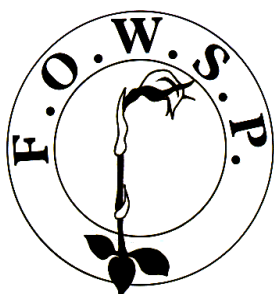


July 2026

Volume 44 Number 6

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

Caitriona and I went to Sri Lanka recently, so if you are interested there are some pictures on pp.11 and 12.

As usual, ***Around the Traps*** on p.2; ***Book Chat*** on p.3; goes on in Frogland on p.4, with TAG reports on pp. 5—7.

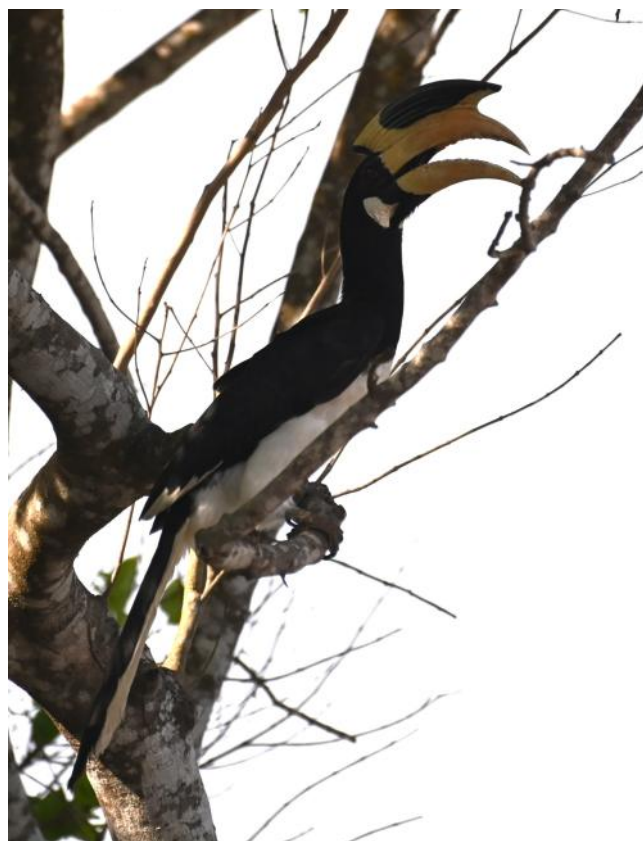
It's getting wetter (certainly colder) and Don has been out and about with his camera, photographing fungi around Warrandyte. There are some wonderful examples on pp. 8 and 9.

Not content with that, Don also sent in a photo of a bird skull found recently. AI may become a problem in future, but for now, it is useful in identifying from photos and you can see what it found on p.10.

John

FOWSP will celebrate National Tree Day on 26 July 2026. We meet at 10.00am at the FOWSP nursery to walk to the site. This year we will extend our plantings at Lower Orchard Track to enhance biodiversity and to form a corridor for wildlife. Please wear appropriate clothes. Tools will be provided and some refreshments afterwards.

Please register on <https://nationaltreeday.org.au/find-a-site/> (find FOWSP's event under postcode 3113) for catering purposes.



Above: a Malarbar Pied Hornbill (*Anthroceros coronatus*) found in parts of India and Sri Lanka. This is a male as the female has a white ring around the eye.

It has a raucous chattering call, such that the description in the bird book suggests it is conducting a major row with itself!

Deadline for July's newsletter is
Friday July 24th, 2026
contributions can be emailed to John Young editor@fowsp.org.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Around The Traps



Above: a shot of some form of hybrid Rosella that has been seen around Warandyte and beyond. Many guesses as to what hybridized with a Crimson Rosella, the best guess being an Eastern Rosella, though why it hasn't happened often before is a mystery.

This was not my guess as the bird has a yellow head and there is no yellow on the head of an Eastern Rosella. However, none of my guesses as to the rogue bird live close to Melbourne.

The definition of a true species is that it can't breed with others but, certainly in the bird world, that seems not to be the case with similar species.

John



Above: Darren cuts this month's birthday cake. This one made by Kay and was said to contain Guinness. It went down well on a very cold day.



Above: Anemone Stinkhorn (*Aseroe rubra*), found in the Pollinator garden. Also known as the starfish fungus, it attracts pollinators by its smell of rotting flesh.

Common throughout eastern Australia, it is also found in New Zealand and some Pacific Islands. Examples have also turned up in the USA, Africa and India.

Left: Ruby Bonnet (*Cruentomycena viscidocruenta*). This tiny mushroom is shown with Carolyn's finger for scale. Yes, it is in there. Its name is bigger than the mushroom itself.

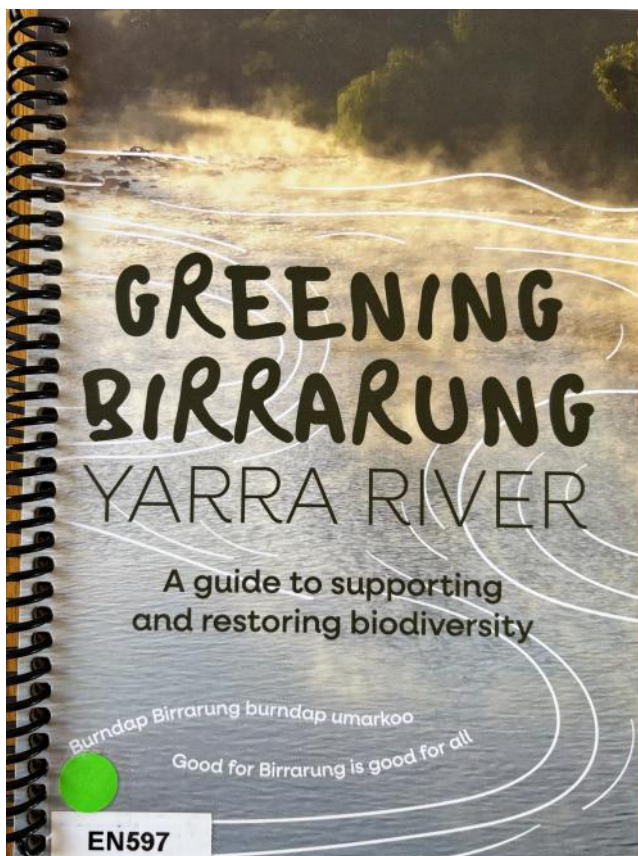
Book Chat with Lyn

There are two books to talk about this month - one about cultivating native orchids, donated by Jason Patton and one on caring for Birrarung/Yarra River from Artur Muchow. Thank you to our donors.

GREENING BIRRARUNG YARRA RIVER

The full title of this book is *Greening Birrarung Yarra River: A guide to supporting and restoring biodiversity*.

It showcases the inspiring projects, partnerships and volunteer action already making a difference along the river, while encouraging broader community involvement. More than a practical resource, the guide is an expression of shared pride, learning and momentum – a reminder that caring for Birrarung is something we do better together.



Now available in print and online, the Greening Birrarung Guide invites everyone to join in caring for this remarkable living entity and to continue growing a healthier, more resilient Birrarung for generations to come.'

Here is a link to the online version:
<https://letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/birrarung/introducing-greening-birrarung-guide>

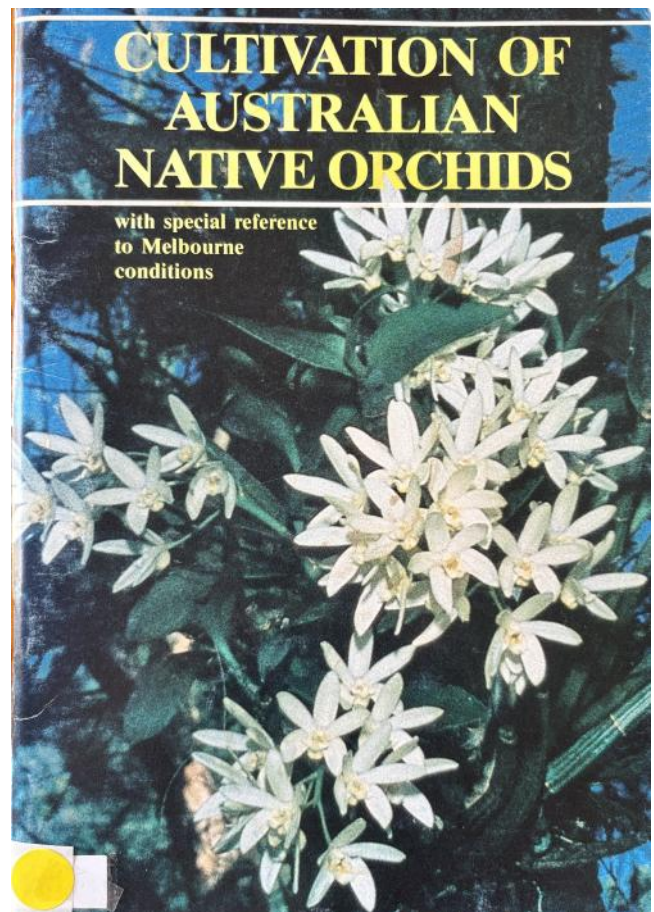
The library reference number is EN597 (green sticker).

CULTIVATION OF AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS

This book, written by Helen Richards, Rick Wootton and Rick Datodi with special reference to Melbourne conditions, was produced by the Victorian Group of the Australasian Native Orchid Society.

Divided into two parts, Part 1 Australian Epiphytic Orchids and Part 2 Australian Terrestrial Orchids, this handbook covers topics such as orchid descriptions, orchid houses, containers and mounts, potting and potting mixes, watering, fertilizing, propagation, pests and diseases, and also hybrids.

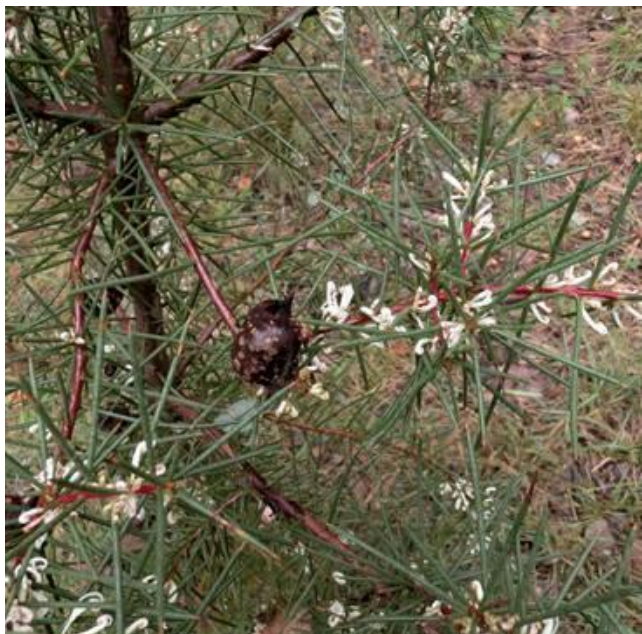
The library reference number is FL718 (yellow sticker).



Notes from Frogland



Above: A week after we last reported on the greenhoods planted in Frogland (see June newsletter), we checked to see how they are growing. Several had been dug out and some were missing their tubers. Chris gently replanted those which still had tubers and we have protected each plot with mesh as shown. These have protected them so far. It seems many things find orchids tasty.



Above: While making a generalized map of Frogland in June, our attention was caught by the white blooms of several *Hakea decurrens* subsp. *physocarpa* (Bushy Needlewood). This plant normally blooms from autumn, through spring, and is known to grow in Fourth Hill.



Above: This *Correa* is one of the few red-coloured ones known to occur in the greater Warrandyte area and came from Boomers Reserve. Originally identified by Cam Beardsell as a separate species, an example, grown by Alwynne from a cutting, has been in a pot at FOWSP for a few years.

The plant has become known as *Correa* Cam (*Correa beardsellii*?), although no such species has been registered, or at least appears in a Google search.

The time had come to either replot the plant or plant it in the ground. As June seemed an ideal time for planting, this individual is now residing in Frogland. Other cuttings have been taken from this mother plant, though they are very slow growing.

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>

2/7/26	Pound Bend — slash break	David	Clearing cassinia, weeding	Easy/Mod
9/7/26	Haslam fence	Phil	Grassy weeds, reveg	Easy/Mod
16/7/26	Frogland	Linda	Weeding	Easy
23/7/26	Endeavour Bank	Josh/ Artur	NTD prep	Easy
30/7/26	Nilja/Longridge Farm	Gray	Agapanthicide/lilies and free-sias	Easy/Mod
6/8/26	Whipstick Gully	Don	Woody weeds	Mod

TAG reports

The Taggers had a great day out at Pound Bend, starting in fog and finishing in sunshine.

We extended one of the 10mx10m enclosures, increasing the area to protect our plants against Victoria's ongoing deer problem. Our fencing work was led by

expert Kelvin. The Taggers gave 70 plants a new home with a welcome drink to kickstart their new phase of life.

By extending existing enclosures we save material and money and are able to extend our 3-year Melbourne Water grant to a fourth year.

Artur

Below : Kelvin surveys the work



Candlebark Park recovers (or over recovers)



After the TAG on May 14 (see the June newsletter) some of the Manningham crew went back one month later to check the deer hadn't reinvaded and to tidy up guards if needed. We were expecting a bit of water in the wetland as there had been reasonable rain. Just not quite this much water!

Most of the plants were now submerged. Ironically much of the 2025 planting higher up the banks died due to lack of water. We are hoping these don't drown. We will continue to keep an eye on it and monitor what does and doesn't survive. It will help to inform species choices for future plantings.

← before

Cathy

More TAG activities



Above: Work on our exclusion fence (photo: Jonno Del-re)



Above: Phil discussing the history of the patch with the group

June 2026 has been a continuation of our planting, including acquittal of a Melbourne Water grant on Endeavour Bank. As well as one exclosure extended as reported by Artur (p.5), we also completed a large extension, resulting in a 20 x 23 metre exclosure and planting of *Banksia marginata*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Lomandra longifolia* along with some acacia, 110 plants in all. A very significant effort for our small group, completed in a rush to try and beat the rain - which never came. The exclosure was also fully dressed - with a recycled skirt of chicken wire to keep out rabbits and wallabies that had snuck in under the mesh of the smaller exclosure.

We followed up late in the month with a woody weeding expedition with Phil to Candlebark Park, in a little-explored area at the end of O'Briens Lane. We attacked explosions of boneseed along with numerous pitosporum, briar rose and hawthorn. Hard going on a chilly day, but rewarded at the end with a visit to an exclosure with flowering *Pterostylis concinna*, the Trim Greenhood (see inserted photo right).

Don

It's fungi time!

Don and Josh visited Jumping Creek Reserve and other spots in the local area recently and sent these wonderful pictures of some amazing fungi. I've used Google images to identify them, so if any are wrong, please email and I'll publish a correction (all photos from Don).



Purple Emperor (Cortinarius archeri)



Autrodiella citrea



Dapperling (Lepiota sp.) or Parasol fungi (Macrolepiota sp.)



Gymnopilus ferruginosus



Green elf caps (Chlorociboria aeroginascens)

Fungi time (cont'd)



Ebony caps (Pseudoplectania nigrella)



Pixies Parasol (Mycena interrupta)



Purple Jelly Disc (Ascocoryne sarcoides)



Upright Coral (Ramaria stricta)



Snow fungus (Tremella fuciformis)



Bleeding Fairy Helmet (Mycena haematopus)

Don

A grisly find



The photo (above) of a bird's skull was shown to a few at FOWSP for identification.

The immediate view of all those polled was that it was of a small raptor of some sort. Possibly a Black-shouldered Kite. Unfortunately this would be unlikely at the find location in Boomers Reserve.

A friend however, decided to ask his 'AI helper' what it was, and got an interesting answer, as follows:

The skull belongs to a parrot or cockatoo.

While the sharp, hooked beak might immediately suggest a small bird of prey like a Nankeen Kestrel or a Black-shouldered Kite, the anatomy points distinctly away from raptors.

Key Differences from a Raptor Skull

The Craniofacial Hinge: The most definitive proof is that the upper beak in the photo is a completely separate piece of bone articulating with a wide groove on the front of the skull. Parrots have a highly specialized prokinetic joint here that allows the upper beak to move independently. In raptors like kestrels and kites, the upper beak is permanently

fused to the braincase by a continuous, flexible zone of bone; it does not cleanly detach into two separate blocks when skeletonized.

Beak Proportions: The upper beak shown is exceptionally deep, bulky, and tall relative to the size of the skull. This massive structure is engineered to generate heavy crushing force. Raptor skulls have a more streamlined, sloping profile where the beak is relatively longer and smoothly integrated into the shape of the skull.

Beak Edges: Birds of prey like falcons and kites possess a "tomial tooth"—a sharp, triangular projection on the outer cutting edge of the beak used to sever the vertebrae of their prey. The beak in the image, however, features a different structure. Cockatoos and parrots typically have a ridge or "step" on the inside of the upper beak. This step serves as an anvil against which the lower beak presses to efficiently dehusk and crush hard seeds. The jagged, layered edge visible on the keratin sheath in the photo is consistent with this seed-cracking adaptation rather than a predatory slicing tooth.

So how about that eh? I reckon it was either a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo or Little Corella.

Don

Some birds and beasts from Sri Lanka



Clockwise from bottom left:

Spotted Deer or Chital (*Axis axis*)

Tufted Grey Langur (*Semnopithecus priam*)

Water Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*)

Asian elephant <1 week old (*Elephas maximus*)

Sri Lankan Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*)

Ruddy Mongoose (*Urva smithii*)

Purple-faced Langur (*Semnopithecus vetulus*), endemic and endangered

John



Clockwise from bottom left:

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)
 Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)
 Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)
 Yellow-billed Babbler (*Argya affinis*)
 Green Bee-eater (*Mirops orientalis*)
 Indian Thick-knee (*Burhinus indicus*)
 Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*)

John

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.

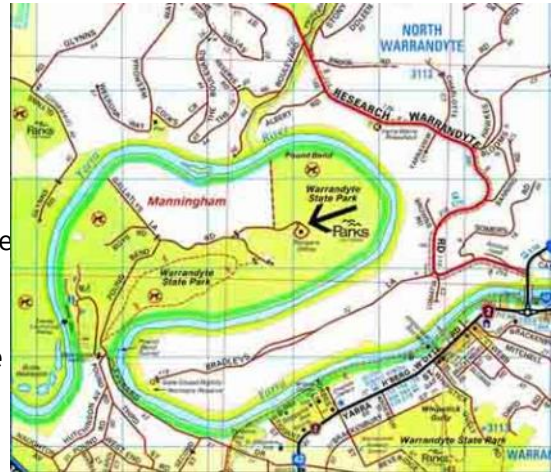
9.30 am to 12.30 pm *and*

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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Some local events

Fungi Exploration walk.

Field trip to Jumping Creek Reserve.
Thursday July 2 — 10am to 12.30pm

Nature Walk in Westerfolds Park.

Meet at Red Stringybark car park.
Wednesday July 29 — 9am to 12noon

Home harvest — bush food, fibre and medicine plants.

Manningham Function Centre.
Wednesday July 15 — 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Doncaster Hill Community Garden

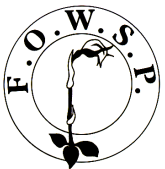
Hummel Way, Doncaster

This newly renovated Community Garden holds a working bee every two weeks on a Tuesday from 10am to 11.30am.

The next dates are July 7, 21 and August 4.

You are invited to come along and help. All produce is donated to a local food-bank.

All tools are provided. Just bring water, hat and closed shoes.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who volunteered at the June Saturday market, Christine Andell, Chris Kay, Pam Von Drehnen, Louise Clear, Jeff Cranston, Lyn Moore and Leon Moore. 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, July 4th 2026
Saturday, August 1st 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, July 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.