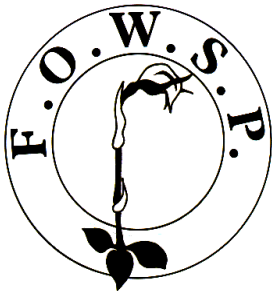


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Hello all FOWSPians,

If you notice a few irregularities in this newsletter it might just be because I am sitting in a steamy cabin at Crystal Cascades Tourist Park near Cairns, trying to finish this to send to my proofreaders before I jump in the pool for a cool off.

Having said that, we are very lucky because heavy rain over the past 24 hours has dropped the temperature from high thirties to just a humid high twenties. I am not complaining. The little frog on page 10 was photographed at breakfast in Crystal Cascades near Cairns.



Spider lovers all, as shown by a tee-shirt (Pat's), a tattoo (Joseph's) and spider earrings (Carol's). Photo by Cathy Willis See page 3 for more on this story.

Tomorrow we head up into the Atherton tablelands to Wondecla near Herberton. Ask Carol if you don't know where that is.

This issue is once again full of reports and photos from our very active TAG team pp.2 and 4.

Also on p. 4, Gloria brings us a report on a visually stunning book available in the FOWSP library.

See p. 3 and 8 (and photo this page) to see a little of what you missed out on if you didn't attend the February Environmental Seminar and excursion to Jumping Creek.

Lynne Vary shares a photo of a welcomed and determined visitor on p. 7.

Some of the nursery social photos are on p. 8 along with some gorgeous local frogs on p. 9.

Sorry, that is it. I'm off to make like a frog myself. See you later in March.

Linda Rogan



**Deadline for April edition newsletter is
Friday 20 March 2020**

**contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113**

Cape Pond Lily Lovely to look at but an environmental pest

Don reports that scrambling along Anderson's Creek in February was not conducive to phone photography. Fortunately Cathy Willis, who coordinated the TAG that day with guidance from Sharon Main, got a couple of photos (see below). The aim was to remove or de-head Cape Pond Weed (*Aponogeton distachyos*), an invasive plant from South Africa which is now infesting the Creek and would soon be setting seed.

Sharon has been leading a work group there recently and showed taggers the best method of control at this stage. This pest plant has increased over the last 3 years according to those familiar with the site, and is difficult to remove the rhizome, as the stems break off easily and the rhizome and roots are embedded in the creek bed rocks and gravels.



We covered quite a bit of ground in three groups from the Gold Memorial car park up beyond Husseys Lane, more than a kilometre. As it was a hot day, we welcomed the cool water but the going was slippery over rocks and fallen timber.

***Aponogeton distachyos* L.f.** Cape Pond-lily (from Vicflora)

Rhizome usually c. 2 cm diam. Leaves with petiole to 60(-120) cm long; lamina floating, c. 17-35 cm long and 4-8.5 cm wide. Inflorescence sweetly fragrant, showy; spike axis white to cream-coloured; 8-14-flowered. Perianth white to pale pink, 1-2.5 cm long; stamens c. 15-20; anthers dark purple; carpels 3-6. Fruiting carpels up to 1.5 cm long, with 2-4 seeds per carpel. Seedling initially with terete leaves. Flowers throughout year, possibly less so Jun.-Aug.

Native to South Africa. Naturalised in New Zealand, Europe and South America (and Victoria, Aus.) It is commonly cultivated in ponds and most naturalised occurrences (e.g. farm dams, reservoirs etc.) are derived from this source.



Also in February, taggers completed the exclusion fencing at School Fence site on Fourth Hill. While the fencers fenced, the rest removed *Cassinia* and *Kunzea*, dragging these and other fire-fuels out of the enclosure and laid them out ready for eventual chipping.

February TAGS continued p. 4

Environmental seminar with Joseph Schubert and the Peacock Spiders

Several FOWSPians enjoyed a fascinating evening learning about some brilliant little spiders in early February at the Manningham Environmental Seminar.

Peacock spiders and their relatives

By Joseph Schubert



Joseph is employed at the Melbourne Museum as a Legacy Registration Officer Entomology/Arachnology and does taxonomy in his spare time. In fact he has been scared of spiders throughout his early life but now he keeps some as pets.

He says that the *Maratus* species and other Salticidae have helped him transform his fear into appreciation. He mentioned that some consider the *Maratus* to be like eight-legged kittens.

The Salticidae are a large group of small spiders often called jumping spiders. They have characteristically large front eyes and excellent eyesight which helps them with hunting.

The real show-offs of the Salticid world are the *Maratus* species. This only applies to the males as the females are rather drab but a bit larger. The males' unique abdominal patterns appear to be useful mainly for courtship. While these spiders are venomous this is only effective on very small prey. The males only develop their bright colours with their final moult which tends to be in the spring.

Outing report (also see photo p. 1)

An outing to search for spider habitat took place on the following Saturday at Jumping Creek Reserve. It was the wrong time of year for colourful peacock spiders. We did find a tiny brown jumping spider that Joseph explained is an undescribed genus close to the *Maratus* (peacock) genus. This group tends to climb trees whereas *Maratus* prefer to be within a couple feet of the ground or in leaf litter. This one was nearly invisible on the tree. Can you see it in photo right?

Several other spiders were seen and photographed. See p. 8.



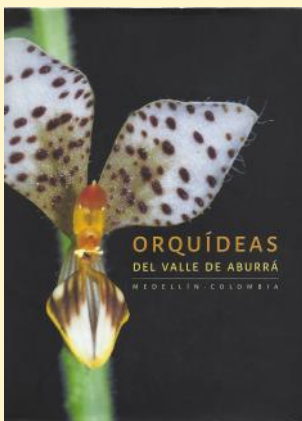
February TAGs continued from p. 2

Thursday 20 February was at Heads Road on the Mullum Mullum Reserve, renovating an earlier FOWSP planting (some 3 years old I think). As usual this included weeding and removing/fixing stakes and guards. The *Lo-mandra* and Hop Goodenia didn't need guards any longer, but any eucalypts or acacias that dared poke their leaves above the guards have been severely pruned (either wallabies or deer). The attached photo (right) is a severe example, showing a fallen tree which took out the middle stump and landed square between the other stakes. Notice the surviving acacia which is managing to keep going.



Aside from that, the only excitement was Don's misfortune to get attacked by a swarm of European wasps. They certainly are mean critters!!

Thanks for the report from Don and Gray



Bookchat by Gloria Moore

Orquídeas del Valle de Aburrá, Medellín, Colombia (which translates to "Orchids of Aburrá Valley, Medellín, Colombia")

The Valle de Aburrá is a subregion of the central south of the departamento de Antioquia, Colombia, in the middle of the central Cordillera de los Andes, altitudes between 1300 and 2800 m above sea level. It's part of the natural basin of the Medellín River.

This 397 page book is published by the Sociedad Colombiana de Orquideología (Colombian Orchid Society). Information is presented in standardized form: Latin name, taxonomy, generalia (terrestrial, inflorescence, etc.), distribution and habitat, state of conservation, cultivation, and 'Lista de especies de orquídeas reportadas par el Valle de Aburrá' listing Latin names. The book is entirely in Spanish, but don't let that deter you – it has the most stunning full page photography and is certainly worth borrowing for that alone.

It's available from the FOWSP library – Reference No. FL694.

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.

| | | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------|--|----------|
| 5/03/2020 | Walert Creek | GRAY | Planting, maintenance | Moderate |
| 12/03/2020 | Haslam fence | PHIL | Cassinia thinning, leaf and branch removal. | Moderate |
| 19/03/2020 | Endeavour Bank | ARTUR | Grant fencing | Moderate |
| 26/03/2020 | Harding fence | PHIL | Cassinia thinning, fence work, leaf litter removal around orchids and charcoal work. | Moderate |
| 2/04/2020 | Walert Creek | GRAY | Planting, maintenance | Moderate |

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 | <u>Nursery Manager</u> | Josh Revell |
| | | | Nursery Phone | 0408 317 327 |
| | | | email nursery@fowsp.org.au | |
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| | editor@fowsp.org.au | | Gloria Moore | 0402 285005 |
| | | | <u>Facebook Coordinator</u> | |
| Gray Ardern | 0418 190261 | | Annette Lion | 0414 249 729 |
| Lisa Jenkins | 0431 840 415 | | <u>Market Trailer Jan Falconer</u> | |
| Carolyn Noel | 0409 901441 | | 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 | |
| | | | email trailer@fowsp.org.au | |
| Kelvin Watkins | 0488 039 774 | | <u>Manningham Council Rep</u> | |
| Jeff Cranston | 0418 396 647 | | Cathy Willis | 0427 660 651 |
| | legality@bigpond.com | | <u>Webmaster</u> | |
| | | | 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 10 March 2020
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 4 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.

Wednesday 1 April To be announced soon.

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 9.30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. Propagation takes place from 9.30 am to 12.30 midday.

No prior experience necessary -
There is always someone available to show you the ropes.

NURSERY OPENING HOURS

The nursery is open for plant sales every Thursday.

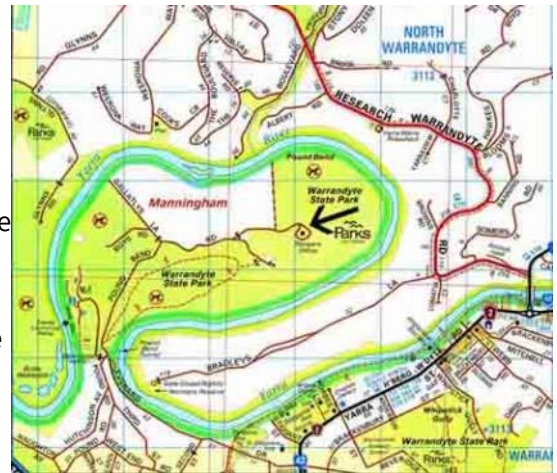
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

Closed Christmas and New Years days.

Also closed to customers and volunteers on days of severe weather and on Total Fire Ban Days

Prices: Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50



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FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks



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

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

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

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

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 Warrandyte 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.

9:30am to 2 pm Thursday 23 April Yarra Brae to Jumping Creek This is a **challenging** walk through the heart of the Warrandyte Gorge country. It includes superb scenery, less explored sections of the river, some steep hills, a creek crossing and interesting history along the way.

Distance: 8 kilometres Time: 4.5 hours Location: Meeting point details will be emailed to you upon booking

Please note, this **difficult** walk will involve a 5.5 kilometres/8 minutes shared car shuttle as the walk is one way.

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.

Garden Visitor

Words and photo
By Lynne Vary

For some time I was wondering who was casting aside the sticks I keep in my birdbath to help the little visitors. Was it those marauding brown goshawks, the rascally coughs, possums or even a fox?

While relaxing on my veranda I was disturbed by another frequent visitor, giving me the answer to my musings. Despite other ground level options for a drink and a bath, this echidna decided it needed a challenge. It was desperately trying to climb into the birdbath perched over 50cm off the ground. With back legs flailing, after a good face wash and a long drink, it finally gave up and dropped back to the ground and ambled off seeking an easier solution for a bath. Their strength and determination is quite amazing and belies their awkwardness.



Transport Roster for Market Trailer



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.

For further information contact Artur myln@netspace.net.au or Kelvin kelvin.watkins8@bigpond.com



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 1 February 2020
**Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, 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 7 March, Warrandyte Festival 21-22 March, 4 April 2020



February was a special month

We were all very happy to celebrate Caitriona's birthday and regained health with Lyndy's lovely cake (above). Caitriona (right) turned the tables leading a hearty three cheers for Lynda Gilbert who caters so well for birthdays amongst other things.

The next week Lyndy exceeded herself by a remarkably beautiful and tasty Valentine's Day tea. Despite rumours to the contrary, this is not the only reason we have such a good turn out at the nursery.



More on the excursion in search of spiders and habitat from p. 3



Joseph bravely held this somewhat cooperative but still very active Australian Garden Orbweaver *Eriophora transmarina* (left). This is something



that would have been quite difficult in his arachnophobic days.

For Linda R. an extra highlight of the day was finding this gorgeous Speckled Orbweaver *Araneus circulissparsus* (right) in her car as she prepared to leave Jumping Creek Reserve.

Moist day at FOWSP nursery

February rains brought some of the frogs out at the nursery. These two were brought to my attention for photographs by excited FOWSPians. Below is our familiar friend Ewings tree frog *Litoria ewingi* which is frequently found amongst our pots.



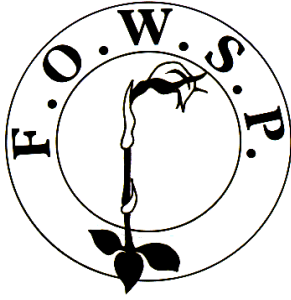
Verreaux's Tree Frog *Litoria verreauxii*

Less often seen and somewhat larger is this reddish frog which, lovely as it is in the photo, was almost impossible to see on the gravel along the walkway between tables at the nursery. Fortunately it was rescued and moved to a safer place away from busy feet.

Thanks to FOWSPians who brought these to my attention.
Linda R.



Ewing's Tree Frog *Litoria ewingi*



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P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



Banana box frog at home in Cairns

On our first morning in Cairns, the February tropical downpour that is typical this time of year encouraged this little tree frog to join us for breakfast.

Posting on iNaturalist confirmed he is one of a complex of frogs that sometimes hitchhike to Melbourne in banana boxes.
Litoria Fallax-bicolor Complex

Linda Rogan

March 2020 Vol. 38 no. 2

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.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER? Your notification comes as a note **in the email with the newsletter** link as below:
'Please note that, according to our records, your Membership is due to expire on . Please click on the link below to re-
new your Membership.
http://fowsp.org.au/membership.php?member_id=&membership_renewal=Yes
Of-course, if this matter has been attended to recently, please disregard. '

Email photo bonus page



This shiny little bee was photographed on the lythrum at the nursery in February. It is *Lipotriches flavoviridis*, one of the nomia-type bees.



White-banded House Jumping Spider. Although called a house spider, this one was photographed beside the potting soil at FOWSP. It is *Hypoblemum griseum*.



General colour and markings made me think these two moths were closely related. However with the help of others on iNaturalist, I learned that the one on the left photographed at Birdland, Belgrave north is *Macrobathra chrysotoxa* a member of Cosmet Moths Family Cosmopterigidae, while the one on the right, photographed at Pound Bend is *Olbonoma triptycha*, a member of Concealer Moths Family Oecophoridae. So now, how will I remember this for next time I spot one?

Photos Linda Rogan

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

Photo by Don Vincent. The editor has lost Don's note that tells where the photo was taken but wanted to share the lovely photo anyway. Don, has anyone helped out with a likely ID?

