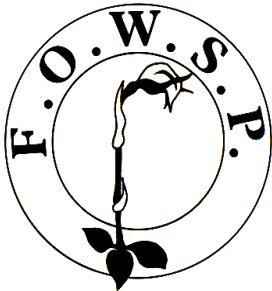


February 2026

Volume 44 Number 1

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

A much shorter edition this month as most of us have been in holiday mode / looking after grandchildren / hiding from the heat or any combination of these.

Fortunately for us the extreme heat over the past few weeks has not affected any of our Thursday get togethers, nor have the fires had a direct impact. However, I am sure it has been challenging for most of us as we live in this highly fire prone area. So far, so good.

In this issue, we do have a recent photo of the majority of our regular volunteers. If you were missing that day contact me for a picture to go in the next Newsletter!

A tribute tree was planted for Carol Page a couple of weeks ago, so see p.3.

When we have met on a Thursday, the amount of tidying up has been amazing. Tony and Gray need special mention here. The volume of plants pricked out from seedlings grows apace (so many grasses ... so so many grasses) and the work of the cuttings experts, Alwynn and Louise, is impressive.

I am off to Vietnam for a couple of weeks bird watching so the March edition of the newsletter may be a bit late. However, it could contain some photos of exotic Asian birds.

John



A Blue-winged Kookaburra (*Dacelo leachii*). Found in northern Australia, from the Queensland border northwards, it overlaps with the Laughing Kookaburra in that state. Apart from the blue wings (not always obvious), its main features are a blue tail and a striped crown with no black patch behind the eye. Its call is a strangled gurgling sound, no laugh at all.

**Deadline for March's newsletter is
Friday February 27th, 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**

Around The Traps



Above: word gets out when you've been volunteering for a long while. Caitriona, Carol and Linda's birthdays were all flagged well in advance so the cake was waiting! (see recipe p.5)

Below: a pretty full gathering of FOWSP volunteers recently, when the TAG team were also around. Perhaps this can replace the picture on the website?



Gratiola peruviana or austral brooklime, is a native of both the eastern seaboard of Australia and the western seaboard of South America.

This suggests an ancient lineage when the continental landmasses were conjoined. Alternatively, the seed has travelled an awful long way.





FOWSPians held a small ceremony recently to honour Carol Page's years of service. A eucalypt was planted near the Pound Bend picnic area. A plaque is planned in the future.

From top left and clockwise: Carol with her tree; Carol and Joy share a moment and Carol and Cathy admire the tree.

Orchid tuber distribution



This is a bit of shameless reporting but I thought FOWSP members might like to know about the service that ANOS Vic (Australian Native Orchid Society — Victoria) run for members.

We gather a tuber bank together from donations by members with spare terrestrial orchid tubers and sell them on at nominal cost to other growers. This helps growers upgrade their collections of course. It also ensures that a large number of species are widely distributed should there be a need to repopulate areas due to habitat loss or fire.

Top left shows the tubers in packets ready for distribution. Below left, about 100 requests come in each year and above they are ready for posting.

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>

5/2/26	Walert Creek	Don	Plant maintenance, woody weeds	Easy
12/2/26	Glynn's	Cam	Restoration	Easy/mod
19/2/26	Rifle Range/ Buttermans Track	Don	Maintenance and weeding/ Fence set up	Easy
26/2/26	Boomers Reserve	Cam	Litter removal/Cassinia thinning	Mod
5/3/26	Pound Bend/Tunnel Road	David	Maintenance inc. carpark planting	Mod
12/3/26	TBA	Phil/Cam		Mod

Recipe of the Month

Persian Love cake (featured in The Saffron Tales by Yasmin Khan)

Cake

200g unsalted butter
 150g caster sugar
 4 medium eggs
 12 cardamom pods
 100g plain flour, sifted
 275g ground almonds
 Zest and juice of 1 unwaxed lemon
 1 tbsp rose water
 1 tsp baking powder
 Pinch of fine salt

Preheat oven to 160C. Grease a 22cm cake tin (with removable base) and line with baking paper

Cream butter and sugar together. Beat in eggs

Grind the cardamom pods in a mortar, discarding the pods and reduce to a fine powder. Add to mix with flour, ground almonds, lemon zest, baking powder and salt. Mix well

Drizzle topping

2 tbsp caster sugar
 Juice of 1 lemon
 1/2 tbsp rose water

Bake for 45 minutes until done

Make the drizzle topping by mixing the caster sugar, lemon juice and rose water in a pan over low heat until the sugar melts

Icing

150g icing sugar
 Juice of 3/4 lemon
 2 tsp cold water

Remove the cake and place over a wire rack. Poke holes in the top and pour in the drizzle

To decorate

2 tsp chopped pistachios
 2 tsp dried rose petals (optional)

Make the icing by combining the sugar and lemon juice, adding water to form a smooth thick paste. Spread over the cake and finish with the pistachios and rose petals

Sybille — from Yasmin Khan

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.

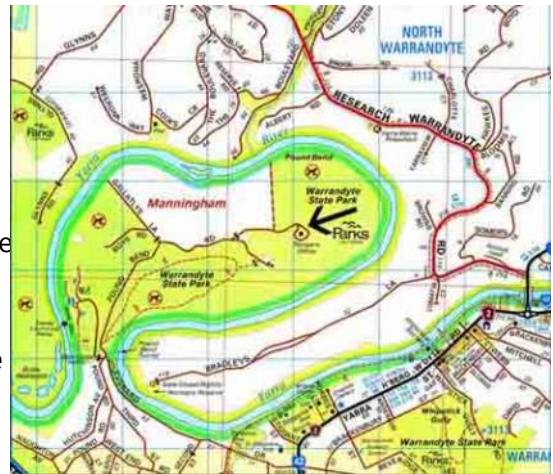
No prior experience necessary -
There is always someone available to show you the ropes.

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

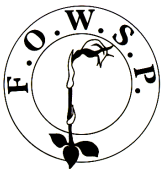
Gardens For Wildlife is a Nillumbik Council initiative designed to encourage and guide local residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens that support biodiversity and improve habitat connectivity.

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, Lyn Moore 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	Newsletter editor (non committee position)	<u>Ranger contact</u> Phil Rance philip.rance@parks.vic.gov.au
editor@fowsp.org.au			<u>Newsletter assist and Librarian</u> Lyn Moore
Joy Hick	0418 573916		
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		
Lyn Moore	0409 683 041		<u>Market Trailer</u> Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 trailer@fowsp.org.au
lynm333g@gmail.com			<u>Manningham Council Rep</u> Cathy Willis 0427 660 651
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		<u>Webmaster</u> Jason Patton 0402 121838 webmaster@fowsp.org.au
legality@bigpond.com			<u>Facebook coordinator</u> Carolyn Noel 0409 901441
Staff Representative			
Lynda Chambers	0466 274421		
phe-nologist@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.:

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.