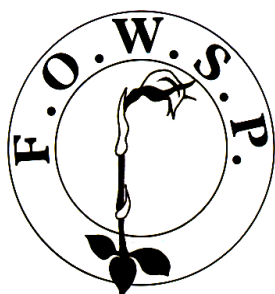


June 2026

Volume 44 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

We've had some indifferent weather days recently at FOWSP. However, you never hear us complaining, as we all welcome the rain.

Book Chat is on p.3 and **Around the traps** as usual on p.2.

Page 4 features Melanie Hick, who has again scooped up some prizes in the UK, where she now lives.

Linda has provided several pieces on things she is observing in Frogland, starting p.5. I particularly like the piece on *Hovea linearis* (p.6). I must confess to have never heard of this attractive plant.

Now the weather has turned, the TAGgers are getting into planting and you can follow their activities on pp. 8 and 9.

Page 9 also features a short poem by Alwynne and Black-Cockatoos on pp.10 and 11.

In the May newsletter I mentioned information about building nestboxes being available on the internet. We also have 2 copies of *The nestbox book* published by the Gould League of Victoria in our library. The second copy was kindly donated recently by Dave Vass. The library reference is B227 (blue sticker).

John



A Racket-tailed Treepie (*Crypsirina temia*). Treepies are distributed throughout southern Asia from India to China down through SE Asia and parts of Indonesia. An interesting debate on my Vietnam trip — is it pronounced Tree-pee or Treep-eye? Your call.

**Deadline for July's newsletter is
Friday June 26th, 2026**

**contributions can be emailed to [John Young editor@fowsp.org.au](mailto:John.Young.editor@fowsp.org.au)
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113**

Around The Traps



Above: according to Google images this is *Chelepteryx collesi*, the Batwing Moth or White-stemmed Gum Moth, hanging around my place for a few days last week (photo of the caterpillar is from the Australian Museum website).

The White-stemmed Gum Moth is one of the largest common moths found along the eastern seaboard from Brisbane to Melbourne.

The wings of the female are attractively patterned with soft greys and browns. The male is slightly smaller and is darker, with more strongly contrasted markings.

This is likely a male from the large bipinnate (feathery) antennae, while the females have narrow, simple antennae. With females reaching a size of 16 cm, they have sometimes been mistaken for bats.

The large, thick caterpillars are grey-black with yellow bands and are covered with tufts of reddish-brown spiky bristles. The bristles can penetrate human skin and cause painful skin irritations, even after the larvae have been preserved in alcohol.

John



Top: Lynda's shot of a kangaroo eating native grasses and (below) Sybille photographed some locals lining up outside Frogland one morning. Good job the gate is shut and the fence is now kangaroo proof!

Book chat with Lyn

This month I have 3 books newly added to our library to tell you about - two are comprehensive coffee table books about growing Australian native plants and the other is a field guide to Western Australia's native plants. All were kindly donated by Jason Patton.

NATIVE PLANTS



The full title of this book is *Native Plants: The definitive guide to Australian plants*. As well as a comprehensive introduction with general information including designing, establishing and maintaining a garden using native plants, it has six chapters based on plant groups - annuals and perennials; shrubs; ferns, palms, and cycads; orchids; and climbers and creepers. Each chapter has an introduction that highlights the uses of the plant group in the garden, followed by descriptions of the most popular genera and species in each plant group, with information on light preference, frost tolerance, height, width, place of origin, forms, and hardiness zones. More than 1,800 Australian plants are included with more than 1100 colour photos, and there is also a glossary and a 40-page cultivation table.

The library reference number is FL717 (yellow sticker).

PALMER'S MANUAL OF TREES, SHRUBS & CLIMBERS

On the back cover of this 364-page book, *Palmer's Manual of Trees, Shrubs and Climbers* is described as 'a comprehensive and accurate guide to more than 3500 species and cultivars of trees, shrubs, climbers and other landscaping



plants authentically named and described, with information on how and where to grow them in temperate-climate conditions'. There are over 500 photos and it includes a useful plant selection guide where the plants are grouped by purpose or characteristics.

The library reference number is FL720 (yellow sticker).

WILDFLOWERS OF THE WESTERN STATE



Wildflowers of the Western State is a 38-page photographic guide containing photos of 147 West Australian species. The plants are divided for easy access into groups such as Banksia, Eucalypts and everlastings. Each group starts with an overview and then for each species there is a photo, a short description and its flowering time and location, as shown in the example pages.

The library reference number is FL719 (yellow sticker).

Melanie Hick takes home some prizes



3000 midges a night (although not enough to remove them entirely as anyone who has been to Scotland can testify).

The garden also featured a giant wooden bat sculpture by artist Tach Pollard.

The garden will not be destroyed after the Show. It is being relocated to Clydach Community Gardens in Swansea, a passionate local gardening group with a strong interest in planting for bats.

Melanie has been inspired by her natural environment, growing up along the Yarra River corridor.

(L): Melanie with her prizes and (below) with Mum

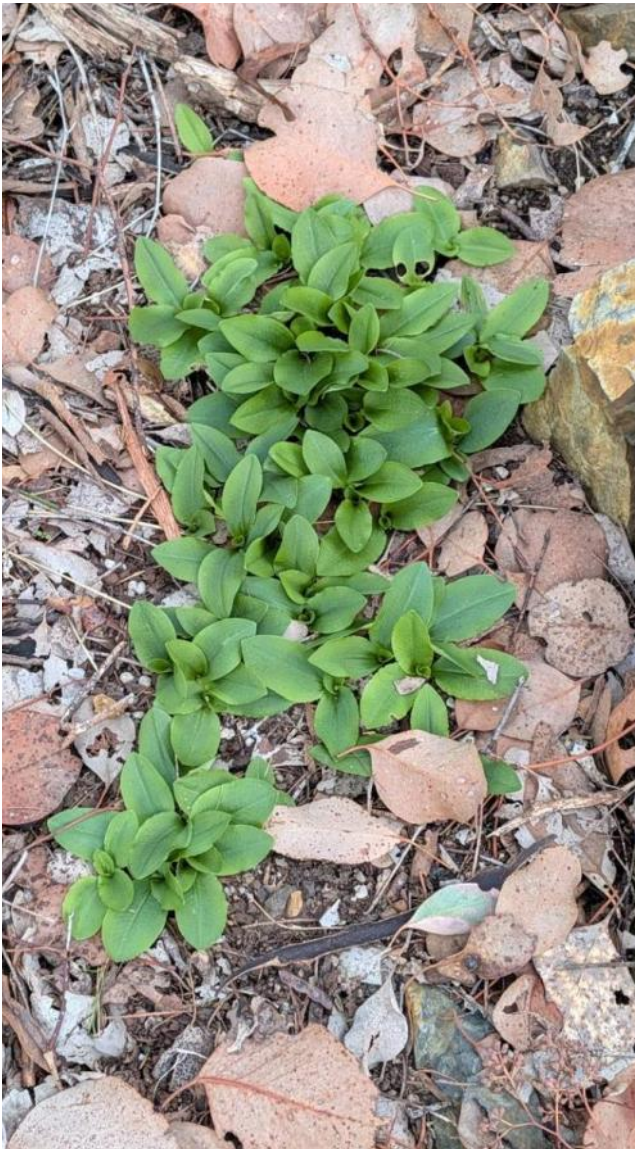
The UK Bat Conservation Trust commissioned a garden designed for bats at the Chelsea Flower Show 2026.

The Nocturnal Garden was designed by Melanie Hick, who received a Silver Medal plus the People's Choice award in her category. Melanie is, of course, our own Joy Hick's daughter. We featured an article in the August 2025 edition of the newsletter, when Melanie won an award at the Hampton Court Show. The Chelsea Show is one of the biggest in the world, so well done!

The naturalistic garden showcases how easy it is to grow plants and incorporate other features that support bats and other nocturnal wildlife. Of note is a move to plants with white flowers. These tend to glow in the dark and attract insects (and the bats). Bats are known to eat up to



Re-introduction of greenhoods in Frogland



Above: Blunt Greenhood (*Pterostylis curta*) orchids in Frogland, 14 May 2026.
Below right: the flower of the Blunt Greenhood. Note the twisted labellum, characteristic of this species

More than once in past years we have been the recipient of excess orchid tubers (*Pterostylis curta* amongst others) which we have planted in Frogland in the hope they will survive. It seems in the past they have made a showing in the first season or two after planting and then dwindled away, not to be seen again. The last record I have of such planting was in the FOWSP newsletter in 2017.

This year we have tried several tubers in at least five locations and the leaves also made their appearance after just a couple



Above: Chris checking the roofing tiles. The weather was somewhat inclement!



of weeks. We have also included some of the soil that the tubers have been grown in, in the hope that an appropriate fungus will be present. Some of the early leaves have been heavily chewed by some unknown hungry invertebrate.

We were given four roofing tiles which Chris has placed near four of the planted clusters to be checked weekly to identify the chewing culprits. We will report back on what we find and also on how the orchids proceed over this season and future years.

Linda

Common Hovea *Hovea linearis*



Above: Hovea flowers and (below) seed pods noted October 8, 2025



Common Hovea (*Hovea linearis*) is listed in 1999 *Flora of Warrandyte* as scattered and secure in the Warrandyte district.

It is a personal favourite of mine, with its striking purple pea flowers in ones and twos at the base of the narrow upper leaves.

Marie has planted a few along the fenceline near the entry to Frogland where we expect they will feature and get the occasional watering in dry seasons. These have done well and in 2025 I was pleased to note that a couple of the stems had several seed pods.

Before the pods ripened in summer, I enclosed the podded stems in old nylon stockings in the hope of catching some of the seeds.



Above: emerging shoots from the Hovea seeds and (below) the seed tray (minus the parsley).



These were harvested in February 2026 and after advice from Josh, I took home a small seed tray already prepared with seed growing mix. With boiling water pre-treatment and overnight soaking, they were sown on 18 February. I was pleased to see small plants emerging within two weeks but dismayed that a few days later they were looking very much like parsley. As we were going away for a few weeks, the tray was placed in the greenhouse at FOWSP to see how things developed.

On return I was pleased when Josh told me that the Hovea had in fact germinated.

Now we watch them grow and await the perfect time to plant them in Frogland. P.S. If you are missing a small seed tray expecting parsley, see me.

Linda

Mapping Frogland



It has always been a good idea to map Frogland and try to indicate what species have been planted where. Chris volunteered to start this project now, while rains haven't yet brought on an onslaught of weeds.

While we have no expertise, it will be a valuable learning experience. For me, it has made me stop and look more carefully at the trees as a starting point. The majority of Frogland trees are Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*), (top right), which look glorious when their round silvery leaves are hit with sunshine after rain.

A number of Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) are found along the pathway including this one with the reddish trunk that Chris is admiring. This species has finer leaves and can be variable but tends to have smooth upper limbs reminiscent of gum bark.



The third species of Eucalyptus which we noted in Frogland were young Candlebarks (*Eucalyptus rubida*) near the bottom of the fenced area (bottom left).

Linda

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>

4/6/26	Spadoni's Yarra Glen	Phil/Cam	Weeding and Planting	Easy
11/6/26	Walert Creek	Don	Woody weeds	Mod
18/6/26	Endeavour Bank	Don	Planting and maintenance	Easy
25/6/26	Candlebark Park	Phil	Woody weeds, weeding	Mod
2/7/26	Pound Bend — slash break	David	Clearing cassinia, weeding	Easy/Mod
9/7/26	Haslam fence	Phil	Grassy weeds, reveg	Easy/Mod

TAG report

It's Planting Time. Finally!

After our long dry spell over Summer and Autumn so far, welcome rain in May has kick-started our planting for the year.

On 14 May, led by Cathy Willis and the team from Manningham, we planted around 240 grasses, caryx, acacia and lythrum around an old billabong, hopefully restoring this area with low and mid story wet area plants.

Don

Below left: set up and below right: final result at Candlebark Park.



TAG report (cont'd)

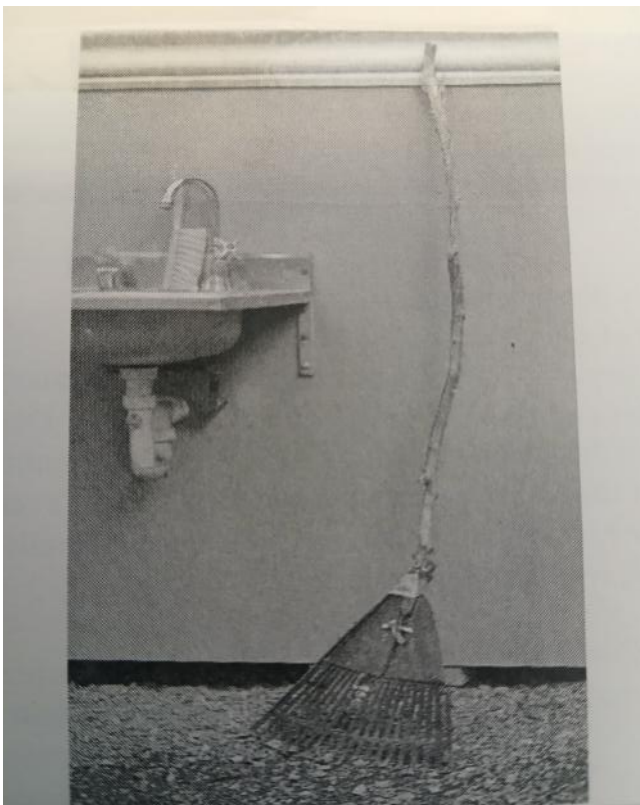
Our second foray for the year to Pauline Toner Reserve on May 21 added another 100 *Bursaria spinosa* to our tally of around 100 plants over the past 5 years, increasing habitat for the Eltham Copper Butterfly (*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*).

Below: Celine and Geoff proudly planting the last *Bursaria* for the day, with Cam and the TAG regulars cheering on (after strenuous exercise digging through the rocky ground, of course).

Don



The Alternative Rake



It stood against the wall
Leaning nonchalantly to the side
A garden rake of many years
The signs of use it couldn't hide

Its prongs were worn and dirty
Its handle unusually bent
Which touched the wall in several spots
Because of the way it leant

Instead of the handle being long and straight
And made in a factory
This one, by some crafty soul
Had been fashioned from a tree

The rake was a source of amusement
And curiosity too
Wondering what had happened to cause
The handle to be renewed

Standing there against the wall
Many comments were provoked
As people discussed the sight and wondered
"Was it just a joke?"

Alwynne

Australia's Black Cockatoos



Australia is blessed with many parrots. Not least are our 6 species of black Cockatoos. Some, like the two illustrated above are found only in south west Western Australia and have white undertail feathers. They are (left) Baudins Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and (right) Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*). They are almost identical, although they have different habitats and the breeding range



does not overlap. Baudins has a longer narrower bill as it has adapted to eat Marri and Karri eucalypt seeds.

Below, the Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), primarily distributed in coastal NSW and southern Queensland. The female (left) shows yellow markings on the head and has orange panels in the tail. The male has a brown head and two red tail panels.



Australia's Black Cockatoos (cont'd)



Above: Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*), male is left and female right. Widely distributed with subspecies in all states although sadly, almost extinct in Victoria.



Above: female (left) and male Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*), the most familiar to most of us as it is distributed through the southern Great Divide and coastal areas into southern Queensland.



Left is the Palm Cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*). This is essentially a PNG species, hence the different species name, and can only be seen in Cape York.

Of minor interest is that only 3 species have differing males and females.

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.

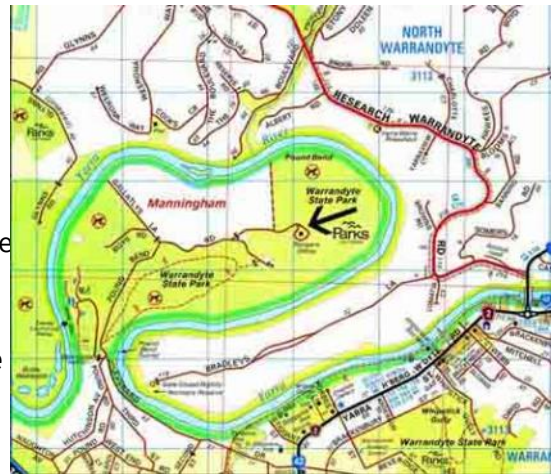
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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)



Copyright 2008 Melway Publishing Pty Ltd
Reproduced from Melway Edition 36 with permission

Some local events

Friday June 5

Inspired Living Series — World environment Day. A discussion with Dr. Ann Jones and Gio Fitzpatrick.

Time: 7 — 9pm at the Manningham function Centre. Bookings essential.

Thursday June 25

Environment Seminar — Fungi of Manningham. A presentation by Melvin Xu.

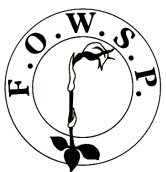
Time: 7 — 8.30pm at the Currawong Bush Park Conference and Environment Centre. Bookings essential.

Sunday 14 June

Friends of Edendale Farm are having a Community planting day along Diamond Creek.

Time: 10am — 12 noon at Edendale Farm. Please book so they can establish numbers (contact friendsofedendalefarm@gmail.com).

Edendale farm are also hosting a fungi walk on Tuesday June 30 for children age 11 to 18 (it is the school holidays!). Time 11am to 1pm on that day. Contact Edendale Farm for details.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who volunteered at the May Saturday market, Christine Andell, Chris Kay, Pam Von Drehnen, Louise Clear, 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, June 6th 2026
Saturday, July 4th 2026

FOWSP 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 June 9, 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.