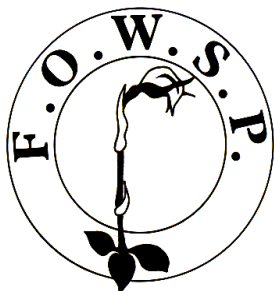


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

Editors Corner

Each month I try to put a photo on the first page that will bring a smile. A smiling Josh with his birthday cake does it for me. (There is some suspicion that he tried to avoid the fuss by scheduling a holiday on the actual birthday).

Josh is the one who has made the most exciting of the wildlife discoveries in March. See back cover and page 4 for his photos . Some lesser sightings will also be found on page 4.

See page 2 for the problem with Drain Flat-sedge at the nursery and the pondered solution. On the same page a notification of an APS native gardening class.

Page 3 takes us out for a morning with our TAG-ers and a bit of a trip down memory lane with Gray. Future TAG activities are found on P.4 just under the wildlife sightings.

Read about the recent successful market day and Warrandyte Festival weekend on page 7 and, on the same page, be sure to take note of the call for help from Stony Creek and Yarra Restoration Group with a free BBQ.

Wander Frogland pathways and find out what happens at FOWSP when the wheels fall off on page 8.

And welcome back to *I Spy* with so many items, some have overflowed into other parts of the newsletter.. Those of you receiving the electronic link to the newsletter can also enjoy the varied and colourful photos on the bonus page.



Josh smiles for the camera while cutting his birthday cake. Photo: Linda

It is easy to see it has been a busy and exciting month. Take a moment just now to think about what conservation activities you will be participating in this coming month and remember to send us photos and reports. Also let us know what is happening in your backyard.

Thanks to all who have contributed material to this newsletter and remember I am hoping for some new contributors next month.

Most of all, enjoy this newsletter. Hope to see you around FOWSP. *Linda*

Deadline for May 2015 edition newsletter is

Friday 24th April 2015

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Drainage problem breeds weedy Drain Flat Sedge *Cyperus eragrostis*



BUT NEVER FEAR, planning is in progress, and with the help of the rangers the drainage will, in time, be improved. After that some of us will investigate the feasibility of putting in some native plants along the car park edges.

In the meantime at least two Peron's Tree Frogs enjoy their concealed habitat within the electricity box in the area.

Cyperus eragrostis ID can be confirmed, when not in bloom, by reddish brown roots. These can be seen when digging out the plants. Linda

D'YE KEN KUNZEA (from *I Spy*)

KUNZEA is the regular publication of the Australian Plant Society (Maroondah). It tells me that on April 10, 17 and 24 a new **Native Gardening Course** will be run in Forest Hill. Interested? Contact Joe Wilson 9812 0209 or Graeme Nicholls 98934422 email apsmaroondah@gmail.com

DOWN WITH GRAFFITI TAGGING in WSP!

FOWSP members, who wish to remain nameless, clean up unsightly tagging around Warrandyte on a weekly basis from State Park property, bus stops, signs, light poles, rocks, trees, seats, businesses, letterboxes, football ovals, bridges and car parks. This involves using acid remover which is provided free by the Manningham City Council and where remover doesn't work, paint is applied at our own cost. We are now asking like-minded FOWSP members to contribute to the cost of materials used to cover over tagging **within the State Park**. If any excess is raised, the money will be used for other FOWSP projects.

If we ignore this scourge, it will reach epidemic proportions like many unsightly areas of Melbourne - Hoddle Street, for example. Let's keep our lovely town free from this ugliness. Your donations are gratefully received. Please send cheques to

FOWSP, P O Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or deposit direct into the FOWSP bank account: BSB 633100 Account number 136406907 and use transaction reference "**TAGGING**"

Thank you for your support.

In March six boys and one girl tackled weeds at Boys Road.

I KNOW IT IS POLITICALLY INCORRECT to call a woman a girl, but I'm sure that Lee will not mind, and I know we six boys could not care less about being called boys. While Artur and John took the 'yuck' out of a patch of yucca, the rest of us cut and treated a clump of bamboo. Then it was the turn of dozens of agave plants, which were quite hard to find, being withered and scorched russet by the Summer sun.

Once the agave were atop the burning heap we turned our attention to less numerous weeds, including *Acacia prominens* and *A. pruinosa*. It is such a pity this wattle is an interloper from the NSW Central Coast, as it has the most beautiful feathery foliage, with purplish tips on the bluish-green leaves. Just for variety there was a patch of *Berberis* [far from its home in the Himalaya] but the other victims of our attention were such familiar adversaries as Honeysuckle, *Agapanthus*, *Cootamongrel* [as Ranger Colin calls *A. baileyana*] and the last few *Polygala myrtifolia*. We had to really hunt for these, which was gratifying - when we first began to pull them out [7 or 8 years ago?] I doubted our chance of success, given their enormous abundance at the time. It just shows the value of repeated follow-up!



An altercation amongst the boys at Boys Rd?
Staged for the camera I'm sure (above)
 Janaya makes certain it is all sorted out within occupational health and safety regulations. (below)



When I was a kid there were about seven houses in Boys Road and Gallatly's Lane - and a fascinating junk-yard. In an earlier Newsletter I've already told how we small boys borrowed from the junkyard an aircraft fuel-tank cowling for a day's paddling on the Yarra, and how we received a different sort of paddling as punishment. Where the Rangers' burning-heap is now, there formerly stood the second Warrandyte house of Divan, Beth and their three daughters - a modest but fairly conventional house of the 1950s. Their first house, though, right beside The Tunnel was a place of great fascination for me. Divan was for decades a fitter and turner at Naughtons' gunsmiths - yes, Warrandyte once had a manufacturing gunsmiths, where the ingeniously designed Fieldman rifle was made, and the 'Naughtons' part of WSP is named after the gunsmiths Lois and Mervyn Naughton.

Divan, not one to be held back by mere lack of money, built a house out of bush timbers and panels made of wood-shavings in a cement matrix. The windows, like many in the Warrandyte of the time had no glass in them, but there were hessian blinds to keep out the weather. The house was lit by kerosene lamps - there was no mains electricity in Pound Rd in those days - nor was there gas, phone or mains water.

Water was not a problem for the family, however, as the Yarra was but a few feet away - the kids frolicked in the river from the earliest age - naked, of course, and Beth did her laundry in a convenient natural 'tub' fed by water from the Tunnel.

I was overcome with envy whenever I visited this tiny riverside house, and would have readily changed places! To this day you can see the terrace that Divan dug into the steep hillside to accommodate his house - it is a very small terrace indeed!

Thanks to Ranger Janaya for invaluable logistic support, and to Lyndy for yet another delicious and abundant morning tea!

Gray

March Wildlife Excitement! Linda

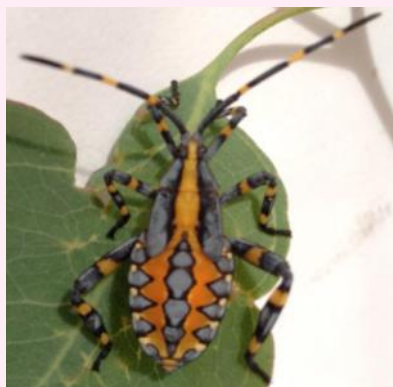
The most exciting find is the koala that Josh spotted and photographed on the Sunday afternoon of the Warrandyte Festival. Several other FOWSPians and some visitors were thrilled to see it on the day. (see back cover)

A close second has to be the Sugar Glider he saw climbing up a tree near Frogland (photo)

Amongst the smaller creatures, Irene pointed out the Pobblebonk Frog *Limnodonastes dumerilii* . Perhaps heard more often than seen. (photo below)



Lastly our insects below included the changeling Gum Tip Bug *Amorbus alternata* Annette photographed in its last instar (orange and blue) and adult phase. It feeds on gum leave tips. Below R is Linda's photo of the colourful Potter Wasp *Delta bicinctus* .



TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.15 am for a 9.30 pm departure. WAGs meet at times given below, at the nursery beforehand or at the specified location. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle. Contact number: 0408 317 327

Thurs.	2nd April	9am-12 noon	Mt Lofty	Maintenance 2 million trees	Ranger	Mod.
Thurs	16th April	9am-12 noon	Naughton Ave	Woody weeding	Ranger	Diff
Thurs	30th April	9am-12 noon	Stane Brae (fence)	Planting	Ranger	Mod

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>

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

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2014			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			<u>Nursery Phone</u>	0408 317 327
				nursery@fowsp.org.au
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter editor	<u>Newsletter assist</u>	Joan Broadberry
editor@fowsp.org.au				9846 1218
Jason Patton	mobile 0402 121838	Webmaster and membership	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds
jason@parau.com				9722 2908
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor
				0417587798
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green
				9844 2096
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary	Jan Falconer	9844 1226 or 0419 872 096
			email janece5@bigpond.co	
John Blake	0418 329 937		Facebook Coordinator	Annette Lion
			0414-249-729	
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774			
Sarah Qualtrough	0431 268 344		Website:	www.fowsp.org.au

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

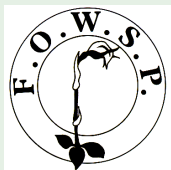
Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan,
Joan Broadberry, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 14th April

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



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 distances and finishing times are approximate.

Thursday 23rd April: Mullum Mullum Creek Walk along the creek and through bushland saved from becoming a freeway by the Eastlink tunnel underneath. Our Waterwatch Co-ordinator will join us to investigate the water quality of the creek and discuss the findings.

Distance: 3km **Time:** 3 hours **Rating:** Moderate

Thursday 28 May: The Yarra Brae Escarpment From the gentle river flats near the confluence of the Yarra River and Brushy Creek, we will climb over the steep rocky escarpment and back down to the Clifford Park river terrace.

Distance: 3 km **Time:** 3 hours **Rating:** Difficult

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.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date. Meeting points will be provided at the time of booking, to book call 9840 9362 or email

eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

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

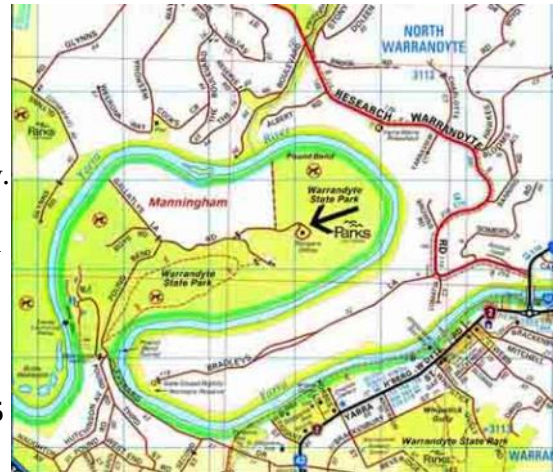
2 pm to 4 pm.

Closed Christmas and New Years day. Reopens 8th Jan.2015

Also closed to customers and volunteers on days of severe weather and on Total Fire Ban Days

Prices: Members \$2.00

Non-members \$2.50



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For the story of this nesting native bee, see the nature article in the April Warrandyte Diary

Linda

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars

The 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. Due to popularity of the field trips, bookings are limited to 3 field trips per person. Bookings open now. You must attend the corresponding seminar to keep your field trip booking.

Venue: Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte

Time: 7.30 pm

Enquiries: For more information, please phone Lyn Meredith on 9840 9326. **Bookings:** Natalie on 9840 9124.



Wednesday 6th May: Nocturnal birds in urban landscapes presented by Marian Weaving

How has urbanisation affected reproductive behaviour, population structure and spatial ecology of the Tawny Frogmouth? Come along and find out. Marian is a Deakin University PhD candidate and will present on her study of nocturnal birds, particularly her findings of the recent local studies of the charismatic and highly cryptic Tawny Frogmouth.

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER and FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Many thanks are due to our amazing volunteers in March.

Firstly on **Saturday March 7th 2015**

At the Warrandyte market, \$125 (including one membership \$30) was taken, a great result. The nursery took \$400 in sales on the day.

Many thanks to:



Diane & John Baird, Lee & Graham Deacon,
Louise Clear, Steve Anderson, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook
And for trailer transport: Jason Patton



Only 2 weeks later volunteers rallied again to ensure a successful Warrandyte Festival weekend. Many thanks to all for their time and effort. We had lots of sales and enquiries during both days and the Festival and the nursery were both very busy. Overall total for the weekend at the festival and the nursery was \$2408.50.

A big thank you to the volunteers who manned the trailer over 2 days:

Dianne & John Baird, Peta Cumming, Jeff Cranston, John and Bev Hanson, Jan Smids,
Jan Davies, Damon Smit, Louise Clear, Lyn Moore, Alison Thom, Kelvin Watkins, Sarah Qualtrough,
Joy Hick, Barrie Taylor, Don Saunders, Ken Crook, Lyndy Gilbert, Jason Patton



Lyn Meredith and Robyn Gillespie from MYLN also assisted with sales on Saturday.

Special thanks to Jason and Peta who raced back to the nursery to pick up more booklets and Poa plants for the Festival trailer; to Artur for taking the trailer to the Festival and back again; to Cathy for kindly returning the plants to the nursery and Sarah, Kay, Annette, Cathy and Josh for managing the nursery.

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 in 2015

please contact Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email janece5@bigpond.com

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Future market dates are: 4th April, 2nd May, 6th June



Sarah and Kelvin running the trailer at the market on Festival Sunday. Photo Linda

FREE BBQ AND PLANT GIVEAWAY

Join the Stony Creek and Yarra Restoration Group at a free BBQ and community meeting to hear our plans to RESTORE THE RESERVE. We are planning to revegetate an area that has been recently cleared by the council and is in danger of becoming overrun with weeds again.

Join us at the BBQ, meet your neighbours and take away some free local plants.

When: Saturday 18 April, 4pm

Where: The reserve, The Boulevard, North Warrandyte

For more information, contact Gill (0403051766 or SCYRG@hotmail.com).



What happens at FOWSP when the wheels fall off? Words and photos by Carolyn Noel



THESE PHOTOS SHOW how adversity can be turned to advantage, and why sooooo much work gets done in such a short space of time. Whilst barrowing rocks to make the edges of the pathway extension, the wheels fell off the barrow. After a little thought Jason came up with several uses for the wheels. Peta, Jason, Kelvin and Carolyn contributed to what to do with the barrow.



Despite the adversity of losing a barrow and all the fun we were having we still got in quite a lot of path constructed because Jason has twice the number of arms as anyone and Kelvin is in two places at once. He he he! I'm glad to hear that our useful junk sculpture of a blue banded bee has been accepted into the fold.

The making of it was quite remarkable. What kind of synchronicity has to take place that the day the wheels fall off the barrow, Jason and Peta have

blue paint in their car (as well as all the tools, wire and screws) and I have just been given a pile of black core-flute (by Brian) with which to finish off the bee at the rear and make it safe!

Ken Walker, bee expert at Museum Victoria has given his seal of approval to the sculpture ~ Linda

Amazingly, despite all these shenanigans, the pathway construction is continuing apace. Have a look next time you are at the nursery. Here is the evidence of the great progress on the building of the pathway with Jason's stop-press photos of completed sections. Many thanks to all who are helping. *Linda*



“I SPY”

By B.G..



REGARDING RANGERS

The best description (in brief) for a “ranger” I found in the Macquarie Dictionary and Thesaurus: “a person employed to patrol a public reserve, wildlife park, etc.” This was less than satisfying for Victoria’s or Australia’s rangers. Our Rangers are more, whether fighting fires, education, helping people in dangerous situations and a multitude of tasks of which FOWSP members are aware.

- Range Kylie was seen “handling a recycling bin up toward the park office
- Ranger John had been to the Dandenong Valley Park on an activity
- Ranger Janaya and the whole fire team had been burning off at Gembrook and grasslands at Mt Derrimut and Plenty Gorge. This lasted several days, hard work and they were tired.
- Early March Steve Anderson, an ex-WSP Ranger, now a senior ranger at Uluru visited and was on a “Cathy Willis”(photo R) walk, Pound Bend area, with several others, nominally to collect seed but as it started raining, collected little, as wet seed will germinate and can’t be stored. Steve has also served at Kakadu.
- Ranger Kylie’s friend Drew is currently working down in the Otways, near Forrest, for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) (renamed Jan 2015).
- Project Firefighter (PFF) crew member Luke has welcomed a baby daughter to his life.

CAP ESCAPE

“Boxy” a PFF at the depot “lost” his blue-green parks Victoria cap, which was found and placed on a post near a “public facility” at the depot. According to reports the cap then went feral and was photographed consorting with (a) a Dianella (b) a Melaleuca (c) a tree fern (Ben’s photo p.8). Fortunately “Boxy still has a hard hat to protect him from the heat.



STAFF STORIES

Annette showed us a small jar contents “a gum tip bug” *Amorbus alternatus*, which had a surround of blue and orange (photo p. 8) but it had dropped its “Mardi Gras” coat and was now just a little black bug (15-20cm). (Annette’s photos p. 8)

Early March, Sarah was working with a secondary student from Doncaster Secondary College on native herbs. Sarah also makes music with a baritone saxophone.

WSP WALKERS

One march Thursday over 50 walkers from the *Essendon Over-50s walking group* trekked through the depot on to Pound Bend Road and points West (led by Norm).

On ‘the Ides of March’ a group of ten walkers from the Catholic Walking Club came from Warrandyte through to Jumping Creek, to Black Flat to Blue Tongue Bend and finally returned to Warrandyte village to enjoy an ample snack.

Recently twenty five people from the North Ringwood Community House were led by Shirley Deane from near the Warrandyte police station to Pound Bend and past the ranger depot. The group called the “*Bush Nomads*” has been traversing near and far for many years led by Shirley - a local scout leader. Shirley has often been a volunteer for state-wide rescues and searches. Her husband Peter who supplied this information will not have his name revealed!

FURTHER ON FIRE FORCE

Early one morning (Forecast 31degrees + windy) a few weeks ago, two land-cruisers with slip-on units were seen heading out of the depot. The slip-on unit is a hard water tank and fire fighting equipment. In the past a flexible water tank unit was called a “pig” slip-on.

BAMBOOS FOR BEES

Carolyn, our local artiste, would like some volunteers to come and be part of a workshop recycling material for cheap affordable “cottage native bee houses” (Quite enterprising)

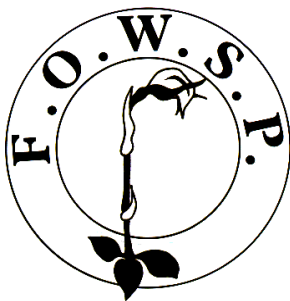


IGLOO INITIATIVE

At the end of 2014 we had Shirley Munday visit. Shirley, not a frequent visitor, is one of the people involved in the establishment of our plant igloos. Her favourite film is “*From here to Eternity*”

NO NATIVES NURTURED!

On a recent visit to a large retail store which sells gardening supplies, I found no native fertiliser, nor an appropriate potting mix. On enquiry I was told “we’ve cut some things out.” I pondered, “does overseas ownership mean the denigration of our own native plants by default?” Will it all be left to a few specialist places?



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Koala sighting near Frogland

Josh found and photographed this lovely Koala on the festival Sunday. It is not certain but from photos this koala looks as if it may be a female because the fur on her chest is quite clean. See page 4 to see what else has been seen at the nursery this month. This is the first koala sighting near the nursery for some time.

Linda

April 2015 Vol.33 no. 3

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 \$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.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus page



Photos clockwise from upper left:

Caterpillar with distinctive head capsule feeding on grass flowers at nursery, Lymanitidae or Tussock moth family. Strange arachnid with segmented abdomen and strong armed pedipalps is a harvestman from the family **Triaenonychidae** by Linda.

Carol Page's photo of Cathy Willis at a recent seed gathering walk where a fox, dead from unknown causes was also photographed.

Lastly, above, sunlit gum leaf from Mount Buffalo, by Linda

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