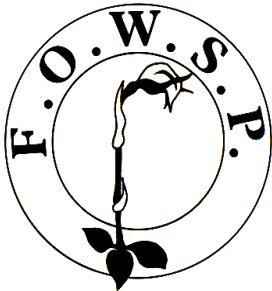


December 2025

Volume 43 Number 10

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

Hi

Reports on the AGM, held late November, are on pp. 2 - 4, while the break up party is featured on p.5.

Linda Rogan has articles on pp. 6,9,10 and a final TAG catchup from Don on pp.11 — 13. Lyn has an article on two books held in our library (p.7), so please check them out.

FOWSP will be shutting down after December 18th and will reopen on January 8th.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John

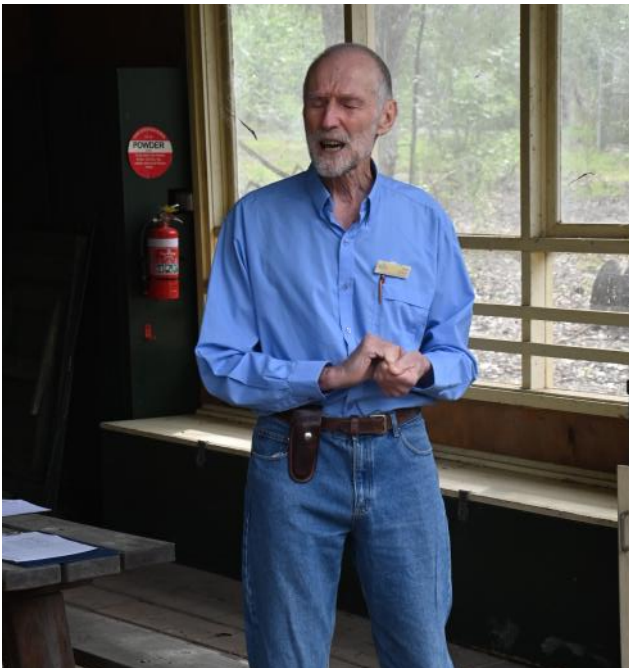


Assisting in getting rid of those pesky ants in Joy's garden

**Deadline for February's newsletter is
Friday January 23rd, 2026**

**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**

AGM Acknowledgments



As always, we thank Ranger Team Leader Warren Murphy for allowing us to play our part in maintaining and improving our beloved Warrandyte State Park. Thanks also to patient, ever-willing, Contact Ranger Phil Rance, who no matter how much he is stretched, always revs up and makes time for us. Thanks to Cam Beardsell for his enthusiastic dissertations on botany, ecology, local history and many other topics. Thanks also to the invaluable Colin Bromiley whom we missed while he was on leave. We are so happy to have him back again!

Financially we are in the best position ever (see Treasurer's summary p.3). The Nursery is literally flourishing, as you will learn from our Nursery Manager, and the Thursday Activity Groups have gone from strength to strength. Under Don's management they have gone from me deciding on the TAG as I walked to the Nursery, to an ambitious programme made a year ahead. Don's report will give some idea of the depth and scope of this year's programme.

In the past I have tended to emphasise how much FOWSP does for the Park, but, for a change, I'd like to draw attention to what FOWSP does for its members.

The benefits include: an opportunity to contribute to a worthwhile enterprise, a chance to learn new skills and knowledge, and to do meaningful work in Nature,

with likeminded people. Above all, there are what might be termed psychosocial benefits: opportunities to meet new people who share at least a few important values and interests - to enjoy their company and even make new friends.



From a Leunig calendar — no such problem at FOWSP

Much has been spoken and written about the "Epidemic of Loneliness" - well, folks, we have the antidote! Just turn up at 9:30am on a Thursday for the good medicine! Which somehow brings me to what for many is the highlight of our Thursday workdays: Morning Tea, when Sybille's inspired catering is the accompaniment for enthusiastic and freewheeling conversation.

Thanks to Lynda Chambers, our multitalented, industrious Nursery Assistant, who has a phenomenal range of abilities that she is willing to draw upon for us; and who is always calm and approachable, no matter how much pressure she is under. Finally, I wish to thank Josh Revell, our Nursery Manager for devotion way beyond the call of duty. For knowledge of our local flora he is unsurpassed - even professional botanists consult him! By patient experimentation he has worked out propagation techniques for many temperamental species. I've just used the word patient - and patient is the word for his gentle, attentive approach to customers and volunteers, no matter how insistent or demanding they may be. As I always conclude, forgive me for failing to thank the many to whom thanks are due - rest assured you are appreciated for helping to make this such a great year!

Gray

Treasurer's report



Sales:

Plant sales improved from \$68.7K to \$79.7 K in the financial year 2024/25.

Where did we get our sales from?

The Biggies (MW, MCC)	\$43.1K	56%
Tap and Go	\$29.4K	38%
Cash – nursery	\$ 3.5K	5%
Market trailer	\$ 0.7K	1%

Grants:

Lions Warrandyte for rehabilitation at Nilja
Manningham Council and Bendigo Bank for nursery trestles
Enormous thanks for two very generous donations – Carol Page and Joy Hick.

Expenses

Overall expenses – all sources – increased from \$59.4K to \$63.4K up 6.7%.

Some of the highlights:

- We paid people
- Soil – 4 deliveries against 3 the previous year
- Tubes and tags \$2275
- Work on upgrading the sprinkler water system
- Effect of the river pump replacement in 2023/24
- Focus on resolving some issues with long service leave provisions – on going but nearing resolution.
- The two assets on the asset register

(Environmental Education Centre and the igloos) are now fully depreciated.

Operating result

The operating result was a surplus of \$21,011. Prior year result was a surplus of \$21,162.

Finally a great shout out to all those who have helped me over the past 12 months (and hopefully going forward). It's often the little things

Tony

Nursery Manager's report

A big increase in sales means a big increase in volunteer activity – so my thanks to everybody who helped throughout the year.

In addition to providing for the large orders from Melbourne Water and Manningham council, we have supplied several thousand grasses to Anderson Creek Landcare, for their work on Gold Memorial Drive, as well as plants to Don's TAG team and to Parks Vic.

We should note that FOWSP is not just a provider of plants for these groups in their work within the area. FOWSP plays a significant role in propagating rare species. Several rare species were successfully propagated during the year and this stock can be held as a reserve or to possibly rehabilitate and area.

Josh

Ranger report

A summary of Phil's report:

- Management of illegal activities
 - Bike tracks
 - Humpies
 - Rope play
 - Rough sleepers
- Weed removal
- Fuel management
- Orchid conservation
- Feral animal control
 - Deer
 - Rabbits
 - Foxes

Phil

TAG report for 2025



2025 has again been a full year for the Thursday Activity Group. By year end we will have conducted 51 TAGs, of which 23 were led by either Phil or Cam to many of the fenced enclosures in the WSP. We have also had some 'autonomous' TAGs to enclosures without rangers.

Some of the highlights for the year:

- Pauline Toner Reserve, as usual, planting *Bursaria* and improving habitat for the Eltham Copper Butterfly and orchids, with a highlight being Cam reporting that surveys found ECB grubs on some of the *Bursaria* we planted three years ago
- We've continued the grant acquittal from Melbourne Water under Artur's guidance, continuing to extend the enclosures on Pound Bend, which have been replanted due to low survival rates from wallaby and rabbit browsing. Luckily the *Banksia marginata* have survived
- Finally seeing a Slender-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis murina*) under one of

the houses at One Tree Hill

- A TAG led by Carolyn to make another artwork to beautify the concrete tank near the nursery, involving a lot of enthusiastic FOWSPers, some even with artistic talent.

Other areas regularly attended are various enclosures on Fourth Hill (of which there are seven including the Harding Road/Red Beard Fences), Longridge Farm, Rifle Range, Walert Creek, Morrisons, Chaim Court, and especially here on Pound Bend, to maintain the many plantings and enclosures and undertaking woody weed removal.

We treat every plant we get from the nursery as precious, as we know the effort that has gone into their production. We have been struggling with deer and wallaby grazing and damage to our plantings, as well as the effect of the dry autumn, so are having to provide more maintenance and watering to maintain survival rates.

The effort is not decreasing, and this year we have lost some of our regulars, offset to some degree by some young and enthusiastic newcomers. Nevertheless, every task is energetically attacked.

Thanks to Josh for his guidance and, to both Josh and Linda for keeping us supplied with appropriately selected plants for our planting expeditions. Thanks to Robyn and Dave for coordinating TAGs in my winter absence.

Much appreciation to Phil for his coordination and leading of the TAGs to the Parks enclosures, with interesting background information, and plant identification. Thanks also to Cam for his outings and chats, especially sharing his incredible knowledge of Warrandyte State Park, its diverse natural environment and the complex relationships between plants and animals.

Also thanks to Sybille with Kay's assistance, for the delicious morning teas provided throughout the year.

Don

Around The Traps

End of 2025!

Not quite — there is still a week or two to go but regular FOWSPians enjoyed a BBQ lunch at the Folly on December 11th.



Top left: thanks to all who provided food — this contribution was pretty good! Top right: Don — MasterChef Main: good to see Barry with us.



Carol, Linda and Peter enjoy an afternoon visit to Montsalvat while a special exhibition of Ray Besserdin's fantastic paper sculptures were on display. Ray is known to them through membership in the Entomological Society of Victoria.

They are shown here with one of his works, **Blue-spotted Hawker**, *Ad-versaeschna brevistyla* (female). This is one of the most common and well recognised larger Australian Dragonflies.

Linda notes that one morning she was rewarded with a beautiful female kindly resting long enough outside of her studio in the Dandenong Ranges, to allow the

perfect reference photograph.

This artwork is part of an exhibition at Montsalvat Arts Centre "Insects, Botanicals and Other Works"

Another work, "A Call to Change (of Christmas Past)", is based on 'the conspicuous decline of our Christmas Beetles, exemplifying all insects world wide.'

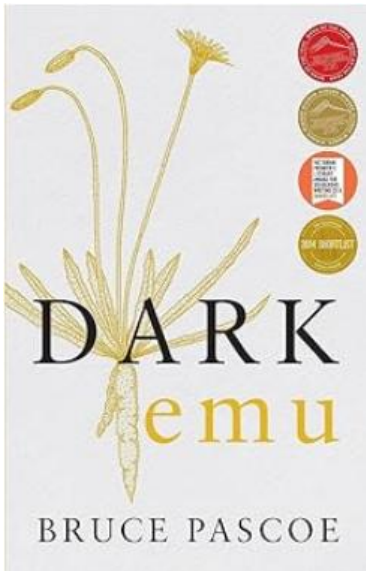
The artist explains 'In the web of life, beetles are both important as plant pollinators and agents of the nutrient cycle at root level.'

Linda

Book Chat with Lyn

DARK EMU by Bruce Pascoe

Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe was recently voted number 18 in the Top 100 Books of the 21st Century from ABC Radio National.



The majority of the books in the list are novels so it is quite an achievement to be ranked so highly. I am mentioning it here because we have two copies of this fascinating book in our library. If you would like to know more before you read it, Gloria, our previous librarian, did a Book Chat

about this book in the April 2021 newsletter available on the FOWSP website (<https://fowsp.org.au>).

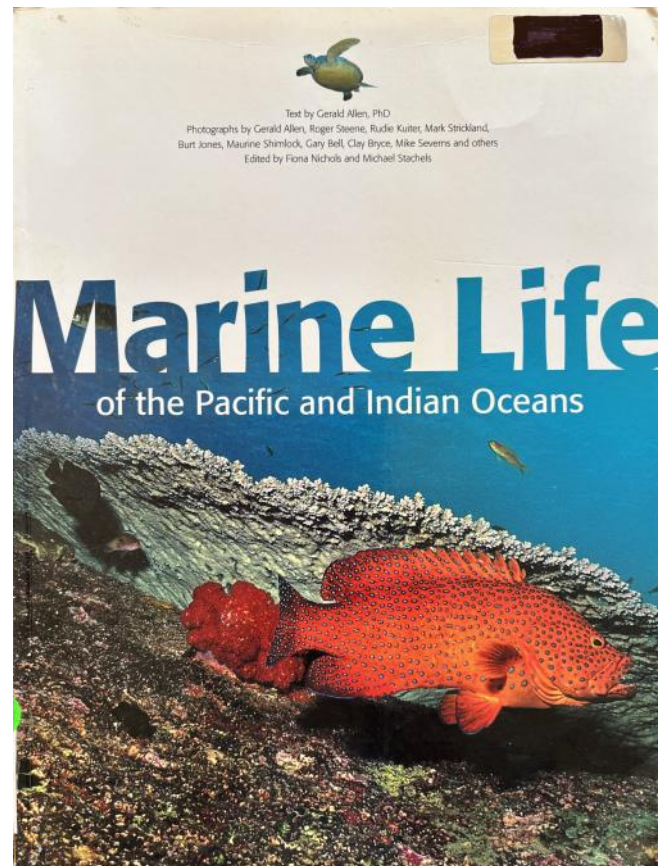
The library reference number is ED421 (white sticker).

MARINE LIFE OF THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS by Gerald Allen

Marine Life of the Pacific and Indian Oceans by Gerald Allen is another book kindly donated by Carol Page. It is the first guide to marine life added to our library.

I am a very keen snorkeller whenever I go anywhere with warm ocean water, so I really enjoyed browsing through the book looking at the amazing photographs and reading interesting snippets about some of the things I've seen or would like to see. Some of the animals are also in the rockpools at our beaches, such as the blue-ringed octopus. As well as information about each of the 350 species, there's also lots of informative text about plants of the reef, coral reefs in general, and about the different animal groups in the book.

The back cover says:
"The vast Indo-Pacific region is the world's richest underwater province. The



development of its coral reef is unsurpassed, forming a sanctuary for a myriad of colourful, often bizarre life forms. Nowhere else is there such a fascinating array of undersea creatures.

"This handy reference book enables the diver to identify about 350 of the most colourful and most commonly encountered species. It provides a compact, comprehensive introduction to the region's coral reef inhabitants – sponges, corals, jellyfish, crabs, shellfish, sea slugs, starfish, fishes and many other organisms – virtually all the main groups from seaweeds to mammals.

"*Marine Life of the Indian and Pacific Oceans* showcases more than 350 high-quality photographs by some of the world's finest underwater photographers. The informative text by Dr Gerald Allen, renowned international expert on coral reef fishes and author of numerous books on marine life, provides essential reading for the avid diver."

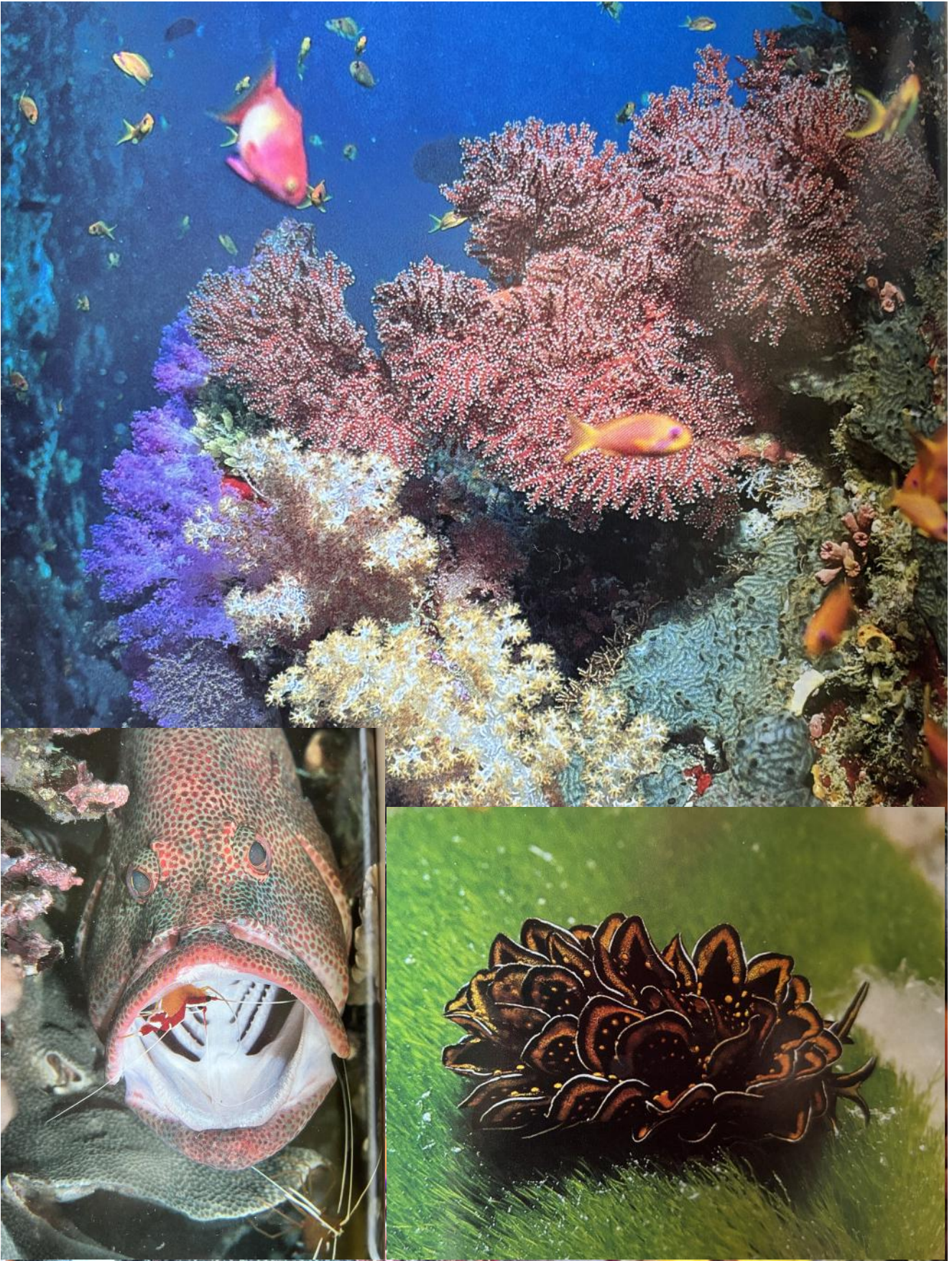
The library reference number for this book is EN596 (green sticker).

Lyn

Photos from Marine Life of Pacific and Indian Oceans

Main – coral reef in South East Asia

Inserts: (left) Cleaner Shrimp (*Lysmata amboinensis*) searching for parasites
(right) Sacoglossan Sea Slug (*Limapontioidea* sp.)

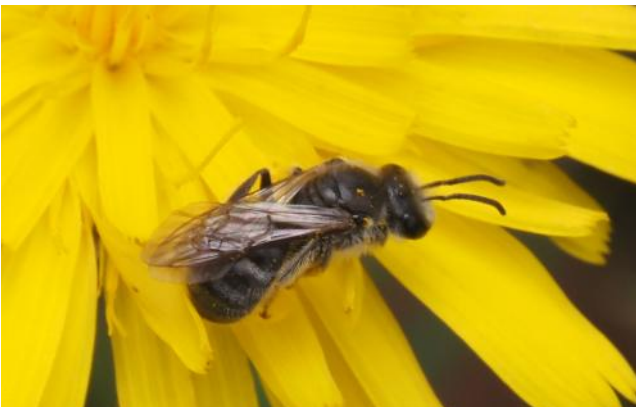


Polyscias sambucifolia

On Thursday November 27th, as I wandered down the pathway in Frogland, I noticed several small plants pushing up through the bark mulch walkway. Elderberry panax (*Polyscias sambucifolia*), would quickly grow to at least a meter over my head and certainly cause obstruction of the pathway. Digging around one of the larger plants, I soon discovered it was a sucker attached to a long viny root. The plant was starting to develop its own roots so I cut the sucker and took the plant to Josh to check whether or not it would be useful. Josh was quick to respond that Anne would be able to plant them in Anderson Creek area at the planting next week. I was able to harvest about a dozen for this purpose. Each of these plants will be identical clones of the current Frogland plant. There are still more suckers crossing the main pathway so we may have an inexhaustible source in the future. *Polyscias sambucifolia* is currently developing tiny flowers which are very attractive to native pollinators including native bees on warm days.

Linda





From Linda's trip to the Langwarrin area. Clockwise from bottom left:

Large shiny Bess beetle (from McClelland sculpture park)

Native bee resting on dandelion

Castiana bella

Castiana xanthopilosa

Unusual four petalled *Patersonia* bloom

Some catch up TAG reports

October 2nd saw us weeding at Flora Crescent enclosure in St Andrews. Despite warm and dry weather, the orchids were out and provided a great show for the sharp-eyed. In particular *Caladenia* (formerly *Glossodia*) *major* were out in numerous variations in colour.

Don



From top left to bottom right: Wax-lip orchid (*Caladenia major*) — white form / pale mauve form / purple form

Bottom left: Musky Caps orchid (*Caladenia moschata*) - has a strong scent



Some catch up TAG reports (cont'd)

On October 16th, our clamber down to the Craspedia Fence, in a gully on Fourth Hill, was rewarded with a great flowering of Billy Buttons *Craspedia variabilis* (see photo below). This site is the last known location of a wild population in the War-randyte State Park, which has been protected by fencing, along with supplementary planting and hand weeding.



Phil, our coordinating Ranger, took us to Morrison's in Eltham on October 23rd, for a sweep and destroy mission of the invasive South African *Disa* orchid under the transmission lines. Fortunately we found few, apart from one extensive patch, attacked with gusto while being careful to dig out two bulbs under each plant. We also visited the Latrobeana fence to see, in flower, the vulnerable Clover glycine (*Glycine latrobeana*), found in this location and supplemented with planting.



Phil again led us to Burgan Bend at Jumping Creek on November 27th. This is an unusual site, having alluvial soil in the otherwise rocky/clay soils typical of War-randyte. It was pleasing to see viable seed heads of the Bronze bird orchid (*Chiloglottis pescottiana*), a hybrid form of the Dainty and Common bird orchids (*C. trapeziformis* and *C. valida*, respectively). We spent the morning weeding sweet vernal and other invasives.

A similar task at Fiddler Fence on Fourth Hill, on November 6th, uncovered some lovely specimens of the Eastern mantis orchid (*aladenia tentaculate*) (see below) **Don**



More photos from Don



Above: Red-anther wallaby grass (*Rytidosperma pallidum*) seen in flower after recent rains



Above: Anemone stinkhorn (*Aseroe rubra*) found in grassy areas or in gardens, on mulch



Right: plants available for sale at the FOWSP nursery but growing in their natural habitat, on a granite outcrop near Mt. Alexander.

Sticky everlasting (*Xerochrysem viscosum* — yellow flowers) is beautifully set off by the purple flowers of Rock isotome (*Isotome axillaris*).

It's wonderful to see these plants in the bush. We don't all have granite outcrops in our gardens but these common (and easy to grow) plants make a real splash.

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:

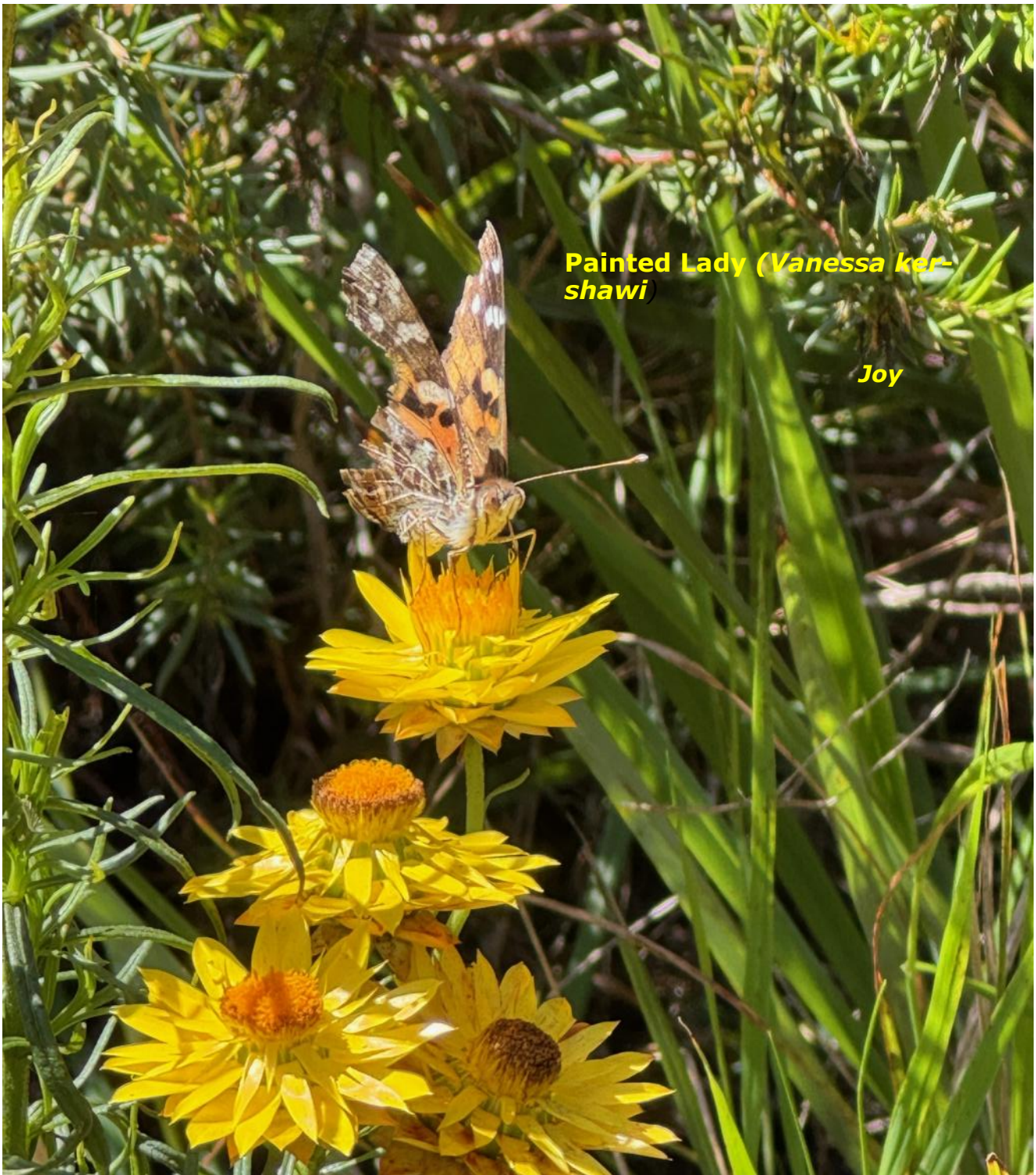
Easy: Even terrain, some light lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Few tripping hazards.

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>

See Don's annual report on p.5 and recent updates on pp. 11-13



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.

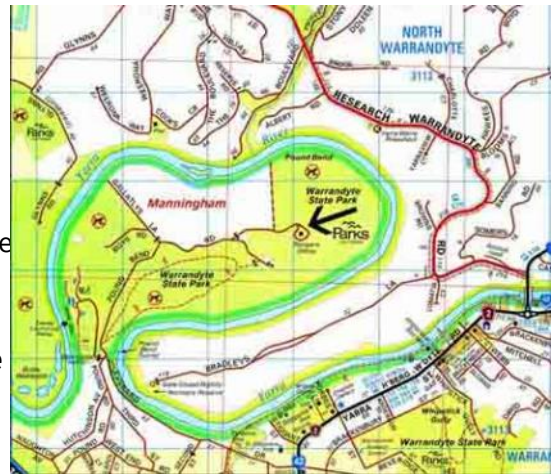
No prior experience necessary -
There is always someone available to show you the ropes.

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

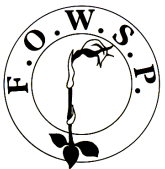
Gardens For Wildlife is a Nillumbik Council initiative designed to encourage and guide local residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens that support biodiversity and improve habitat connectivity.

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 during 2025. Marion Thomson, Christine Arndell, Chris Kay, Marie Krause, Pam von Drehnen, Caitriona Young, Jeff Cranston, Joy Hick 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, February 7th 2026
Saturday, March 7th 2026



WSP COMMITTEE 2026		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 (non committee position)	<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			
Lyn Moore 0409 683 041 lynm333g@gmail.com		<u>Market Trailer</u> Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 trailer@fowsp.org.au	
		<u>Manningham Council Rep</u> Cathy Willis 0427 660 651	
Jeff Cranston 0418 396 647 legality@bigpond.com		<u>Webmaster</u> Jason Patton 0402 121838 webmaster@fowsp.org.au	
Staff Representative		<u>Facebook coordinator</u> Carolyn Noel 0409 901441	
Lynda Chambers 0466 274421 phenologist@gmail.com			

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday February 10, 2026
Venue:	Education Centre Pound Bend
Time:	17:00

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.