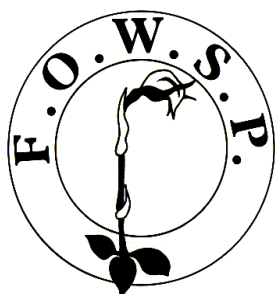


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Once more, FOWSPians have gathered for the AGM, in fine weather, at the wonderful bushland setting now found around the Folly. Reports and a few photos are found on pp.1,2,3

Rumour has it that some sugar gliders also watched on from the folly rafters but no one has yet produced photos as evidence.



The bushland around the Folly is surely one of the best venues possible for an AGM

Progress in Frogland is reported on p. 4 and in the pollinator garden p.6.

What is bright red, stellar and stinks? See Alwynne's find on p. 5.

Page 6 shows visitors to the pollinator garden. We also look forward to a special feature on this garden in 2024.

The story of Pound Bend's Imperial Blue Butterflies continues on p. 7.

Recent TAGs are reported on p. 8 and a visit to Bendigo area on p.9. Snippets from Linda R on p. 10 and Joy Hicks p. 11. Lastly...



**Happy holiday wishes
to all Fowspians**

**Deadline for December edition newsletter is
Friday 17 November 2023**

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

FOWSP AGM 19 November 2023

As always, we thank Parks Victoria, particularly Warren Murphy and his team of Rangers - especially our invaluable Contact Ranger Phil and the ever-willing Col Bromiley.



Gray led off with the year in review

This year we have seen big changes: Lyndy Gilbert, our treasured former treasurer has left us - she has left both Warrandyte and the office of FOWSP Treasurer, and has been succeeded by Tony Oliver.

We thank Lyndy Gilbert for her many years of tireless, multifaceted service, and wish her well for her post-Warrandyte life - and we hope it is far less hectic!

We warmly welcome Tony, and look forward to a long and profitable association with him. Thanks for coming on board, Tony!

Another big change that is taking place is Linda Rogan's retirement from the Committee and from editing the Newsletter. She does intend to continue her work in Frogland though, so we can

be assured of seeing her regularly. Heartfelt thanks, Linda for the many years of producing a succession of beautiful, informative newsletters.

John Young has volunteered to take over the Newsletter. Will John's Newsletters reflect his enthusiasm for birds, as Linda's reflected her enthusiasm for insects? We look forward to them, whatever the new theme might be. Thank you John.

Since Lyndy's departure, Sybille Ims has taken on the task of organising Thursday morning teas - including whipping up all manner of novel treats. Kay Williams has been Sybille's able and reliable offside. Thank you Sybille! Thank you Kay!

Uppermost in our minds at the moment is the unfolding Pump Drama. Josh and Col have kept the ancient pump going for decades, but recently it failed beyond even their efforts to keep it going. As everybody would appreciate, a reliable supply of water is absolutely essential for our nursery, so the breakdown of the pump was an emergency.

Col and Josh were first on the scene, soon joined by Jason Patton and Kelvin Watkins.

Col did his Coldstream Cider Man impersonation, wading deep into fast-flowing water, and I understand the aforementioned men removed the pump from the motor and the plumbing. Jason then took it to a pump specialist to distant Mordialloc, where it was pronounced dead on arrival.

The long and short of it is that a new pump was ordered from Queensland, and is soon to be installed. Needless to say we are extremely grateful to the aforementioned men - and also to the City of Manningham, for their contribution of \$1000 towards the cost of the replacement pump.

I've mentioned Josh, our nursery manager (photo next page), a couple of times already, but I just want to emphasise how grateful we are for all that he does for us, in his cheerful unassuming way. I'd also like to thank Lynda Chambers, our nursery assistant for service beyond the call of duty.

As I say every year, thanking people is a thankless task, as I will inevitably forget somebody, and even if I didn't, there are always more people to thank for contributing to the great year that we have had.

Gray



Lyndy Gilbert delivered report for the financial year for the last time

TAG Report for 2023

2023 has been a very busy year for the Thursday Activity Group. By year end we will have conducted 51 TAGs, of which 20 were led by either Phil or Cam to many of the approximately 95 fenced enclosures in the Warrandyte State Park. Highlights are always trips to Pauline Toner Reserve and Morrison's in Eltham, Boomers Reserve in Panton Hill, the various enclosures on Fourth Hill, the Mullum Mullum area in Donvale, and recently added Flora Cres in St Andrews. We hope to get out to Spadoni's in Yarra Glen this coming week – new to many of us. Other areas regularly attended are Longridge Farm, Rifle Range, Walert Creek, and especially here on Pound Bend to maintain the many plantings and enclosures.

The TAG program is established to fit with the seasons and the weather situation. Typically we plant in winter and early spring, and this year we were able to do some late plantings due to a wet October. Grassy weeding is typically late spring when they can be identified. Woody weeds and other maintenance and fencing is tackled in summer and autumn.

A particular challenge that has increased in recent years is deer and wallaby damage to planting. Eucalypts and acacias are particularly susceptible and the use of the taller black polyethylene guards is no protection. We are having to focus on planting in the fenced enclosures, and we are in the process of trialing enlarged guards to try and increase our rate of getting plants to maturity. We treat every plant we get from the nursery as precious, as we know the effort that has gone into their production. Hence, we are carefully planting and allowing for follow up watering, as well as increasing our focus on maintenance of previous plantings.

The TAGers are a very enthusiastic lot, and energetically attack every task, especially some of the more difficult ones I think are more difficult. TAGs are very productive, but the task is increasing all the time.

Thanks to Josh for his guidance and, to both Josh and Lynda for keeping us supplied with appropriately selected plants for our planting expeditions.

Much appreciation to Phil for his coordination and leading of the TAGs to the Parks enclosures, with interesting background information, and plant identification. Apologies to him for when we got a bit too enthusiastic with the weeding and our poor plant identification! Thanks also to Cam for his outings and chats, especially showing us hand pollination of rare orchids and explaining the symbiotic relationships of the orchids in their environment.



Also thanks to, initially Lyndy, and later, Sybille with Kay's assistance, for the delicious morning teas provided throughout the year. Woe betide a TAG leader who delayed morning tea after 11.00 am. They would be threatened with grumbles of a potential mutiny! Even when Sybille was away, she had prepared and dated food for the whole time. We did get a bit lost without her sometimes, and once we opened a dip container at morning tea only to find last week's rubbish in it – a banana peel and used tea bags!

Don

Josh delivers the nursery report with many thanks to Lynda and volunteers.

Water for Frogland

Marie, Chris and Linda are pleased to note that we have been able to defeat the majority of weeds from the lower half of Frogland and many additional plants have been planted. The new plants usually require follow up watering which until recently required carting water a long distance from the tap beside the top pond. In November we were very pleased to find that mysteriously three additional taps have appeared in the lower area of Frogland. That brings our water much closer to most of the new planting. I believe the thank you goes to Jason and Kelvin.



Above, Marie tries out the new tap on lower pathway. Left, Chris helps mulch the fenceline against weeds using Burgan which has been thinned.

The Frogland team is also pleased with progress we have made in the weedy corner which, a few years ago was full of sweet vernal and ixia bulbs. Now we see more lomandra, raspwort, native grasses and yellow rush-lilies and earlier in spring, a few tiny sun orchids. *Linda Rogan*

Also Watch for the 2024 schedule

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

7/12/2023	Walert Creek	DAVID	Maintenance	Moderate
14/12/2023	Nursery (+ Longridge agapanthus deadheading?)	JOSH	General weeding, maintenance	Easy
21/12/2023	Nursery / Pound Bend cleanup, 2024 TAG planning	JOSH	Whatever Josh says	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 2024			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
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			email	nursery@fowsp.org.au
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Caitriona Young			Newsletter assist and Librarians	Lyn Moore and John Young
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				9844 1226 or 0419 872 096
			email	trailer@fowsp.org.au
Lyn Moore	0409 683 041	Wildlife rescue Victoria https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/contact-us	Manningham Council Rep	
Robyn Hull	lynm333g@gmail.com		Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
			Facebook coordinator	
			Carolyn Noel	0409 901441
			Webmaster	
			Jason Patton	0402 121838
			jason@parau.com	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647	Staff Representative	FOWSP general enquiry number 1300 764 422	
	legality@bigpond.com	Lynda Chambers	0466 274421	pheno-gist@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, Lyn Moore

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday 13 February 2024
Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time: 17:00 sharp

Alwynne's find

While tending her part of the FOWSP garden, Alwynne was thrilled to come across some bright red, star-shaped fungi (below left). These are native stinkhorn fungi *Aseroe rubra*, first collected in southern Tasmania in 1792; probably Australia's first named fungus species. Joy reports that, true to its name, it does stink. That is how it attracts the flies which devour the brown substance containing the spores which are then spread in fly faeces. Josh came over to look and quickly found egg-shaped structures partly buried in the mulch which were the beginning of more of these fungi. Alwynne carefully dug one up and it is displayed on her glove (photo right). Of course, it was carefully returned to its strata in the mulch. Thanks to Joy for this story and photos.



While tending her part of the FOWSP garden, Alwynne was thrilled to come across some bright red, star-shaped fungi (below left). These are native stinkhorn fungi *Aseroe rubra*, first collected in southern Tasmania in 1792; probably Australia's first named fungus species. Joy reports that, true to its name, it does stink. That is how it attracts the flies which devour the brown substance containing the spores which are then spread in fly faeces. Josh came over to look and quickly found egg-shaped structures partly buried in the mulch which were the beginning of more of these fungi. Alwynne carefully dug one up and it is displayed on her glove (photo right). Of course, it was carefully returned to its strata in the mulch. Thanks to Joy for this story and photos.



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.

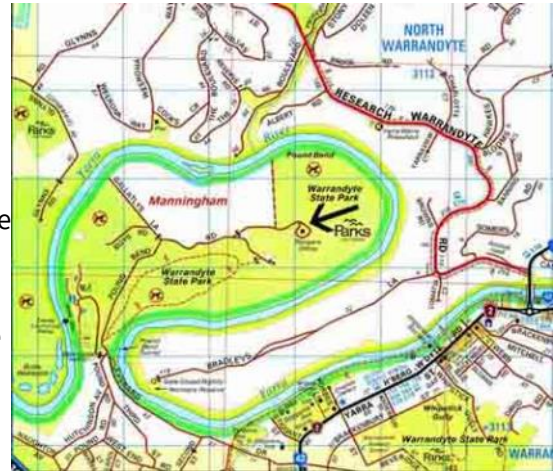
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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Visitors at the pollinator garden

There has been action in the pollinator garden in November. Carolyn has added longer posts to her garden sign while keeping the old posts with bees already in nesting holes. Of course, the new posts include ready made nesting holes as well (below left) In photo left Carolyn shows the bee posts to Jenny Thynne, a native bee enthusiast and photographer from Brisbane. Jenny visited Linda Rogan on 9 November. There were signs of activity by resin bees but no active bees were seen that day.

Later in the month Linda was able to capture some shots of a resin bee sealing off her nesting hole (below right). This resin been has been identified on iNaturalist as

Megachile heriadiformis
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/191892848>
Linda Rogan



The Imperial Blue Butterfly revisited 2023 continued from November news

Last month, page 3 ended with 'Watch for the emerging butterflies soon. Perhaps on the next warm day'.



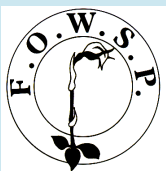
Well here they are! Adults, first for this season, were photographed by me on 16 November on the way to Frogland. Three individuals on two different *Acacia mearnsii* were seen that day. The following week, there were adults on several of these *Acacia mearnsii* with three together on one (photo left).

So far I had seen these colonies on three *Acacia* species in Pound Bend namely *A. dealbata*, *A. mearnsii* and *A. Melanoxylon*. Therefore I was very excited to find a colony with an adult on a young *Acacia pycnantha* (photo back cover).



That day I was also pleased to photograph an adult which opened its wings, only for an instant but fortunately just when my camera flash was triggered resulting in the photo right. With this photo, it is easier to see why these butterflies are called the Imperial Blue Butterfly.

Linda Rogan



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 4 November 2023
**Christine Andell, Chris Kay, Marion Thomson,
 Pam Von Drehnen, Marie Krause, Jeff Cranston,
 Lyn Moore and Chantelle Weldon**



Special thanks to **Artur Muchow** who transported the market trailer.

The Warrandyte 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: Saturdays, 2 December, 3 February 2023

November 2023 TAGS

TAGs over the past month were a continuation of our spring onslaught against invasive weeds. At Morrison's in Eltham on 26th October, led by Phil and Cam, the initial attack was to find *Disa bracteata*, the South African weed orchid. Fortunately, after a couple of years of attention by Parks rangers, contractors and previous FOWSP TAGs, we found only one patch that demonstrated the value of regular vigilance. We followed this up with weeding of sweet vernal and briza in the Disa patrol and grassy weeds in Latrobeana fence, named after the presence of the clover glycine (*Glycine latrobeana*) Cam also led us



Round-leaf pomaderris
Pomaderris vacciniifolia

to the last inner Melbourne population of the round leaf pomaderris (*Pomaderris vacciniifolia*) which was in flower.



Deyeuxia quadriseta (above)

Two TAGs to Fiddler Fence and Wildcat Fence on 2nd and 9th November completed intensive weeding of, again, briza and sweet vernal in these valued exclosures on Fourth Hill. We were fortunate to have a good identification by Geoff of the local *Deyeuxia quadriseta*, reed bent-grass, so that we didn't capture that by confusing it with the sweet vernal.

Lastly, we tackled Burgan Bend in Jumping Creek Reserve on 16th November, to thin out increasingly dense burgan, tackle sweet vernal, and commence increasing the height of the exclosure fencing with Phil. We were pleased to see a good patch of flowering *Chiloglottis valida* or large bird orchids.

Chiloglottis valida (below)



Thanks to Don for the photos and report.



Phil, Brian and Kelvin working on the gate.



Linda and Peter's Bendigo on cup weekend



Taking the opportunity to explore Bendigo's expanded botanic gardens (photo left and above), we found the two hectare contemporary gardens adjacent to the original, was opened in 2018. It features a mix of native and exotic plants chosen for their ability 'to respond to the challenges of climate change'. An area near the amenities and restaurant area (above right) was planted with indigenous grasses, bulbine lilies and other ground flora many in bloom.

Bendigo is surrounded by many large bushland and habitat reserves, which we were keen to explore. We took a hike in an area near the Crusoe reservoir. Although much of this area was dry, I was surprised by the many large blue finger flowers *Cheiranthra linearis* were in fresh bloom (left). As the morning was cool, several of them had roosting male woolly sweat bees still napping (photo below left).



In the late afternoon and evening, we joined members of the Entomological Society of Victoria for a light-trapping night at The Tower picnic area at One Tree Hill. Wildflowers attracting insects included *Wahlenbergia*, *Brunonia*, *Xerochrysum*, species plus the honey myrtle *Melaleuca decussata*. Many interesting insects came to the light sheet as well.

Linda Rogan



Beware this caterpillar

On a Eucalyptus trunk just near the Tunnel car park last Cup Day was this white stemmed gum moth *Chelepteryx collesi* caterpillar. Its tufts of red, barbed hairs can lodge painfully in human skin and are difficult to remove. This one is only about 7 cm but they can grow up to 12 cm in length before pupating and are Australia's largest caterpillar.

Frogland top pound

Bright yellow water poppies made a show in Frogland's top pound on 30 November after Chris and Marie removed some of the weeds.



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.'

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

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

Joy and Barrie have visitor's at Wedderburn and Eltham

Joy reports the surprise of seeing this impressive reptile, likely the sand monitor or sand goanna *Varanus gouldii*, while gazing out their kitchen window in Wedderburn. Although this is one of the most common goannas across Australia, some of us are more used to seeing the lace monitor *Varanus varia* in the well timbered areas often in campgrounds.



View from Joy and Barry's kitchen window in Wedderburn above and left



From her Eltham home, Joy reports she was startled by movement in the garden where she had recently repotted a *Brachyscome multifida*. She was surprised to see this echidna (right) feeding on ants it had exposed by moving the pot.



It was sitting on top of the blue-stone retaining wall so close she couldn't resist a gently exploratory pat to see how those spines might feel.



Lastly, at the Folly on Saturday 2 Dec. a ringtail possum peeked out of the nesting box to see what Joy was up to (photo left).

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



Jalmenus evagoras
The imperial blue butterfly
On *Acacia pycnantha* at the tunnel
car park November 2023
See also p. 7.