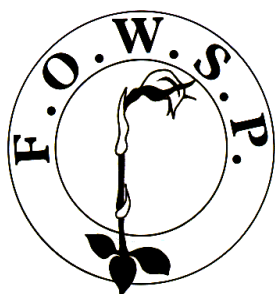


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

This dry March gave us a welcome 20 mm of rainfall on the 25th, just enough to spark up the weeds and make them easier to pull and to give us hope that planting season is not far off. The hard work of our staff and volunteers will see that we have tube stock ready for it when it arrives.

As usual I am asking for all to think about what you can contribute for future newsletters.

This month we have a peek into some FOWSPians' gardens. On p. 2 you will see that Julie has a lot to get excited about in her Warrandyte garden. We hope she will continue to keep us posted.

The second one is mine in Briar Hill. Perhaps a little more urbanised than Julie's but the wildlife is welcomed just the same on p. 8.

Page 3 has an exciting progress report on the watering system frame, thanks to Kelvin, but there is still a ways to go.

Some good news from FOWSPians is found on p. 9 and at the bottom of the page good wishes are sent to some who are recuperating.

As usual you will find the information about the planned Thursday Activity Group plans, environmental seminars and fieldtrips and monthly walks.

Enjoy this newsletter and plan your contribution for May Newsletters.

Linda



Three keen new faces were seen at the nursery on 22 March. Meet these volunteers on p. 4.



Deadline for May edition newsletter is

Friday 20 April 2018

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

Drama and wildlife in Julie's Backyard



THE SIGHT OF the big eyes and a hooked beak with bristles protruding above, made it clear that this was the face of an Australian Owlet-nightjar peering from the hole of the nest box (photo above). Apparently owlet-nightjars often lurk in the doorway of their home on a sunny day, soaking up a bit of sunshine. Julie notes, as others have, that in this pose these birds look surprisingly like Sugar Gliders doing the same thing.

Julie has been excitedly aware that these birds have shared the tenancy in some of her 10 nest boxes for about the past three years. Now it seems that Ringtail Possums, Sugar Gliders and the Owlet-nightjars alternate in using different nest boxes, "a bit like musical chairs" she says.

Although these animals are rather secretive in the daytime, Julie reports commonly hearing the high pitched squealing of the nightjar and the yip, yip of the Sugar Gliders at night.

It was some years ago that she observed the nightjar which, uncharacteristically, was sitting on a branch outside the nest box in the daytime. Quick as a flash a butcherbird flew into the nest box, the nightjar followed and Julie heard quite a scuffle before the butcherbird was ejected with the nightjar in pursuit.

This is only a small part of the wildlife Julie enjoys on her Warrandyte block at the foot of Fourth Hill. Her block has only a small house and thus maximises the room for indigenous plants, many of which have come from the FOWSP nursery.

She regrets that the smaller birds have become less frequently seen over the years.

Thanks to Julie for these photos and stories.



Photo above shows the Australian Owlet-nightjar just before the butcherbird flew into the nest box

The Frame is delivered!



THERE HAS BEEN a lot of work going on behind-the-scenes as Kelvin has sorted through the process of getting the materials for the nursery frame onsite and ready for erection. The suppliers from Traralgon were arranging for their usual frame 'erector' who then decided Warrandyte was too far away.

Many thanks to Kelvin for moving things along this far and for developing 'Plan B'.



Thanks to Jeff Cranston for this lovely photo of the Yarra near Pound Bend and the strip photo on the front page.

Thursday 22nd March, a triple J day at the nursery



This was not a day for presenting alternative music for the younger generation, it was a day with three keen new volunteers, all with names starting with the letter 'J'.

Judd, first L., is a student from Deacon University studying botany and microbiology in particular. We are pleased that at present his schedule allows him to attend on Thursday morning. On the front page he is helping us keep ahead on filled tubes ready for pricking out of seedlings.

Josh, centre, is an experienced bushland manager with a particular interest in indigenous plants and native orchids.

Jenny (right) has just recently moved to Warrandyte and hopes to learn more about the indigenous plants.

Welcome to all three who may help us with our current 'J' deficit while Josh, the nursery manager is away meeting his step-grandson in Abu Dhabi and travelling to further exotic locations.

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:

Thurs	5 April	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Weeding project area	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	19 April	9:00-12:00	Gold Memorial Drive	Weeding	Difficult	FOWSP & ACCA
Thurs	3 May	9:00-12:00	Walert Creek	Weeding project area	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	17 May	9:00-12:00	Fiddler Creek	Fencing	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	31 May	9:00-12:00	Buttermans Track	Planting	Moderate	FOWSP with Cam

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	
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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	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		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
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 10 April 2018

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks



This series of free 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.

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack.

9:30 am Thursday April 26 2018 Pound Bend - River to Ridge After a gentle meander along riparian strip of the Yarra River we take in "Frogland" at the Warrandyte State Park nursery. Returning along the ridge line we explore a very different ecosystem on the return.

Distance: 3.5km Time: 3 hours Difficulty: Moderate

9:30 am Thursday May 24 2018 Yarra Brae to Jumping Creek This is a challenging walk through the heart of the Warrandyte Gorge country. It includes superb scenery, less explored section of the river, a few steep hills, a creek crossing and interesting history along the way.

Distance: 8km Time: 4.5 hours Difficulty: 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 and will open two months before the walk date. To Book:

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.

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.

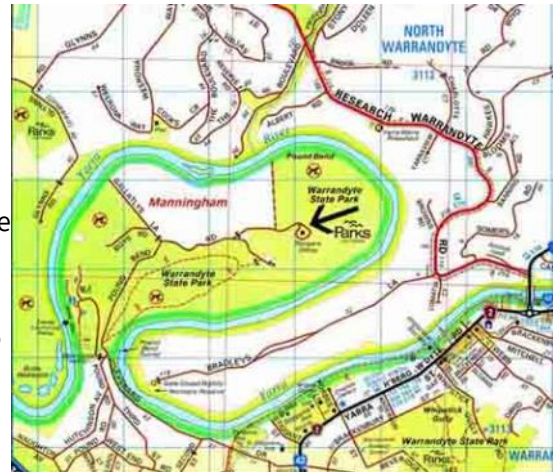
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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 each month.

Many of the seminars will be complemented with field trips to allow broader education on the topics. Bookings are not required for the evening seminars; however, bookings are essential for the field trips.

Due to the popularity of field trips, bookings are limited to two field trips per person for the series. Attendance is required for the corresponding seminar to be eligible to attend and keep your booking for field trips.

Please note the seminars and field trips will be cancelled in the event of extreme weather, including a Total Fire Ban or Code Red Fire Danger Day.

Seminar Venue: River View Room, The Grand Hotel, Warrandyte

Time: Please arrive at 7.20pm for a 7.30pm start

Enquiries: 9840 9124



Wednesday 4 April 7:30 pm 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 understory. 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 seminar above. Bookings are essential as places are limited, email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au or phone 9840 9124

Wednesday 2 May 2018 7.30pm Underground Lovers – Exploring the clandestine relationships between trees and fungi. Dr. Alison Pouliot Although little known the roots of almost every tree in the Australian landscape are intimately entwined with fungi. These relationships extend beyond trees and include every orchid and most shrubs and grasses. These mutually beneficial relationships are the secret to their success in our highly variable climate and nutrient-deficient soils.

Fungi not only help plants access water and nutrients, but also increase their resistance to drought and disease. Fungi build architecture in soils, aerating them and allowing water to gently percolate to deeper horizons. While often maligned by gardeners, the great majority of fungi are friends, not foes.

(Continued on page 7)



Road block at Pound Bend Road

I was following TKM 407 out of the nursery loop and wondered what was the cause of delay as I couldn't see anything ahead. Eventually the car ahead began to move on slowly and I saw this big boomer that certainly believed he had full right-of-way. No argument.



(Continued from page 6)

Join ecologist and environmental photographer Dr Alison Pouliot in an illustrated and interactive seminar as she explores these fascinating relationships and shares her knowledge on ways to encourage fungi to flourish in our gardens, parks and local environments.

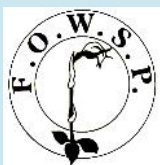
Participants are encouraged to bring along fungi for identification. Please Note: Fungi can only be collected from participants' private property and cannot be from public land or roadsides as a permit is required to collect fungi on public land.

Thursday 3 May 2018 9.00am to 11.00am Field Trip: Underground Lovers

Presented by Dr Alison Pouliot Alison will share her extensive knowledge and experience on this field trip introducing participants to the diversity, ecology and curiosities of the Kingdom Fungi, specific to fungi found in the region and its various habitat types. Participants will learn some of the basic skills used to identify fungi in the field using multiple senses. The relationships between fungi and various plant species and different habitat types will be discussed. Every fungus has intriguing natural and cultural histories and stories which Alison will share along the way.

Bookings: Bookings are essential as places are limited, email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au or phone 9840 9124.

The meeting point for this field trip will be provided when you attend the Environment Seminar: Underground Lovers – Exploring the clandestine relationships between trees and fungi.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

At the Warrandyte Riverside Market

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 3 March and the Festival Sunday 18 March 2018

Alison Thom, Jeff Cranston (both days), Jan Falconer, Christine Andell (both days), Lyn Moore (both days), Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook (both days), Kelvin Watkins, Joy Hick, Marian Thomson, Annette Lion, Sybille Ims

Special thanks to ***Kelvin Watkins and Artur Muchow*** 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 this year.

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, 7 April, 5 May, 2 June 2018



In a Briar Hill Garden

I don't know who is living in our possum box but this ringtail has built her dray in the vines that creep over the neighbour's fence beside our compost bin. It is well hidden here but I have once seen the smaller face of a young possum as well. With this location it is very tempting to take a peak each day when adding to the throwing out kitchen scraps and she appears to have become used to me. She didn't appear to be disturbed when I lifted the vines to take a photo. In fact she quickly tucked her head between her legs and went back to sleep.

One summer evening as we sat out on the deck at dusk, she was seen grazing on the upper limbs of our young Red Stringybark trees. I have long suspected this was her browsing patch as the upper branches are nearly bare with only the pendulous branches having foliage. Also the birdbath at the base of the tree is discoloured with possum poo each morning. I have toyed with the idea of trying to protect the trees from possum feeding but so far I am hoping that the pendulous limbs may be enough to keep the Stringybark trees alive. Time will tell.

Reading on the internet, I have learned that the ringtails are the only species of possums where the father assists with the care of the young and that they may carry the young on their backs while the mother is feeding.

The dry month of March has brought a range of birds to the birdbath under the Stringybark. A pair of Bronzewing that have taken over the ground foraging in the garden have been evident the whole season. More recently a pair of Grey Butcherbirds one of which is seen below have taken their turn. One particularly warm day I was surprised to see a Rainbow Lorikeet sharing the water with one of the bronzewings. Noisy miners are still prevalent and I blame them for the lack of some of the smaller birds.

Linda



Port Fairy, More than just folk music



WHAT A JOY to welcome a beautiful bright-eyed boy, Darcy, born in Abu Dhabi. Thanks to proud new Grandmother, Cathy, for sharing this lovely photo of the three-week old. Congratulations to parents Megan and Declan. Baby and all are doing well ;).

Darcy is sure to be a source of happiness, to the whole family.

Joy Hick spent a week enjoying the Port Fairy Folk Festival but still found time to photograph the local wildlife.

The great gannet shot (above left) was taken when Joy was on an official tour.

The fur seal appears to be recuperating after a hard night above but below proved it still has what it takes to get over the sea wall.

Thanks to Joy for the photos.

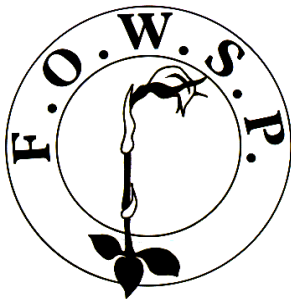


FOWSP sends best wishes for quick recoveries to

Ben who is reported to be rehabbing well after his Total Hip replacement

and Margaret who has been in hospital

And last but not least Marion who has also had a recent hospital stay.



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**Golden-green Stag beetle
*Lamprima aurata***

Although reported to be common in Victoria and even around Melbourne, this is the first I have been able to photograph. This one was found in the riverbed of the Wellington River near Licola. Unfortunately this one was dead although it still appeared to be intact.

In the wild the larvae feed on rotting wood and associated fungi. The adults feed at night on sweet substances such as sap or fruit.

Linda

April 2018 Vol. 36 no.3

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

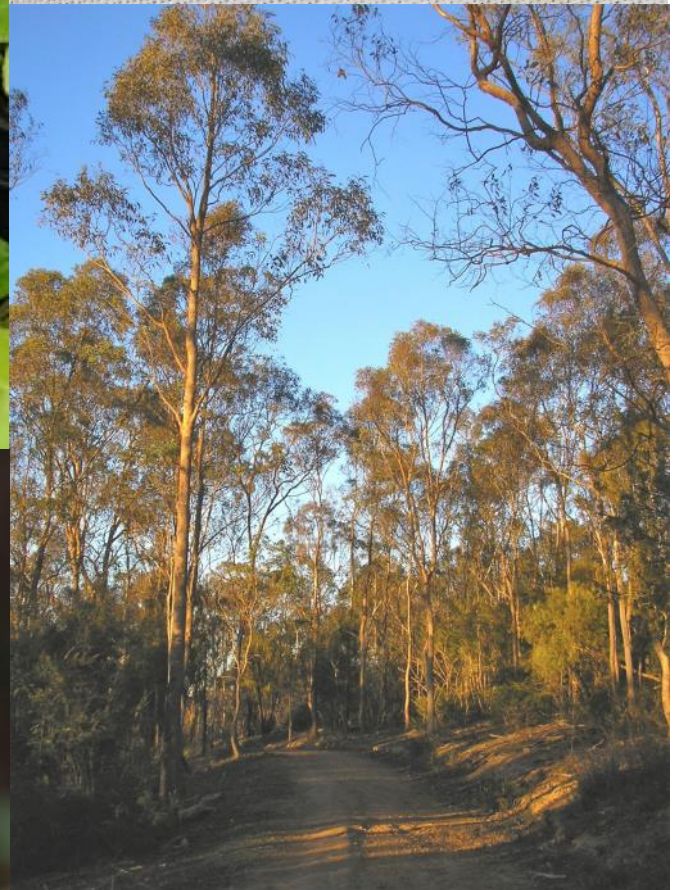
Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$15

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



Top left is the natty black and white fly photographed by one of our customers in March; it's a Tachinid fly identified on BowerBird as a female *Amphibolia* *Amphibolia ignorata*. Top right is the male of this species photographed at Wondecla Queensland 14 Feb 2017.

The beautiful lighting in the shot above highlights the Eucalypts along the Tank Track and lower left part of the roo mob nearby. Thanks to Jeff for these two photos.

These actively mating Imperial Blue Butterflies were located near the Plenty River, the only colony I saw still active in the dry mid March 2018.

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