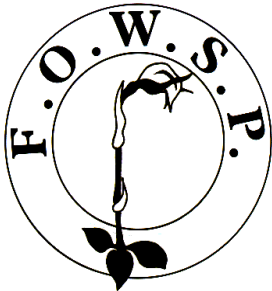


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

I am finishing this newsletter after a slight delay caused by being temporarily stuck in Cobar, NSW. A major wheel problem on our caravan turned out to require parts which would have involved a long wait in this mining town. Cobar is far enough north to be getting more sunshine but still not over 15 to 19 degrees maximum so far with colder weather ahead and little to do in town, we decided to take the option of having the caravan shipped home by RACV Total Care and driving home ourselves.

However, this newsletter brings you much to be excited about.

Firstly, Jennifer Vincent brings her enthusiasm for *Lepidosperma laterale*, an indigenous plant which is prominent on Scotchmans Hill, and she shares fascinating facts she has gleaned from the internet.

A small bit of trouble is reported and hopefully removed from Frogland, by the editor on p. 3. Drizzly June days provide an opportunity for frog ID on the same page.

Pages 4-7 contain lovely photos of TAGers at work and enjoying a cuppa, along with some notes from coordinator Don. It seems this wonderful team



What disturbed this ringtail and where is it going?
See p. 9.

of workers is attracting new recruits which is pleasing. .

All Thursday volunteers are very happy to see the return of Lyndy's wonderful catering for morning tea as you will see on pp. 6 and 9.

Page 8 reminds you that the Coupar's new book is still available for those who act quickly. On the same page Lyndy tells us about two businesses which have been helpful to FOWSP.

The next newsletter will be in September so please keep sending your news and photos.

Linda Rogan

Deadline for September edition newsletter is

Friday 19 August 2022

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

A *Lepidosperma* species—information gleaned by Jennifer Vincent

Lepidosperma laterale (known as Variable Sword-sedge) is an impressive looking plant growing proudly in Scotchmans Hill Reserve bush landscape (and elsewhere in Australia). It may be common in many places, but the species has some fascinating facts attached to it:

In 1810, this species first appeared in scientific literature in the *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae*, written by the Scottish botanist Robert Brown (wikipedia.org)



All *Lepidosperma* species are clonal perennials. As clonal perennials they are genetically identical individuals, all originating vegetatively, a form of asexual reproduction. Vegetative offspring remain attached to the parent, at least until they are established. Clonal plant species are widespread, dominating a variety of habitats and probably play key roles in the maintenance of biodiversity (Barrett, 2013; Dong, Yu, Alpert, 2014).

From the family Cyperaceae, *Lepidosperma* are long lived. Most species probably live for at least 50 years, and some clones are estimated to be in excess of 100 years old (R. L. Barrett, 2013). Cyperaceae are able to grow in a range of habitats, exhibiting amazing resilience. Their ability to colonize woodlands and dry shrub lands may in part be explained by their ability to extract phosphorus from nutrient-poor soils. *Lepidosperma laterale* grow in habitats from eastern regions of South Australia, throughout much of Victoria and Tasmania, and north along the Great Dividing Range and other parts of Australia (R. L. Barrett, 2013).

Over 178 organisms, including 26 mammals, 42 birds, six reptiles, five amphibians, eight arachnids, 75 insects, three crustaceans and 13 fungi, are found to be dependent on, or making use of, *Lepidosperma* species. Many species of the moth genus *Elachista* lay their eggs on *Lepidosperma laterale* and the caterpillars eat the leaves (R. L. Barrett, 2013; wikipedia.org).

Sedges (Cyperaceae) play a critical role in many ecosystems and their relative importance is often overlooked (Barrett R.L., 2013).

As Scotchmans Hill Action Group (SHAG) members remove the weedy grasses over time, it has been exciting to see these amazing plants emerging. Many specimens are quite robust and delight the eye with their weeping habits.

All photos of *Lepidosperma laterale* taken by Jennifer Vincent at Scotchmans Hill in 2022.

References:

- Barrett R.L., Ecological importance of sedges: a survey of the Australasian Cyperaceae genus *Lepidosperma*, *Annals of Botany*, Volume 111, Issue 4, April 2013, Pages 499–529, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mct008>
- Dong, M., Yu, F. H., & Alpert, P. (2014). Ecological consequences of plant clonality. *Annals of botany*, 114(2), 367. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcu137>
- http://fowsp.org.au/fow_db.php?flag=display&flora_id=57
- <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/7ee66c32-5fe7-4c26-a134-b71cc208e44b>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lepidosperma_laterale

New plant in Frogland NOT good news



***Callitriche stagnalis* common starwort**

I hadn't taken note of the bright green floating plant which was covering more than half of the surface of the water on the top pond in Frogland until Josh pointed it out to me (photos). An attractive green colour, it reminded me of duck weed but with larger leaves and a vining habit. Unfortunately, this plant is a weed in Australia which is native to Europe and North Africa and probably arrived with the aquarium trade. It took me 2 weeks to remember to bring

my gum boots so that I could position myself safely to pull the weed out of the pond. When I did, it was amazing how much there was (photo). This will be yet another weed to keep an eye out for as it does spread by plant fragmentation.

The common starwort is an environmental weed in WA and Victoria. Information from the Lucid key indicates that it is of most concern in Victorian where it is seen as a potential threat to indigenous vegetation formations and competes with several rare and threatened native plant species such as *Myriophyllum porcatum*. There are also similar indigenous *Callitriche* species so correct ID is important before removal.



https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/callitriche_stagnalis.htm

PS:

On drizzly Thursdays recently the frogs have been in full voice in Frogland. Since I had my phone with me I recorded them and sent this off to the frog ID app which I had on my phone. Within 24 hours I received confirmation that the frog calling on 16 June 2022 were the brown tree frog *Litoria ewingii* and *Crinia signifera* the common eastern froglet. This is so quick and easy. Try it out if you haven't already done so.

<https://www.frogid.net.au/>
Download the free app onto your phone and contribute to the national database.



TAGers lend a hand at Scotchmans Hill

This area is one of our regular TAGs, and on 26 May, the group added to previous 'biodiversity area' plantings with *Xerochrysum*, *Brunonia*, *Themeda*, *Hardenbergia* species and other smaller local plants.

This activity supported the work of the Scotchmans Hill Action Group in weeding and restoration of this remnant bushland within the urban Warandyte area.



Finishing off planting and installing plant guards in the biodiversity area at Scotchman's Hill.

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

7/07/2022	Endeavour Bank	Artur	Grant planting	Easy-
14/07/2022	Nilja / Longridge Farm	DON	Weeding - Watsonia, blackberry, agapanthus escapees	Easy
21/07/2022	Craspedia Fence	PHIL? TBA	Weeding, <i>Ehrharta</i> etc	
28/07/2022	Nursery/Endeavour Bank	JOSH	National Tree Day prep - lay out guards, stakes and plants	Easy
4/08/2022	One Tree Hill	PHIL/CAM? (TBA)	Dunnart affordable housing estate, planting??	Easy
11/08/2022	Jumping Creek ??	PHIL	Vinca removal??	Easy
18/08/2022	Chaim Court	PHIL	Woody weeds and plant stuff.	Easy-
25/08/2022	TBA	ARTUR	Planting	Easy
1/09/2022	Betton Fence	PHIL	Planting, woody weed control, brown beak orchids	Easy

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	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
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	legality@bigpond.com		1300 764 422	

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,
Proof-readers: Gloria Moore, Lyn Moore

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

Endeavour Bank is also benefitting from TAGers endeavour

On 9 June Endeavour Bank was our location for this large group, where in addition to the usual suspects we welcomed Simon, Zack, Connie and Tatiana, most of them coming out from the city especially to join us. Led by Artur, a highly productive morning was the result, with 100 *Carex* planted in the wet gully areas, as well as a range of other plants in the enclosures built two years ago.



Tatiana, Zach and Robyn in full planting mode.



Zach, Connie and David guarding the newly planted *Carex* species.

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.

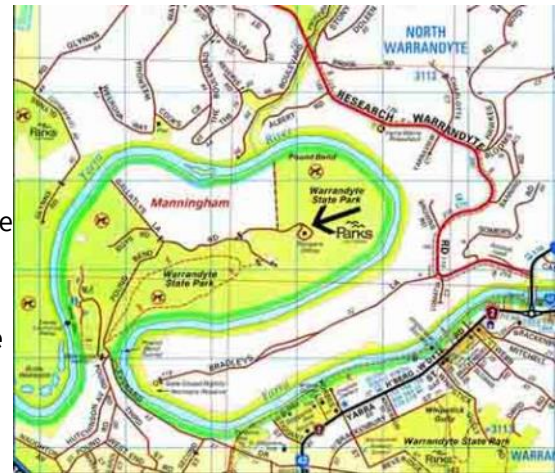
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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A pleasing finish to the morning at Endeavour Bank



We were highly rewarded at the end of our session with the return of Lyndy's morning teas, sumptuously enjoyed by all. Thank you Lyndy!

Burgan Bend, Jumping Creek

A large group of TAGers, including recent joiners Simon, Siew, Mico and Dwayne, energetically (the mid-June day was freezing!) assisted ranger Phil with restoration of this significant area.

The Burgan Bend fenced area 'supports one of only three intact stands in the Region of the rare riverine terrace woodland sub-community' according to Park Victoria's ranger Cam Beardsell. We continued PV's ongoing work on recovery of the fringed helmet orchid *Corybas fimbriatus* and the dainty bird orchid *Chiloglottis*



Ranger Phil briefing the group.



trapeziformis by removing leaves, bark and moss from the ground cages to reduce millipede harbour; weeding sweet vernal and *Ehrharta* species as well as thinning burgan to improve sunlight penetration. We also dismantled and removed old barbed wire fencing to eliminate danger to animals, birds and people.

Judith and Robyn carefully tending the dainty bird orchid area (above).



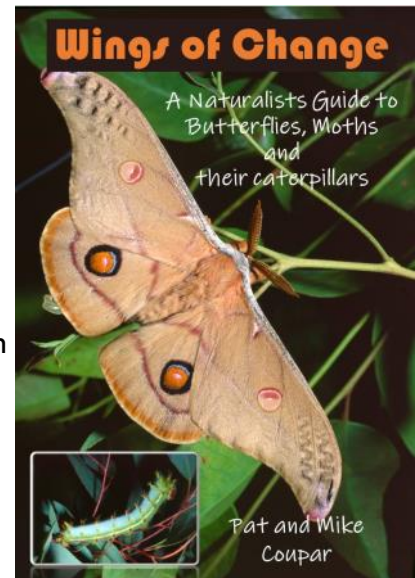
Siew, Mico and Simon in the foreground thinning burgan.

Wings of Change

There are still a few copies of the Coupar's new book on butterflies and moths and their caterpillars available for purchase! There is a window of opportunity to have a book sent to you in August but Coupar may not be able to send out regularly later in the spring.

Wings of Change is not just a reprint but an expanded version and is aimed at naturalists who are interested in learning how a caterpillar grows into a butterfly. This book contains most of the information of the first book, such as finding, collecting and rearing caterpillars. The 184 pp. includes additional families of moths and species of moths and butterflies. Each species includes common and scientific names, photos and descriptions of the caterpillar, adult and often both sexes where they are notably different.

These books are currently in Mallacoota. More information can be found in the May Newsletter p. 9. If you are interested, email our treasurer Lyndy as follows: treasurer@fowsp.org.au with your name and postal address and Lyndy will arrange for you to pay **\$33 which will include postage** and arrange for the book to be posted from Mallacoota. This purchase will also benefit FOWSP who receive part of the purchase price due to the Coupar's generosity.



Two local businesses which benefit FOWSP

The Bendigo Bank in Warrandyte have been amazingly supportive of our nursery, providing some \$29,000 worth of funding since 2009 for new roofing over the potting shed, A-frames to support the sales tables, the huge steel frame over the main sales area, a 33,000-litre water tank, repairs to hail-damaged igloos, a new Defibrillator unit for the nursery and environmental activities with local schools. All this has been provided through their community grants. This year, we are planning to put in an application for a renewed igloo.

Your support of the Bendigo Bank in Warrandyte is one of the reasons why we have been so successful in obtaining grants. Bendigo Bank is an amazing organisation that really cares about its community - with very friendly and helpful local staff to give advice.

2022 COMMUNITY BANK WARRANDYTE GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN

The Community Bank Warrandyte (CBW) will be opening grant applications on 18 July 2022. Friends of Warrandyte State Park representatives Lyndy and Ken attended the information night held on 9 June at the Grand Hotel.

Another supportive business is Quintons IGA. Thanks to people who shop at Quintons IGA in Warrandyte and provide their points to FOWSP, we have just received \$450 in vouchers to spend at IGA and are truly grateful for their continuing support. These vouchers are being used to provide morning teas for the volunteers who help at the nursery or work in the State Parks with the Parks Victoria Rangers on Thursdays. So come down to the nursery at Pound Bend and enjoy the company of like-minded people whilst having a sandwich or piece of cake.

The store is incredibly supportive of charities, community groups, schools, the CFA and various community programs.

To date, IGA Community Chest has raised \$96,000,000 to help communities throughout Australia. (Ref: [Community Chest | IGA Supermarkets](#))

Superb morning tea

TAGers are not the only ones gratefully enjoying a sumptuous morning tea after the inconvenient break due to COVID restrictions.

Lyndy Gilbert has once again excelled herself in producing a wonderful morning tea. A pleasant surprise to Carol who is seen (below) stirring her tea with a rustic utensil and Linda (below right) who nearly dropped her thermos cuppa and all.

Lyn Moore's photo (page 1 and right) possibly showing the possum declaring its friendship in spite of our noisy disturbance. All other photos thanks to Lisa Jenkins.





Ken Crook has sent us these photos of the magnificent water gum in the Royal Botanic Gardens. Sadly the large lower limb has attracted many people to carve their initials or declare their love without regard to the damage this does to the tree. We all hope people will take note of this message from the tree, written by its friends in the garden.



Rainbow lorikeets are always catch my eye even on non-Victorian species pin-cushion hakea on an early morning walk. 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.



Adam's photo in Orford Tasmania on iNaturalist



Autumn fungus feature in photos this month.

Above left is Don's photo of a pretty cream fungus with white gills known as the ghost fungus *Omphalotus nidiformis*.

To understand where it got its name you need to view it on a dark night. Adam from Orford, Tasmania, took the photo above right and posted it on iNaturalist. To capture the full drama of this luminescence in a photo, a tripod and 20 sec exposure is helpful. See more information from Gill Fry's website

<https://www.gillfryphotography.com.au/blog/71-how-to-photograph-ghost-fungi>

Bolete fungus at Hubbard Reserve in Ringwood North visited by Alwynne with a friend who took this photo. Alwynne reports this is one of the largest she has ever seen with the circumference of the top greater than the biggest circle she could make with her hands and arms. A look in Bruce Fuhrer's fungus book indicates that another member of this group, *Phlebopus marginatus* can reach 1 metre across and one weight of 29kg has been recorded.

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



Winter TAG at Jumping Creek with mist still lingering. Photo Phil