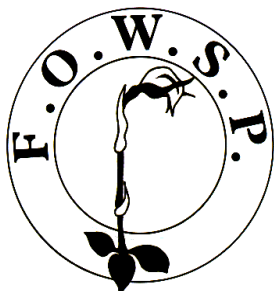


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

What happens at FOWSP on a stormy Thursday morning? A lot, as it turns out. Some of that fills this newsletter which will be coming out either just before or just after the FOWSP 40th year celebration. I am sure the celebration will be a happy social afternoon and we have Lynda G. to thank for a great deal of the organising. We are all sad to know that Lynda and Ken will be moving to Brighton later this year but will wish them the very best in their lovely new location. Lynda anticipates lots of walks along the beach, I believe.

I will have news and photos from the 40th included in the May newsletter. This month we have some memories from a couple of long time FOWSPians (since 1990s) on p. 2. I hope to continue this theme so please contribute if you can. If it is difficult to write something down, then let me know and I can give you a call or talk to you on a Thursday morning.



A happy nursery volunteer is only one of innumerable roles Lynda Gilbert has been filling at FOWSP in recent years...



...organising scrumptious morning teas is another.

Nursery plants and smiles, volunteers and travels all feature this month as follows: TAGs report on p. 4 and 8, a wet morning in Frogland p.3; volunteer's pricking out and their plants feature p. 5 and 10; page 7 brings welcome news of the re-start of the market trailer so contact Jan to assist; Don and Carolyn's travel highlights on p. 11.

I am looking for someone to take on the role of newsletter editor by the next AGM in November. It is a wonderful way to become involved with FOWSP. If you are interested contact me as below:

Linda Rogan

**Deadline May edition newsletter is
 Friday 21 April 2023**

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

Memories and more from long term members

Compiled by Linda Rogan

Irene and Alwynne both began volunteering at the nursery in 1998. They had decided to volunteer in Warrandyte as an alternative to travelling all the way to Healesville. Alwynne was able to provide transport to Pound Bend. It wasn't long after that they became stalwarts of the plant cuttings table amongst other things. Both mentioned working with Marion, Cathy, Josh and Flora Anderson as well as Pat and Mike Coupar in their early days. Keith and Bev were also active at the time.

Their memories of the rangers of the time, were very positive. Both shared stories of a mystery tour in Yarra Ranges National Park arranged by Parks staff and with Ranger in Charge, Andy Nixon was host and bus driver while Kaye, a staff member then, joined the tour as well. They remembered visiting in O'Shannessy's Weir catchment area for a guided tour and a cuppa and later lunch at the Wild Thyme Café in Warburton. Alwynne particularly remembers ordering calamari and expecting a pile of crisp rings but was floored when the meal arrived with large pieces of squid which nearly filled the plate.

This day had been written up by Pat Coupar in the FOWSP Newsletter for December 2001 under the title of 'Thanks for the Thanks'. The afternoon of that day had included a visit to Healesville Sanctuary with an informative slide talk about the tuan breeding programme and a visit to the mammal breeding area. The whole newsletter makes for interesting reading and features articles by Joan Broadberry, Val Polley and Cathy Willis and JR. It is always interesting to wander through FOWSP's past newsletters. I would like to remind all who have access to the internet, that newsletters from 1987 up to just three months before the present, are available to all on our website: <https://fowsp.org.au/> Just click on 'Who we are', 'Publications', and then 'FOWSP newsletters'.

Irene (photo right) is still in touch and hopes to attend the FOWSP 40th celebration on 2 April. Alwynne is still keeping things going in the cuttings area and dealing with some 'difficult to grow' plants as can be seen below.

A favourite memory from Alwynne is the successful growing of Banksia from cuttings. She and Marion King had worked together on this project and Alwynne wrote 'Banksia from cuttings? Impossible!' which is in June 2014 newsletter. It is well worth a read. The photo, below right of Marion King (1923-2022), is from that article.



Irene taking a break from cuttings 2013



Alwynne on 23 March 2023
Shown repotting healthy Banksia
and *Epacris impressa*



The *Epacris impressa* (above) which is not for sale, but grown for use within the park, looked so healthy, we decided some plants should be set aside for Frogland during autumn planting.

I hope 'Memories' will be a series in future newsletters. If you would like to contribute some memories and/or photos from early years of FOWSP please let me know at editor@fowsp.org.au



Marion King 2014
showing Banksia
cutting's healthy
roots

FOWSP's rainy morning 23 March

In Frogland, the top pond was full and overflowing into the larger bottom pond (or now ephemeral wetland) (Photo left and back page).



The muttonwood (*Mysine howittiana*) (photo right) a riverside plant, was planted several years ago where rain water occasionally collects in Frogland. They have started growing slowly and are yet to reach maturity and reward us with gorgeous purple berries. However the leaves appear shiny and healthy and I can imagine them joyfully soaking up the moisture. There are currently a large number of seedlings being pricked out into pots so they should be available later in the nursery. (See p. 5)



The lower pond/tub was well topped up by the rain (photo above) and the *Bolboschoenus* or marsh club-sedge aka as river bamboo, was standing tall. Despite the name, it is indigenous and widespread in Victoria and not the problem of 'real' bamboos.

The cool weather accompanying the rain meant that the remaining native bees gathering in Frogland was smaller and those remaining were very torpid. I will watch to see if any remain into April.

The Joy of Weeding

Our TAG program for late summer and autumn is usually focused on weeding for the obvious reason the dry weather is less amenable to planting. Doesn't seem exciting, nevertheless, the TAGgers engage the task with gusto, especially with the promise of Lyndy's morning tea at the end!

Since the last newsletter, we have completed weeding and plant maintenance on the Mullum Link Trail at Craigs/Becketts Road, Rifle Range on Buttermans Track, and Gallatlys Lane on Pound Bend.

In particular, the steady growth of plantings for over a decade at Rifle Range gives us all heart that restoring this corridor is contributing to wildlife transfer between the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve and Kinglake National Park. Cam Beardsall's strategy of planting within the bracken ferns has proved successful in promoting growth and discouraging deer and macropod grazing and damage evident with other plantings.

In addition, we had two ranger-led TAGs. Cam's continuing program at Pauline Toner Reserve in Eltham had us planting 50 more Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) to extend the area that has seen the successful expansion of sightings of Eltham Copper Butterfly (*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*) grubs. This planting was preceded by clearing of *Cassinia*



Shouldered Brown Butterfly (*Heteronympha penelope*), interestingly on the Eltham Copper Butterfly sign.

Photo: Joy Taylor

(Continued on page 8)

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

6/04/2023	Morrison's - early hill fence	PHIL/CAM	Veg thinning, leaf and woody debris removal	Moderate
13/04/2023	Walert Creek	DON/DAVID	Maintenance, remove agapanthus and barbed wire	Moderate
20/04/2023	Stanebrae / Weebill Fence	CAM	Weeding and planting	Easy-Moderate
27/04/2023	Koorngong - Yarra R Linear Res	CATHY/DON	Woody weeds / weeding	Easy-Moderate
4/05/2023	Pauline Toner Reserve	PHIL/CAM	Planting	Easy-Moderate
11/05/2023	Josh Block' Buttermans Tk, Kinglake NP	JOSH/CATHY	Acacia howittii and Hakea salicifolia 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>

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2023			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
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			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
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			Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
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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

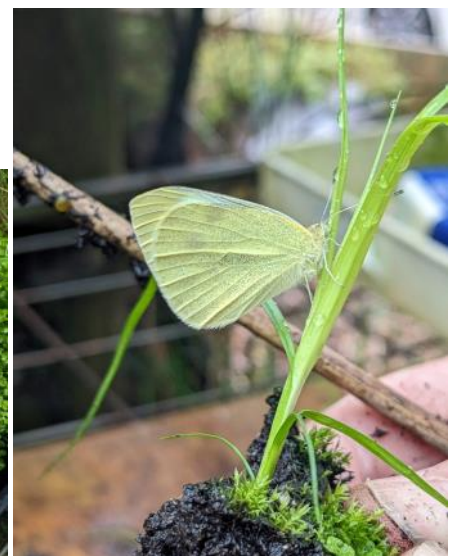
Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Gloria Moore, Lyn Moore

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday 11 April 2023
Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time: 17:00 pm sharp

Smiles in the nursery

Lisa takes a break from pricking out *Carex appressa*. We are both distracted by a pesky, but still beautiful *Pieris rapae* (cabbage white), which won't be moved off the *Carex*. Couldn't help but admire the nearby *Callitriche muelleri* which nicely round up the tops of their pots and the *Oplismenus hirtellus* or Australian basket-grass. You have to love those scientific names.

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.

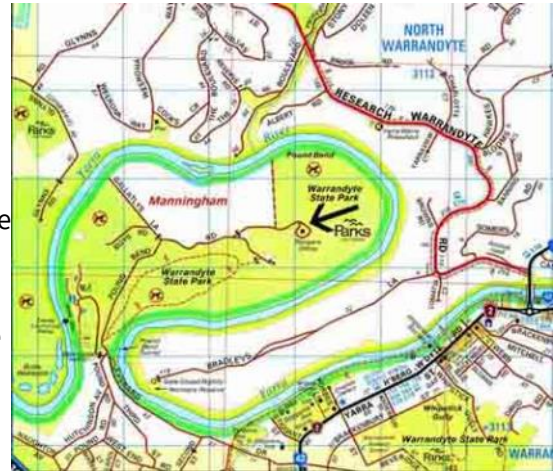
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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From 'What's On Environment E-Newsletter April 2023'



Anderson Creek Landcare Habitat Restoration

Wednesday 5, 12, 19 and 26 April

10.00am to 12.30pm

The Andersons Creek Landcare Group is dedicated to restoring the bushland along Andersons Creek in Warrandyte. The vision is to see Andersons Creek and its surrounds returned to its former glory.

Cost: Free

Where: Andersons Creek, Warrandyte

Bookings: Essentia

[Register via email](#)



Andersons Creek Landcare Butterfly Surveys

Friday 14 and 28 April

9.00am to 12.00pm

Join Anderson Creek Landcare Group and learn how to identify and count butterflies. We hope to see both rare and common butterflies. These surveys will be used to direct further restoration projects.

Cost: Free

Where: Gold Memorial Road, Warrandyte

Bookings: Ruby Martin [0457 681 439](tel:0457681439)

[Learn more](#)



Friends of Yarra Valley Parklands Habitat Restoration

Sunday 23 April

10.00am to 12.00pm

Sunday activity at Murundaka with maintenance around plants put in last year. Checking and re-furbishing tree guards. Some weeding around the plants. Enter via a gate on the west side of Bonds Road, just after you go under the power line. You can park on the verge nearby if it's dry, or go back to the small parking area at the turn-off to Montpelier Drive. You don't have to stay for the entire session even an hour of your time makes a valuable contribution to the Yarra Valley Parklands environment.

Cost: Free

Where: Murundaka, Lower Plenty

Bookings: Recommended

[Learn more](#)



City Nature Challenge, Jumping Creek Nature Walk

Friday 28 April

9.30am to 1.00pm

Enjoy one of the best walks in Warrandyte State Park. Spectacular views of the river and out towards the dividing range, visit the Blue-tongue Bend Chapel and then traverse the shaly escarpment to the old Stane Brae farm. Enjoy morning tea at the best beach in Wonga Park before returning past a 400+ year old Red Box tree near the old dairy.

Difficult (some steep, slippery and narrow tracks) approx 6km 3.5hrs. Please wear appropriate clothing for walking.

Cost: Free

Where: Location via bookings

Bookings: Essential

[Book now](#)



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER TO RESUME

Thanks to those who helped out on the FOWSP trailer in past years. Good news is that with Jan's help and the help of many FOWSPians, the trailer will be again appearing at the Riverside Market on some Saturdays.



A transportation of trailer roster will be re-established and new and returning volunteers will be required. It is not necessary for a volunteer to be an expert to help on the trailer. It is there to provide a friendly and informative face for FOWSP, to give out booklets, pamphlets, posters and other information about our indigenous plants, to sell a selection of those plants, and to refer people who require more detailed information to the Nursery. It is a fun hour that goes very quickly

The Warrandyte Riverside market is 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 Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are: 6 May, 3 June and 1 July



At Pauline Toner Reserve. From left Felix, Cam, Belinda, Robyn, Gray, Joy and David.

(Continued from page 4)

longifolia and *Dodonaea viscosa* to open up the area and promote butterfly habitat. The butterfly grub numbers were down to the tens during the millennium drought, they are now consistently above 600 and increasing. The cooler weather discouraged activity amongst the Eltham Copper Butterflies on that day but sharp-eyed TAGgers spotted a Shouldered Brown Butterfly (*Heteronympha penelope*), a Marbled or Klug's Xenica (*Geitoneura klugii*), and a number of Varied Dusky Blue butterflies (*Candalides hyacinthina*).



Marbled or Klug's Xenica (*Geitoneura klugii*)

Phil also led us to Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve in Croydon North to attack woody weeds, especially *Pittosporum* and invasive wattles. *Don V.*



Not so welcome visitor to the nursery



In general FOWSPians are probably animal lovers. At least this is true for the native animals. However this little rodent with the bare tail, is not so welcomed given the history of destruction rats and mice have caused to our young indigenous plants. This has especially been a problem with out terrestrial orchids in past years.

Carol spotted this one and John photographed it as it was climbing up our protective netting.



Would you like a smile with that?

On Thursday mornings, volunteers are again being rewarded with a morning tea break, provided by FOWSP. They are still adhering to Covid rules around food and therefore there are volunteer servers of the goodies. Last Thursday, Sybille was on duty, showing her mastery of the squeeze tomato bottles, by painting a giving a smile and two blob eyes for those who requested sauce on their party pie. Alwyn had the lucky last pie so Sybille delighted her with an extra special smiley face—a dot for the nose.

Marion Thompson

A plethora of water-loving plants at the nursery



Happily growing (and ready for sale) in our water table in early autumn are many thriving plants. The nardoo *Marsilea* sp. are nearly jumping out of their tubes, in search of a new home (photo left).



My eye was caught by a succulent plant with scaevola-like blooms with the tag *Selliera radicans* (photo above and inset). Vicflora tells me this is now *Goodenia radicans* with a common name of shiny swamp-mat. Apparently it may be placed in a pond or planted in the ground but it will die down if in the ground unless kept wet. However it may return with the next rain. Another water-loving relative but delicate appearing is *Goodenia humilis*. The photos of blooms above is of mine which I grow sitting in a tray of water amongst *Desmodium* in my fernery. This and many other plants are currently available at the nursery. *Linda Rogan*

photos of blooms above is of mine which I grow sitting in a tray of water amongst *Desmodium* in my fernery. This and many other plants are currently available at the nursery. *Linda Rogan*



In the nursery on a rainy Thursday

The muttonwood was looking great in Frogland but the young plants meant for orders had been devastated by rodents recently. Fortunately Josh was able to find a ready source of seedlings before travelling overseas. Mature plants had dropped their seed in abundance. Jan and other volunteers were able to prick out about 250 plants into tubes which we hope will more than fill the demand.

Joy was busy pricking out the rather tiny *Allocasuarina littoralis* seedlings which may grow to 8 metres but are just starting to show the segments on the needle-like leaves at this stage.

Thirdly, Marion T. was patiently pricking out the ever popular *Rhytidosperra* or wallaby-grass.



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

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

From travelling FOWSPians

Parker River near Cape Otway lighthouse. A beautiful inlet below a small shady Parks Vic basic (car and tent) campground at Parker Hill. On the right the rockpools at Crayfish Bay looking towards Cape Otway.



One more trip to the Mt Buffalo National Park at the lovely **Lake Catani** (photo below) in amongst the snow gums. The plateau is still recovering from up to three fires in some areas over the last two decades, with Snow Gums (*E. pauciflora*) regrowing slowly from lignotubers and dead Alpine Ash (*E. delegatensis*) being replaced by seed germination. A highlight was to see a number of Flame Robins



(*Petroica phoenicea*) with their stunning and almost iridescent flame orange breast colour, contrasting with the dead snow gum branches or dark granite boulders on which they perched. Unfortunately an iPhone cannot capture this beauty but Don did manage this shot of Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*) on dead and re-emerging snow gum (above right). A further trip to the **Howqua valley and up to Eagles Peaks** (elev. 1407m) revealed some fantastic alpine views and wildlife.



Left to right: Lesueur's Frog *Ranoidea lesueurii*, highlands copperhead *Austrelaps ramsayi* and spotted mountain grasshopper *Monistria concinna*. Thank you to Don For these photos and words.

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



The top pond in Frogland was overflowing on 23 March