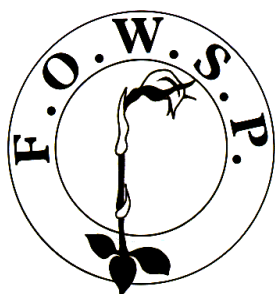


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

IS IT JUST the lack of two or three days that make February disappear so quickly? It seems just yesterday I sent the Feb. newsletter to press.

It has certainly been a busy month at FOWSP nursery. For evidence see Joan Broadberry's photo report on p. 2.

Yet somehow I have found myself short on copy as my self-imposed deadline has arrived. Therefore you will have to put up with a few of my photos and observations on p. 3 and onwards.

Do take time to peruse Gloria's report on new titles and golden oldies in our library p. 4. Remember to sign the book when you decide what you wish to borrow.



The birthday boy just before he ducked behind the post trying Unsuccessfully to avoid the FOWSPaparazzi.



Artur reminds us to take advantage of the Victorian LandCare and Catchment Management magazine that is available to all FOWSPians p. 7.

I indulge in a bit of reminiscing on p. 9. Begin to think now what you can add to future newsletters. The more contributors we have, the more interesting and varied the news will be.

And also looking ahead watch this space (photo left) for further developments in the near future.

In the meantime, enjoy this newsletter and I hope to see you around FOWSP.

Linda

**Deadline for April edition newsletter is
Friday 23 March 2018**

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

FEBRUARY 'SPEEDO' AT THE NURSERY Joan Broadberry

THERE IS ONLY one unusual thing about this photo of workers at the FOWSP nursery, the time it was snapped - after 1 pm. Volunteers usually clock off at about midday, so what was happening?

Michelle had requested that, where possible, on Thursday the 1st of February, volunteers continue working on into the afternoon. This was necessary as the peak of the seed-sowing season, December/January, leads to a huge flush of species to be pricked out in January/February. According to the sign-out book, some people, including Linda McLaughlin, worked until after 3 pm., even foregoing lunch. The final count for that day was over 3,000 plants, or 120 boxes of seedlings.

Michelle explained that the extra effort was important as young seedlings need to be replanted into tubes before their roots hit the bottom of the tray and the tap root becomes 'leggy'.

Michelle also told me that as of the 2nd of February, the total number of seedlings pricked out for 2018 was 8,857. By the next week this had risen to roughly 10,000 plants. Hopefully the FOWSP nursery will be well and truly ready to meet the demands of its autumn customers for healthy, locally grown, indigenous plants.

The Buzz in Briar Hill



ONE of my biggest pleasures over January and February while a bit hobbled from my usual frequent forays into the bush has been watching with pleasure and counting the increasing number of male blue banded bees that have been roosting in my garden. These little bees gather each evening pushing and shoving with their furry little legs to secure the prime position on a garden twig. Last year I counted a maximum of nine but this year my highest number has been 17.

The close-up shows how tenaciously they hang on with their yellow jaws. This is one of at least two species of BBB that occur across the season in my garden. An EntSocVic member Roch has identified them as *Amegilla asserta*. It is not clearly known why male bees of many species cluster in this fashion at night. One theory is that there may be safety in numbers. As I will show you later in this article, that does not always work.



Meanwhile I am still enjoying the occasional sight of the Blue-spotted Cuckoo bee *Thyreus caeruleopunctatus* that featured on the back page last month.

I planted *Crowea exalata* and another low growing *Crowea* shrub in my garden specifically to attract native bees. Although it is not locally indigenous it does occur

(Continued on page 8)

BOOKCHAT – March 2018 by Gloria Moore
OVER PAST MONTHS a number of books have been donated to the FOWSP library. Most of them are pre-loved; many are “golden oldies” which are none the less relevant today. They’ve now been catalogued and are on the bookshelves awaiting your borrowing! Here are a few of the new titles – hopefully you will find something of interest amongst them.

Category: Fish

F905 "Waterplants in Australia" - GR Sainty & SWL Jacobs - published 1988 by Australian Water Resources Council

Category: Flora

FL 628-2 "A field guide to Native Peaflowers of Victoria and Southeastern Australia" – Dorothy Woolcock, illustrations by Collin Woollcock.

FL657-2 "Flora of Melbourne" 3rd edition – kindly donated by Ken Crook and Lyndy Gilbert.

FL 685 "What Seed is That?" – a field guide to the identification, collection and germination of native seed in South Australia – Neville Bonney, Artist Anne Miles (1994)

FL 686 "Name that Flower" – the identification of flowering plants – Ian Clarke and Helen Lee (1987)

FL 687 "Plants of Prey in Australia" – Rica Erickson (1968)

FL688 "A Guide to Carnivorous Plants of the World" – Gordon Cheers

FL689 "The Plant Kingdom" – Harold C. Bold. Foundations of Modern Biology Series, Prentice - Hall Inc., 2nd edition (1964)

FL 690 "The Language of Botany" – C. Debenham. A publication of The Society for Growing Australian Plants (1971) - an A to Z of botanical terms.

Category: Insects

IS718 "What Pest is That?" – Garden Pests: How to identify and control them. Edited by Frances Hutchison.

IS719 "Bee Hotels for Australian Bees" - Kit Prendergast (the Bee Babette) (2018). Bee hotel design recommendations and information on Australian cavity-nesting bees (with a focus on bees of south-western Western Australia). Kindly donated by Linda Rogan.

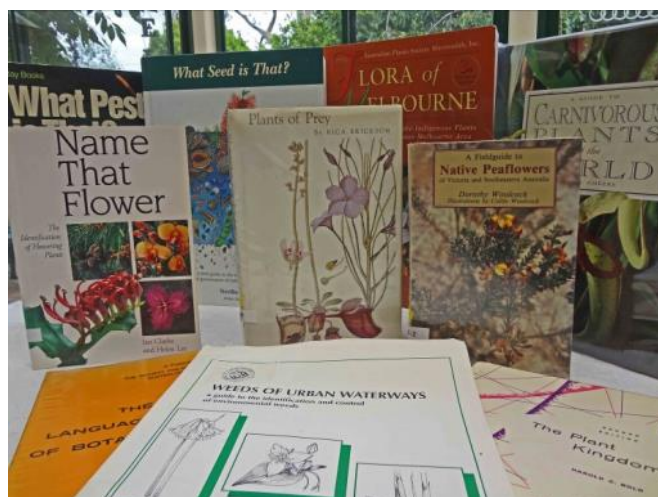
Category: Mammals

M829 "The Platypus" - The World's Wonder Animal - Charles Barrett (1944).

Category: Weeds

W1226 "Weeds of Urban Waterways" – a guide to the identification and control of environmental weeds written and produced by Northcote City Council Parks & Gardens and Darcy Duggan, Yarra Bend Park Trust as part of the Weed Control Strategy (1993-94).

Thanks to those people who have kindly passed these books on for us to enjoy



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

Thurs	1 Mar	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek project	Weeding	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	15 Mar	9:00-12:00	Endeavour Bank	Fence removal	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	29 Mar	9:00-12:00	Naughton Ave	Weeding	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	5 April	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek project	Weeding	Moderate	FOWSP & ACCA

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 2018			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 and Membership	<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
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	
			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Joy Hick	0418573916		<u>Manningham Council Rep</u>	
			Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		<u>Webmaster</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, Joy Hicks
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday March 13, 2018

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



The Warrandyte market is a wonderful way of communicating the importance of the natural environment, to encourage people to think about the value of native plants and how to use them in their gardens to attract bees, butterflies and birds. We have had some great conversations with passers by and it is also a chance to catch up with other FOWSPians that we don't see on a regular basis.

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 3 February
*Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Joan Broadberry
Christine Andell, Lyn Moore, Catriona Young and Jan Falconer*



Special thanks to Kelvin Watkins who delivered the market trailer and Jan Falconer who returned it.

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 or email: trailer@fowsp.org.au
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are: Saturdays, March 3rd, March 17th (Warrandyte Festival) and April 7th 2018

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.

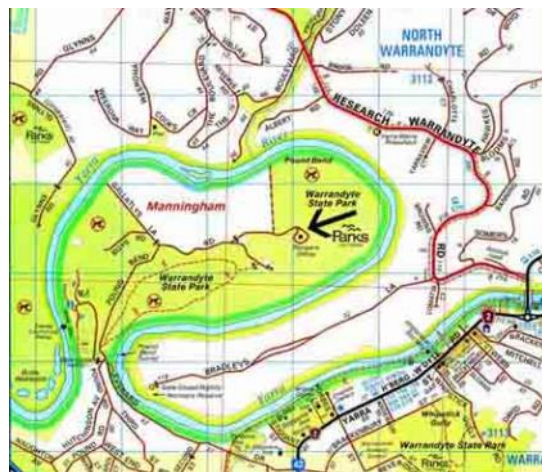
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 2pm (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; 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: Riverview Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte **Time: 7:20 pm for a 7.30 start**

Further Information: <https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/environment-seminars>

In the event of extreme weather, including a Total Fire Ban or Code Red Fire Danger Day, the seminars and field trips will not go ahead. **Enquiries:** 9840 9124

Wednesday 7 March The effects of weed removal in a suburban reserve Sophie McCracken-Evans
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.

Wednesday 4 April Eastern Yellow Robins and urbanisation in Melbourne Christine Connelly
Have you ever met an Eastern Yellow Robin? Perhaps you've seen a flash of bright yellow in the forest understorey. Or maybe you've heard the melodic piping sounds of a robin at dawn. Sadly, the accelerating front of urbanisation in Melbourne is threatening yellow robins, and other 'bush birds'. In 2014, we heard from Deakin University PhD student Christine Connelly about her research into the effects of urbanisation on this charismatic species. Now Christine is excited to share the findings of her research with you.

Saturday 07 April 2018, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm Field Trip: How to measure Eastern Yellow Robin 'micro' habitat Join Christine on a field trip in Warrandyte State Park and discover how she collected data about the local 'micro' habitat used by Eastern Yellow Robins in the urbanising landscape. Learn techniques to characterise habitat, from a robin's perspective, in a scientific way. You will also find out about what parts of your own yard or local 'patch' you should preserve or enhance to ensure you are providing the right habitat for this spunky little yellow species. Location: The meeting point for this field trip will be provided when you attend the *Eastern Yellow Robins and urbanisation in Melbourne environment* seminar. Bookings: Bookings are essential as places are limited, email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au or phone 9840 9124



Fowsp/Manningham Thursday nature walks



This series of free guided nature walks will explore a variety of local bush-land 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 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 kms **Time:** 3 hours **Rating:** Moderate (mostly easy)

Where: Schwerkolt's Cottage. The meeting point for this nature walk will be emailed to you once your booking is complete.

Thursday 26 April 2018, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Pound Bend—River to Ridge After a gentle meander along the Yarra River we take in "Frogland" at the Warrandyte State Park nursery. Returning along the ridge line we explore a very different ecosystem from the riparian strip on the first half of the walk.

Distance: 3.5 kms **Time:** 3 hours **Rating:** Moderate

Where: The meeting point for this nature walk will be emailed to you once your booking is complete. 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.

Landcare Magazines online or in print available

As part of our membership with Landcare Victoria Inc we have access to the Victorian Landcare magazine, created by the Victorian Landcare community and published four times a year by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

You will find stories from Landcare groups, Land management project reports and other environmental issues to read.

There are some copies available at the nursery. Some of you might have even received the latest edition in the mail as a one off.

If you want to look at the latest edition go to:

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/landcare-magazine/summer-2018/>

If you want to subscribe to a paper or online copy please send an email to Artur (myln@netspace.net.au).



(Continued from page 3)

elsewhere in Victoria. This year I have been rewarded. I have been able to photograph an additional species that is related to the resin bees. It belongs to the subgenera of *Megachile* bees that are known to be



leaf-cutters. They build their nests from perfect circles they cut from leaves or petals. This bee is *Megachile maculariformis*. That brings the total number of native bees up to at least 31 species.

The photo below shows why it may not always be such a safe idea for male bees to roost together in one place. For the rest of the story, see the Nature column in the March Warrandyte Diary. *Linda*



Looking back to February 2008

“From the New Editors

By Linda Rogan

THE NEW YEAR brings changes and challenges. After a terrific 2007 and the great celebrations of FOWSP's 25th anniversary, sadly, we've said good bye to Pat Coupar as editor of the newsletter for the past 12 years. Pat and Mike together have produced many wonderful articles sharing their knowledge and love of the area. Pat has left us a strong base to build upon. We are very pleased that as promised, their article contributions continue. Mel Coupar's beautiful drawings will also feature at times.. Thanks Mel!

Let me introduce your new editorial team: two Joans and a Linda:

Joan MacMahon will be known to you from her passionate observations from Bradley's Lane –indeed WSP is her rear neighbour. She has also helped coordinate the Thursday TAG activities, enjoys helping with our monthly stall at Warrandyte market and loves working in our nursery **Joan Broadberry** will be well known to many in her role as Treasurer for the past two years. She is another keen observer of nature, a generalist with many interests including birds, native orchids and creatures of the intertidal zone. She has valuable experience in producing a newsletter for Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. I am a relative newcomer but keen to learn more about the exciting ecology that makes up Warrandyte State Parklands and associated reserves. I found my way to FOWSP when trying to contact Friends of One Tree Hill Reserve, a favourite bushwalking and orchid site for me since 1980s. At FOWSP I have found an incredibly enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of people who have made me feel right at home. I will coordinate the editorial team. (Joan M says i.e.. I'm the boss).

The last but most important part of the Newsletter team is you. Members of FOWSP come from Warrandyte and many other suburbs, but all share a passion for the bush, especially WSP and are willing to take action and share knowledge to facilitate its preservation. We are counting on hearing from you, our loyal contributors and also hopefully from many new voices. Contributions can be photos, short snippets, book reviews or articles. We also look forward to being able to utilize email for newsletters in the future so colour photos can be viewed

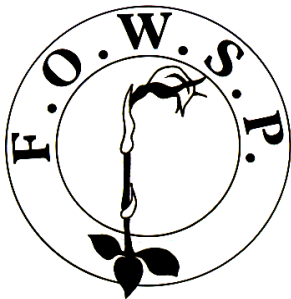
So much has been accomplished and changed at FOWSP over the past 10 years. What hasn't changed is the importance of members' contributions to the newsletter. So please consider what you can contribute for future newsletters.



Joan Broadberry, Linda Rogan, Joan MacMahon at FOWSP in 2008.

Another thing that hasn't changed, you may notice, I still wear the same shirt as that in the photo on sunny days.

With thanks to Joan Broadberry for her many years assisting with the newsletter and with many fond memories of Joan MacMahon



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False Garden Mantis on the hunt
Pseudomantis albobimbrata

Josh pointed out this one that was on the hunt on the Lythrum by the nursery post. It looked gorgeous on this blooming plant but I was suspicious that it might be on the look out for a native bee for its lunch (see p. 8 for evidence).

No capture occurred while I was watching. I remember a Margined Stick-insect photographed here in 2015.

Linda

March 2018 Vol. 36 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 Newsletter by email ☐ (tick box)
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.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus page

Above: *Litoria peroni* Peron's or Emerald spotted tree-frog often found amongst the nursery pots and *Cosmodes elegans* the Green Blotched Moth that's larvae feed upon *Wahlenbergia* species at the nursery.



Above left: *Trapezites symmopus* the largest local skipper seen in late summer at Pound Bend although this one was photographed along Karingal Creek. Right: A cluster of *Lipotriches submoerens* males roosting. Below: a little night-time horror. When Peter made a nocturnal visit to the bathroom and spotted a rather fat Black House Spider on the floor he reflexively swatted it with a slipper. To his surprise a long worm emerged from the squashed spider abdomen. This is a Gordian worm. For further information see <https://australianmuseum.net.au/gordian-worms>



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