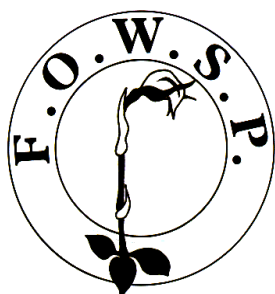


July 2025

Volume 43 Number 5

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.auFriends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

Editor's Corner

Hi

I hope you enjoy the July newsletter. There was a hiatus in June whilst we visited family in Europe.

We have only just arrived back and so the newsletter is a bit shorter than usual. I will probably do something on some of the more interesting birds seen on our trip for a future newsletter.

What we do have is a great article from Kim Tarpey, highlighting, in particular, what you can do to attract various species of butterfly to your garden. All of the plants mentioned are indigenous to the area and available at the FOWSP nursery. Replacing any lawn grasses with native ones is a great idea and you can produce a maintenance-free garden with them.

John Young

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

Email the treasurer treasurer@fowsp.org.au to let him know about your donation.

Thank you.



This is a White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), photographed on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, north-west Scotland. This bird is now uncommon throughout Europe and is mainly found on remote Scandinavian rocky coasts. It was reintroduced to Scotland and appears to be doing well.

This is likely a young bird as the tail is not obviously white as in the fully mature bird.

Scotland boasts two eagles now the White-tailed Eagle has been reintroduced. The iconic Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) was seen but it was too far away for a decent photograph. Still, two great sightings.

**Deadline for August's newsletter is
Friday July 25th, 2025**
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

VNPA donations

Recently, Matt Ruchel, Executive Director VNPA, made a direct appeal to members and Friends groups, calling for donations to mitigate some of the impact of recent budget cuts. An appeal for \$40,000 was made, which would be matched by other donors, if successful by June 30. This note will reach you after that deadline but you can still donate to Parks and help all their good work.

<https://support.vnpa.org.au/>

Guardians of Hope

Amanda Dudgeon is a park ranger, documentary film maker and a proud ambassador of the Thin Green Line Foundation. She has made a documentary, *Guardians of Hope*, of the Walking the Thin Green Line Oceania expedition, in which she features a year's journey throughout the Oceania region, its National Parks and people involved.

As part of the journey, Amanda hiked 1610km to honour the 1610 rangers known to have lost their lives since 2009*.

Our very own Cam Beardsell appears in the documentary, which is in itself a good reason to check the film out. He appears briefly in the attached link. The documentary premieres in Sydney at the end of July. There is no mention of any wider distribution, but if any further information comes to hand we will pass it on.

In any event, this is an important film highlighting the work done in the region to protect our environment and the challenges faced.

<https://www.guardiansofhopefilm.com/>

* it's not clear if this refers to the Oceania region or worldwide. Either way, it's a big number.

National Tree Planting Day

Taking place on July 27. Stay posted and volunteer — FOWSP will be doing its bit.

Recipe of the Month

Easy Vegan Coconut Cherry cookies

Ingredients

4 tbsp desiccated coconut or rolled oats
50 g caster sugar
75 g dairy-free butter or margarine
(optional) 1 tsp vanilla extract
95 g self-raising flour
12 glace cherries, cut in half

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C or 160°C fan-forced.

Prepare a bowl with the coconut or rolled oats.

In a large, separate bowl beat the margarine and sugar together until fluffy, then stir in the vanilla (if using).

Stir in the flour and mix into a dough. Divide the dough into 24 pieces and roll into balls with slightly damp hands.

Roll in the coconut/oat mixture and top with a half cherry.

Place on a baking tray, allowing room for the biscuits to expand.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes until lightly golden.

Sybille



A Perons Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*) found in the potting mix at the nursery

Notes from Panton Hill — Palaces, Geckos and Drainpipes

It is a great delight to walk outside and be distracted by a butterfly or bird. That is the joy of living in a green and leafy suburb, or for some of us, the bush. We can enhance that experience by planting to attract native creatures into our gardens and developing a slightly different attitude toward its maintenance.

The manicured lawn is an important goal for many gardeners but it is not conducive to butterfly development. Our brown butterflies lay their eggs in grass. Common Brown butterflies will lay on just about any grass but other less common brown butterflies need indigenous grasses for their eggs to develop.

Below: female Common Brown butterfly (*Heteronympha merope*)



On my walks around the area, I despair at the close-cropped mowing that takes place on the road reserves in preparation for the fire season. There is a generalised presumption that all grass is the same and needs to be cut like a European lawn. When you look at the native grasses growing under indigenous trees, they are sparse. Introduced grasses that have escaped from paddocks are robust, introduced to feed cattle sheep and horses.

Below: Shouldered Brown butterfly (*Heteronympha penelope*)



Typical larval food plants for the Shouldered Brown butterfly include *Rytidosperma penicillatum*, *R. pilosum* and *Themeda triandra*.

In Panton Hill, we are fortunate enough to have indigenous grasses on our road reserves. In Church Road, for example, there are areas of Knead Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma geniculatum*). This is a hardy grass that really never needs to be mowed as it doesn't grow beyond 20 cm, and when it flowers in late spring to summer, the sparse stems only get to 30 cm high. Great for a garden lawn and great for a low-maintenance garden.

Likewise, Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*), prefers a shadier spot but will stay green in summer as long as you don't mow it. If you do want to mow it, then leave areas so that our butterflies can lay their eggs — the mowed areas will go brown in dry times but will bounce back again as soon as the rains arrive. Weeping Grass is so called because of the seed heads that bend over in an attractive arching manner. I recall sitting by a friend's dam, the wood ducks having manicured the blades of grass but the seed heads were left looking very graceful.



Above: Ringed Xenica butterfly (*Geitoneura acantha*).

Typical larval food plants for the Ringed Xenica butterfly include *Microlaena stipoides*, *Poa siberiana*, *P. tenera*, *P. Labillardieri* and *Themeda triandra*.

Most of our butterflies are flying in summer when there is little around to feed

Notes from Panton Hill — Palaces, Geckos and Drainpipes (cont'd)



Above: Klug's Xenica (*Geitoneura klugii*) Larval food plants, *Poa labillaedieri*, *P. morrissi*, *P. sieberiana*, *P. tenera*, *Rytidosperma pallidum* and *Themeda triandra*

(cont'd from p.3)

them. So if we want them in the garden then planting indigenous plants that flower in the times that can be harsh is a good idea.

My vote goes to Purple Loosestrife, a water lover, but you can pop it in a pot that will contain water or in your pond and it will flower and flower and flower all through the summer. I had three of them: one in the back pond, one in a concrete container and one in an old stoneware jar. The latter unfortunately succumbed to the activities of Fin the Fox Hound, who thinks it is a great game to take plants out of pots. No amount of wire mesh would prevent him — he just undid that too. It is now recovering in the backyard.

Sweet Bursaria is another indigenous plant that flowers in summer and, of course, it provides an opportunity for the Copper butterfly.

Another ant butterfly in the area is the Imperial Blue (see *above right*) and that needs a source of immature wattles for the lava to feed on. I have found them on the weedy wattle *Acacia decurrens*, so it is a good idea to check for their pupa before removing them.

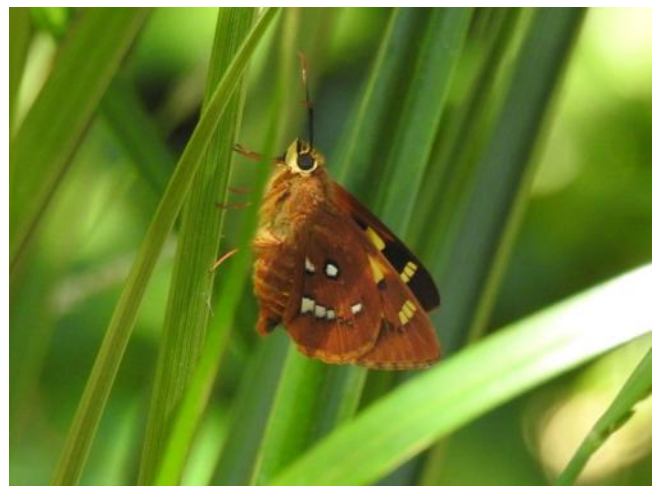
Exotics in the herb garden that survive summer and attract butterflies can include mint and lemon balm, which can also attract the Blue Banded Bee.

The Splendid Ochre butterfly needs Lo-



Above: Imperial Blue butterfly (*Jamenus evagoras*). Pupa with attendant ants below butterfly. For this butterfly, larval plants include local wattles, *Acacia dealbata*, *A. mearnsii* and *A. melanoxylon*.

mandra to lay its eggs on. I have a whole row of it on my road reserve. Previously a grass nature strip of exotic species, the *Lomandra* flourishes. It just curls up its leaves when there is no water around. Other plants nearby offer a roost for male butterflies to claim their territory.



Above: Splendid Ochre butterfly (*Trapezites symmokus*). Larval food plants *Lomandra longifolia*

Down the backyard I have one *Lomandra* growing next to a Tree Violet. The latter provides a perfect perch for the Splendid Ochre and is one of the indigenous plants recommended as an ember screen. Ours gets through summer on our grey water system.

Cont'd p.5

Notes from Panton Hill — Palaces, Geckos and Drainpipes (cont'd)



Above: White-browed Scrubwren (*Sericornis frontalis*)

Small birds come into our garden in summer when the bush is dry. So we provide shallow bowls with drinking water. Terracotta flowerpot bases are great for this, placed on rocks in sheltered areas or on larger upside-down flowerpots. We have recycled a few broken flowerpots in this way. Glued back together with Bond-Crete, you can even cover the join with a bit of mosaic if you wish.

Small birds also need a continuous planting of shrubs to get safely around the garden. These give them shelter from the attacks of Noisy Miners and predators such as ravens and currawongs. Correas are ideal for this and provide food for pollinators. They also make a great hedge and can be pruned that way if desired. You have only to visit the Panton Hill Fire Fighters Memorial Park to see local species, *Correa glabra* and *C. reflexa*, to realize what an effective hedge Correa makes. For a really hardy correa, there is also the naturally occurring hybrid *C. glabra x reflexa*.

I have mentioned before that a pristine manicured garden is not really compatible with inviting the wildlife in and unfortunately many television garden shows influence decisions being made. Water-hungry green lawns are seen as the norm and indigenous grasses just don't have the look. I have recently seen this hap-

pening in a property in Kangaroo Ground where the indigenous grass has been scraped off and lawn planted. A hedge of exotics planted around the perimeter of a bush block. No doubt they think they are improving their property. But it is a giant step backward ecologically, not to mention creating fuel!

There is also the myth that exotics don't burn. People have forgotten the Ash Wednesday fires when Mt Macedon went up. That was predominately exotics with a heritage rhododendron garden on the summit. All burnt to nothing.

To encourage creatures into the garden and allow them to reproduce can be simple. A few terracotta drain pipes around the garden will provide a hidey hole for Blue-tongue lizards. Skinks bask on rocks and a pile of bricks can make a palace for the Southern Marbled Gecko. We have the latter everywhere now. They started off in the wood pile and have recently been found in the tool cupboard and under plastic tubs in the garden as well as the aforementioned brick pile.



Above: Blotched Blue-tongue (*Tiliqua nigrolutea*)

It is a great adventure creating a garden that welcomes our natural guests, and pleasure can be derived from watching the progress and results.

Kim Tarpey
Panton Hill Landcare

Butterfly larval food information from *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael F. Braby.

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>

3/7/25	Frogland	Linda	Weeding	Easy
10/7/25	Walert Creek	Don	Maintenance/woody weeds	Mod
17/7/25	Haslam fence	Phil	Grassy weeds, reveg maintenance/thinning	Easy/mod
24/7/25	Endeavour Bank	Josh/ Artur	National Tree Day (prep)	Easy
31/7/25	Fourth Hill/Wildcat Gully	Phil	Weeding angled onion	Easy/mod
7/8/25	Laughing Waters	Phil	Woody weeds	Easy/mod

I'm afraid we are all over the place with TAG reports. Don's report for May arrived after publication of the newsletter. Then we were away and, now Don and Carolyn are away (I think). Rest assured the TAG team have been busy (although the picture below appears to belie that!). I am assured that it was work.



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.

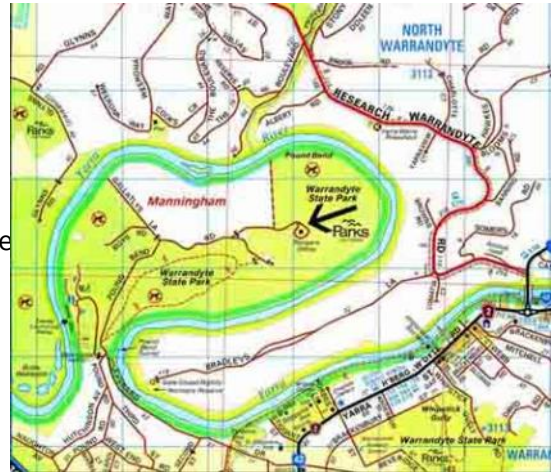
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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Nillumbik Gardens For Wildlife

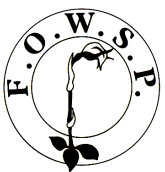
Gardens For Wildlife is a Nillumbik Council initiative designed to encourage and guide local residents to create wildlife friendly gardens that support biodiversity and improve habitat connectivity.

Upon registering your interest (Google Nillumbik Gardens for Wildlife where you will see an on-line form), you will be visited by two trained, friendly and local 'Garden Guides' who will undertake an assessment, provide suggestions and a written report.

The programme is designed to provide guidance on habitat planting with indigenous plants. It is not a general gardening advice service, nor does it provide guidance on design or landscaping.

There is a newsletter with plenty of ideas for our own gardens, as well as a featured plant.

Each edition starts with the indigenous season we are currently in and runs through some of the things that might be happening.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who volunteered to run the trailer on
Saturday, 7 June, Christine Arndell, Chris Kay, Marion Thomson,
Marie Krause, Pam von Drehnen and Jan Falconer.

Trailer transport: Artur Muchow



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 on 0419 872 096 or email trailer@fowsp.org.au

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are:

Saturday, 5th July 2025
Saturday, 2nd August 2025

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2025			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
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			nursery@fowsp.org.au	
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treasurer@fowsp.org.au		Membership		
John Young	0412327798	Newsletter editor	<u>Ranger contact</u>	
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			philip.rance@parks.vic.gov.au	
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			Lyn Moore	
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Market Trailer</u>	
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			trailer@fowsp.org.au	
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legality@bigpond.com			Carolyn Noel	0409 901441
		Lynda Chambers		
		0466 274421 phenolo-		
		gist@gmail.com		

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday July 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.