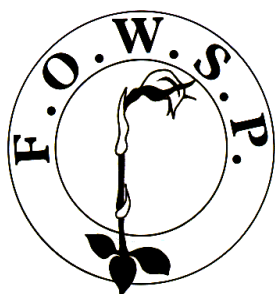


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/ACN A0024890C

Editor's Corner

REPOTTING our native terrestrial orchids is one of many activities that occur on a Thursday morning in January and February (photo R). A huge number of other plants have also been pricked out into tubes. The total fire ban on a Thursday meant we were falling short of the total plants needed. See the report from the committee on page 6 to see what has been done about this.

As we go to press in late February we are still waiting for significant rain. On page 2 Cathy reminds us what we can do and tells us a bit about what Adriana wildlife carer in Wonga Park does to assist our native animals when its hot and dry.



Orchids are secret men's business photo Joan Broadberry

Have a cuppa and meet some of our Thursday morning volunteers on page 2.

Find out what TAG groups are up to, in addition to playing with words, on page 4.

See the completed bee/wasp home on page 8 and them put in your suggestion for a name.

Enjoy Alwynne's latest poem on page 9 and then find out what happens in **FOWSP -i- leaks**, our brand new occasional column. Then take some time to think of news, observations and photos you would like to share in the next newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you. *Linda*

*
* **Can you help?**
* We require regular helpers to take the FOWSP market trailer to the
* market and return it to the nursery each month. The trailer can be
* managed by one person and towed by a normal car. It is to be taken
* to Stiggant St. entrance between 7:15-7:30 on Sat. am and returned
* to the nursery between 2:30 and 4:00 pm.
*
* If you may be able to help please contact
* Artur 0415 383328 for full details.
*



Deadline for April 2014 edition newsletter is

Friday 21st March 2014

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Teatime on a Thursday Morning



WE WELCOME Sarah (top L), our new nursery assistant - Linda presents retiring committee member, Jan, with a thank you card. (top R). - One of our new committee members Kelvin is seen in a rare idle moment at morning tea. (L). - Two more hard working volunteers relax.

Photos by Carol Page



WEED WATCH

Kel asks, "Did you know it is now the time to control Blackberries while they are actively growing?" The control is a complex and long term process. For advice see Weeds of National Significance website 2014:
<http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/blackberry/>

First be sure you can recognise our indigenous Small-leaf Bramble *Rubus parvifolius* photo on the right from Flora of Warrandyte

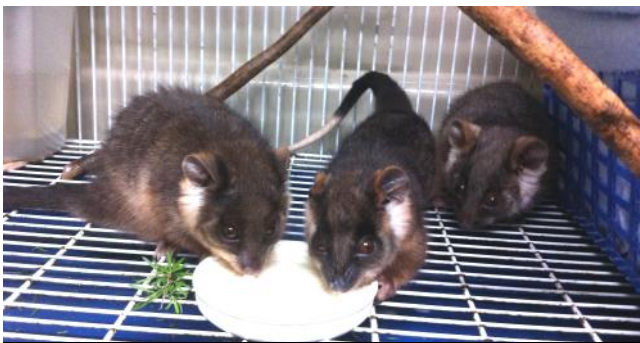


When the heat is on...

DURING THE HOT WEATHER we have been leaving shallow dishes of water out for the birds and other wildlife, leaving a stick or rock in the bowl for little skinks to scramble out on if they fall in. It has been very rewarding watching mixed flocks of small birds – Silvereyes; Superb Fairy-wrens; Spotted and Striated Pardalotes; White-browed Scrub Wrens and Grey Fantails, flitting in and out of the water. Despite there being several bowls placed around the garden, they ignore most and gravitate to the one most surrounded by plants of different heights and habitats, a good lesson in wildlife friendly gardening!

The semi human-tolerant wallabies have until recently have been quite respectful of our vegie garden. Not so anymore. It has been decimated. They must be very hungry and everything is now fair game. We also have resident possums and ugar gliders, and I'm sure they too have been having a tough time in the prolonged heat.

This got me wondering how our local wildlife carer in Wonga Park, Adriana Simmonds, and her 'babies' are faring. Adriana currently has 24 possums; two wombats; and two kangaroos. Many of them are ready for release but it hasn't been safe to let them go in these harsh conditions, so Adriana has been very busy!



Some of the Ringtail babies in Adrianna's care (above)
Adriana with a young kangaroo (right) Photos from Adriana

I asked her which type of possums she most commonly receives. Approximately 70% are Ringtails. They are the most fragile (along with young kangaroos) of all the animals that Adriana cares for, and they dehydrate very quickly. Ringtails have very specialist diets, and having up to 4 young at a time means added pressure of feeding many mouths. By comparison Brushtails are "bullet-proof". The diet is much more general, they are much larger and more robust, and only produce one young at a time. They are also hollow dependant, whereas Ringtails live in dreys (nests of bark and sticks), so are not as protected from the heat.

All possums tend to come to the ground if feeling unwell. When dehydrated they are likely to be confused and disorientated. This makes them very vulnerable to attack by cats and dogs. A Brushtail will fight back but little Ringtails are no match for your average moggy. So in extreme weather it is even more important than usual to keep your domestic animals confined. *See Joan B's article Confessions of a very slow learner. FOWSP newsletter March 2011 p.2*

If you do find an animal on the ground and can get close enough to catch it, it is certainly unwell. Adriana stressed that it's not enough just to give it some water, as it takes several days to rehydrate successfully. Remember even a cute little possum is a wild animal and will try to defend itself, including from a well meaning human. Wear gloves and throw a towel or blanket over it before handling. If you need to go and get these, or to call a rescue carer, try to put a box, washing basket or something over the animal to protect it until you get back.

Sadly, car crash casualties also sky-rocket in hot weather due to confused hungry and thirsty animals on the roads. Always take extra care and slow down in wildlife areas, but if you do hit an animal, there are some things you can do. Safety first – get your car off the road and don't take any chances with traffic. Keep a rescue kit in your boot with a woollen blanket, gloves, a towel and scissors. If the animal is dead you will need to check the pouch. If there are young present you may need to use scissors to cut the nipple to remove the young and get it to a carer or vet.



Adriana runs an educational organization called Human Seeds to help support her wildlife shelter. The website has lots of information.

http://www.humanseeds.com.au/Wildlife_Vic

Phone: 1300 094 535 (put it in your phone now!)

cathy

Desert Ash gets the Slash!



THERE WAS A DISPUTE as to whether we would be drilling, filling, frilling or cut and dabbing, but there was no doubt about killing the Desert Ash *Fraxinus angustifolia* near the old Seward

property at the end of Alexander Avenue, not far from the Yarra.



Buckley's and none = the chance the Desert Ash has of short term survival against this determined crew. Bernie, Gray, and Cam above 'newish' volunteers Lauren, Carolyn (left) and Daniel (not pictured). Desert Ash above left.



This once popular garden and streetscape tree has become a serious weed in Victoria and especially along drainage lines and streams.

This TAG was following up previous efforts as this plant comes back from suckers and stumps. Also attacked were some Sweet Pittosporum. Once again, further follow-up will be required. *Linda*

TAGS (Thursday activity groups) **2014**

Join us at 9 am (TAG workers only) on the 1st and 4th Thursdays of the month. Either meet at the nursery (9 am sharp for a 9:15 start) or on site by arrangement. LEARN some vegetation management skills while improving special sites in the park. Please remember to WEAR appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please BRING your own filled water bottle.

Day	Date	Site of Activity	Activity undertaken	Leader	Difficulty rating
Thurs	6 Mar	Boys Road	Tree guard maintenance & removal of woody weeds	FOWSP	Mod
Thurs	20 Mar	4th Hill Gold Memorial	Woody weed removal	FOWSP/ACCA	Diff.
Thurs	1 Apr	Glynns	Planting and maintenance	Ranger	Easy
Thurs	15 Apr	Kinglake	<i>Acacia leprossa</i> planting	Ranger	Easy

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](http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php)

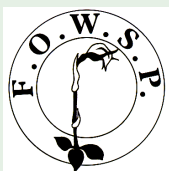
Please note activities will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are deemed hazardous.

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan,
Joan Broadberry, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)



The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP

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Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774			
Sarah Qualtrough	0431 268 344		Website:	www.fowsp.org.au



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of educational and interpretive nature walks explores some of Manningham's most inspiring and interesting bushland. Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. All times and distances are approximate.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date.

Meeting points will be provided at time of booking, to book call 9840 9124 or
email eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

9.30 am Thursday 27 March Pound Bend Ridge, River and Nursery tour

Up and over the rocky ridge we will come to the Rangers' Depot and FOWSP nursery. After a brief guided nursery tour and morning tea with the volunteers, we return along the shady river track.

Distance: 3.5kms Time: 3hrs Rating: moderate

9.30 am Thursday 24 April Mt Lofty circuit

Starting at the sacred Wurundjeri Bukkertilibul dreaming site on Brushy Creek, we head up to the highest point of Manningham that has a view of the river, where we overlook the start of the Warrandyte gorge. Distance:

5kms Rating: difficult (some steep sections)

9.30 am Thursday 22 May Candlebark Park to Beasleys Nursery

A gentle stroll along the river flats that have provided an abundance of ecological resources for millennia, and still support a wide range of native fauna and flora, and an organic orchard.

Distance: 5kms Rating: easy

NOTE: this walk will involve a 5km shared car shuttle as the walk is one way

Ratings:

Easy – Flat or undulating well formed tracks/paths with low tripping hazards.

Moderate – May include some moderately steep or narrow sections or have higher tripping hazards.

Difficult – Includes steep and/or narrow sections, slippery sections, or high tripping hazards.

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 (by donation) 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) and
the first Sunday of each month

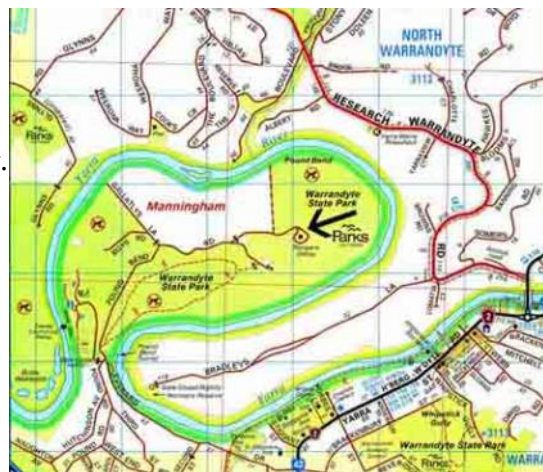
2 pm to 4 pm.

**Nursery is closed to customers and volunteers
on Total Fire Ban Days**

Prices 1st Jan..2014 note change from 2013

Members \$2.00

Non-members \$2.50



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Important Nursery Notice

Would all members who have obtained plants from the FOWSP nursery **PLEASE** make sure they return the empty forestry tubes and more

IMPORTANTLY THE BLACK PLASTIC TUBE HOLDER TRAYS. These trays are specially made and have been bought by FOWSP at considerable cost.

Warrandyte Festival weekend

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March

Nursery Open both days 10 am - 4 pm

A wide range of plants available including grasses, groundcovers, wildflowers, shrubs and trees.

up to 50% off!!

February Committee Meeting reported

by Cathy Willis

- Due to the heat and total fire ban days, the nursery was quite behind in pricking out seedlings. Committee members met at the nursery, pricked out 1550 plants and shared some dinner before the committee meeting.
- No Rangers report – many staff have been on fire fighting duties.
- From the Nursery report - despite the heat plants are still being sold. Annette has successfully moved some through the Warrandyte 2nd hand Facebook page. Contractors working on the local sewer connections bought plants for rehabilitation works.
- Sarah, who is replacing Belinda has started work.

- Peter Curry's long term support and 'tireless efforts' with the nursery trailer and as a past committee member were acknowledged with a card.
- Activities for the upcoming Warrandyte Festival were discussed.
- TAGs for the year have been finalized.
- Linda, Alana, Kelvin and Gray have been making bee habitat in an old laundry trough and Linda hopes it will attract bees this season.
- Newsletters were discussed. Many people now only receive an email copy but hard copies and postage are still a major expense. Will be on the agenda for April.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 12 March

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Manningham Environment Seminars 2014

Environmental Seminars are held on the first Wednesday of the month

Many of the seminars will be complemented with field sessions to facilitate broader education on the topics. No bookings are required for the evening talks however RSVPs must be provided for the field sessions at the relevant seminar.

Venue: Chandelier Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte **Time:** 7.30 pm



Wednesday 5th March 2014 Victorian threatened orchid recovery presented by Richard Thomson, long time orchid conservation volunteer and Life Member of the Australasian Native Orchid Society. Richard will be talking about the severe population decline of native orchids since the 1980s. The slow decline of many species is continuing and the presentation will explore the work, including propagation and re-establishment, being done to support and increase the number of orchids, some very rare. **Field trip to follow:** Expressions of interest to attend this weekday walk will be received at the seminar and information of dates and time will be provided in winter. You must attend the seminar in March for a place in this field trip.

Wednesday 2nd April 2014 Yarra - Source to Sea presented by Dr Neville Rosengren

This seminar will outline the geological and landform history of the Yarra River and its major tributaries - from the forests on the northern slopes of Mount Baw Baw to the delta growing into Port Phillip. It will detail the character of the valley in Manningham in the context of the entire river system. Neville will describe the geomorphology of the Yarra valley and explain how the varied geology and tectonic and volcanic history has shaped the present landscape. **Field Trip: Thursday 3 April 2014, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm OR Friday 4 April 2014, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.** Dr Neville Rosengren will provide an insightful and accessible description of the geology of our region. Thursday's tour will showcase Silurian and basalt geological features ranging from Yarra Bend Park to Mt Lofty. The Friday tour will be particularly appropriate for those who attended the Yarra Bend/Mt Lofty tour in May 2013. Friday's tour will focus on the Brighton Group with relevance to Manningham's connection to the shoreline sediments in the late Miocene to Pliocene. You must attend the seminar in April for a place on the field trips. BYO lunch. Bookings are essential.

For further information, please phone Lyn Meredith on 9840 9326.

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required *Supper provided*

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER



Thanks to those who helped out in February
Diane and John Baird; Caitriona and John Young;
Christine Andell and Jeff Cranston; Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook.

**And special thanks to Peter Curry for picking up and delivering the Trailer regularly
for more than 10 years**

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 for 2014, please please contact Caitriona Young 9844 2842 or 0411478410 thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

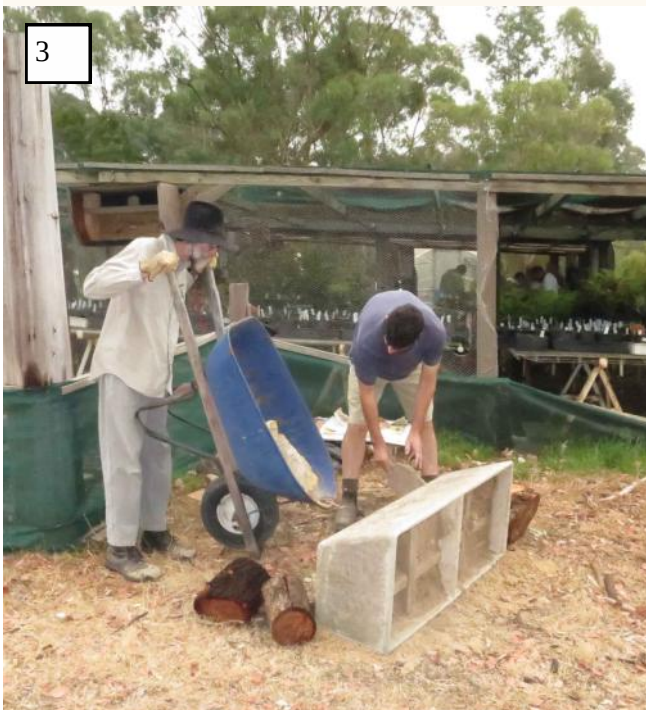
Future market dates until July are: Saturday March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th.

Extra helpers are needed for the Warrandyte Festival

Sat & Sun. 22nd-23rd March We are seeking volunteers to be rostered on in pairs for the information trailer for one hour. We will need a total of 22 volunteers in all. If you can help, please contact Caitriona on 9844 2842 or 0411478410 or email on thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk.

Is it Hymie* House, BBB B&B, Pollinator Palace, ? What shall we name the new bee and insect home??

* short for Hymenoptera (bees and wasps).



The new insect hotel is complete. Fig.1. It took us 3 weeks to fill each cell with rammed earth for the bricks and by the next week it was dry enough to push the sandy mortar into the gaps. I anticipate that the mortar is where the Blue Banded Bees may choose to nest as they are notorious for nesting in the mortar of mud brick homes. Fig.2 The cement trough was tipped on its side and voila the hotel is ready for occupancy. Fig. 3 Gray and Kelvin hauled in some rocks for fill and also to act as a hibernaculum* to the nurseries lizards. Fig. 4 Lastly Kelvyn has topped the mound with recycled potting soil from our waste heap.

Now we need a good rain to help settle the soil, perhaps a top up and then we can begin to plant some summer flowering plants. Linda



*Hibernaculum - I first saw one at Maffra where a native bee loving friend had built one in his bee garden. The word used in zoology means *a place of abode in which a creature seeks refuge, such as a bear using a cave to overwinter.* [1][2] *Insects may hibernate to survive the winter.*

In this case we hope to provide refuge for skinks and lizards.



Saying Goodbye to the Day

by Alwynne Buntine

Sit with your back to the sun at the end of an Autumn Day.
Watch the shadows deepen as the daylight fades away.
A stillness settles all around,
You hold your breath so you don't make a sound.
A sound would disturb this magical time,
The joy of the moment would pass and be gone.

Turn with your face to the west and watch as the fiery sun sets.
It's brilliant rays getting longer and longer as near the horizon it gets.
Lower and lower the giant orb goes,
The sky reflecting it's golden glow.
At last it sinks out of sight,
Now pinks and purples colour twilight.

Venus is seen with the setting sun
Heralding to all that night has begun.
There's chill in the breeze that comes with the night.
As dusk turns to darkness now there's no more sunlight.
Stars twinkle in the darkening sky,
it's time to bid the day goodbye.



FOWSP-i-leaks



Celebrating 149 years of birthdays

Ben (of I SPY fame) and Margaret have escaped the heat by driving to NSW and enjoying Fitzroy Falls at Morton NP. The celebration is for Margaret and her sister combined.

New Grandparents Joy

Yes Joy has just returned from London where met her first grandchild, George Forrester. Mother and child are doing well but dad is exhausted.

Also joyous is Lyndy, honorary FOWSP treasurer, is loving being a grandma and now has two beautiful girls to play with. Nikita will be two in June and Ariana was born on 12 February 2014. Baby and mother are doing well . Thanks for sharing the lovely photo Lyndy



More Joy

Jason is very pleased with the results of his recent Odyssey to NSW. Test driving his new Subaru Forrester to Noosa. He reached Sydney using less than a tankful!

Welcoming New Volunteers

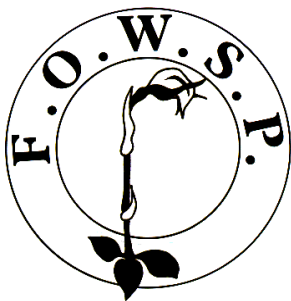
It's a pleasure when we get new volunteers at the nursery:

Ann from North Warrandyte is keen to help FOWSP protect our native plant environment. She has recently undertaken the big task of removing Agapanthus from her garden, hiring a skip to dispose of the plants. She was not impressed with a neighbours suggestion that she could have sold them instead.

Bill from Footscray grew up in Warrandyte where he helped increase the number of native plants in in grandmothers garden. He shares his mother Ann's desire to help keep promote Warrandyte and especially Warrandyte State Park's indigenous plant communities.

Daniel from North Warrandyte says on his first day, all eyes turned to him when someone said, "Here's our new volunteer Daniel". He enjoys being surrounded by gentle souls who are dedicated to promoting our native plants and where it's not all about money.

LR



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Ringed Sawfly *Pterygophorus cinctus*

Not a bee nor a true wasp but a very close relative to both. This is the sawfly whose larvae (R) feed on the *Callistemon* or Bottlebrush. It's young were very prominent on nursery tube stock (where they were removed by hand) and in hundreds in the bush and gardens in May 2013, where they do little harm to healthy plants. I also removed them from a young plant in my garden.



March 2014 Vol.32 no. 2

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$10

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.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus page



Above is a photo of a Children's Stick insect photographed by Kel in a reserve in Warrandyte. Apparently it died and fell out of a tree during a hot spell. The inset shows its wing extended.

On the right is another of Kel's finds, this one in Sweet Bursaria. She also had a video of one of the babies, mouth wide open, begging for food. Joan Broadberry looked it up in her nest book and said, "I am almost sure it is a Mistletoe bird. Everything seems to fit. The nest is pear shaped, with no tail at the bottom but rounded. It is made of plant-down, densely bound with web to create soft, felt-like walls. Its shape and the soft thin walls like woollen knitting have caused it to be described as a babies bootee. It is usually well hidden and suspended from a thin twig. "

Linda found this beetle on the left in Mountain Ash Forest and it has been identified as *Chondropyga gulosa* a scarab beetle.



Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows:
lindarogan@netspace.net.au