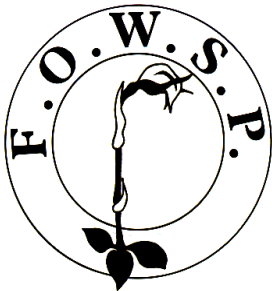


May 2024

Volume 42 Number 4

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

Hope you enjoy the May edition of the FOWSP newsletter. **Round the Traps** is on p2. An article on the propagation of cuttings for sale and restocking of the Park is on p3 and our very own festival is on p4. Linda is back and an update on Froglands is on p6.

Joy and Barry visited Pink Lakes recently and thanks for the article on p5. Joy is on mission to record as many Victorian birds as she can and mentions a few in her article. One was the Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*), below, a lovely bird but not one found around urban Melbourne unfortunately.



Continuing the bird theme, there is an ar-

ticle on the rare sighting of an American Golden Plover, which is in full breeding plumage (p9). Rare, because it has ended up here, and rarer still because vagrant waders normally arrive in our summer not in breeding mode. Generally, they are dull brown and stripey.

There was no article from the TAG team because of holidays and a short month, so I've trawled *Wikipedia* and written an article on the Wallace Line that you may find interesting (p11).

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 May 24th, 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**

Around The Traps

Birthday Thursday



The last Thursday in April was Anzac Day so no FOWSP meeting. An early cake didn't tempt any of our regulars to own up to an April Birthday. Caroline did mention Don's earlier in the month but he wasn't there.

However, Sybille produced a delicious treacle and gingerbread cake enjoyed by all.

I can guarantee there will be people to sing Happy Birthday to in May!

Cocky Covers



Last month's newsletter featured the work of the Anderson Creek Landcare group and the *Poa ensiformis* destined for replanting.

Some of local cockies had other ideas and got in through the netting. They then flung large numbers of the cells all over the place.

Thankfully we didn't lose many and, hopefully, these covers will do the trick. Let's hope so, as planting starts soon.



Stink Bugs

The same *Poa*'s are getting a bit of a working over at the moment. Linda noticed some emerging Stink Bugs (see above). Fortunately, they aren't the nasty invasive ones.



New fence and gate

Kelvin working on a new fence and gate to access plants in the area by the car-park. Much appreciated by those weed-ing and collecting seed.

FOWSP at work

The Cutting Edge

Following on from last month's article on the stock plant area, this month we feature the growing of new plants from cuttings.

Plants usually develop seeds to reproduce but it is not always easy to collect the seeds or make them germinate. Plants can also be grown on from cuttings given the right conditions. At FOWSP both methods are used, depending on the species and which method is more successful. This month we are showing the work of the two specialists in growing from cuttings, Alwynne and Louise.

Cuttings are taken from the stock plants or from around the nursery. In this regard, Froglands and Caroline's garden are very useful resources. Depending on the species, a cutting is made with 2 or 3 leaf nodes, with the leaves trimmed back so less water is needed before root strike occurs. Cuttings are dipped in hormone solution or powder and inserted in trays (see picture 1. below). The growing mix is palm peat and perlite which is soft and retains moisture readily.

Note that the cuttings are inserted close together to also preserve humidity and hence encourage root strike.



Alwynne inserting cuttings into palm peat

Depending on the species root strike can be rapid and, hopefully, vigorous root systems develop. In the next column, we see a particularly successful example

which is about to be potted on into trays of 50mm tubes (pics 2 & 3 below).



Louise shows off particularly fine root development before potting on.



Picture 4. (below) shows the area set aside for cutting development. Common species such as *Correa*, *Goodenia* and *Chrysocephalum* feature in this area as well as some of the more unusual species. FOWSP grows these on for eventual restocking in the park, rather than for general sale.



Festival Time!

A few weeks ago, Warrandyte held its annual festival. Now back in full swing, following the COVID lockdowns, the Festival date has been moved to mid April to avoid any possibility of cancellation due to hot weather. Just as well, as March had been unseasonably warm but not perhaps unusually so. Given that Total Fire Ban days may now be more frequent, a wise precaution.

This of course opened the possibility of the event being rained out but thankfully

the weather was clear after a foggy start on Saturday.

As usual, the FOWSP trailer was there and thanks to Artur for delivering it. This year, we shared the stand with the Anderson Creek Landcare group and members of both groups were in attendance on Saturday to interest people in their activities.

The Warrandyte Diary will no doubt have a lot of photos of Festival events. You never know, we may be included!



Fritz Uhl, from Anderson Creek Landcare, points out some of the publicly available material on local flora, walks other activities.

Pink Lakes, Flowers and Birds

En route to Arapiles, via the Little Desert, we stopped at Loch Iel, Pink Lake, to check for birds. Not a bird in sight, however the pink tones of the lake, were captured by iPhone!



Banksia orata



Correa reflexa



We stopped at the Kiata Hall for coffee & discovered that there's a Wimmera population of the Eltham Copper Butterfly, in Kiata. A local Landcare member has grown many hundreds of *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria) in her nursery, over several years, for reintroduction around Kiata bushland. Several well respected ecologists have also been actively involved in local bushland projects.

Next stop was the Little Desert Nature Lodge, where birds and vegetation required close attention. Scarlet Robins and Jacky Winters were competing for territory, outside our garden view room, whilst two Hooded Robins perched on a nearby feral proof fence.

Onwards to Arapiles where three Diamonds fire tails were active at Mitre Rock.
Joy & Barry



Left
Scarlet
Robin

Below:
Diamond
Firetail

Below left:
Jacky Winter



Frogland, late summer and early autumn

I returned from my tropical wet holiday in mid-March to find Frogland direly in need of good soaking rain. The team had done their best to keep survival water to the ferns and other critical plants. We all heaved a sigh of relief when April rains arrived and continued enough for us to consider starting planting again.



By mid-April, the top pond and the bathtub pond are full to the top. There is fresh growth on the *Goodenia ovata* allowing Alwynne (see photo left) a choice of material for the 'thousands of cuttings' needed of

this staple plant for revegetation projects.

On the downside, weeds of many sorts are just starting to appear. For example the weedy vetch (*Vicia* species) shown in photo below. It is advisable to dig this out, removing as much of the root systems as possible before flowering leads to seeding. This may be a bit easier when it has grown past the early seedling stage. These invasive but thin vining plants have scattered purple flowers which form small pods and quickly ripen, scattering seeds. These are widespread in Frogland.



Other tasks that have kept us busy, while weeds are hiding and it's too early for planting, are maintaining the pathways (Chris takes the lead here) and pruning where needed.

We were pleased to have a visit from members of the Hurstbridge garden club. It is always a pleasure to share the results of our efforts with like-minded people.



Correa glabra covered in luscious lime-coloured blooms.

Our most recent project has been to continue replacing the star picket posts for our plant name signs with their ugly yellow caps with wooden ones (photo below left). Kelvin and others started this some months ago and we agree they look much better (photos below).



We anticipate that, by May, weeds will be truly in evidence and planting will be possible. There is always something to be done in Frogland and we encourage anyone interested in learning about our indigenous plants and invasive weeds to give us a hand.

Linda

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.

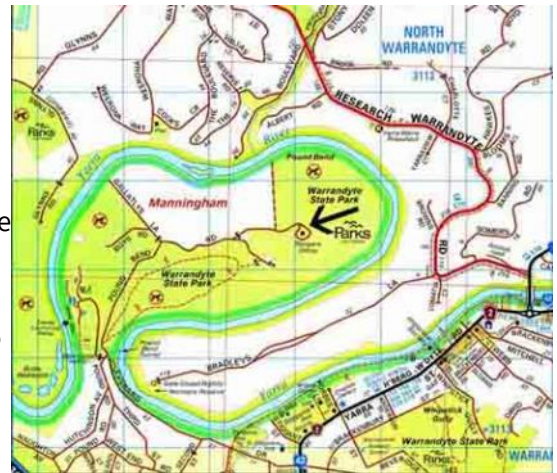
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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



Copyright 2008 Melway Publishing Pty Ltd
Reproduced from Melway Edition 36 with permission



Banyule
CITY COUNCIL



Nillumbik
The Green Wedge Shire



MANNINGHAM

Gardening with Indigenous Plants

Next date: Saturday, 27 July and 14 September

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	
John Young 0412327798 editor@fowsp.org.au	Newsletter editor	<u>Ranger contact</u> Phil Rance philip.rance@parks.vic.gov.au	
Joy Hick 0418 573916		<u>Newsletter assist and Librarian</u> Lyn Moore	
Gray Ardern 0418 190261		<u>Market Trailer</u> Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Lyn Moore 0409 683 041 lynm333g@gmail.com	Wildlife rescue Victoria https://www.wildlifelvic.org.au/contact-us	<u>Manningham Council Rep</u> Cathy Willis 0427 660 651	
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, Caitriona Young

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday May 14, 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.

Birders and Twitchers

The Age (April 29) had an article by Bianca Hall which referred to the birding community as "twitchers". It was in reference to the sighting of a mega rarity at the Western Treatment Plant. The bird in question was an American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*).

I was going to include my photo of this bird in the newsletter, but I decided to extend this to include some comments about "twitching".

Nowadays, among the bird watching community, we prefer to call ourselves birders. Twitching has become something of a pejorative term, referring generally to people who drop everything to find a new bird for their list. There are over 900 species on the official Australian list but many are vagrant or pelagic (sea) birds. To join the elite at over 800 you need to make a real effort, travel extensively and, yes, twitch.

With the advent of social media, a rarity doesn't stay hidden for long. Most birders heard about the plover over a week ago. The question was, would they go to the treatment plant to get it? What is the cost and time involved going to be? Then there is the dreaded thought—what if it's not there when I arrive?

I've got three examples of my own personal twitches.

Example 1—the American Golden Plover. This was at the WTP Werribee. It's a 75 minute drive from Warrandyte, I've got a key and a permit. So a no brainer really. However, due to family commitments, I only made it last Wednesday (Apr 24) and the next day it had gone!

Example 2 is a Nordmanns Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*). This bird has been appearing, in summer, on Cairns foreshore for the past 4 years. Cairns, though, is 3000km from Melbourne, so no go. However, this January I was in Cairns en route to the Iron Range NP so had to get it.

Example 3 is perhaps the reverse to the above. Of the 900 listed species, at least 100 are pelagic, so to see them you need to get on a boat, go out to the edge of the

continental shelf and hope the bird comes to you.

There is a lot of ocean surrounding Australia and even if you get out a lot of times, you'll not see them all. I've included my photo of a Westland Petrel (*Procellaria westlandica*), a bird that breeds in NZ and disperses to the southern oceans. A few come to the South East coast of Australia, this one off the coast near Eden, NSW.



American Golden Plover



Nordmanns Greenshank



Westland Petrel

TAGs in 2024

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>

9/5/24	Josh's Block, Buttermans Track	Josh/ Cathy	Acacia howittii and Hakea salicifolia	Mod.
16/5/24	Spadoni's, Yarra Glen	Phil/Cam	Planting & maintenance	Easy/Mod.
23/5/24	Fitzsimons wetland	Cathy	Weeding and planting	Easy
30/5/24	Burgen Bend	Phil	Orchid maintenance, Burgen thinning, weeding and planting	Easy/Mod.
6/6/24	Endeavour Bank	Artur	Exclusion maintenance	East/Mod

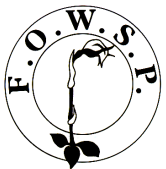


Market trailer transport, help needed.

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 6 April 2024, **Jan Falconer, Chris Kay, Pam von Drehnen, Marion Thomson, Marie Krause and Jeff Cranston.**

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, 4 May 2024

Saturday, 1 June 2024

The Wallace Line

The term **Wallace Line** or 'Wallace's Line' was first used by T.H. Huxley** in 1868 and refers to the boundary that separates the ecozones of Asia and Australasia. The transitional zone is sometimes called *Wallacea*.

Plants and animals related to Asian species are found to the north-west. Australasian species are found mainly to the south-east, with some Asian species. The line is named after Alfred Russel Wallace*, who noticed this clear dividing line during his travels through the East Indies in the 19th century.

The line runs through Indonesia, between Borneo and Sulawesi (Celebes); and through the Lombok Strait between Bali (in the west) and Lombok (in the east).

The distance between Bali and Lombok is only about 35 kilometres. Surprisingly, the distributions of many bird species observe the line, because many birds do not cross even the smallest stretches of open ocean water. So, for example, there are no woodpeckers in Australasia and, similarly, there are no honeyeaters as we know them here, in Asia.

Some bats have distributions that cross the Wallace Line, but other mammals are generally limited to one side or the other. So, placental mammals such as apes, cats, elephants and rhinoceros are in Asia; marsupials and monotremes are in Australasia. An exception is the Crab-eating Macaque. The presence of rodents in Australasia is considered to be the result of post Ice Age colonisation. Other groups of plants and animals show differing patterns, but the overall pattern is striking and reasonably consistent.

Cause

The root cause of Wallace's line is that the ancient supercontinent, Gondwana, was separated entirely from other parts of the world after the super, super land-mass, Pangaea broke up. Australasia and

its smaller islands were part of Gondwana, and that is why their fauna is so different from that of south-east Asia. Wallace's line marks where part of the old Gondwana plate touches part of the old Laurasia plate.

The Ice Age

During Quaternary ice age cold periods, when the ocean levels were up to 120 m lower, both Asia and Australia were joined with their respective islands. However, there is deep water between those two large continental shelf areas and it was — for over 50 million years — a barrier that kept the flora and fauna of Australia separated from that of Asia.



Wallacea, itself, consists of islands that were never recently connected by dry land to either of the continental land masses, and thus was populated by organisms capable of crossing the straits between islands. 'Weber's Line' runs through this area (rather to the east of centre), at the tipping point between dominance by species of Asian vs. species of Australian origin.

* The Wallace referred to here is the person who developed theories of evolution roughly in parallel to Charles Darwin. In fact, Darwin's and Wallace's theories were presented to the Royal Society in London at the same time.
**Thomas Henry Huxley was a noted biologist and anthropologist of the period, who championed both Darwin's and Wallace's evolutionary theories.