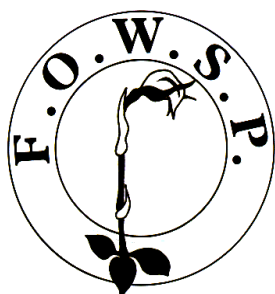


April 2025

Volume 43 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

Autumn has finally arrived, hopefully with the last of the 30 degree days behind us. It is now cold enough to see the mist in the river valley from our bedroom window. There were a couple of rainy days in March but not enough to really wet the ground. Sadly, a number of our trees and shrubs didn't make it through the summer and, now that it is a bit cooler, we can tidy up the garden a bit, removing the dead wood.

Some of my regular contributors are unavailable to send an article for the newsletter so, again, I'm grateful to Linda for sending in a report on Frogland (p.5) and on one of her recent travels (p.4).

In a departure from recent newsletters, Kay has sent in a recipe for a zucchini slice that was much admired at a recent morning tea.

The TAG team have been out and about and I hope they can update us on recent activities in the next newsletter.

Finally, the Warrandyte Festival was on for 2 days, March 28 and 29th. In conjunction with the Anderson Creek Land-care group, the FOWSP trailer was at the Festival, to let people know about our conservation work in the area. Thanks to those who volunteered.

John Young



Regular volunteers to the nursery will be familiar with this poster, issued by **BirdLife Australia**, on the Gang-Gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*). Whilst, like many species, numbers are under threat from habitat loss, they are still seen regularly on Melbourne's fringe. Photos by Joy and I were taken in the Warrandyte and Eltham areas (p.3).

**Deadline for May's newsletter is
Friday April 26th, 2025**

**contributions can be emailed to John.Young@fowsp.org.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113**

Around The Traps

Birthday Thursday



With a bit of creativity, there were three members willing to pose for a photo and cut the birthday cake. It was actually Kim's birthday in March so she got the knife. Joy was standing in for Barrie, and Marie had a relative with a March birthday. Lovely cake from Sybille as well.



I had hoped for a flood of photos about bird baths. This joey stole the show though.

Photo: **Graeme Mitchell**

Recipe of the month

Zucchini Slice

5 eggs
1 cup SR flour
4 zucchini (375g) - squeeze out excess water
1 brown onion — finely chopped
250g bacon — chopped
1 cup Cheddar cheese — grated
1/4 cup vegetable oil

Gently fry onions and bacon together (to sweat)
Beat eggs in large bowl and add flour
Beat until smooth
Add zucchini, cheese and oil
Stir in onion and bacon

Pour into a 30cm x 20cm lamington pan

Heat oven to 170°C

Bake for 30 minutes (or more) until golden and firm to the touch

Cool in pan

Kay



Found in Kim's garden. A group (invasion?) of baby Blotched Blue-tongued lizards (*Tiliqua nigrolutea*). Mum has been around for about 10 years. Must be a dad somewhere!

Photo: **Kim Tarpey**

Local Gang-gangs



Top: Joy's shot of a juvenile male Gang-gang, taken on a walk in Eltham. You can see the bright red feathers growing out on the crown. Below: my shot of a pair of adults — adult male left and a coy female right. Mature Gang-gangs are mostly seen in pairs rather than flocks. This photo in Currawong Bush Park.

More a forest bird than of the open plains, the Gang-gang is a partial migrant, moving to higher altitudes in the summer and down to the fringes of the eastern sea-board cities and towns in autumn and winter.

A bit of a ring-in



Above: *Agave stricta longifolia* (a native of Mexico) flowering after about 15 years in Sybille's garden. The flower spike is now around 3 metres tall and is now visible from the bottom of my garden! (ed)

Bugs in Tarra Bulga

On 22 Feb Peter and I attended the Entomological Society of Victoria's light-sheeting evening at the Visitor's Information Centre at Tarra Bulga. For me, the best find of the night was the Hairy Cicada (*Tettigarcta crinita*) - photo below.



This 3 — 4 cm insect with hairy legs and body arrived on my sheet at the same time as a similar-sized rain moth. I wondered what this new moth was, until I noticed its tiny head and short antennae typical of Hemiptera such as cicadas. I later learned that this cicada and the similar Tasmanian hairy cicada are unique in that they communicate and call for mates using vibration of the substrate (tree or earth) they are resting upon. In addition to Tarra Bulga and mountainous areas in Victoria, they have been found in the Otways.

Later in that week we camped at Lake Tyers along with a group of nature photographers. I was very pleased to be able to photograph the Imperial Blue (Hairstreak) Butterfly in an active colony, reminiscent of our colony at the Pound Bend Tunnel carpark.

I also was pleased to photograph a caterpillar of the mistletoe moth (*Comocrus behri*) which grazes only on mistletoe like

those favoured by the Imperial Jezebel we've seen near the nursery.

The photo below shows the caterpillar at Nowa Nowa along with a previous photo of the adult.



Another caterpillar found on *Acacia mearnsii* was the deceptively shaped Wattle Moth (*Neola semiaurata*). This caterpillar has eye spots on the tail end which can appear to open and close. This together with the fleshy spike on its tail may help discourage predators from attacking. The caterpillar near Lake Tyers along with an inset of the less spectacular adult (photographed earlier) is shown below.

Linda



FROGLAND and NURSERY

Things have been very dry in Frogland, as in most of the local area, so Thursday mornings have been spent watering plants, repairing the path, and digging out some stubborn weeds such as blackberries. We have also installed some small pieces of shade cloth over vulnerable plants such as ferns and others which were planted this year. We strongly hope to have had some soaking rain by the time you read this.

However, the moisture in the nursery has attracted some interesting insects. Firstly the Willow-herb Day-Moth (*Phalaenoides tristifica*). This attractive black and white moth with hairy yellow leggings and strips on its body has a similarly coloured caterpillar that feeds on willow-herb and many other plants. The adult seen below was feeding on mint flowers.



These mint plants also attracted the Lycid-mimicking Moth (*Snellenia lineata*), which is a small moth easily mistaken for a Lycid beetle. This colouring may help protect the moth from predators that may have learned the Lycid beetle is toxic and/or unpalatable. Photo below.



Elsewhere in the nursery, many small shiny beetles were found grazing. I believe them to be members of a genus of Metallic Flea Beetles (*Altica* sp). See below.



Linda

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>

10/4/25	Pauline Toner Reserve	Phil/Cam	Cassinia thinning, woody weeds	Easy/mod
17/4/25	Endeavour Bank	Artur	Fencing and planting	Easy/mod
24/4/25	Harding Redbeard fence	Phil	Weeding and planting	Easy/mod
1/5/25	Koorong/Yarra linear res	Cathy/Don	Weeding	Easy/mod
8/5/25	Pauline Toner fence	Phil/Cam	Planting	Easy/mod
15/5/25	Harding fence	Don	Cassinia thinning/seed collection	Mod



No TAG report this month so I've included a photo I took of an Eastern Osprey (*Pandion cristatus*). You won't find many of these in Victoria, certainly not in Warandyte as they are a fish eater. This bird, photographed in Western Australia, is trying to dry out its wings whilst holding onto its catch, which you can see under its right foot. A video of this would have been quite amusing as the bird tried to balance on the telegraph pole and not drop the fish.

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.

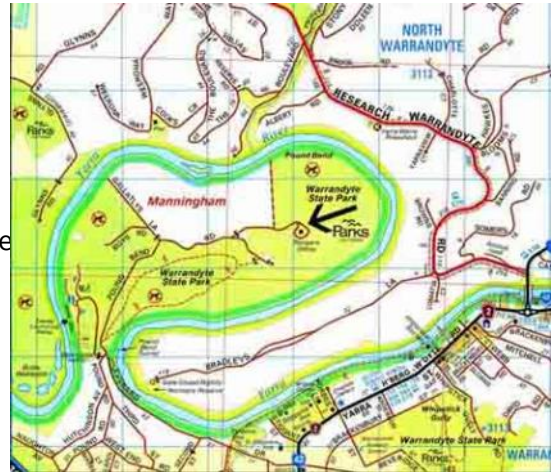
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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Eucalypt identification

Join Council's Biodiversity Planner Cathy Willis for a walk identifying most of Manningham's eucalypt species in the field.

When: **Wednesday, April 30**

Time: **0930 to 1230**

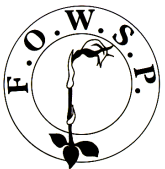
Where: **Pound Bend Reserve**

Details:

Rating: Moderate (mostly easy with one steep section)

- Distance: 1.5 km
- Time: 2 — 3 hrs
- Wear: Sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.
- Bring: A water bottle.
- Meeting point: Pound Bend picnic area in Warrandyte State Park (in the car-park near the tunnel at the southern end).

Book via the Council's website (using Eventbrite). If, after booking, you can no longer attend, please cancel via Eventbrite.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who volunteered to run the trailer as part of the information stand at the Warrandyte Festival, **March 29**.

Christine Arndell, Chris Jay, Marie Krause, Artur Muchow, Fritz Ule, Geoff Bogard and Jan Falconer.



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. (*Note: no trailer April 5th*)

If you are interested in being on the market roster
please contact Jan Falconer on 0419 872 096 or email trailer@fowsp.org.au
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are:

Saturday, 3rd May 2025

Saturday, 7th June 2025

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2025			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
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			Lyn Moore	
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer	
			Jan Falconer	0419 872 096
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lynm333g@gmail.com		https://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/contact-us	Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
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Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647	Staff Representative	Facebook coordinator	
legality@bigpond.com			Carolyn Noel	0409 901441
		Lynda Chambers		
		0466 274421 phenolo-		
		gist@gmail.com		

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday April 8, 2025
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.