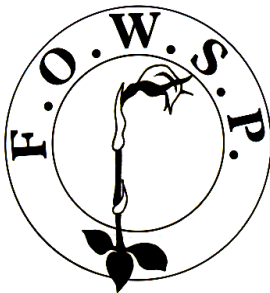


April 2026**Volume 44 Number 3**

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

Cooler autumn weather with a bit of rain.
Not enough but we can but hope.

In this edition we have Lyn's update on three new books in the Library (p.3) as well as ***Round the traps*** on p.2. We also have Lyn's possum sighting on p.9.

Alwynne gave me a copy of a poem which appeared in a newsletter from 20 years ago. It couldn't be more apt in the aftermath of the terrible fires in Longwood and other places just a few short weeks ago. It's the human cost of the fires that we don't really see watching on our screens (see p.4).

Don and Carolyn are back and we have an update on recent TAG activities (p.7) and some lovely shots from their trip to the high plains earlier in the year (p.8).

Linda has chipped in with some pieces from the last month or so (p.5).

Of course, I couldn't let a newsletter go by without putting in some more of my bird pictures (p6). This month it is flycatchers and robins. Most birds in rainforest areas are insect eaters (there are a lot of bugs) or fruit eating. You see very few seed eaters as there are few grassy plains.

John



Above: a Verditer flycatcher (Eumyias thalassinus). One of the many beautiful flycatchers of south east Asia. More pictures on p6.

**Deadline for May's newsletter is
Friday April 24th, 2026**

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

Around The Traps



Volunteers get a good lunch

Quite a few members turned up on the Saturday of the Warrandyte festival to do some extra pricking out. We were treated to a slap up BBQ organised by Cathy and Jason!

Grevillia dallachiana (see below)

Grevillia dallachiana or *G. alpina* var *dallachiana* is now rare in our area. Cuttings from plants in Boomers Reserve, taken by Cam in October 2025, were set by Alwynne. By March they had developed good strong roots, allowing them to be pricked out into tube stock. Over 50 successful strikes were made, significantly adding to the potential population of this rare indigenous variety.



Praying mantis of the order *Mantodea*. There are over 2400 species of these! This was in our garden and photographed by Caitriona.

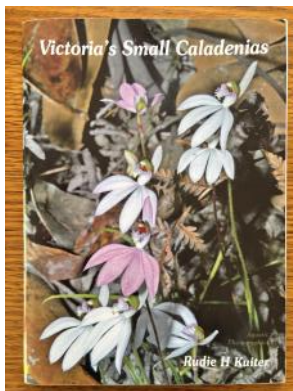


Kim's turn to cut the cake for her birthday in March.

Members who haven't come down to the nursery on a Thursday will perhaps have noted that we get well fed by Sybille. We also provide food at the AGM and year end break up so come along!

Book chat with Lyn

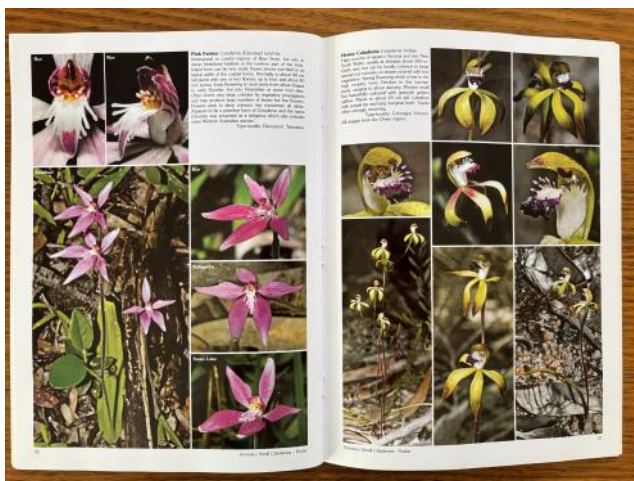
This month we have 3 more additions to our library donated by Carol Page.



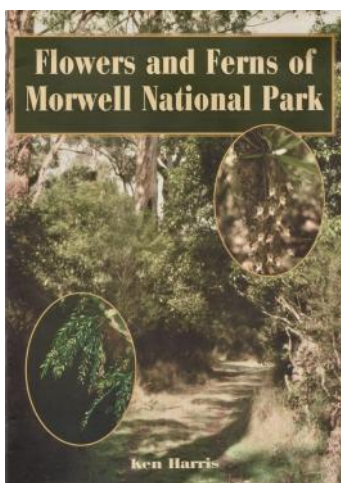
VICTORIA'S SMALL CALADENIAS

This book is by Rudie Kuiter. As well as photographs of each species, there is a one-page introduction that includes information about the genus, distribution, habitats, flowers and their variability. Within a species, the flow-

ers can vary in colouration and size. For each species, there are multiple photos showing plants from different locations, as shown in the photo below. The library reference number is ED711 (yellow sticker).



FLOWERS AND FERNS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

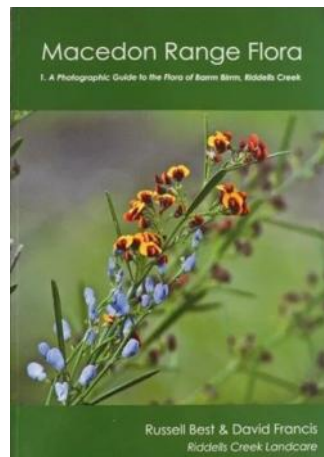


This book was written and photographed by Ken Harris. The Friends website describes the book as follows: 'This comprehensive book contains photographs and notes on 384 species of flowers and ferns found in Morwell National Park. It includes both indigenous



and introduced flora and can be used to identify everything from rare species in the Park to environmental weeds in the areas surrounding it.' The photo shows the ferns. The library reference number is ED712 (yellow sticker).

MACEDON RANGE FLORA



By Russell Best & David Francis. With 493 photos, the book details 208 species, subspecies, varieties and forms of plants that have been found at Barrm Birrm. For each, there are photos and a short description. For the eucalypts, it includes photos of buds,

fruits, adult and juvenile leave and bark. There is also a useful, half-page Quick Plant Identification Guide to find the right page/pages. The highest level is Flowers, Fruit, Tree, Shrub, Climbers, Groundcover, Basal Rosette or Upright flower stem, Grass, Prickly, Fern, Arboreal parasite and Carnivorous. The library reference number is ED713 (yellow sticker).



Phoenix (Rising from the Ashes)

By Alwynne Buntine

Tears ran down his dirty face making furrows as they went
His sobbing shoulders heaved no more, for all his grief was spent
He stood at the back of the burnt out wreckage that was once his family home
Here and there touched by whiteness, the remains of fireman's foam

A small scrawny boy with a shock of bright red hair
Anxiously looking all about for any sign that she might be there
He'd smelt the smoke of fire, and heard the fire trucks roar
As he looked from his classroom window and then fled out the door

Into the street he went, towards the source of his fear
For where the fire was burning, his house was very near
Down the road he ran, his feet barely touching the ground
Until at last in the smokey fog, his own street he found

But there the fireman stopped him, and wouldn't let him through
"But I must get there, I must get home, she won't know what to do
My dog is there, she's in her kennel, still tied on her lead
Someone's got to get her out, she'll be killed if she don't get freed

Just then a mighty wind picked up, and the fire roared
The fireman grabbed the boy and with him jumped aboard
A waiting fire engine which raced along the street
Carrying the grief stricken boy away from the searing heat

After the fire had passed, and only smoldering embers remained
The fireman took the boy back to his house again
He watched the heart broken figure walk up the garden path
Through the blackened scenery of the fire's aftermath

And then he saw him crying as he went on out the back
Passed the burnt out wreckage along a little track
There the boy stopped and knelt down on the ground
He had his back to the fireman who couldn't see what he had found

A blackened piece of leather, the remains of a dog collar
Still buckled, and to his eyes came a look of horror
As he felt the anguish of his pet and the terror of her pain
It would be many nights and many days before he was himself again

During the weeks that followed, depression and sadness grew
As he withdrew into himself, his parents knew not what to do
The boy was very sad, his heart full of regret
For the loss of all he had, mostly for his pet

As time passed, the land was cleared, the devastation no more
The builders came, the house rebuilt, the garden restored
But in the empty garden, the boy no solace found
In every corner he saw his pet and heard her friendly sound

They wanted to buy him another dog, but that was just the worst
How could they think another dog could replace the first?

Then one day he realized the sound he heard was true
He turned and looked into the trusting eyes of a dog he felt knew
Just how sad he was and how he missed his pal
Though she couldn't replace her, she would try to do as well

Tentatively the boy reached out and touched the wiry head
The dog's tail started wagging almost as though it said
"Please take me to your heart, another I won't replace
But a new life we can start, and together the future we will face"

I was prompted to write this poem after hearing of the tragedy of one little boy in devastating fires in Sydney. He had lost his dog in the fires and he was the one who discovered the body. He suffered depression and anxiety as a result. I sincerely hope he recovered from his ordeal.

Alwynne

Who chopped the cherry ballart in Frogland?



A young cherry ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) lay in Frogland looking like a freshly cut Christmas tree (photo left). Linda and Chris were shocked, 'Who would do such a thing?' At the base of the tree was a pile of fine sawdust.

Marie was able to solve the riddle. On closer look a deep channel had been bored both up and down from the smooth break: the work of a borer beetle of some sort. Marie had seen this before and took



us over to another tree which had been similarly felled a couple of years ago. She happily showed us where that tree had reshot and was now growing nearly as tall as Marie (photo left).

The borer could be similar to Common Eucalyptus Long-

horn (*Phoracantha semipunctata*). I have frequently photographed this one under Eucalyptus trees. The beetle (see below) had become tangled in the web of a much smaller spider also seen in the photo.



Wildlife in my Malden drive backyard

"Did you know you had a kangaroo in your back yard?" asked a lady knocking at our door with a young child in hand. This was surprising as our house sits on a suburban block surrounded by busy streets and not far from the hectic St Helena Drive. The lady was a wildlife carer who had been watching the movements of a young adult male 'roo in Briar Hill, hoping to keep it safe.

Our yard was likely the only one without a dog or two and perhaps the indigenous plants made him feel at home as he settled for a nap in the shade (photo below). It was an easy shot from our back deck when the associates of 'wildlife veterinarians' arrived with a tranquilizing gun. The two helpers were able to transfer the deeply sleeping 'roo into a specialized re-enforced bag which looked a bit like a body bag as it was lugged into the rear of the carer's car. I wondered how this might appear to any alert neighbors. This 'roo may now be amongst the ones we regularly see at Pound Bend or elsewhere in Warrandyte State Park.



At a recent camp in Langi Ghiran, a puddle from recent rain gave hope of some interesting insects. Some bright eyeshine led me to a toadlike

creature in the torchlight. It might have been something rare but was an Eastern Banjo frog (*Lymnodynastes dumerii*). Not rare but a good find nonetheless.

Linda

South East Asian flycatchers and robins



Clockwise from top left — all males: Hainan Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis hainanus*): Siberian Blue Robin (*Lavivorva cyan*): Snowy-browed Flycatcher (*Ficedula hyperythra*): White-tailed Robin (*Myiomela leucura*): Indochinese Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis sumatrensis*): Little Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula westermanii*)

TAG report

2026 has been a busy year so far for TAGgers. As January and February have been so hot and dry, we have spent many Thursday mornings sustaining (watering and maintaining) plantings, mainly at Endeavour Bank and Lower Orchard Track. These are from the last three years (including National Tree Day plantings), altogether some 2000 plants. Similar activities have taken place at Rifle Range on Buttermans Track and Walert Creek, as well as removal of woody weeds at Pound Bend

Some highlights so far have been in Glynn's Reserve, North Warrandyte, with Cam Beardsell, where we constructed enclosures and dug holes in the rocky ground for planting various *Acacia* species including *A. mearnsii* and *A. paradoxa* as habitat for the Stencilled Hair-streak butterfly *Jalmenus iclinus* (below). The caterpillars are attended by Meat Ants *Iridomyrmex* sp.



Photo from Museums Victoria

Cam also took us on a biodiversity tour of the enclosures in Glynn's Reserve along the ancient Yarra River course opposite the Pound Bend Tunnel, revealing many plant species in protected spaces.



Above: Bladderwort *Eutriculata* sp. is usually a Central Australia species but found in this wetlands at Glynn's



Above: the group, particularly Gray, getting stuck in removing Yellow elder (*Tecoma stans*) at Pound Bend. This is an invasive weed from the Americas, probably a garden escapee.

Don

From Don and Carolyn in the Australian Alps



*Top: near Charlottes Pass. Middle left: Mountain Katydid (*Acripeza reticulata*). Bottom left: Guthega skink (*Thiopholis guthega*). Lower right: Correa Brown butterfly (*Oreixenica correae*).*

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>

9/4/26	Pauline Toner reserve	Phil/Cam	Cassinia thinning, woody weeds	Easy/Mod
16/4/26	Endeavour Bank	Artur	Fencing and planting	Easy
23/4/26	Fourth Hill—School fence	Phil	Cassinia thinning, weeding	Easy/Mod
30/4/26	Endeavour Bank	Don	Maintenance, 2024 NTD planting	Easy
7/5/26	Harding/Red Beard fence	Phil	Weeding and planting	Easy/Mod
14/5/26	Candlebark Park	Cathy	Weeding and planting	Easy

Almost a scoop — our roving reporter was on the spot



Some of you may have seen on the news earlier this month about the brushtail possum at Hobart Airport.

I was there on my way home from a week in Hobart. My husband and I had just gone through security when I saw something run across in front of me, just a couple of metres away. It took me a moment to recognise that it was a possum. It wasn't something I was expecting to see!

I followed it into the gift shop and went down the same aisle. It was hard to spot the possum until I realised one of the soft toys was moving! It seemed to be just calmly looking around. After about a minute, it jumped down and went back out of the store. It ran straight out of the store and around towards the entrance area of the airport. It stopped in a corner between two walls, still just looking around, and then it headed toward the security area. By then there seemed to be some airport staff around.

I couldn't follow to see what happened. But one of the news articles I read said that it 'was safely relocated out of the terminal and the space was cleaned'. The story was even picked up by international news websites, including CNN, USAToday, the BBC and other European websites. It's not known how it got into the airport, but there is lots of ongoing development work happening there and it's thought that allowed it to get in somehow.

I've heard from other people who were in Tasmania at around the same time. They were excited to have seen Queen Mary and King Frederik who were on holiday from Denmark. I preferred to have seen the possum!

Lyn

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.

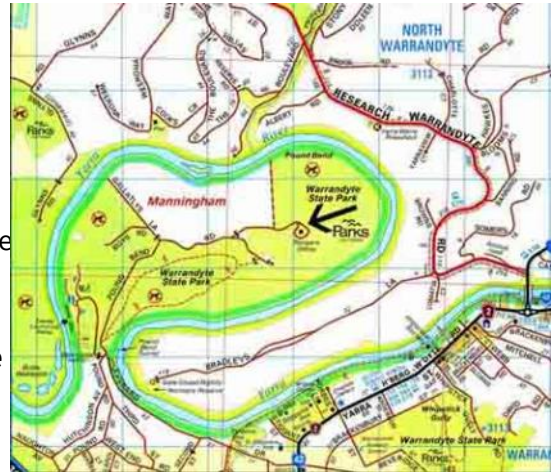
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

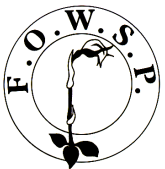
Gardens For Wildlife is a Nillumbik Council initiative designed to encourage and guide local residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens that support biodiversity and improve habitat connectivity.

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 in March.
Christine Arndell, Chris Kay, Pam von Drehnen, Marie Krause, Jeff Cranston, 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, April 4th 2026
Saturday, May 2nd 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 and Membership	<u>Park Office</u> 03 8427 2132
treasurer@fowsp.org.au			
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			
Jono Del-Re			<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			
Staff Representative			<u>Facebook coordinator</u> Carolyn Noel 0409 901441
Lynda Chambers	0466 274421		
phe-nologist@gmail.com			

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday April 14, 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.