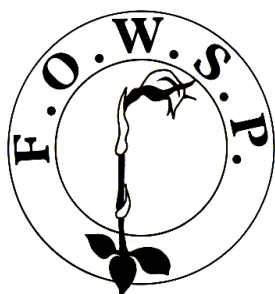


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Here we are in Late Summer in the Middle Yarra Timelines calendar and as Cathy has pointed out the weather has allowed seed collecting to continue beyond January. It is a very busy time as much processing of seeds, sowing and repotting orchids overlaps with the beginning of pricking out new seedlings (p.3). This year, it has been wet enough that the weeding has not stopped either. But here at FOWSP it all is almost always carried out with a smile as per the photo right.



But it is not all work either. FOWSPians do know how to celebrate. Photos from the December celebratory spit roast can be seen on p. 2. That was a wonderful

day with many welcome faces that we haven't seen in a while and it was lovely to have Faye and others from Parks Vic join us on the day. Sarah and her flute added to the magic of the day.

On p. 4 Janaya gives us just a small sample of work that has recently been carried out by the TAG team both on regularly scheduled TAG Thursdays and other days on short notice, often allowing completion of activities left unfinished on a TAG Thursday.

Gloria shares a lovely photo of two fledglings on p. 7 and Linda sneaks in an update on native bees in the pollinator garden.

Lyndy shares some of her delight and information she gained during a recent visit to Fraser Island on p. 8. On the same page find out about the outcome of the Saving Sexy Scented Orchids campaign to which FOWSP and many FOWSPians contributed.

Page 9 has more good news stories. First of all, Janaya provides information about a use of fire as an ecological management tool and of what can be accomplished in a very special bushland reserve when many teams work together with the same goal and the timing is just right. Equally important, we recognise Janaya's contributions to FOWSP and congratulate her on her springtime graduation.

Please keep your photos and reports coming and enjoy the February newsletter. *Linda*

**Deadline for March edition newsletter is
Friday 24th March 2017**

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

'Tis the season at FOWSP...



...for celebrating (before Christmas)...



...for seed sorting and sowing (front and below)...



Themeda above, *Acacia implexa* below



For celebrating again (after New Years)...



...for careful labelling and labels to be left in place in the trays after pricking out, as Annette reminds us.



..and again. Sorry Carol, you missed both days for what could have been your b'day cake.

Snippets from December TAGS 2016

Beckett Rd /Link Trail planting site Monday 12th Dec 16

Thank you to Lee and Graham (photo right), who came to help out at Mullum Mullum Park, Beckett Rd /Link Trail planting site. Weed removal revealed lots of little planted unmarked gems. Lee & Graham are also super Gems! Between us we spent a very warm Monday carrying out this very important work. We also began to mark out the plants that we found to enable easy identification when spraying weeds.



MT Lofty Two Million tree site stake and guard collection. Thursday 15th Dec. (photos left)

Josh even managed to get out of the office. Very hot day, but volunteers managed to spend whole day out and about, managing the difficult, steep terrain. Many tree guards and stakes were collected with many of the plants surviving the constant bombardment of grazing wildlife.



Harris property Clean-up Thursdays 1st & 8th Dec (photo left)

Again an amazing result! Volunteers cleared away *Polygala*, *Agave* (succulents) & *Agapanthus* from in front of the 2 properties. Thanks to Col (PV ranger) who collected some of the pricklier and somewhat hazardous weeds with the little tip truck and loader. Thank you and well done to all the TAG volunteers.
Janaya

And many thanks to Janaya for this information and these photos.

TAGS (Thursday activity groups) 2017

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	2nd Feb	9:00-12:00	Harris house	Weeding	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	16th Feb	9:00-12:00	3 Bridges/Boys Road	Maintain reveg area	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	2nd March	9:00-12:00	Naughton Ave	Woody Weeding	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	16th March	9:00-12:00	Gold Memorial car park	Woody weeding with ACCA	Difficult	FOWSP & ACCA

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

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

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2016/17			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
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			email nursery@fowsp.org.au	
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	editor@fowsp.org.au		Gloria Moore	0402 285005
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Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Market Trailer Jan Falconer</u>	9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
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Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		<u>Webmaster and membership</u>	Jason Patton 0402 121838 jason@parau.com
Carolyn Noel	0409 901 441		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647	Advisor to the committee	FOWSP general enquiry number 1300 764 422	
	legality@bigpond.com			

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, Peter Rogan
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday February 14th 2017

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:** 7.20 pm for 7:30pm start

Enquiries: Lyn Meredith, 9840 9326

Wednesday 1st February Deer - A monitored perspective Presented by Ami Bennett and Naomi Davis

Wild deer introduced to Victoria have become a serious management issue. This presentation will focus on Ami and Naomi's research on deer in Victoria and will outline the findings of a recent review of the impacts and management of deer across Australia.

Wednesday 1st March Botanical geography and history across Bass Strait - Presented by Dr Matt Dell

Matt will discuss the influence of Bass Strait on the distribution of plants in Victoria and Tasmania, including species local to Manningham which have origins or relationships with Bass Strait.

His presentation will summarise research in this area and provide numerous colour slides of vegetation and plant species for illustration. Matt is a Principal Botanist at Ecology Australia and completed his PhD in 2009 on aspects of plant ecology in north-eastern Tasmania.

Saturday 04 March 2017, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm Matt will share his knowledge of plant ecology during a walk in the Jumping Creek Reserve. He will lead us through different vegetation types and habitats to identify both vascular and non-vascular plants, and discuss how these groups interact. Bookings required.

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.

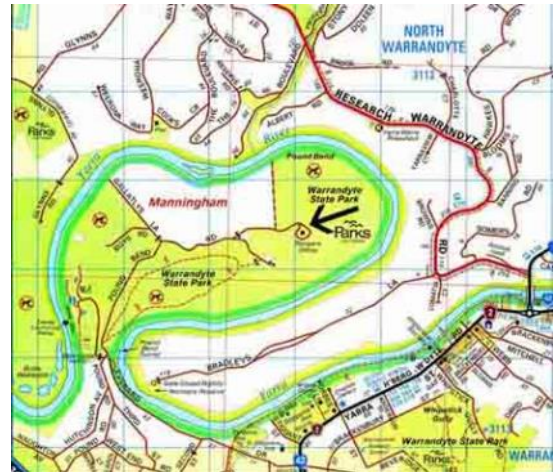
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

April to October only:

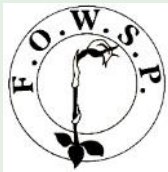
the first Saturday of the month, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) *and*
the first Sunday of the month
2 pm to 4 pm.

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.

9:30 am Thursday 23 February Jumping Creek to Warrandyte Bridge On this walk, follow the river downstream, over the escarpment and then onto alluvial flats, through an old orchard and past some gold mining heritage in Warrandyte.

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

9:30 am Thursday 23 March Westerfolds Wandering The Westerfolds section of Yarra Valley Parklands forms part of a valuable habitat link stretching all the way from Kinglake National Park through to Yarra Bend Park at the city's edge.

Distance: 5 km **Time:** 3 hrs **Rating:** Easy to moderate

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.



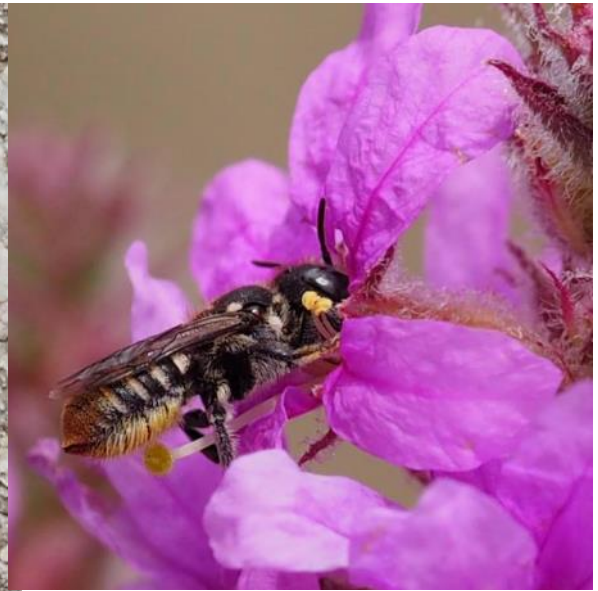
Local fledglings

Instead of Bookchat this month Gloria has provided this lovely photo of two fledgling Wattlebirds. She says "The photo was taken on New Year's Day. It was the first time I saw them, although I had been pretty sure the parents were nesting nearby. I saw one of the fledglings again the next day near my birdbath..."

And at the nursery...

Resin bees have moved into the bee posts that were erected in Carolyn's pollinator garden in December 2015. Although I have seen these bees feeding on Lythrum and other flowers, January 5th 2017 was the first

chance to observe and photograph them entering and sealing the holes in the bee posts. These are the smallest of the resin bees that I have been observing. Stop press-another large resin bee has been photographed nesting. See photo on email bonus page. *Linda*



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 3rd December 2016
**Jan Falconer, Marion Thomson, Jeff Cranston, Jan Smids
 Lee & Graham Deacon, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook**

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

Next market dates are: Saturdays, 4th February, 4th March 2017.



OUR FRASER ISLAND FORAY

Ken and I visited Fraser Island (K'gari = Paradise) in January 2017 using a great seniors' deal offered by Queensland Rail. It has magnificent forests, lakes, streams, beaches and pristine water as can be seen below in the bird's-eye photo that I took during a joyride in a light plane over the 75 mile beach.

Fraser Island was listed as a World Heritage island in 1992 to recognise its significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and superlative natural phenomena. It has the world's largest vegetated dune system and contains the tallest rainforests growing on sand in the world.

Conservation groups were instrumental in stopping the sand mining and logging in 1991. They helped create the Fraser National Park and were also responsible for the island's inclusion in the world heritage listing. The island is 24 km wide and 120 km long. It is the largest sand island in the world. Some 400,000 people visit each year to see its spectacular rain forests, streams, over 100 lakes and uninterrupted white beaches flanked by striking coloured sand cliffs.

There are more than 350 species of birds recorded to date and the island is an important site for migratory wading birds on their way to Siberia.

There are 48 species of mammals. You can see funnel web spiders, red backs, bats, dingos, small wallabies, gliders, possums, turtles, whales, dolphins and many types of fish as well as dugongs. There are 79 species of reptiles and 23 types of frogs of which the acid frogs are the most curious (so called because of their ability to adapt to a low Ph environment).

I was particularly impressed with our visit to the Hoop Pine forest (*Araucaria Cunninghamii*) which was host to staghorn ferns (*angiopteris*). We paddled in Eli Creek which has an outflow of pure water of 80 million litres per day and Lake McKenzie, were crystal clear and stunning in their beauty visited during our four-wheel drive tour.

I urge you to visit this wonderful island to see the magical forests and pristine waters, it is truly magnificent. I have donated a book to the FOWSP library - "*Fraser Island Australia*" by Peter Meyer, which will whet your appetite. It is a great visual presentation! The book lists the common flora and fauna to be found on the island. Peter also sprinkles his book with his own philosophy about life which is interesting to reflect upon as you look at the artistic photography.

Lyndy Gilbert

Fraser Island Australia" is now on the FOWSP library shelves - ref. no. EN576.

Gloria

References:

"Fraser Island Australia" by Peter Meyer

<http://www.usc.edu.au/learn/the-usc-experience/usc-spaces/fraser-island-research-and-learning-centre/about-fraser-island>

<http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/flora-and-fauna>



75 Mile Beach Fraser Island



Hoop Pine with staghorn Fraser Island

Congratulations to Janaya

FOWSPians want to extend sincere congratulations to Janaya for successfully completing the La Trobe University Certificate IV in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management. It was a 9/10 week course (1 week block per month starting from February). This in-depth course included visits to various sites (on country) across the State. The archaeologically based program included: inspection/monitoring, investigating/identifying & conserving of cultural heritage landscapes and environments as well as describing & managing cultural heritage materials. Also important is understanding legislative compliance and how this contributes to preservation & conservation of Aboriginal Cultural heritage. Learning included strategies for community (Aboriginal) engagement and stakeholder management. There was heaps of fieldwork, and administrative work as well.



FOWSPians greatly appreciate all that Janaya adds to the team. As editor, I particularly appreciate her many contributions to this newsletter.

Linda

Very Special Ecological Planned Burn in Nearby Bushland

The purpose of this planned burn was to significantly improve the long-term survival rates for the Wine-lipped Spider-orchid *Caladenia oenochila* & Woodland Plume-orchid *Pterostylis* sp. aff. *Plumosa*.

As timing was critical to the survival of these threatened species, the burn was undertaken as late as possible in burn window when both the orchid and its mycorrhizal fungus are dormant. The window of opportunity to undertake planned burns is very small, usually within spring and autumn. Conditions must be both safe enough to prevent unwanted fire spread and also dry enough to burn. Fortunately, mother nature opened the tiniest window on the first day of December, thus achieving the summer burn component and appropriate permissions to burn outside the recommended burn period.

The last recorded fire for this area was in 1962. Over time there has been noticeable decline of species diversity and indicators, such as senescing grasses, showed that fire needed to be used as a management tool. The recommended time interval required between burns for this area's ecological vegetation class (EVC) is about 40 years.

In addition to fire as a management tool, the park secured funding through a Victorian government threatened species initiative to install predator/herbivore exclusion fencing and orchid cages and to undertake weed work.

Parks Victoria's Fire & Emergency team (Middle Yarra/Plenty), DELWP's Forest Fire Management team, Pantton Hill & St Andrews CFA (Country Fire Authority), Wurundjeri's NARAP team and Nillumbik, were all in attendance to carry out this 1.5-hectare burn. Parks Victoria's Acting CEO, Margaret Gillespie, District manager (Phil Ross) and Acting regional district manager (Rocky Barca), also attended the briefing.



All these organisations and departments worked extremely well together sharing knowledge, mentoring and executing the burn. Ranger Cam Beardsell reported good results during and post burn and was very pleased with what was achieved. Cam is very appreciative of the time and effort in the behind the scenes planning as well as the on ground preparation of identifying habitat trees and protective fencing delivered by the Fire Team (Project Fire Fighter and Field Service Officers).

Special thanks to Luke Perry (team leader fire & emergency) and Cam Beardsell for all their efforts in planning and delivering an important ecological burn for the park and for providing the above information.

Thanks also to Janaya for organising this information for inclusion in the FOWSP newsletter. Editor

FOWSP helps save rare grassland orchids

It is no secret that many FOWSPians have a strong interest in the native orchids of Victoria. As such we were pleased to make a small contribution to the fund that will help to save the Sunshine Diuris and the Small Golden Moth orchids in Melbourne's western grassland plains. This was via the Saving Sexy Scented Orchid campaign with Pozible. Although the campaign is now closed, you can read about it on the Pozible website at:

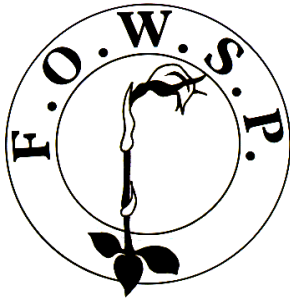
<https://pozible.com/project/205451>

It is also amazing that 148 people raised \$18,753 in just two months. The government is matching this amount dollar for dollar.

Lyndy



This photo appeared on Pozible project website. Used here with permission from Karen Lester (right), for the orchids team.



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Leucospis sp. Parasitic Wasp

This colourful wasp, about 1 cm long, was photographed on my bee posts. She has a very large segment on her hind leg but doesn't appear to jump. She also carries her ovipositor tucked up along the back of her abdomen.

The most interesting thing that I have learned about this particular wasp is the she is a parasite on resin bees, such as those that nest in my bee posts. Hmm... Okay, part of nature's balance but I'm just as glad they are not too common.

Linda

February 2017 Vol. 35 no. 1

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no.

Email

Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$15

Newsletter by email (tick box)

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or renew on the website www.fowsp.org.au with the option of direct deposit payment.

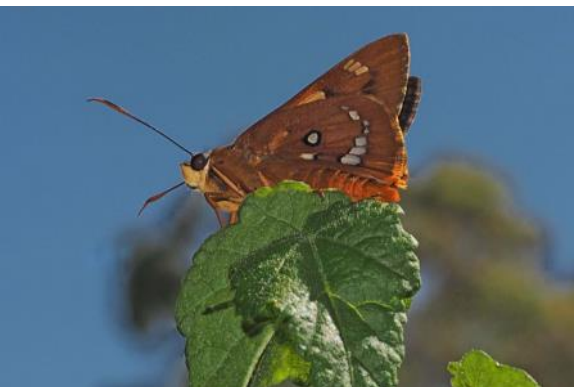
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Email photo bonus page

Pollinators at the nursery: *Lipotriches flavoviridis*, a shiny yellow-green bee on *Goodenia humilis* (below left); Female Blue-banded Bee *Amegilla asserta* hovering near *Lythrum* (below right); face of a new resident in the bee posts photographed for the first time on 2 Feb.2017 (2nd below left) and the same species photographed on my bee posts at home, the largest resin bee nesting so far , *Megachile lucidiventris*. This medium large black bee has white hair on thorax and underbelly.



And more in my own garden: A *symmopus* male, *Trapezites symmopus* the largest and most spectacular of the skippers (below left); Side view of the *Leucospis* wasp from p. 10 clearly showing the ovipositor on her back. This one is going to join the collection at Museum Victoria where she will be the first of her genus. *Linda*



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