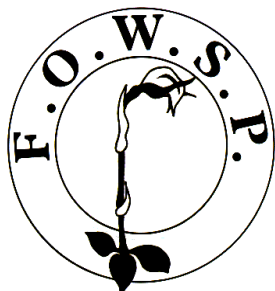


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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 FOWSPians,
 I am very excited this month having two contributions from new sources. On page 3 Caitriona, who has been revelling in the joys of seed sorting, shares some of her observations with us. So appropriate as this is the seed sorting time of year.

On page 9 Alison Ray, who has frequently been seen as part of the team in Frogland, shares the joy and beauty she is finding getting to know some of the birds along the Yarra.

Don Vincent reports to us on several interesting TAG activities on pp. 2, 4 and 7.

The nursery is looking great just now as Lyndy Gilbert reports on p. 6. Thanks so much to the Bendigo Bank who provided the grants for these repairs.



Marie and Linda were pleased to have help from Taggers, see p. 2.



On this page we see some of recent work in Frogland. Particularly the small frog/plant pond in the lower area which suddenly lost its water. Investigation by Chris (left) found that the roots of plants had lifted the plug, leaving a moist layer of roots where slugs proliferated. The remedy was to clean and silicon the plug into the tub and back this up with stones on top of the plug. We disturbed a couple of small frogs (right) in the process but they should be very comfortable now.

Linda Rogan



**Deadline for April edition newsletter is
 Friday 18 March 2022**

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

Summer TAGs

The TAG for 27th January followed some heavy rain overnight, and we were unsure if the task was possible - removing Arum lilies from Wombat Creek on Koornong Crescent in North Warrandyte, part of the Yarra River Linear Reserve. An earlier reconnaissance had identified a few isolated plants deep in the creek bed, along with tangles of Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*), Honeysuckle, Vinca and blackberry, with the priorities being removing the lilies, some removal of Tutsan berries and if possible preparing for Parks Vic spraying of the other weeds.



Judith faces the challenge...

The creek bed was slippery and a little muddy but otherwise accessible, but as we moved upstream we found large clumps of lilies. We attacked them with gusto, at least initially, removing as many seed heads, root balls and corms as possible. But as the day warmed and became oppressively humid and hot, we realised we would not finish the task. Bagging and carrying out the spoils was also a challenge. A follow-up is needed by Parks Vic on this one, perhaps supported by a further TAG. On 3 February Marie and Linda were

Kelvin, David and Cathy

very pleased to have extra assistance from Don, Robin and David with some thinning of Burgan to let more light into some of the ground level plants.



While not captured on film, David took on the task of digging out two large clumps of weedy Brome grass (seed heads photo left) which we had previously identified before Christmas. The tips of the flowering heads reached about 7 ft.



Don and Robin take on some major thinning of Burgan

Sorting Seeds Caitriona Young

The Warrandyte bush yields an abundance of seed in summer. Fertilised seeds must be collected at just the right time to ensure plant quality for the next growing season. Once collected seed preparation includes releasing them from protective coatings such as pods and labelling them for storage.

Seeds can be difficult and tedious to access. Sometimes pods can be opened by scraping them across a sieve. Sometimes a thumbnail will do it. *Brachyscome* seeds come in fluffy abundance, sticking to the fingers on humid days. *Leptospermum* release tiny, tiny seeds just by upending the pods. Some seeds obediently collect inside a bucket simply by being shaken. Grasses are mostly very obliging and readily release seed.

Too much enthusiasm can result in escaping seeds. I then remember the famous Monty Python song and hum "Every seed is sacred".

Enchantments along the way

The opened *Hakea decurrens* pod (left) with its stunning yin/yang design. The seeds nestle at the tips of dark flimsy wings (right) that lie across the brown interior. Talk about neat.



Colourful *Acacia dealbata* pods (below left) are an artist's dream. Seeds (right)



Dark *Hardenbergia violacea* pods (left) open to reveal green pea-seeds (right) nestling in their own soft-as-silk envelopes.



(Continued on page 8)

**TAG to Boomers Reserve, Panton Hill
10th February 2022.**

This reserve is one of the jewels in the crown of Warrandyte State Park, and Cam Beardsell was very happy to guide us to this favourite place. He regaled us with the history- geological, climate, indigenous, European and recent - that have all contributed to the current state of the reserve. It merges, in a now-unique remnant, three forest types being north-central goldfields, coastal heathlands and Gippsland ironbark forests.



Cam (centre) advising on a point of interest, with (from left) Belinda, Glenn, Brian, Barry, Robyn, Kelvin, David and Judith.



The ironbark is predominantly the domain of central Victoria around Bendigo. Also evident were gold workings from the 19th century. Much of the forest on the reserve is old regrowth after extensive cutting during the same period for mine timbering and firewood. Various fenced enclosures contain a wide variety of rare or threatened species which are being nurtured by Cam and Parks Vic. We were able to see the Tongue Orchid (*Cryptostylis subulata*) seed heads after Spring flowering. Following our well-attended and interesting walk-and-talk with Cam, we contributed usefully by clearing woody overgrowth from some enclosures.

Thanks to Don for these TAG reports.

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**

3/03/2022	Endeavour Bank	ARTUR	Exclosure cleanup/weeding/guard removal from drainage line	Easy
10/03/2022	Pauline Toner Reserve	PHIL/CAM	Cassinia thinning, woody weeds - Polygala, wattles Eltham Copper Butterfly viewing!	Easy-Moderate
17/03/2022	Pound Bend / Boys Rd			Moderate
24/03/2022	Harding/Red Beard Fence	PHIL	Fuel management works and leaf removal	Moderate
31/03/2022	TBA			
7/04/2022	Morrisons - early hill fence	PHIL/CAM	Veg thinning, leaf and woody debris removal	Moderate

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.

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 2021-2022			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
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	editor@fowsp.org.au		Gloria Moore	0402 285005
		Facebook Coordinator	Carolyn Noel	0409 901441
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			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
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	phenologist@gmail.com		Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Lyn Moore	0409 683 041	Wildlife rescue Victoria	Webmaster	
	lynm333g@gmail.com	https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/contact-us	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, Lyn Moore

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 08 March 2022

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Environment links on Manningham Council website

With the re-arranged Manningham Council website, it appears the link below is the place where all things environmental appear. When I checked I found Manningham's backyard diversity series of 30 separate videos by TV Zoologist Chris Humfrey from Wild Action, 'The Zoo That Comes to You'.

<https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/about-council/environment-and-sustainability>



Also Manningham residents are encourage to participate again in the recording the biodiversity in their space on iNaturalist especially during the city nature challenge 29th of April to the 2nd of May 2022 . . . Once registered the data will be stored and available for the foreseeable future. So a great opportunity to go smashing out photographs and linking it to the project.

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/city-nature-challenge-2022-greater-melbourne-umbrella>

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/city-nature-challenge-2022-manningham>

Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

The link below, or searching the Nillumbik website for Environment/Events– activities and education, will bring you to a page which shows upcoming events in Nillumbik. Examples include seminars, celebrations and more for 2022.



<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Explore/Environment/Events-activities-and-education>

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.

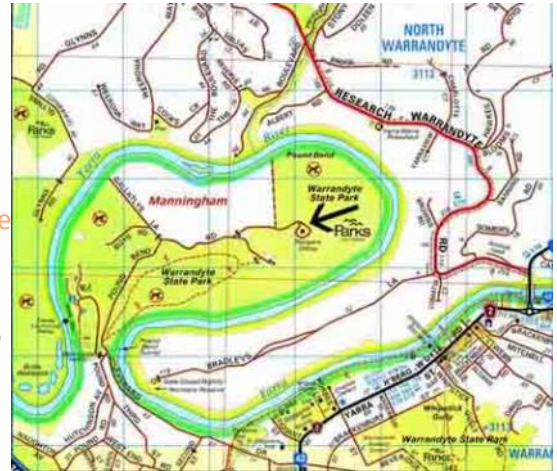
NURSERY OPENING HOURS

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 Nursery is looking good!

We are delighted to report that the igloos which were damaged in a freak hailstorm in January 2020 have finally been repaired.

The A-frames which we ordered prior to Christmas have been completed and are being used to replace the worst of the rusted ones underneath the tables.

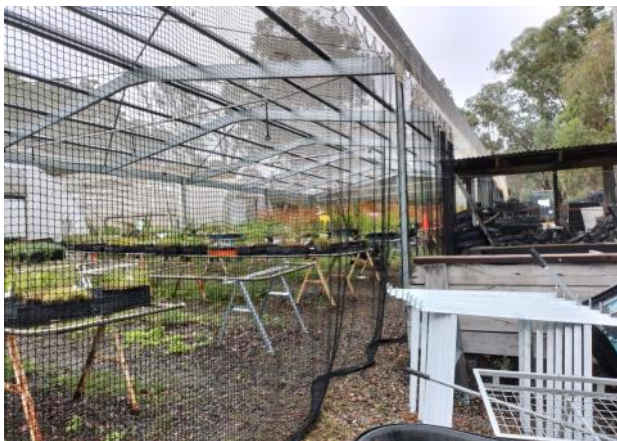
The netting has now been attached to the large steel frame over the sales area to prevent damage caused by birds and native animals in the past. Josh has also received a couple of new tables for volunteers to use when pricking out.

Many thanks to our many volunteers and committee members who have brought this to fruition over a difficult 2 years with delays caused by the COVID pandemic.

We are truly grateful to the Warrandyte Community Bank who provided the funding for the igloo repairs and the A-frames.

It is wonderful to see that the grants provided by the Bank, have finally been put to use after such long delays.

Lyndy Gilbert



Hello Fowspians!

I hope you are well - a wish that these days means even more than it did in the past.

As you know, we ask all members and visitors to sign in when coming to the nursery - apart from allowing us to tally up volunteer hours, this would also allow us to contact you if a person infected with the COVID virus had been at the Nursery when you were there.

Rest assured, we will do our own contact-tracing if that happened. In order to allow us to do that, we need to know if you, or anybody in your household becomes infected. So please let us know if that happens!

Stay safe! Stay well!
Gray

Heads Road, Eastlink/Mullum Mullum Trail, 17 February 2022

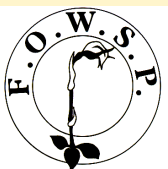
This area has a long term commitment by the TAG group to restore an old pine plantation that was felled and chipped, adjacent to the Eastlink Trail and above the Walert Creek area where we have also spent much time.

Extensive indigenous planting was completed about 5 years ago, and while many of the *Lomandra* and *Goodenia* have thrived, the intended upper storey of Eucalypts and *Acacia* sp. have suffered from deer attack. Invasion from English Ivy, Vinca and Honey-suckle was also evident.

Our task was to continue to protect the survivors by weeding invasive species and either removing or restoring guards, depending on the tree's stage of growth and level of attack. Quite challenging and we need some innovative strategies to discourage deer and enable the upper storey to develop.



David and Brian making some headway



Can you help FOWSP MARKET TRAILER???

Thanks to those who helped out in the past and many thanks to Jan Falconer who has faithfully organised the trailer for many years, but is currently not available. Please let us know if you can help with this task for the near future. FOWSP committee has decided to delay rostering our trailer at the market until at least April 2022.



The Warrandyte market is normally 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 let any committee member know or info@fowsp.org.au
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are: *Saturdays, 2 April 2022, 7 May 2022*

(Continued from page 3)

Leuochrysum albicans . Just picked (below left).

A microcosm of seeds? (below right)



Acacia paradoxa pods and seeds (below left).

Velleia paradoxa pods and seeds (below middle).

Kennedia prostrata.
Sorted (below right).



The stunning *Dodonaea* pods and seeds below



Leptospermum continentale easily releases tiny red seeds colouring the container under the wire.



Note from a Pound Bend visitor

Hi Lyndy,

Thank you for your lovely note.

More than happy to contribute to your organisation, I really enjoy visiting the area and you are doing great work. I often visit around Pound Bend and do an annual float around the river and this year we thought we would all chip in a few dollars to help support the work you are all doing which allows us to enjoy visiting the area.

Next time I'm in the area I'll be sure to check out the nursery.

All the best,

Eric

Alison captures (photos of) birds along the Yarra

I have been out doing some walks around Mullum Mullum Creek and the Yarra lately and thought that I could offer you these if you have some space for photos. I am keeping up with your latest postings on iNaturalist and learning about bees, insects, etc. etc. along the way. I'm putting up some photos, mainly



of birds, but sometimes I manage to capture various other plants and animals. Skippers are something I hadn't heard of until the other week!

I am very interested in little birds, but they are the hardest to catch with the camera. They never stay still for very long. Along Mullum Mullum Creek,



there is an area with blackberry bushes and I was lucky to see some yellow-faced honeyeaters (above left) and silvereyes (above right) making the most of the ripe berries.



The grey shrike thrush was sitting in a tree along the Yarra at Longridge, and the kingfisher lives nearby.

Cheers and thanks once again for the fabulous newsletter,
Alison Ray

The butterflies star in the summer

Four species have caught my eye this month. Right is the dainty swallowtail *Papilio anactus* briefly resting on Fourth Hill where it was one of half a dozen hill-topping. At the same time and place, a number of varied dusky-blue *Erina hyacinthina* males stopped to rest on twigs (lower right). Photo below shows our largest skipper, the splendid ochre *Trapezites symmokus* which I was thrilled to find on its foodplant *Lomandra longifolia* in my garden.

Lastly on the back cover is the imperial blue butterfly *Jalmenus evagoras*, which lives its whole life cycle on a single Acacia tree. If you would like to know more about this butterfly and can still play a DVD, ask Linda for a free copy of the one pictured.



Are your subs due??

Please check the message on the email you receive with the newsletter link . If they are due soon a message such as below will be included:

‘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.’

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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



Deinopsis subrufa the female of the net-casting or ogre spider seen here in Linda's garden with the net. For more information see Joan Broadberry's article in March 2019 Volume 37 Number 2 and Linda's follow up in April.



Parrots seen on a morning walk



Now known as *Austroscolia soror*, this blue flower wasp is one of a group of nectar-feeding wasps often seen this time of year. Although it appears bright blue by eye, it often is mostly black when seen in photos (Don's photo right), especially if flash has been used. I found the blue showed best in a non-flash photo (below), although sharpness of photo is sacrificed.



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



Imperial Blue Butterfly
Glaucopsyche alexis
See p. 10

