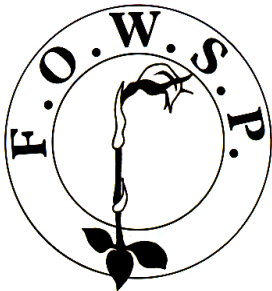


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Many of us have heaved a giant sigh of relief at the end of October. I think everyone will have been pleased that we have reached our first 'double doughnut day' with no new Covid cases and no related deaths for the day on 26 October. We strongly hope there will be more of the same ahead.

Many FOWSPians have made good use of their five km exploring nature. For me the new 25 km limit allows me to catch up with family and importantly to reach Frogland for fresh air and exercise. On p. 9 you will see some of the pleasant surprises I found there.

This newsletter is full of surprises. See the photo right and p. 8 for some of Cathy Willis' surprises.

On p. 2 John Young and Joan Broadberry bring us local treats and knowledge from the bird world.

Lyndy Gilbert has prepared an informative article on our local frogs and part 1 is in this newsletter on p. 3.

On p. 4 Lisa Jenkins takes us on another ramble past some local acacias while wandering through some wattle history.

New trolleys await our return to the FOWSP nursery thanks to a Manningham grant p. 5.

See p. 6 for how to click and collect plants from the FOWSP nursery. At the bottom of the page, find a glimpse and surprise found in the pollinator garden. Jumping Creek private landowners are nature stewards as Cathy Willis shows us on p. 8.

Sybille looks for smiling faces on her Pound Bend walk on p. 9 and Sharon Mason notes some very hungry caterpillars.

The issue finishes with Joan Broadberry's wonderful photo of sleeping male bees and the email photo section reveals Joy Hick's spring surprises from Eltham area.

Enjoy this newsletter and begin to think about what you can share with us from November. *Linda R.*



Since I was unable to obtain any smiling human faces this month, I hoped this wonderful photo from Rohan Smith may bring smiles to your faces as it did to mine. See p. 8.

Deadline for December edition newsletter is

Friday 20 November 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

Exploring the Yarra Corridor by John Young

Over the last few, warmer, weeks Caitriona and I have been exploring the Yarra corridor, both north of the river from Glynn's through to Laughing Waters, and south in the Longridge area. It's amazing how much land there is to walk in and there is almost nobody there.

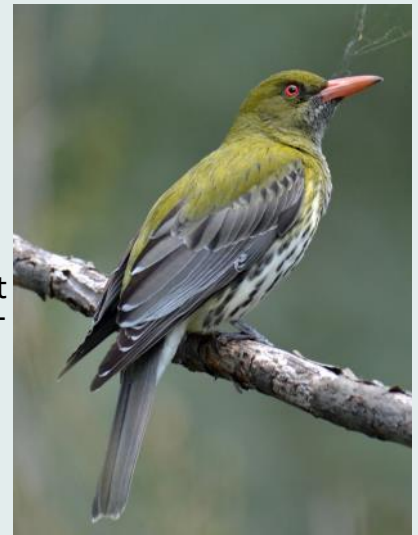


We've been on the lookout for wildflowers and birds and I thought I'd mention a few interesting sightings now that Spring is here. A while ago I mentioned the Fantail Cuckoo in the FOWSP newsletter and that is sounding off all over the place. Another Spring arrival is the Green Oriole (formerly the Olive backed Oriole) which has an obvious "oriole - oriole" call. It's about the size of a

Noisy Miner but the colouring makes it hard to spot sometimes (Photo upper right).

We've been particularly keen to see a Sacred Kingfisher, a bird that is always around, but, again, not easy to find. The one in the photo (above) was on the bank opposite the Laughing Waters house.

Finally, there are loads of cockatoos and parrots nesting in the old trees. We were lucky enough to see two fledged Long Billed Coreellas just out of the tree hole (Photo right). The old trees along the river must be preserved if we are to see these species flourish.



Tawny Frogmouths V Owls by Joan Broadberry

Recently I have got to know my local park, Westerfolds rather well. A reliable sighting on my many walks there has been a beautiful pair of Tawny Frogmouths *Podargus strigoides* perched in a dead wattle (Photo below). Many people, in passing, have referred to them as owls. This has prompted me to find out more as to how frogmouths and owls differ.



The genus name *Podargus* means 'gouty', derived from the Greek word *podagra* = gout. This refers to the small feet and claws of the frogmouth. Those who named it must have thought it walked 'like a gouty old man'. The species name *strigoides* is from the Latin *strix* meaning 'owl,' and *-oides*, meaning 'in the shape of'. Their odd scientific name therefore means: 'gouty owl-like' (bird). The bird's small feet and claws can be glimpsed in the photo of the Westerfolds pair. Their common name, frogmouth, refers to the shape of the beak. As can be seen in the image, they have a very wide mouth which is yellow inside, resembling that of a frog.

Frogmouths are superficially like owls, but they belong to a different order (Caprimulgiformes), and are more closely related to nightjars. An owl's eyes face forward, while a frogmouth's eyes are located on each side of its head. An owl mainly hunts on the wing and grasps food species with its strong talons. Frogmouths tend to perch and wait for prey to come within reach. It is then caught in their large mouths. Frogmouths hunt much smaller things than owls, mainly invertebrates such as moths or beetles. They build their flimsy stick nests in a tree branch or fork, whereas owls use tree hollows. The call of the Tawny Frogmouth is a low-pitched 'oom oom oom oom'. A little like the call of a Common Bronzewing Pigeon, but heard at night. To my ear it is very different from the penetrating call of the Boobook Owl, which travels over a long distance.

PART 1 - THREATS TO THE SURVIVAL OF FROGS - HUMANS & CLIMATE CHANGE

By Lynda Gilbert

My interest in frogs has come about because of the increasing number of articles about the impact of climate change on frog populations and the destruction of frogs' habitats caused by population growth. Conversations with Steve Anderson, a retired Warrandyte State Park ranger also whetted my enthusiasm for knowledge – for example, they have key identifying features, apart from their mating calls - did I know that tree climbing frogs had different feet to those that live in ponds? Frogs' eyes have different shapes. Frogs can change colour to blend in with their environment.

Thanks, Steve, for your important contribution to this article.



Eastern Banjo Frog (Pobblebonk)

Ref <https://www.melbournwater.com.au/water-data-and-education/learning-resources/browse-resources-year-level/frog-identification>

Why are frogs important?

Frogs are like the canary in a coal mine – they tell us when there is something wrong with our environment. A large presence of frogs is a good indication of a healthy environment. Dr

Jodi Rowley, PhD (James Cook University), notes that are an important part of the food chain - tadpoles feed on algae, helping keep our waterways clean; they also compete for mosquito larvae. Frogs eat tonnes of invertebrates, including pest species. Adult frogs are also food for a huge number of mammals, birds and reptiles. In places where there are few frogs, other animals starve to death and water courses clog up. (Ref: <https://phys.org/news/2019-03-expert-key-role-frogs-healthy.html>)

How many different species of frogs are there worldwide and in Australia?

About 4,000 frog species have been identified worldwide, with 214 known in Australia. Many of Australia's frogs are found nowhere else in the world with a huge diversity in size and habitat. There are 4 extinct species and 15 endangered species in Australia.

(Ref <http://environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/factsheet-frogs-australia>)

Threats to frog populations

The urgency of the situation and the global nature of frog declines were not apparent until 1989. Although all factors responsible for the sudden fall in frog numbers are not clear, a number of human activities are harmful to frogs.

Studies by Parris in 2013 show a high level of road noise in urban areas means that the distance over which a male frog's call can be heard by females of the same species is reduced by up to 90%. This loss of communication impacts on frogs' mating habits and the subsequent production of eggs. (Ref: **Parris, K. M.** (2013). Anthropogenic noise constrains acoustic communication in urban-dwelling frogs. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics* 19: 010055)

Other issues affecting the decline of frogs include:

- frogs being run over by cars as they cross the road;
- land reclamation by drainage of wetland areas, leading to loss of breeding sites;
- the conversion of temporary ponds to dams for stock use, resulting in trampling by animals (such as cattle) and destruction of surrounding sheltering sites;
- insecticide and herbicide use in agricultural and horticultural areas, particularly aerial spraying;
- this causes abnormal swimming behaviour and a reduced ability to escape threats from predators;
- introduction of the mosquito fish, trout and other fish that prey on frog eggs and tadpoles;
- increased salinity caused by land clearance (most frogs are salt intolerant);
- siltation from forestry operations;
- increasing temperature changes to air and water caused by climate change;
- frogs succumbing to a disease from Chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*;
- increasing fire frequencies which may eventually lead to up to 40% of frogs becoming extinct worldwide.

(Ref: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969719334904?via%3Dihub>)

Part 2 Next Month: FROGS IN WARRANDYTE & SURROUNDS.

Learning *Acacia* species identification through their names

Lisa Jenkins

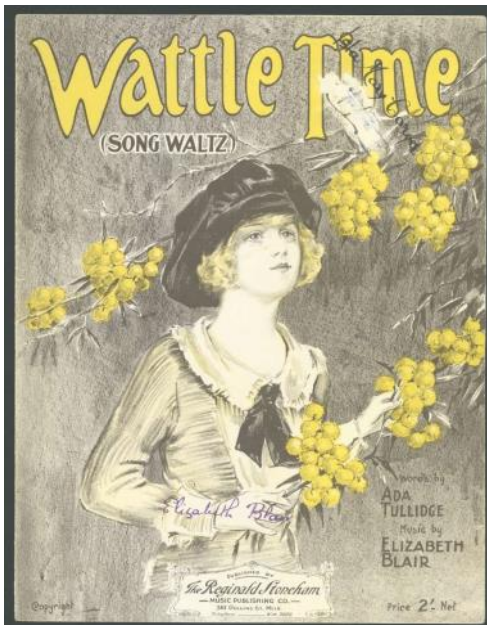
Acacia paradoxa (hedge wattle)-paradoxa, seemingly impossible,
because it contains two opposite characteristics
Acacia pycnantha (golden wattle)-pyknos (dense) and anthos (flowers)

Acacia paradoxa and *Acacia pycnantha* are two sides of the same coin. On the one hand, *Acacia paradoxa*, according to its namer (the botanist Augustin Pyramus de Candolle in 1813), is a paradox, containing two opposite characteristics which seem to make it impossible. It's presumed that he chose this because 'the unattractive and thorny shrub' is 'quite showy when it is in bloom.' (Wikipedia, *Acacia paradoxa*). *Acacia pycnantha* is also showy in bloom and that showiness gives it its name-pyknos is dense in Greek and anthos is flowers (it was described by George Bentham in 1842). But the 'naturalness' of *Acacia pycnantha*'s showiness is widely recognized and the Golden Wattle is now our national flower.



Acacia paradoxa (hedge wattle)-from
Flora of Warrandyte

This was formally declared fairly recently (in the Bicentenary in 1988) but it had been used as a symbol before then. In the nationalistic fervour around Federation and during the First World War, Wattle Day Leagues were formed to promote patriotism-the motto of the Victorian Branch, for example, was 'For its own Glory, and the Stimulation of National Sentiment.' There was a flurry of wattle songs, including Tullidge and Blair's waltz 'Wattle Time' (below left) which gives such curative powers to the Golden Wattle blossom that only the sun is more powerful. Wattle Day continues, of course, on September 1, and is marked by our neighbours in Hurstbridge whose annual festival urges locals 'to come out of winter hibernation and celebrate the joys of living in Melbourne's green wedge.' (<https://www.wattlefestival.org.au/about>). And *Acacia pycnantha* has appeared on stamps, the Coat of Arms and the Order of Australia.



National floral and faunal symbols are an odd coming together of the human and natural worlds. The symbol must appeal and be familiar to most people, be benign and, because of long association or natural characteristics, capable of carrying meanings that are widely valued and shared. Eagles (strength, wisdom) and roses (perfection, beauty) are good, red-backs and couch grass are not good. And they must also be easy to reproduce and stylize (Botswana's zebra or New Zealand's kiwi are perfect for this).

Plants have long had specific symbolic value to humans-think of oaks, bamboo, lotus flowers and mistletoe. Specific political symbolism is a newer phenomena, and the first instance I can think of is the Tudor rose, used by the House of Tudor after they had won the War of the Roses and combining the Lancastrian red and York white roses as a show of unity and victory. Canada's adoption of the maple leaf, for instance, is similar to Australia's of *Acacia pycnantha*; it was used widely in the nineteenth century but it wasn't formally taken up until 1965 when it was put into the centre of the new flag (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/unofficial-symbols-canada/timeline-maple-leaf.html>). Portugal's botanical symbol, the red carnation, is tightly bound up with its recent political history; the 1974 revolution which ousted the military regime, the Estado Novo, was made possible by a civil resistance led by Celeste Caeiro, who offered red carnations to soldiers of the regime. The events came to be known as the *Revolução dos Cravos* (Carnation Revolution).

But animals and plants are themselves, independent of humans, and we give them these symbolic qualities because we want and need that. It's unsurprising that many countries have lions (strong, proud, independent) as their animal symbols, especially various small European countries (Belgium, Luxembourg) who are hemmed in by larger, more assertive nations.

(Continued on page 7)

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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
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday 10 November 2020
Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Manningham Small Grant application successful



Your FOWSP committee applied for a small grant to purchase two new plant trolleys. They are very useful for taking trays of plants to other locations - or when the tables are full - for displaying plants. FOWSP now has 6 trolleys for our volunteers to use when they are permitted to return to the nursery.

We are grateful to Manningham City Council for the 50% contribution towards the cost of the two trolleys. *Lyndy Gilbert*



FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

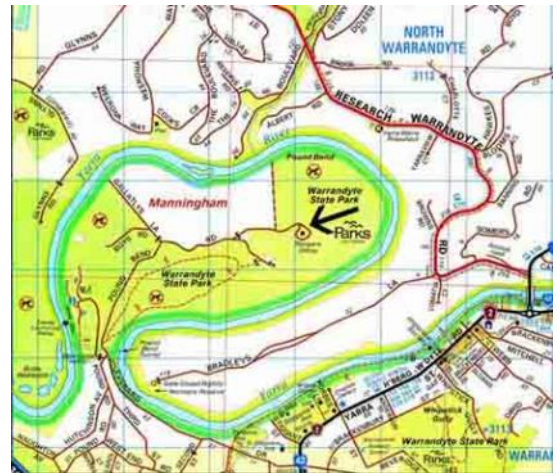
Status at the FOWSP nursery 28 October 2020

The nursery will be operating on the up-dated Covid safe plan. At present plant sales will be available via email orders with time booked to CLICK AND COLLECT.

- 1) have a look at the stock list, available here: http://fowsp.org.au/docs/Other/FOWSP_Stock_List_for_Sales.pdf
- 2) Send your wishlist to the FOWSP nursery email: nursery@fowsp.org.au with the species and quantity required. **Please include your contact phone number;**
- 3) When the plants are ready , 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. Thanks for your support.

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



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The pollinator garden in October

The pollinator garden was a mass of yellow (*Senecio*, *Chrysocephalum* and *Xerochrysum*), white (*Teucrium corymbosa*) and blue flowers (*Isotoma*) when I visited but it was a little too cool for the native bees to be out. I did spot some activity amongst the shrubs that turned out to be a Superb Fairy-wren pair which I just barely caught in one photo. They were not particularly shy until I had my camera out. *Linda Rogan*



(Continued from page 4)

All the complications of nation-building and nation-maintaining are ignored in national symbols. Symbols are not about the complex questions of multi-ethnic communities, indigenous peoples or social inequality. Even though they're chosen by humans, for human use, they stand for something seemingly outside the messiness of human communities. It's as if they are saying, 'look, here's a kangaroo. We can forget that Australia's population is overwhelmingly urban and rarely encounters kangaroos, or that we have fraught debates about culling, we see the shape on a coin and we say 'Aha, Australia.'

Acacia pycnantha wasn't a shoe-in. *Telopea speciosissima*, the New South Wales Waratah, was a hot contender for a while but it was considered too localized to stand for the whole country. Tullie Wollaston (1863-1931), an opal dealer, and a 'cultured, humane and religious man' (*Australian Dictionary of Biography*), loved the bush and wrote a small book called *Our Wattles* (1916) in which he argues its case. He says that the wattle has such:

amazing prodigality of blossom! Is there anything quite so wonderful anywhere else? where on all the habitable globe will you find a 30-foot tree seven years from seed which will yield you (such) sprays... our bright Australia is like that. It is only a mere youngster still, and yet how soon it began to yield its treasure, and how generously to reward our labour and answer our settled trust!

He compares the wattle with the perfection of the rose or the 'immaculate' Waratah but sides with the wattle as 'just the thing':

how good it is, how gloriously good! So softly gracious, so appealing you are impelled to bury your face in its fragrant cloud of fluffy gold and almost hug it as if it were your own dear flapper maid or bright young son! ... (with some flowers) there is this close, intimate and friendly feeling, as if they were awake and listening, and smilingly responsive-and the Wattle is first amongst these human flowers. ...

(As) our lovely Wattle, in its wealth of sunny glory, aptly typifies our bight and prosperous Island Continent, so the gracious, 'friendly' character of its blossoms, whether amongst stiff, leathery leaves or the most silken ones, should be connected in our thoughts with the kindness and hospitality amongst all classes... which we should cherish and foster.

Any emblem worth notice at all should be a real and living expression of something precious to its people, and a source of inspiration as well. Think of this unique flower, complex and yet so simple, bending in 'golden rain,' swaying in mystic plumes, twisted in 'golden wreath,' glowing in a million fluffy spikes, easy to grow, eager to bloom both in lowly shrub and stately forest tree, grateful for good soil, content with very poor or almost none, fragrant, friendly, beautiful -have we not something to live up to here? (14-18)



Acacia pycnantha (golden wattle)- from Flora of Warrandyte

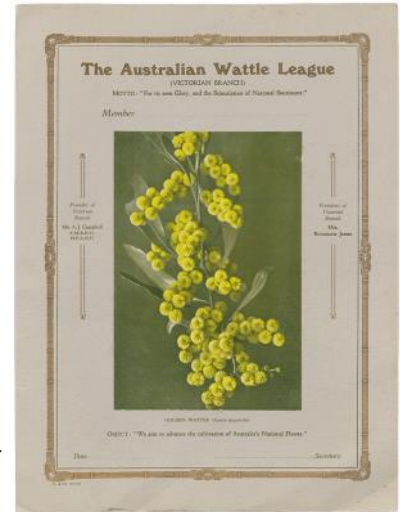
Other characteristics considered typically Australian were attached to the wattle by Monty Python. In their 1970 'Bruces' sketch, they parodied blokishness, having four Bruces from the Philosophy Department of the University of Wollongong booze up and sing. Their motto is 'this here's the wattle, the emblem of our land. You can stick it in a bottle, you can hold it in your hand.' (<http://www.montypython.net/scripts/bruceskit.php>) In this sketch the 'simplicity' of the wattle connotes the simplicity, crudity and ignorance of the blokes whom the 'Bruces' typify, unlike Wollaston, who sees in that simplicity friendliness, kindness and hospitality.

But as I've found in my investigation of the names of Warrandyte's wattles, human associations with any plants, our naming of them and our symbolic use of them, is always complicated. And some plants, even the seemingly simple *Acacia pycnantha*, can't possibly bear up under all the associations we attach to it.

To read more on the symbolic use of *Acacia pycnantha*, go to: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/emblems/aust.emblem.html> <https://www.nla.gov.au/unbound/the-making-of-a-national-floral-emblem>

Image references:

Tullidge, Ada and Elizabeth Blair, 'Wattle Time (song waltz),' 1922 National Library of Australia. <https://nla.gov.au/443/tarkine/nla.obj-166068190>. Accessed 18 October, 2020.



The Australian Wattle League (Victorian Branch), *Membership Certificate*, c.1922-1943, Archibald James Campbell Papers, National Library of Australia. nla.cat-vn330448. Accessed 18 October, 2020.

Jumping Creek landowners, nature stewards

It has been a long cold winter working at home with my laptop as a buddy, endless zoom meetings with varying internet access and consequent freezing, and the 2020 catchphrase “you’re on mute” all too frequent.

The easing of the lockdown has allowed me a little more freedom to go out for work. It’s been such a joy to get out to monitor some deer exclusion plots on private properties along Jumping Creek with my colleague Sam Gilbert. These property owners are doing us all a great service of contributing to deer invasion research and being wonderful nature stewards and guardians.



Jumping Creek near several of the deer monitoring plots”



A deer monitoring plot containing Blady Grass
Photos Cathy Willis

Highlights have included

Checking a nest box with a landowner to find five cosy little sugar gliders. We did inevitably disturb them, several jumped out, came to ground and one ran up my body and jumped into a eucalyptus from my head. The owner checked on them an hour later and they were all back home sound asleep. (Photo front page)

Walking through several hundred metres of old paddocks, no longer stocked, amidst mostly native grasses thick with Bulbine Lilies and dotted profusely with Sun Orchids; throw in Slender Speedwell *Veronica gracilis* and other small treasures - nature returning to balance.

A nice healthy patch of Blady Grass on the flat close to the creek. This is quite uncommon locally, and by chance ended up occurring in a randomly generated deer exclusion monitoring plot. Win win!

It’s a wonderful spring. Enjoy it everyone *Cathy Willis*
(Biodiversity Planner, Manningham City Council)



Bulbine bulbosa
bulbine lily
Photo Linda Rogan



Sharon Masons’ photo of one of many woolly caterpillars seen grazing on *Goodenia ovata* this spring. In some cases the plants have been totally stripped of leaves.
See her note on p. 9.

Sybille's spring-wonder wander

The tank track walk to the nursery and back along the path parallel to the road has been providing me with joy. The wildflowers have been stunning, wonderful to see, but they slow my walking pace as I stop to admire or even photograph them.

I am submitting a photo, not with my smiling face, but those of smiling flower heads (Hoary sunray *Leucochrysum albicans*). This was taken in early October on the road to the nursery. I have never seen such an abundance before. There were a few patches in the one area only.

The bulbine and the chocolate lilies were also stunning, but most probably not an effective photo as it is difficult to capture the surrounds and the atmosphere.

I (also) found ... little faces (sawfly larvae) in a cluster on a eucalyptus. When I used a blade of grass to wave near them, they waved back at me. It was almost like synchronized waving.

Sybille



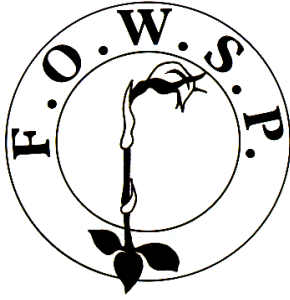
Frogland in October 2020

It was with mixed feelings but mostly joy that I took my exercise in Frogland the first week that our travels could extend to 25 km. While there I was very pleased to run across Alwynne who is shown in the photo right inspecting a *Correa* for future cutting material. She explained to me that it appears one of the *Correa* plants is a natural hybrid between *C. glabra* and *C. reflexa*. She pointed out how the plant labelled *C. glabra* had perfectly smooth leaves while the hybrid showed a distinctive ruffled appearance (right) although not so marked as the *C. reflexa*. Alwynne has continued to keep the cuttings happening over winter with the cutting material available in her 5 km perimeter.

Many weeds have thrived in our absence, mainly sweet vernal grass and *Ixias* currently in bloom. However there is much that is pleasing including: *Craspedia variabilis* is ready for seed collection; white blooms of *Teucrium corymbosum* forest germander with many plants now suitable for cuttings; lovely blue blooms on *Veronica perfoliata* digger's speedwell; and also the egg and bacon blooms on our only plant of *Daviesia latifolia* hop bitter-pea (photos below from left).



Note from Sharon Mason Regarding the photo bottom p. 8. The light and dark patterned caterpillars seem to be very common this year and to be on a range of plant species. I can not recall *Goodenia ovata* being eaten much at all before this season. So far where I live at Pound Bend no animals seem to think they are edible. (Looks like the one I have seen on *G. ovata* and *Gynatrix pulchella* in my garden this year. *Linda Rogan*)



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Native bees *Lasioglossum (Chilalictus) sp.*

Joan Broadberry was lucky enough to spot this small cluster of male bees tucked up inside this paper daisy. This is the first male cluster I have seen photographed for this season.

I often see these bees in small numbers in dandelions and other daisies that close up at night.

The small white arrow shows the curved wing vein which is the giveaway to the genus for this group of bees. Joan did well to capture that clearly in this photo.

Linda Rogan

November 2020 Vol. 38 no. 9

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 photo bonus page



**Walking in springtime
Surprises in
Eltham area**

Photos by Joy Hick

Clockwise from upper right: tiger orchid *Diuris sulphurea*, blue pincushion *Brunonia australis*, a mob of ants with distinctive yellow 'v' on the abdomen (perhaps gold-tailed sugar ant?), common beard-orchid *Calochilus robertsonii*, *Caladenia* sp.



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



Joy Hick's photo
of *Lomandra filiformis*
in a lovely
mini landscape