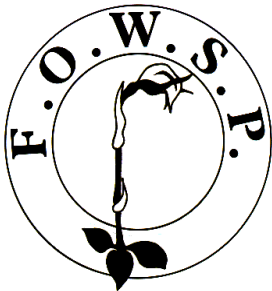


April 2024

Volume 42 Number 3

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

In this edition, we feature orchids (p.2), moths (p.3) and some of our beautiful local butterflies (p.12). TAG activities are covered on pp. 10 and 11.

In addition, there is a feature on the Anderson Creek regeneration project (pp. 6 and 7) and an interesting article from Barry Taylor, who attended a Revegetation Conference last month (p. 12).

Round the Traps is on p.4 and there is the first of what I hope will be a series of snapshots of FOWSP activities at the nursery (p.5). This month we are featuring the stock plant area at the southern end. Most visitors (and indeed some volunteers) never venture into this vital component of our activity.

Finally, I'm grateful to all who sent in photos and words enabling me to produce this newsletter.

John Young



Eltham Copper Butterfly (*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*). See TAG article (p.10)

Photo: Joy Hick

Tax deductible donations to FOWSP:

As a member of Landcare Victoria Inc. we are able to receive tax deductible donations.

It is a very simple process. Just go to the following website:

<https://www.landcarevictoria.org.au/LVI/Donate/Make%20a%20donation.aspx>

Select the amount and Friends of Warrandyte State Park as the recipient of the donation.

Now fill in the rest of the required data. You will receive your receipt in return. Your donation will help us to buy tools and equipment to support the work of our volunteers.

Thank you.

**Deadline for May's edition newsletter is
Friday April 19th, 2024**

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

Orchids in the News

Last month's newsletter featured Don Vincent's report which included reference to two orchid species that are critically endangered. Both are found in only a few areas and our State Park and environs provide a habitat for both.

Work done by the Rangers and the TAG team is, therefore, of critical importance for their preservation in providing protected areas for them to survive.

The species in question are the Charming Spider Orchid (*Caladenia amoena*) and the Wine-lipped Spider Orchid (*Caladenia oenochila*).

Caladenia orchids are a large, diverse group of about 400 species. Almost all are endemic to southern Australia, with at least 90 species in Victoria. There are six types of *Caladenia*: Fairies, Fingers, Caps, Wax-lip, Wispy and Typical Spider orchids. Both plants in discussion are of the more familiar Spider orchid group. Given that there are these six types, there is considerable debate as to whether there should be separate genera, but for now they are separated by flower form.

Typical Spider orchids have sepals and petals ending in slender tails or thickened clubs and have 4–8 rows of lamina cells on the labellum. They generally occur in coastal heath, scrubby and grassy woodlands and drier open forests. Reproduction is largely by seed and pollination is by insects, especially bees and wasps.

Caladenia amoena is confined to the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne, in the Plenty Gorge to Hurstbridge area. Records from Ballarat and St. Arnaud are from the 1930s and the species is considered extinct in these areas. It prefers ridge-tops in grassy, dry, mixed eucalypt woodlands with an understory of *Cassinia ssp* and *Acacia ssp*. Soils are generally sandy to clay loams and flowers are seen in August and September.

Caladenia oenochila is patchily distributed in Victoria but, as Don's article says, most of the population is in our area. The habitat is similar to *C. amoena*, alt-



Wine-lipped Spider Orchid
(*Caladenia oenochila*)

though it can be found in more gravelly soil. It flowers slightly later than *C. amoena*, in September and October.

Both these orchids are being grown at the RBG Cranbourne as part of their programme to re-introduce threatened orchid species into suitable habitat. It's an extensive programme and let's wish it every success.



Charming Spider Orchid
(*Caladenia amoena*)

World's largest moth?



Left: Hercules moth

Below: Larvae



One of last month's articles contained a picture of a Hercules moth (*Cosciconera hercules*) and I started wondering if this moth is the world's largest. Well, according to that great encyclopaedic source (Wikipedia), it depends.

In the mix is the Atlas moth (*Attacus atlas*), a native of Asia, which, depending on the source is either number 3 to the Hercules / White Witch or second behind the Hercules.

The Hercules moth apparently has the greatest wing surface area (300 sq.cm.) but the White Witch moth (*Thysania agrippina*), which is native to South America, has the greatest wingspan (300mm). This is compared to a mere 290mm for the Hercules moth.



Above: Atlas moth

Left: White Witch moth

Around The Traps



Birthday Thursday

We hit the jackpot in February as we celebrated Josh's birthday! (the March newsletter having already gone to press). Not sure he appreciated the attention.

Below, Kim cuts her chocolate cake, made by Sybille. Barry Taylor celebrated in absentia, Sybille making sure he took some cake for the TAG team.



During the recent hot weather, a male kangaroo took to visiting Marie's birdbath.

Have you had unusual visitors? We could run photos of interesting sightings at your bird bath

Photo: Marie Krause



Lisa and Pam were among a group collecting River Lomatia seeds (*Lomatia myricoides*) on a recent river walk.



Joy brought in an orchid for identification. We thought it was *Pterostylis revoluta*, an autumn flowering species. This was confirmed by Richard Thomson, who advised that there has been a name change to *P. ampliata*.

Photo: Joy Hick

FOWSP at work

Each month in 2024 we are going to feature an aspect of the work that goes on, both within the nursery and further afield.

This month we are featuring the stock plant area, located at the "top" end of the nursery, away from the main working area. As its description indicates, it is the area where we keep the more mature plants that we use for cuttings and seeds. There are also a number of rarer species that the nursery keeps as a back up to those found in the state park itself.

There are 2 full benches of plants plus an overflow. Kay is usually found working in this area, weeding and trimming and she'll tell you that it is a big job. There are quite a few species here and somehow the weeds thrive! For easier locating, the plants are in alphabetical order with a lettered stake.



Above: Kay at work checking the stock.
Below l-r: Views of the stock plants



Round the Traps cont'd



Joy was somewhat miffed on returning home from the nursery recently to find all her pots scattered. Closer inspection reveals the culprits!



Where do all the grasses g(r)o(w)

For quite a while your editor has been tasked with giving several thousand *Poa ensiformis* cells a regular haircut. This thankless task can be compared with painting the Harbour Bridge. Eventually, I had to ask—*Where are all these grasses going?*



The answer was they are being used to revegetate an area along Gold Memorial Drive by the Anderson Creek Landcare group. Assisted by monies from Melbourne Water, their aim is to put in up to 10000 grasses every year, as well as several hundred shrubs in areas that they have managed to remove invasive species.

In particular, they are targeting *Vinca major* (Blue periwinkle), which is a noxious weed in large areas of southern Australia. This plant favours moister areas and, so, Anderson Creek is a prime spot.

After weed clearing, ACL fill the gaps with the grass, shrubs and carefully selected trees. The result is a natural looking creekland as can be seen from the photos on the next page. The grasses, once established, clump heavily and help prevent weeds re-establishing. There is the added benefit that deer are put off from attempting to graze the area, as they see that there will be little food for them.

Up to 20 volunteers have been working this area for a number of years and the results can be clearly seen. Pictures of the area before and after have been provided by Fritz Uhl, who co-ordinates the project with Robyn Gillespie. Plantings in 2024 are planned for the winter months, usually on the third weekend.

There are 4000 *Poa ensiformis* cells on this bench!
Very much in need of a haircut before planting.



Robyn, Anne and Tracey at work separating established cells

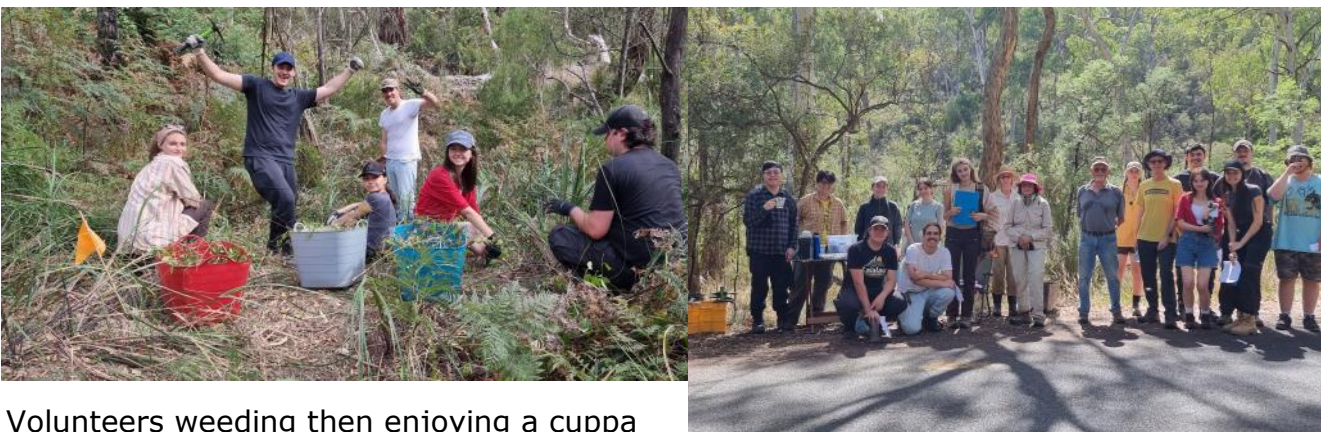
You can find out more through www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au or through their Facebook page.

All of this activity returns a lovely area of Warrandyte as near as possible to its original state. A very worthwhile and successful project.



Before (above) and after (below). The *Vinca* infestation can clearly be seen and the difference remarkable.

Photos provided by Fritz Uhl



Volunteers weeding then enjoying a cuppa

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.

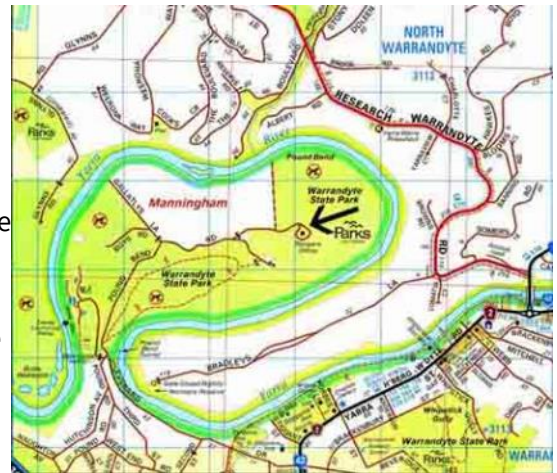
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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".

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2024		OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow 0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u> Josh Revell Nursery Phone 0408 317 327 nursery@fowsp.org.au	
Tony Oliver treasurer@fowsp.org.au	Treasurer and Membership	<u>Park Office</u> 03 8427 2132	
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Robyn Hull robynamelia@bigpond.com		<u>Webmaster</u> Jason Patton 0402 121838 webmaster@fowsp.org.au	
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

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday April 9, 2024
Venue:	Education Centre or Zoom Pound Bend
Time:	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
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.

TAGs in 2024

On 7th March Cam led the TAG group plus Graeme from Friends of Yarra Valley Parks at Pauline Toner Reserve in Eltham. As on previous visits, invasive species were removed and sweet bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) plants were pruned to promote the growth of tender new leaves close to the ground as favoured by the larvae of the Eltham Copper butterfly (*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*). Whilst walking back to the cars we were treated to a sighting of several of these butterflies; the gold patches on their wings shining in the sun. Most of the butterflies emerge in the late spring but there is also this second smaller flight in autumn.

After completing work in Eltham, more treats were in store. We drove to the old Morrison property and enjoyed a late morning tea sitting in the shade of the larger of two Portuguese oaks (*Quercus faginea*), a very rare species in Australia. Whilst we ate Cam told us of some of the fascinating history of Morrison's and pointed out other remnant trees from the William Guilfoyle designed garden that had once surrounded the house. One such tree was the huge Canary Island Oak (*Quercus canariensis*) that was dubbed The Magic Faraway Tree by children visiting in the 1960s.



The TAG team enjoying morning tea at Morrison's

Suitably fortified by morning tea, Cam led the way down to the river to show us the eel trap, exposed once again now that the water level in the Yarra has dropped. The weir of stacked stones and the two large rocks near the bank that form the entrance to the eel race were clearly visible. Cam told us that the Laughing Waters name for the area came from the shouting of aboriginal children when they were stationed along the weir to drive the eels into the race. Then, showing varying levels of agility and with some resultant wet feet we made our way on to Lyon Island below the weir where Cam pointed out the grooves in the rocks where tools were sharpened and round hollows in the rocks where grinding was done.

It was a most enjoyable and interesting TAG. Thanks Cam!

Judith Willetts



Rock hopping opportunity
(Photo: Judith Willetts)



David pointing out grooves
(Photo: Joy Hick)

TAGs in 2024 (cont'd)

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.

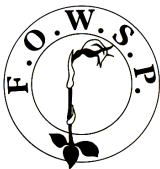
Check the website for any changes at <http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php>

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




Market trailer transport, help needed.

Every first Saturday of the month FOWSP volunteers represent our group at the Warrandyte Market.
 Help is needed to transport the trailer to and from the market.
 We still have some vacancies on that transport roster. If you have a car with a tow ball and are willing to help us please contact Artur 0415 383 328 to find out more details.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 3 February 2024, **Christine Andell, Chris Kay, Pam von Drehnen, Marion Thomson, 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:
 Saturday, 6 April 2024
 Saturday, 4 May 2024

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR)

By Barry Taylor

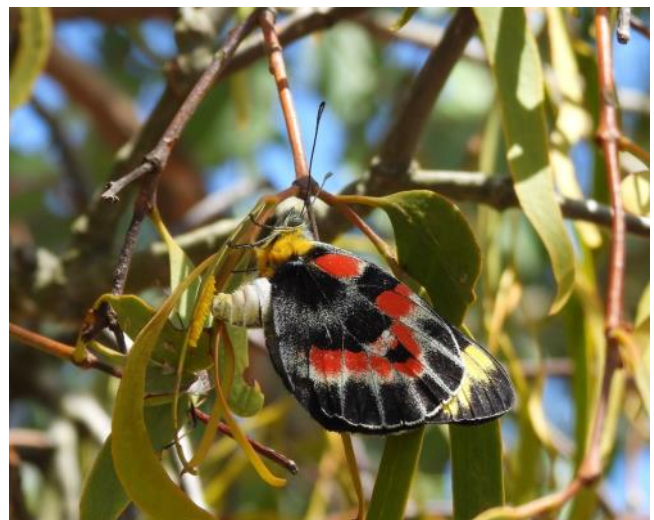
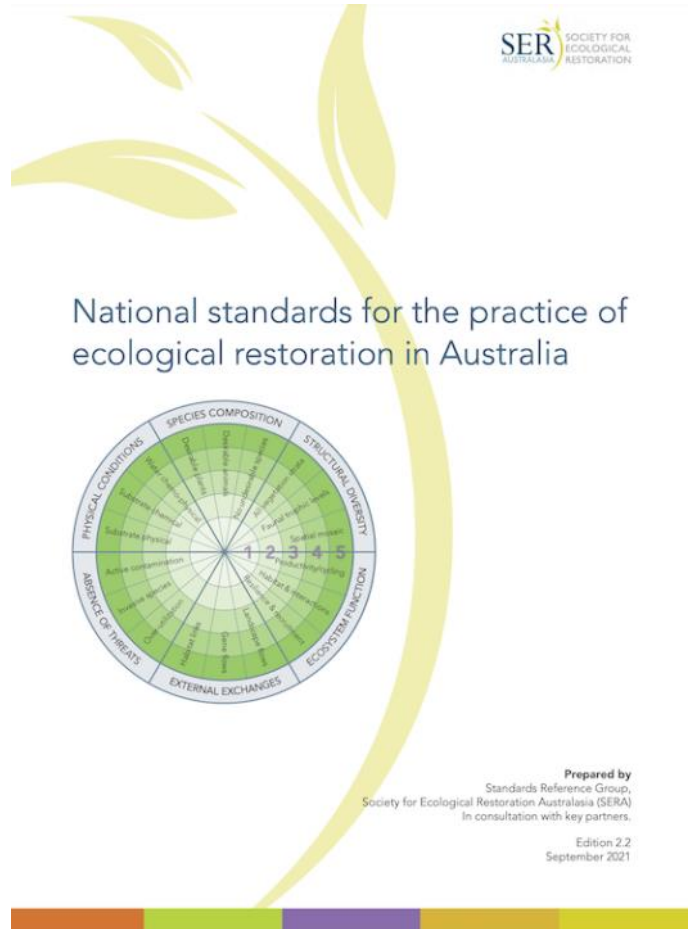
I recently attended the annual conference of the AABR in the Fitzroy Town Hall. Whilst it was predominantly industry representatives, it was refreshing for me to see an auditorium full of young people actively engaged in the bush regeneration industry.

At the conference, I discovered that the industry is classified into
 Consultants (botanists, zoologists, entomologists, ecologists)
 Contractors
 Volunteers

and the point was made that a 'Good' project allows a transparent flow of information between these 3 cohorts. The keynote speaker, Tein McDonald was a lead author of the National Restoration Standards, and the second edition was signed off by the Federal Government (Josh Frydenberg) in 2017. However, it was decided at the time that no statutes or legislation would be enacted to enforce these standards.

On returning home, I decided to find the document, which I found with Google. I was surprised at how readable and accessible the document is. In particular, the "Recovery Wheel" diagram / template impressed me as something everyone could follow no matter how big or small the project.

Time was spent discussing language and communicating with the wider community and it was suggested that the term re-wilding should fall out of favour as it implies an Australia which had no land management prior to colonisation.



Thanks to Alison Ray who sent in photos of, left, Imperial Hairstreaks (*Jalmenus evagoras*) and, right, Imperial Jezebel (*Delias harpalyce*), both on Mt.Lofty.