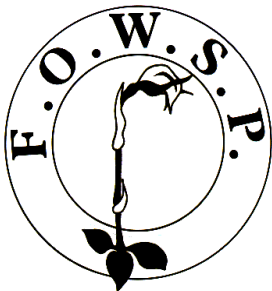


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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 those holidays passed quickly and FOWSPians have jumped back into the action of 2019.

Last year ended with a traditional FOWSP break up at the Folly. See p. 9 to see some of what you missed if you weren't there, or for happy memories if you were.

In January we welcomed some new young volunteers including Tom, Catherine and Tiana (Photo right)

Those of us who arrive between 9-9.30 are usually just in time to see a group of Taggers heading off to work on various projects throughout the park. This month Gray brings us a little story about the Tag team at the Nilja site p. 2.

Page 3 will introduce you to the scourge of weedy St John's wort. Again the Taggers are our first line of defence.

Lyndy shares her pleasure from a walk in Pantan Hill with new signage in Yirrup Reserve on p. 4.

Important information which will help the preservation of Warrandyte's Green Wedge and Rural Conservation Zone is outlined on p. 8 as summarised by Joy Dahl.

A significant birthday was also celebrated p. 8.

Enjoy this newsletter while you perfect your rain dance, and remember to keep us informed of your FOWSP related activities.

Lynda



Welcome to new Volunteers Tom, Catherine and Tiana.
 Story on p. 4 Photo Linda R.



A wee bit bigger than most of the frogs in Frogland, this is Carolyn's excellent rendition of a spotted grass frog. If your eyes are sharp, you will find it in the first pond but like the original, it is slightly camouflaged.

Deadline for March edition newsletter is the 4th Friday of the month

Friday 22 February 2019

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



Bruce, Gray, Brian, Robyn and Kelvin 'peeling' Aggie back towards the source of infestation. Photo by David.

Tenacious Taggers vs *Agapanthus* the battle rages on...

NILJA WAS once the home of the Hon Geo Reid and my Sunday School teacher Lady Dorothy Reid nee Rutledge - not that I have proven to be a very good pupil of hers.

As Ken has written elsewhere in this learned journal (Newsletter May 2015, Vol. 33 No.4), Nilja survived bushfires, only to be burnt down by vandals. Today only the fenced remains of the garden show where Nilja once stood. Unfortunately *Agapanthus* and bulbine weeds have spread far beyond the fence, and when we Taggers began to dig them up they occupied an area as big as a generous Warrandyte house-block. Were we disheartened? Not the TAG Team! And now we have Aggie well and truly on the run.

Gray



Brian being banished for even thinking of taking bulbine weeds home. Photo by Kelvin.



This gully, to the East of the garden fence has been entirely cleared of a dense infestation of aggies and bulbine weeds. Photo by Kelvin.



Brian down on his knees, repenting. Photo by Kelvin.

The good and the bad St. John's Wort, *Hypericum* species



Weedy *Hypericum perforatum*

Well-established infestations can largely eliminate all other plants and restrict recruitment to the over-storey. Seed can remain dormant in soil for at least 20 years. *

JUST RECENTLY a new (to the area near Frogland) weed has appeared just outside the Frogland fence.

Hypericum perforatum (left) weedy St. John's wort was originally introduced as a garden plant with rumoured medicinal uses as an anti-depressant. It was once thought to be magical. In medieval times it was believed that if you stepped on the plant after dark you would be transported by a magical horse around the heavens and returned to earth only as the sun rose.

St John's wort is extremely invasive and competes strongly with native vegetation and pasture in Australia.



Indigenous Small St John's Wort *Hypericum gramineum* All photos Linda R.



Bruce, Judd and Gray diligently removing weedy *Hypericum perforatum*

We certainly don't want this plant in Frogland so it was a matter of urgency to remove it when it was seen flowering near where I usually park my car. So much so that the Taggers sought out the driver to remove a parked car so that the weed and all its roots could be dug out and removed before seeds could set. We must now be vigilant as the young plants apparently don't bloom until their second year and would be hard to detect.

Also we do have plants of the indigenous Small St John's Wort *Hypericum gramineum* growing in the same area.

I was also interested to find that among several biological controls for weedy St. John's wort are some small beetles *Chrysolina* species that were introduced in 1930s. Sources of information:

*<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/a-z-of-weeds/st-johns-wort>
https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/20522/St_Johns_Wort_Beetles.pdf
http://www.weedinfo.com.au/ppq_abs12/ppq_12-2-52.html



Lyndy says “Have a look at Yirrip Reserve

LYNDY recently visited Yirrip Reserve in Panton Hill. She was pleased to see that there are carvings on the new signage for the reserve which are really well done -spiders, kangaroos, leaves and trees (Photo below). One of the signs, along the Felix Borsari wildflower walk, shows the wildflowers which may be seen in the reserve in spring.

Thanks for the photos Lyndy.



Removal of excess Small-leaved Clematis

TOM, CATHERINE AND TIANA (photo p.1) assisted with the removal of an excess of *Clematis microphylla* which was becoming a threat to some of the shrubs and ground cover in Frogland.

The Frogland Tawny Frogmouth also was spotted and pointed out for their enjoyment.

Linda R

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

Thurs	7 Feb	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Maintenance	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	14 Feb	9:00-12:00	Burgan Bend	Orchid caging, planting	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	21 Feb.	9:00-12:00	Candlebark Park	Woody weeding	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	7 Mar	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Maintenance	Moderate	FOWSP

Difficulty ratings:

Easy: Even terrain, some light lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Few tripping hazards.

Moderate: Uneven terrain, light to heavy lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Tripping hazards present.

Difficult: Steep terrain, light to heavy lifting, working in over-grown areas and lots of bending. Many tripping hazards and slippery surfaces present.

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

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

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2019			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Nursery Manager	Josh Revell
			Nursery Phone	0408 317 327
			email nursery@fowsp.org.au	
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			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Lisa Jenkins		Newsletter assistant	Manningham Council Rep	
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Carolyn Noel	0409 901441		Webmaster	
			Jason Patton	0402 121838
			jason@parau.com	
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		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, Lisa Jenkins

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday February 12 2019
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 trips to allow broader education on the topics. Bookings are not required for the evening seminars; however, bookings are essential for the field trips. Due to the popularity of field trips, bookings are limited to two field trips per person for the series. Attendance is required for the corresponding seminar to be eligible to attend and keep your booking for field trips.

Seminar Venue: River View Room, The Grand Hotel, Warrandyte

Time: Please arrive at 7.20pm for a 7.30pm start

Enquiries: 9840 9789

Wednesday 6 February 7:30 pm Local orchids are getting rarer—how to turn this around by Richard Thomson. Richard is a long-time orchid conservation volunteer and life member of the Australian Native Orchid Society. He will speak about Australian orchid recovery programs including propagation techniques and how to help orchid pollinators. This seminar will also cover local and other Australian recovery efforts.

Field Trip: Orchids from seeds to flowers with Richard Thomson. Two dates book one only:

Friday 8 February 10:00am to 12 noon or

Saturday 9 February 9:30am to 11:30am. In these sessions, we will visit a nursery and learn about the intricacies of orchid propagation including the equipment required, potting and nurturing. We will also look at the process of introducing fungal spores to ensure successful germination of the precious orchid seed bank.

Wednesday 6 March 7:30 Deep Time Dreaming: Uncovering Ancient Australia by Billy Griffiths

This seminar charts the revolution in Australia’s timescale over the past half-century. Historian Billy Griffiths is the author of Deep Time Dreaming: Uncovering Ancient Australia and follows the activities of some of Australia’s pioneering archaeologists. He investigates what it means to live in a place of great antiquity, with its complex questions of ownership and belonging.

Please note the seminars and field trips will be cancelled in the event of extreme weather, including a Total Fire Ban or Code Red Fire Danger Day.

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.

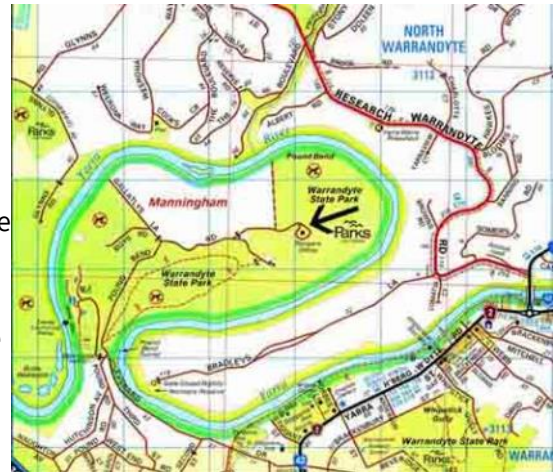
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 2pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) April to November only.

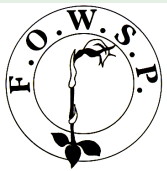
Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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



These free guided nature walks will explore a variety of local bushland in Manningham and surrounds. They are paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area.

All distances and times are approximate. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack.

Bookings are essential as places are limited and will open two months before the walk date. To book, visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/nature-walks

The meeting point for each nature walk will be provided at the time of your booking.

For further enquiries, call 0427 660 651. Walks start at 9.30 promptly so please ensure you arrive 10 minutes early to sign in.

Thursday 28 February, 9.30am Yarra Brae Escarpment

Enjoy spectacular views of the Yarra River, the hills to the north and east and Warrandyte Gorge geology on this exhilarating walk over the Yarra Brae escarpment.

Distance: 3km Time: 2.5 hours Rating: Difficult (there is one very steep but short climb)

Note: this walk is one way so will involve a car shuttle

Thursday 28 March, 9.30am Waterwatching in the Mullum Mullum Creek

On our downstream journey we will assess the water quality in several locations before enjoying the return stroll up the valley to our starting point.

Distance: 5km Time: 3 hours Rating: Moderate (mostly easy)

Please note that nature walks will be cancelled on a day of Total Fire Ban or extreme weather warning.

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack.

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.

Around Pound Bend

Lisa Jenkins took this fetching photo of Southern Brown Tree Frog emerging from a tray in the fernery at FOWSP.

She was also experimenting with the new frog app and identifying frogs in the nursery by their call. We may hear more of this later.



Small leaf case moth

Two little case moths were building their shelters utilising the leaves of River Lomatia in Frogland. This one seems to have an excellent sense of symmetry.

LINDA



**Can you
lend a
hand?**

Help is needed for Market Trailer transport

We need volunteers who could can pull the trailer once or twice a year from nursery to market on the first Saturday of the month. Pick up from FOWSP nursery can be early as Thursday afternoon but delivery to market is between 6-7.00 am Saturday morning. The trailer is returned to the nursery between 2 and 4.00pm on the Saturday.

If you can carry out this task, even once or twice a year, that will be helpful.

Please contact Artur at 0415 383328 or myln@netspace.net.au for more information or for offers to help.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 1 December 2019
**Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Sybil Ims
Christine Andell, Lyn Moore, 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
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, 2 February, 2 March, 6 April

C117 REPORT #3: A POSITIVE OUTCOME TO DATE 11 January 2019**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VICTORIAN PLANNING PANEL HEARING
10 - 12 OCTOBER 2018 RE: C117 HAVE BEEN EXHIBITED AT COUNCIL OFFICES AS OF 8th JANUARY 2019**

Dear Friends,

In August 2018 we requested funding for our campaign to save Warrandyte's Green Wedge and Rural Conservation Zone from Manningham Council's proposed Amendment C117. Your support on so many levels has produced a very positive VPP Hearing outcome from our point of view.

In a 47-page Report, the Panel recommended that Council adopt the Panel's extensively edited version of C117. This version entirely removes the most concerning clause (21.07), which would have opened the door to unsustainable development by reducing existing planning protections, and contains the Panel's edited versions of clauses 22.19 and 22.02 supporting these protections.

Some key findings or observations in the Report are as follows:

- "The Panel has concluded that the broader policy position to support more tourism in the green wedge is contrary to sound planning and runs counter to the purposes of the Rural Conservation Zone."
- "The policy would encourage economic development at the expense of green wedge values."
- "The Panel thinks that the economic development opportunities supported by the policy would inevitably be at odds with the four of the purposes of the RCZ which are clearly aimed at conservation."
- "The policy would exacerbate the tension between policy and zone controls."
- "Council's vision for tourism goes beyond the scale of activity permitted under current controls."
- "There is no clear planning justification for supporting tourism clusters."
- "The policy changes are potentially contrary to Clause 13.02 Bushfire in the PPF."

A PDF copy of the complete report is available at <https://www.yoursaymanningham.com.au/C117>. The Executive Summary prior to page 1 of the Report, the State Policy Framework at pages 6 -11 and Appendix E, pages 40 – 47 (Panel-preferred version of Clause 22.20 "Non-Residential Land Uses in The Rural Conservation Zone") may be of particular interest.

Next steps

1. The Council cannot change the Panel Report, and can accept or reject it, possibly at its meeting 26th February, 7 pm, when the report is likely to be tabled according to Council's advice.
2. If Council rejects the recommendations of the Panel, Council needs to explain its reasons to the State Government's Planning Minister, who will then make the final decision.
3. Obviously, there will always be pressures to develop and undermine Warrandyte's Rural Conservation Zone and Green Wedge protections, and we will continue to resist these pressures with your essential and highly valued support.
4. This VPP Report gives clear, detailed guidelines and strong validation for ongoing protection of Warrandyte's unique treasures (including State Policy Framework Clauses and quotes from submitters opposing C117) as part of the reasoning behind the Panel's conclusions and recommendations. It gives us a firm basis and some optimism for Warrandyte's future.

With Gratitude and Kindest Regards,

Joy Dahl
(on behalf of C117 Opposition)

And another reason to celebrate,
Carol's birthday on 1 January . Photo Linda



FOWSP nursery end of year feast at the Folly 20 December 2019



This gorgeously arranged platter caught my eye.

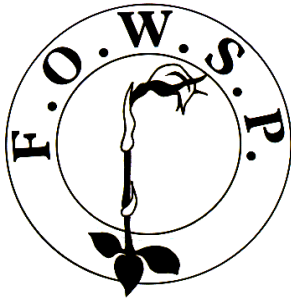
INCLEMENT weather, with very welcomed rain, on 13 December caused the cancellation of plans for a BBQ break-up at Longridge.

Spirits were not dampened and the re-scheduled break-up at the Folly on 20 December was as festive as the food was plentiful.

Many of the Rangers joined us and it was lovely to catch up with retired ranger Bernie (photo right) as well as Janaya (standing in photo below) and her boys.

Linda





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**Discovery of roosting
Lasioglossum peraustrale aka the peraustrale halictid**

Well, it was a discovery for me. I seldom see this bee so when I came upon close to 50 males roosting on twigs over a pathway in Yandell Reserve, I was ecstatic. This particular halictid bee is one of a few that are convincing mimics of wasp species.

Interestingly at about the same time that I discovered these roosting males, Fiona pointed out a wasp or bee frequenting a post hole at FOWSP morning tea. I got two photos of this insect, the one on the right and a sharper shot of its rear half as it disappeared into the hole. Ken Walker said "This could be any of a number of eumene (wasp) genera". It is likely to be part of a mimicry group of bees and wasps. All the females are stingers and predators (birds?) quickly learn to avoid species that 'look like this'.



Linda

February 2019 Vol. 36 no. 1

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

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.....

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Email

Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$15

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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



Gastrophora henricaria Beautiful Leaf Moth or Fallen-bark Looper
Photo by Carolyn Noel at her home in Pigeon Bank



Jumping spider *Hypoblemum villosum*

Is there anything cuter than a male jumping spider, waving his furry palps and looking up with his bright green eyes? This one shared our breakfast table recently and I was able to get his name by posting it on the website for the Australian and NZ Arachnid photography facebook group.

Linda

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



Fiona's wasp see back page of newsletter
Photo by Linda R