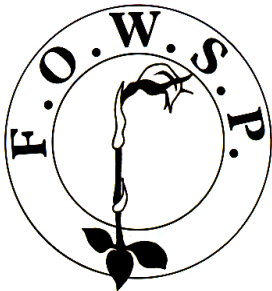


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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 to all FOWSPians,

Well times have changed. As I consider this newsletter I find it hard to believe that most of what is reported occurred only a few weeks ago. Many of these items make me smile. I hope they do the same for you.

Marion King and her granddaughter Melissa provide the headline smiles. More of this story is on p. 8.

Wonderful TAGS that occurred up to mid March are reported by Don and Gray on pp. 2,3 and 7.

A visit to FOWSP by Lydia Heap and a review of her lovely photographic book of local orchids p. 4 is a reminder that the rain will be bringing on the autumn orchids now.



Carolyn hard at work in the pollinator garden, in the 'good ol' days'. Photo Carol Page

With the number of activities which have been cancelled I will need to depend upon our readers to be on the lookout for additional items of interest for the May newsletter.

What's happening in or near your backyard? What's helping you get through our time of social distancing? What are you most keen to get back to at FOWSP or other conservation activities? What can we do from home? Where ever possible send photos with your descriptions. Let's see if we can keep the FOWSP newsletter going while we await the resumption of life 'as we knew it'.



One of our longest serving FOWSP volunteers and queen of the cuttings table, Marion King, brings us all a rather special smile. Left to right: Johanna Griggs, Marion in the middle and her granddaughter Melissa. See story on p. 8

Linda Rogan

**Deadline for May edition newsletter is
 Friday 17 April 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**

Something new in February TAG



Team on raking duty. Ranger Josh with Gray and Kelvin.

The TAG for 27 February 2020 was somewhat different and very interesting, as we joined ranger Phil and the Parks Vic fire crew at the Fiddler Fence on Webb Street in the Fourth Hill Reserve. Our task was to assist in preparation for an 'eco-burn' by Parks Vic to be undertaken when the fire restriction period ends.

The Fiddler Fence was installed in 1976 to protect a diverse habitat containing some of Victoria's Rare or Threatened species, including the woodland plume orchid (or bearded greenhood) *Pterostylis plumosa*, wine-lipped spider orchid *Caladenia oenochila* and the arching flax-lily *Dianella perfragrans*, as well as a large range of orchids and other plants of regional and local significance. The fence itself was recently made higher by Parks Vic to exclude deer and kangaroos/wallabies.

The fire crew members had recently returned from actively fighting the East Gippsland bushfires that devastated so many and so much of our precious national parks. Fortunately the cool and wet February had allowed them to rest and get back to other duties.

The eco-burn will hopefully encourage regeneration of a range of fire-dependent species including the orchids. Our preparations included removal of rampant cassinia, raking of leaves



Parks Vic fire crew member

away from tree bases (especially stringy bark) to minimise fire propagation up the trunks, and assisting removal of old fencing materials. The fire crew was bringing down dead timber, and clearing leaves from the fence line, as well as marking out site hazards such as old mineshafts!

One highlight was Phil showing us an old dead tree trunk which had clear indications of occupancy by Phascogales.



Phil points out phascogale's home.

Report and photos by Don Vincent



Barrie busy raking

Haslam's, another important fence

Recently Phil led a TAG at Haslam's Fence. The object was to thin cassinia, in order to favour the threatened orchids for which the fence was put up in 1997. (Thinning *Cassinia* species is a recurring theme in many TAGS. Gray says that all three species *C. arcuata*, *C. longifolia* and *C. aculeata* have required thinning in our area –ed.).

The orchids include *Diuris chryseopsis* (golden moths) and *Diuris orientis* (wallflower orchid).



Robin and Gray removing a large *Cassinia* sp., a genus which needs thinning in many reserves.

Of course, neither of these was flowering in March, but recently Taggers saw quite a few Golden Moths in flower at Pauline Toner Reserve (see Newsletter October 2019).



Ranger Phil and new volunteer Owen



Other significant plants protected by this fence include *Acacia stictophylla* (the local form of the Dandenong Ranges Cinnamon Wattle), *Viola betonicifolia* (Showy Violet, photo left), *Olearia myrsinoides* (Silky Daisy Bush photo left below) and a subspecies of *Billardiera scandens* (Velvet Apple Berry).

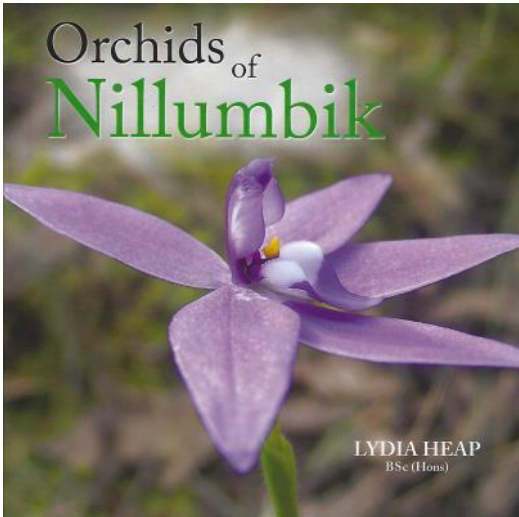
We welcomed new member Owen, and hope we didn't frighten him off with our characteristic style of Management by Chaos.



David and Bernie removing cassinia

This very enjoyable TAG appropriately concluded with a spectacular Playlunch made by our indefatigable Treasurer.

Report by Gray Photos by Kelvin



BOOKCHAT

**Orchids of Nillumbik
by Lydia Heap**

Last month’s Bookchat featured orchids of The Valle de Aburrá in Colombia – this time we are much closer to home. For years Lydia Heap has been photographing native orchids in Nillumbik, mostly around Panton Hill, Smiths Gully and Christmas Hills. Many people have noticed her as she is always bare-foot in the bush to minimize damage.

This book is a showcase of some of the orchids from the area.

It does not attempt to be a field guide or a scientific work – it is simply an attempt to show people the wonderful flowers that can still be found near Melbourne.

The photographs are arranged by season, by species.

Lydia was at the Nursery on December 12th 2019, promoting her lovely book which was enthusiastically inspected by volunteers.

If you missed out on her presentation, you can borrow the book from the FOWSP library – reference No. FL695.



Lydia shows Joy some of the photos in her book.

- *Gloria*

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.

Attention Volunteers

Parks Victoria has advised that all Volunteer activities on Parks land are to be suspended for FOUR weeks, from 19th March 2020.

This Activities Calendar will return, once Volunteer activities on Parks land have resumed. Stay safe, and well

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
		Facebook Coordinator	Annette Lion	0414-249-729
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	
			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Lisa Jenkins	0431 840 415		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 14 April 2020
Venue:	Via electronic hook up
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

Temporarily cancelled due to COVID 19
 Check for resumption in the future at

<https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/environment-seminars>

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

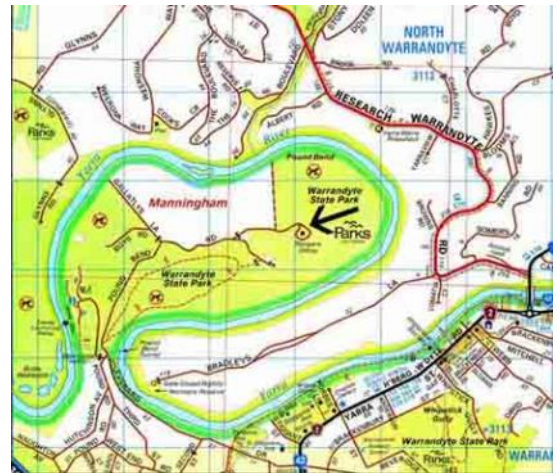
We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 9.30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. Propagation takes place from 9.30 am to 12.30 midday.

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

**Nursery is currently closed to volunteers
and customers.
Reopening will be advised via email.**

Previous **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.



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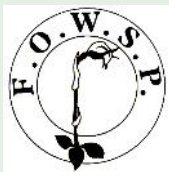
Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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

FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



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

Bookings 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.

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.

Watch this space for resumption of walks.

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.

Lyndy's playlunch is always a highlight



'5 March 2020 Not much to report this week. We were doing a little planting of Hop Goodenia, Golden Wattle and Lomandra at Walert Creek, to continue our grant work there. We also checked on our last two year's plantings of hundreds, which have now been nurtured over the two summers by frequent watering. Despite the extremely dry end to 2019 and early summer heat, as well as some animal grazing, the survival rate was very high and we were pleased to see many of the plants thriving.

The only photo I have is at the end of our very wet morning, with the drowned rats brigade of Kelvin, David, Gray and Brian enjoying another of Lindy's very welcome morning teas.' Report and photo Don Vincent



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 7 March 2020
**Jeff Cranston, Marie Krause,
 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, To be announced.

Four generations of plant-lovers

Marion King's granddaughter Melissa recently joined the team at Better Homes and Gardens. As part of the "getting to know Melissa" feature on the program the crew led by Johanna Griggs spent the day in Warrandyte filming the place where Melissa grew up and those people and places which influenced her career. Amongst those areas featured was footage of the Yarra River, Walking Tracks, the Grand Hotel, the Wood Fired Oven Bakery and the Mechanics Institute. Melissa is already a well known face in the Gardening media with her appearances on Gardening Australia and Garden Gurus and her "Gardenettes" website.

After a filming session and lunch at Warran Glen Nursery where Melissa worked while completing her degree, the BH&G team moved on to an interview with Marion at her home in North Ringwood. Melissa, her 2 boys and Johanna (from BH&G) caught up with "Grandma" who, along with her late husband Bill King, ran "Chalka" Native Plant Nursery for many years and encouraged Melissa from an early age in her interest in plants and nature.

Very active at the age of 96 Marion has been very much part of the FOWSP scene for many years and enjoys sharing her knowledge with the group and other people. She also is an active member of the Australian Plants Society Maroondah group, Ringwood Field Naturalist Club and other wildlife and plant related organisations.

Thanks to Alan King for these words.
See the link below to watch this lovely episode.

https://www.bhg.com.au/a-day-in-the-life-of-melissa-king?category=Johanna_Griggs



Left to right: Johanna Griggs, Marion, her granddaughter and Melissa's sons Noah [blue shirt] and Marlon [red shirt].

Thanks to FOWSPians, staff and others

Despite disruption caused by the virus, February has had some ‘amazing day(s) of sales’ at the nursery. A big thank you to our staff, who are carefully observing hygiene and distancing and others who have helped in many ways. Thanks also to our customers.

Payment was accepted by the square reader and some people have made bank transfers.

We also want to thank Eric who made a donation to FOWSP that will go towards potting mix for the plants.

Another donation received earlier will be used for a replacement pond liner for the upper pond in Frogland. This has been purchased and will be put in place when the park opens again for FOWSP volunteers.

Some FOWSPians have been working solo from home, in order to keep plant propagation happening for the nursery. For example, Alwynne Buntine has set up a cuttings area in her home and has propagated plants including *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* (Jumping Creek form), *Brachyscome multifida* and *Banksia marginata*. She has also been propagating *Correa glabra* (photo right) but states it has been harder to find good cutting material this year as plants have been blooming since December. She observes that cuttings are stronger from non-flowering plants and in the past the blooming has mostly started in late March or April.



**Northern Green jumping spider
Mopsus mormon Cairns, late
February 2020**

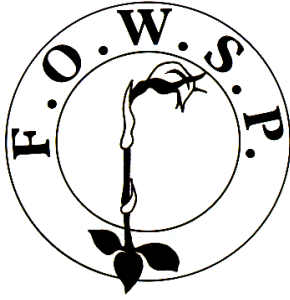
Long hairy black legs waved from behind a leaf followed by a baboon-like face with a halo of white hairs, shining green and gold eyes and an orange forehead topped with a punk crest of hair came into full view. I was face-to-lens with a male *Mopsus mormon*. The female, less dramatic, was seen on a colourful shrub nearby.



I watched for 2 hours while this pair hunted through the dense shrub, never meeting up but never far apart. The female stalked a young giant grasshopper which contentedly grazed on the edge of a web-covered leaf. Only after the spider had chased the grasshopper away did I recognise the spiders’ nest. (see photo page).

Mopsus mormon is found from Coffs Harbour north in Australia and is our biggest jumping spider (up to 2 cm). I was lucky to see these well camouflaged spiders and they are a new favourite Salticid (jumping spider) for me.

Linda Rogan



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White-lipped Tree Frog *Nyctimystes infrafrenatus*

We were out with our headlights along the river at Granite Gorge near Mareeba Queensland when the eye-shine of these large eyes caught our attention. This was one of three of the white-lipped tree frogs we found that evening.

This is the world's equal largest tree frog (along with the Cuban tree frog) and is found in New Guinea as well as north eastern Australia.

I think the white lip gives him a nice smile which I wanted to share.

Linda Rogan

April 2020 Vol. 38 no. 3

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.

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



Clockwise from above: Splendid ochre *Trapezites symmomus* 26 February (on garden plant, Geisha girl) Don reports these butterflies had been around for a few weeks;
 Bougainville's Skink (*Lerista bougainvillii*) thanks to Michelle's partner Pete for this ID. The tail may lose its bright red colour as the skink matures. Photos by Don Vincent ;
 Caterpillar of *Nyctemera amicus* the magpie moth found on its known food plant *Senecio quadrifida*. Photo Carol Page ;
 The last photo goes with the story of the northern green jumping spiders on p. 9. The browsing grasshopper is a young *Valanga irregularis* or giant grasshopper common in Cairns gardens. Photo Linda R.



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



Stink Bugs can be beautiful

The photos for this composition were taken in Possum Valley near Ravenshoe Queensland in early March 2020.

This very colourful *Lampromicra* species is a member of the jewel bug family Scutelleridae.

Photo Linda Rogan