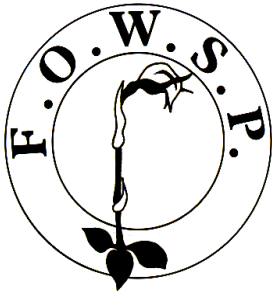


# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



## Newsletter

Website: [www.fowsp.org.au](http://www.fowsp.org.au)

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113  
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

### Editor's Corner

March has marched past with far too little rain but much to keep FOWSPians busy.

First of all, on p. 2, the Taggers, under direction of Cam Beardsell, invest their time in affordable housing.

Lynda Chambers brings us more facts on wildlife. This time the robber fly on p. 3.

The Growing Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens activities caught Lyndy's eye on p. 5.

News of a wedding and also of an edible medal will be found on p. 7.

All FOWSPians who care about the green wedge and our native bushland, take note of the request on pp. 8 and 9. We believe it is important for all of us to take a strong stand now, before it is too late.

Oh and the odd birthday cake can be found on p. 9 as well.

Those receiving the email edition, check out Carol's gorgeous photo of a blue banded bee in flight on the bonus email page, amongst other things.

Enjoy this newsletter and remember to send in updates and information for the next one.

*Linda Rogan*



Robyn landscapes the entrance for affordable housing for Dunnarts, see p. 2. Photo Don Vincent

***Are you receiving your Newsletter by email?*** If so watch for the message below which will appear on the email along with the link to the Newsletter when your membership subs are due within the next 70 days\*\*\*

Please note that, according to our records, your Membership is due to expire on (relevant date).  
Please click on the link below to renew your Membership.

Of-course, if this matter has been attended to recently, please disregard.

**Deadline for May edition newsletter is  
Friday 26 April 2019**  
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

### Affordable Housing for Dunnarts

Any outing with Cam is likely to result in my head spinning from the current of fascinating information and opinion that he so freely and brilliantly shares - a recent TAG at One-Tree Hill was no exception. The task was to build homes for the slender-tailed dunnart [*Sminthopsis murina*] within an enclosure that excludes deer, macropods, cats and foxes.

Cam showed us how to dig a shallow recess into the rocky clay soil, and line it with lovingly fashioned bedding of coconut fibre and a local wallaby grass. Re-used roofing-tiles were then placed over this cosy nest, and stones, soil and wood-chips added to keep out the rain.



David lays the foundations



Judith sees to the interior decoration



The completed accommodation



Cam's final inspection for certificate of occupancy



Slender-tailed Dunnart Photo from Cam Beardsell

It was hard work, but we were constantly entertained by explanations of the biology of these tiny animals.

Evidently the One-Tree Hill population is a unique outlier of a predominantly dry-country species, which makes its preservation all the more urgent. Apparently their numbers increase in the years after fire - the fire causes grasses to rejuvenate, flower and seed; and fire also causes woody plants to germinate, grow and flower. All of this renewal of the vegetation attracts the insects on which the dunnarts feed; the dunnarts thrive and greatly increase in number. As the plants senesce they become less productive, fewer insects are attracted, and the dunnarts' numbers fall again. For this reason it is important to monitor both the dunnart numbers

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Robber Fly Facts**  
By Lynda Chambers

ORDER DIPTERA (meaning two wings); family Asilidae

- Robber flies are also known as assassin flies.
- They are distinguished from other flies by their robust build, the stout pointed rostrum, stiff forward-projecting setae (hairs) beneath large eyes, bristly hairs on the thorax and limbs and a wingspan between 2 mm to 75 mm.
- Sturdy long legs help to accelerate them into the air to capture prey (flying insects).
- They are aggressive and will attack almost any insect, including those much larger than themselves, e.g. dragonflies mid-flight.



Robber fly Lynda's photo from her house.



Small robber flies mating, This male was a lucky survivor. Photo Linda R.

- They are natural predators of flies, butterflies, cicadas, wasps and bees.
- Stiff forward-projecting hairs between its eyes and rostrum protect its head and eyes from struggling victims.
- A domed thorax houses their powerful flight muscles.
- They have a piercing rostrum which is plunged into their prey, injecting the victim with a toxic fluid that contains proteolytic enzymes that rapidly liquefy the victim's body tissues ready to drink.
- The male must take care when approaching a female to ensure he is not attacked.
- The larvae are found under leaves, bark or in rotten logs and feed on decaying plant material and the larvae of other insects, including beetle and moth larvae.

*(Continued from page 2)*

and the condition of the vegetation, to schedule a careful burn in order to stimulate rejuvenation of the vegetation.

After a delicious morning-tea, provided by the ever-inventive Lyndy, and the conclusion of our morning's work, Cam took us to the nearby Swedish Mine site.

Here Cam, Bernie and Phil have erected a sturdy fence to protect lyre-birds. Apparently dogs have caused the demise of lyre-bird chicks in the last two breeding-seasons, so Cam & Co have built this high and sturdy fence, which also functions as a safety-barrier around the 19th-century gold-workings.

Not limited to biology alone, Cam vividly described the genesis of the ore-body and the local history of gold-mining. Did I mention that my head was spinning?

*Gray*



Lyndy wanted to share this information from Melbourne Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens about their autumn plant sale. It will include uncommon and some native plants. The plant nursery is also open for sales as below:

**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.

<b>Thurs</b>	4 April	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Maintenance	Moderate	FOWSP
<b>Thurs</b>	18 April	9:00-12:00	4th Hill Gold Memorial Rd	Woody weeding with ACL	Moderate	FOWSP & ACL
<b>Thurs</b>	2 May	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Planting	Moderate	FOWSP
<b>Thurs</b>	16 May	9:00-12:00	4th Hill fenced sites	Preparation and Planting	Moderate	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 COMMITTEE 2019		OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
<b>Artur Muchow</b> 0415 383328 myln@netspace.net.au	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Nursery Manager</b> Josh Revell <b>Nursery Phone</b> 0408 317 327 email nursery@fowsp.org.au	
<b>Lynda Gilbert</b> 9844 0106 treasurer@fowsp.org.au	<b>Treasurer and Membership</b>	<b>Park Office</b> 03 8427 2132	
<b>Linda Rogan</b> 9435 5806 editor@fowsp.org.au	<b>Newsletter editor</b>	<b>Newsletter assist and Librarian</b> Gloria Moore      0402 285005	
<b>Annette Lion</b> 0414-249-729	<b>Facebook Coordinator</b>	<b>Wildlife Rescue</b> Adriana Simmonds 0416056897	
<b>Gray Ardern</b> 0418 190261		<b>Market Trailer</b> Jan Falconer 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
<b>Lisa Jenkins</b> 0431 840 415 lisajenkins@stanfordalumni.org		<b>Manningham Council Liaison</b> Cathy Willis      0427 660 651	
<b>Carolyn Noel</b> 0409 901441 cnoe5355@tpg.com.au		<b>Webmaster</b> Jason Patton      0402 121838 jason@parau.com	
<b>Kelvin Watkins</b> 0488 039 774		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
<b>Jeff Cranston</b> 0418 396 647 legality@bigpond.com		FOWSP general enquiry number      1300 764 422	

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 9 April 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 9326

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.

**Wednesday 3 April Bats - fascinating creatures of the night.** Presented by Dr Lindy Lumsden, Arthur Rylah Institute, Principal Research Scientist, Wildlife Ecology Section Leader. Lindy is internationally recognised as an expert on the ecology and conservation of insectivorous bats. In this seminar Lindy will share her extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for microbats, explaining their ecology, habitat requirements and fascinating life history. This seminar will cover local species and what they need to survive. On the night following the seminar we will take a riverside walk with ultrasonic eavesdropping equipment to 'see' how many species can be detected. If you plan to join the river walk, please bring a torch and wear suitable shoes and clothing for the weather conditions on the night.

**Wednesday 1 May Botanical Art and Environmental Communication** with Botanical artist Karen Carter from RMIT.

**Field trip 3 May** 10am-1pm booking necessary.

**Further information will be available soon** <http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/environment-seminars>

## 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.

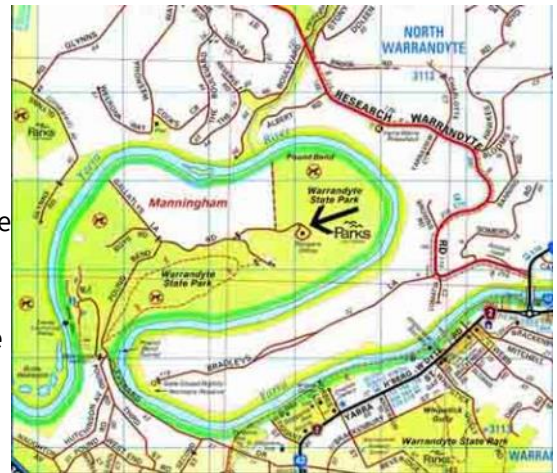
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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



This series of nature walks will explore various sections of the natural areas of Manningham. Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings will open two months before the walk date.

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

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

### **Thursday 2 May, 9.30am (note: date change due to Anzac Day) Longridge, Nilja and Seawinds**

Enjoy magnificent views, a beautiful section of river rapids and a walk through historic farming properties now regenerating with native plants and habitat for native animals.

Distance: 3.5kms      Time: 2.5 hours      Rating: Moderate to difficult

### **Thursday 23 May, 9.30am Candlebark Park to Beasley's Nursery**

This walk follows the Yarra River along the flats and ancient flood plains to its confluence with the Mullum Mullum Creek, with the final section traversing Tikalara Park.

Distance: 5kms      Time: 3 hours      Rating: Easy

#### **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](http://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.

**Of weddings and edible medals**

Saturday brought the welcome visit of past nursery assistant Sarah (Bond). She shared news that she and Andy, now married, have returned from England and are now living in Ferntree Gully. Sarah is working with Yarra Ranges. Lovely to see their wedding photo and we all wish them well.



And what does it take to earn an impromptu edible medal at FOWSP? Alison and Marion found out when they took on the job of cleaning the scale from this Sweet Pittosporum and applying white oil. Someone muttered, we deserve a medal for this. With no medal on hand, Lyndy decided the dark chocolate and fruit cake would become the 'edible medal' so congratulations!

It was enjoyed by all. And why do we have a potted Sweet Pittosporum, a woody weed in our area? It is a teaching aid to show the difference between the weed and our native Muttonwood tree.

*Linda R.*



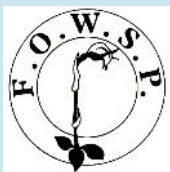
**Warrandyte Festival at the Market Trailer**

With very welcome rain on the Saturday morning, the first couple of hours on the stall were very quiet and very wet. There were just one or two people referred to the Nursery for detailed gardening information. The rest of the weekend went very well. Most of the time there was a constant stream of people wanting information about FOWSP and plants, and a lot of brochures and booklets were taken. So the information sharing aspect of having the trailer at the Festival was well met.

The nursery made \$1300 in cash and \$298 on sales from credit cards  
The festival trailer made \$264.

Great effort everyone!

*Jan and Lyndy*



**FOWSP MARKET TRAILER**

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 2 March 2019  
**Diane and John Baird, Sybille Ims, Marion Thomson, Christine Andell, Lyn Moore, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook**



**Also special thanks** to the following people who covered one to three hours at the **Warrandyte Festival 23-24 March**

**Jan Falconer, Marion Thomson, Robyn Hull, Lyn Moore, Louise Clear, Sybille Ims, Carolyn Noel, Marie Krause Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook, Anne Gedy, Alison Thom, Jan Davies, Lyn Douch, and Steve Anderson (emergency fill-in)**

Special thanks to **Artur Muchow** who transported the market trailer on all three days.

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, 6 April, 4 May and 1 June 2019**

# IMMINENT THREAT



## to our Green Wedge



### **Manningham Council wants to amend the Local Planning Policy Framework of Manningham ie. the green wedge**

The amendment is labelled C117 and right now, a specific subsection, Clause 21.07 is the most contentious. We are now at the point where the Minister decides between the community (who are supported by the recommendations of the Victorian Planning Panel) and Council.

### **The Council wants to allow for tourism-related development**

This has flow-on implications for the 17 councils in the 12 green wedges that ring Melbourne.

### **Since the need for the green wedge was first identified in 1971, conditions have changed**

Allowing for tourism activities on the scale that seems to be envisaged will put extreme pressure on Manningham's green wedge and do irreversible damage to an already vulnerable environment.

### **The Panel agree that Manningham's green wedge needs protection**

The Panel pointed out that Council's Clause 21.07, which is the main clause pushing for economic/tourist development, '**would encourage economic development at the expense of green wedge values**' and **will be at odds with 'purposes of the rural conservation zone** which are clearly aimed at conservation.' The Council have voted to reject the Panel's edit of 21.07.

**People in Manningham need to write to the Minister of Planning**

**BY THE END OF APRIL**

**The Minister's decision is due May 8th**

Expert locals and groups have been part of the process from the beginning. What is needed now is the voice of the community. This means writing about your personal experiences of Manningham's green wedge. Talk about where you live, why you moved here, your observations of nature and your concern to protect it.

Request that the Minister accept the Victorian Planning Panel's C117 recommendations IN FULL.

**Write now:**

Hon. Richard Wynne, Minister for Planning  
Level 16, 8 Nicholson St  
East Melbourne, Vic, 3002  
richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au

For more information contact FOWSP [info@fowsp.org.au](mailto:info@fowsp.org.au)

Text of the FOWSP Committee's letter to the Minister for Planning is on p.9



Dear Minister

**Re: Manningham Planning Scheme Amendment C117**

We, the Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP), have been highly successful over the past 35 years at growing and planting hundreds of thousands of indigenous plants in our beloved Park and on private properties in the area.

There are currently 270 nature loving family members plus many additional volunteers during the year who help planting and weeding, educating and raising awareness and strengthening our community.

We are appalled and dismayed at Manningham Council’s decision to reject the recommendations of the recent reference panel appointed to review the planned changes in Amendment C117.

Already 82% of our indigenous species in our area are classified as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered (42%).

This Amendment is another attack at the Green Wedge Regulations and risks the existence of the breathing lungs of Melbourne. The continuous questioning of these regulations needs to be stopped.

We strongly urge you to accept all the recommendations of the Victorian Planning Panel to Manningham Council, and particularly the Panel’s advice that the Council should abandon its proposed changes to C117 Clause 21.07.

Thankfully there are many local groups and individuals here repairing our local ecosystem.

It can be rejuvenated but not if we continue to allow the Green Wedge to be further encroached upon.

Thank you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Committee of The Friends of Warrandyte State Park

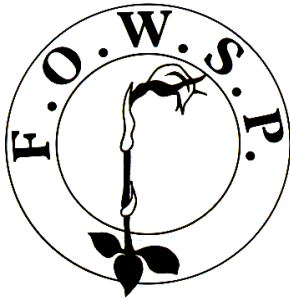
**Of birthday Cakes and a birthday pizza?**

It appears Josh tries to avoid photos and birthday celebrations (his own). However Lyndy did get his attention (photo right by Carol) with a cake inspired by one of his favourite foods, pizza. Just squint a little at the cake below and you can imagine tomato sauce, cherry tomatoes and cheese. We assume each candle represents closer to a decade than a score.

Another birthday celebrant was Barrie who copped a photograph from both sides and managed to extinguish his candles with the speed of a 21 year old.

*Linda R.*





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**Net-casting Spider male**  
*Deinopsis subrufa*

I hope everyone read Joan Broadberry's article on this species in the March newsletter. Her photos showed a female with her net of cribellate silk.

The male is handsomely striped but his face is no less ogre-like.

The males harbour tightly coiled spring-like structures in their pedipalps which are matched by a receiving coil on the female and used for mating.

This one shown here and on the email back cover, appeared on our front screen door where it spent a couple of days.

**April 2019 Vol. 37 no. 3**

**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](http://www.fowsp.org.au) with the option of direct deposit payment.

*Newsletter by email? You will receive notification along with the email link when your membership expires within the next 70 days.*

**Email photo bonus page**



Lythrum still attracting a blue banded bee, excellently caught in photo above by Carol Page.



The Sharp Midge Orchid, *Corunastylis dispectans*, above, a bonus to see at least one orchid at One Tree Hill in such a dry time. Photo Don Vincent



Photos left, two small damselflies, a blue ringtail above and the Aurora Bluetail below. Both photographed by Linda R. at the dams in Candlebark Park near the Yarra River.

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



Net-casting Spider male  
*Deinopis subrufa*  
see also p.10