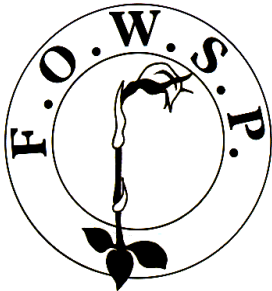


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

This month there is a significant 'changing of the guards' at FOWSP. We welcome our new treasurer, Tony Oliver, who comes to us with lots of experience and a thorough handover from departing treasurer Lynda Gilbert. Never the less we will greatly miss Lyndy and Ken who are moving on to the next stage of life in their new home in Brighton. Lyndy states she anticipates many walks along the beach. Many FOWSPians bid fond farewell on p. 9.

We also send all our best wishes along with Paddy our nursery assistant, who will be moving on to fulltime employment at a larger indigenous nursery (P. 2 & 9). Page 2 also shows some very welcome guests at the nursery, some feathered and some in winter coats.

Thirdly, our thanks go to Gloria, who started as FOWSP librarian in 2016. We wish her all the best and now search for a new librarian (p. 6).

FOWSP TAGs continue to provide us with interesting stories (pp. 3, 4 and 8).

Photos from a recent visit to south Gippsland feature on pp. 10, 11 and 12 along with some local and south Gippsland fungi.

I am sure all FOWSPians join me in thanks and appreciation to all the people mentioned above and will help those taking on the positions to settle in and feel welcomed.

It is you, our members who make FOWSP such a special group.

Linda R



Nothing like a glowing fire to warm the cockles...
See p. 9 for the story.

**Deadline May edition newsletter is
Friday 23 June 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

At FOWSP in late April and May 2023



Paddy (left) and Gray and Lyndy in full voice (right)

We celebrated Paddy's birthday and he showed us the right and wrong way to extinguish a candle with the finger tips.

Margaret and Ben visited the nursery.

Earlier Fiona, while working in the nursery, was surprised by the fluttering of a small bird very close by. She watched carefully although her view was obscured by acacia seedlings growing in a tray (photo bottom left). She believes the bird was a brown thornbill but it was gone before she could attempt a photo.

On further investigation

she found that someone has created a lovely thornbill-sized birdbath from an ice cream carton and a few twigs (photos below left).

We wonder who the designer is and whether they have patented the design?

Photo below right is a last minute addition of a mass of tiny fungi which appeared on 1 June on a pathway in Frogland. They reminded me of the tiny ghost crabs often seen scurrying in large



Ken and Margaret chatted, enjoying the sunshine



Ben preferred sitting in the shade chatting with Fiona

numbers along beaches. These however could not scurry away.

Linda R



Many stories unfold at TAGs

The area adjacent to Petty’s Orchard near the Yarra River in Templestowe was an area we have not been to for some time. A stand of very large and dense Black Wattle (*Acacia decurrens*) had unfortunately thrived over the last decade, reducing the capacity for other more desirable species to grow.

In the past we had spared these wattles, as the Melbourne Zoo had been harvesting branches from these trees to feed their elephants. It was quite clear on the day of the tag that no such harvesting has taken place for some years, so we felt that the time had come to remove this stand of weedy wattles.

Back in the days when Janaya was our contact Ranger we did quite a lot of work around Petty’s Orchard – very successful woody-weed eradication, and a lot of supplementary planting.

This was before the deer were so numerous and the results are quite interesting to see – those plants that took off quickly and gained height, have prospered and are now sturdy saplings of good shape. Any plants that didn’t get a quick start have been browsed down repeatedly by the deer, and will probably never be anything other than stunted bushes if the current level of deer-browsing continues.

Gray gave us a tour of the site, pointing out many of the original plantings of exotic trees that have remained, including various oaks, Gleditsia and two varieties of Macadamia



Belinda, Robyn and Brian look on while Gray plants a *Pinus* seedling?? Read the story to understand why.

(very unusual for Victoria). Some years ago, Gray was curious about the identity of the grove of senescent pines along the Homestead Rd frontage of Petty’s Orchard. They were clearly not our old enemy *Pinus radiata* nor were there any seedlings anywhere to be seen – suggesting that these pines were not a pest species. Their unusual habit caught his eye, and he noticed that every single cone on the ground had been torn apart by black cockatoos, which he loves immoderately.

He took a cone back to the Nursery, where he and Josh set about identifying the mystery conifer. That cone was left on a table out of doors, where it shed a few seeds. Thinking that a seedling might aid identification, Gray planted a few, one of which germinated, and eventually became a handsome specimen just begging to be planted in the great outdoors.

The reader can connect the dots! Gray felt that justifying his planting (photo above) on the grounds of providing habitat for black cockatoos was truly vindicated by the noisy arrival of a flock of them while he was planting the seedling.



Scots Pine with cone and sample branch (inset)

Considerable effort would be required to restore this reserve to the stage it was when Parks developed it with signage and a bird hide.

**Dam Rehab
before and after**



May 2018 (left) and May 2023 (right)

In May 2018 it was reported that ‘The dam near the folly has become very dry this year and the muddy bottom has become a favourite wallow for deer. Gray hopes some of our excess water plants will survive the onslaught’ Photo right shows the result five years later. Gray deemed this a success and tossed in another water plant fresh from the tube for further species enrichment.

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**

8/06/2023	Endeavour Bank	ARTUR	Exclosure maintenance + planting incl. Carex.	Easy-Moderate
15/06/2023	Candlebark Park	PHIL/CAM	Woody and grassy weeds Joint TAG w FYVP - via Phil	Moderate
22/06/2023	Walert Creek	DAVID	Maintenance and replanting	Easy-Moderate
29/06/2023	Pound Bend - slash break	DAVID/ROBYN	Weeding - freesias, woodies, possibly tank track pittosporum	Easy
6/07/2023	Frogland	Chris/Maree/Robyn	Weeding	Easy
13/07/2023	Nilja / Longridge Farm	DAVID/ROBYN	Weeding - Watsonia, blackberry, agapanthus escapees	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 2023			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
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		Facebook Coordinator	Carolyn Noel	0409 901441
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			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
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	lynm333g@gmail.com	https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/contact-us	Jason Patton	0402 121838
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			Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
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		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 13 June 2023
Venue:	Via Zoom
Time:	17:00 pm

Manningham City Council Environment Events



Eucalypt Identification nature walk



Tuesday, 13 June 2023
 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
 Location provided on
 Registration **FREE**

www.manningham.vic.gov.au/events/eucalypt-identification-nature-walk#

Learn how to identify our local eucalypt trees and find out how understanding where they grow can help you to read the landscape. If all the trees and bush look a bit the same to you, this short walk and talk could change the way you see the world!

Join experienced local naturalist and ecologist Alan Noy on an easy walk through Pound Bend, as we discuss the distinctive identification features of the local trees.

Junior Rangers Wildlife Program



Saturday, 17 June 2023
 10.00 am to 12.00 pm
 Currawong Bush Park
 Environment Education
 Centre
 Enter off Reynolds
 Road, Warrandyte

FREE but must register <http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/events/junior-rangers-wildlife-program>

Join us at Currawong Bush Park to learn about local wildlife and come face to face with local animals of Manningham.

Recommended for children aged 5 to 12 years, the Manningham Junior Ranger Program is designed to get young environmentalists out and active in our local environment.

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.

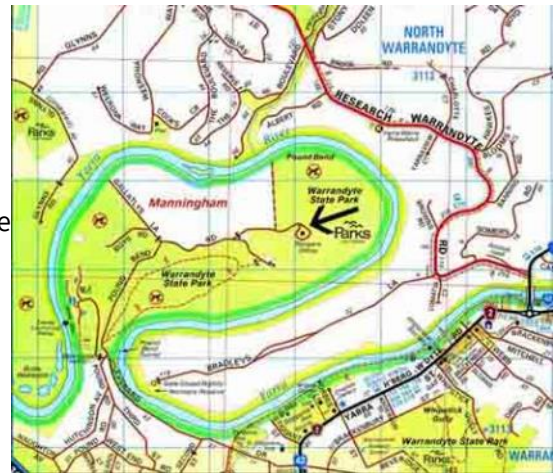
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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FOWSP Library in need of a new librarian

Many thanks to Gloria Moore, who began serving as librarian in early 2016. Unfortunately, she is unable to continue with this task at present so we are looking for someone/s to take on this flexible but important position.

Did you know that there are between 400 and 500 titles available to members in the FOWSP library? The book titles and authors are searchable on our website on the library page.

The photo right shows the library as it appeared on 1 June 2023 in the Education Centre. There needs to be a general stock take and a few new books may need cataloging. This could be a shared task if two people would like to take it on.

Please let any committee member know by 12 May 2023, if you would like to take on this task. It is one of the few FOWSP volunteer positions which can be carried out inside, away from the vagaries of the weather.

This could be your chance to be more involved at FOWSP without weeding.



This photo shows the library shelves on 1 June 2023

Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events



Bunjil Reserve - Fungi Walk Saturday 3 June, 10am - 12pm

Join Tom May - Principal Research Scientist (Mycology) at the Royal Botanic Gardens to learn more about the species of fungi within Councils Bunjil Reserve.

Registration at
[Bunjil Reserve - Fungi Walk \(weteachme.com\)](http://weteachme.com)

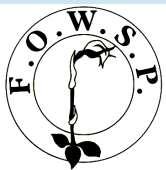


Bird Identification Workshop and Walk Saturday 10 June, 10am - 2pm

Join Birdlife's Birds on Farms project team to learn how to identify and monitor birds.

[Bird Identification Workshop and Walk \(weteachme.com\)](http://weteachme.com)

Book on links above or on Nillumbik website:
Events-activities-and-education.htm



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

TAG near the nursery



On 12 May the TAGers tackled woody weeds on Gallatlys road in Pound Bend. This proximity allowed for returning to the nursery for a wonderful morning tea. Along the way Robyn noticed the sad state of the 'roundabout' adjacent to the nursery. She suggested we should replant it. The finished product is in the photo above.

GRANT received from FNCV Environment Fund

PROJECT TITLE: PRESERVATION OF *Carex chlorantha*



Carex chlorantha is considered endangered and the few remaining patches in our area are threatened with being smothered by a competing weed known as Drain Flat sedge.

Carex chlorantha is a rhizome that only grows in wet areas and is very rare in Warrandyte. It is considered a true sedge. Their roots bind the soil, trapping nutrients. The plant assists in preventing erosion and improves water quality by oxygenating water. It provides an important habitat for frogs.

Currently our volunteers are removing the Drain Flat sedge by hand weeding from a large area to prevent *Carex chlorantha* from being wiped out. We thank the FNCV for their generous grant, which will give us a working line trimmer and will save many hours of manual work.

Very fond farewells at FOWSP

Both our feelings and the weather were mixed and the latter a bit damp on the last Thursday in May. The day had come to say farewell to Lyndy and Ken (below left with Artur) and thank them for all their



many contributions across more than 15 years. The warmth of the fire (above, Peter and Peta) and of the friendships was welcome, but sometimes 'the smoke gets in your eyes' (below left). It was also the



day we said thank you and goodbye to our nursery assistant Paddy (orange beanie above). We wish Paddy well in his new full time job at VINC and we send our love with Lyndy and Ken as they move to their new home in Brighton.



Fungal time of year

You could say this is, 'the fungal time of year' but this photo is from a recent visit to the very moist part of Tarra Bulga NP. This particular area would most likely sport some fungi amongst its ferns, mosses and other rainforest plants throughout the year.

The photo left was one of nature's arrangements along the pathway to Cyathia Falls. It displays the four elements said to be advised to photograph when looking for identification, i.e. the cap, the underside (gills or pores), the stem and the habitat. For more of the habitat see the photo on the back of this newsletter. Although my ID skills for fungus are rudimentary, I think this will be in the Mycena group.

This visit to South Gippsland was with the nature photography group of Victoria (VNPG) and more photos from this trip in mid May are seen on the next page and back cover.

Linda R

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



Although rain was a strong feature of this May visit to south Gippsland, so was the photographer-pleasing spectacle of bright sun against black clouds. Photo left is part of the channel at Port Franklin and the nine large birds seen flying away were all white-faced herons we must have disturbed. They had been roosting together on the bank. Other photographers reported much larger flocks of this heron convening nearby. Perhaps this is a regular occurrence but it was remarkable to me.



Back at Frogland and the nursery fungi were also making their appearance. Photos left were taken on 27 April 2023 with the second shot showing gills via a phone selfie. The same fungi were photographed again on 18 May (below). I am guessing these are a *Gymnopilus* species. Happy to receive more information from any more fungally infected (or perhaps fungally informed) FOWSPians.



On 20 April 2023 this young bug (left) was brought to me for comment. Consulting some entomological resources, this seems to be the nymph of one of the Flatidae hopper bugs some of which are very common on Eucalypts. Their markings are interesting on a close inspection and the waxy filaments they tend to develop are just starting to show at the tail end.

Linda R

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



Ferns and moss along the track to
Cyathea Falls in Tarra Bulga NP