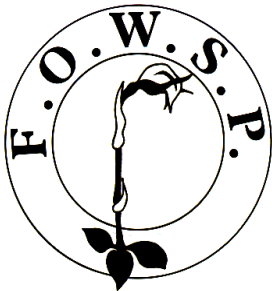


August 2024

Volume 42 Number 7

# 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

Welcome to the August edition of the FOWSP newsletter. I hope you enjoy it.

Apart from the usual items on **Round the Traps** we have an update on the Southern Toadlet on p2. Don Vincent has been particularly prolific this month as he has provided articles on the *Caledonia amoena* programme on p8 as well as the usual TAG report on pp7 and 8. It was National Tree Day on July 28th and FOWSP, of course, was involved (see p3).

Lisa Jenkins continues her series on *Weeds*, which you can find on pp5 and 6.

Finally, because I couldn't help myself, I've written a little piece about bird naming on p9. Don't forget that information on TAG activities and events in the area can be found on pp10 and 11.

**John Young**



*Lots of commercial grevilleas out in our garden but only one flower as yet on our Grevillea rosmarinifolia.*



*I'm still, after nearly 50 years in this country, in awe of acacias flowering in what is the depths of winter. All through people's gardens and in the bush, heaps of yellow appear and reminds us that the winter here is short and spring is coming.*

**Deadline for September's newsletter is  
Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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

Another tasty chocolate cake from Sybille. Only Judy Green owned up to a July birthday, although there were rumours other FOWSP regulars are keeping quiet.



### CARROT AND PECAN CAKE

#### Ingredients.

- 1 cup wholemeal plain flour (or regular plain flour)
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon bi-carb
- 2 eggs (egg substitute works too)
- ½ cup sunflower/vegetable oil
- 1 cup raw sugar
- 1 ½ cups grated carrots
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup sultanas
- Optional 1 packet preserved ginger

#### Method

Sift all dry ingredients.  
Combine all ingredients together in a bowl with a wooden spoon.  
Bake in 170°C oven for approx. 50 minutes.  
Enjoy. It will stay fresh for a week (if it lasts that long)!

**Sybille**

## Rare Species Update

I was fortunate to join Cam on a trip to the Watsons Creek / Panton Hill area. Once there, we checked on the survival of Southern Toadlet (*Pseudophryne semimarmorata*) tadpoles. I previously reported, in the June 2024 newsletter, on the preparation of suitable ponds for these vulnerable creatures. Over 70 just-hatched tadpoles were released into both natural and man-made depressions in early June. Careful netting revealed nine healthy individuals, hopefully indicating a larger number had survived. Cam will continue to monitor as the season progresses, looking forward to them growing legs and then becoming full adult toads in Spring.

**Don Vincent**



*Above: Southern Toadlet tadpole in a plastic teaspoon*



*Above: FOWSP volunteers huddling under shelter for tea on a wet morning*

## National Tree Planting Day

Sunday July 28, was National Tree Planting Day. FOWSPians of course took part and a dedicated group braved the cold and wet to plant along the Pound Bend loop. In fact, the rain held off and the sun actually shone on occasion so I was exaggerating. In any event, we planted about 100 trees and shrubs plus a load of *Lomandra longifolia*. The TAG team had previously prepared the site so that made it a lot easier.

*Top right: Thanks to the TAGgers the ground had been prepared*

*Below: Hard at work*



## An Australian garden in London

Have you ever wondered what a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) garden show is all about?

During a July 2024 visit to the northern hemisphere, I had the opportunity to volunteer as a garden guide and ambassador for a Show Garden, designed by my London-based daughter, Melanie Hick.

The RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival occupies a vast area of deer grazing fields behind Hampton Court Palace. In 10 days, gardens were constructed and the site was totally transformed into the Festival.

The use of Australian native species, insect habitat poles and redgum fencing, recycled from the Falmouth Wharf fire in January 2003, were highlights. Many questions were asked about the suitability of key species *Eremophila nivea* and *Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp. *biphobia* 'Mt Bogong' for English gardens.

The Climate-Forward Garden won silver-gilt in the Get Started category. This was Melanie's first show garden and showed visitors how to put climate at the front of a garden design.

**Joy Hick**



*Above: Melanie with her award*



*Above: the site in preparation*



*Above: the finished exhibit showcasing a number of indigenous Australian plants*



*Above: a happy mother and daughter pose for the cameras*

## A little history of weeds in Victoria

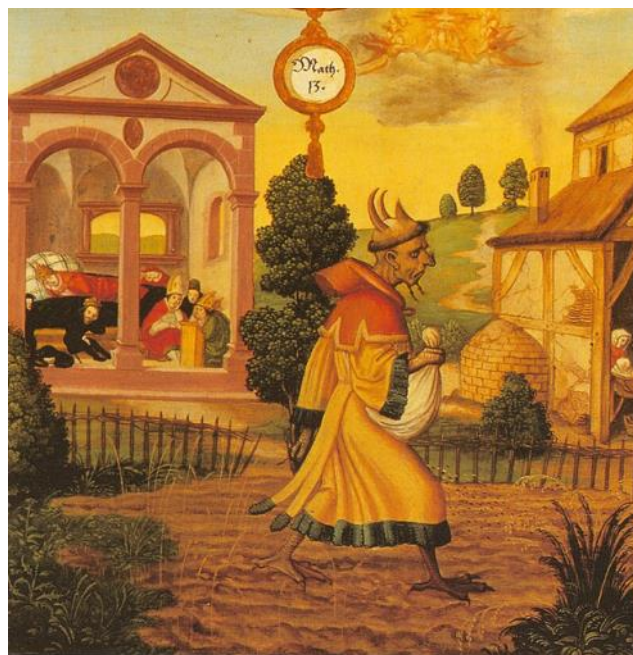


14th century weeders (Luttrell psalter)

Agricultural weeds sit deep in the human psyche — at least, in those peoples who practice agriculture. I don't know if the concept existed for pre-colonization Indigenous Australians but I imagine not. Agriculture involves choice (of a given crop), management in order to achieve that crop and a clear rejection of plants that impede the goal of a full harvest. Indigenous Australians may have a much more holistic approach to plants, but for the early European colonists, a full harvest was a matter of survival. They relied on imported foods, not understanding what edible riches lay within their reach.

'The Parable of the Tares' (*Lolium temulentum*, also known as darnel or drake) in Matthew 13:24-43 rests on these assumptions about weeds in agriculture. In it, the enemy (the devil) sows darnel amongst the grain crop during the night. Servants want to remove the weeds when they emerge but are cautioned against it by Jesus. He tells them to wait until both species are fully grown and then they can be separated and the tares destroyed. Jesus himself offers an interpretation, which is that the harvest is the end of days and the time when good and evil will properly be sorted and evil destroyed.

*Lolium temulentum* is a weed of wheat and looks very much like it. Consuming it poses real problems since it's prone to become infected by the *Claviceps purpurea* fungus, which causes ergotism and can thus easily become an hallucinogen (there's evidence that it has been deliberately consumed in the past to get a high). The colonists of the First Fleet came to know it well; David Collins (diarist and Judge-Advocate) says that the 1796 crop 'proved in general bad, the wheat being



The Devil sowing darnel — 1540

almost everywhere' infested with drake. Later on, Victorian colonists came to know it too; in 1853, it was said that if 'it gets into the soil it is impossible to eradicate'. It was, though, finally brought under control by changed ways of sorting seed.



Victorian settlers on their farms (1860's)

So this weed was an ancient enemy which travelled amongst wheat seeds to the continent — an unfortunate hitchhiker in what was considered an essential foodstuff. Other species that became weedy were originally used for food. In 1798, Governor King asked that he be sent 'the best kind of broom seeds as a

## A little history of weeds in Victoria (cont'd)

substitute for hops' for beer-making. It seems likely that he received *Cytisus scoparius*, now a WoNS (Weed of National Significance). Then there are the various grasses such as *Cynodon dactylon* (couch grass) that were deliberately introduced as pasture plants. *Cynodon dactylon* is now an environmental weed in Victoria but is still sold as a reliable pasture plant.

Food is one thing: the imperial project was another. Red, of course, was the colour at the heart of British imperial marketing; it was the colour that came to be used to mark British colonies on world maps and, for long before that, was the colour of uniforms of the British Army (it didn't show the blood). There are various organic sources for red textile dye (madder, beets, elderberries) but cochineal red is much more brilliant and colourfast. Cochineal is extracted from the crushed bodies of parasites of prickly pear cacti (*Opuntia* spp — it's not clear which species was originally imported). Spanish control of the Americas (the home of prickly pears) meant control of the cochineal trade, which they rigour-



*Red as far as the eye can see — Bangalore 1791*

ously enforced. Sir Joseph Banks decided that the Sydney colony would be ideal for experimental farming of the cactus, since all that cochineal could dye a lot of uniforms red. He obtained specimens of parasite-infested cacti and had them planted

in New South Wales. The experiment failed with the death of the parasites but the cacti survived. It spread easily and was joined by other *Opuntia* species; all but one are now WoNS.

A part of the imperial project was to explore, delineate and mark. Lady Jane Franklin journeyed from Melbourne to Sydney in 1839, taking with her a packet of *Trifolium repens* (White Clover) seed with the intention of sowing pasture along the track. She did so, including in the runoff trench around her tent at one stop. Do I need to add that it's now an environmental weed? I feel that I'm becoming a little repetitious...



*Australian travellers' camp 1852*

These first weeds came here by either accident or design and because the first colonists wanted to create a vegetable environment that was both familiarly British *and* money-spinning. They did not, could not, see that they were inhabiting an entirely different kind of environment and that their actions would cause long-term damage. These themes will become familiar as we travel this weedy route. Next time I will look at the gardens planted in Victoria's first century and pull out a few particularly pernicious weeds to show you.

**Lisa Jenkins**

## TAGs in 2024

### TAG Report 18 July

Phil led us to familiar territory at Jumping Creek Reserve to continue Parks recovery work on rare and endangered species. On previous visits over a number of years, we had assisted with fencing of one site, removal of old barbed-wire fencing, and with thinning Burgan, weeding and planting.

After the autumn and winter rains, we were delighted to see a plethora of emerging orchids and our past planting efforts rewarded with substantial plant growth.

This area is very small and only one of three intact stands of the rare riverine terrace woodland sub-community in the region, the others being at Morrisons and Westerfolds. They are characterised by sandy loam soils, quite distinct from the well-known clay and rocky soils typical of Warrandyte. As a result, these areas contain species not found extensively elsewhere.

We enthusiastically but carefully explored the area to find emerging Bronze Bird-orchids (*Chiloglottis x pescottiana*), an endangered hybrid species of the Dainty Bird-orchid (*C. trapeziformis*) and the Large Bird-orchid (*C. valida*), both being



Above: Healthy Bronze Bird-orchid emerging

also present in good numbers.

The delightful and diminutive Fringed Helmet-orchid, *Corybas fimbriatus*, also en-



Above: Fringed Helmet-orchid

dangered, was found flowering — a display barely a centimetre across. Other varieties of Helmet-orchid, the Veined (*Corybas diemenicus*) and Slaty (*C. incurvus*) were also expected and emerging leaves were found but not clearly identified.

The site is also home to a variety of Greenhoods and Sun-orchids which were found emerging.

After almost a week of rain totalling about 100mm, we were glad to have a somewhat sunny break outside. We planted some 50 of the Forest Bitter-cress, or native flickweed, (*Cardamine papillate*), another endangered species much less common than our usual introduced and pesky flickweed. As well, we added some Candlebarks (*Eucalyptus rubida*), Blunt Greenhoods (*Pterostylis curta*), Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*) and *Dianella perfragrans*.

After a very welcome morning tea, we set to work on emerging orchid patches, clearing weeds, leaves and mosses which harbour millipedes and slugs, the most immediate threats to these species.

## TAGs in 2024 (cont'd)



Above: Checking a well-protected orchid patch

Choughs and rabbits are also destructive if the plants are not well protected.

Overall, a rewarding and productive morning.

**Don Vincent**

### ***Caladenia amoena***

TAGgers will be pleased to see the results of their contributions to the success of the Charming Spider-orchid (*Caladenia amoena*) since preparing planting beds for them. This was reported in the March and July 2024 newsletters, with further details of the recovery program by John Young in the April 2024 edition.

Some 450 orchids grown by the RBG Cranbourne from seed collected by Cam were planted into these beds and also at a Nillumbik Shire reserve. Unfortunately, some were 'pruned' by invading rats, necessitating further protection.

Cam led a group, including the Nillumbik environment team, to weed and check on progress. One plant in each area was flowering, and Cam came fully prepared to help them on their way to sustaining the species. Armed with a toothpick, pollen was carefully transferred from each to the other specimen. All being well, we can expect a ripe seed pod to grow on these plants, and as the season warms and more flower, similarly on many other of the plants.

Under natural conditions, these orchids are pollinated by a male Thynnid wasp (*Neozeleboria proxima*) attracted by pheromones released by the orchid that mimic those of the female wasp. The feeding wasp is also attracted to nearby plants, including the flowers of *Brachyscome diversifolia* planted in the enclosures, and to the powdery mildew aphids on nearby *Acacia lanigera*, *Hakea decurrens* and the rarer Cypress Daisy Bush (*Olearia teritifolia*).

**Don Vincent**



Above: Cam collects some pollen



# What's in a name?



This is a White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*), but apart from being predominately black and having a similar shaped bill, it bears little resemblance to the two European choughs (simply Chough and Alpine Chough). European choughs are smaller and highly gregarious, forming largish flocks. Indeed, the original Chough is nicknamed the *Starling of the sea*.

The Chough lives on sea cliffs, the Alpine Chough lives in the Alps (!), although both go to lower inland pastures in the winter. Contrast that with our chough, which is a ground feeder, going around in smallish family groups of up to a dozen birds. And it doesn't fly much, preferring to scuttle from tree to tree.

This got me thinking of how early European settlers gave common names to birds that they encountered for the first time on arriving over here. Not knowing about evolution and assuming the same type of bird had spread around the world, they named birds and groups of species after familiar birds from their homeland (mainly



Left: Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*)  
Right: Robin (*Erithacus rubicula*)

the UK and Ireland of course). So we have the Robin. The Robin of Christmas card fame is not related to our robins (they are flycatchers) but seeing red breast, small bird — they must be robins. We have 15 robins, only 4 have red breasts, 2 have pink, 2 yellow and the rest white, grey and brownish.

Similarly, the Wren. Small bird, cocked tail, brown. So we have fairy-wrens, emu-wrens, grasswrens and fieldwrens. Various sizes, all cocked tails. At least they put a prefix to say they were different to the original.



Left: Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)  
Right: Splendid fairy-wren (*Malurus splendens*)



Finally, and in some ways, the most obvious mis-naming is the Australian Magpie. In fact, the Australian Magpie is really a large butcher-bird rather than a true magpie. The hooked bill is a bit of a giveaway.

Top: Magpie (*Pica pica*)  
Below: Australian Magpie (*Cracticus tibicen*)

## 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>

1/8/24	Haslam Fence	Phil	Grassy weeds	Easy / Mod
8/8/24	Fourth Hill — Wildcat Gully	Phil	Weeding angled onion / planting- <i>Poa tenera</i>	Easy / Mod
15/8/24	Chaim Court	Phil	Woody weeding	Easy / Mod
22/8/24	Endeavour Bank	Josh	NTD plant check (see p3).	Easy
29/8/24	Fourth Hill — Fiddler Gully	Phil	Planting / woody weeding	Easy
5/9/24	One Tree Hill	Phil	Carrying water for toadlets	Easy

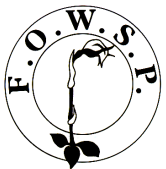


### Market trailer transport, help needed.

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, 6 July 2024, **Jan Falconer, Chris Kay, Christine Andell, Pam von Drehnen, Marion Thomson, Marie Krause, Lyn Moore 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 or email [trailer@fowsp.org.au](mailto:trailer@fowsp.org.au)**  
*First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

**Next market dates are:**  
Saturday, 3 August 2024  
Saturday, 7 September 2024

## 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.

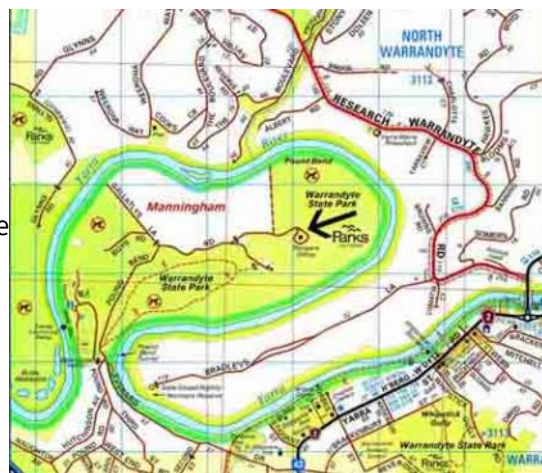
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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 (tube stock)



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Spring will soon spring and it will be a great time to get out and enjoy our amazing natural spaces.

From September through November 2024, **The Spring Outdoors Festival**, hosted by Banyule, Manningham and Nillumbik councils, provides a wide variety of environmental events, designed to get our community out, active and into nature.

Events will range from

- cultural walks
- conservation reserve tours
- citizen science challenges
- active living events
- guided environmental tours.
- age-specific events for kids and seniors.

Please visit your council's website for details on the various events in your area. Better still, visit all the websites and take in a few activities.

Don't forget you can still donate to FOWSP. Deductions can be included in your tax assessment.

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

### **Gardening with Indigenous Plants**

Next date: Saturday, 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".

### **Australian Plant Expo**

Run by the Australian Plant Society Yarra Yarra branch  
<https://apsyarrayarra.org.au/>

When: September 14, 2024.  
Where: Eltham Community Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham, 3095.

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 <a href="https://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/contact-us">https://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/contact-us</a>	<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	

<b>Next Committee Meeting</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday August 13, 2024
<b>Venue:</b>	Education Centre 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 renew 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.