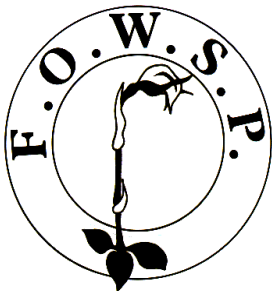


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Well the rains have finally come and with the rain some chilly weather. This has been perfect weather to resume our planting in Frogland (see p. 9).

Thanks to Huon and new volunteer Yolanda for posing for this issue's smile-makers.

As usual FOWSPians have been active in many areas.

John Young, who with Caitriona, won two free tickets to the Melbourne Flower Show shares the experience with the rest of us on p. 2.

Meanwhile on p. 3 Lynda Chambers (yes another author named Lynda/Linda) has been keeping a sharp eye out for small creatures in Park Orchards. Her contributions are most welcome and we hope to have many more in the future.

Not to be confused with myself who brings you some of the creatures seen near the Little Desert on p. 4. And also a couple of snippets on p. 9.

On p. 7 we resume a report from the Committee as we have sometimes done in the past. Let me know if you find this information of use and I will try to continue it.

There are many smiles on page 8 which also ends with a letter from one of our (now) Queensland members that makes me smile.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this newsletter. I ask all FOWSPians to consider what you can contribute to the next one. The more contributors the more interesting it will be.

Linda R.



Young Huon discusses the intricacies of trucking with new volunteer Yolanda in the potting soil bin at FOWSP.
 photo by Linda R

**Deadline for June edition newsletter is
 Friday **May 26 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

A day at the Melbourne Flower Show

ON SUNDAY APRIL 2ND, Caitriona and I went to the Melbourne Flower and Garden Show courtesy of 2 free tickets provided by Josh's brother, Luke and then a lucky dip draw by Josh at morning tea.

Luke had been part of a group that had won 3rd prize in the Open Garden section, partly due to the water plants donated by FOWSP! We had a look at the prize winning exhibit and it surely would have won first prize if we had been part of the judging panel. The fish painted on the base of the pond were a highlight in themselves.

This year, as in previous years, there were a series of largish gardens done by professionals and small "backyards" constructed by students. One such garden was a recreation of Bilbo's cottage in Bag End. It certainly got our vote for People's Choice.

All were interesting, shall we say, and quite a few very attractive. You could see yourself relaxing in some of them with a cool glass of wine. One disappointing note is that relatively few native plants are used in the displays; perhaps a section featuring only Australian natives could be included in next year's show?

As for the rest it is, as always, a grand mix of the sublime and the ridiculous. The flower displays in the main hall are amazing creations with absolutely no practical purpose but that is art presumably. There are displays of photographs and art work, also worth seeing and, if that palls, the Exhibition Building itself is always a delight.

Then, of course, there is the retail section. Again, almost no Australian plants to be seen. A pity. As we'd gone by bus we were relieved of the opportunity to buy too much and only came home with a hat apiece. A few years ago we bought a large garden mulcher and a shade house but we avoided temptation this time.

A great day out and thanks again, Josh, for your generosity.

John Young



Lynda Chambers from Park Orchards

Easter Visitor

THE EASTER BREAK saw us up and down ladders painting the window frames on our house. On Good Friday I returned to the low retaining wall running along the front of the house to add to the pile of items I was using. To my surprise I noticed a small snake curled up less than 30 cm away watching my every move. It did not seem at all worried about me being so close, its head still within the coil and low to the ground. A quick photo and consult with my reptile books revealed it to be an adult White-lipped Snake, *Drysdalia coronoides*. The snake stayed in the same position for most of the day before disappearing into the nearby vegetation. The next day, the snake was back and, as we worked, it moved closer, sitting on the retaining wall ... almost as if it wished to have a better view. As the painting continues, we are happy to have our resident 'supervisor'.

Although venomous these snakes are not considered aggressive. White-lipped Snakes are easy to identify due to a conspicuous white stripe along the upper lip, lined with black. Not much thicker than your finger, their total length is generally less than 40 cm. These snakes are listed as common in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne but are rarely seen due to their shy nature and their preference for areas of heavy vegetation. They mostly eat small lizards supplemented by the occasional frog.



White lipped Snake Photo: LE Chambers



Wolf Spider Photo: LE Chambers

Night Invaders

AS MY TORCH LIGHTS a path through the bush, hundreds of sparkling blue 'jewels' are revealed. Surrounded, I take a closer look, discovering a landscape dominated by arachnids. Ground-dwelling night hunters, the Wolf Spiders (family Lycosidae), are easy to spot at night, their eyes reflecting blue.

In the day time I find them when digging or weeding; they rapidly run away once disturbed. Unlike most other spider species, the female cares for her young, carrying the spiderlings on her back until they are able to fend for themselves.

Lynda C.

Creatures of the Little Desert in April

A camping trip the weekend before Anzac Day provided me with some interesting finds. Clockwise from the upper right: a Marbled Gecko found inside a parrot nest box; the Hepialid or ghost moth *Abantiades marcidus* was one of the species that had emerged from the ground after rain leaving the ground littered with large and small exuviae as shown in the inset. The moths were drawn to light at night; a giant huntsman under the toilet seat was identified as *Typostola barbata* not often seen in Victoria; and lastly the tiny Bronze Aussie Jumper *Helpis minitabunda* found on a Eucalypt.

Linda R



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 May 3-The River and the Bay - the Yarra beyond the Valley - Presented by Dr Neville Rosengren.

Neville will take us on a geological journey to describe the origins of the Yarra River and the formation of Port Philip Bay. He will discuss the Yarra delta, the form and origins of the bay and the river at lower and higher sea-levels.

If you attend the above event, you may also book to attend the field trip:

How we modified a river with Neville Rosengren Thursday 04 May 2017, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm This field tour will explore the lower Yarra modifications including Herring Island, the meander cut offs near the Botanic Gardens, and the removal of the Queen Street falls and Coode Canal.

Please note, you must attend Dr Neville Rosengren's seminar on Wednesday 3 May to be eligible to book and attend this field trip. **Venue:** Will be given at time of booking

Wednesday 7 June Fungi - Ecological interaction - Presented by Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher. Sapphire a Fungal Ecologist and the Fungimap Coordinator, will explain what fungi do in our bushland focusing their ecology and links to other species. She will then highlight some local recognisable fungi and how you can contribute data to Fungimap.

A workshop will be held in the afternoon, before the environmental seminar, where you can learn how to utilise the Atlas of Living Australia to explore the local fungi species recorded. In this session you can learn how to best share your observations and data with Fungimap. To book for the workshop and keep your place, you must attend the seminar.

Venue: Will be given at time of booking **Time:** 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Bookings: Bookings are essential. Please email epadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au to book

Wednesday 8 June Fungi ecology walk with Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher. Come for a wander through Jumping Creek Reserve with Sapphire, where she will show you the local fungi and explain their roles in the bushland.

Venue: Will be given at time of booking

Time: 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

If you plan to book for this walk you must attend the relevant seminar.

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		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
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Joy Hick	0418573916		Manningham Council Rep	Cathy Willis 0427 660 651
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Webmaster and membership	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

<p>Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Gloria Moore, Lisa Jenkins Mel Coupar (Line drawings)</p>

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday 9 May 2017
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.

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	4 May	9:00-12:00	Mullum Becketts Rd	Maintain reveg area	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	18 May	9:00-12:00	Mullum Becketts Rd	Maintain reveg area	Difficult	FOWSP
Thurs	1 June	9:00-12:00	Lower Orchard Track	Planting	Easy	FOWSP

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

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

FOWSP 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

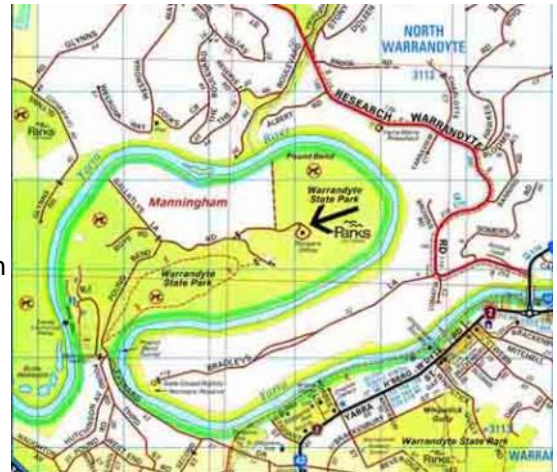
and

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

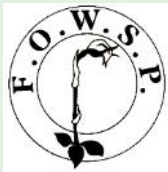
Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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

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



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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.

Thursday 25 May 2017 Tikilara Circuit 9:30 am to 12:30pm Tikilara Park is part of the Yarra Valley Parklands in Templestowe. It includes a healthy riparian corridor (zone between the land and the river) as well as the Pontville Homestead, which was home to the Newman family, the first settlers this far east of Melbourne. Cattle still graze around the historic homestead.

Distance: 5km **Time:** 3 hrs **Rating:** Moderate

Thursday 22 June 2017, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Wittons Reserve to Clifford Park over the Yarra Brae escarpment Nature Walk From the gentle river flats near where the Yarra River and Brushy Creek meet, this walk will ascend over the steep rocky escarpment and back down to the Clifford Park river terrace.

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

Please note: this walk involves a 2 kilometre shared car shuttle as the walk is one way.

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.

From the Committee Meeting in April 2017

GRANTS APPLIED FOR:

NURSERY FRAME, PROTECTION NETS AND WATERING SYSTEM: Two grants are being sought for this project. One is the Community and volunteer action grant. Thanks to Kelvin and Artur for pursuing these.

FNCV grant for a computer. Thanks to Lyndy for this application. Stop press: It has been successful! The Environment Fund awards will be announced at the FNCV Annual General Meeting on Sunday 7th May, starting at 2 pm, at 1 Gardenia Street Blackburn.

NURSERY REPORT: Annette reported that April sales have been good perhaps due to improved planting weather. She also states that 14,000 plants have already been pricked out on Thursdays in 2017 to early April thanks to all the volunteers. Additional thanks to Cathy for facilitating the updating of the plant labels.

LOCAL INSECT STUDY: We are in the process of planning a combined activity with the Entomological Society of Victoria for late November or early December. Watch for further information.

AGM: The date for the AGM will be the second Sunday in November, which this year will be 12 November 2017.

PARKS VIC INVITATION: Parks Vic has sent out an invitation for active FOWSP volunteers to attend a recognition day at the Zoo on Saturday 13 May 2017. See details at the FOWSP nursery. RSVP by Monday 8 May, <https://rsvp2017.eventbrite.com.au>

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

A big **thank you** to those who helped out on Saturday 1st April and Warrandyte Festival March 25 and 26 2017



Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Liz Clarkson, Jan Smids, Sybille Ims, Kelvin Watkins, Caitriona Young, John Young, Jan Davies, Lyn Moore, Gloria Moore, Lyn Douth, Geoff Speedy, Christine Andell, Marie Krause, Daniel and Marae Epstein, Cathy Willis, Jan Falconer, Kim Cope, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook

Special thanks to **Josh Revell and John Young** who transported the market trailer.

And thanks again to Carolyn and her artistic painters who have made the trailer so glamorous.

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 the future 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, 6 May and 3 June 2017*

At FOWSP nursery



The nursery at FOWSP is almost always resplendent with the smiles of volunteers and staff members but they often fade when I get myself organised with a camera or phone. So I am particularly appreciative that these FOWSP ladies were willing to pose with their winning smiles.



One of many things that FOWSPians have to smile about, this lovely strawberry pavlova as a part of the scrumptious morning tea provided by Lyndy

Letters To the Editor

Environmental concerns

FOWSP has been notified of the following environmental concerns which members may wish to investigate further:

Jumping Creek Upgrade <http://yoursaymanningham.com.au/jumping-creek-road-upgrade>

Pigeon Bank Road development see p. 4-5 Warrandyte Diary in April

"I am writing to renew our membership of FOWSP. Inspired by all I learnt while I was able to attend the Nursery, I am still working in our own little nursery and taking part in Bushcare and Coastcare activities on Coochiemudlo Island. As everywhere, weeds are a terrible and ongoing problem here, but we battle on and also do regeneration planting where we are allowed. PS I loved the photo of Ranger Steve though I wouldn't have recognised him! Whilst I was ageing, he was growing a grey beard!"

Olive Walters, Coochiemudlo Island Queensland

Gray's beanie

I WAS PUZZLED when Gray handed me his grey beanie saying 'I have something for you'. It wasn't such a cold Thursday that a beanie was needed. He unfolded it to reveal an egg case or ootheca (photo below left). 'This is fresh' he said. 'I frightened the female praying mantis yesterday just as she had finished laying.' It may have been fresh but it was with great difficulty that we removed it from the wool so that I could take the egg case home for further observation.

Although Gray didn't get a photo, the mother was almost certainly a False Garden Mantis *Pseudomantis albofimbriata* (photo below). I am waiting to see how long it is to hatching and how many young emerge. I am guessing this may not be until spring but I will let you know.

Linda R.

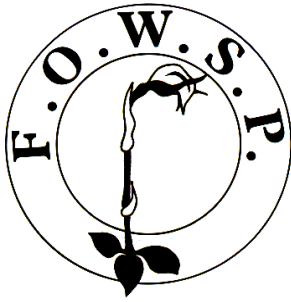


What's happening in Frogland

Since the earliest hint of Autumn rain, we have been adding more plants to Frogland. Most excitingly the Blunt Greenhood, *Pterostylis curta* and *Drosera* sp. The greenhoods began to show their leaves within two weeks of planting (photo below). The *Drosera* should also be showing soon as in my pot below. Also planted this season are *Desmodium varians*, *Helichrysum scorpioides* (now *Coronidium*), *Acacia brownii*, *Olearia myrsinoides* and *Entolasia marginata* (Bordered Panic grass). In order to protect these plants we have added the stakes shown below to make the gates as high as the rest of the fence as we have seen wallaby scats inside recently. We are also taking further steps to increase the visibility of the fence to wallabies and kangaroos to avoid unwanted collisions. There is something happening every Thursday in Frogland so come along to have a look and lend a hand.

Linda R.





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**Little dumpy or brittle greenhood
*Pterostylis truncate***

One of my favourite autumn blooming orchids, this greenhood was once widespread around Melbourne. Now it can be seen blooming in good years in the You Yangs and also Long Forest. Since much of its habitat has been developed for housing, it is now threatened or endangered in Victoria.

It grows in dense colonies but does not always flower well. When it does it can be quite spectacular.

Linda R.

May 2017 Vol. 35 no. 4

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$15
Newsletter by email (tick box)

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

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus page



Thanks to John Young for the three photos above that give us a glimpse of the Melbourne Flower Show 2017.

Thanks to Liz Clarkson for the photo (right) of John at the FOWSP market trailer on a Warrandyte Festival day.



A green *Correa* in Linda R's garden.



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