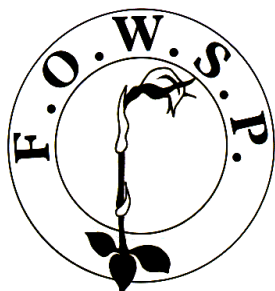


# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



## Newsletter

Website: [www.fowsp.org.au](http://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 at a time when simple greetings have become very important. We hope that you are all coping with our altered circumstances.

Michelle (right), Annette and Josh have a lot of us smiling as we have been able to purchase nursery stock for planting in spite of the nursery being closed to volunteers and visitors. For details on how to order your plants and for information on what plants may be available see p. 6.

FOWSPians have put in extra work at home to keep some of the propagation of our native indigenous plants going. See p. 3.

We always like to hear from FOWSPians who have moved away. We are touched by Pat and Mike Coupar's Mallacoota bushfire experiences which they share in part on P. 2 and 8. We send them both our best wishes.

Mystery seed pods from Linda R's garden are featured on p. 7 and 8.

Artur provides an update on the progress made on the fencing project for Endeavour Banks before volunteer works in the parks were ceased.



Michelle provides service with a smile for plant orders ready for booked pick-up.

Lisa Jenkins has begun a series on our local *Acacia* species and uses her research into the etymology of their names to help her (and us) with tricks to remember the right name for the right species on p. 9.

Don't miss Annette's 'Hang in there' message on p. 10.

All the FOWSP volunteers are missing work at the Nursery and TAGS. Josh has taken some videos which Lisa Jenkins is preparing to distribute to those interested via email in the near future.

Enjoy this newsletter and keep me posted for the next one.

*Linda Rogan*

**Deadline for June edition newsletter is  
Friday 19 June 2020**

**contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan [editor@fowsp.org.au](mailto:editor@fowsp.org.au)  
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113**

Part 1 Excerpts from:

### Ten Metres to Touchdown

By Pat Coupar  
(Long-time FOWSPian)

We were just ten metres to touchdown. Ten metres from collecting our car from the Merimbula airport. Ten metres from reclaiming all that we had left in the world! Flaps were down, wheels were down, but at the last minute the Rex pilot aborted the landing due to poor visibility because of the lingering smoke from bushfires. And so we flew back to Sydney. It would be another 21 anxious days and a long drive through Canberra before we were reunited with our car and our precious few possessions again.



Pat and Mike inspect the remains from their home.

We have always loved Mal-lacoota. From the time we first saw it on a camping trip over 40 years ago and thought what a good place it would be to retire to. And retire we did finally moving down from Warrandyte, an outer suburb north east of Melbourne, in 2012. We bought an older house on the high side of Karbeethong Avenue which we renovated slowly over the next few years.

For a small town, Mallacoota has a vibrant active community and we had more than enough to occupy ourselves with walking, cycling, swimming, volunteering with BushCare and CoastCare and of course playing badminton – up to three times a week.

But we love to travel – throughout Australia and overseas. And it was while on an overseas trip in December 2019 that we found out that Mallacoota might be under threat from a bushfire. We left Australia in early December, leaving our car at Merimbula airport and flying to Sydney. The next morning we flew to South America for a 10 day trip to Patagonia and then on to the Falkland Islands – a British overseas territory 480 kilometres northeast of the southern tip of South America. We were coming to the end of our two weeks there and were staying on remote Pebble Island. Unlike some of the other islands that had no internet connection, on Pebble we were able to buy, for five pounds, a card that offered us limited connection for up to an hour. And it was here on this tiny spec of land in the South Atlantic Ocean on the last day of the year that we watched the unfolding drama on our small smartphone screen.

Before we left Australia, bushfires had been raging up the east coast mainly in Queensland and New South



Aerial view of Coupar's block

Wales. Victoria at that stage only had one or two relatively small fires around Buchan. This was something else. The Wingan River fire – 60 kilometres or so from Mallacoota, but it was moving fast. Following its early progress on the Mallacoota community Facebook page we weren't too worried. But things changed very quickly. The fire escalated in size and speed. Then we read the post "Nothing is going to stop this fire" and we became extremely concerned for Mallacoota and for our house. It was evening on Pebble Island. We bought more internet cards and for hours were glued to the phone. We followed the Facebook posts "the fire has reached the outskirts of Mallacoota and is heading for the town", "houses have been lost", "people are gathering on the beach in their thousands" and then

*(Continued on page 8)*

### Propagating in a time of Pandemic

Back in the days when we could still meet in groups so long as we washed our hands and kept our distance, I organised a pricking out session at home.

Some of our usual taggers came along to help prick out *Poa ensiformis* and *Rytidosperma*. We managed about 800 plants in that session. Kelvin kindly took a further 400 home to complete.

A week later of course we weren't even allowed to have that number of people in one place and Don and I completed a further 980 plants ourselves. We kept to the usual modus operandi and



even had a blackboard set up for everyone to mark off their tubes as we did them.

All those babies are now tucked safely under the veranda to grow strong before they are delivered to Fritz for planting along Anderson Creek.

Here are some of the photos of that very enjoyable day.

Stay well *Carolyn Noel*



This midge orchid photographed by Josh is proof that the autumn blooming orchids are starting to bloom in the Warandyte area.

**A style of fencing to repel only deer**

Our TAG team erected the last square fence enclosure at Endeavour Bank on 19.3.20 as part of the Melbourne Water grant this year. This is an 'indigenous fence' which keeps out deer only (there are only a few rabbits thanks to PV control).

There are 2 more fences to be built plus planting in order to complete the work for this grant. Like all volunteers we are keen to get back to finish the work off.

Reported by *Artur*



Artur, Brian David and Don inspect the fence they have just completed. Photo by Gray

**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.**

*To be resumed as soon as restrictions allow.*



**Good news, Frogland's *Pterostylis curta* leaves are out.**

Josh has sent an up-to-date photo of the orchid leaves currently growing in Frogland. Those with very sharp eyes will also see the fine fern-like leaves of the native annual native carrot *Daucus glochidiatus*.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2019			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
<b>Artur Muchow</b>	<b>0415 383328</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Nursery Manager</b>	<b>Josh Revell</b>
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			<b>email nursery@fowsp.org.au</b>	
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	<b>legality@bigpond.com</b>			

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 12 May 2020 via Zoom  
**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

To be resumed after restrictions are eased.



## 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.

To be resumed after restrictions are eased.

## FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

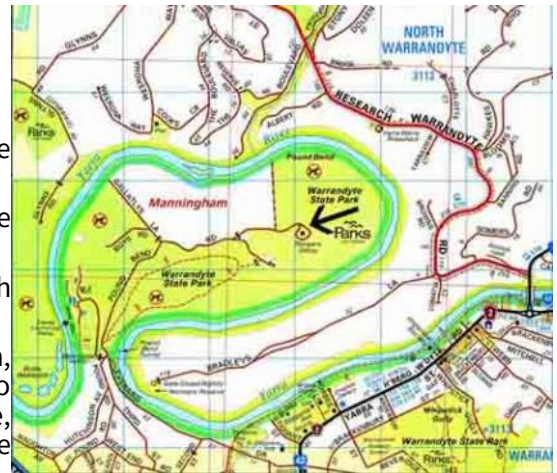
**As you are aware, our nursery is closed until further notice. However we are continuing to work to provide the plants you need this planting season from now, until spring. If you wish to place an order please:**

- 1) have a look at the stock list, available here: [http://fowsp.org.au/docs/Other/FOWSP\\_Stock\\_List\\_for\\_Sales.pdf](http://fowsp.org.au/docs/Other/FOWSP_Stock_List_for_Sales.pdf)
- 2) email FOWSP nursery email [nursery@fowsp.org.au](mailto:nursery@fowsp.org.au) with the species and quantity required;
- 3) you will be contacted and given a cost, location and time for pick up;
- 4) be prepared to pay by credit card - we cannot accept cash at this time.

Please be aware that quantities will change as orders come in, and we will try to update the list as often as possible. As no volunteers are allowed on Parks Victoria land at this time, please be patient - staff are working hard to keep the service going.

**Prices for tubes:** Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50

**Nursery is currently closed to visitors and volunteers**



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### In the nursery this month by Cathy Willis

Warrandyte has five different *Poa* species, commonly called Tussock Grasses. The nursery currently has stock of four of these species. These grasses fill a variety of ecological niches, as well as landscaping needs. Whether you need to fill in the ground storey element in your revegetation project, provide some valuable food plants and habitat for butterflies and other invertebrates, or a graceful but architectural element to a border or garden bed, read on!

Each of these grasses has a specific place they occur in the landscape that reflects their requirements. Ideally they should be planted in their preferred habitat, however in garden situations this can be manipulated to mimic requirements.

Listed below are the four species available, starting with the largest and most moisture loving. Always think about and reference preferred habitat when planting or you may be disappointed.

#### **Purple-sheath Tussock-grass *Poa ensiformis***

This beautiful lush tussock with distinctive reddish leaf bases grows on the river and creek banks. It copes well with full sun as long as there is plenty of moisture. Use it in a boggy spot in the garden, otherwise only if you can water in summer.

#### **Common Tussock-grass *Poa labillardieri*** (Photo right FoW).

A very forgiving medium sized tussock. If you want it to stay bright green throughout the year make sure it doesn't dry out, however it will survive (in many situations) if not thrive, without summer irrigation.

#### **Velvet Tussock-grass *Poa morissii***

At home on sheltered shady slopes, this is a beautiful bluish lush small tussock. Dislikes full sun Perfect for that shady damp slope under eucalypts.

#### **Grey Tussock-grass *Poa sieberiana***

This is the one for harsh dry areas, or where you are never going to water in the garden. Copes with sun or part shade. In the bush you will find it all over the upper slopes and hilltops. In good quality bush areas orchids, lilies and wildflowers growing between the tussocks. You can re-create this magic to a certain degree in your garden, as long as you have the weeds well controlled first. Talk to the nursery staff or your local council about how to do it.



### What seeds are these?



Like many of us I have been spending a lot of time weeding my garden in lieu of weeding for FOWSP. In early April, I began noticing these interesting seeds appearing on my black garden gloves. My first thought was this was a new type of weed so I carefully removed them from my gloves and put them aside.

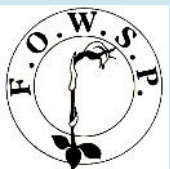
It was with great relief that I discovered the source of these seeds is actually an indigenous plant which I had obtained from FOWSP in 2005 and planted under a *Melaleuca* tree that is festooned with native orchids and receives some automatic watering from a rain water tank all year around.

It is immediately evident that these seeds are some sort of legume. The seed pods are described in Flora of Melbourne as ‘constricted from both sides between the seeds and covered in small bristles’.

Which plant? Have a look on p. 8. I was fascinated to find such a large number of seed pods as I had only ever seen one or two small pea flowers on the plant at a time.



*(Continued on page 8)*



### FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

**Thanks to all who normally help with the market trailer. Please watch for announcements once restrictions are lifted.**



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 to be announced.**

*(Continued from page 2)*

one that sent a chill down our spine “gas bottles are exploding on the high side of Karbeethong Ave”. We went to bed that night almost knowing the worst had happened. In the morning our daughter rang and her first words were “It’s gone Mum”.

We made it back to Australia eventually. A journey that was not without issues including being fog bound on Pebble Island for two days and delays due to mechanical problems with our 747 Jumbo at Santiago. Then, of course, when we made it back to Sydney there was our Rex flight aborting its landing at Merimbula. I remember Mike’s words at the time “This is cruel!”

We managed to get on a Virgin flight to Melbourne that afternoon and with immense relief met up with our son Ross and his partner Nicole and our daughter Mel. Nicole had sent us a touching message the day after the fire saying “our home is yours for as long as you need it when you return” And so we went to stay with them in the Yarra Valley.



To be continued

*(Continued from page 7)*

The mystery seeds have come from these healthy plants of Southern Tick-trefoil *Desmodium gunnii* which have become a thick green mat in a shady watered area.

My plan is to treat the seeds with near boiling water and scatter them about the garden in places where they may survive.

*Linda Rogan*



**Thank you to Rachel** for your kind donation of \$100 to FOWSP.

We are most grateful to you as our activities at the nursery have been severely curtailed by Parks Vic due to the covid 19 pandemic.

Your donation will assist the survival of our nursery.



**Learning *Acacia* species identification through their names**

*Acacia* season is with us and I struggle to identify our indigenous species. To help me through this (and hopefully provide some light entertainment) I'm going to investigate the names of each species, looking at the etymology and history of the identification. And maybe, *maybe*, this will help me fix those names once and for all! I'll take us through all the local species, ordered roughly according to their flowering time. So, for May, we have *Acacia ulicifolia* and *Acacia stricta*.

***Acacia ulicifolia***

To some people this is 'prickly moses', but to others, it's *A. verticillata* that's the 'prickly prophet'. Either way, the name is considered a corruption of 'prickly mimosa,' which reminds us that one of the alternative names for *Acacia* is mimosa. This is incorrect however, since, *Mimosa* are a different but related genus group and together they make the Mimosoideae clade which is in the Fabaceae (pea) family. This is a good



spot to address the wattle question too. 'Wattle' comes from the habit of early white Australians of making shelters of wattle-and-daub, which is branches woven together and then covered with a clay mix. Wattle comes from the Old English *watol* (hurdle, as in a woven fence or panel) and this relates to the Proto-Germanic *wadlaz*, to weave. So wattle ultimately refers to weaving. *Acacia* comes from the Greek word 'ake,' which means thorn and describes the spiky phyllodes of many species of *Acacia*.

*Ulicifolia* comes from the overall look of the plant, since the word stems from the Latin *ulex*, for gorse. And common gorse has that classic yellow pea flower (also being a Fabaceae), but it's so bright that it's more like *A. pycnantha* (Gold wattle). *A. ulicifolia*'s flowers are, for me, the true definition of delicate cream. The other common name for *A. ulicifolia* is more helpful to my mind-it's the juniper wattle. Juniper needles

are distributed in the same way as *A. ulicifolia* phyllodes, in a prickly whorl (a bit like the spiked chariot wheels so beloved of Hollywood). So I have to find a way to link juniper and *ulicifolia* in my mind to make the connection- perhaps it's the similar rhythm of the words.

***Acacia stricta***

This is the hop wattle, and *stricta* means compressed. It was first named by Henry C. Andrews in his *Botanist's Repository* (1797-1812), and he classified it as a *Mimosa* (it was later reclassified). He says:

'This species has no smell, and grows to the height of three or four feet before it flowers; perfectly freight and compact, from which circumstance we have taken its trivial name.'  
( this is from the original text as it appears in Google Books).

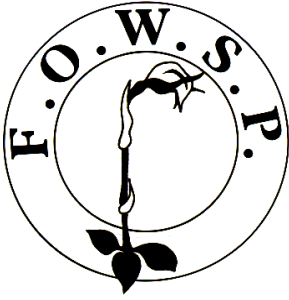
The reference to hop is elusive and better than me have tried to determine it-the common name was a subject of discussion in the *Acacia Study Group Newsletter* in 2013. Perhaps early settlers tried to brew beer with it... But what will help me remember is that the 'fright' *stricta* has no 'fsmell'-nothing trivial about *that!*

In June I'll look at *Acacia gunnii*, *A. verticillata* and *A. aculeatissima*. Until then-Happy Etymology Hunting!

*Lisa Jenkins*



*Acacia stricta* (Hop Wattle)  
Photo credit: Flora of Warrandyte  
Photo taken in: Warrandyte District



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**'Hang in there everyone!'**

From Annette who found this frog posing athletically on a bench in the igloo at the FOWSP nursery.

*Litoria* but which one?

Josh says it has to be one of the following two species:

'You can tell *Litoria ewingi* from *Litoria verreauxi* by having pads a little wider than its digits and by the absence of large black or dark blotches in its groin' The quote is from frogs.org.au. You can make the call.

*Linda Rogan*

May 2020 Vol. 38 no. 4

**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](http://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](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



**Ok, what now?** Josh's comment on the two sawfly larvae. (above). Josh's photo of a colourful potter wasp (above right).

Large autumn greenhoods are currently blooming well in the Greensborough area. Photos Linda R.



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

This is '**Dinner time**' according to Josh.  
What a wonderful capture of this  
grey shrike-thrush .  
Photo Josh Revell

