June 2017 Volume 35 Number 5

## 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



A smile of FOWSPians of all ages. See page 2

#### Editor's Corner

The gathering above was a special morning tea to wish happy birthday and fond farewell to Bernie. (see p. 2)

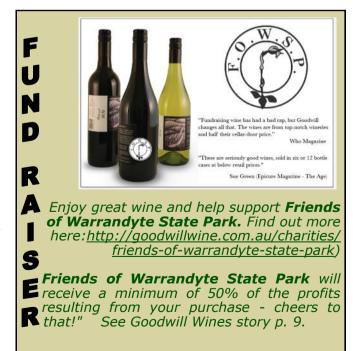
Recent rains have really shown up the difference since the pollinator garden was established 2 yrs ago (p. 3)

It is an excellent time for planting and three special shrubs are available (p. 4)

Committee reports are on p. 7.

News from the hard working TAG team on p. 8 and on p. 9 Gloria shares her pleasure from attending the Parks Vic. Volunteer Appreciation Day at the zoo along with other FOWSPians. Janaya and Kaye were amongst the able sausage chefs.

Enjoy this newsletter and send items for the next one well before the deadline below. Linda



## Deadline for July-August edition newsletter is Friday 23 June 2017

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

#### Exceptional dedication and excellence

FOWSP has been privileged to work with many exceptionally dedicated and talented rangers over the years. It is always a bit sad when one of them approaches the end of their professional career. On Thursday May 18 we had the privilege of celebrating the milestone of a significant birthday for Ranger Bernie while wishing him all the best for his upcoming retirement. Bernie is certainly amongst the best and we appreciate all the help he has provided to us as well as other friends groups over more than 35 years.

The photo on the front shows some who joined us for the morning tea on this special day. Sadly some are a bit hidden in the back row. However

you may still be just able to see Josh, who is our manager and is another exceptionally dedicated soul. Photo below shows how he was cheerfully escorted to join in the group photo.

Also present, Ranger Cam (below right) whom we also include in our honour roll of excellence. He claims he may end up being the 'last man standing'.

Cam gave me a thrill when he said he could 'feel an article coming on' about how important it is that as our elder rangers and conservationists move on, we must take care to see that their knowledge and ethic is passed on to the young. Alas he didn't mean that he would write this article himself. He is very right however, and as we all appear to be aging, the passing on of knowledge to the young is critical and we must make opportunities to carry this out.

All in all, it was a morning of lots of smiles and a bit of laughter.



#### What a difference two years make

Some time ago FOWSPians experimented with the construction of native bee houses. To date there hasn't been a lot of bee activity in the early mud brick constructions so we decided to encourage them further by providing a food source; hence the construction of the pollinators garden.

Located out the back of the nursery shade houses, near the terrestrial orchid pots, the garden is now two years young. The before and after shots are a testament to what a bit of hard work, water, the right plants and time can do to transform an area.

We have installed a couple of extra bee posts as well and I am happy to report that these posts have been inhabited by at least two species of resin bees.

The garden also provides a demonstration of what some of our indigenous wild flowers look like when they are fully grown.

carolyn

This garden would not be a reality without Carolyn's jumping in to make it happen. It is a work in progress and I am particularly keen to see how it looks this spring. Ed.

Before right

After below





#### In the nursery this month

These three shrubs are currently available but often sell out so get in while you can! All can be used successfully to create a hedge or screen, and all are bird attracting. The first two are prickly so they make great habitat plants.



**Sweet Bursaria** (*Bursaria spinosa*) is a medium to large shrub with bright green leaves and small spines along the stems. It is highly adaptable to moisture levels and soils types but will grow larger in damper situations. With masses of white starry flowers in late summer through autumn it provides nectar for butterflies and birds at a time of year when little else is flowering.(photo left)

**Prickly Currant-bush** (*Coprosma quadrifida*) lives up to its name. Don't be put off, this small to medium shrub's brilliant, edible red berries in late summer-autumn make it a very worthwhile garden plant. Providing there is plenty of moisture it copes well very with shade, so it is useful for a dark damp spot.

Round-leaf Pomaderris (*Pomaderris vacciniifolia*) (photos below) only occurs in Victoria and is listed as endangered. It likes a well-drained soil and sun to semi-shade. It has been recorded in the past on the cliffs opposite Pound Bend. Luckily the nursery is able to propagate it. This small to medium shrub has soft rounded dark green leaves and masses of tiny cream flowers in mid-late spring, followed by small round fruits that the rosellas love.





### **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	1 June	9:00-12:00	Lower Orchard track	Planting	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	15 June	9:00-12:00	Mullum Mullum Heads Road	Planting	Difficult	FOWSP
Thurs	29 June	9:00-12:00	Fitzsimmons Lane Wetland	Planting	Easy	FOWSP

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

Please note TAGS and actvities will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are

deemed hazardous.

FOWSP COMMIT	TEE 2016/17	OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Nursery Manager Nursery Phone 0408 317 327 email nursery@fowsp.org.au
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP



## 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 and other natural areas of Manningham.

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.

<u>9:30 am Thursday June 22 2017</u> 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. Please note: this walk involves a 2 kilometre shared car shuttle as the walk is one way.

Distance: 3km Time: 3 hrs Rating: Difficult

All distances and finishing times are approximate.

#### Ratings:

**Easy** – Flat or undulating well formed tracks/paths with low tripping hazards.

**Moderate** – May include some moderately steep or narrow sections or have higher tripping hazards.

**Difficult** – Includes steep and/or narrow sections, slippery sections, or high tripping hazards.

Bookings can be made online and are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date. www.manningham.vic.gov.au/nature-walks

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 THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities <u>every</u> Thursday morning at 9.30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), <u>unless otherwise stated below</u>. 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

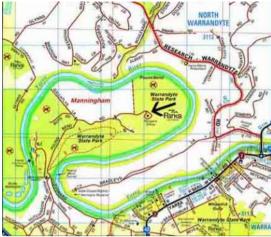
and

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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## **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 7 June Fungi - Ecological interaction - Presented by Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher. 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 also attend the seminar.

**Thursday 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.

#### Wednesday 5 July—Conservation of the Superb Lyrebird on the Melbourne fringe With Alex Maisey

In addition to being a world-renown mimic, the Superb Lyrebird has recently been recognised as an ecosystem engineer, due to the massive volume of soil displaced by the species when foraging. PhD candidate Alex Maisey will introduce you to the fascinating life of the lyrebird, their functional role in forest ecosystems and share some footage of their elaborate courtship displays. Alex will also present some of his research on the habitat requirements of the species in the context of conservation within Melbourne's fringe.

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

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

## From the Committee Meeting in May 2017

#### **Goodwill Wines:**

Proposed that an advertisement promoting Goodwill Wines be placed in the FOWSP newsletter for 6 months and the response evaluated in the 7th month. After that, a decision will be made on whether to continue promoting Goodwill Wines as a fund raiser depending upon the response from members.

#### **Nursery Frame for watering system and Protection Nets:**

Kelvin has obtained a quote for \$8,500 for the frame and will source another quote for comparison. He has the SUEZ grant application in process and will complete by the closing date on May 19th. This frame is important to the watering and protection of FOWSP nursery plants.

#### **Pigeon Bank Land Development:**

Warrandyte Community Association meeting will discuss this issue on Thursday 11th May. Lyndy will attend. (see below) Carolyn is to compose a letter to Jane Ashton with copies to other Nillumbik councillors regarding the Pigeon Bank Land Development. This will be distributed to other committee members before being sent.

#### Jumping Creek Road Upgrade:

The committee decided that FOWSP will become involved in the community consultations regarding the Jumping Creek Road upgrade. As the project is guaranteed to proceed, the object of FOWSP's involvement is minimisation of harm to wayside trees and animal life.

#### **Nursery Report:**

90% of the 1200 plants for Kinglake National Park have been sent off for planting, FOWSP has passed the OH&S review conducted by Parks Vic, Sarah will be Annette's replacement from July 1st to August 8th, Parks Vic will receive estimated 2,000 free plants from FOWSP in 2017.

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

Next Committee Meeting				
Date:	Tuesday 13 June 2017			
Venue:	Education Centre, Pound Bend			
Time:	19:30 pm sharp			

#### **Environmental concerns**

#### **Pigeon Bank Road development:**

'Carolyn wants FOWSPIANS to be aware of how important it is that this development is stopped as it may set a precedent for further poor developments in the green wedge.'

The case is progressing to a compulsory conference to be held on 6 July 2017. Interested parties are preparing the legal paperwork for the conference. If people wish to read the legal matter in detail, refer to

Cope v Nillumbik SC [2017] VČAŤ 684 (12 May 2017) at http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2017/684.html

#### **FOWSP MARKET TRAILER**

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 6th May 2017

Jeff Cranston, Yolanda Silveri Christine Andell, Marie Krause, Lyn Doutch 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 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, 3 June 2017 and 1 July 2017

### Snapshots from recent TAGS

#### Mullum Mullum Park



Heads Road, planting site: (Photo upper left) The group undertook maintenance activity following up on last year's rehab after approx. 100 mature pine trees were removed via MFEP (Melbourne fire and emergency program). TAG will undertake follow up planting with AON insurance on 15th June.

Beckett Road: The link trail, completed last year, connects the MMP /EastLink bike & pedestrian trail to Manningham's Mullum Mullum reserve and beyond to the main Yarra trail. It was planted out by contract project. TAG has been busy following this up with weeding and planting this site adding *Viminaria*, *Correa*, *Lomandra*, and *Themeda* amongst the mix. All plants grown from seed or cuttings locally collected, by TAG/ nursery staff & Janaya and propagated by FOWSP nursery members.



Kelvin and nephew Jett

#### **Lower Orchard Track**

TAG busily removing the large infestation of hawthorn (very prickly woody weed). New and regular TAGers. All attacked with passion, I was in awe of the work achieved with hand and bow saws. Janaya

...just energised these stalwart TAGers

Kelvin's answer to my query about the photo lower right:

'The handsome young man is my 11 year old nephew Jett. We were cutting down hawthorn and Pittosporum with the reciprocating saw. In order for Jett to go ten pin bowling he had to be able to identify the difference between *Pittosporum* and *Rapanea*. Needless to say we went bowling AND played laser tag.' Ed.

#### Parks Victoria's Volunteer Recognition Day

Melbourne Zoo proved to be a popular venue for Parks Victoria's 2017 Volunteer Recognition Day on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Approximately 100 volunteers and their families joined a number of Parks Victoria staff on the sunny Autumn day. They were treated to free entry to the zoo, and were able to explore the animal displays and gardens at their leisure. Lunch - a delicious sausage sizzle – was also provided.

Nick Jansen, P.V's Manager Community Partnership and Engagement, welcomed the guests who represented Friends and Volunteer Groups from all over the Melbourne area, coming from as far afield as French Island, Mornington Peninsula, Ricketts Point, Point Gellibrand, Werribee Park, Dandenong Ranges and Kurth Kiln to name but a few. FOWSP was also represented.

Bryan Welch, Regional Director, Melbourne Metropolitan Parks, spoke of the important role of volunteers and the many rewards that flow from volunteering. There are jobs to suit people of all ages and abilities. He acknowledged the enormous value of volunteers to Parks Victoria and stated that last year volunteers contributed a staggering 135,000 hours – the equivalent time of 64 full-time rangers! Bryan also thanked the Directors of Melbourne Zoo for their collaborative support in making the zoo available free of charge for this occasion.



#### Who are FOWSP's affiliations and associates?

FOWSP is an incorporated association run by a Committee of Management. Our group is affiliated with the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) and forms part of the Victorian Environment Friends Network - a confederation of similar groups throughout the State. We are also associated with the Middle Yarra Landcare Network (MYLN). FOWSP is a member of Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) and subscribes to their insurance package for member groups. Therefore, membership details such as names and addresses are shared with LVI. LVI is an independent incorporated association governed by its members, formed when the Farm Tree and Landcare Association (FTLA) merged with the Victorian Landcare Council (VLC), in 2017.

Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) is an independent incorporated association governed by its members,

Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) exists to supports its Member Groups where issues arise that are common across the membership, most notably the LVI insurance package. Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) is also supports members with grants, the Landcare magazine, advocacy, information and advice.

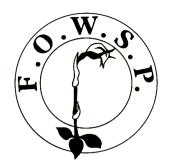
Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) currently has over 600 Member Groups, including Landcare, Farm Tree, Climate Action and Friends Of groups etc, representing over 17,000 member households.

#### From the founder of Goodwill Wine:

Like so many on Black Saturday, I lost most of what I owned. I was grateful to be alive and had no idea of the overwhelming support that would be provided. Because of this kindness I was able to start again.

Using the \$15,000 given to me through the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal, money that had been donated by people like you, I began Goodwill Wine as a way to pay forward this incredible generosity.

My idea was simple. I would go directly to the vineyards and find some of the best value, boutique wines Australia has to offer. I would build a reputation based on a steadfast commitment to quality, and I would pass on 50% of our profit margin to the charity or non-profit organisation of your choice.



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Eastern Gray Kangaroos

The improved fencing of Frogland is just in time as this rather large mob of roos has taken to hanging out in the bushes between the open paddock and the Frogland fence. Although they are lovely to see, our tender Frogland plants wouldn't stand a chance if they still had access.

Linda

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

FOWSD Mambarchin Danawal Form

Name	TOWSI Membership Kenewai Form					
			,			
		Email				
Membership (family) Concession	\$30 \$15	Newsletter by email (	tick box)			
Send to: FOWSP PO Bo	ox 220, Warrandyte 3113 o	r renew on the website				

FOWSP is a member of Landcare Victoria Inc. and subscribes to their insurance package for member groups. Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) is an independent incorporated association governed by its members, formed when the Farm Tree and Landcare Association (FTLA) merged with the Victorian Landcare Council (VLC) in 2017.

#### Email photo bonus page

## **Photos from the nursery:**

Ranunculus inundata looking lovely in the tubs at the back.

A mole cricket, one of about six that were dug out of the last of the potting mix ahead of the new delivery.

#### **Photos from recent TAGS:**

Gray, Brian and David were also amongst the hard workers at Mullum Mullum as described and photographed by Janaya here and on p. 8.





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