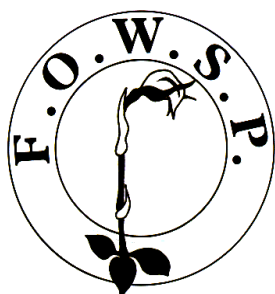


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

As FOWSP has now entered its 41st year, we celebrated. Many Rangers, FOWSPians and supporters gathered at Pound Bend on 2 April for some reminiscing and socialising at the nursery and of course sharing a delicious BBQ lunch at the Folly. Some of the participants are seen in the photo above and some additional ones' stories are inside. It was very exciting to have so many illustrious guests. The photo above and others from 2 April in this newsletter are thanks to photographer Joseph Bailouni.

**Deadline June edition newsletter is
Friday 19 May 2023**

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

FOWSP's 40th Celebration

Artur Muchow started the introductions with Councilor Dierdre Diamante, Mayor of Manningham who attended with her son Thomas (photo right). Councilor Diamante has been in Manningham for more than 40 years and she recognises the importance of sustainable economic and environmental decision making that enhances the long-term liveability of Manningham. She has three school-aged children, is a business owner, a school council representative, Board Director of the Manningham Bendigo Bank Community Branch and an active member of the Manningham Business Excellence Awards. She said, 'We had a great time. The highlight for Thomas was Frogland and for me it was the nursery. It's wonderful to learn about the history of the group and the great work that has been achieved over the past 40 years'.



We were delighted to have so many current park rangers including Conrad Annal, Cam Beardsell, Phil Rance and Colin Bromily with us on the day. We were surprised and pleased when Faye Williams, Parks Victoria Area Chief Ranger, Plenty Gorge and Warrandyte, presented FOWSP with a framed certificate in recognition of our forty plus years of service to the Parks (photo left).

We were also delighted to have at least two of the founding members of

FOWSP in attendance (photo below), namely Val Polley who also represents the Warrandyte Historical Society and Glenn Jameson who was FOWSP coordinator from 1982 to 1988, both valued members up to the present. Glenn was also a park ranger in three States. In 1991 he became Secretary to the Friends of Wurundjeri. In 2012 Parks Victoria awarded Glenn the Outstanding Service for Our Natural and Cultural Environment Award. He is also an environmental education practitioner. Glenn kindly shared some of his early memories, as follows.

**FOWSP
As I remember**

As I remember, there was a meeting at the old Getsens car yard office (now the Community Centre) organised by members of the Warrandyte Environment League on Wednesday April 7 1982 which established the Friends of WSP. Geoff Durham was the major force within the VNPA in the development of the Friends groups, both while he was President and subsequently as Victorian National Parks Association Coordinator of Friends groups. Geoff addressed the meeting with the topic being mostly about the Friends of Organ Pipes National Park which had been going since 1972.



Warrandyte Environment League (WEL) had been a very successful community organization protecting the environment through reviewing town planning applications and sometimes showing Eltham Council the errors of its ways. There was a group groundswell within WEL who wanted to work within the WSP to improve the park's quality. They called for the FOWSP creation meeting. Among the many active WEL members pushing for this were Tim Ferguson, Michael Duff and Geoff Ossler. Already WEL in 1981 had begun a successful clean up of **75 wrecked and dumped cars** in Fourth Hill which had been used for bush bashing. These were then recycled by Sims Metal. (See also p. 6)

Wasting no time, the first FOWSP working bee was in Fourth Hill on Sunday 18 April. A vast number of huge Monterey Pines were removed in a fashion that would now give OHS officers nightmares. For the next 5 years, on the regular FOWSP September working bee at Fourth Hill, FOWSPians were still pulling out more than 1000 pine seedlings each session.

Fourth Hill had been a basket case of degradation in 1982. It's difficult now to imagine the coverage of the pines across the whole of its landscape, let alone the dumped car wrecks everywhere and notably in any waterways and gullies. There was a severely eroded 4WD steep hill climb on the south side of Fourth Hill above Gold Memorial Road. That took years to heal. The subsequent recovery of the bushlands is remarkable; the indigenous plants just kept coming back.

Chris "Rhino" Rinestan (apologies if name is wrong) was ranger-in-charge (RIC) in the early 1980s and the WSP Ranger office was a little portable room established in Black Flat which had a very small plant nursery managed by Scott Coutts. In the mid 1980s Ken Gurney was RIC. The Rangers of those days wouldn't believe how well equipped FOWSP were to become with bulging tool sheds and trailers and hot houses.

Val Polley was President and Peter van Dyke and myself volunteered as FOWSP coordinators at the end of 1982. This was a position I passed on in 1988 when I headed off around Australia with Heather and the kids in the Kingswood station wagon and Jayco dove camper-trailer. I thoroughly enjoyed the FOWSP work, always energized by being in this great Park.

Glenn

Steve Anderson is a retired ranger who started his career with Warrandyte State Park in August 1987 as a construction and maintenance worker (field staff), and later gained a position as a ranger. He worked at the Warrandyte State Park for 8 ½ years. He also worked at Uluru NT.

Steve picked up the story as follows:

The first Thursday nursery propagation mornings started around August/September 1988. Ranger Chris Worrell assisted at first then the first dedicated Park staff member was Kim Robinson (Land protection Officer). In January 1989 Kim moved to a new position within the department (CF&L) and Steve become the Thursday friends Ranger. During 1989 the 'Thursday group' became firmly established as a weekly activity starting at 10am with a focus on propagation, seed collection and planting. With this came an increase in the number and variety of plants the nursery produces. About September 1990 David Van Bockel became the main FOWSP contact Ranger and Steve became the Ranger for the fledgling Friends of the Eltham Copper Butterfly. Steve has good memories of the rotating soup roster during winter and our lovely soup lunches together in the Folly after the Thursday activities.

It's hard to track down the history of the folly. About May 1989 plans were drawn up and grant funding sought. Park staff helped level the site. A perusal of past newsletters reveals:

1990 October 'FOLLY FEVER HAS HIT. At last the Folly looks like a building. Builders Barry and John Geusthuizen have all the main frame and roof up. We are waiting for the roofing iron at present'.



1991 April 'The Folly will really be able to be finished properly.. WE HAVE BEEN THE RECIPIENTS OF A FURTHER GRANT FROM THE MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND URBAN GROWTH... \$3000Thankyou who ever kept it from the flames'.

When asked about the Bradley method which had been mentioned as essential, Steve said, 'I knew and used this method myself and shared it with my interactions with the friends, but I wasn't the only one. FOWSP were expanding in 1989 with sub groups starting up. One being the 'Bradley Brigade' created to use and train others in this method. However I never worked with this group. They would meet on Saturdays from April 1989. Ellma Angus (also a committee member) led this group with early support from Brenda Hunter. There is a good article in the MAY 1989 newsletter'.

Editor's note: Just a reminder, all our past newsletters are available on our website under 'Publications'.

Artur Muchow concluded by thanking Parks Victoria for their continued support of FOWSP and also thanked the Community Bank Warrandyte, who has given FOWSP nearly \$30,000 in grants since 2009.

The Nursery was open for business on Sunday and copies of Pat & Mike Coupar's book "Wings of Change" were also available.

Thanks to Margaret Kelly who organised for two of her children and a friend to circulate with the nibbles during the speeches (photo right).



Thanks to Peta Cumming (left), Jason Patton and Gray Ardern (right) who cooked the meat; and to the volunteers who brought a lovely selection of salads. There was dessert of mini meringues, cream and fresh fruit salad to follow.



Thanks to the official photographer Joseph Bailouni for providing all the celebration photos in this newsletter and for our website. Sandi Miller from the Warrandyte Diary also came to cover the event. Her article appears in the April edition of WD. And of course many thanks to the prime organiser Lynda Gilbert.



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.

4/05/2023	Pauline Toner Reserve	PHIL/CAM	Planting	Easy-Moderate
11/05/2023	Josh Block' Butterman's Tk, Kinglake NP	JOSH/CATHY	Acacia howittii and Hakea salicifolia removal	Moderate
18/05/2023	Mt Lofty	CAM	Planting and maintenance	Easy
25/05/2023	Fitzsimons Wetland	CATHY	Weeding and planting	Easy
1/06/2023	Burgan Bend	PHIL	Orchid maintenance, Burgan thinning, weeding, planting	Easy-Moderate
8/06/2023	Endeavour Bank	ARTUR	Exclosure maintenance + planting incl. Caryx.	Easy-Moderate

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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			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, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday 9 May 2023 via Zoom
Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time: 17:00 pm sharp

Vale Bruce Fuhrer
 December 31, 1930 – March 31, 2023

So many groups and individuals will sadly miss Bruce’s kind and authoritative mentorship, quick wit and the ever constant twinkle in his eye. Bruce was a master photographer hitting his zenith in the days when photos required an eye for lighting, heavy gear and film. Some of his exquisite photos show in FOWSP leaflets ‘Warrandyte’s fungi’ and ‘Warrandyte’s mosses and liverworts’. His list of accomplishments fills pages.

Many FOWSPians have fond memories of walks with Bruce to find rare fungi near Jumping Creek. Sometimes we were lucky enough to have him along for walks further afield. Not only was he expert in plant identification but he almost always had a fascinating story to tell involving the plant. At Lake Mountain (photo right) it may have been about *Nothofagus Cunninghamii* the Myrtle Beech. In latter years, he often prefaced the story saying how forgetful he was getting, then go on to tell the story or the identification information in great detail and always with a smile.



Bruce Fuhrer with FOWSPians at Lake Mountain

Cathy Willis says, ‘I just remember Bruce as being a wonderful teacher and mentor. He was incredibly knowledgeable, kind and patient, no matter how many times he had to repeat the names of fungi. He also had an infectious passion for the topic and a gentle sense of humour, which made field trips with him lots of fun. I’m sure a common memory of those who went ‘fungi-ing’ with him is spending the entire time within a very short distance of the carpark due to him finding a new fungi every few steps’.

As was said at his funeral service, ‘Bruce will continue to travel with us in his books,’ and in our memories. Our condolences go to Irene and the rest of Bruce’s family.

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.

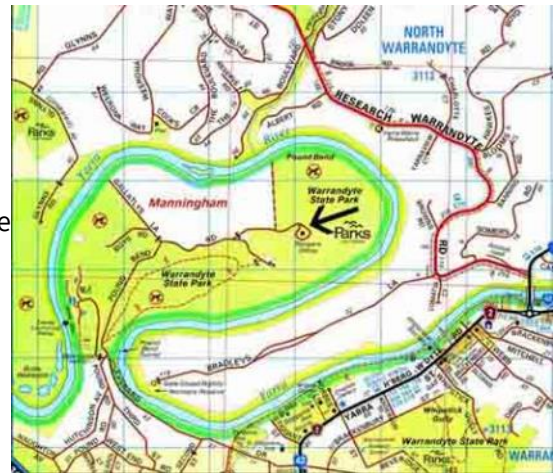
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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Memories of FOWSP early days from the Hanson's

John and Bev Hanson (photo right) are long term environmental warriors and their property is adjacent to Warrandyte State Park on 2 sides. They have been FOWSP members since the beginning of the organisation.

John particularly remembers the early times.

There were monthly working bees with projects including planting, weeding, as well as cleaning in the mines and clearing the air shafts. At that time these were open to the public and utilised for abseiling. It was also cleaning up rubbish dumped by careless people including one who was able to be traced by their address on an envelope showing they were from Footscray.

In regard to the cars, the clean up was aided by using a map from the orienteering club which had an X on the spot where there was a car body, more than 70 Xs.

Young Peter, who was in his early teens at the time, found the stacks of car bodies a ready source of all kinds of useful parts. He utilised these to build a cub-house which morphed from one, then two and finally three stories (to his mother's dismay).

Bev and John also reminded me about the first youth hostel in Australia which was located on the Pound Bend site near Frogland. See p. 11.



Who else remembers these early days of FOWSP and Pound Bend??



Nursery on 2 April 2023

The plants in the sales area were lush and healthy under the protective frame with mesh cover. A large crowd gathered for

drinks and socialising between the education centre and the propagations area.



Please sign up for FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

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 2023



April TAG Activities

April has been a busy month for the TAGers, again focusing on woody weeds during a time when most of the orchids are dormant or still underground and we are not causing (too much) damage in our activities.

We began on 6 April with a return to our regular haunt at Walert Creek to maintain previous grant plantings, remove woody weeds and other invasives, and dismantle some barbed wire fencing. Belinda (left) attacked spider plant or *Chlorophytum* species with gusto!

Next up, on 13th April, was a double-header. First up to Morrison's, where Cam is nurturing Spider Orchids (*Caladenia rosella*) and other orchids, as well as some rare and endangered species including the Velvet Daisy Bush (*Olearia tomentosa*), a rare co-species with the Rosellas, and an as-yet undescribed *Correa* sp (Photo below right). We were lucky to see the Southern autumn greenhood *Pterostylis ampliata* in flower, a large and imposing orchid which is now very rare in the Warrandyte State Park (photo p. 11)!

Following this we ventured to a favourite place, Pauline Toner Reserve, to trim *Bursaria spinosa* to make it more amenable (and palatable) to the fussy grubs of the Eltham Copper Butterfly, and to erect signs provided by Parks Vic as part of grant funding for the reserve (left).

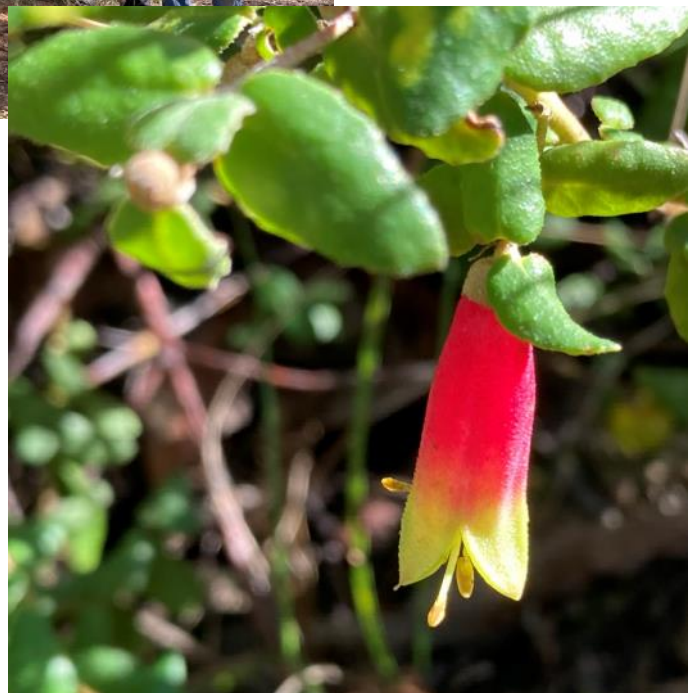


Finally a large TAG group joined Phil and Parks Vic Forest Fire Management group of around half a dozen at Harding and Red Beard Fences to remove *Cassinia* species and improve conditions for lower story wildflowers, orchids and grasses. *Cassinia* species have gone somewhat

rampant after planned burning a decade or so ago and required manual thinning to avoid the need for burning in the near future, as the enclosures are adjacent to bushfire control areas.

The area is home to the Red Beard Orchid *Calochilus paludosis* and Mayflower Orchid *Acianthus caudatus*, both endangered in the district, along with the Grey Guinea Flower *Hibbertia obtusifolia*. A sharp-eyed ranger spotted the Sharp Midge Orchid *Genoplesium despectans* barely 10 cm tall and with flowers only 3 or 4 mm across.

Thank you Don for this report.



Attendees at FOWSP on 2 April 2023



Rangers Col, Phil and Faye and volunteer Joy.



John and Diane, and Judy catch up with Marie. For many years John and Diane were the opening couple on the FOWSP market trailer.



Kaye with Fritz and another FOWSPian



Brian, Linda and Gray chat.



Heather and Tom Jameson (left) Cam, Joy, John, Lyn and Marie (above) enjoy the BBQ lunch.





Even an echidna joined the fun at the FOWSP 40th celebration on 2 April

Below: Two photos of the imposing Southern Autumn Greenhood (*Pterostylis ampliata*) from the TAG at Morrison's Reserve.



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.



The first YHA at Warrandyte, 1940

Now and Then



The nursery looking up from Frogland Gate on 2 April 2023 (top)

The first youth hostel in Australia which was located just before Frogland approaching on Pound Bend Road (above). This was later burned down by bush fires. A large rock and plaque now mark the spot along the walk from the river, near Frogland, to the nursery (above right). Who remembers which year the hostel burned down?



Joy captured this photo of the rare three-legged ranger at Pauline Toner Reserve