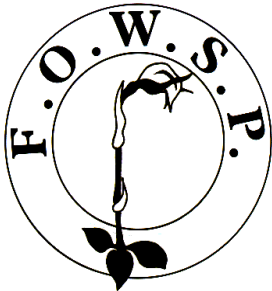


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

What a great day we had on Thursday 19 September. Both the weather and the flowers were picture perfect as we launched the interpretive signage for Frogland and the Pollinator Garden. For me it was the culmination of a project Cathy Willis and I began in December 2017. Lynda Gilbert has kindly reported on the day pp. 2-3.

On the morning of the same day, the TAG team came back raving about what a wonderful experience they had thinning *Cassinia* and enjoying the wild flowers at Pauline Toner Reserve in Eltham. This report is on p.8-9

Gloria highlights some of the books in FOWSP's library on p. 4.

The sounds of spring feature with great bird photos by John Young on p. 7.

The spring weather may be a bit fickle but be sure to get out and enjoy those perfect sunny days when they occur. Also take time to enjoy this newsletter and begin to think about what you can contribute to the next one.

I'm off on a quest to observe some native bees emerging from their burrows in southwest Queensland.

Linda Rogan



Smile of the month is Carolyn celebrating her birthday. Granddaughter Joan inspects the cake.

Notice to all FOWSP members:

The AGM will be held on **Sunday 10 November 2019**, 5:00 pm at the Folly.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive annual reports and select the Committee of Management. All positions will be declared open. Nomination forms are available through the secretary.

This year retired ranger Steve Anderson (who assisted with the original Frogland fence in 1992 and more recently worked at Uluru) will talk to us with the title:

Ranging across the years.

The meeting will be followed by BYO drinks and nibbles and a BYO everything BBQ. A great chance to relax with Friends. See you there!

**Deadline for November edition newsletter is
Friday 25 October 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

Launch of Wettenhall signage

By Lynda Gilbert

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) launched recently installed interpretative signage in the Pollinator Garden and Frogland on Thursday 19th September at 2pm. The signage was funded by a grant from the Wettenhall Environment Trust, which supports citizen science, long term flora and fauna conservation and threatened mammal conservation. The new Wettenhall signage explains some of the history of the Frogland project, its 27-year journey from “weeds to wildflowers” and the values it adds to the Warrandyte State Park.

The concept of the signage was developed with the kind assistance of Manningham City Council and Parks Victoria. The Council also provided the individual plant name signs which can be seen in Frogland.



Linda Rogan addressing Parks Vic staff, Manningham staff, Manningham Mayor Paula Piccinini, and FOWSPians. Photos John Young

It was 1992 when Parks Victoria staff, including Colin Bromiley, Dave Van Bockel and Steve Anderson dug the first pond and hauled in huge hollow logs for habitat. Then FOWSP volunteers began the work of planting out indigenous sedges, grasses and other plants. Cathy Willis, Pat and Mike Coupar, Keith Vagg and Jenny Hoskins were particularly involved in the early stages.



Josh reveals the importance of nursery and associated gardens. Photo John Young

In attendance at the launch was the Mayor of Manningham City Council, Paula Piccinini, Cathy Willis and Nigel Philpott, Parks Victoria staff including Faye Williams, Area Chief Ranger (of the Northern Melbourne District), Warren Murphy Ranger Team Leader and our contact ranger Phil Rance as well as many of our dedicated FOWSP members. A few words by Linda Rogan and Josh Revell were followed by tours of Frogland and the Pollinator Garden, then afternoon tea.



Frogland tour Photo John Young



Thanks go to:
 Lyndy Gilbert for organising the event and Kay Williams for assisting with the catering;
 Parks Victoria staff including Faye Williams, Warren Murphy, Phil Rance and also Roellen Gilmore who assisted with the formatting the signs to Parks standard;
 All FOWSPians who have helped with Frogland, especially Marie Krause who has done such an excellent job overseeing (and carrying out) much of the weeding, planting and watering;
 Jason Patton, Kelvin Watkins (pathway renovation) and also Bernie Van Lith for their role in building the protective fencing;
 Carolyn Noel for driving the creation of the Pollinator Garden and contributing her wonderfully creative mosaics to the Pollinator Garden and Frogland.

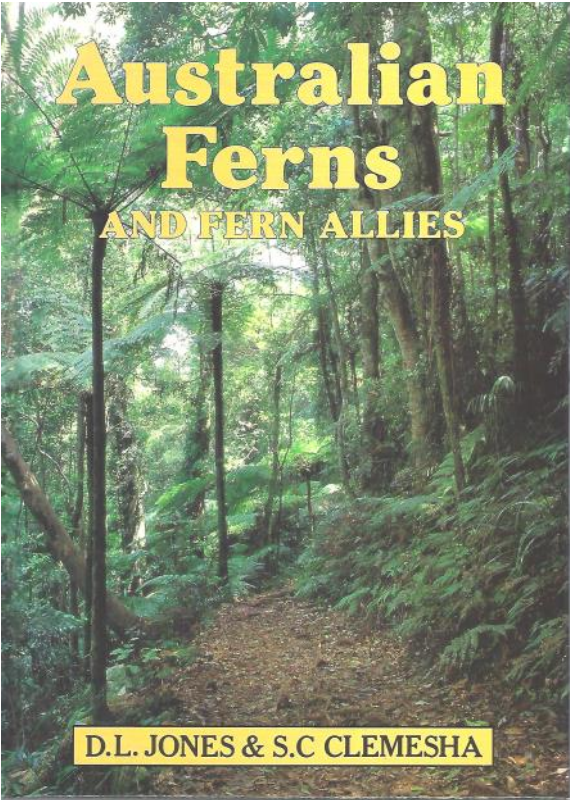
Photos top left: Outside office mysteriously tidied and painted; top right pobblebonk frog disturbed by Jason's efforts; next right Jason clearing out the top pond and the water seeping in; Photos Linda Rogan



Joy trying out the QR code which links to a special pollinator garden page on the FOWSP website (left) and Carolyn waxing lyrical about the pollinator garden with the Hansens (right). Photo Don Vincent

Bookchat by Gloria Moore

Australian Ferns and Fern Allies, by DAVID L. JONES and STEPHEN CLEMESHA, is a comprehensive guide to the Pteridophyta of Australia. This second revised edition (1981) includes descriptions of 358 species or varieties of ferns and fern allies in Australia. Each fern or fern ally is covered by extensive notes giving distribution, habitat, cultivation and means of identification. A line drawing accompanies each species and related plants are grouped where possible into chapters. The remainder, which includes the bulk of ferns, are gathered into one chapter and arranged in alphabetical order for ease of location and identification. Lists of Australian ferns and fern allies, their classifications and common synonyms, are included to further aid reader identification.



The authors are two of Australia's top experts in this field. David Jones is a professional horticulturist and botanist. He is also the author of several papers on scientific horticulture, taxonomy and ecology of Australian native orchids and ferns. Botanist Stephen Clemesha has a long time interest in plants and has written over 80 scientific papers including the description of six new species. He is well-known in botanical circles for his knowledge of orchids, carnivorous plants and ferns. This book is Catalogue No FL693 in the FOWPS library.

If you are looking for more localised information, the following books in FOWSP's library may be of interest:

- FL620 **Ferns and Allied Plants of Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia**
- FL666 **Ferns of Victoria and Tasmania**
- FL647 **Ferns and Fern Allies of the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges**

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	3 Oct	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Maintenance	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	17 Oct	9:00-12:00	Whipstick Gully	Weeding with a ranger	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	31 Oct	9:00-12:00	Andersons Creek	Weeding	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	14 Nov	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Planting and weeding	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	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	Newsletter editor	Newsletter assist and Librarian	
	editor@fowsp.org.au		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			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		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 8 October 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 2 October 7:30 Zoos Victoria: fighting extinction In this seminar, Dr Marissa Parrott will explain how Melbourne Zoo, Werribee Open Range Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary are fighting extinction. Dr Parrott will also share some of their recent research findings and discuss the little things we can do in our everyday lives to make Victoria the most wildlife friendly state in Australia.

Friday 4 October 2019, 9.00 am to 11.00 am Join Zoos Victoria's Deon Gilbert, Threatened Species Biologist and Herpetologist, for a tour of Healesville Sanctuary where eleven fighting extinction species are housed and bred. From captive breeding and reintroduction, to research and advocacy, Deon will show you the multifaceted approach to saving species from extinction and raising the profile of often little known and amazing local animals. **Bookings** are essential and you must attend the seminar the Wednesday night before to keep your place on the field trip. You will need to make your own way to Healesville Sanctuary. Entry fees for the sanctuary will apply.

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.

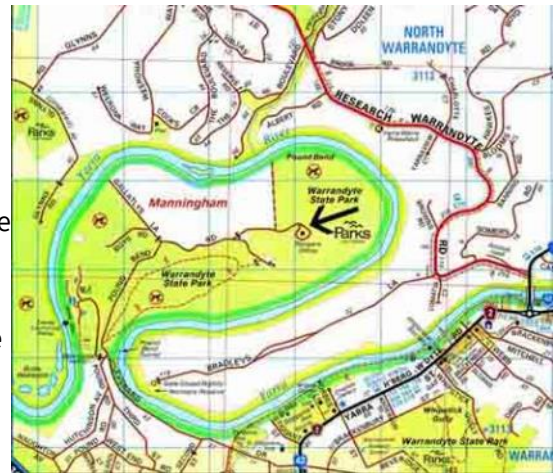
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

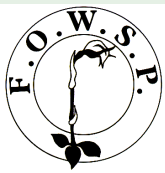
Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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

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 24 October One Hundred Acres Enjoy a gentle walk around Manningham Council's biggest and most diverse parcel of bushland. Look out for the resident Powerful Owls while enjoying the late spring wildflowers. .

Distance: 2.5 km **Time:** 2.5 hrs **Rating:** Easy to moderate.

9:30 am Thursday 28 November Westerfolds Nature Walk Stroll around Westerfolds Park mostly on made paths, taking in the magnificent River Red Gums, views across the river, and some grassland treasures.

Distance: 5 km **Time:** 3 hrs **Rating:** Easy to 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.

The Sounds of Spring

In Europe, a lot of people feel that Spring truly starts when they hear the sound of the Cuckoo. Its distinctive call, as mimicked in the famous Swiss clocks, can be heard throughout the woodland. Here in Warrandyte, we don't have such an iconic sound, but we do have two visiting Cuckoo species that arrive around now when they migrate down from the north of Australia to lay their eggs.

The two species are the Fan-tailed and Pallid Cuckoos. The Fan-tailed Cuckoo is the more common and can be heard calling regularly from mid-September onwards. Its call is a shrill trill and the sound carries a long way. This makes it quite challenging to actually see the bird as it appears to be quite close but may be several hundred metres away. However, they do stay in the same place for a while when calling and so can offer good views. It is a typical mid-sized Cuckoo with a long, striped tail and the characteristic curved Cuckoo beak. It also has a yellow eye ring that distinguishes it from the far less common Brush Cuckoo.

The Pallid Cuckoo is less common but should be regularly seen in the Warrandyte area. It is slightly larger than the Fan-tailed and the male is light grey all over but with a similarly striped tail and curved beak. Its call, that is the male's call, is a loud piping whistle *peep-peep-peep-peep.....* which once identified is easily determined. The female is mottled brown and quite difficult to find as it only responds to the male with a single drawn out *queeeep*.

Australia has 12 species of Cuckoo and 2 other smaller species can also be seen around Warrandyte. They are 2 of the Bronze-Cuckoos, a group of 4, where the other 2 are found only in the north. The Shining Bronze-Cuckoo is present all year round and is roughly the size of a Starling. Its call is a *descending* whistle whereas its cousin, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo has an *ascending* whistle. If you spot either bird look for the chest stripes. The Shining has stripes across the chest, whilst Horsfield's has broken stripes.



Fan-tailed Cuckoo above
Pallid Cuckoo below Photos John Young





FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 7 September 2019
***Diane and John Baird, Marion Thomson, Jan Falconer
 Christine Andell, Lyn Moore, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook***

Special thanks to ***Kelvin Watkins*** 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, 5 October, 2 November 2019



**Helping the butterflies and enjoying the wildflowers
TAG 19 September Pauline Toner Butterfly Nature Reserve**

Participating in TAGs is always satisfying but it seems that this morning at this special reserve was a particular treat. It is worth noting that Pauline Toner (16 March 1935 – 3 March 1989) was the first female cabinet minister in the Parliament of Victoria. She was very active in the fight to save the Eltham copper butterfly.

Don's report of the day follows:
The TAG was to Pauline Toner Reserve in Eltham, to maintain habitat for the Eltham copper butterfly (*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida* Crosby). This is a remarkable area of fairly intact bushland surrounded by residential land. This location offers some protection from grazing by wallabies and deer and this helps maintain the species diversity. As explained by our ranger Phil, and also according to Environment Victoria, the life cycle of the butterfly includes an intimate and obligatory association with ants of the genus *Notoncus* and a dwarfed form of the shrub *Bursaria spinosa* (sweet bursaria). Adult butterflies lay their eggs on the roots of *Bursaria spinosa*. Once the eggs hatch, the caterpillars are guarded by *Notoncus* sp. ants which accompany them while they browse the leaves of sweet bursaria at night and upon the return to the safety of the ant colony in the daytime. In return, the ants can feed on sugar secretions which are exuded from the caterpillars' bodies.

The TAG was well attended and was an exciting time to view the orchids, both open and emerging. This was a challenge to the experts at their identification skills.

The task was to remove or reduce the *Cassinia* (both *longifolia* and *arcuata*) and any other woody and grassy weeds thus enhancing the openness of the bush required by the butterflies when they emerge in summer.

Ranger Phil said "This reserve had only approximately 10 Eltham copper butterflies left at the end of the millennium drought. Just had (recent) results ... approx. 600 larvae were counted!! Yahoo. All results (can be) attributed to woody weed work and *Cassinia* thinning to encourage *Bursaria spinosa* regrowth..."

Of course every step we had to watch for the orchids underfoot!! Some orchids seen were: *Diuris chryseopsis*, golden moth. Josh set us a challenge to count as many of these as we could. Don got to 95.

- Diuris pardina* leopard orchid
- Glossodia major* waxlip orchid
- Thelymitra* sp. a small blue sun orchid
- Acianthus pusilla* gnat or small mosquito orchid
- Pterostylis melagramma* tall greenhood
- Pterostylis nutans* nodding greenhood
- Pterostylis concinna* trim greenhood



Waxlips *Glossodia major* and murnong *Microseris lanceolata* . Photo Phil Rance



Kelvin and Phil applying their orchid identification skills. Photo Don Vincent



Nice close up of nodding greenhood *Pterostylis curta*
Photo Don Vincent



Left above: *Diuris chryseopsis* golden moth photo Phil Rance

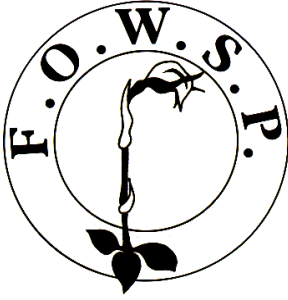
Right above : time for another of Lyndy's morning teas

Right: Eltham copper butterfly *Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida* photographed by Linda R. in early January 2009. Visit this reserve over the Christmas holidays on a sunny day and your chances of spotting one are high.



Above Lisa sorting seeds of *Mirbelia oxylloboides* from St. Andrews area. She and many other volunteers, dressed in their "formal" gardening gear.

Right a combined birthday celebration for Annette and Lisa. Also celebrated but not photographed was the other the birthday of "the other Lisa".



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Stuart Mill spider orchid *Caladenia cretacea*

This rare spider orchid was first described by David Jones in 2006 as *Arachnorchis cretacea*.
Cretacea is a Latin word meaning chalky and refers to the colour of this elegant spider orchid. It is superficially similar to another larger white spider orchid *Caladenia venusta* but is endemic to a small area in Victoria near Stuart Mill. It is one which like our local *Caladenia rosella* has been able to be propagated and replanted to bolster the existing endangered population with some success at this stage. It was a great pleasure to be able to photograph this double bloom on a recent orchid conservation activity with the Australian Native Orchid Society.

Linda Rogan

October 2019 Vol. 37 no. 8

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.

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

Email photo bonus page



Above FOWSPian Bron Elmore photographed this delightful young king parrot on her veranda. It still has its woolly winter jumper on. Right above Don Vincent's photo of *Pterostylis concinna* at Pauline Toner Reserve. Below new signage for pollinator garden. Back page two of the new Frogland signs. If you haven't seen them already, check them out soon while so many flowers are in bloom.

Native pollinators

The health of bushland depends upon insect pollinators; without their free service many plant species would be lost.

Indigenous plants and pollinators have evolved together, developing relationships that are essential to each other's survival.

Native bees are most efficient pollinators; females visit hundreds of flowers, collecting pollen and nectar as food for their young, incidentally pollinating the plants as they go. Butterflies, beetles, wasps and other insects can also be pollinators.

Some native bee species are floral generalists meaning they visit many different species of plants; others depend upon a single species or group of native plants. Likewise, some flora species depend upon pollination by a single native bee species.

Many native bees, including Blue-banded Bees, are buzz pollinators. This means they vibrate muscles at incredibly high speeds to get flowers to release very tightly held pollen. European Honey-bees don't have this ability to "buzz" native flowers.

Encourage pollinators to visit your garden

To encourage more native pollinators to visit your garden, plant a wide range of flowering indigenous plants and create nooks and crannies of shelter, like the insect hotels seen here. Also, avoid the use of insecticides and herbicides in the bushland and at home.

Photos: 1. Blue Banded Bee *Amegilla assecta*, L. Rogan 2. Spotted Flower Chafer *Neorrhina punctata*, L. Rogan 3. Splendid Ochre *Trapezites symmionus*, L. Rogan 4. Jewel Beetle *Castiarina cruentata*, L. Rogan 5. Pollen laden native bee *Lasioglossum* sp., L. Rogan

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

Weeds to wildflowers

Frogland is a special area that has been converted from a weed infested bog (1992) to an indigenous plant garden, a home for frogs, lizards and many small creatures.

Picture yourself in 1992 overlooking a boggy paddock full of grassy weeds. With a vision of restoring the area, Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) volunteers and Parks Victoria rangers set about creating Frogland together.

The first job was to improve the health of the habitat. This was done by rangers reshaping the landscape and volunteers planting indigenous species to slow the flow of nutrient rich water. Plants included aquatic and water-fringing species, such as sedges (*Carex* species). These plants filter water running from the road and nursery, creating a healthier habitat for other species to grow.

Today the area is home to over 125 indigenous plant species (2018), a substantial increase from just 33 species counted in 1997. In late winter and spring, keen eyes will spot local native orchids propagated at FOWSP nursery.

Unwanted visitors including deer, rabbits and kangaroos have also been fenced out since 2017. The ponds have filled with many plant species, becoming ephemeral wetlands and important frog habitat.

Frogland is now a valuable community educational resource that Friends of Warrandyte State Park will continue to nurture into the future.



Photos: 1. Frogland in 1992 after clearing of weeds and digging of top pond . J. Tindale
2. Same area of top pond September 2018. L. Rogan.



A rare find

Frogland reduces pressure on rare indigenous plants

Many of the species planted in Frogland are rare or threatened locally, regionally or state-wide. They are propagated and planted here for safekeeping, enjoyment and education. Having them growing so close to the Nursery also allows us to monitor when seed is ready and to collect it at the optimal time.

The seed collected from these plants is then grown to supplement both the original wild and Frogland populations. More plants grown from seed, rather than from cuttings or division, means a more diverse gene pool. This diversity of genes is especially important in a time of climate change and potentially more extreme conditions.

The remaining wild population can therefore drop their seed naturally and, all being well, germinate, grow and increase their populations without being stressed by taking of seeds and cuttings. A bigger population attracts more pollinators to help produce more seed.

Any excess plants produced at FOWSP's nursery are used to enrich existing populations or create new populations in the Park and nearby, under the custodianship of Rangers, FOWSP members, Landcare groups and local residents. To get involved, contact the Friends of Warrandyte State Park info@fowsp.org.au



Photos: 1. Golden-tip *Goodia latifolia* L. Rogan 2. Blue Pincushion *Brunonia australis* C. Willis
3. Pink Bells *Tetratheca ciliata* C. Willis 4. Round-leaf Pomaderris *Pomaderris vacciniifolia* L. Rogan
5. Running Postman *Kennedia prostrata* C. Willis

