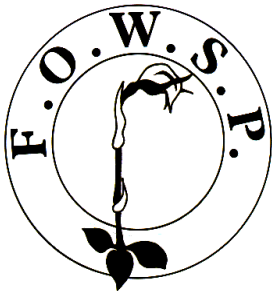


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

All of us at FOWSP have been touched in sad ways by the events of this summer season. Most have friends who have lost homes or spent time under threat. Our hearts go out to all those people who have been directly impacted and each of us looks for ways to help. We are grateful for the fireys both Parks and volunteer, and their dedicated and tireless efforts. As FOWSPians we are also strongly aware of the losses of wildlife and habitat. Some groups you can help are listed on p. 9.

Do please note we have been told that many wildlife carers and other volunteer groups are overloaded with handmade goods and can't take any more at present. The best alternative now is cash until told otherwise.

In the meantime FOWSPians and Taggers have stayed busy, although activities have shifted away from watering toward fencing and major weed removal. See Tag reports on p. 2-4.

On p. 7 learn more about some wasps and a wasp mimic.

As usual birthday celebrations are noted on p. 8.

The FOWSP nursery staff have given us some information about an important indigenous shrub Sweet bursaria. Read this on p. 3 and get your order in early.

In the meantime the summer rain means that there is still weeding to be done.

Planting season will be upon us soon so also much pricking out. So far this season over 6000 plants have been pricked out into tubes, mostly in January. Well done all.

Linda Rogan



At times like this, the smile of the month can be more important than ever. Carolyn and Gray provide the smiles this month. See p. 4 for the story. Photo Don



This was the day of the FOWSP nursery Christmas lunch and morning tea was nearly as festive as the excellent lunch itself. Photo Don

Deadline for February edition newsletter is

Friday 24 January 2020

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



Growling Grass Frog

By John Young

The growling grass frog (Victoria), also called the southern bell frog (NSW), is a largish ground-dwelling tree-frog that can grow up to 10cm. It is found throughout South Eastern Australia and into Tasmania. However, its numbers are declining and is considered to be endangered.

I'm not sure if there are any around Warrandyte but the pictures here are of a reasonably large population in the Western Treatment Plant at Werribee. You need a Bird Watching permit to enter the Treatment Plant but, if you go looking for them, they are in the T-Section Lagoons (Gate 1).

The frog is usually found in large swamps, permanent dams, ponds and lakes in woodland or coastal areas. The frogs that I found were sitting on submerged matted vegetation and croaking away for dear life. The call is a three part moaning "craw-ork ar-ar" rising and falling in tone. It has been described as a goose being strangled but that seems a bit fanciful. I'm sure a goose in that situation would make a lot more noise!

TAGS are off to a running start in 2020

Photos and information by Don Vincent



It seems long ago now but watering was a very important task at the end of 2019.

The photo (left) shows two Taggers gathering water from Walert Creek in December. Although there wasn't a lot of water in the Creek, it was able to sustain the plantings done over 2019 Walert Creek area grant. This required a number of watering sessions up through December 2019 due to the very dry lead up to Christmas.

The first fence was built in Warrandyte State Park in about 1968 (according to Cam). Being adjacent to Warrandyte Primary School, it has since been known as the 'school fence'. The main purpose was to exclude rabbits at that time.

More than 50 years later the fence needed extending and repair which will also exclude wallabies and deer. TAGs for 9th and 16th January were helping Cam with this project. The enclosure now protects a range of rarer species including *Dianella perfragrans* and a number of orchids including various *Caladenia*. It was also necessary to clear some rampant *Cassinia* and burgan to allow plants such as *Olearia* to proliferate. Clockwise from above:



Cam with Bernie driving fence-posts.

David and Brian fixing the new mesh.

Buds from *Dianella perfragrans* as they appeared on the day, possibly damaged by Thrips.

Kelvin also attaching the new mesh. TAG photos Don Vincent



Sweet Bursaria

Spring is long gone and heat has shrivelled most of the wildflowers. However a stroll along the river, around the block or up on 4th hill is all you need in order to see and smell sweet bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*). It flowers through January and February providing a welcome splash of colour to Summer, as well as a great food source and habitat for insects and birds alike. Even a small backyard tree can host 20 to 30 species such as beetles, native bees, hover flies and butterflies and sometimes a bird nest. Sweet bursaria is a very versatile plant and suitable for just about anywhere.

The nursery will have *Bursaria* ready soon for autumn planting However the numbers are limited so please place an order soon:

Email: nursery@fowsp.org.au

info@fowsp.org.au

Phone 0408317327



Bursaria spinosa with a Fiddler Beetle *Eupoecila australasiae* photo Linda Rogan

Thanks FOWSP nursery staff

Agapanthicide at Longridge Farm

Taggers have been gradually working through, over a number of years, removal of bulbous weeds and blackberry located at the old homestead site Nilja, now Longridge Farm, Warrandyte. The area outside the fenced homestead site has been mostly cleared of weeds. On 23 January the activity TAG focused on “Agapanthicide” inside the fenced area as well as escapees nearby.



Above: Agapanthicide must be thirsty work as Taggers here Judith, David and Carolyn and Gray appear very enthusiastic about their excellent morning tea provided as usual by Lyndy. Gray reminds us about the invaluable fifth Tagger, behind the camera is Don

Cover photo: Carolyn and Gray proudly displaying the ute-full of Agapanthus rhizomes. Notice Gray’s inventive hat to deal with the morning’s light rain.

TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

**TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.00 am for a 9.15 am departure. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle.
Contact number: 0408 317 327**

Thurs	6 Feb	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Watering and maintenance	Moderate	Gray-FOWSP
Thurs	13 Feb	9:00-12:00	Endeavour Bank	Fencing	Moderate	Artur FOWSP
Thurs	20 Feb	9:00-12:00	Heads Road	Maintenance	Easy	Don FOWSP
Thurs	27 Feb	9:00-12:00	Fiddler Fence	Weeding	Difficult	Phil FOWSP

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

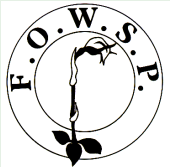
Please note TAGS and activities will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are deemed hazardous.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2020			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
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Facebook Coordinator	
			Annette Lion	0414 249 729
Lisa Jenkins	0431 840 415		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	
			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
Carolyn Noel	0409 901441		email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Manningham Council Rep	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
	legality@bigpond.com		Webmaster	
			Jason Patton	0402 121838
			jason@parau.com	
			Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
			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

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday 11 February 2020
Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time: 19:30 pm sharp



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks



Note: Walks will be cancelled on days of Total Fire Ban or extreme weather. Please be aware of the difficulty rating. Wear good walking shoes and bring a hat and water bottle.

9.30am Thursday February 27 Identification of local eucalypts Leader: Cathy Willis

Would you like to know more about our local eucalypts? How many are naturally occurring here and how can you tell which is which? Come along on this short walk to learn some tricks on how to identify our local indigenous species, and where in the landscape you will find them.

Distance: 2 km Time: 2-2.5 hours Difficulty: Moderate (mostly easy)

9.30am Thursday 26 March Jumping Creek and rocky escarpment Leader Glenn Jameson

Follow the river downstream, crossing Jumping Creek and up over the rocky escarpment with spectacular views. The walk then passes by an old orchard and some gold mining heritage features before heading back to War-randyte township..

Distance: 3.5km Time: 3 hours Rating: Difficult (some sections of steep, narrow, rocky foot tracks)

Please note: This walk will involve a four kilometre shared car shuttle as the walk is one way.

Bookings open now – please email environment@manningham.vic.gov.au

The meeting place will be provided at the time of booking.

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.

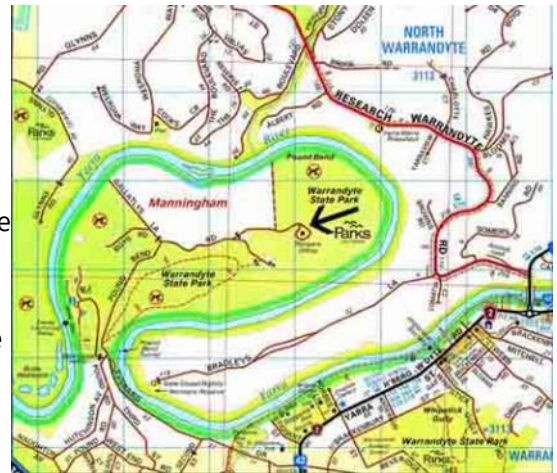
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

Closed Christmas, Boxing 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



Wednesday 5 Feb 2020 The Tiny Flamboyance of the Peacock Spiders by Joseph Schubert While the Australian peacock spiders are only the length of a grain of rice, they are some of the most charismatic and colourful spiders that the world has to offer. The males perform elaborate courtship displays, boasting their brilliant colours to impress females (hence the name 'peacock' spiders). At least 70 species have been discovered in the past 10 years, and there are likely still some which are yet to be discovered. Peacock spider scientist Joseph Schubert will discuss his research on this group of native Australian spiders, outlining their fascinating biology and behaviour.

Field Trip: Saturday February 8 2020 10:00 am to 12 noon The Tiny Flamboyance of the Peacock Spiders
On the following Saturday, take a walk through a reserve with Joseph and learn about habitat requirements for insects and arachnids and macro invertebrate lifeforms. Discover the important role these lifeforms contribute to woodland and forest health. You must pre-book this field trip and attend the seminar.

Location: The meeting place will be revealed to you at the seminar

Wednesday 04 March 2020 Fungi4land Speaker: Sapphire McMullen-Fischer, Fungi Ecologist
Australian land managers are beginning to discover the important roles fungi play in healthy ecosystems. We know that healthy bushlands are resilient due to the myriad of interactions between our animals, fungi, plants and microbes. Hear from Sapphire some of the management steps you can take to help keep beneficial fungi working in bushland you manage.

Field trip: Thursday 5 March 2020 10am to 12noon Take a walk with Sapphire and discuss the management issues considered for maintaining healthy working fungi populations in an important conservation reserve. This field trip is in addition to the Fungi4land seminar, which you will need to attend prior.

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.

Potter wasp with funnels

Carolyn Noel

Some time ago I promised I would keep my eye on these old mud wasp nests that had been taken over by another species who had added a funnel entrance. They have finally emerged and now the adult is back, repairing and improving the same nest for this batch of babies.

Editor:

It seems that many vespid wasps may build funnel entrances into their brood cells using the funnels only until the cell is complete and sealed. Also wasps and bees may re-use mud cells built by previous breeding wasps of different species.



Wasp mimic that is actually a fly

The vibrating and alternating motions of this fly's yellow front legs provide a fairly convincing mimicry of commonly seen wasps. This appears to be a type of stiletto fly in the therevid family. I have placed this on iNaturalist in hope of gaining further information.

Just one hour after putting this on iNaturalist I now have an ID confirmed by a curator: *Pipinnipons fascipennis*

Linda R.



Transport Roster for Market Trailer



**Can you
lend a
hand?**

Please consider whether you can assist by joining the Roster of members who transport the Market trailer To the market on Saturday mornings and back to Fowsp At the end of the morning.

Contact Artur myln@netspace.net.au or Kelvin kelvin.watkins8@bigpond.com

for further information.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 7 December 2019

Dianne and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Joan Broadberry, Christine Andell, Lyn Moore, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook,

Special thanks to **Artur Muchow** 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 February, 7 March, Warrandyte Festival 21-22 March 2020

Christmas and January birthdays



The special cake on 2 January (left) was for those whose birthdays easily get overlooked in the busy time of the holiday season.

This time the honour was shared by Ken, Carol and Joy. Lyndy's delicious cake was shared by all present.

Below, the editor admires the carefully crafted carrot cake (below left) which was studded with candy frogs in honour of Frogland where Linda R. is often found. Thanks to Lyndy who takes such care individualising each cake when she can. The photo shows left to right Lyndy the treasurer of culinary fame, Ivy (Linda R's granddaughter) Linda R (editor) and Annette, valued staff member.

Many ways to help our wildlife

The following email was sent to members on 24 January. It is heartening to hear just a few of the responses members have made already (next page):

Dear Member,

> As a result of the bushfires, your committee is looking at a range of initiatives to assist with the regeneration of our parks as well as how to care and protect our wildlife. We are conferring with Parks Victoria and wildlife carers to find out how we can be of most use. There will be an ongoing discussion over the coming months working out how we can contribute in the longer term.

>

> In the meantime, we ask you to donate, if you can, to one of 3 wildlife carers listed below as they are in urgent need of cash at this time to purchase medical and food supplies to care for animals burnt in the bushfires.

> Thank you for your support.'

Bairnsdale Wildlife Rescue

Lorna King Mobile: 0407 174 043

BSB: 013510 Acct: 477075405

For international transfers: ANZ Bairnsdale SWIFT/BIC code: ANZBAU3M

Goongerah Wombat Orphanage

Sharon Small

www.goongerahwombatorphanage.org

BSB: 923100 Acct: 647 60207

For international transfers: ING Direct SWIFT/BIC code: INGBAU2S

Kangaloola Wildlife Shelter

Glenda Elliott

www.kangaloolawildlifeshelter.org.au

BSB: 803070 Acct: 89117

For international transfers: WAW SWIFT/BIC code: CUSCAU2SXXX//AU803070

From our members

Sale Regional Gallery is holding a massive sale of Art Work to support both people directly affected by the fires and the animals. There will be an online art auction of the work they cannot fit into the gallery space.

Further information see <https://www.gippslandartgallery.com/exhibition/art-aid-for-gippsland/>

I have donated two works outright. The Bee Dancer, etching, aquatint and watercolour and The Cockies Tree a ceramic work. The latter being a different work to the one that is on The Australian Ceramics Association Website. **(I did a series)**

From Kim Tarpey



The Bee Dancer



The Cockies Tree

Help for three shelters in East Gippsland

This is just to let you know that I've just forwarded \$50 to each of the 3 wildlife shelters. Couldn't decide which one, so all 3 was a better option for such a worthwhile cause,
Ann S.

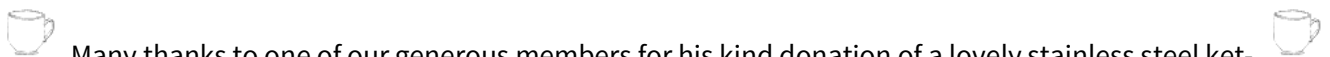
More help for shelters

Thanks Lyndy. It's good to have some expert guidance on what's best to do. I've donated and been sewing pouches for wildlife and delivered them to someone in kangaroo ground who is collecting for Wildlife Victoria but they aren't on your list . Shall donate to the below as well. Please let us all know of anything else we can do.

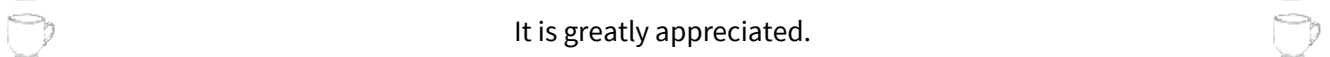
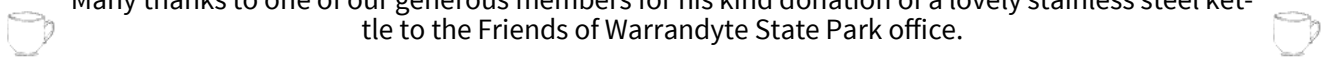
Kind regards
Judith

No more goods just now

Do please note we have been told that wildlife carers and other volunteer groups are overloaded with handmade goods and can't take any more at present.
The best alternative at present is cash until told otherwise.

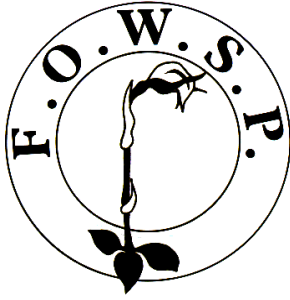


Many thanks to one of our generous members for his kind donation of a lovely stainless steel kettle to the Friends of Warrandyte State Park office.



It is greatly appreciated.





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If undeliverable please return to
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P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



Common Eastern Froglet *Crinia signifera*

What a joy to find frogs in the pond at Frogland. This one and a smaller froglet made themselves known as Maree and I worked at adding a bit of liner to the upper pond as it wasn't holding water.

By 23 January some significant rains (accompanied in places by hail and mud) meant that the ponds were full to overflowing. However one week later water was confined to the lowest section of the top pond. Looks as if is more work on the liner is needed.

Linda R.

February 2020 Volume 38 Number 1

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.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus page



Before Christmas Joy caught this Peron's tree frog (above left) posing on a red plastic chair. It's scattered emerald flecks made quite a festive sight. Don offered the photo of the recently emerged cicada (above).

A January trip to Portland yielded photos of this dragon on the road looking like a stick. The close-up portrait reveals it to be the eastern bearded dragon *Pogona barbata*. This particular koala appears to enjoy sitting on the fence that protects the Portland gannet colony. It is reported it survives on coastal scrub where *Eucalyptus* appears to be missing. Photos below Linda Rogan



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



Portland's gannet colony put on a great show for visitor's in January 2020
Photo Linda Rogan