:** 2.5 hrs **Rating:** Moderate (one short steep section)

9:30 Thursday 22 December 2016 Summer Solstice Walk at Blue-tongue Bend As we approach the peak of high summer, the flowering season is finishing. We will watch the sun climb towards its zenith in the northern sky as we view the river from the top of the escarpment, then shelter from the midday sun under the tall Manna Gums as we return. Also we will compare information from the original Timelines Project from over 20 years ago.

Distance: 4 km **Time:** 3.5 hrs **Rating:** Difficult (some steep, narrow sections on footpath)

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.

FOWSP provides a nursery to more than plants

Those of us who attend the nursery have had the great pleasure of observing, from a distance, a family of Common Bronzewings. First a nest of a scant layer of sticks was seen on a potted fern in the shadehouse.

In late September eggs were seen as in my photo right.

I was away for a couple of weeks so I am unsure when the young hatched but by my return on October the young were fully feathered. Both Josh and I took photos. Mine is below and Joshes may be seen in the Warrandyte Diary.

From Birdlife Australia I learned that *Bronzewings, like other pigeons, secrete a special milk-like substance from their crop, which is fed to the young chicks.*

I have had the additional pleasure of watching a pair of Bronzewings display their intricate courting display in my Greensborough garden.

Linda



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 1st October 2016
***Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Gloria Moore,
 Christine Andell, Lee and Graham Deacon, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook***



Special thanks to ***John 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 December or in 2017
please contact Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

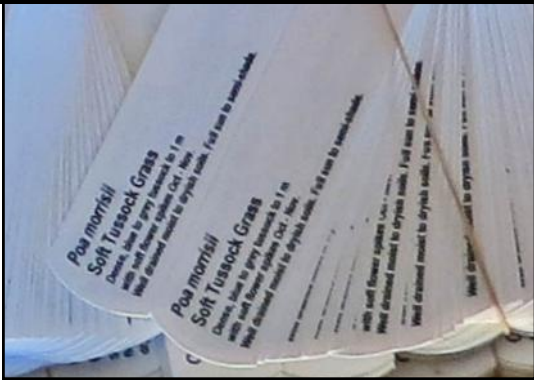
Next market dates are: *Saturdays, 5th November and 3rd December 2016*

Congratulations are due and well deserved...



...TO SARAH who was barely perceptively nervous when she performed two pieces unaccompanied on the flute as practice for her grade 8 flute exam through the Australian Music Education Board AMEB. It was morning tea at the nursery and all present enjoyed this unexpected concert. Even some of the customers stayed to listen. The best news is Sarah did very well and received an A! She celebrated by buying herself a new flute!

By the way the package she received (photo front page) was the long awaited plant species labels which were half way completed some time ago when the machine that printed them broke down. Apparently the only such machine in the area. The wait was finally rewarded by the arrival of the labels shown below.



...TO OUR CONSCIENTIOUS AND DEDICATED PRIZE WINNING TREASURER LYNDA GILBERT. Lindy has been awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for Not-for-profit Treasurers. 'The Treasurers' Awards are an initiative of Our Community, one of Australia's oldest social enterprises and one of the country's highest-ranking B Corps': ourcommunity.com.au 'The awards are also supported by Commonwealth Bank as part of its Not-for-Profit Sector Banking program.'

The letter accompanying the award states:

"For Lyndy's expertise and dedication as a treasurer, an amazing energetic and successful fundraiser and for preparing scrumptious morning teas each Thursday for FOWSP participants."

Lyndy would like to give 'My humble thanks to the person(s) who kindly put my name forward with these special words.

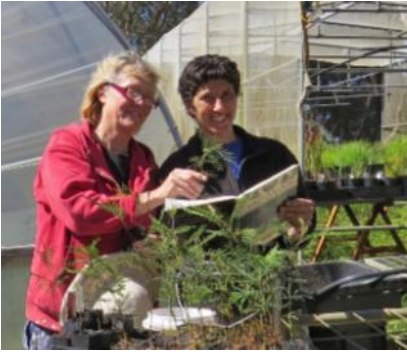
The letter also states that 'Not-for-profit groups are the backbone of our country - you build the communities in which we live and which provide vital support and services to those in need.'

All FOWSPians benefit in so many ways from Lyndy's efforts. It is highly appropriate that she is recognised and thanked for her capable and many contributions.

...TO CAITRIONA AND JOHN who are Grandparents again and share this news. 'Our daughter Laura gave birth to a 3.2Kg beautiful baby girl last night at approx 8pm. She had been in labour all day but was given an emergency caesarean section in the end. Both she and little Ava Rose are well'.

Colourful caterpillar character search

CAROLYN FOUND the attractive caterpillar above on *Acacia*. Annette looked it up in *Flying Colours*, the ever helpful book of local butterflies and moths, by our Malacoota-based members Pat and Mike Coupar. It was found to be a *Chlenias* species.



A search on the internet found *C. auctaria* and listed *Acacia* as one of many larval food plants. This species is highly polyphagous (eats a wide range of plant genera). The average size of this species is reduced 'by feeding on *Pinus radiata* (a non-native plant host) compared to two native host plants (*Eucalyptus obliqua* and *Acacia mearnsii*)'. ... the larvae on *Pinus radiata* simply could not get enough nutrient to catch up to those feeding on the native plant species. So given that it develops poorly on such plants, why does it continue to use them for food?

'... the polyphagous nature of this species may be related to the dispersal behaviour in this group. First 'instar larvae' (newly hatched) are active dispersers, and spend the first two days of their life moving about by climbing to the top of the plant upon which the eggs were laid, spinning a silk balloon, then ballooning to other plants. The choice made by adult female moths appears to have little effect on the host that the larvae end up eating. Larvae must feed within two days of dispersal; whatever plant they end up on at the end of two days dispersal becomes their food plant, hence the ability to cope with eating very different host plants appears to be an adaptation to this mode of dispersal. <http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/>

Thanks to Carol for the photos and leads to the information.

MEETING WITH MELBOURNE WATER

FOWSP was delighted to meet with Melbourne Water representatives, Andrew Mellor, Team Leader Lower Yarra and Huon Stephens, Customer Response Officer who were aiming to improve services to stakeholders, provide an overview of changes at Melbourne Water and ascertain the five key challenges that FOWSP was facing in communication with Melbourne Water. on Thursday 13 October

The new Melbourne Water, Waterways & Land Regional Services model is a sub-regional structure to reflect catchment boundaries and Council areas and improve service to its customers. Further changes include the insourcing of the Waterways & Land by creating a team dedicated to delivering maintenance and capital works such as grass cutting, weed and vegetation management, litter removal, desilting etc.

Huon Stephens is our first point of contact. Priya Crawford-Wilson, Waterways & Land Officer will assist FOWSP with grant applications. Both Huon and Priya service the Middle Yarra and southern tributaries including Mullum Mullum Creek, Andersons Creek, Jumping Creek & Brushy Creek. Call 131722 for any enquiries relating to these waterways.

Manningham Council and Melbourne Water are also aligning their works to reduce overlap of services.

Issues the FOWSP nursery was facing with Melbourne Water orders were discussed and a way was proposed provide better communication and a greater lead time to grow the required plants. Melbourne Water and FOWSP will liaise on Middle Yarra Landcare Network activities. Volunteers may wish to be involved in Melbourne Water plantings in the future.

Lynda Gilbert

Resolution: 'That Friends of Warrandyte State Park join Farmtree and Landcare Association Inc. (FTLA).'

Background information for this resolution:

Current cost for insurance AON \$ 2154.87 compared to \$ 1179 for insurance with FTLA which appears to be a more favourable option.

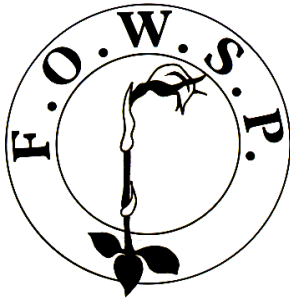
To enjoy the lower insurance cost we would need to become members of that organisation and that requires that FTLA is provided with our members list with names and addresses as they become members of the FTLA according to the rules for incorporated associations in Victoria.

FTLA insurance offers:

...protection for office bearers and employees in the course of carrying out their duties on behalf of their organisation.

This resolution to join the FTLA will be voted upon at the AGM.

For further details see the October 2016 Newsletter.



Print Post
346802/0005

Postage Paid
Australia

REGISTRATION BY AUSTRALIA POST
PP 346802 / 0005
If undeliverable please return to
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.
P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



Emperor Gum Moth *Opodiphthera eucalypti*
Have you seen any of these this year? This and the one on the email bonus page were found and photographed at 3am on the lighted toilet block at Dadswells Bridge. Once common around Melbourne, it is not so often seen these days. Perhaps part of the reason is shown by the fact that the larger of the two moths at the toilet block had lost her abdomen and only a few eggs remained. Perhaps a tasty snack for a microbat, made easier by her distraction by the toilet lighting. Certainly both moths nowhere to be seen in the morning after the local birds were awake.

Linda

November 2016 Vol. 34 no. 9

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

Email photo bonus page

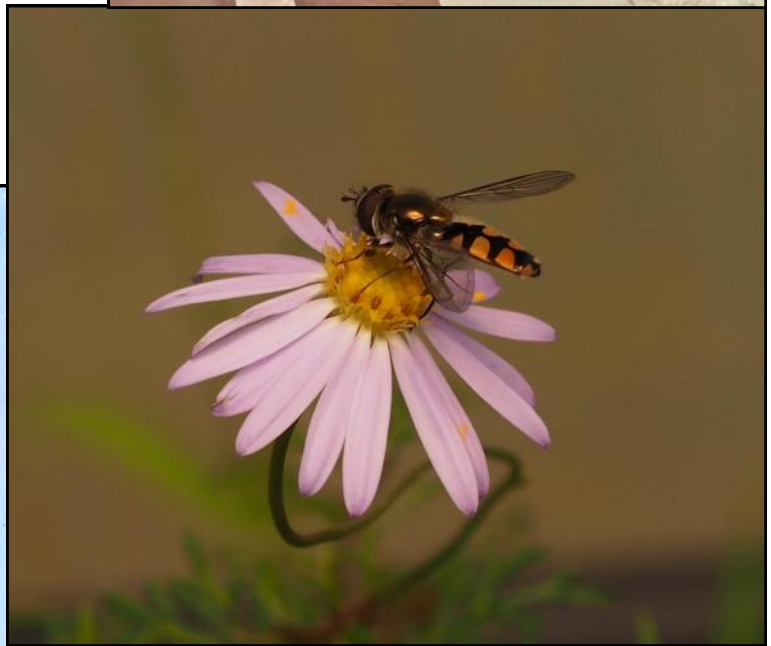
Snapshots of spring

Clockwise from upper right:
 Emperor Gum moth that lost its abdomen to some-
 one's midnight snack. Inset, some of the eggs left
 behind. Photo by Linda

Common Hoverfly *Melangyna viridiceps* on
 indigenous daisy. This species is appearing in
 great numbers this year. Photo by Carol.

Pair of Common Bronzewing pigeons that I
 observed in a touching courting display this
 month in my backyard. Photo by Linda

Small orange and black moths mating. Photo
 by Carol. And on the mating theme a pair of
 craneflies. Photo by Carol.



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