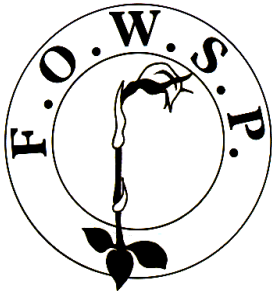


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Thank goodness for some rain. Everyone is saying that even as we shiver in the Antarctic wind.

In Frogland the native plants that have survived thus far, are refreshed and of course the weeds are growing apace. Check out what Marie is admiring in Frogland on p. 2. Also learn about the expanded talents of our TAGGERS at Walert Creek.

Colourful nature graces page three with a lovely observation by John Young and some further information to elucidate the wasp in Don Vincent's photo.

Another win for 'our ladies-of-the-cuttings-table' is reported by Lisa Jenkins on p. 4.

It appears our local *Dianella* spp. are under increasing attack. See page 7 for what we know so far and help us observe over the coming flowering season.

A birthday, hijinks and a cater-monster feature on p. 8.

Lynda Chambers enlightens us about what her Eastern Brown Tree-frogs are up to on p. 9. The same page includes two brief notes in letter to the editor that let me know that someone out there really is following FOSWP's fortunes.

There is nothing like some vigorous gardening to warm us up so now with the rain there is nothing to wait for. So hop to it, enjoy this newsletter and remember to keep sending in your observations and conservation activities.

Linda Rogan

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.



A Frogland discovery for all of us to smile about!
See p. 2

**Deadline for July/August edition newsletter is
Friday 21 June 2019 3rd rather than 4th Friday this month only
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113**

A word from the Walert Creek Wailers



The Walert Creek Wailers: Photo Don Vincent

Recently I had a phone call from Kelly, at DELWP, the Department which gave us the Walert Creek Grant, to advise that we are allowed to spend more of our grant on weed-control. We had received some money for another purpose, but did not need it for that - now we can pay our admirable contractor Ant Owen to do more weed-control for us.

I made the request on a Sunday, and received permission next day!

During the call Kelly asked me to remember to take photographs of our work in progress. As it happens, photography is not something I do, but I asked Don, who kindly agreed.

On two recent Thursdays, at Walert Creek, we planted lots of beautiful, high-quality seedlings produced by FOWSP. Although it had been extremely dry, we decided to go ahead with the planned planting - Kelvin and I checked before-hand to make sure there was water in the creek; and fortunately quite a bit of rain fell between and after those planting-days.

Don's photo (above) shows new member Emma [snare drum], Dave [rhythm sticks] Gray [watering Can-Can] and Brian [xylophone]. Out of sight are Robyn and Barrie, busy signing autographs for the southern toadlets, swamp-wallabies and other four-footed fans.

I asked where the name for the group came from. *Gray* said, "The idea come from the impression that David was clapping rhythm sticks together. If we were a band, then its name had to start with W, and of course Bob Marley's wailers came to mind. Editor

From photo p.1 Marie and I were excited to find this grass tree in Frogland which appears to be about 20 years old. We surmise it may have been amongst the early plantings in the 1990s. We are also bemused that we have weeded and planted on our knees in this area for at least 5 years since the deteriorated Frogland pathway was demolished and replaced with mulched pathways. Yet we were totally unaware the grasstree was there. Josh knew some had been planted in the area but hadn't been seen for many years.

Eastern Rosellas in Pound Road



Recently there has been an influx of Eastern Rosellas in our back garden in Pound Road, War-randyte. They come for the small red berries that are now all over *Einadia nutans*, something that grows prolifically in our garden. They are often joined by Common Bronzewing, quietly munching away until disturbed, when they fly off with a heart stopping rush.

Interestingly, whilst we get the occasional Crimson Rosella, they have become uncommon since we got rid of all the Cotoneasters! Sometimes it doesn't pay to go too local.

John Young

Remember this spectacular wasp photographed by Don Vincent?

Shown in the December/January newsletter

It was identified as a *Tricoryne* sp. in the Chalcidoidea superfamily. I remembered it later when watching a SWIFFT seminar presentation by Erinn Fagan-Jeffries on wasps. From this I learned that this is a member of Eucharitidae (Ant parasitoids) family which are very small, beautiful wasps which lay their eggs on leaves. When the wasp larvae hatch out, they attach themselves to passing ants where they are transported to the ant nest and feed on ant larvae until they pupate into an adult wasp.

It is one of the few groups which manage to feed off ant larvae, ants tend to be very effective in deterring parasites. This may explain the heavily sculptured thorax of the wasp used to defend from ant bites and stings.

Linda Rogan



Another success from the cuttings table

FOWSP has had a special propagation success! The ladies of the cuttings table have successfully propagated a variety of Twiggy daisy bush, *Olearia ramulosa* var. *tomentosa*, which is normally difficult to propagate. Josh believes it's the first success in 15 years. The original is part of a very small population in the northern management area and the cuttings, once ready, will go back into the park inside deer-proof enclosures.

Tomentosa, by the way, is from the Latin and describes the mass of rough hairs on the underside of the leaves. Those leaves are greyish-green and the flowers of this small shrub are white and appear in Spring-early Summer. *Ramulosa* is from the Latin ramulus, describing the dense twiggy nature of this small-medium shrub and *Olearia* is after the German horticulturalist and theologian, Johann Gottfried Oeschläger (1635–1711), whose name was Latinized to Olearius. Wouldn't he have been astonished at the **ecosystem** in which these plants are growing!

Lisa Jenkins



One of the trays of *Olearia ramulosa* var. *tomentosa*
Photo Lisa Jenkins

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	13 June	9:00-12:00	Endeavour Bank	Planting	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	27 June	9:00-12:00	4th Hill Bettons Track	Planting	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	11 July	9:00-12:00	Pound Bend ridge	Planting and guards	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	25 July	9:00-12:00	One Tree Hill	Planting and weeding	Moderate	FOWSP
Sunday	28 July	10:00-13:00	National Tree Day Endeavour Bank	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	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328 myln@netspace.net.au	Secretary	Nursery Manager	Josh Revell Nursery Phone 0408 317 327 email nursery@fowsp.org.au
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Linda Rogan	9435 5806 editor@fowsp.org.au	Newsletter editor	Newsletter assist and Librarian	Gloria Moore 0402 285005
Annette Lion	0414-249-729	Facebook Coordinator	Wildlife Rescue	Adriana Simmonds
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
Lisa Jenkins	0431 840 415 lisajenkins@stanfordalumni.org		Manningham Council Rep	Cathy Willis 0427 660 651
Carolyn Noel	0409 901441		Webmaster	Jason Patton 0402 121838 jason@parau.com
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Jeff Cranston	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

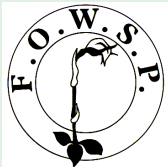
Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Gloria Moore, Lisa Jenkins, Kay Williams

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2019

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



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 will open two months before the walk date. All walk durations are approximate.

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

9:30 am Thursday 27 June Koornung Block and Osborne Peninsula From pretty Pigeon Bank Creek we walk downstream along the north side of the Yarra River, climbing to the spur line before circling back to our starting point.

Distance: 6.5 kms **Time:** 3 hours - **Rating:** Moderate to difficult

9:30 am Thursday 25 July Glynn's Reserve Nature Walk Explore the old Glynn's farm, Rangers depot and Bob's wetlands directly across the Yarra River from Pound Bend, now a quiet haven for wildlife.

Distance: 4 km **Time:** 3 hours **Rating:** Moderate

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 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.

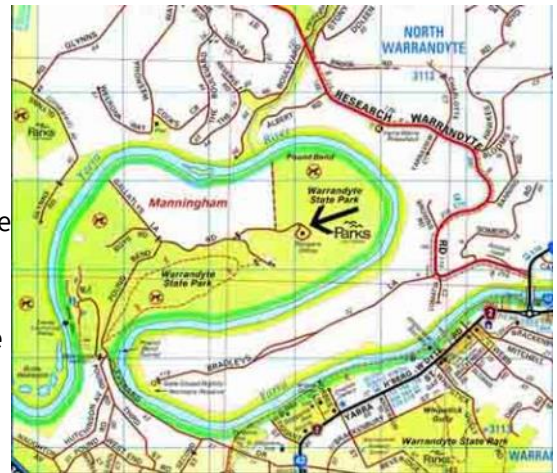
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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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 5 June The brush-tailed Phascogale: A story of survival

If you live in or around Warrandyte, you may have encountered the elusive Brush-tailed Phascogale, or Tuan. This medium-sized marsupial has a large, black, bottlebrush tail and is listed as threatened in Victoria. La Trobe University PhD Candidate Jess Lawton will discuss the biology and ecology of the Brush-tailed Phascogale, her research on the occurrence of this species in a modified environment, and how you can help this threatened species to persist.

Wednesday 29 June 11 am to 2 pm Workshop Introduction to botanical art Join Karen Carter and develop your observational illustration skills to accurately depict botanical detail using graphite pencils. Plant specimens will be discussed with emphasis on features that should be illustrated for scientific identification. A complete workshop outline, which discusses equipment, basic botanical drawing techniques and further readings is included. Booking required.

Wednesday 3 July Understanding Rakali Australia's "Otter" Relatively few people know that the Australian water-rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) is a genuine native rodent. It was a natural part of our environment long before the arrival of its pest cousins - the black rat and brown rat. With a thick coat of soft fur, splendid whiskers, blunt muzzle, partly webbed hind feet and furry tail, the water-rat resembles a miniature otter. Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy will outline the biology and key conservation requirements of this fascinating native mammal and provide tips on how to spot it in local waterways.



Dianella species are being attacked

For the past few years we have noticed that many of the *Dianella* species have had abnormal buds that do not produce flowers. I have also noticed this in my garden where, last year, for the first time there were no *Dianella* flowers for the native bees to feed upon.

This has also been noticed in some native vegetation enhancement plots where the *Dianella* are an important part of the ecosystem that is being enhanced as part of projects for native orchid re-introduction. Garry French has said the last three years have been particularly bad. At some locations this deformity has resulted in no flowering being observed. "This lack of flowering may not immediately impact of the *Dianella* plants but would have a direct impact on a range of insects, particularly the native bees that use their pollen. It would also impact on species that depend on the *Dianella* fruits for food such as birds, skinks and the Blue-tongue lizard, which in turn impacts on the species being able to recruit into existing populations, as the seed no longer gets its pre-treatment in animals' internal systems before being spread around in convenient "fertilizer". Garry's photo right.



Dianella

DELWP has suggested that the problem may be thrips.

I feel we need to gather more information on what is happening with these plants. It may be useful for FOWSPians and others to share whether they are noticing this problem with their plants and with plants in nearby bushland as well.

Have you seen similar bud deformity on the Dianellas near you? Tell us on editor@fowsp.org.au



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 4 May 2019
**Joan Broadberry, Marion Thomson, Marie Krause, Catriona Young,
 Lyn Doutch, Lyn Moore, Jeff Cranston 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.

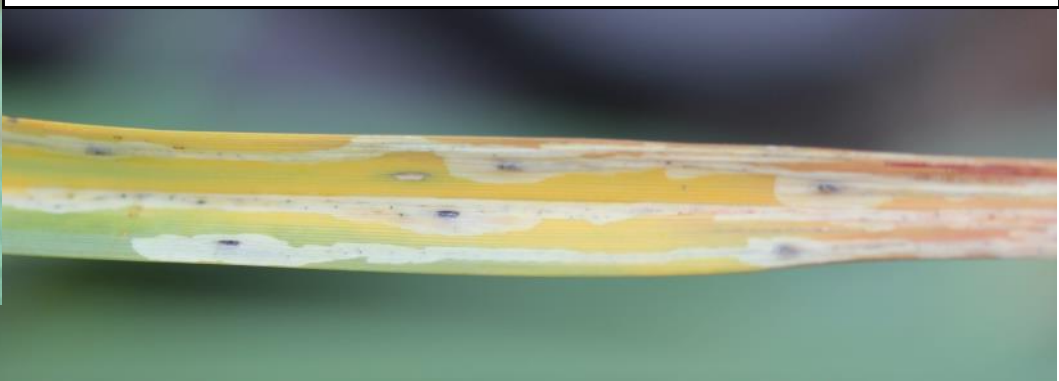
Next market dates are: Saturdays, 1 June, 6 July, 3 August 2019





Another *Dianella* attacking insect

This one photographed by Garry French has also been found in the nursery. It has been identified as a leaf-mining fly and the black dots are its pupae. While we will be watching this, it is not thought to be a big problem at present. *Linda Rogan*



**Birthdays and hijinks at FOWSP
The Birthday**

We had the opportunity to wish Michelle a happy birthday in May 2019.

I noticed while looking at some previous newsletters that Michelle was welcomed onto FOWSP staff In September 2015. How quickly four years have flown.



Joy Dahl's cater-monster revealed

Joy was puzzled by this prickly caterpillar found on her fence in early February. It was huge, 5-6 inches. With her efforts to raise it up and I was hoping to show it later with the adult moth. Unfortunately hers didn't survive, possibly due to very dry conditions. However on a weekend camp near Lake Narracan on the



Very prickly caterpillar of *Chelepteryx collesi* one of Australia's largest caterpillars with enlargement of front and rear. Photo Joy Dahl

Latrobe River a large moth was batting at the window and captured by camper/photographer Wendy Clark. I was thrilled to finally get a photo of the adult.

See photos on the back cover for a portrait of the adult and the back of the email bonus page for the full moth.



The hijinks

Gray (left) provides the hijinks. His explanation for the photo? 'All work and no play makes for a dull TAG'.

See also the link below or Google *collesi* Lepidoptera House.
<http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/anth/collesi.html>



Tree frogs hop to it
 Best FOWSP photo for May
 (Give Lynda some competition next month)

The Southern Brown Tree-frogs are enjoying the rain we have been having this week. When I heard them calling from near our house I tracked them down to sitting on the wall behind a bucket of water.

When disturbed they both jumped into the bucket. Of course, I then had to wait to make sure they were able to get out. But it did give me an opportunity to take some photos.

Linda Chambers



Letters to FOWSP and the editor

With the rain

Thank you great newsletter. Nice rain and twenty five FOWSP tubes planted so far.

Judith

Olive from Coochiemudlo Island

Dear Fowspians

I'm sorry to be late with my subs - time goes by very quickly when one is nearly 90!

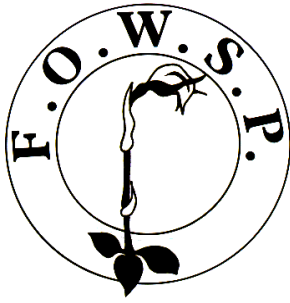
I loved the story about Cam and his homes for Dunnarts. I remember going on a similar outing with Cam. On that occasion we were refurbishing homes which he had constructed earlier. Cam found some of the dunnarts in possession (I think at least 2) and kept them safe until they could go back home when the repairs were complete. So we were lucky enough to get up close and personal with them.

I've been on several outings with Cam and I agree with you about the head spinning, Gray! He has so much knowledge and imparts it at a very rapid rate.

Keep up the good work at the nursery and beyond. My involvement in the inauguration of the nursery has set me up for many years of enjoyable activities with wonderful people. I am still trying to help to weed and revegetate this small Island.

Yours sincerely

Olive Walters.



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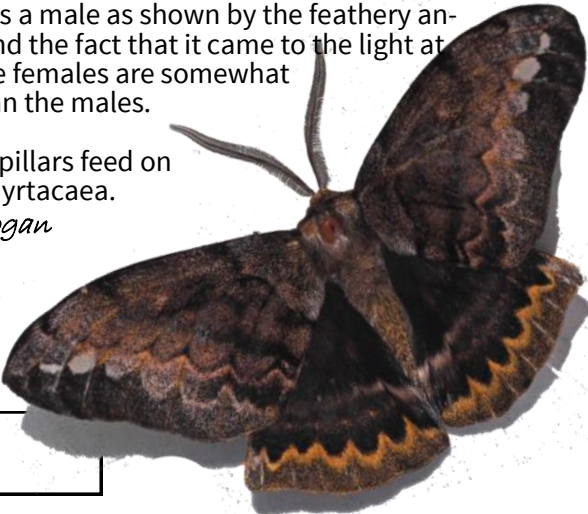
Batwing Moth *Chelepteryx collesi*



This is a portrait of the male moth that is the same species as the very prickly huge caterpillar found by Joy Dahl (p.9) and others near gum trees in the summer. Strangely, although this moth is large it is certainly not our largest moth (the Hercules moth is certainly bigger) but its caterpillar may be the longest measuring up to 13 cm. Caterpillars should not be touched!

This one is a male as shown by the feathery antennae and the fact that it came to the light at night. The females are somewhat larger than the males.

The caterpillars feed on Various Myrtaceae.
Linda Rogan



June 2019 Vol. 37 no. 5

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR

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



Diversity in the undergrowth at Tarra Bulga NP

Clockwise from upper left:
Native land snail *Helicarion cuvieri*

Velvet Mite *Chyzeria* sp. adults are predators and young are most likely parasites.

Fleckhamia sp. This is an Australian species of land flatworm or planarian.

Orange centipede

Cricket from the RHAPHIDOPHORIDAE family or cave crickets. They tend to live in low light situations thus the need for very long antennae. This one, like all creatures on this page, was living under a log.

Linda Rogan



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



We would not like to have been nearby when lightning struck this tree at Tarra Bulga NP