

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

Editor's Corner

Another successful year for FOWSP is drawing to a close and our AGM brought many of us together for a wonderful relaxing evening as you will see below and on pp.2,3 and 7.

On p. 4 check out what may be our youngest ever working volunteer. On the same page your attention will be grabbed by the Market Trailer (unless you are colour-blind).

Meet new member Liz Clarkson and visitor Leo Guida on p. 8.

On p. 9 find out what is happening with the efforts of hard-working Taggers and Staggers in lower Orchard Track.

Please note this issue of the FOWSP newsletter is for both December and January.

I can think of nothing better than a golden-green native bee to bring my wishes to all for a brilliant holiday season full of the awareness of nature's treasures and surrounded by those you love.

Linda



Where else but FOWSP can you attend an AGM in such a beautiful setting...

More on p. 2.



...enhanced by lovely music from Sarah, our own expert flautist. Photo by Cathy

**Deadline for February edition newsletter is
Friday 23rd January 2017**

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

**FOWSP AGM
13 November 2016
YEAR IN REVIEW**

Firstly we thank Parks Victoria for allowing us to play our part in making Warrandyte State Park/Warrandyte-Kinglake Conservation Reserve the priceless asset that means so much to us. We thank Faye Williams, Area Chief Ranger for Plenty Gorge and Warrandyte, and closer to home, Warren Murphy, the Warrandyte Ranger Team Leader. We thank Warren's hard-working team of Rangers, especially Cam Beardsell OAM for his inspiring dedication and seemingly unending stream of informal ecological education. We did invite Cam to address us today, but in the end had to accept that he just has too much on his plate.



Smiles all around while Gray presents the year in review, nothing to do with the bottles in the foreground. Photo by Cathy

We particularly thank Janaya O'Dempsey, whom we call our 'Own Ranger', as she works so very closely with us – sometimes even out-of-hours. When I say closely, recently I rang Janaya [at home, as it turned out] to ask her to organize the completion of an unfinished volunteer project – only to find that she had already done it!

Janaya has just let us know that FOWSP put in nearly 5,000 hours of voluntary work during the last financial year. This figure, although impressive, is a very conservative figure. It certainly doesn't include the unpaid work that Josh Revell puts in, nor that of Jason Patton and Kelvin Watkins, keeping systems going in and around the Nursery, and on such projects as the refurbishment of Frogland.

Do make a point of visiting Frogland to admire the results of Linda Rogan's determination to restore this once-tarnished jewel! Linda also puts in countless hours as contributing editor of the FOWSP Newsletter – the last one was a ripper!

Nor do those 5,000 hours include the work of our dynamic prize-winning Treasurer, indefatigable and imaginative morning-tea maker, and sausage-sizzler; Lyndy Gilbert. The last sizzle raised about \$400 – in just 3 hours!

You will soon hear Lyndy's account of FOWSP's finances, but one of the costs that she will not be mentioning is the cost to us of ever-increasing bureaucratization and corporate risk-aversion. I'll give you an example: there is a corporatized statutory authority which is one of our biggest customers, but in order to continue to sell plants to it, Josh recently had to fill in a 50-page contract, which required information such as how many fatalities there had been at the Nursery! (none, by the way)

So many other thankless tasks fall to the obliging and uncomplaining Josh. Who but Josh keeps track of the life-cycle of the hundreds of species of plants we propagate; predicts the precise moment to harvest the seeds of all those species, and gets out there to collect them?

Any Thursday morning you can see lots of volunteers and customers asking Josh lots of questions. I'd be snarling 'Go away and let me get on with it'; but not Josh! Everybody gets his full, courteous and helpful attention. I've done voluntary work elsewhere with 'plant nuts', so I can tell you that they do not all combine knowledge with patience and the ability to communicate well. Sorry if I just implied that Josh is a nut – so much for my ability to communicate well!

Finally we thank our hard-working, knowledgeable and friendly Nursery staff: Michelle Tumino, Annette Lion and Sarah Bond. Kaye Williams is no longer on our staff, as she has promoted herself from employee to volunteer – thanks Kaye!

Thanking people is in itself a thankless task because one is bound to neglect to give all the thanks that are due – but be assured that we are very grateful for all the help we've had this year. We couldn't have had such a successful year without every single one of your contributions.

Gray

From our prize-winning Treasurer

FOWSP has had a great year financially for 2015-6, with the audited report showing our income of \$68,686 was in excess of expenditure \$63,693 - some \$5k in surplus at the year's end after depreciation. Many thanks to our five wonderful staff and up to 40 volunteers who have worked very hard each Thursday to produce a record number of plants for revegetation of the parks from Templestowe to Kinglake.

Lyndy



Lynda Gilbert, Treasurer
Photo by Linda

From the Ranger's Report presented by Janaya



Janaya, our 'own ranger'.
Photo by Cathy

After first presenting an extensive list of acknowledgments and 'thankyous' for FOWSP's support over the past 12 to 18 months, Janaya also made mention of the successful 'Safety First, Zero Injuries Program' which is an organisation wide priority in Parks Vic and applies to staff, contractors and volunteers and more.

The list of Parks programs that have been carried out over the past year included, amongst others, Environmental programs:

- A \$50,000 DELWP threatened species grant that focused on orchids of Middle Yarra & Warrandyte-Kinglake NCR (Morrison's, Boomers & One Tree Hill),
- Numerous research permit programs
- Pest Animal – and Pest Plant control
- Trail works and revegetation projects

The many Park's projects involved volunteers from FOWSP and at least five other groups, Green Army and students.

Melbourne Fire & Emergency program included:

- 1 hectare Ecological burn for Slender-tailed Dunnart at One Tree Hill
- 10km of Management Vehicle Track upgrades throughout Middle Yarra
- 50km of annual fuel break slashing program
- Post-burn weed control at numerous previously burn sites throughout Middle Yarra – delivered in house and through contractors
- 9 hectare Mt Lofty Burgan removal. Trial without using fire. Treatment of Burgan with regrowth a priority.
- Fuel modification fire breaks program – weed control across high eco value sites.

From the NURSERY REPORT presented by Annette

Welcome everyone! Another successful year has come to an end!

Again a long list of 'thankyous and acknowledgement that someone deserving thanks may have been missed. Many were also mentioned in Gray's report but some additional ones are mentioned here.

We've had a lot of teams working together this year – some are groups and some are individuals.

Frogland – Linda and Marie and others

Maintenance & Technical Support – Jason and Kelvin

TAGs – Gray (STAGs), Graeme, Lee, David, Brian

Plant Labels – Sarah, Catriona, Jan, Cathy

Market Trailer – Jan (rosters, plants, signage) Drivers (Jason, John, Kelvin and others) and all the volunteers on the trailer during market hours.

Library – Gloria

Wildflower Garden – Carolyn

Propagating—Alwynne, Marion, Irene, Fiona, Linda, Lisa, Charles, Lorraine, Alison and many others.

Dick and Marion for their orchid expertise and sorting pots.



Annette presents. Photo by Cathy

(Continued on page 7)

Around the FOWSP Nursery



Water plants are prepared for sale at the December Market

Photos by Linda



The Market Trailer gets a much needed face lift and this is just the background colour. Thanks to Carolyn for her inspiring creativity. Watch this space.



Young recruit Sasha helps out



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

The next scheduled TAG will be held on 2nd February 2017 however there are likely to be some STAGS (spontaneous Thursday ...) activities in the meantime.

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

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2016/17			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			<u>Nursery Phone</u>	0408 317 327
			email nursery@fowsp.org.au	
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u>	03 8427 2132
Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter editor	<u>Newsletter assist and Librarian</u>	
	editor@fowsp.org.au		Gloria Moore	0402 285005
Annette Lion	0414-249-729	Facebook Coordinator	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds
				9722 2908
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary		
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	
			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
John Blake	0438 372 064		<u>Manningham Council Rep</u>	
Joy Hick	0418573916		Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		<u>Webmaster and membership</u>	
			Jason Patton	0402 121838
			jason@parau.com	
Carolyn Noel	0409 901 441		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647	Advisor to the committee	FOWSP general enquiry number	
	legality@bigpond.com		1300 764 422	

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, Gloria Moore, Peter Rogan
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 14th February 2017

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars

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

Venue: Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte **Time:** 7.30 pm

Enquiries: Lyn Meredith, 9840 9326

Wednesday 7th December 2016 Powerful Owl Research Deakin University Honours student Nick Bradsworth, will be presenting his exciting research on Australia's largest owl species the Powerful Owl. With an increase in human population and urban areas, it is important to completely understand the home range and habitat use of cryptic species such as the Powerful Owl, to ensure our co-existence. The owls that Nick will be focussing on, include pairs within the City of Manningham.



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

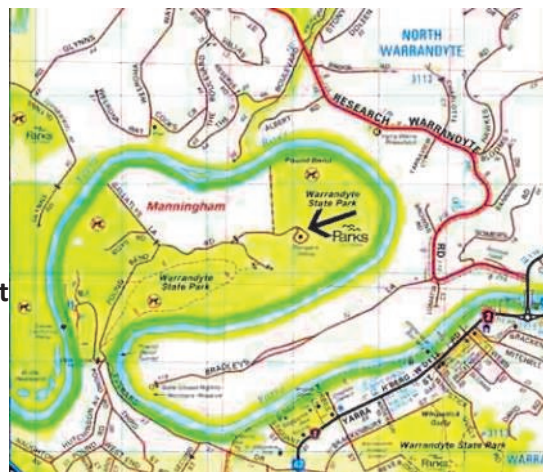
The nursery will not be open on weekends from November though to March inclusive.

Weekend openings are expected to resume on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April 2017.

- first Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) - April to October only.
- first Sunday of every month, 2pm to 4pm - April to October only.

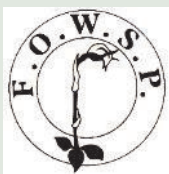
Closed Christmas and New Years days reopening on Thursday 5th January 2017

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



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FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of free nature walks will explore various sections of the Yarra River from the eastern end of Manningham in Wonga Park downstream to Templestowe.

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.

9:30 Wednesday 14 December 2016 Summer Solstice Walk at Blue-tongue Bend As we approach the peak of high summer, the flowering season is finishing. We will watch the sun climb towards its zenith in the northern sky as we view the river from the top of the escarpment, then shelter from the midday sun under the tall Manna Gums as we return. Also we will compare information from the original Timelines Project from over 20 years ago.

Distance: 4 km **Time:** 3.5 hrs **Rating:** Difficult (some steep, narrow sections on footpath)

All distances and finishing times are approximate.

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 can be made online and are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date. www.manningham.vic.gov.au/nature-walks

The meeting place will be provided at the time of booking.

Please note that nature walks will be cancelled on a day of Total Fire Ban or extreme weather warning as Parks Victoria will close all local parks.

(Continued from page 3)

Many others who are happy to do anything that needs doing.

TOTAL PLANTS PRODUCED included

Parks Victoria –Janaya was the driver of plantings below, collecting seed and regularly checking on the plants.

Heads Rd	2500
Becketts Rd	2500
Orchard Track	500
Deer Proof Fence	300
Community – ACCA	1000
MYLN	300

Also there were plantings at Petty's Orchard and Happy Valley.

All of the above adds up to more than 5000 volunteer hours, 50,000 plants and a lot more clean air to breathe!

We've also had a couple of talks this year. David Cameron spoke about Professors Hill and Tim Entwistle spoke about the 6 seasons. Both were very informative and enjoyable.

Lyndy: Morning teas (I suggest it starts earlier), organizing BBQs, fund raising events and the talks and the upcoming Spit Roast at our Xmas party, Treasurer, Support person and thorough cleaner.

Janaya: TAG attendee and co-organiser, PV plantings, seed collector, driver, PV support person.

Kay: When I left for maternity leave with little Luna, Kay joined our team. It's hard to believe that was more than 4 years ago. Kay finished up with us earlier this year but it's lovely she still pops in to say hi and volunteer occasionally.

Sarah: Computer skills. Filling in. Her musical entertainment.

Michelle: has been with us for more than 12 months, diligence and thoroughness, hard working.

Justin and Kelvin: all the little and big things that need doing and fixing and changing around the nursery.

Cathy: Manningham representative, technical support, knowledge of all things council and environmental.

Josh: easy going, supportive, walking encyclopaedia.

Volunteers: Thanks so much from Michelle, Josh, myself, all the customers and all the plants for weeding is such an important but mostly disliked job that we really appreciate. Planting, Propagating, Seed sorting, Seed collecting And the general running of the nursery.

I apologise again if I've left anybody out. Come up to me and I'll thank you personally!

Annette

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday November 5th 2016

***Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Anne Conron
Christine Andell, Jon Eiseman, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook***

Special thanks to ***Kelvin and Jason*** who transported the market trailer.

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 December or in 2017

please contact Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are: *Saturdays, December 3rd 2016 and February 4th 2017*





Liz Clarkson Photo by Linda

Liz Clarkson new FOWSP member

Liz is finishing her Advanced Diploma in Photojournalism at Photography Studies College, Southbank Vic. She has attended FOWSP for several Thursdays and taken some photos and videos that she will use in her final folio on "Caring for the Land".

Liz says of her time at the FOWSP nursery, "My delight has been not only to photograph magnificent plants and flowers but also to have met such a passionate and welcoming group of people who love all things botanical."

Also see Liz's photos on p. 9.



Leo Guida from Wild Melbourne
Photo by Linda

Visitor Leo Guida

from Wild Melbourne was kind enough to allow Liz to video him speaking to nursery volunteers. Leo is the community groups liaison officer for this group of young people whose website states, *Our aim is to enhance the Victorian public's understanding of native Australian wildlife, science and environmental matters, as well as contribute to our community's broader appreciation of Victorian ecosystems.*

Leo spoke enthusiastically about connecting the public to wild values and plans to write an article about FOWSP for the Wild Melbourne website.

BBQ 30th October 2016

MANY THANKS to all those who offered to assist at the BBQ at IGA. It was a very successful day and a good way to get the message out to those who do not know anything about our nursery and volunteer group. We answered a lot of questions about native plants and were delighted with the interest shown by passers by. At least one new volunteer will be coming to our Thursday working bees as a result of today's show and tell.

People who helped included: Jan Falconer, Sybil Ims, Caitriona Young, Jason Patton, Peta Cumming, Ken Crook, Alison Thom and myself. Thanks also to Cathy Willis for offering and others that I may have missed.

Total raised today was \$448, less expenses of \$68 for the sausages, sauce, bread, onions, serviettes. Of the \$380, there was approximately \$10 in unsolicited donations, \$230 in plant sales and \$140 from the sausage sizzle.

Lyndy

Survival of the Palatable Plant

In June 2016 p. 8, I wrote an article for this Newsletter entitled 'Survival of the Unpalatable', about the problems we've encountered at Lower Orchard. Anything other than prickly or unpalatable plants was quickly browsed to death by ever-increasing numbers of kangaroos and deer.



Our first recourse was to tree-guards, but the critters simply stuck their heads down into the guards and munched our precious plants down to the ground. Then we tried *tall* tree-guards, (photo left) but these introduced a problem of their own: although the plants survived, on removal of the guard, the plants tended to fall over (photo right). Evidently plants need the stress of the wind to stimulate strength, but the support incidentally provided by the tall tree-guards deprives the plant of stimulation by the wind.



We decided that the only remaining course, other than culling these palatable pests - impossible, for various reasons - would be to build an exclusion fence. Naturally this was going to be a costly project, but Artur, our Secretary, managed to secure funding from Melbourne Water, and the enclosure was duly built by contractors.

The completion of the enclosure was fairly late in the planting year, but the Nursery had already propagated hundreds of plants for Lower Orchard - plants which could not sit in the Nursery until May. Finding that the soil was still quite moist, we decided to take the chance and plant anyway - a decision vindicated by all the lovely rain that has continued ever since.

Under Ranger Cam's supervision the planting, and watering-in of those hundreds of plants, including some rarities such as *Pimelea pauciflora*, took place over two very busy Thursday mornings. The following Thursday we returned to water our babies, just to make sure of their survival. I'm pleased to report that almost all of the plants are doing well - and that none of the team fell in the river whilst fetching bucket after bucket of water!

Gray

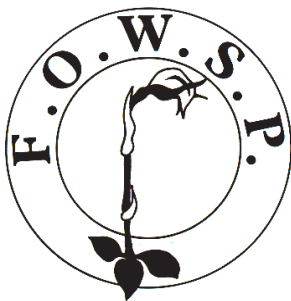
Thank you to Liz Clarkson for the 3 photos above.



Gray removing tree guards no longer needed within the exclusion fence. Photo Liz Clarkson



Meanwhile further along the Orchard Track, Kelvin and Jason have been involved in some extreme woody weeding. Photo by Linda



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Jewel Beetle *Castiarina sexplagiata*

What could be more decorative for the holiday season than this Jewel Beetle. This has been the one most commonly seen on my blooming Kunzea in recent times.

But you need sharp eyes to appreciate this beauty as it is only about 10mm long, the same size as a single Kunzea bloom.

Most Jewel Beetles lay their eggs in moribund, but not yet rotting, trees but I haven't been able to verify if that is the case for this species.

Linda

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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

Out and about

Petty's Orchard

I took these photos at Petty's Orchards and thought you might like to include them in FOWSP. The Orchard is such a nice place to visit with the Yarra Walk so close and the food is delicious. I am learning to use my new camera.
Cheers
Kim Tarpey

Thanks Kim



A female wasp awaits elopement with a winged male that will carry her away for a meal of fresh pollen in Langwarrin . Photo by Linda .



The Early Forest Gentian *Gentianella polysperes* along Watson's Creek Track.

Also see next page for more from Pound Bend

Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows:
editor@fowsp.org.au

At Pound Bend



Planting at Lower Orchard Track
Photo Liz Clarkson



A native cockroach (above) emerges on the wall of Annette's chook shed. It will colour up soon if its not snapped up by a chook. Thanks to Annette for the photo.

One of the FOWSP drawer frogs, *Litoria peronii*.

A family of Red-backs lived happily behind one of Linda's self-watering pots. Four of various sizes were seen.

