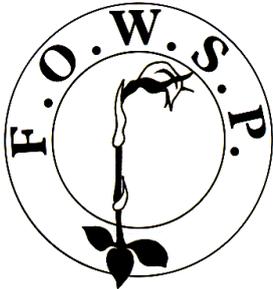


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Hello FOWSPians! This newsletter brings tales of travel in Europe (thank you Don and Carolyn) on pp. 2, 3 and 11 and in FNQ on pp.10 and 12;

Information about a couple of the prolific yellow blooming plants available from the nursery right now pp. 6 and 7;

a reveal on our newly refreshed FOWSP library on p. 8;

a peek at Frogland on pp. 4 and 9 ;

and a small retrospective of the FOWSP newsletter on p. 5.

The latter is particularly relevant as I intend to retire as editor at the next AGM.

Please peruse this page and give a thought to whether you might just be the one to contribute to FOWSP through the newsletter in your own special way.

As always, enjoy this newsletter,

Linda Rogan



Marie and Linda R attack the sweet vernal in the 'weedy corner' of Frogland.
Photo : Chris Kay

Early Notice

FOWSP AGM will be held on Sunday 19 November 2023 at 5 pm.
Mark your calendars now.

Deadline for October edition newsletter is

Friday 15 September 2022

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

Travelling FOWSPians

Summer Sojourn in Europe with Don and Carolyn



Carolyn and Chamomile on Mt Etna

Abandoning winter in Oz for summer in the northern hemisphere, we should have been careful what we wished for – we got record-breaking heat! Nevertheless, we enjoyed many spectacular and interesting walks. This trip was partly sightseeing (and enjoying food and wine....) in places we hadn't visited before like Sicily, Bologna in Italy and Budapest in Hungary. We also travelled into some of the best areas of nature we could find.

A first impression was how many 'weeds'

there were. But remembering Josh's sage advice ('a weed is only a plant in the wrong place'), we realised it was us in the wrong place, not many of the plants. Notable exceptions were eucalypts, both in plantations and invading natural areas, as well as Agave and Prickly Pear, especially in Sicily.

A small sample from our ten weeks is included here. Highlights for us: viewing the eruptions of Mt Stromboli from the sea; spotting a Peregrine Falcon over a hilltop vineyard near Parma, Italy; walking in the Dolomites bordering Italy and Austria; and hearing a woodpecker's staccato pecking (but try as we might, not spotting it) in the oak forests of northern Sicily.



Cephalanthera longifolia
Orchid on the slopes of Mt Etna

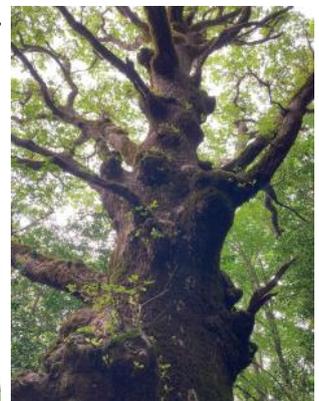
Mt Etna dominates the eastern half of Sicily, and is usually shrouded in clouds. It provides a unique natural and agricultural environment, having its own regional wine with a DOC 'designation of controlled origin'. We ascended to the mid-slopes of scoria craters (there are over 300, one erupting last month) to find they are populated by Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Chamomile (*Anthemis chia*) and pine. Carolyn won the prize for first orchid found – *Cephalanthera longifolia*.



Volcanic Lipari

North of Sicily are the Aeolian Islands, including currently active volcanoes Stromboli, Vulcan and less active Lipari and Panarea, all populated with surprisingly large villages. Sulphurous fumes, boiling oceans and sunset views of eruptions are all part of the scenery.

The northern part of Sicily, surprising to us, has some large national parks, including much of the high plateau (over 2000 metres). We especially enjoyed the cool of Parco delle Madonie near Castelbuono, ascending through ancient chestnut and deciduous Downy Oak (*Quercus pubescens* - up to 800 years old) with Cyclamens on the forest floor; multi-trunk Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and beech; fir and



Magnificent downy oak (above) and a dwarf example (left) at Madonie



pine forests; eventually to the mountain tops with dwarf Downy Oak and small ground-covers similar to what we find in alpine areas in Oz (left). We also enjoyed the black truffle pasta and regional wines.....





Villa Melzi maple garden

In Northern Italy, Lake Como is a huge tourist destination. We saw as much as possible by ferry including the magnificent gardens of Villa Melzi and Villa Carlotta, the latter with huge Rhododendron, Magnolia and *Ginkgo biloba* amongst many other plants.



Villa Carlotta Rhododendron wood.

Getting away from the crowds involved driving hair-raising hairpin bends up to the mountain villages and following the trails to the many surrounding peaks. Monte Legnoncino rewarded with the almost-essential cross on the summit, small chapel and a historical reminder in the underground stone-rimmed WW1 military observation posts and gun emplacements, this being the Italian Northern Frontier or the Cadorna Line, facing towards Switzerland to protect the industrial areas to the South from potential attack from Austria-Hungary or Germany.



Mt Legnoncino Alpenrose

Walking through larch and fir forests, the higher areas are covered in Rhododendrons (I believe Rusty-leaved Alpenrose (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*)) and prolific with butterflies, capturing only a couple – the Red Admiral (*Vanessa Atalanta* below left) and Woodland Ringlet (*Erebia medusa* below right) (not very good photos I'm afraid – best that can be done with an old iPhone). The ponds below were also heavily populated with various dragonflies and damselflies including the Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*).



Dolomites

The Dolomites (separating Italy and Austria with tiny Liechtenstein in between) were a highlight of the trip. The sheer scale and number of spectacular peaks had us nearly driving off the precipitous roads on every bend as we exclaimed at the view.

Val Gardena is one of the most picturesque villages in the valley between the UNESCO Puez-Odle National Park and Sassolungo Langkofel. Accessible by walking, bike or cablecar, we found many alpine wildflowers in the trim meadows between the peaks and fir/pine forests. A small sample include Alpine Clematis (*Clematis alpina*), one of the Fragrant Orchids (*Gymnadenia sp*), Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza majalis*) in amongst the ever-present buttercups, daisies and pincushions. Unlike Australian mountain walking, there is usually a pleasant Cantina in easy reach on all the main trails to rest the legs and refresh after a sometimes heart-thumping walk. (Photos page 11)

Frogland thrives over winter



It was a real pleasure for me to return to Frogland on 31 August where Marie (above left) and Chris (above right) had continued to work while I was searching for insects much further north. Marie and Chris would also like to thank the TAGers who gave them a hand in July with digging out Ixia, maintaining the pathways and other tasks. I was impressed by seeing a reduced presence of weedy Ixia bulbs compared to previous two years. For a glimpse of indigenous plants in bloom, see p. 9.

Linda Rogan

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.

07/09/2023	Craspedia Fence	PHIL	Grassy weed work and planting	Easy-Moderate
14/09/2023	Nilja/Longridge	GRAY	Agapanthicide and more	Moderate
21/09/2023	Flora Cres—St Andrews	PHIL	Planting and woody weeding	Moderate
28/09/2023	St. Andrews NCR	Rangers	Woody and bulbous weeds	Difficult
05/10/2023	Frogland, Nursery	Linda/Josh	Planting weeding as needed	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
Artur Muchow 0415 383328	Secretary		Nursery Manager Josh Revell Nursery Phone 0408 317 327 email nursery@fowsp.org.au
Tony Oliver 0434 331 529	Treasurer		Park Office 03 8427 2132
Linda Rogan 0491 112 692 editor@fowsp.org.au	Newsletter editor		Librarians John Young and Lyn Moore
Gray Ardern 0418 190261	Facebook Coordinator: Carolyn Noel 0409 901441		Market Trailer Jan Falconer 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
Lyn Moore 0409 683 041 lynm333g@gmail.com	Wildlife rescue Victoria https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/contact-us		Webmaster Jason Patton 0402 121838 jason@parau.com
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Jeff Cranston 0418 396 647 legality@bigpond.com	Staff Representative		Website: www.fowsp.org.au
	Lynda Chambers 0466 274421 phenogist@gmail.com		FOWSP general enquiry number 1300 764 422

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Gloria Moore, Lyn Moore, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday 12 September 2023
Venue:	Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time:	5 pm sharp

Retrospective on FOWSP Newsletter

The oldest newsletter I was able to find on our website was from August 1987. Words from Glen Jameson on p.1 described a beautiful day of winter sunshine where 15 FOWSPians and five Australian Native Orchid Society members plus an officer from CFL (Conservation, Forests and Lands) put 64 boxes of native orchid tubers, which had been rescued from a housing development in Eltham, into the ground near Black Flat. This area had been an orchard from the turn of the century until the 1930s. This event was a first for these groups. A lot has been learned about orchid conservation since then; however, this was an important start in local efforts.



Joan Broadberry, Linda Rogan, Joan MacMahon

Countless FOWSPians have contributed to both the conservation of Warrandyte State Park and to the FOWSP newsletter since then. In 1990, Pat Coupar became a Committee member, and she and Mike contributed much to the newsletter both in its appearance and content, with Pat serving as editor for many years finishing in 2007 prior to moving to Mallacoota.

With big boots to fill, a team made up of myself and the two Joans (photo above) took on this task in February 2008. Gradually, I continued on my own while still receiving many articles from Joan B and others.

The time has come for me to pass on the baton at the end of this year. Perhaps you will be the person or persons to take the FOWSP newsletter on the next part of its journey. For more information please contact Linda R or any of the above committee members.

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.

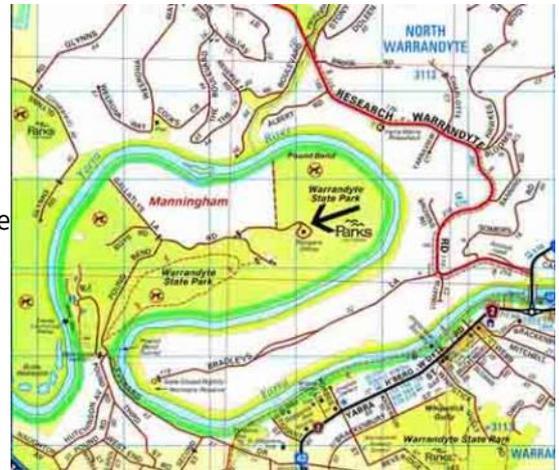
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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 the FOWSP indigenous plant nursery



Bulbine Lily - Pike (Woiwurung)

This tufted herb with succulent leaves well-comes early spring with its bright and cheery yellow star flowers on a tall spike. We grow two species at the nursery, *Bulbine bulbosa* and *Bulbine semibarbata*. *B. bulbosa* is widespread across eastern Australia in a variety of habitats. *B. semibarbata* is also widespread but much less common, preferring dry inland areas, salt lakes and sandy soils. So, it's rather special that we have it naturally occurring

here at Jumping Creek, the only known occurrence within about 150kms of Melbourne. It is more common north-west from Bendigo.

The differences between the two species are hard to spot. Above ground the only noticeable difference is fringing on the stamens. Below ground is the big difference, *B. bulbosa* has a tuber, reportedly the sweetest of all bush tucker storage organs. The seeds and roots are also edible, but not the leaves.

Both species like a well-drained soil and will flower more prolifically with moisture and lots of sunlight. *B. semibarbata* often acts as an annual in its dryland range, however locally it may die back over summer (like *B. bulbosa*) but will come back with rain and form a large tussock over several years. Plants will continue to grow and flower



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

sporadically year round if watered over summer and autumn. They are also ideal pot or rockery plants. Both species will self-seed readily and form extensive drifts over time if they are happy in their spot.



**Prickly Moses -
*Acacia verticillata***

Mid-August is the peak time to see the majority of our local wattles in flower. Every year I feel a spark of joy seeing their wide array of subtle variations on yellow, knowing spring is on its way.

One of the most reliable prolific flowerers is Prickly Moses. Despite the name the foliage is only softly prickly. Just enough to provide excellent habitat and refuge for little birds.

Prickly Moses is happiest in a moist sunny position but seems to be very tolerant of a wide range of conditions in the garden. In nature you'll find it on lower slopes and along the riverbank, so often under dappled shade. Locally it rarely gets above 3m and can get as wide as it is high. The flowers are short cylindrical rods, rather than the typical ball flowers of all our other local wattles. Even when not in flower it is a very attractive shrub, with an arching habit. This can be encouraged by early pruning.

Thanks to Cathy Willis for these words and photos.



Please sign up for FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on the FOWSP trailer
in July and August 2023



Christine Andell, Chris Kay, Louise Clear, Marion Thomson, Pam Von Drehnen, Marie Krause,
Jeff Cranston, Lyn Moore, Chantelle Weldon, Jan Falconer

And also to Artur Muchow who transported the trailer.

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: 7 October and 4 November 2023

Check out the refreshed FOWSP Library - Lyn Moore

John Young and I have recently taken over as librarians. Thank you to Gloria for the good job she has done and her very comprehensive handover. I realise that before this I knew nothing about our library and all the interesting books and other items it. It covers a wide range of nature-related topics and geographical areas, not just plants and Warrandyte.

Most of the books are available to be borrowed by FOWSP members, with just a few being for reference only. The books are arranged in the following categories: Amphibians and Reptiles (AR), Birds (B), Bush Foods (BF), Education (ED), Environment (EN), Fish (F), Flora (FL), Fire (FR), Gardening (GA), Insects and Spiders (IS), Journals and Magazines (JM), Keynotes (KN), Mammals (M), Re-vegetation (R), Technical (T), Tapes (TA), Weeds (W). The letters in parentheses are shown on the spine of each item as part of the reference number, so you can easily find the category you are interested in on the shelves. Each item also has a coloured round sticker on its spine corresponding to its category. As you'd expect, Environment and Flora categories have by far the most books!



in

If you would like to see what is there, the library bookshelves are in the office on the left hand side. The side facing the door has a list of the categories and the colour assigned to each one. If Josh, Lynda or Gray is in the office, please ask if it's okay to come in.

To borrow a book, just record the details (date, your name and phone number, book title, and the reference number on the spine) in the exercise book in the tray on the bottom shelf. When you return the book, record the date when it is returned and put the book back on the shelf or just leave it in the tray. There is no set limit on borrowing time. However, if a book is still outstanding after a "reasonable" amount of time (say 4-6 weeks), John or I will give you a gentle reminder to return the book.

Feel free to browse the shelves to see if there is anything that interests you. Or if you are looking for something in particular, ask John or me and we can do a search of the library database to see if there is anything that matches what you are looking for.

**The Committee thanks Lyn and John for taking on this task.
It would be great to see more use made of this wonderful collection of books**

Blooming in Frogland on 31 August 2023



These lovely cards from our beloved late Bruce Fuhrer are available for a small cost from the nursery and/or the market trailer.

I was thrilled on my first day back at Frogland to find so many shrubs in bloom. Shown here counter clockwise is *Goodia lotiflora* golden-tip, *Pulteneaea gunnii* golden bush-pea, *Tetradlea ciliata* pink-bells, *Pomaderris lanigera* (front bright yellow) and *P. ferruginea* (creamy yellow).

Linda R



More Travelling FOWSPians



This time a couple of photos from Linda and Peter's recent trip to Far North Queensland. I have chosen to show two creatures we won't see in Victoria, which were certainly trip highlights for me.

On the left is Dad, the cassowary which visits our friends who live in Wondecla, Queensland. At this visit, he was shepherding two striped chicks. It will be unusual if both survive to adulthood. Only one shows in this photo.

On the right is a male Hercules moth which arrived on my lightsheet about 3:30 am and was gone by daylight. Peter had to wake me for this photo.

Linda Rogan



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

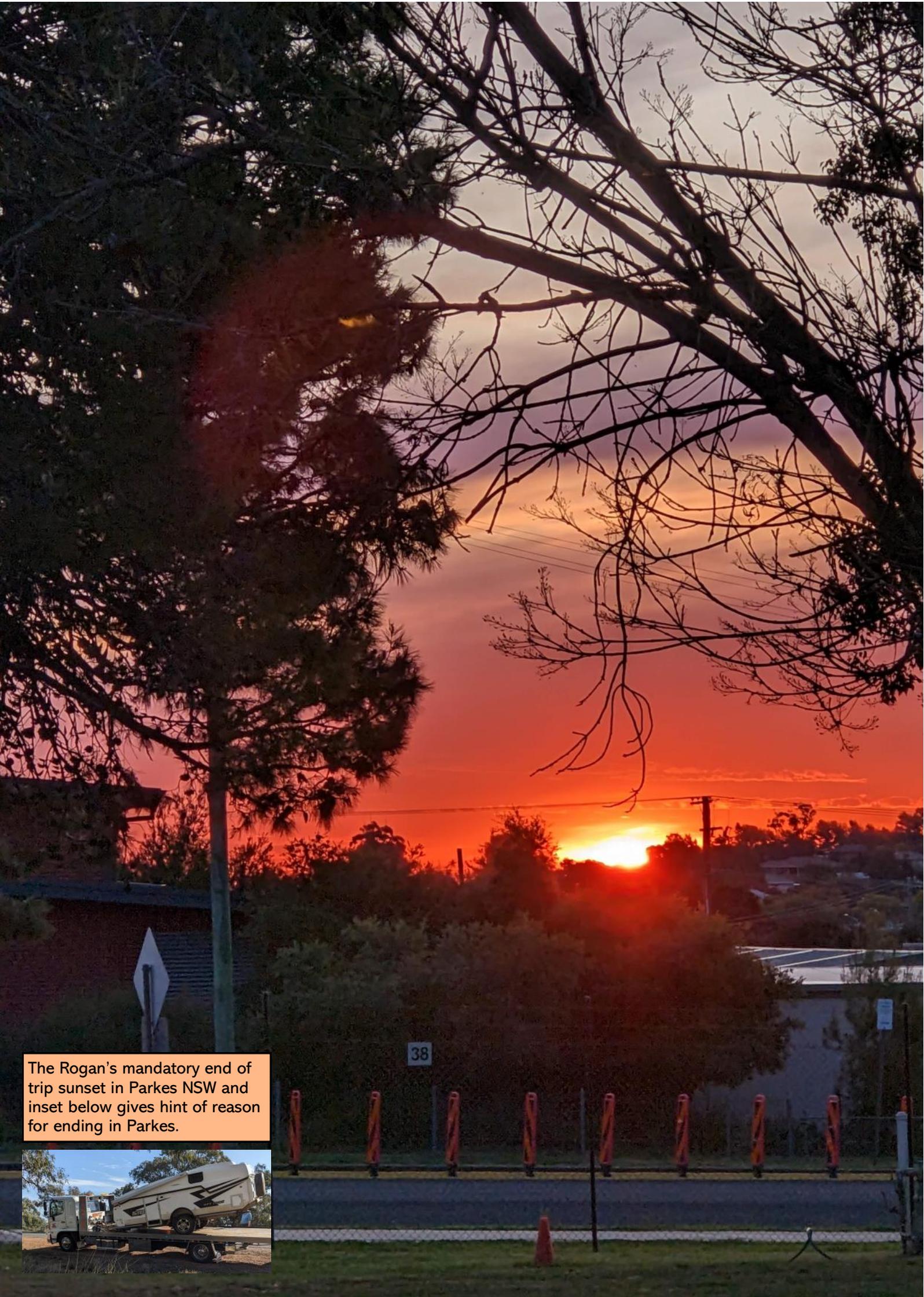
Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$15

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.



Panorama of Sassolungo trail at the top; Carolyn at Puez-Odle UNESCO World Heritage Area is surrounded by (clockwise from upper left) Sassolungo wildflowers; Blue flowers of Alpine Clematis; Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid; Fragrant Orchid



The Rogan's mandatory end of trip sunset in Parkes NSW and inset below gives hint of reason for ending in Parkes.

