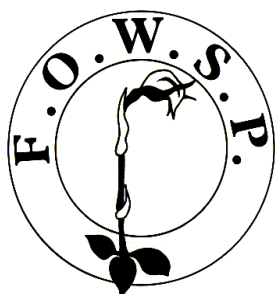


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

As you will see from this newsletter, cold, damp wintry weather has not stopped things happening at FOWSP. It has been a relief to be able to slow down the watering in the nursery and for new plants in Frogland but it doesn't take much digging to find that the soil below the surface is still powder dry.

On this page we share a birthday smile with FOWSP attendee Darren.

Find out how an attack of orchidelirium has affected the TAGGERS and ranger Phil on page 2. Also see early notice of the unveiling of our new interpretive signs. Mark your diary for 19 September 2019.

Photos from Carol and Annette give a glimpse of a recent fungus search at Jumping Creek on p. 4

Page 7 gives you the information you need to find the informative video by Jeremy Loftus-Hills called The Undeclared Pest. This is something that affects us all.

Joan Broadberry shares her excitement from observing a building project embarked on by a long time favourite, the Saunders Case Moth. See p. 8.

The TAGGERS work through cold, wet weather to achieve further progress in the Chaim Court revegetation project on p. 9.

Check out page 10 to learn what FOWSPian Martin Hiley has to do with the Bristly Mosquito Orchid which is newly listed for Victoria.

As usual there are more photos to ponder on the email bonus pages for those receiving the electronic copy. Notice that the next newsletter will be September giving plenty of time to enjoy this one and collect ideas to the next.

Linda Rogan



Happy birthday wishes and cake for Darren!
Photo Carol

PS. We have since learned that Darren bakes yummy scones. Thank you Darren.

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 September edition newsletter is
Friday 23 August 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

TAGS fall prey to Orchidelirium*?

Josh and Gray

The original enclosure at Jumping Creek Reserve was put up to protect what was thought to be an occurrence of Fisch's greenhood [*Pterostylis fischii*] from destruction by rabbits. There had also been several other species of orchids within the area now enclosed, including upright maroon-hoods [*Pterostylis pedunculata*]. Later on, the fringed helmet orchid [*Corybas fimbriatus*] and the common bird orchid [*Chiloglottis valida*] were found within the enclosure.

Outside the original enclosure Cam spotted the broad-lip bird orchid [*Chiloglottis trapeziformis*], so a 5m x 2m rabbit-proof fence was erected around this colony.



Phil's inspection of the protective cage. Photo Don Vincent

About four years ago Josh discovered a naturally-occurring hybrid between *C. trapeziformis* and *C. valida*. This hybrid is now known as the bronze bird orchid [*Chiloglottis x pescottiana*].

Last year sulphur-crested cockatoos dug out large numbers of orchid tubers, so in mid May, the TAG crew placed mesh guards over most of the vulnerable orchids [see Don's pictures].

On this work day, the TAG crew helped remove the old *C x pescottiana* fence and build a new and larger one as the orchids there had begun spreading out of the original fence footprint. We then placed cages over these and removed some moss and millipedes.



This steel ring is to protect orchids from being eaten by Portuguese millipedes. Photo Don Vincent

In one of these snaps you can see a sheet-metal ring. These rings, about 600mm in diameter and about 250mm high, are to protect orchids from being eaten by Portuguese millipedes,

which are a major threat to our local orchids.

In addition to taking steps to protect the orchids some plant species were added within the fenced area. These were:
Wahlenbergis luteola which is found only on a small section of cliffs along the Yarra River (now called Luteola Cliffs). This species is now extinct in other parts of the State Park,
Lomandra longifolia for open areas within the fence,
Corybas fimbriatus grown in the nursery and reinstated within the fence to top up the wild population there.



Preparing the site for planting by clearing leaves that provide millipede cover Photo Don Vincent

***Orchidelirium** is the name given to the Victorian era of flower madness when collecting and discovering orchids reached extraordinarily high levels.'



Orchid leaves in the hybrid *Chiloglottis x pescottiana* patch.
Photo Don Vincent



Corybas fimbriatus similar to those at Jumping Creek Reserve. Photo Linda Rogan

Pterostylis fischii was first formally described in 1950 by William Nicholls from a specimen collected near Woodside. The description was published in *The Victorian Naturalist*.^{[1][5]} The specific epithet (*fischii*) honours the Fisch family of Doncaster who discovered the species in 1949 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pterostylis_fischii

And from Gray: PS. I knew 2 members of the Fisch family. I was at High School with Bob Fisch, and for a year I cycled weekly for maths tuition from Ursula Fisch's husband Ron, next-door to the Fisch orchard. Even then I had a touch of orchidelirium, yet I was quite unaware of the Fischs' interest in orchids. Small world, and all that!

Early Notice of the unveiling of the new interpretive signs

When: Thursday 19 September 2019

What: Unveiling of the new signs, tours of Frogland and the Pollinator Garden followed by afternoon tea

FOWSPians are invited and also will be needed to help host other invited guests.

Where: FOWSP nursery

More information will be in the September newsletter. Please call Lynda Gilbert on 03 9844 0106 with offers of help and for further information.



Signs were delivered by Progress Signs on 20 June



Carolyn with the still-veiled sign installed at the pollinator garden.

Fungus search on Saturday 8th June

Six FOWSPians attended this search and both Carol and Annette got some great photos. Enjoy those here and also on the email bonus page.



Carol's *Amanita farenacea*



Annette's *Chlorociboria* sp.

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	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 weed-ing	Moderate	FOWSP
Sun-day	28 July	10:00-13:00	National Tree Day Endeavour Bank	Planting	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	8 Aug	9:00-12:00	4th Hill fence sites	Planting	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	22 Aug	9:00-12:00	Mt Lofty	Planting Yarra Gums	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	5 Sept	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	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
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer and Membership	Park Office	03 8427 2132
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
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
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 and Lisa Jenkins

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday July 9, 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

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.
Sunday 14 July 3:00 pm to 5 pm Field trip: Learn to spot and survey Platypus and Rakali. Join Geoff on a field trip to learn how to look for rakali and platypus in the wild. He will also talk about opportunities for becoming involved in the Australian Platypus Monitoring Network (APMN) to help track how these species are faring in the Yarra River and other Manningham waterways.

Location: The meeting point for this field trip will be provided when you attend the Understanding Rakali - Australia’s “Otter” seminar on Wednesday 3 July. Bookings are essential as places are limited. Please email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au or phone 9840 9789 to ensure your spot.

(Continued on page 7)

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.

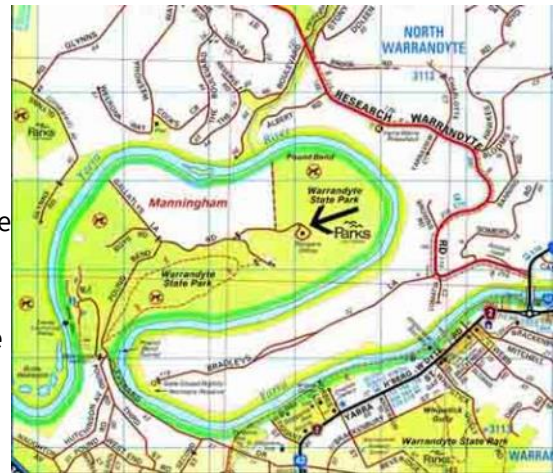
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

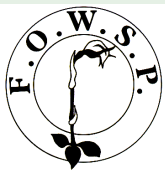
Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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

Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of nature walks will explore various sections of the natural areas 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.

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: 4km **Time:** 3 hrs **Rating:** Moderate

9:30 am Thursday 26 September One Tree Hill Nature Walk This is the jewel in the crown of the Warrandyte Kinglake Nature Conservation Link. Explore habitat for many species no longer found further south.

Distance: 8 km **Time:** 4.5 hrs **Rating:** Difficult

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.

(Continued from page 5)

Wednesday 7 August How the Yarra and La Trobe rivers find the sea.

Most streams in Victoria flow north or south. The Yarra and La Trobe rivers do it differently and go west and east respectively.

This seminar will examine what factors determine the selection and maintenance of the course of these rivers and how and why they change over different time scales. Presented by Dr. Neville Rosengren.

Thursday 8 August 10:00 am to 3:30 pm Field trip: Explore geological structures of the lower Yarra River Join Dr. Neville Rosengren for this extended field trip to explore the geological structures of the bed-rock crossed by the lower Yarra River. This bus trip will visit some of the geological, structural and land-form elements that the Yarra has traversed through time. BYO picnic lunch.

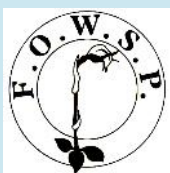
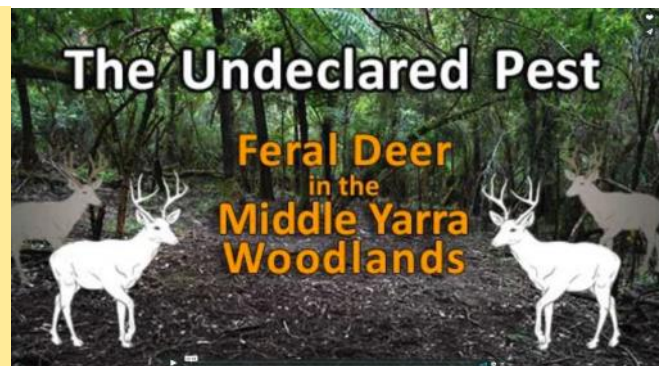
Wednesday 4 September Ecological costs and benefits of stormwater wetlands. Wetlands are increasingly being constructed around many cities to mitigate the effects of urban stormwater, especially reduced water quality. While the primary purpose of these wetlands is to manage stormwater, they also attract animals whose growth, survival and breeding may be compromised. Alternatively, some wetlands may be important habitats for animals.

Ecologist Dr. Rob Hale will present the results of a four year investigation into how urban stormwater treatment wetlands perform as habitats for aquatic animals and highlight how the knowledge generated through this work can help inform future wetland management. Presented by Dr. Robin Hale

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.

The Undeclared Pest: Four small herds released into the wilds of Victoria in the 1860s now occupy over one third of the state. A colourful journey along Melbourne's Yarra Valley investigates the resulting pressure on natural systems and the effectiveness of proposed management strategies. See this informative video on

<http://www.warrandyte.tv/ the undeclared pest>



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Market trailer for June was cancelled.

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 July, 3 August and 7 September 2019



An afternoon spent with one of my favourite creatures.

I have been fascinated by case moths for many years, in particular with the Saunders Case Moth (*Metura elongatus*). For those that do not know, this is a caterpillar which builds itself a protective shelter (or bag) of sticks and silk. It feeds on a wide variety of plants. Eventually it will pupate, inside the case, and turn into a moth.

Although they are common, there is still a lot to learn about Saunders Case Moths, and at the moment I have one in a container in the kitchen (see photo back email extra page). A behaviour I have always wanted to see is the caterpillar adding a stick to its case.



On 1st June I noticed the little creature was mouthing the end of a cypress twig, its food plant. It didn't seem to be feeding so I watched it closely. Sure enough it was trimming and smoothing the top of the stick. A little later it commenced gnawing at the twig about 1 1/2 cm from the tip. About half an hour later it had cut through it. **Photo 1.** The caterpillar then manipulated



the freed tip so that lay securely across the opening of its case. **Photo 2.** It then disappeared inside. I soon noticed tiny, regular movements on one side of the bag. The caterpillar was working hard to make a hole, using its jaws. A case moth's home is built out of very strong silk. It is difficult to cut even with sharp scissors. It took about an hour before the caterpillar's head broke through. **Photo 3.** It continued enlarging the hole vertically upward until the slit had nearly reached the opening.

Next, the caterpillar reached out of the slit with its head, upper body and six legs until it could take control of the twig. **Photo 4 p. 9.** Slowly and carefully it manoeuvred the tiny stick downwards until it was positioned neatly over the hole in the bag. **Photo 5 email bonus page.** Once again the caterpillar disappeared inside. All that was left to see was the claws of the third pair of legs holding tightly to the piece of twig. **Photo 6 email bonus page.** Using silk, which it makes in modified salivary glands and emits through an organ situated on its bottom lip, the case moth wove the twig into its case and mended the hole. About three hours from starting its task the claws were withdrawn, indicating that the job was finished.

Photos and story by *Joan Broadberry*



...the caterpillar reached out of the slit with its head, upper body and six legs...see p. 8

Progress at Chaim Court

The Chaim Court species enrichment project was described by Phil Rance in October and November FOWSP Newsletters.

Cold wet weather in late May did not deter our stalwart TAGGERS from planting more plants grown in the FOWSP nursery. Dressed for the weather, they were keen to get on with the task. Photo below left.

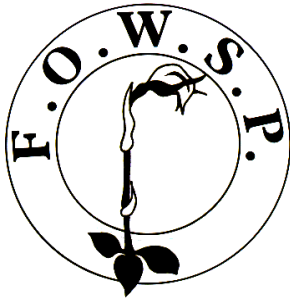


Twenty plants of the Famine Flat-pea *Platylobium infecundum* (shown above) were planted in a fence-protected area. Only about 100 of these plants still exist in a handful of local areas. The epithet refers to the paucity of fruit and seed development in this species (From Latin: in-, not and fecundus, fertile). According to Flora of Melbourne 2014, only one mature seed pod had ever been recorded. It appears to spread mostly by suckering.

Other plantings on the day included grasses and Silver-leaf Stringybark *Eucalyptus cephalocarpus*.



TAGGERS at work. It appears they warmed to the task as the morning proceeded. Photos Don Vincent.



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**Bristly Mosquito Orchid
*Acianthus fornicatus***

This is a mosquito orchid but not the one we see around Warrandyte. This one just barely made it into Garry Backhouse's new book *Bush Beauties The Wild Orchids of Victoria* as it was found on Gabo Island in July 2017 by Peter Mason and past FOWSPian Martin Hiley. Prior to that it was not known in Victoria.

Interestingly enough, just over the NSW border near Lake Wonboyn this was the most common orchid in bloom in June and was making a showy display which is somewhat unusual for an *Acianthus*. I wonder why it would stop at the state border?

The tiny fly on top appears to be signalling with its leg.

Linda Rogan

July/August 2019 Vol. 37 no. 7

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.

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Email photo bonus page



- See Joan Broadberry's story on Saunders Case-moth p. 8
- 5. Slowly and carefully it manoeuvred the tiny stick downwards until it was positioned neatly over the hole in the bag.
 - 6. All that was left to see was the claws of the third pair of legs holding tightly to the piece of twig.

More of Annette's' fungus photos from Jumping Creek Reserve, Sadly no one has found time for ID but the lower left is thought to be fungus growing on fungus.



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



Joan Broadberry's observation laboratory.
See story p. 8