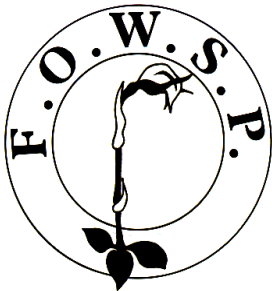


September 2024

Volume 42 Number 8

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 September edition of the FOWSP newsletter.

Lots of interesting reading this month. Linda and Peter Rogan have just returned from a trip to Mallacoota and southern NSW. They caught up with old friends and saw some FOWSP-type activities on the trip. A full report is on pp.3 to 5.

Lisa Jenkins continues her series of articles on weeds and the third article can be found on pp.6 and 7. The TAG report is on p.8, thanks to Geoff Sutter who took on the mantle in Don's absence.

On pp.9 and 10 there is a series of photos from Scotchmans Hill Reserve sent in by Jennifer Vincent. Thanks, Jennifer for reminding us that we are surrounded by a wonderful display of colour, particularly at this time of year.

The nursery is looking good, with a large range of plants coming onto the benches for sale. If you haven't visited for a while, now is the time. The best time for planting is now, before the warmer weather starts. There has been a fair bit of rain recently so the ground should be receptive.

Spring starts now — so enjoy!

John Young



Tho' nature, red in tooth and claw
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Whistling Kite (Haliastur sphenurus) eating what looks like a decaying tiger snake — Western Treatment Plant August 24

Deadline for October's newsletter is
Friday September 20th, 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 Thursdays



Two birthday cakes this month (22nd and 29th)

Above: Angus — our youngest regular volunteer posing with the candles after the traditional song

Below: Lisa about to cut Sybille's ginger cake



Recipe of the month

Lots of lemons about at the moment so here's Sybille's recipe for lemon curd.

Lemon Butter/Curd.

4 eggs
 ¾ cup sugar
 ½ cup lemon juice
 ¼ cup water (I use lemon juice to add extra tang)
 2 teaspoons grated lemon rind (I use the zest from all the lemons used for the juice, again for extra tang).
 125g unsalted butter

1. Put beaten eggs and sugar into the top of a double saucepan, stir until combined.
2. Gradually add lemon juice and water/extra lemon juice, and stir until combined.
3. Add lemon rind/zest and roughly chopped butter.
4. Place pan over simmering water and stir the mixture until it thickly coats the back of a wooden spoon.
5. Pour into hot sterilized jars; seal. Store in the fridge.

Great on toast, in a sponge, small tarts or on lemon thumbprint cookies.

Sybille



The nursery is looking great at the moment

Kindred spirits wherever we go

One of the joys of travelling is finding projects being carried out in the same spirit of conservation that we have here at FOWSP. Here are three from a recent trip to Mallacoota and the NSW coast.

We stopped in Mallacoota to catch up with FOWSPians Pat and Mike Coupar and friends Gary and Judy Backhouse. Each of their gardens (post bushfire) were a treat to visit with a range of indigenous and native plants, many in bloom. We were encouraged to visit the Mallacoota Endemic Garden, which is a corner block beside the ParksVic Office on Buckland Street (photo — below).



This garden is a post-bushfire project led by the Friends of Mallacoota, in partnership with the Victorian Botanic Gardens, and features local forms of over one hundred rare or endangered plant species of the region. It is used for education and to help ensure continued seed sources. Many have collaborated to bring this to reality.

The garden is organized into various plant communities including Clay Heathland, Coastal Scrub, and those from Gabo Island.

Shown (below left) are local bright pink *Epacris impressa*, (below right) *Commersonia prostrata* (the dwarf kerrawang), and the lo-



cal form of *Xerochrysum sp.*, (above), which is always an eyecatcher.

Further north, just inland of Crowdy Heads, are the impressive Cattai Wetlands. Made up of both a perched freshwater lake and a salt-water wetland, these large wetlands are currently lush and diverse in native animal and plant species. This is a great place for keen bird-watchers. According to Alan Stuart on his website <http://www.thinkingaboutbirds.com/cattai-wetlands.php>, it is 'one of the most reliable places in "southern" NSW for Comb-crested Jacanas' (locals might reject the term "southern"). We were lucky to see these long-toed birds treading upon the lily pads in the lake.

Recent history of Cattai

MidCoast Council purchased Cattai in 2003 to restore the natural beauty and ecological value of the wetlands. At the time it was farmland suffering the effects of land clearing, weeds and acid sulfate soils. While the primary goal was improving the water quality of the Manning River through the remediation of acid sulfate soils, a range of other environmental benefits have also been achieved. This includes the rehabilitation of coastal wetlands and other endangered floodplain communities.

The project area is bounded by Cattai Creek and Crowdy Bay National Park to the east, Tappin Creek and Manning River to the south, the Pacific Highway to the west and Moorland and Big Swamp to the north.

Following extensive replanting and weed control, Cattai Wetlands now acts as an

Kindred spirits wherever we go (cont'd)

important wildlife corridor between Crowdy Bay National Park and the Lansdowne escarpment. All this has been achieved in partnership with various organisations, government agencies and indigenous green teams.

<https://barringtoncoast.com.au/explore/a-naturalists-guide-to-cattai-wetlands#:~:text=MidCoast%20Council%20purchased%20Cattai%20in,weeds%20and%20acid%20sulfate%20soils.>

A set-back occurred with the 2019 fires when "The already dry conditions on the site meant the fire moved through quickly and has destroyed a large area of the wetland and the public infrastructure has also taken a big hit" explained Gerard Tuckerman, MidCoast Council's Manager of Natural Systems. The reserve re-opened in November 2020 and when visit-



Above: Black Swan and (?) Jacana (can you see one — I can't, Ed)

ed this year it was truly impressive.

It was a Thursday morning at Minnie Waters Holiday Park. 'Community nursery open today', the A-frame sign declared. Intrigued, I walked up the rough track past a tennis court and interrupted morning tea. I felt I could have been at FOWSP. It was lovely meeting half a dozen volunteers involved in conservation of indigenous plants of the special Yuraygir NP and surrounding area.

In 2002, retired schoolteacher Dennis Milne led the charge to acquire funding for this indigenous plant nursery. According to him, he



Above: Sandon to Woolli Community Nursery Volunteers with Coordinator Dennis Milne in the beige hat

Below: volunteers providing the muscle to create the potting mix



is still 'telling the volunteers what to do'. He was kind enough to show me around and share a few tales of the area. Many species had been re-established around the nursery after fires led to a proliferation of the weedy Bitou Bush. The beautiful wildflowers I saw blooming around Minnie Waters and the cara-

Kindred spirits wherever we go (cont'd)

van park, and lack of Bitou Bush, lend a great deal of credit to the persistent efforts by these volunteers and their many Landcare compatriots.



Besides the beautiful plants, Dennis showed me their rescued stingless beehive. The bees were just hanging about the doorway, awaiting slightly warmer weather to begin foraging.

And finally, some wildflowers seen on the way.

Top right: Woollsia pungens "snow wreath". This plant was new to me and harder to find the ID as the flowers in this area were quite deep pink not at all like 'snow'.

Centre: Actinotus helianthi "flannel flowers" in full bloom on a coastal track near Minnie Waters

Bottom right: Pink waxflowers "Eriostemon australis". These large blooms varied from very pale pink to the rich colour seen here.

We found signs of volunteer conservation activity wherever we visited.

Linda Rogan



A little history of weeds in Victoria

'In an English country garden'



The English cottage garden has both a deep hold on the imagination and a contested history. In its current manifestation, it can be a blowsy frou-frou of roses in full bloom, heavily scented stocks and a smothering of geraniums. Or it can be a modern alternative — the Australian native cottage garden is a riot of colour and form, with all sorts of low growing, flowering plants tumbling together in a floral melange.

These are all non-edible plants, of course, and this quality of the cottage garden is where its contested history lies. Is the cottage garden the descendant of the rural productive garden, where English rural peasants managed to extend the family diet and supply of medicinal by whatever could be grown in a small plot surrounding their dwelling? Or was it a more recent, 19th century celebration of the flower, the adoration of shape, colour and scent? Its Romantic connections seem obvious since the cottage garden celebrates the wild and unstructured, and the latent creativity and sensibility of the rural poor.

The first European domestic gardens in Victoria were not only shaped by all of this but also by the nostalgia of their gardeners. The owner of a cottage garden in Melbourne and surrounds could go wild in their planting, since the climate seemed to allow for the growth of all manner of familiar, much-loved British plants. One of the most pernicious weeds in Australia, *Onopordum acanthium*, or the Scotch thistle, came here on the waves of this nostalgia. It spread so rapidly that it came to government attention as early as 1850; a Government Notice issued in October said that 'it is considered imperative at the present time to make every practicable effort to clear and destroy the larger beds' arguing that it was imperative that private landowners joined the effort since, if they didn't, the hoped-for eradication 'may be almost aban-



Above: Thistle growing wild near Eilean Donnan Castle, Scotland

done.'

(quoted in John Dwyer, 'Weeds in the Victorian colonial garden 1800-1860' 9-10)

We know exactly where one of the earliest thistles came from. Georgina McCrae, early settler, painter and diarist, wrote a list on July 12 1843 of all the things currently growing in her garden. She includes 'thistle from Fyvie Castle.' McCrae was the daughter of George Gordon, the Marquess of Huntly, and spent part of her childhood living in Gordon Castle; the thistles she grew in the garden of her house 'Mayfield' in what's now Abbotsford must have assuaged some of her homesickness.

McCrae lists over 40 flowering plants and trees and over 20 of them are now considered weeds - *Tropaeolum majus* (nasturtiums), *Eschscholzia californica* (Californian poppies), *Lathyrus odoratus* (sweet peas) and *Ulex* (which she knew as whin but we know as gorse) amongst them. These four all appear on another list. In 1859 John Dalton Hooker published *On the Flora of Australia*. He was Charles Darwin's closest friend and was the first scientist to publicly back his theory of natural selection. Hooker was an explorer and on his travels to the southern hemisphere he noticed similarities

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

in vegetation in countries that make up what we now call Gondwanaland and their difference to those in the northern hemisphere. He writes impassionately about the struggle between the southern flora and 'intrusive foreign weed(s)' from the north which will, he fears, 'usurp' the small local genera. He produces a list, largely the work of 'Mr Adamson', of weeds which have already appeared in Melbourne; disturbingly, it is 139 items long despite the youth of the colony. Hooker says he has not such information on any of the other colonies.



Above: 'Spring' - gardeners working on an early colonial garden

There are two other weed-producing features of early colonial gardens that are worth noting. One is the medicinal. I have mentioned these in my article on the first colonists and the hedgerow plants that came with them; they also cultivated some medicinal plants in their gardens that rapidly became weedy, such as *Hypericum perforatum* (St John's wort), which has been traditionally used for menopausal symptoms and depression, and *Rumex acetosa* (sorrel), an antioxidant.

The other kind of garden plant that rapidly became weedy are the plants that could be hedged. McCrae grew *Ulex* as I've said, and she also grew cypress. Of the traditional British hedging plants, those that are now weeds here include *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn), *Prunus spinosa* (blackthorn), *Alnus glutinosa* (black alder) (its status is as an

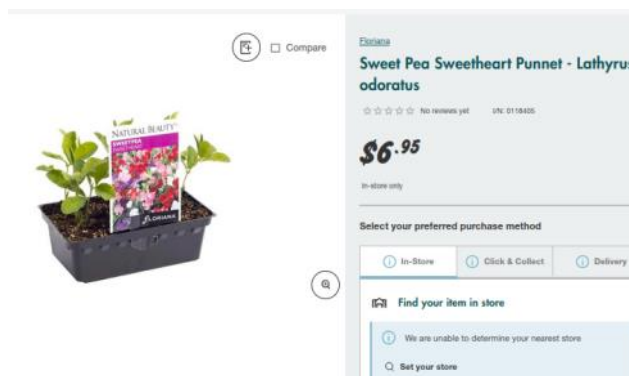
'Anticipated Weed'), *Ilex aquifolium* (English holly) and *Rosa canina* (Dog rose). Next time I'll be looking at agricultural weeds and we'll see then how rural weeds came from the cultivation of windbreaks — hedges on a grand scale, so to speak.



Above: Family proudly posing in front of their hedge — 1910

Garden escapees are, of course, now a major issue in our struggle with weeds. It's estimated that about 600 garden escapees are now weeds in Victoria, about 30% of our total weed list.

The answer to this is simple. Plant indigenous plants, non-invasive natives and non-weedy exotics into your garden. If you're especially nostalgic for a particular weedy plant in its home environment, get yourself a picture of it or go see it in *its* wild, if you can.



Above: Propagation of weeds appears inescapable! From Bunnings website

TAGs in 2024

A number of TAG volunteers, led by Cam Beardsell, headed out to the Pauline Toner Reserve. It's significant for the Eltham Copper butterfly as has been discussed before. The focus of the work was to cut and paint stems of *Acacia paradoxa* (Hedge Wattle), plus *Cassinia* species, and plant seedlings of *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria).



Top: before removal and
Above: after

Cam informed the group that the larval count for Eltham Copper Butterfly was down to five in 2010.

From 2010 to date, a program of non-indigenous *Acacia* species/overly dominant *Cassinia* shrub removal has been undertaken, with many *Acacia* species, *Cassinia sifton* (Sifton Bush) and *C. longifolia* (Shiny Cassinia) being targeted. In addition, planting of *Bursaria spinosa* was carried out.

The *Acacia* and *Cassinia* species have a high capacity to out compete the *Bursaria*, which is critical to the life cycle of the Eltham Copper Butterfly. With the cover of *Acacia* and *Cassinia* species being significantly reduced, coupled with the planting of *Bursaria spinosa*, recent larval counts have been around 500!

Geoff Sutter



Above: *Corybas* sp.



Above: *Acianthus* sp.



Above: The TAG team minus Geoff

Spring flowering on Scotchmans Hill



Left top to bottom:
Acacia ulicifolia; Hakea decurrens; Acacia myrtifolia

Right top to bottom:
Acacia implexa; Hardenbergia violacea; Acacia leprosa

Spring flowering on Scotchmans Hill (cont'd)



Left top to bottom:
Acacia stricta; *Acacia pynantha*; *Acacia verticillata*

Right top to bottom:
Acacia melanoxylon; *Acacia paradoxa*; *Pterostylis nutans*

Jennifer Vincent

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>

5/9/24	One Tree Hill	Phil	Carrying water for toadlets / woody weeding	Mod / Difficult
12/9	Nilja/Longridge Farm	Gray	Agapanthicide/freesias& lilies	Easy
19/9	Flora Cres, St.Andrews	Phil	Planting; woody/grassy weeding	Easy/Mod
26/9	St.Andrews NCR	Kylie/ Justin	Sallow wattle/gorse/broom	Difficult
3/10	Frogland/Endeavour Bank	Linda/ Josh	Ixia removal/weeding	Easy
10/10	Craspedia fence	Phil/Cam	Weeding/thinning	Easy/Mod

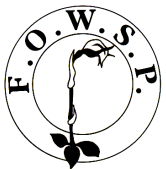


Market trailer transport, help needed.

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

There was no market held in August as the July rains had rendered the river frontage unusable. It is still pretty soggy so who knows what September will bring.



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
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are:
 Saturday, 7 September 2024
 Saturday, 5 October 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.

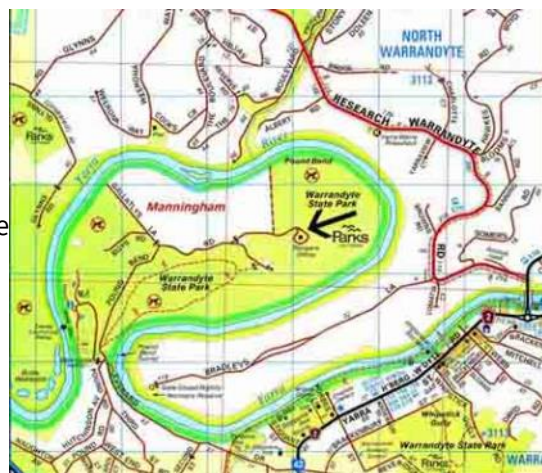
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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>

Deer monitoring

The Dept. of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) are running a 2 day workshop on effective strategies to monitor deer. It will be held on October 1st and 2nd from 9 to 5 both days.

Location: Arthur Rylah Institute, 123 Brown St. Heidelberg, 3084

Anyone interested needs to register by Sept. 6th. If you are interested contact Artur Muchow at myln@netspace.net.au.

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	
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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	

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday September 10, 2024
Venue:	Education Centre 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.