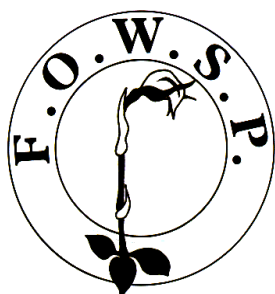


**August 2025****Volume 43 Number 6**

# 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

Hi

When will the winter end? Since that unseasonably warm Autumn, it's been freezing here in Warrandyte and environs. Volunteers at the Nursery have taken to working in the open so as to catch any weak sunshine.

Still, with Spring around the corner, here is the August newsletter. There is a return of Lisa Jenkins' articles on weeds, so thank you for that. Linda Rogan has doubled up in providing an article on the work in Frogland that was also a TAG.

National Tree Day was on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July and, thanks to Artur Muchow for organising, FOWSP made a significant contribution.

Finally, with blossom appearing all over, perhaps you can send a picture for others to enjoy.

**John Young**

Don't forget you can 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](mailto:treasurer@fowsp.org.au) to let him know about your donation.



Above: a pair of Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) with the drab female below. According to Wikipedia, Eider down is harvested from the nests of farmed birds in a sustainable fashion. That may be so now but in the past the birds were shot and plucked. Happily, they are protected now and numbers appear to be increasing. Certainly in the Lakes district of England, where my daughter lives, a once unusual bird is present in large numbers.

**Deadline for September's newsletter is  
Friday August 29<sup>th</sup>, 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



## New heat pad

Thanks to **Field Naturalists Club of Victoria** for their generous grant, enabling us to buy a new heat pad. It covers about a quarter of our end igloo and is a great asset.



**Conocybe filaris** (one of the Death Caps) found growing from a pot at the nursery. No jokes please.

## Recipe of the Month

### Gingerbread Cake

#### Ingredients:

125g butter  
250g brown sugar (I used 200g)  
2 eggs  
1 tbsp golden syrup  
250g plain flour  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp ground ginger  
Small tsp of bicarb of soda in 1/2 cup of milk

#### Method:

Beat butter and sugar together  
Add beaten eggs and mix for 2 minutes  
Add golden syrup and mix  
Add flour and spices alternatively with the milk mixture  
Put in 20cm square, greased cake tin  
Bake 45 minutes at 180°C

**Anne**

## Fungi Map

Speaking of fungi, there is great service members can use to identify fungi. It's called **Fungimap**. **Fungimap** is actively seeking records and images to put on their website at <https://fungimap.org.au/fungi-down-under-100-target-species/>.

They have a field guide, **Fungi Down Under**, which is a great guide for beginners and experts alike.

They also have a project with i-Naturalist **Fungimap Australia** <https://www.inaturalist.org/project/fungimap-australia>.

## Market Trailer

*If you are able to help out with transport of the Market Trailer please contact Artur (mylnet7@gmail.com)*



## ***A little history of weeds in Victoria***

### **7: Natives not Indigenous**

It's sometimes hard to "*unknow*" a certain style or cultural moment because its influence has been so great — how many can remember the world of sci-fi films before *Star Wars*, for example? Gardens containing plants native to Australia are so ubiquitous now that I myself find it impossible to imagine residential streetscapes without them. Our neighbourhood is brimming with native plants, often those species with in-your-face flowers such as *Anigozanthos* species (Kangaroo Paw), *Telopea speciosissima* (NSW Waratah), *Hakea laurina* (Pincushion tree) *Corymbia ficifolia* (Red flowering gum) and *Banksia ericifolia* (Lantern banksia), none of which, of course, are local to this area. And all of these plants do well here, if they're positioned and cared-for correctly; the street trees in one section of our road are *Corymbia ficifolia* and it is an utter delight when they flower in their vivid red.



Above: *Corymbia ficifolia*

It wasn't all that long ago that Australian natives were rare in gardens. They started becoming popular in the 1970s, part of the left-wing inflected nationalism which produced *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, a raft of rock bands and broad political changes such as the Land Rights movement and the Women's Movement.

In this heady environment gardeners began to see native plants for the first time, educated by their local nurseries and a wave of gardening books which were exclusively about Australian natives. I'm not talking about the pioneers of landscaping and garden design - Edna Walling and Ellis Stones, Gordon Ford, Jean Walker and

Betty Maloney (Walling had been using native plants since the 1940s). I'm talking about workaday suburban gardens, whose owners bought plants propagated on a commercial scale.

What these gardening books argued is that there are Australian natives suitable for any area in a garden: arid, damp and shady, for a rockery or a pond. They list the plants according to their qualities — a colourful flower, a tree suitable for a small garden and so on — and the conditions in which they grow best. This in much the same way that a British gardening book will list begonias, lavenders and yews according to colour, height and conditions, with little or no interest in their provenance.



Above: a vividly coloured Australian native border

This was a counterpoint to a gardening culture that was built around exotics. Most guides to growing natives take a moderate stance, arguing that the best approach is to blend natives and exotics for a 'balanced' effect (p7, *RTM Pescott, Native plants for Australian gardens, Melbourne, 1980*). They also prioritize colour, stressing plants like those I list above. Alert to the criticism that natives are 'drab', they illustrate their books with photos of native gardens that are as vivid a melange as any English herbaceous border.

*Cont'd p.4*

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

Inevitably, some native plants snuck into the nurseries that were vigorous in a variety of conditions and excellent seed-spreaders. Soon, of course, they escaped from gardens and started becoming weeds.

It's understandable why both *Acacia baileyana* (the Cootamundra wattle) and *Pittosporum undulatum* (Sweet pittosporum) were attractive to gardeners in this period. *Pittosporum undulatum* does smell sweet, and its flowers and fruits are both pretty and showy. *Acacia baileyana* is a froufrou shrub with its delicate, grey-green pinnate leaves and equally delicate, lush flower heads.



Above: *Acacia baileyana*

*Acacia baileyana* is indigenous to a very small area in southern inland New South Wales including Cootamundra for which it is named and *Pittosporum undulatum* is a rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest plant with a range from Tasmania into Queensland. But as we know, both plants are everywhere here, in both bush and gardens.

So the 1970s gave us both exotic weeds (*Tradscantia* and *Agapanthus*) and home-grown ones. Despite the fact that *Cootamundras* and *Pittosporums* are native, we must treat them as we treat other weeds — remove and control them so that they don't swamp the vegetation indigenous to our area.



Above: the sweetly scented flowers of *Pittosporum undulatum*



Above: - and its vivid orange fruit

***Lisa Jenkins***



## ***Stalwart TAGers meet Frogland challenge***

Eradicating bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*), is a challenge wherever it grows. This is particularly true of the thick infestation that has lined the road on the approach to Frogland in recent years and has been a particular thorn in my side. With the assistance of three dedicated TAGers — David, Robin and Belinda — we took heart and began the attack on the first Thursday in July.



Above: Robin and Belinda get to work

Bridal creeper is a particularly nasty weed, which was just then emerging from hiding and sending out its first long green tendrils. We have been successful in controlling this weed inside Frogland with just a few new ones dug out each year but the infestations just outside the fence and especially along the approach road are a continual source of new plants.



Above and below left: Leaves and Rhizomes of *Asparagus asparagoides*

A single tendril often indicated a patch of rhizomes several inches across. Careful prodding underneath was required to be able lift these clusters intact. In the end, we had at least four bags full and were also able to remove a large number of emerging scotch thistles.

As per Robin's suggestion, we decided to plant wallaby grass in the disturbed soil where the creeper had been dug out. We finished the morning with a feeling of accomplishment but realise the crew will need to keep an eye out for any plants we will have inevitably missed.

**Linda**



Above: Gray noticed a plant studded with tiny metallic flea beetles (*Altica* species) which had last been noticed around the nursery in March



## European birdsong

We've got some beautiful birds in Australia. Our honeyeaters are unique and our parrots are envied. However, what we don't have, in my opinion, are true song-birds. We've got carolling Magpies, Laughing Kookaburras and Noisy Miners but none could be described as giving us a melodious accompaniment as we walk through the bush or parkland.

In contrast, northern Europe has loads of singing birds and a real chorus as you walk through woodlands (mind you, seeing them in the dense foliage of the summer months is a different matter). One particular group is known as Warblers. In the warmer months, many of these birds are common, having migrated northwards from Africa or southern Europe, though, unfortunately, when the leaves are bare in winter, they disappear.

If you are in that part of the world, keep an eye (and ear) out.



Above: the aptly named Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*) and, immediate right, a Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) which defies my thesis by calling its name.



Top to bottom: Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*); Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*); Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) and Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

**John**



## **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>

7/8/25	Laughing Waters	Phil	Woody weeds	Easy/mod
14/8/25	Chaim Court	Phil	Woody weeds, planting	Easy/mod
21/8/25	Endeavour Bank	Josh	NTD plant check/maintenance	Easy
28/8/25	Fourth Hill/Fiddler fence	Phil	Planting, woody weed/grass control	Easy
4/9/25	Rifle Range/Butterman's Track	David/Robyn	Planting/reveg maintenance	Easy
11/9/25	One Tree Hill	Phil/Cam	Dunnart housing/weeding	Easy/mod

## ***National Tree Day***

**National Tree Day** on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> of July saw 15 volunteers continue the work along Endeavour Bank. About 250 new trees and shrubs were added to previous years' 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.

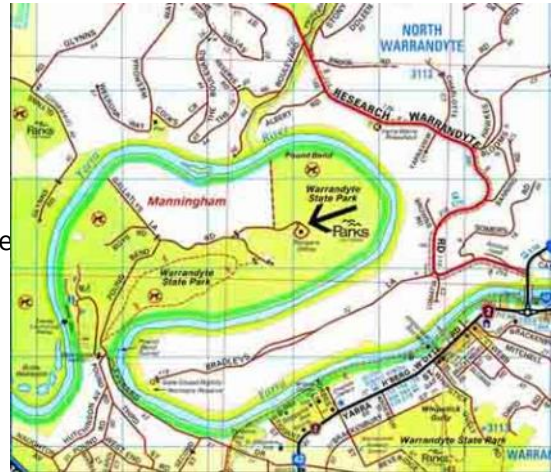
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

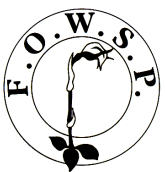
**Gardens For Wildlife** is a Nillumbik Council initiative designed to encourage and guide local residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens that support biodiversity and improve habitat connectivity.

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, 5 July**, Christine Arndell, Chris Kay, Marion Thomson,  
Marie Krause, Pam von Drehnen, Lyn Moore and Jeff Cranston.

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](mailto:trailer@fowsp.org.au)**  
*First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

**Next market dates are:**  
Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025  
Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 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>	
editor@fowsp.org.au			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	Wildlife rescue Victoria	<u>Manningham Council Rep</u>	
lynm333g@gmail.com		<a href="https://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/contact-us">https://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/contact-us</a>	Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
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legality@bigpond.com			Carolyn Noel	0409 901441
		Lynda Chambers		
		0466 274421 phenolo-		
		gist@gmail.com		

Next Committee Meeting	
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday August 12, 2025
<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.