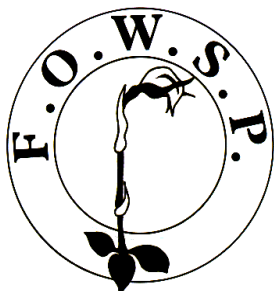


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Occasional rain has helped out with spring plantings and there are plenty of healthy plants available at the FOWSP nursery. The end of season sale is the last chance to get plants before the price rise in 2024 so don't miss out. See also p. 4.

TAG's activities have continued full force as you can see on p. 2. The caterpillars of two local butterfly species which have attendant ants and which also benefit from FOWSP activities feature on p. 3.

A new feature, Weed Watch, appears on p. 5 to teach us more about some of the weeds we all face. Pages 6 and 7 show some of the events offered by local councils in Spring Outdoors and also feature information about our market trailer with thanks to volunteers.

Thursday morning happenings feature on p. 8 and a final installment on Don and Carolyn's excellent adventure on p. 9.

Pages 10, 11 and 12 feature photos of a few more items which made your retiring editor smile. However the smile may have been even bigger when John Young put his hand up to pick up the compiling of the FOWSP newsletter in 2024. Thank you John. *Linda Rogan*



Lynda and Josh serve happy customers.

Notice to all FOWSP members:

The AGM for 2023 will be brief and held on Sunday 19 November, 5:00 pm at the Folly.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive annual reports and select the Committee of Management.

There are several vacancies on the committee at present and you are encouraged to consider nominating yourself. The job is not onerous with only nine meetings per year. In winter meetings are often held via Zoom.

All positions, including secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor and up to 7 general positions, will be declared open at the AGM.

Nomination forms are available through the secretary Artur Muchow at 0415 383328 myln@netspace.net.au
The meeting will be followed by BYO drinks and nibbles and a BYO everything BBQ.
A great chance to relax with Friends in a beautiful setting.

See you there!

Deadline for December edition newsletter is Friday 17 November 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

TAGing into Spring



TAGers and Proofpoint team on Endeavour Bank

TAGers continued on the Spring phase of our parks activities - weeding! I think the regulars treat it as therapy, and they attack the invading plants with gusto.

28th September was a regular trip to St Andrews to scan for broom, boneseed#, gorse, Spanish heath and emerging invasive bulbs.

On 5th October we welcomed five people from Proofpoint, who selected FOWSP for volunteer environmental activities. After a short rundown on FOWSP and the nursery, Linda Rogan gave the group a tour of Frogland and led a small planting in a clear area. The group then joined the rest of the TAG at Endeavour Bank weeding and restoring the National Tree Day plantings from 2022, which have had a high success rate when supported with regular maintenance.

Cam and Phil led our TAG to Pauline Toner Reserve on 12th October to coppice sweet bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*)* to promote new growth and attract the Eltham copper butterfly (*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*) grubs. (See p. 3) Plus of course general clearing of invasive species.



*In addition to being the food plant for the Eltham copper butterfly caterpillars, sweet bursaria is host to many other insects at some stage in their development including (left to right) fiddler beetle, small wasps, mistletoe moth, sweet bursaria moth and red jewel bugs. Photos Linda Rogan

We rounded off the month at Craigs/Becketts Road to maintain an area on the Mullum Link Trail. We were delighted to see the new growth in various lomandra, dianella, goodenia, themeda, and acacias from our planting some 6 years ago, despite the heavy weed infestation which took a fair thrashing from the team.

Thank you to Don for this report and photo.

Ants and butterflies near us

It may not be widely recognized that a number of butterflies depend on a mutual relationship with ants for the survival of their caterpillars. Some of these are very rare and hard to observe. We are very lucky to have two species in the Greensborough to Warrandyte area which are relatively easily observed. The first is one that is dear to the hearts of many TAGers due to hours spent improving the habitat for the Eltham copper butterfly and its larval food plant *Bursaria spinosa*. The best way to see these caterpillars is to take part in one of the night time counts at a butterfly habitat reserve in Nillumbik or (as I did) in a single site in Greensborough. They are small and it is easier to see them because of the small black *Notoncus* ant which shepherd them (photo right)



The Imperial Blue Butterfly revisited 2023

Eltham Copper Butterfly larva at Andrew Yandell Habitat Reserve 24 October 2023



Even easier to observe are the imperial blue butterflies *Jalmenus evagoras* which live out their life cycle on a few small acacia species including those in Pound Bend near the carpark. Well aware of these special butterflies, the rangers and volunteers ensure a supply of the young acacias, which they prefer, is replenished each year. This is necessary because young trees may die or grow too large for the colonies.



10/10/2023 Several instars of the caterpillars with arrow showing first instar

16/09/23 first instar of imperial blue butterfly in enlarged photo. Ants were nearby.

In 2009 I made my first (and only) audio-visual presentation on a DVD (before the wide usage of YouTube). At that time I had yet to photograph the very first stage of the caterpillars in the spring. My fascination with these creatures has continued and I welcomed the chance to check for the very early stages this year when the Entomological Society of Victoria visited Pound Bend on 16 September 2023. A lot of ants were seen, but this seemed to be related to the presence of aphids and scale insects. I didn't see any sign of caterpillars at first but when I checked the photos at home at maximum magnification, I could clearly see several tiny yellow-green grubs; The elusive first instar (above left). Ahh a season first. Monitoring them at every opportunity on Thursday mornings, the first pupa was photographed on the cold wet morning of 26 October.



Watch for the emerging butterflies soon. Perhaps on the next warm day.

Linda Rogan

26/10/23 The first pupa of the season

20% off End of Year Sale

Plenty of lovely plants will be available on Thursday mornings and Saturday 4 November, until the end of the year.

This includes a good supply of the *Bulbine* lilies, especially the *Bulbine semibarbata* (photos left), clumping lilies with fibrous roots that readily self seeds and can fill in spaces in the garden. This provides many flowers that are attractive to native bees. They can bloom over a long season.



These regular customers took advantage of the 20% off end of year sales. You can too.

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.

2/11/2023	Naughton Avenue	GRAY	Woody weeds - pittos, polygala, bone-seed*, agapanthus	Easy-Moderate
9/11/2023	TBA - suggest Boomers??	RANGER		
16/11/2023	Fourth Hill - Wildcat Gully	DON	Briza, Sweet vernal	Easy-Moderate
23/11/2023	Burgan Bend	PHIL	Weeding, maintenance	Easy
30/11/2023	Fourth Hill - Fiddler	DON	Briza, Sweet vernal	Easy
7/12/2023	Walert Creek	DAVID	Maintenance	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	Newsletter editor	Librarians	
editor@fowsp.org.au			John Young and Lyn Moore	
		Facebook Coordinator:		
Gray Ardern	0418 190261	Carolyn Noel 0409 901441	Market Trailer Jan Falconer	
			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Lyn Moore	0409 683 041	Wildlife rescue Victoria	Webmaster	
lynm333g@gmail.com		https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/contact-us	Jason Patton	0402 121838
			jason@parau.com	
			Manningham Council Rep	
			Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Lynda Gilbert	lindy-lou3113@gmail.com		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647	Staff Representative	FOWSP general enquiry number	1300 764 422
legality@bigpond.com				
		Lynda Chambers 0466 274421		
		phenogist@gmail.com		

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

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 13 February 2024

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Weed Watch

Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera

Boneseed is a highly invasive weed, well-known to TAGers and weeders around southeast Australia. I first grappled with this woody, erect shrub in the early 2000s when weeding in the Plenty Gorge where it was thick on steep banks and suppressed native vegetation. Originating in South Africa, it has been in Australia since 1856.

'Boneseed is spread by seed only. Germination is promoted by fire, soil disturbance, weathering and ingestion of seeds by animals. Most seed is dispersed by animals such as foxes and birds or through water. Seeds may also be spread in soil stuck to vehicles and equipment.'

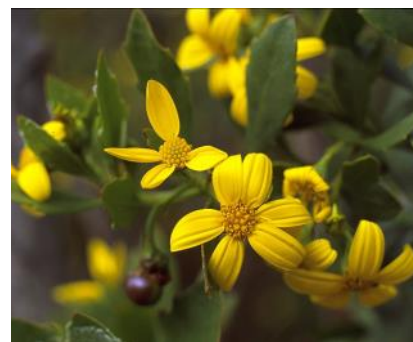
Learn to recognize this in early stages, such as photo below left, when it is easy to pull out.

Linda R



Left-The younger stems and leaves with a covering of cottony down (Photo: Sheldon Navie)

Right-Flower heads with 5-8 petals photo Nick Pitsas, [CSIRO](https://www.csiro.au)



Reference and further reading:

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weeds-information/boneseed>

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

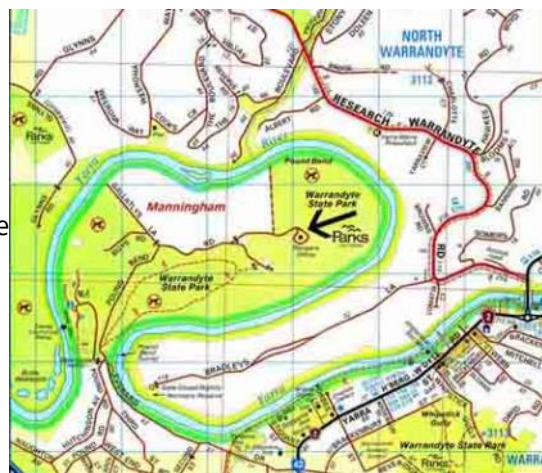
the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 2pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) April to November only.

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
Plus special end of year sales

Prices will increase in 2024
Members \$2.50 Non-members \$3.00



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Banyule
CITY COUNCIL



<https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/news/spring-outdoors-2023>



Manningham Indigenous led cultural walk

Thu, 2 Nov 2023 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM AED

Wittons Reserve Canoe Launch

59 Reserve Road Wonga Park, VIC 3115

Come join Wurundjeri man Thane Garvey-Gannaway as he shares stories about cultural life along Birrarung (Yarra River) and how traditional owners cared for the landscape.

Thane will guide you through some of the area's local historical significance, highlighting the importance of connecting with Country together with a local knowledge of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture.

What to bring

Please bring suitable clothing and footwear to be walking on Country during this event. Snacks are not provided. Please bring food and drinks if needed.

Please note: Places are limited and bookings are essential.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/manningham-cultural-walk-tickets-689814653197?aff=oddtcreator>



Yarra River tracking - Nature walk

Wed, 15 Nov 2023 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM AEDT

Explore a stunning reach of the Yarra River enjoying spectacular views as we rock hop over the escarpment and then along the gentler banks. Here we will see the results of 25+ years of rehabilitation of wildlife habitat.

This walk starts and finishes at different locations, so will involve a car shuttle with fellow walkers.

Walk is 4.5km over 3 hours. Parts of the trail are not on a flat walking track and involve good balance and rock hopping, please consider your ability to complete the walk, being mindful the group will need to keep a steady pace to complete it in allocated time.

Wear solid walking shoes, weather appropriate clothing, a hat and sunscreen.

Participants must provide a mobile number.

This walk involves a participant car shuttle.

Location will be given upon registration.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/yarra-river-tracking-nature-walk-tickets-698218920587>

Plenty River - iNaturalist Guided Walk for the Great Southern BioBlitz

Saturday, 25 November 2023

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Moola Close Carpark2 Moola Close Yallambie, VIC, 3085 Australia ([map](#))

Come and discover some of the natural wonders of the local Plenty River with Zoologist, John Harris.

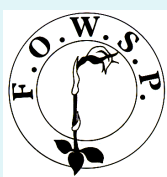
As part of the Great Southern BioBlitz, John and Council staff will start the day off with a brief introduction and training session in the use of iNaturalist.



The walk along the Plenty River will be a slow amble, aimed at pointing out all the interesting local plants and animals and giving you an opportunity to make observations on iNaturalist.

<https://spring-outdoors.squarespace.com/events/plenty-river-inaturalist-guided-walk-for-the-great-southern-bioblitz>

Observations made on the day, go a long way to helping local land managers understand the areas biodiversity values. You will also be helping Banyule to compete in this year's Great Southern BioBlitz



Please sign up for FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on the FOWSP trailer

On 7 October 2023

Jan Falconer, Marion Thomson, Jeff Cranston, Chantelle Weldon and especially to Chris Kay who did a double shift and to Steve Anderson and Louise Clear for responding to the last minute call for help.

And also to Artur Muchow and Don Vincent 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: 4 November and 2 December 2023



Birthday Serenades



Firstly we sang with Kay for her birthday. She graciously directed the choir. The following week, Gray kicked off the chorus for his own, record-breaking 78th birthday which we celebrated with some exceptional Guinness gingerbread.

On the latter morning we all had to detour via the back road while a crew replaced electricity power poles.



Eastern Dolomites spectacular and strenuous

A final instalment of Carolyn and Don's Italy trip (previously reported in September newsletter)

The Eastern Dolomites, close to the Austrian border in the region known as Sud Tyrol. The never-ending spectacular alpine scenery made it difficult to avoid gawking and stay on the precipitous mountain roads. The colourful and clean villages nestled in the valleys are bases for alpine activities and packed with tourists all year round.



Carolyn admiring the Tre Cime view



Dwarf Alpenrose and Mountain-Avens

We saved the most stupendous and strenuous one-day walk till the latter part of our trip – Tre Cime or Three Peaks. A circuit takes us over gravelled tracks and steep zigzags around the peaks. The track was interspersed at the lower levels with uneven meadows in full bloom with a great diversity of wildflowers. Dwarf Alpenrose (*Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*) and Mountain-Avens (*Dryas octopetala*) were typical.

The upper

slopes were largely scree with the track crossing the occasional snowdrift or wooden bridge (I use the term bridge loosely), with virtually no plant growth. A feature of walking in these areas though, are the welcoming rifugias (or stone refuges with food and drink, some with accommodation) which kept us refreshed through the walk.

Thank you Don for sharing these travels with us.



Somewhat hazardous traverse..

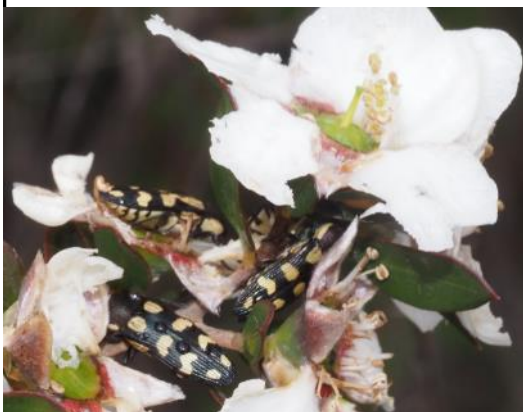


Closer to home, just up the fire trail from Koornong, Don photographed the impressive bright twisted moth *Parepisparis lutosaria*. This one appears to be a male with feathery antennae and rather thin body. Caterpillars are thought to feed on Eucalypts.

Why insects gather

If you find native bees about 1 cm long with white hair bands on their abdomen in numbers in dandelion blooms and other yellow daisies, they most likely to be male *Lasioglossum* species and likely the woolly sweat bee *Lasioglossum lanarium*. I am not certain about species in the photo right but pretty certain they have chosen to rest overnight protected by the warmth of the dandelion, which closes up at night. They will depart when hit by the warmth of the sun.

The ten-spotted jewel beetles *Castiarina decemmaculata* I photographed on Mt Zero (photo below) are gathered for another reason. They are feeding on the petals of the *Leptospermum turbinata*. The plant shows well in the photo on the back cover.



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

The wood duck family parade welcomed me when I detoured into the nursery the morning the usual track was closed. Except for the male, they were nearly camouflaged on the wet track.



Two more treats from Mt Zero

First is the flat rusty-hood *Pterostylis planulata*. It occurs in western Victoria between Halls Gap and Kaniva and in SA just near the border with Victoria. I reliably find it along the Mt Zero walking track.

Second, one of the largest of Victoria's jewel beetles *Stigmodera macularia*, which I found on the

large blooms of *Leptospermum turbinata* (below left). Lastly, one additional treat from the night time Eltham copper butterfly larva count, was this lovely blue green emerald moth in the genus *Chlorocoma*.

Linda Rogan



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



Leptospermum turbinata
at Mount Zero,
Grampians, October
2023