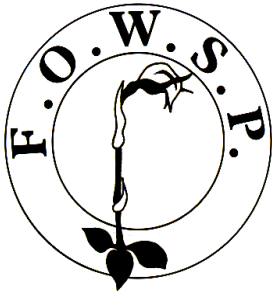


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

It was great to come back from two weeks in one of my favourite places (Atherton tableland and Wondelca Queensland) and see how wonderfully lush the indigenous plants in the FOWSP nursery are looking. Photos right and also top of p. 4 are examples.

It is also a joy to receive the letter to FOWSP from long time members and ex-Warrandytians Mike and Pat Coupar. Don't miss their letter on p. 8 and the accompanying sneak preview on p. 9.

To all FOWSPians who are not fans of insects and of the fauna of far north Queensland in general, I apologise as this newsletter is heavily weighted toward



Kay and Joy prepare plants for our customers.



these passions of mine. For you, the cure would be to send me photos and articles about your own passions in nature for the May newsletter.

There are two puzzles in this newsletter. The first regards young cassowary 'Zero' seen left. The second is a photo which puzzled me on p. 2.

Enjoy this newsletter. *Linda Rogan*

Puzzle 1. A young cassowary named Zero is shown here with his Dad. For the story of Zero and his name see p. 9.

**Deadline for May edition newsletter is
Friday 15 April 2022**

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

What's this?? Puzzle



It was photographed on 12 April 2020 in Eltham North near Karingal Creek.

I entered the observation onto iNaturalist in hope of discovering the story of what this may be. At the time, I thought it might be more than one type of insect and my comment was 'Unsure what I am seeing here as it appears to be eggs on a stalk, a scale insect and inside an exuvium or empty pupal case. Maybe together by co-incidence?'

My first hint came from @penelopeuq. She describes herself as follows: "Scale insect systematist. Research assistant on Agriculture Victoria biocontrol project on giant pine scale (*Marchalina hellenica*).

Her comment was *'What an unusual sighting! I think that is a pupal case of moth inside the "cage" but the individual on the outside of the cage is not a scale insect because I can see two claws on its hindlegs in one of the images (scale insects only have one claw per leg) and too many leg segments.'*

This gave me an idea where to search next. See p. 6 for the answer to this puzzle. (It turns out that I could have saved myself some googling. I would have seen a very similar photo if I had Mike and Pat's new book in hand and looked on page 53. What new book?? See p. 9 of this newsletter.

**Getting to know our local native bees -
Blue Banded Bees and friends**

In February I talked to you about *Hylaeus* genus (the masked bees). You may remember that there were 12 species identified in my garden. This month we can take a peak at everybody's favourite native bee: the blue banded bee in the genus *Amegilla*.

Over the years I have found two species in my garden. Neither of these species show the bright blue colour their common name suggests. Rather, as you see in the first photo their stripes appear white or from some angles light blue.



This photo of bee bricks is from 2015. No blue banded bees have been seen nesting here but some resin bees have.

Amegilla species nest in holes in the ground or in vertical banks. In Queensland and much of NSW, it is easy to get them to nest in mud bricks. In Victoria, I have heard about them nesting in the walls of mud brick homes but so far, I haven't been able to verify that they are nesting in the mud bricks at FOWSP or others prepared for them in this state. If you are aware of any of the blue banded bees' nesting sites within Victoria please let me know as I would love to observe their nesting habitat. They are plentiful here so they do nest somewhere nearby.



Amegilla cingulata in Queensland

For this genus, it easy to tell the females from the males in two ways. First, the females' hind legs are usually packed with pollen. Second, males have much more cream or yellow faces and less dark pattern than the females. (photos above right)

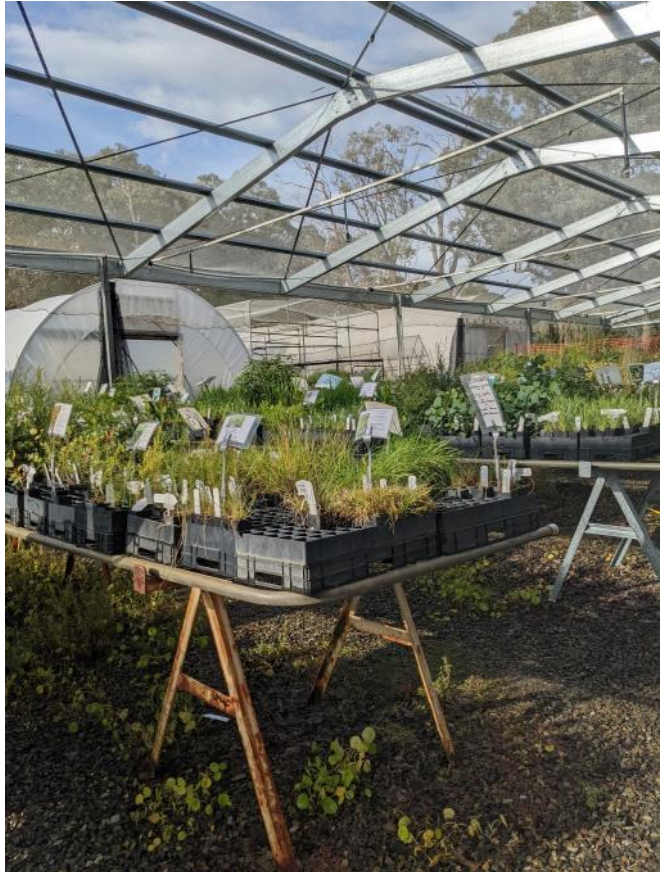
As far as I am aware, there is only one species which is consistently bright blue. I often photograph it when travelling in Queensland, which is consistently bright blue (photo left).



Amegilla probably *asserta* , notice mostly cream coloured face of male.



Amegilla probably *asserta* , notice darker face and pollen packed legs of female



FOWSP nursery is full of beautiful indigenous plants as can be seen above.
Check out the updated stocklist

[FOWSP Stock List for Sales March 18th 2022.docx](#)

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.

7/04/2022	Morrison's - early hill fence	PHIL/CAM	Veg thinning, leaf and woody debris removal	Moderate
14/04/2022	Betton Fence	PHIL	Cassinia thinning and leaf removal	Easy-Moderate
21/04/2022	Gold Memorial Road / Fourth Hill	FRITZ TBA	Woody weeds	Moderate
28/04/2022	Fiddler Fence - Webb St	PHIL	Cassinia thinning, fence maintenance and leaf removal.	Moderate
5/05/2022	Pauline Toner Reserve	CAM? (TBA)	Planting 130 plants	Easy

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	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Nursery Manager	Josh Revell
			Nursery Phone	0408 317 327
			email nursery@fowsp.org.au	
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Linda Rogan	0491 112 692	Newsletter editor	Newsletter assist and Librarian	
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		Facebook Coordinator	Carolyn Noel	0409 901441
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	
			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.wildlifelivictoria.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			

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Gloria Moore, Lyn Moore

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday 12 April 2022
Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time: 19:30 pm sharp

(Continued from page 3)

The male blue banded bees are amongst those which roost singly or in clusters by clinging onto stems with their jaws. (photo right)



There were 15 total blue banded bee males in this group.



Bees commonly called teddy bear bees are closely related to blue-banded bees but are less frequently seen in locally. One that has been photographed in Victoria by Reiner Richter is *Amegilla albiceps* (photo left).

Linda Rogan

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

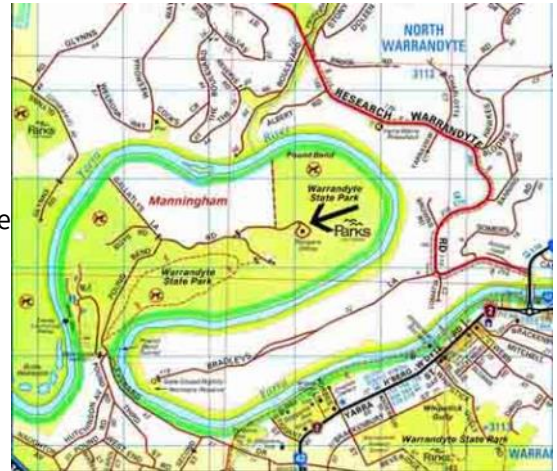
The nursery is open for plant sales every Thursday.
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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Nursery News

We will be open for sales on the morning of Saturday 2 April 2022
(9am to 2pm)

Our tube stock is superb just now and it's time to plant.

A moth with a wingless female.

Answer to Puzzle 2

Although the remains of the creature on the right of the photo p. 2 may superficially resemble a large scale insect, it is in fact the wingless female of a footman moth in the genus *Anestia*. The caterpillars of this genus don't feed on leaves but rather on the lichen found on bark. They are therefore amongst the moths known as lichen moths.

This remarkable female never develops wings sufficient for flight. She pupates surrounded by the prickly hairs from the caterpillar and when she emerges, lays her eggs on the hairy cocoon. Her spent body remains beside the eggs. Thus the strange appearance in the photo on p. 2.

The male is a more usual appearing moth as can be seen in the photo right.

Linda Rogan



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 have your photographs identified and kept for future records.

A similar suggestion comes from Landcare networks as a great 'Get Involved'.

It is a great way for any Friends/Landcare/Property owner to record the biodiversity in their space. Once registered the data will be stored and available for the foreseeable future.

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

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

Also checkout the fascinating articles in the Landcare Magazine for summer 2022 such as the one below.



Banking the right seed for the future

The 2019-2020 black summer bushfires resulted in the tragic loss of five lives, 300 homes and an area covering almost 1.4 million hectares of our natural landscape in East Gippsland. Rare flora and fauna species, rare plant communities, critical wildlife habitat and food sources all need to be re-established. It's a complex process and while time is critical it is important that our rush to replant quickly does not come at the expense of biodiversity and local provenance plants.

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/landcare-magazine/summer-2022/banking-the-right-seed-for-the-future/>

For those in Nillumbik Shire

The link below should take you to a listing of events and available webinars including a Community Rabbit Control Demonstration Day

Next date: Saturday, 09 April 2022 | 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM



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

Letter from Mallacoota

Dear Fowspians

Mike and I always enjoy reading the FOWSP newsletter every month. This most recent issue (March) in particular brought back many memories of my time working in WSP both as a volunteer and a paid bushland management contractor.

To see that work is still ongoing in 'Frogland' is very heartening as I was there at its inception many decades ago. In fact, it was just Stage One of a grand plan to create (within the vast fenced area between the road and the paddock) a butterfly and moth trail to showcase plants that attract both the adults and caterpillars and an Aboriginal plant use trail complete with signage.

It is also good to see that *Cassinia* thinning is being carried out at Pauline Toner Eltham Copper Butterfly Reserve. This and other reserves in Eltham is an area I worked in when Steve Anderson was a ranger at WSP.

Another outlying reserve that FOWSP has been involved with for many years is Boomers Reserve at Panton Hill. Such a special area of unique vegetation types and rare and threatened species including orchids. So great to see that Cam has not lost the passion!

Back at Pound Bend there is Endeavour Bank (I can't remember how we came up with that name!) where Cathy Willis and I spent many hours weeding.

One of my favourite places to work with Cathy and later Josh was the section of Timber Reserve known as Harding Road and Red Beard Fence with its suite of rare orchids. Hopefully this will be a good year for the orchids.

In my last few years before leaving Warrandyte I co-ordinated the North Warrandyte Osborne Road Landcare group. Along with fellow contractor Annie Reid, one of the first areas we tackled was Wombat Gully that runs beside Koornong Crescent. Originally the site was occupied by some very big old *Pittosporum*, *Cotoneaster* and other woody weeds which we cut down and burnt. To see this area getting some attention from FOWSP and hopefully Parks Vic is justification for all the hard work that the Landcare group have put in over many years..

Finally, on a personal level, Mike and I have rebuilt (with a modular house) following the loss of our house in Mallacoota during the Black Summer bushfire. At the end of last year our landscaping was completed thanks to Research-based company Indigenous Design – a company close to our heart, so to speak!

Once again it is fantastic to read about all the work Fowspians are doing and to know that this Friends group is still one of the largest and most active in the State and a big thank you to Linda for a magnificent job as newsletter editor.

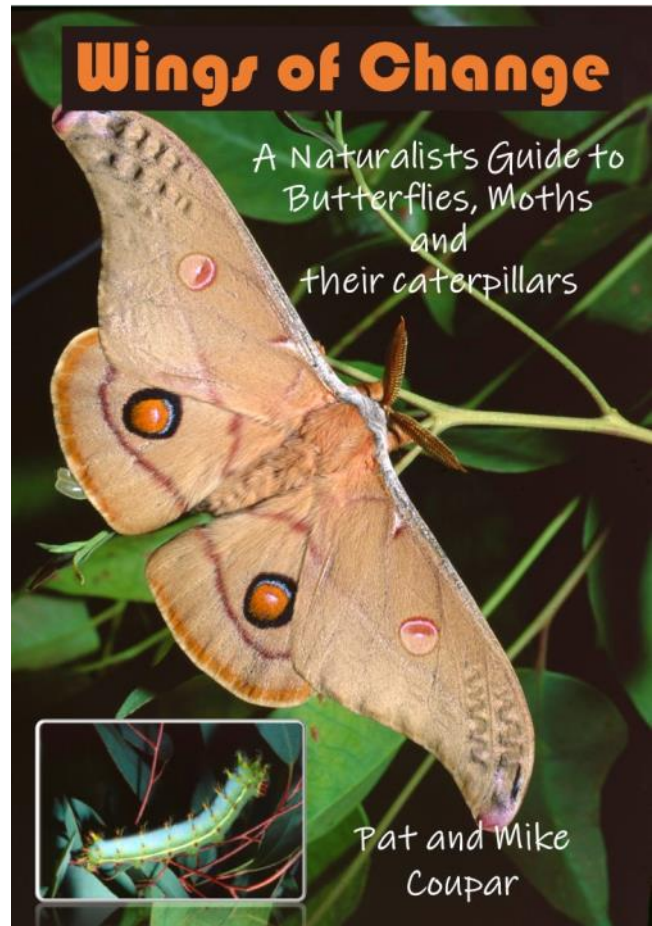
Pat and Mike Coupar



Sneak Preview

Many of our long term members will remember the beautiful book *Flying Colours* that Pat and Mike Coupar produced in 1992. It has been long out of print. I imagine you will be as excited as I am to learn that they have now printed an expanded and updated version of this book aimed at naturalists who are keen to learn more about some of the local moths and butterflies.

Watch this space for information about when and how the book will be available for purchase in the next newsletter.



Cassowaries seen in Wondecla, Queensland Answer to puzzle 2.

On our July 2021 visit to Wondecla in far north Queensland, we were thrilled to see a father cassowary with his growing chick. (Photo right) At this stage the chick was approaching turkey-sized.

It was a thrill for us to see these two again during our brief visit to Wondecla in early March this year. See the photo on the page four to see how he has grown.

Why is the chick named 'Zero'? Because he has no wattles.

Wattles, seen on the adult here, are fleshy pouches of skin that hang from the neck. I was told it is unlikely this cassowary will ever have one as it does not show even in the more mature photo. The exact reason is unknown.



The southern or Australian cassowary is also called the double-wattled cassowary and is the largest of the three cassowary species. The other two species occur in Papua New Guinea.



Two Queensland Dragonflies

The iridescent flutterer was seen along the edge of a large dam in Irvinebank beyond Herberton. In flight it often appears to be black with partly transparent wings. However in the right light the iridescent blue colour is evident.

The painted grasshawk was photographed in a seepage puddle across a walking path in Great Northern Mine walk in the middle of Herberton.

Linda Rogan



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 in the email.:

'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.'

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

Four more animals which caught my eye in the recent visit to FNQ. Several padymelons (below left) were frequent visitors to Birdwatcher's Cabin. Pictured is a mother with her young. The lizard (below) was seen resting on a leaf during nighttime walks. Although lacking the typical colours, I am told this is the young of Boyd's forest dragon. The blue face (below right) belongs to the iridescent fruit-piercing moth. Lastly, the spider (below left) appears to be an unusual colour form of one of the 'bird poo' spiders.



Back Cover: Autumn is a wonderful time for watching butterflies around Warrandyte. However the composite image on the newsletter back page features butterflies we are unlikely to see here. They are a part of what attracts me to FNQ. Top to bottom, they are the male (green) and female (black) of the Cairns birdwing butterfly; two views of the regent skipper; and at the bottom two views of a male of the cruiser butterfly.

Linda Rogan

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

