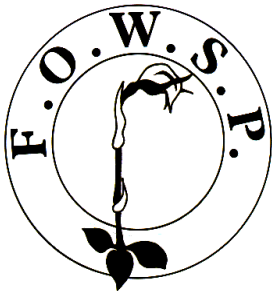


# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



## Newsletter

Website: [www.fowsp.org.au](http://www.fowsp.org.au)

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113  
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

### Editor's Corner

A change in Editor as Linda takes a well-earned break from the monthly routine of producing this newsletter. I'm sure everybody in FOWSP joins me and the committee in thanking her for her wonderful service. She'll have more time now to see those bugs and butterflies that have graced our pages.

I'm John Young and a number of you will know me from volunteering on Thursdays. Unlike Linda, though, I'm not really interested in bugs. Birds and orchids are my thing so expect to see articles on them. In this edition I've written an article on my recent trip to the Iron Range NP in Cape York (pp 2 and 3). Not all about birds as there were snakes and frogs in abundance. (By the way, keep sending stuff on any wildlife you encounter!).

On this page, we have a Blue-banded Bee (*Amegilla cingulata*) found by Lynda Chambers in Park Orchards and I've included a bit of info taken from [www.aussiebee.com.au](http://www.aussiebee.com.au).

On page 4, I've included a section called *Around The Traps*, which, hopefully, will keep you up to date with what's happening around the nursery.

Page 8 has a review of the TAG team's activities over the past few weeks and page 9 has an article by Linda on some butterfly action by the Pound Bend car park.



Blue-banded Bees are solitary bees. Each female bee mates and then builds a solitary nest in a shallow burrow in clay soil or sometimes in mud-bricks. Many Blue Banded Bees may build their nest burrows in the same spot, close to one another, like neighbouring houses in a village.

These bees can perform a special type of pollination called '[buzz pollination](#)'. Some flowers hide their pollen inside tiny capsules. A Blue-banded Bee can grasp a flower and shiver her flight muscles, causing the pollen to shoot out of the capsule. Quite a few of our native Australian flowers require buzz pollination, e.g., *Hibbertia*, *Senna*.

**Deadline for April's edition newsletter is**

**Friday March 15, 2024**

contributions can be emailed to John Young [editor@fowsp.org.au](mailto:editor@fowsp.org.au)  
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

## Cape York in "Green Season"

Mid-January saw me flying from Cairns to Lockhart River on the Cape York eastern coast. At that time of year, it is the wet or "green season," named I think because, whilst we were mainly interested in the rainforest, a good deal of Cape York is dry for 8 months of the year and is very desiccated scrub before the rains come.

Lockhart River is the most northerly community of any size on the eastern coast and has an airport, hospital, and school for the local Indigenous people. It is also the main access point to the Iron Range NP and THE place to go if you want to see the Cape York specialities, either in the dry or wet.

Not just birds. Alongside another birding group, there were people after snakes, frogs, and any insects around. We, however, were after 3 species of bird that migrate from New Guinea to breed during the wet season and disappear before most visitors arrive. Of course, there are quite a few Cape York indigenous birds to find as well. The most well known is the Palm Cockatoo, Australia's largest parrot, and also the Eclectus parrot that can only be found up here.

It was quite an adventure. After a week of no rain ('Murder', said our guide - 35°C and 100% humidity), it rained buckets for some part of each day of the week I was there. Still, plenty of time to find birds but rising creeks and flooded roads curtailed some of our expeditions. A lot cooler, though with temperatures in the high 20's, so that was a relief.

Bird watching in a rainforest is very difficult. Generally, you have to rely on birds coming to the edge of the road or flying over. To find some of the more unusual species, we used call back. This is a somewhat controversial issue among bird watchers as you have no real idea what the recorded call is saying to the bird. Certainly, too much call back is frowned on but in the conditions we encountered, it was an absolute necessity on occasion.

I managed to get photos of the three green-season birds, and you can see them embedded in this article. You can also see that they are partly eclipsed by foliage as I'm trying to photograph them between layers of vines and branches. None of these birds



Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher  
(*Tanysiptera sylvia*)



Papuan (Red-bellied) Pitta  
(*Pitta erythrogaster*)



Black-winged Monarch  
(*Monarcha frater*)

ever came out of hiding, at least for us.

Back in Cairns, I was joined by Caitriona who had travelled up from Melbourne by plane and train. She says the train journey from Brisbane to Cairns is wonderful and highly recommended. Lots of rain there as well (and it was hot!) but no real evidence of the recent cyclone (except the rail to Kuranda, which is out of action for the foreseeable future). Cairns is a great place to visit, though. We've been a number of times and we'll be back.

John Young



Hercules Moth (*Coscinocera hercules*) on a fellow birder's leg for scale



In a country famous for its parrots, here are a couple that are endemic to Cape York. Above, the Palm Cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*), mentioned earlier. An unusual shot, in that it is on the ground.

Below, a juvenile Red-cheeked Parrot (*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*) normally glimpsed flashing through the trees at a rate of knots.



Green Tree Python (*Morelia viridis*)



White-lipped Green Tree Frog (*Nyctimystes infrafrenatus*)

## Around The Traps



### Birthday Thursday

Sybillie is starting a BirthdayThursday on the lastThursday of each month. The plan is to celebrate all volunteers at FOWSP who have or had a birthday that month. In 2024, birthdays were kicked off with Carol's on the first and Linda's on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January.



Lythrum in stunning bloom at FOWSP and this is a great place to look out for native bees on a warm day.



### Interesting find in Frogland

This deceptive moth appears to be entirely tan until the hind wing is in sight. With a wingspan of about 50 mm, it is a Fallen Bark Looper or Beautiful Leaf Moth (*Gastrophora henricaria*). *Gastrophora* is a monotypic moth genus in the family Geometridae. This, its only species, is found in the south-east corner of Australia. Both the genus and species were first described by Achille Guenée in 1857.

The larvae feed on *Eucalyptus* species and *Lophostemon confertus*, which is native to northern NSW and Queensland and a street tree in Melbourne.



Adult Sawfly availing itself of water on a wet dish cloth. Seen on a member's washing line. Photographed any of our wonderful insect life? If so, send a copy to the editor (details on page 5).

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2024		OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
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Jeff Cranston 0418 396 647 legality@bigpond.com	Staff Representative  Lynda Chambers 0466 274421 phenologist@gmail.com	<u>Facebook coordinator</u> Carolyn Noel 0409 901441	

**Newsletter Team this month:** John Young, Lyn Moore

<b>Next Committee Meeting</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday March 12, 2024
<b>Venue:</b>	Education Centre or Zoom Pound Bend
<b>Time:</b>	17:00 sharp

**Are your subs due??**

**Please check the message on the email you receive with the newsletter link by scrolling down beyond the 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](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](http://www.fowsp.org.au) with the option of direct deposit payment.

## 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.

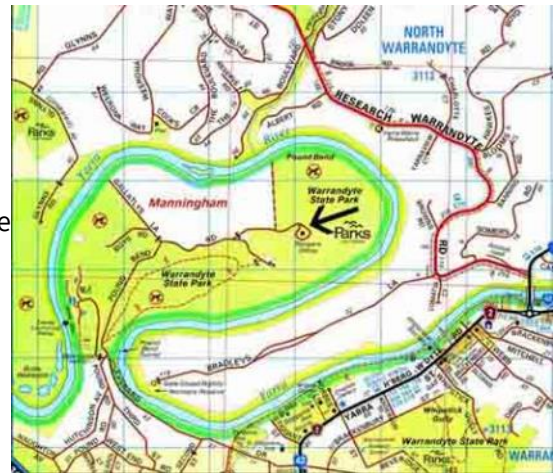
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (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 \$2.50      Non-members \$3.00



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**Banyule**  
CITY COUNCIL



**Nillumbik**  
The Green Wedge Shire



**MANNINGHAM**

### **Gardening with Indigenous Plants**

Next date: Saturday, 20 April 2024 | 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

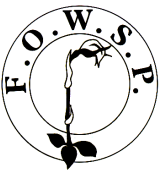
(two more planned for 2024)

Where: Edendale Community Environment Farm, 30 Gastons Road, Eltham, 3095

Join local plant expert Fiona Cross and learn about the indigenous plants of Nillumbik. Find out which plants best suit your garden and gain planting and care information so that you can "Live Local, Plant Local".



The Market Trailer is back at Stiggants Reserve on Warrandyte Market days. It acts as a prime advertising space for FOWSP and we get many enquiries during the morning. Many thanks to those who volunteer but I'm sure Jan Falconer, who acts as co-ordinator, would appreciate **MORE PEOPLE COMING FORWARD**. It involves one hour on Market mornings, with one other person. So, if you can help, contact Jan (details below).



## FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 3 February 2024, **Christine Andell, Chris Kay, Pam von Drehnen, Marie Kruse, Jeff Cranston, Lyn Moore and Chantelle Weldon.**



Special thanks to **John Young** 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](mailto:trailer@fowsp.org.au)**  
*First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

**Next market dates are:**  
Saturday, 2 March 2024  
Saturday, 6 April 2024

## TAGs in 2024



Above: Robyn, Cam, Don and Barrie preparing the orchid bed. Photo: Judith Willetts

After the wet late spring and summer and the substantial growth in our bushland, this early period was focused on maintenance.

On 25 January we attended Boomers Reserve, initially to progress our *Cassinia* thinning to improve habitat for orchids and ground level plants. We joined Cam Beardsell in preparing planting beds for the critically endangered Charming Spider Orchid (*Caladenia amoena*). We also spotted a late-flowering Christmas Hills Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia porcata*), a rare and local species.

On 1 February we conducted a long-overdue assessment and maintenance of the eight 10x10 metre deer exclosures on Endeavour Bank. The exclosures were built and planted over about a five-year period with the most recent two years old. We were pleasantly surprised at the survival rate of plants, after some initial losses. Typically, pomaderris, goodenia, lomandra and some acacia were more successful than the eucalypts. Many plants had small guards as well, which kept the rabbits at bay. We removed unnecessary guards, weeded and tended the exclosures and other external plantings, noting areas we could replant come winter.

On 8 February, we again joined Cam Beardsell to revisit Dodds St exclosures at St Andrews. One of the exclosures has about half the remaining global population of Wine-lipped Spider Orchid

(*Caladenia oenochila*). We spent the morning clearing the substantial leaf litter in the enclosure to improve the environment for the orchids (reduce millipede habitat as well as leaf cover generally) and prepare for a future environmental burn.

Don Vincent



Above: Robyn and Dave in foreground collecting leaf litter. Brian and Kelvin behind.



## Perfect start to the day

It was 9am on a Thursday when I pulled into the Pound Bend carpark, slowing to a crawl as I was jolted by the speed bumps and stopped at the end nearest the tunnel. Birds were calling and the sun was starting to shine through the trees. It was just a few steps to the *Acacia* species where last week I photographed some mature-appearing butterfly pupae and I hoped the two hot days since hadn't cooked them. They were Imperial Blue (Hairstreak) butterflies (*Jalmenus*



A golden wattle studded with pupae and fresh adult butterflies

*evagoras*).

Approaching, I was thrilled to see that one of the golden wattles (*Acacia pycnantha*) was studded not only with shining pupal cases and the protective ants but glorified by at least seven adult butterflies. As I watched and photographed, a sunbeam struck some of them and they slowly turned and opened their wings to absorb the warmth.



Some of you will remember the photos of these butterflies in the November and December 2023 FOWSP newsletter. I was thrilled to be able to confirm these are at least the second generation for this season.

Driving on to FOWSP I felt enchanted, a feeling which stayed with me while I joined my hard working colleagues for the mornings' work at Frogland near the FOWSP nursery.

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.

Check the website for any changes at <http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php>

4/4/24	Fourth Hill—Whipstick Gully	Don/Gray	Woody weeds pittosperum etc.	Moderate
11/4/24	Morrison's—early hill fence	Phil/Cam	Veg thinning—debris removal	Moderate
18/4/24	Harding—Red Beard fence	Phil	Weeding / planting	Easy / moderate
25/4/24	No TAG—ANZAC day			
2/5/24	Pauline Toner Reserve	Phil/Cam	Planting	Easy Moderate