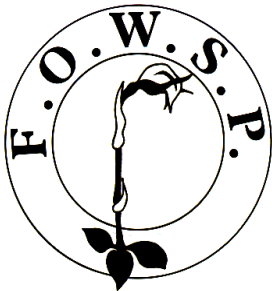


June 2024

Volume 42 Number 5

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

Welcome to the June edition of the FOWSP newsletter.

I am extremely grateful to both Don Vincent and Carolyn Noel who have provided substantial copy for this newsletter. As well as the usual update on the activities of the TAG team (pp.9 and 10), Don has given us a report on Cam Beardsell's work in providing a habitat for the Southern Toadlet (p.5) Carolyn has written a comprehensive report on the Pollinator Garden and this will appear in the June and July editions in two parts. The first part is on pp.3 & 4.

There is also an article on the deer eradication programme being run by Manningham Council (p.6).

Around the Traps is on p.2 as usual but features something unique in the annals of FOWSP activities. For the first time, FOWSP volunteers engaged in creating a work of art. Under Carolyn Noel's leadership, the tank located on the Tank Track was painted over with a mural depicting local flora. Make sure you have a look if you are doing the Pound Bend loop walk.

In a new feature, Sybille Ims has kindly consented to share some of her more popular recipes. The first—a Date Roll appears on pp.2 and 7.

The nursery is brimming with plants for sale again as the weather cools and rain returns. Space on the benches is reappearing as the *Poa ensiformis* is being taken by the Andersons Creek Landcare group. They will have started their extensive planting programme for 2024.

If you haven't been to the nursery for a little while, we encourage you to see the plants that are for sale and add them to your own gardens.

John Young



Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*
Often seen nesting in the compost pile at the nursery.

Apology: in last month's newsletter, I spelled Carolyn and Lynda's names incorrectly. *i's* instead of *y's*.

**Deadline for July's edition newsletter is
Friday June 21st, 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



Leonie and your humble editor were serenaded to the traditional happy birthday song in May. Sybille had produced a beautiful orange marmalade cake for the occasion. There were other May birthdays but nobody else owned up!

Recipe of the month

Sybille has recently taken over from Lindy in providing morning teas. Some of her recipes are sought after and she has kindly agreed to share some over the coming months. First up—**Date Roll**.

Prep: 15 minutes
Cook: 7 minutes
Total Time: 22 minutes
Servings : 30 slices
Calories: 56kcal

Ingredients

Nuts

- ¼ cup almond, chopped
- ¼ cup cashew, chopped
- 2 tablespoon pistachio, chopped
- 2 tablespoon walnuts, chopped

Other

- 2 tablespoon sesame seeds
- 2 cup pitted dates, about 30, roughly chopped
- ½ tablespoon butter or ghee , (or coconut oil for vegan)
- ¼ cup raisins
- ½ teaspoon cardamom powder

The method is on page 7.

Art in the Park

The concrete river water tank on the Tank Track, on Pound Bend near the nursery, had been graffitied. Our resident creative arts facilitator, Carolyn, was called on for a solution and volunteers were called upon to help out with "painting". Unknown to the volunteers, Carolyn made considerable effort to prepare stencils, paints and tools for the day, with a surprise in store for all of us at the end. The result depicted locally indigenous vegetation, much of which was growing nearby. See what you can pick out in the photo of the finished product. Use was made of the underlying graffiti and the weeping cracks in the tank.

Thanks to Carolyn for her creativity and facilitation. The day was enjoyed by all with the outcome exceeding expectations.

Below: Gray, Judith and Don make a start.



Above: Carolyn with her masterpiece

The Pollinator Garden

Part 1 of 2

Beginnings

The pollinator garden was created to attract native bees to the bee nesting blocks that FOWSPIANS produced way back in 2010 and then again in 2014. It was hoped that we could attract some of the beautiful blue-banded bees (*Amegilla sp.*) to nest close by. Articles about these nesting blocks can be viewed in past issues of the newsletter.

Despite the nesting blocks being located near a large patch of *Lythrum salicaria* (a favourite food source of blue-banded bees) no bees had moved in, so, in 2015 the pollinator garden was begun. For those who haven't visited it as yet it is located between the shade covered fernery/orchid area and the road leading to the ranger station. The theory was if we provided a ready food source the bees would come.

It was a challenge to establish a garden in this particular area because it was located under several large eucalypts. It has very poor and hydrophobic soil with a large amount of fill held in place by a sleeper wall that does not hold water. I have included pictures of before and after so people reading this article can see how successful the process has been.



Much of Warrandyte has similar growing conditions so I thought some people might like to know how it was done. We started with swales – this is just a fancy word for a shallow ditch. The swales were dictated by the slope of the garden; they were placed so that rain was captured and had an opportunity to soak in and if a

hose was needed to top up watering, in the early stage, it could be put at the top of the swale and the water gently run down along the swale to the plants placed along it. We started with two swales with a bark path between.



The chip bark path is another way of capturing and keeping water. It also helps to improve the soil. A thin layer of chip bark or bush mulch was initially put around the new plants to help prevent evaporation but it was important not to fill the ditches. Now that many of the plants are established chip bark is only added to keep the paths topped up and easy to navigate - it is not added to the swales. Kelvin posed the theory that perhaps putting chips on a garden every year prevents the seeds that have fallen from germinating. Since then, chip bark is no longer put into the swales the garden has lots of plants that have seeded themselves including *Acacia acinacea*, *Indigofera australis*, Bulbine lilies, *Wahlenbergia*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Cynoglossum suaveolens* and *Exocarpus cupressiformis*.



These plants, growing successfully in the garden, are a good example of things that will grow on a very dry hill side. I am trying to signpost some of these plants as a ready reference.



In October 2016 more bee nesting places were added. Instead of focusing on blue-banded bees this time horizontal holes were drilled into red gum posts. For those who want to try this for themselves the holes were 4mm diameter and 100mm deep. I recommend having more than one drill bit as red gum is extremely hard timber the bits heat up and break easily if they are not rested and cooled throughout the process.

The posts were placed in strategic spots in the garden; one in the sun and one in shade.

Since at the time it was difficult to find information about what direction the bee's

nests should face, another experiment was undertaken. Separate blocks were cut from the original posts and threaded onto a large spike. In this way the tops of the posts could face in every direction to see if it made a difference. Please note that there is now a wonderful book about native bees in the FOWSP library: "**A guide to native bees of Australia**" by Terry Houston. If you have not seen the photos, Linda Rogan has contributed to this book and I recommend you take a look.

Resin bees and other insects soon moved into the new nesting holes. Yes, direction made a big difference, as bees only moved into the holes on one side of one post. Now both posts were placed strategically side by side on the sunny side of the tree facing north. The posts were put just far enough apart to be able to hold the pollinator garden sign which was added below the level of the bee holes.

In 2019 the pollinator garden got another extremely important addition; a lovely sign as part of the Wettenhall grant. The



Kelvin, Lisa, Michelle and Linda admire the new (2019) sign.

sign explains about native pollinators and has a QR code for interested people looking for more information.

To be continued

Carolyn Noel



Above: one of the original bee boxes

Protecting the Southern Toadlet

The Southern Toadlet, *Pseudophryne semimarmorata*, was once found widely across Victoria south of the Divide but is now classified as Endangered. Its habitat of forested creeks and gullies in foothills from the Otways to Gippsland, and especially in the hills of outer Melbourne, has been extensively urbanised or cleared for farmland and is significantly reduced. Other major threats are the Chytrid fungus to which it is particularly vulnerable, climate change altering hydrologic regimes, habitat degradation including logging and road access, and bushfires.

In Nillumbik, Southern Toadlets are now only present at a few scattered sites, and similarly elsewhere between Aireys Inlet and Westernport. It has virtually disappeared in Gippsland due to agricultural development.

Formal and informal monitoring for the Toadlet across Victoria observed significant declines throughout their range, including locally over a 2-year survey period (2019/2020), Melbourne Water engaged ecological consultants to visit historic known sites across Greater Melbourne. This survey effort helped identify some of the last remaining strongholds for this species which included the population at One Tree Hill.

The Toadlets are now mostly found in manmade habitats, eg gold mine depressions or old aqueducts where semi-permanent water is present.

There are now fewer than 30 Toadlet individuals in the Watson's Creek/One Tree Hill area. They are winter breeding, feeding on ants as an adult, but are sedentary and shy night feeders, hence slow growing compared to other indigenous frogs.

In late April or early May, Southern Toadlets lay eggs hidden in grass, debris or small holes adjacent to existing pools or creek bed depressions. Rainfall is essential by the end of May to fill pools for the tadpoles to hatch and grow. Relatively dry autumns over the 30 years to 2019 have typically caused water tables to drop, reducing the availability of suitable pools for breeding.

I was fortunate to join Cam Beardsell to prepare an artificial "semi-permanent" waterhole suitable for the Toadlet. Cam designed it as an especially welcoming place for their taddies. We were delighted when, while we were chatting away and digging noisily in the creek bed, a male Toadlet starting calling less than a metre away, hopefully cheering on our work. We will be looking forward to monitoring this site over the coming months for tadpoles and hopefully mature frogs.

Don Vincent



Above: Cam setting out the artificial pond.



Above: The almost finished work, protected from birds and awaiting some indigenous water plants and resting sticks.

Don Vincent

Strategic Deer Control Program

Protecting Manningham's Biodiversity Values through Strategic Deer Control Program (update)

Wild deer pose a major environmental threat throughout rural and urban areas of Australia, including Manningham LGA. Wild deer cause significant and widespread impacts to private and public land, where they are damaging our natural environment and cultural heritage values, agriculture production, private land assets as well as posing a risk to biosecurity and community safety.

In late February this year, Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group (JCCLG) and Manningham Council held a Deer Program information session for all Manningham landholders who have been supporting deer control on their properties through our deer control grant program.



The gathering was a chance to share with participating landholders a recap of the joint 5-year Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group (JCCLG) and Council deer monitoring and control program which ran from August 2017 to December 2022. It was also an opportunity to provide an update of progress of Council's current deer control grant program, which has been underway since December 2022, and is funded by a successful grant obtained through State Government DEECA and provides a 100 per cent rebate to participating landowners for deer control activities.

Since the beginning of the deer monitoring and control project in 2017, and with the additional grant support from State Government in 2022 our 5-year project

has expanded, and we now have more than 45 private properties across our Green Wedge supporting deer control. The increased landowner support and available properties where control can be undertaken has helped contribute to a noticeable increase and success of harvesting results over time. For example, from Jan 2023 to Feb 2024 the control program has been very successful with 227 deer having been removed from private land by professional contractors. The number of deer controlled in the preceding 5-year joint control program was around 420 Sambar, taking the total removal to Feb 2024 on private land in Manningham to 650 deer.

As well as being a fantastic opportunity for participating landholders to come together to hear about the program and progress over time, it was an opportunity for participants to provide valued feedback on the program. This included some stating that since the program had begun, they had noticed a reduction in destruction of native trees, shrubs and habitat plantings on their properties by deer in the last 12 to 18 months.

In further good news the program has been successful in receiving a second 18-month round of grant funding from DEECA. This grant will allow Council to continue supporting fully funded deer control on eligible Green Wedge properties until June 2025 through Council's Local Environment Assistance Fund (LEAF) grant program.

Green Wedge landholders are still welcome to enquire about joining the deer control program. For more information about our land management grants visit: manningham.vic.gov.au/deer-control

If you have further questions or would like information on ways you can monitor and report deer sighting and damage, or would like information on other options for protecting your precious bushland habitat values from deer browsing, please contact Artur Muchow Council's Deer Program Manager on artur.muchow@manningham.vic.gov.au

Sam Gilbert, Biodiversity Officer Manningham Council
Artur Muchow, MYLN Landcare Facilitator

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.

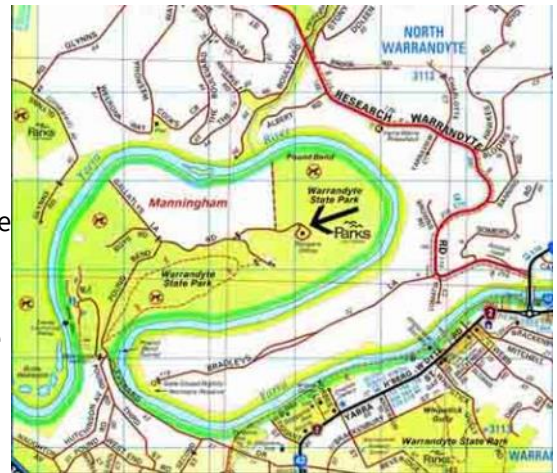
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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



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".

Don't forget you can still donate to FOWSP. Deductions before June 30 can be included in your tax assessment <https://www.landcarevictoria.org.au/LVI/Donate/Make%20a%20donation.aspx>

Thank you.

Date Roll Instructions (from p2.)

Dry roast all the nuts for 30 second on medium heat until lightly toasted. Add sesame seeds and roast for another few seconds. Remove nuts to a bowl and set aside.

In the same pan add butter and chopped dates. Cook on low heat for 2 minutes until soft keep mixing with a spatula. Add raisin, roasted nuts, and cardamom powder to dates and cook further for a minute. Remove from heat.

Let the mixture get cool enough to handle. Then mix further with hands (if needed).

Transfer the dates mixture on cling wrap and roll it into a log. Keep the log in the fridge and cut slices of date as required. Serve cold.

Notes

Dates come in many varieties and can have different levels of moisture, here is how to adapt this recipe.

If your **dates are very chewy and hard.**

Soak dates for a few seconds in water to get softened. No need generally.

If your dates **mixture appears to be too**

dry and doesn't come together to roll. Add a little margarine or butter during the cooking of dates to soften.

If your **dates and nuts mixture is too**

moist and mushy. You may add 1-2 tablespoon spoons of crushed wheat biscuits or oats to make it denser and easy to roll.

Aroma: I used cardamom for aroma in the recipe, you can use soaked saffron, orange zest, or vanilla essence as well.

To store: The date roll is the best stored in the fridge. They stay good in the fridge for up to 2 months or in the freezer for 3 months or more. You can store it on the counter for a week at a cool place. But it tastes best when cold.

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.wildlifevictoria.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	

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday June 11, 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 renew 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

May 2024 was a busy month for the Thursday Activity Group, with opportunities for planting after the recent Autumn rains.

On 2nd May at Pauline Toner Reserve, Steve Anderson, former ranger, gave us background to formation of the Friends of Eltham Copper Butterfly (ECB) group, the first invertebrate Friends group in the state. Steve was involved in the first ECB counts around 1991 where numbers of butterflies were typically in the 20s. After this, the night counts of larvae commenced. Numbers plummeted as weeds took hold, and cattle were grazed on it prior to its reservation as the Pauline Toner Reserve.

It's now a far cry from that low point, with typically around 600 larvae now present annually. Cam Beardsell very enthusiastically reported that larvae are now being found on *Bursaria spinosa* planted some 3 years ago.

We planted another 50 bursaria in the rocky ground as well as clearing a range of woody species that were constraining the habitat for orchids and butterflies. We were delighted to see Parsons Bands *Eriochilus cuculatus* orchids were found flowering, as well as extensive patches of emerging Gnat Orchids *Acianthus pusillus*, and Greenhoods *Pterostylis concinna*, *P. curta* and *P. nutans*.



Above: Parsons Bands *Eriochilus cuculatus*

Harding Fence in Warrandyte South was our target for 9th May, where we contin-

ued clearing cassinia to reduce fire hazard and improve the environment for ground plant species. For those who didn't get enough exercise, weeding of the roundabout was added to the day.



Above: Judith, Geoff, Brian and Dave attacking weeds in the roundabout

On 16th May, we ventured out to Spadoni's (or the Yering Nature Reserve) to plant the Yering silver gum *Eucalyptus crenulata*, a rare sub-species of the Buxton gum only present in this area. (See the December 2023 newsletter for history of this site). To prevent damage and browsing by stock, we fenced an area adjacent to the existing plantation and planted the gums as well as *Pimelea pauciflora*, the poison rice-flower which is now rare in Victoria.

Don Vincent

Below: getting organised





Above: TAGgers admiring their handywork

Cathy led us to Fitzsimon's Wetland on 23rd May, where we planted myrsine, acacia and carex along the billabong. Carolyn and Don's granddaughter Joan joined us planting (being particularly excited about the morning tea!).



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>

6/6/24	Endeavour Bank	Artur	Exclusion maintenance	East/Mod
13/6/24	Candlebark Park	Phil	Woody & grassy weeds	Mod
20/6/24	Endeavour Bank	Artur		Easy/Mod
27/6/24	Pound Bend slash break	David/ Robyn	Weeding freesias / woodies	Easy
4/7/24	Frogland	Linda	Weeding	Easy

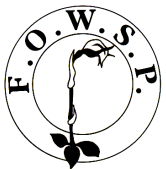


Market trailer transport, help needed.

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 4 May 2024, **Jan Falconer, Chris Kay, Christine Andell, Pam von Drehnen, Marion Thomson and Sybille Ims.**

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
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are:

Saturday, 1 June 2024

Saturday, 6 July 2024