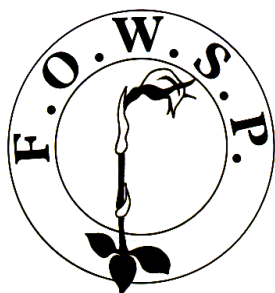


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

After a very brief break, FOWSPians are back full force by late January. So far the weather has been fairly kind at least to those with good working fans and evaporative coolers.

2017 ended with a number of pleasant activities. The last of the notes from the AGM with Cam Beardsell's talk on Threatened orchids of Middle Yarra and the Warrandyte-Kinglake Habitat Corridor can be found on p. 3.

The combined day with EntSocVic on 25 Nov. was a success (see p. 2+).

Carolyn shares a couple of interesting observations on p. 4.

Some snapshots of nursery activity are shared on p. 7.

Last we hear from members Marjan Kiewiet (with photos) and Joy Dahl on p. 9. As you will see, the year is off to a good start.

Enjoy the newsletter and we would like to hear from you next month.



Kristy (left) is a Green Army recruit who has been volunteering at FOWSP. She posed here with Linda and Bernice, Parks Vic volunteer coordinator.

Linda



Carol's January 1st birthday did not slip by unnoticed and was followed up by Linda and Caitriona's later in January.

Deadline for March edition newsletter is

Friday 23 February 2018

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

The Second FOWSP/Entomological Society of Victoria Combined Event

25 November 2017

IN 2017, FOWSP and The Entomological Society of Victoria (EntSocVic) filled the afternoon and late into the evening in pursuit of the insect and invertebrate life of Pound Bend. At 2:30 was the Great Aussie Insect Hunt which was open to members of the public as one of the Spring Outdoors activities. Although the day was rather warm and humid around 20 locals enthusiastically took part in the event. These were separated into two groups. Each group explored the Pound Bend picnic area stopping at three stations for some specific observations.

Peter Mueller from EntSocVic shared his observations on the mounds of three sorts of bull ants or *Myrmecia* species. Captive live specimens of *Myrmecia forficata*, *M. simillima* and *M. pilosula* were passed around for observation at close quarters and compared with each mound.

Searching the previous week, Linda Rogan had found a very active colony of *Jalmenus evagoras*, the Imperial Blue or Hairstreak butterfly, right beside the picnic area carpark. On the day, the children were instructed to watch out for a wattle tree with a lot of ant activity on the trunk and limbs. Once they approached the *Acacia dealbata* with the colony, they were excited to find caterpillars and pupae that were attended by the ants and even some adult butterflies. *Jalmenus evagoras* lives its whole life cycle above ground usually upon a single tree making it one of the easiest ant dependent species to observe and study.



Gray and Sharon with Aussie Insect Hunters Photo: Carol Page

The third and very popular area was the aquatic invertebrates organised by Maik Fiedel. High water levels and fast currents due to recent rain made it difficult to obtain aquatic invert diversity from the Yarra.

Fortunately Gray Ardern, came to the rescue. He took Maik to the Ardern backyard pond, where they found a few water beetle larvae (Dytiscidae) likely to be *Cybister* sp. These diving beetle larvae are aquatic and prey on small invertebrates and sometimes also vertebrates like tadpoles and small fish. They then visited a series of dams up the road, where the dip net retrieved numerous Mosquito fish, *Gambusia* sp., which were not returned to the water body. Also, a large number of backswimmers, Notonectidae, damselfly nymphs, Coenagrionidae, aquatic snails, Planorbidae and a hand full of yabbies, *Cherax destructor* were also found. All the animals were taken to the picnic table near the boat ramp and divided up in multiple trays and containers. The children were eager and happy to sort through the animals with small nets and have a close-up look.

After 4:30 pm. the members of EntSocVic and FOWSP made their way down to the nursery and the folly for a shared byo BBQ. While the light trappers searched for suitable areas to set up, others relaxed with a cuppa and or toured the area. We were soon serenaded by the unrestrained tones of Peron's Tree Frog, aka as the Maniacal Cackle Frog (Photo right).



Litoria peroni Photo: Mackenzie Kwak



Josh, Gray and others examine the aerial photographs of Pound Bend from 1931 forward. Photo: Linda Rogan

Gray gave us some insights into the Pound Bend area. Not content with outlining the human history of Pound Bend, Gray asked those assembled to imagine the days before there was any life on earth. He drew word-pictures of the deep sediments being pushed up and wrinkled by the slow but inexorable force of colliding continental plates, and the erosion of that elevated land mass by the ancient Yarra River. From this perspective, the tens of thousands of years of habitation by Australia's first peoples, their dispossession, the Gold Rush and white settlement – all these events occurred as a single grain of sand fell through the hourglass of time. Nevertheless, due attention was given to the changes that have taken place at Pound Bend since the creation of Warrandyte State Park and the birth of FOWSP 35 years ago. Afterwards all had the opportunity to examine aerial photographs of Pound Bend.

(Continued on page 8)

Threatened orchids of Middle Yarra and the Warrandyte-Kinglake Habitat Corridor

Second part of notes from a presentation by Cam Beardsell

There are currently about 250 plants of the Rosella Spider-orchid in the world and all those surviving are in a single shire of outer northern Melbourne in four extant populations. One is an area where many plants that were cultivated from seeds by the botanic gardens staff have been transplanted and are now doing well.

There is another area where four plants were found many years ago. Cathy Willis and others will remember hand weeding the Briza from that area one Ashes test day. The pollinator does exist there and now with fencing and other care the plants have increased to about 38.

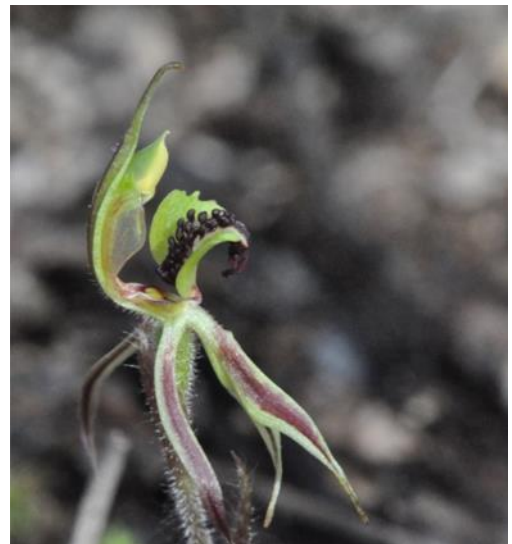


The Rosella Spider-orchid *Caladenia rosella*

Caladenia amoena may be our rarest orchid with 50 known plants in the outer northern Melbourne area. In one reserve, only one plant was found and it set seed. The capsule was sent to RBG and it has germinated well. This will allow a reintroduction effort to increase the population in this reserve and there is likely to be a crowd-funding effort with which FOWSP could assist.

In all of Warrandyte, the Warrandyte Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserves and Plenty Gorge areas there are approximately 80 species of native orchids. There used to be at least 90. We have lost at least 10 species in the last 20 years. Twenty more are listed as rare and Threatened. In fact $\frac{3}{4}$ of our orchid species are at risk.

Many steps have been taken to increase the chances of survival of re-introduced or juvenile orchids. This includes scattering the correct sort of moss. September in 2017 has been a particularly dry month and many of the orchids which had been doing well up until then were shrivelled up, many before setting seed.



The Charming Spider-orchid *Caladenia amoena*

Climate change is undoubtedly having a negative effect on many orchids. The effect of reduced rainfall is particularly serious on hill tops. The Tall Green hoods have suffered failed pollination for the past 10 years. In part because the fungus gnats that are their pollinators have declined with fewer moist rotting logs to produce the fungus they depend upon. Most of the current plants are more than 10 years old and with continued failed recruitment we can expect to see a collapse of these normally common orchid populations.



Woodland Plume-orchid
P. plumosa

Orchids can be thought of as the canaries in the coal mine and they are seriously in decline. Their ecological relationships are complex. Soil mycorrhizal fungus must enter young plants to provide food for them especially in the first 2 years before formation of strong tubers. Insect pollinators need to be present and may be very specific species. These insects depend upon specific flowering plants or fungus.

A prime example is the Woodland Plume Orchid *P. plumosa*. Its pollinator is the Dagger Fly, an Empididae species. It comes from the Himalayas and appears to be locally extinct. In our area they require hand pollinating. There are about 200 out of a total 500 in our area. They now appear to be extinct in Fiddlers gully.

Red legged earth mites are another pest that consumes young orchids. They arrived from South Africa in the 1900s and survive here on Cape weeds and

other plants.

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-insects-and-mites/redlegged-earth-mite>

(Continued on page 8)

***Bembix* sand wasp by Carolyn Noel**



It's early January and there must be at least 50 wasps all buzzing and dancing around a patch of sandy ground on the western side of the house. It gets lots of sun. I have observed them from about 10am to 6pm. They seem to go underground when the sun leaves the lawn. I videoed one, this morning, digging a hole. It is quite difficult because it did not stay put, it kept buzzing around mid dig for no apparent reason and would land and commence to dig a different hole close by. By watching this one wasp it seemed it was digging three places at once.

I have observed blue banded bees collecting pollen from my tomato flowers in the wicking bed close by. When you get both species in the same place like that it is very easy to spot the differences. I can kneel down right in the patch of sandy ground to photograph one and they don't seem to change their behaviour at all.

They are definitely not a problem to me. There are ants taking advantage of one of the holes; they look like they are moving in!



According to the Australian Museum: Adult sand wasps feed on nectar but most hunt for flies to feed to the larvae in the nest. They are excellent hunters, capturing flies on the wing, paralysing them with venom in mid-air and carrying them back to the waiting larvae.

Another of Carolyn's sightings was this young tiger snake in mid-December. It took shelter under a rock at the edge of the Pollinator Garden.



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.

Thurs	15th Feb	9:00-12:00	Endeavour Bank	Fence removal	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	1st March	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Weeding	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	15th March	9:00-12:00	Endeavour Bank	Fence removal	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	29th March	9:00-12:00	Naughton Ave	Weeding	Easy	FOWSP

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	Nursery Manager	Josh Revell
			Nursery Phone	0408 317 327
			email nursery@fowsp.org.au	
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer and Membership	Park Office	03 8427 2132
Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter editor	Newsletter assist and Librarian	
	editor@fowsp.org.au		Gloria Moore	0402 285005
Annette Lion	0414-249-729	Facebook Coordinator	Wildlife Rescue	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	0418329 937		Manningham Council Rep	
Joy Hick	0418573916		Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Webmaster	
			Jason Patton	0402 121838
			jason@parau.com	
			Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		FOWSP general enquiry number 1300 764 422	
	legality@bigpond.com			

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
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday February 13th 2018

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 7:30 pm sharp



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of free guided nature walks will explore a variety of local bushland areas in Manningham and are paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area. 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.

Thursday 22 February 2018, 9.30am Which eucalypt is that?

Do eucalypts all look like "gum trees" to you? Come along on this short walk to learn some tips on how to identify all our dozen local species of eucalypts, and where in the landscape you will find them.

Distance: 2 km

Time: 2.5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate (mostly easy)

Thursday 22 March 2018, 9.30am Waterwatching in the upper Mullum Leaders: Nigel Philpot and Sam Gilbert.

Find out about different aspects of the water quality of the creek and how we test it while enjoying a walk along one of the prettiest sections of our iconic Mullum Mullum Creek.

Distance: 5 km

Time: 3 hours

Difficulty: Moderate (mostly easy)

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 and will open two months before the walk date. To book visit

www.manningham.vic.gov.au/nature-walks The meeting place will be provided at the time of booking.

For enquiries, please call 9840 9129.

Please note that nature walks will be cancelled on a day of Total Fire Ban or extreme weather warning.

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

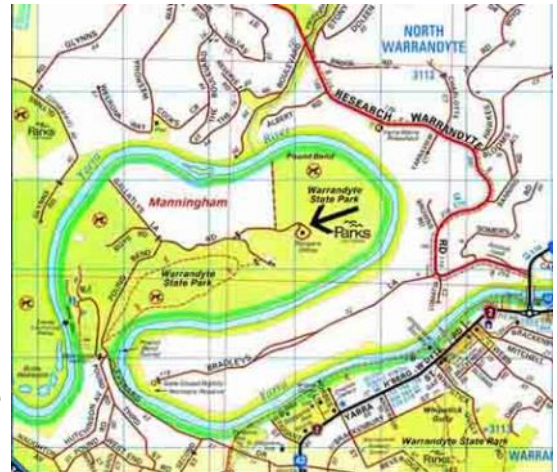
And

the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 2 pm (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 \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50



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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.

Venue: Riverview Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte **Time:** 7.20 for 7:30 pm. Start.

Enquiries: 9840 9326 email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

Wednesday 7 February The impacts of introduced grazing on plant communities Presented by Dr.

Arn Tolsma Until European settlement, Australia's high country had not seen large, hard-hoofed grazing animals. In fact, it had little exposure to large animals of any kind. So what happens when we introduce livestock and feral grazing animals to plant communities that have not evolved with them? Is there any benefit to the high country or is the news all bad? Does grazing reduce blazing? And what on Earth does any of this have to do with Manningham? Join Dr Arn Tolsma from Victoria's Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research as he answers these questions and more.

Wednesday 07 March 2018, 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm The effects of weed removal in a suburban reserve.

Many people understand the negative impacts of weeds on the natural environment, but research suggests weeds can have positive impacts as well. Join Sophie McCracken-Evans, a recent Deakin University honours graduate, as she explores this topic. Sophie conducted her research at Montrose Brickworks Flora Reserve, in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges. She will discuss the findings of her studies into the short-term effects of woody weed removal on flora, fauna and physico-chemical properties both before and after weed removal.

Possible field trip to be arranged.

Around the nursery in December...



Rainwater now on tap in Frogland, thanks Jason and Kelvin



Seeds of *Acacia pycnantha* gathered by Gloria, Kelvin, Carol and Lynda above



David, Catriona and Lee assist with a major end of year tidy-up. R

Marie prepares a space to plant more than 30 tubers of *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* L



FOWSP 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 2018 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, February 3rd and March 3rd



(Continued from page 3)



Pterostylis smaragdina adults (L) and seedlings (R).

In one location, *Pterostylis smaragdina* had only 3 plants- with management this has now increased to 28 plants. Another reserve that is being intensively managed and weeded with assistance of Garry French, has about 500 plants.

The pollinators are fungus gnats that need the fungus from rotting logs in damp, dark areas to survive. Stress has been caused by the millennial drought with dry autumns and warm springs. The orchid season has contracted about 2 weeks less in autumn and spring. Garry French has had some

success with translocations of *P smaragdina* and *C amoena*.

As an aside at the end of the talk, Cam mentioned that the Slender-tailed dunnart had returned in good numbers about 18 months after an ecological burn in an area near Christmas Hills. There are now 20 to 50 animals. FOWSPians had assisted in the making of homes for them with dried grass under tiles.

All photos from Cam Beardsell's powerpoint presentation.

Slender-tailed Dunnart



(Continued from page 2)

Next Peter Marriott introduced the light trapping that began as the late evening dark settled in about 9 pm. Four sheets were set up. The wind was light but there were rain showers so the Bendigo Bank marquee was most welcome in keeping the globes dry and enabling people to observe and photograph the insects attracted to the lights. The combination of very warm, humid conditions, little wind and even the light showers meant many things were flying and landing on the sheets. 142 species of Lepidoptera were recorded; . As well there were numerous species of flies, Neuroptera, wasps, beetles, cockroaches, caddisflies, true bugs and also small spiders. It was a full on night and the team were photographing all the time until the generator ran out of petrol about 11.15 pm.

The warm humid weather that had some stripping down to undershirts contrasted with the December 2011 combined event when we all were in warm jackets.

Check these out on <http://www.bowerbird.org.au/projects/14241/sightings>

Also more photos on the bottom p. 9. and the bonus email page.

Linda



Peter Marriott, Carol Page, Marilyn Hewish and Mackenzie Kwak Photo: Lixin Eow

Down my road and into the State Park by Marjan Kiewiet



I thought you might find these photos interesting. I walked along the Goldfields Track towards Fourth Hill and came across the Mustard Algae in the tunnel. I assume the water has been stagnant for some time, causing the algae to grow.

A little bit further up the track a deer crossed my path unexpectedly. No photo, as it seemed to come out of nowhere, crashing through the vegetation.

The Hyacinth Orchid is a plant I have seen before but thought may have been a weed. (☺ Now I know better). There were quite a few scattered around. I also photographed the start of the walk at the Wild Cat Gully side. A lovely part of WSP!

To the Editor:

Once again, BIG UPS, to FOWSP for your amazing creative, nurturing work & knowledge & spirit & service to our community & our marvellous precious environment. And much appreciation for the detailed reporting spreading a shining light on it all.

Kindest Regards

Joy Dahl



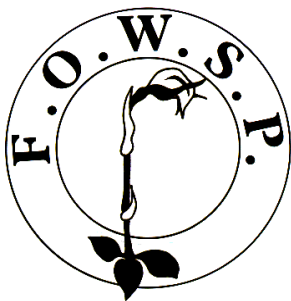
Anabarhynchus sp. stiletto-flies



Opisthoncus sexmaculatus
Six-marked Jumper



Leptotarsus Macromastix costalis
Common Brown Crane fly



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***Thyreus caeruleopunctatus*
Chequered (Blue-spotted) Cuckoo bee**

This may be the most beautiful bee we have in Victoria but its reputation is tarnished by the fact that it lays its eggs in the nests of Blue-banded Bees and its young eat the food stored and sometimes the young Blue-banded Bee as well.

I am reassured by learning that healthy native bee populations always have a range of cuckoo or parasitoid hymenoptera about and it is all part of nature's balance.

I have seen only one at a time in my garden while I have been able to count up to eight Blue-banded bees at a time. So perhaps the balance is right.

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

Newsletter to be delivered via email
unless otherwise requested.

Concession \$15

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or renew on the website www.fowsp.org.au with the option of direct deposit payment.

Email photo bonus page



More photos from the Ento night on 25 November 2017.

Clockwise from upper left:

Endoxyla secta Photo: Linda Rogan

Frank, Carol, Jane and Sharon at the light sheet. Photo: Joan Broadberry

Bandidus canifrons There were 10 or more of these ant lions, some mating, on the light sheets Photo: Linda Rogan

Coptocercus pedator Longicorn beetle Photo: Linda Rogan

Euchaetis metallota A distinctively marked Oecophorine moth Photo: Peter Marriott



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