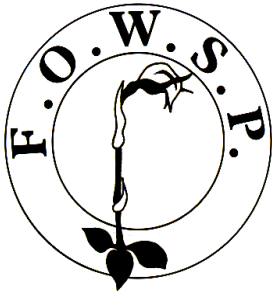


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

So much has happened since the beginning of 2023 but we take a moment to recall our FOWSPians end of year lunch right and p. 2, 4 and 5.

There were two extra propagation catch up days in January when there was so much needing to be done. A brief report is on p. 3. It seems catching up on holidays was a hot topic while working. Cathy shares some highlights also starting on p. 3 and we encourage others to do the same.

Upcoming TAGs are on p. 4 so we hope for lots of news from them next issue.

Jewels, spines and native bees are found in Frogland in January on p. 6.

What bugs *Dodonea viscosa*? Some of the insects interacting with this plant are discovered on pp. 7 and 8.

Page 9 is just a little whimsical remembering the words of poets from centuries past in relation to insects.

Enjoy the photos on pp 10-12, then take a moment to reflect on what photos, snippets or articles you could share with other FOWSPians for the March edition.

Also remember we will celebrate our 40 years of FOWSP (so far) on **Sunday 2 April 2023 at 1pm**. Please let the committee know if you have something you can contribute to get everyone talking about our 40 plus years of actively caring for Warrandyte State Park.



Five young FOWSPians enjoying Christmas ice creams

Linda Rogan

**Deadline for March edition newsletter is
Friday 17 February 2023**

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

FOWSP volunteers Christmas lunch 15 December 2022

It would have been lovely to have our Christmas lunch at the folly if the weather had cooperated. However, rain was threatening and Lyndy was able to arrange a good alternative so that we wouldn't need to risk a wash-out. Members were notified that we would be lunching at the Uniting Church Hall in Warrandyte to have our Christmas lunch instead of the nursery. There was plenty of space under cover with trestle tables and seating for up to 70 people. There was hot water, we could spread out and there were indoor toilets.

It turned out the weather wasn't quite so bad but thanks to Lyndy we had a lovely relaxed lunch with no worries as you will see from the following photos.



The food was festive and plentiful...



It was lovely to catch up with the Hansens, Bev, John and Peter...



Froglanders Chris, Lyn and Maree plus propagator Jan all left their weeds and plants behind to enjoy the afternoon...



Carol stopped weeding, Linda stopped editing and Peter, as always, was supportive...

(Continued on page 4)



Alwynne, Cathy and Louise

Propagators to the rescue

Propagation is in full swing this time of year at the FOWSP nursery. In order to get the needed plants on the 'grow', a call went out for extra helpers on Saturday 28 January and then Monday 30 January via email to members. On Saturday eight volunteers and staff members responded and on Monday there were another five volunteers. Between them some 35 plus boxes were pricked



Anne an extra helper on Monday

out as well as trays of grasses. Species pricked out include *Acacia melanoxylon* and *dealbata*, *Kennedia prostrata*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Eucalyptus viminalis*. This will be a huge help and thanks go out to all involved.

A spot to remember in Tassie

Cathy Willis

At both our 'extra catch up' propagation sessions this week, there was talk of holiday destinations, so I thought I'd share this one with everyone.



I was lucky enough to spend 3 nights in lovely Bicheno, on Tasmania's east coast in mid-January. My daughter Jen and I had both never been, so used some Jetstar credit from Covid lockdown days to take a long weekend, fly to Launceston and hire a car. We were blessed with sunny skies and mild temperatures, perfect for the glorious beaches and views in Freycinet and Bay of Fires. What magnificent places! We even managed a couple of swims (chilly water though!).

It wasn't until late afternoon on our last full day that we decided to check out the lesser known Douglas Apsley National Park, only 6km down the road from our Airbnb. The road quickly turned into a narrow dirt road through private farmland. We counted 8 large earthmoving machines along the way, not an encouraging start!

Once in the Park, out of the weedy paddocks, it was a very different story. We walked a short distance towards one of apparently many swimming holes through a lovely native pine (*Callitris*) and sheoak (*Allocasuarina*) woodland (photo left). The sheoak needles littered the ground amongst the native grasses and Lomandras. It had a beautiful sense of peace, and I could imagine it

being dotted with orchids and probably lilies in spring. In a way it reminded me of a Croatia forest I once walked through with tiny wild Cyclamens scattered under the trees. A sign told us of three endangered heaths that grow in the heathland on the dolorite caps, including almost the entire world population of Tall Heath (*Epacris grandis*). It also supports 11 of Tasmania's 12 endemic bird species.

(Continued on page 9)



More Christmas Lunch...

(Continued from page 2)

The outdoor area offered alfresco dining for those who preferred, including (clockwise) Don, John, Paddy, Caitriona, David and Brian.

(Continued on page 5)

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

Date	Location	Lead	Lead/Task	Difficulty rating
9/02/2023	Boomers Reserve	CAM	Litter removal, Cassinia thinning, coppicing, hand weeding, look for tongue orchids	Moderate
16/02/2023	Mullum Link Trail - Heads Road	DAVID	Maintenance	Moderate
23/02/2023	Rifle Range	DON	Weeding, renovation	Easy
2/03/2023	Mullum - Craigs/Becketts Rd	ROBYN	Planting maintenance, weeding	Easy
9/03/2023	Pauline Toner Reserve	PHIL/CAM	Cassinia thinning, woody weeds - Polygala, wattles Look for Eltham copper butterflies	Easy-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 2023			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS
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		Facebook Coordinator	Carolyn Noel 0409 901441
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Lyn Moore	0409 683 041	Wildlife rescue Victoria https://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/contact-us	Webmaster Jason Patton 0402 121838 jason@parau.com
	lynm333g@gmail.com		Website: www.fowsp.org.au
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	legality@bigpond.com	Lynda Chambers 0466 274421 phenogist@gmail.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, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday 21 February 2023
Venue: Zoom
Time: 19:30 pm sharp

And the last of Christmas photos
 (Continued from page 4)



Also Fritz, Robyn Lynda and Artur.

Lisa showed Linda how to take a selfie (below).



At the end of the afternoon Lyndy Gilbert played Santa especially for the younger FOWSPians. All in all, a very good afternoon, Thanks to Lyndy and all who pitched in to help.



Message from a Fowspian

The editor was pleased to receive the message from FOWSPian John Greenwood-Smith saying 'how much he loves the FOWSP newsletter and what a great job you are doing'. It is always great to hear when someone is reading it with pleasure. ED.

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

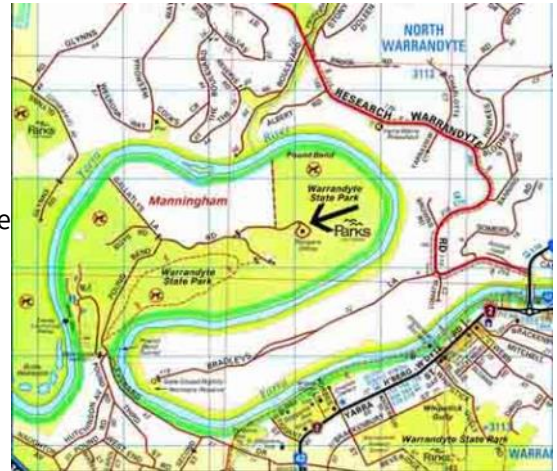
The nursery is open for plant sales every Thursday.
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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Frogland jewels, spines and bees



Whether you call them Christmas spiders,



jewel spiders or six-spined spiders, these rather round spiders with six spines on top and yellow 'jewels' underneath are impressive and present in large numbers in late summer.



I paused to photograph the pale blue flowers of the moisture loving prickfoot *Eryngium vesiculosum*, which is also spiny and growing well in Frogland near the dams.

By far the most exciting thing to me, in Frogland, in January was stumbling upon clusters of *Austronomia* bees clinging to the stems of seed heads of *Teucrium corymbosa*. The cool weather means the bees have been staying in their night time roosts well into the day and perhaps all day on the chilliest summer days. Why they do cluster is not clear.

Linda Rogan



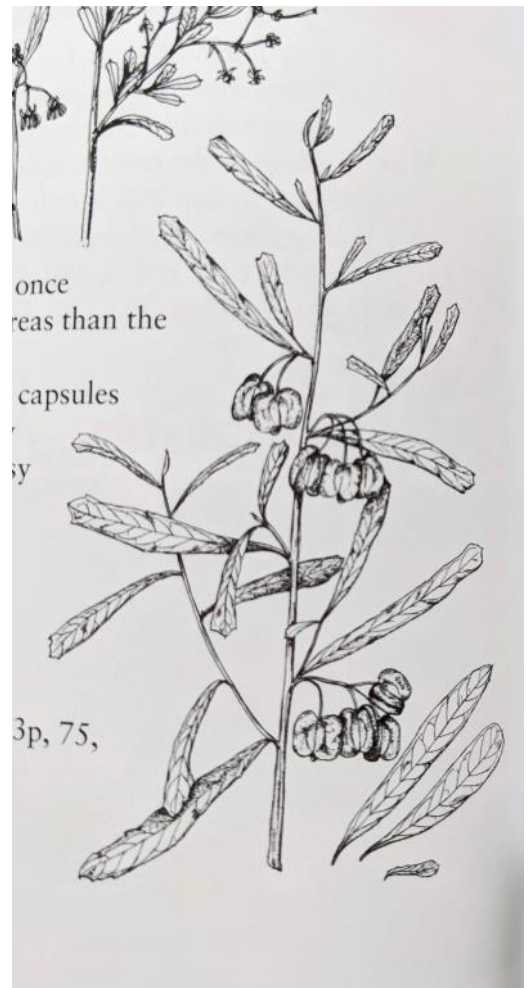
What bugs *Dodoneae viscosa*?

Although *Dodonea viscosa* is not included in the *Flora of Warrandyte* and may not occur within the state park, it is certainly found nearby. The *Flora of Melbourne* 2014 states the following:

Plants from around Warrandyte (see drawing, right) have larger leaves. Fruit was used by the early settlers for brewing beer while chewing leaves provided relief for toothache.

Many insects also seem to have a taste for this rather tough, drought tolerant plant. I mention three I have photographed in recent times.

First of all, the eye-catching red jewel bug *Choerocoris paganus* (photo back page). The principal food of this species is the seed of *D. viscosa* (Linn.). During the early part of summer (early December), the adults feed on the soft green seed found on the bush. During the latter months of summer, the seeds ripen and fall to the ground; all instars are then found in great numbers on the ground feeding on this seed. They are also sap suckers, mainly on the stems of *Dodoneae*, various grasses, and plantains (*Plantago* spp.) (MacDonald 1960). Interestingly, at some stages the nymph of the red



Above: Red jewel bug nymph on *Dodonea viscosa* at Organ Pipes National Park December 2022.

Right: Eggs with eyelash-like projections and nymphs of predatory shield bug (similar to but different from above)

jewel bug (see left) looks very similar to the nymph of the shield bug to be discussed (below).

The spined predatory shield bug *Oechalia schellenbergii* is found on *Dodonea* and other plants, wherever it finds soft-bodied insects for its prey. Its eggs are dark with light eyelash-like projections (below and next page right). This interesting shield



(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

bug, which is aka Schellenberg's soldier bug, feeds on beetle larvae and other soft bodied insects (below) and is likely to be found on any plant where soft-bodied insects are prevalent.



Schellenberg's soldier bug feeding on nymph
Photo Reiner Richter



Clearer view of the dark eggs with light eye-lash-like projections of Schellenberg's soldier bug



The hopbush leaf beetle *Callidemum hypochaleum*
As expected, found on *Dodonea viscosa*

Moving from bugs to beetles, the hopbush leaf beetle *Callidemum hypochalceum* feeds exclusively on *Dononaea viscosa*, where it is often photographed. This is a small round metallic beetle which may appear blue/green or red to gold depending upon the light. Its nymphs are pale and similar to the one photographed by Reiner (above left) as prey of Schellenberg's soldier bug.

Ants are an insect which has a beneficial relationship with *Dodonea viscosa*. The seed of *D. viscosa* have an edible attachment called elaiosome. This fleshy structure is rich in lipids and attracts the ants which carry the seeds underground and feed on the structure only and thus protect the seeds from other insects such as the

red jewel bug which feed on the seeds.

I suspect there are many more insects whose lives entwine with this shrub and I am pleased to have it in my (nearly) indigenous Briar Hill garden.

Linda Rogan

References MacDonald, F.J.D. 1960 Studies on the Life-History and Biology of *Choerocoris paganus* (Fabricius) (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae: Scutellerinae) THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND PRESS BRISBANE

Even the ant suffers pests



This is for those with sharp vision. Small pale mites are scattered on the abdomen of this *Iridomyrmex* or rainbow ant (left). I am reminded of a poem 'Great fleas have little fleas'. A bit of research on the internet revealed these lines are '...usually listed as being coined by the English mathematician Augustus De Morgan in the 19th century. ...De Morgan gave us the line in the form we now use it, but he copied it from an earlier form of the same thought, which was coined by the Anglo-Irish satirist Jonathan Swift'.

The two forms of the proverb are - Swift's original, from his satirical poem *On Poetry: A Rhapsody*, 1733:
*The vermin only tease and pinch
 Their Foes superior by an Inch.
 So, Nat'ralists observe, a Flea
 Hath smaller Fleas that on him prey,
 And these have smaller yet to bite 'em,
 And so proceed ad infinitum:
 Thus ev'ry Poet, in his Kind
 Is bit by him that comes behind*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

De Morgan's variant, is under the name in 1872

*Siphonaptera**
 Great fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em,
 And little fleas have lesser fleas, and so ad infinitum.
 And the great fleas themselves, in turn, have greater
 fleas to go on;
 While these again have greater still, and greater still,
 and so on.

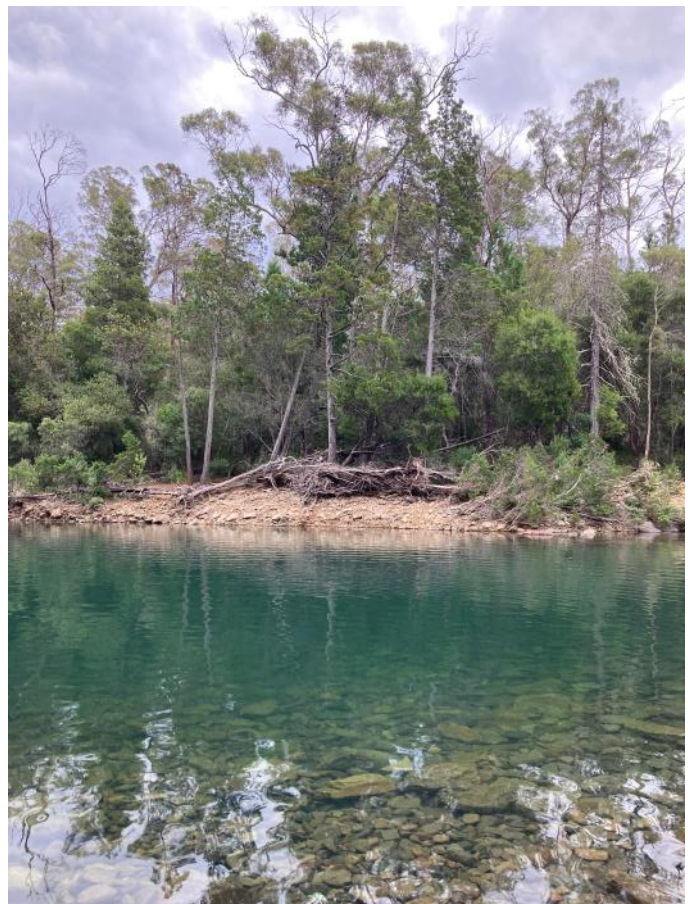
*Siphonaptera being the biological order to which fleas belong):

A spot to remember in Tassie
(Continued from page 3)

At the stunning crystal clear waterhole (photo right), we chatted to a couple who had just done a big walk and had loved it. Though not flowing in January, they mentioned waterfalls that must be spectacular when there has been rain. Unfortunately, it was now getting quite late, so we reluctantly left to pack up ready to leave early the next morning. If you are heading that way put it on the list and don't leave it until the last minute like we did!

Thanks to Cathy for sharing these photos and experience.

The editor would love to hear from other FOWSPians about their favourite natural places to visit.





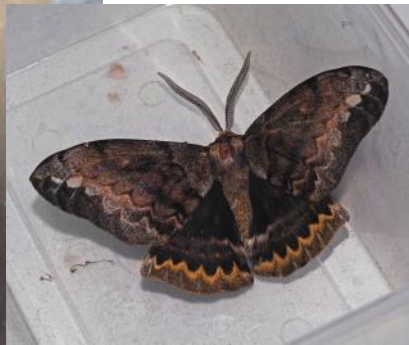
***Venatrix* species**

My eye was caught by a miniature golf ball shape moving across the soil where I was weeding in Frogland. I took a photo before I realised there was a female spider dragging it along. iNaturalist tells me it is in the *Venatrix* genus. This is a wolf spider, an agile hunter. Not only does the female drag her egg sac behind her, when the spiderlings hatch, they ride on the female's back until they are ready to disperse. This is unusual amongst spiders.

**The batwing moth caterpillar
Do not touch**



Louise Clear has captured photos of this impressive caterpillar of *Chelepteryx collesi* on her North Warrandyte wall in January 2023.



The spines can penetrate human skin and are painful and difficult to remove.

(Adult male seen left is 14 cm wingspan)

<http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/anth/collesi.html>

Are your subs due??

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

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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

Dasypodia selenophora unkindly called the southern old lady moth. Carol says this was in the igloo where she was working and first noticed by Josh, then photographed by John Young because he was tall enough, using Carol's camera . Good work team! 8 Dec 2022

Below, Don photographed this tiny but colourful wasp in the *Primeuchroeus* genus, which is a brood parasite or 'cuckoo' on native bees .

The crimson rossella below was photographed in Frogland by Chris and seemed rather tame. Below right, an Eltham copper butterfly seen by Joy in December 2022..



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



Choerocoris paganus
Red jewel bug mating on
Dodonea viscosa which is
also their food plant (see
p. 7.