

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 AGM has come and gone and another year full of achievements by FOWSPians is nearly finished.

As usual in December, this issue brings you some of the reports that were delivered at the AGM. All are well worth reading. They do a great job of showing much that has happened over the year.

Gray delivered the Year in Review as well as the nursery report in the absence of nursery staff. Of particular interest is Warren's yearly Ranger's report that begins on p. 8.

Don Vincent has shared a photo of a very unusual and colourful wasp on p.4.

I have squeezed in a couple of snippets from Frogland on p. 7.

Please note that the next newsletter will be February 2019. Enjoy this one.

Linda



There is no end to our resident artist's talents shown here as Carolyn adds beauty to the Frogland gateway.



**Deadline for February edition newsletter is
Friday 25 January 2019**

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

THE YEAR IN REVIEW AT THE AGM 2018

Firstly we thank Parks Victoria for allowing us to play our part in making Warrandyte State Park and the Warrandyte-Kinglake Conservation Reserve such a priceless asset. We thank Faye Williams, Area Chief Ranger for Plenty Gorge and Warrandyte, Warren Murphy, the Warrandyte Ranger Team Leader, and Warren's team of Rangers.

This year we lost our Contact Ranger Janaya O'Dempsey, who has left Parks Victoria and joined Aboriginal Victoria as a Heritage Registry Information Officer.

We are particularly grateful to Ranger Phil Rance, who has stepped into the breach to help us. We greatly appreciate his knowledge, enthusiasm, and willingness. He is extremely busy doing the job for which he was formally engaged, but somehow, he finds the time and energy to go the extra mile for us!



We thank Ranger Cam Beardsell for his leadership of Thursday Activity Groups – always an education and an inspiration!

We also thank Ranger Colin Bromiley for keeping the river-water pump going. This pump is aging, and has its idiosyncrasies, but we are entirely dependent on it for water for our Nursery. Col has put a huge amount of time and muscle into repairing and maintaining the pump!

I don't usually acknowledge our Office Bearers, but I wish to thank our Treasurer Lyndy Gilbert for producing delicious and varied Morning Teas week after week – the TAG Team particularly enjoys the portable morning tea that Lyndy provides!

Turning to this year's achievements, the most salient is the Nursery Frame, supporting both an improved watering-system, and netting to keep the wildlife from destroying our stock. This project was funded by Bendigo Bank and a Strong Communities Grant from the Federal Government. For the building of the frame we thank Kelvin, Josh, Paul and Pete whose sustained effort, ingenuity and problem-solving overcame so many seemingly intractable difficulties.

Bendigo Bank also funded a 33,000 litre water tank, to provide backup in case of failure of the aging river-water pump that I have already mentioned.

The Walert Creek Habitat Restoration and Protection Project is now in its second year, and has a lot to show for its first year. There is already a very noticeable reduction in weeds, and several hundred plants of local provenance have already been propagated and put in.

Most excitingly, Cam and Phil and I have found two colonies of *Chiloglottis* orchids. At the time of our grant application these colonies were believed to be of *C. jeansii* [Mountain Bird Orchid] but re-examination of the orchid, when it bloomed in September, has shown it to be *C. sp. aff. valida*. [Please see Phil's article on p.9 of the FOWSP Newsletter of November 2018]. Much of the remaining term of the Walert Creek Grant will be spent on support and recovery of this orchid, which is possibly one of our rarest.

Other grants received this year are:

A grant from Melbourne Water for revegetation of PV land beside the Yarra. 1000 plants have been put in, mainly within deer and kangaroo 'exclosures', on Endeavour Bank – part of the alluvial terrace below the Work Centre.

A Volunteer Activity Support Grant from PV provided tools and equipment, as did a City of Manningham Small Grant. Another Manningham Small Grant provided funds towards a new BBQ, and table.

Middle Yarra Landcare Network gave us funds towards First Aid and CPR Training, and a grant came from the Wettenhall Environment Trust, to pay for signs for Frogland and for the Pollinator Garden.

The tenth grant we received this year was from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, which funded the fencing of two sites on Fourth Hill to protect rare and threatened orchids.

The Nursery Report ably expresses our thanks to the Committee, especially Lyndy, Linda and Kelvin, and to Cathy and Jason, and to the TAG team; so, I will not repeat those thanks here. I will however express our thanks to Josh.



So many tasks fall to the obliging and uncomplaining Josh. It is Josh who keeps track of the life-cycle of the 200 species of plants we propagate, predicts the precise moment to harvest the seeds of all those species, and gets out there to collect them. And of course, it is Josh's expertise which ensures the successful propagation of those plants!

Every Thursday morning there are lots of volunteers and customers vying for Josh's time. Everybody gets his full, courteous and helpful attention. Not many can combine such knowledge with patience and the ability to communicate well.

Finally, we thank our hard-working, knowledgeable and friendly Nursery staff: Michelle Tumino and Annette Lion.

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.

FOWSP turned 36 this year, and I'm sure you will agree that this has been yet another successful and productive year!

Thank you Gray for delivering this report.

FOWSP NURSERY REPORT 2018

The nursery had a very successful Year with over 22,000 plants planted into the Warrandyte State Park from grant programmes, Melbourne Water capital works, ACCA, enrichment and biodiversity projects, with over 1800 plants donated by FOWSP (down from previous years).

We have continued support to local schools/kinders with donations of plants to those eligible.

Approximately 600 plants sold at the Warrandyte Market along with educational material and PV info at market trailer.

Tags have continued to be very successful.

The Frogland and Pollinator Gardens are creating a lot of interest with regular visitors on weekends and open days. The continued maintenance by volunteers and plant ID signage gets great feedback.

These areas, along with the nursery itself, hold some of our most threatened locally rare and significant plants which are used for propagation without having to impact wild populations. (There are around 200 plant species found in Frogland, Pollinator Garden and nursery).

(Continued on page 8)

Don's wasp from Pigeon Bank Road Warrandyte

This gorgeous wasp that Don photographed in his garden is something I have never seen before.

When placed on BowerBird, we got the following information from Melbourne Museums expert entomologist Ken Walker:

“This beautiful insect belongs to the superfamily Chalcidoidea. “

The genus is *Tricoryna*

Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Hymenoptera: Eucharitidae: *Tricoryna*

Thanks for the photo Don.

Linda

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

Watch for the 2019 schedule in the February Newsletter and on the website.

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 2019			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Nursery Manager	Josh Revell
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				9722 2908
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer	Jan Falconer
				9844 1226 or 0419 872 096
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
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			Jason Patton	0402 121838
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	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, Lisa Jenkins

Next Committee Meeting (special meeting)

Date: Tuesday 29 January 2019

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 trips to allow broader education on the topics. Bookings are not required for the evening seminars; however, bookings are essential for the field trips. Attendance is required for the corresponding seminar to be eligible to attend and keep your booking for field trips.

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

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

Enquiries: 9840 9326

Wednesday 5 December 7:30 pm Arboreal mammal surveys for conservation management

Learn about local arboreal mammal communities in Manningham and beyond in the forests of the Victorian highlands.

Louise Durkin will summarise recent work on targeted surveys for the conservation management of two threatened arboreals. These include camera trapping in the canopy to detect new Leadbeater's possum colonies and line transect spotlighting to estimate current population densities of Greater Gliders.

Wednesday 6 February 7:30 pm Local orchids are getting rarer—how to turn this around by Richard Thomson. Richard Thomson is a long-time orchid conservation volunteer and life member of the Australian Native Orchid Society. He will speak about Australian orchid recovery programs including propagation techniques and how to help orchid pollinators. This seminar will also cover local and other Australian recovery efforts.

Field Trip: Orchids form seeds to flowers with Richard Thomson. Two dates book one only:

Friday 8 February 10:00am to 12 noon or

Saturday 9 February 9:30am to 11:30am. In these sessions, we will visit a nursery and learn about the intricacies of orchid propagation including the equipment required, potting and nurturing. We will also look at the process of introducing fungal spores to ensure successful germination of the precious orchid seed bank.

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.

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

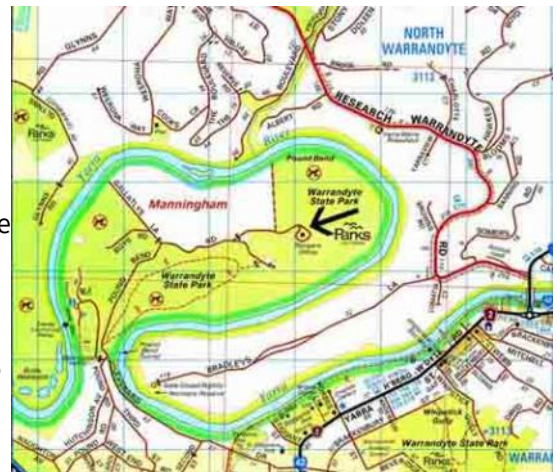
the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 2pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) April to November only.

Closed between Christmas and New Years days.

Nursery will re-open on Thursday 3 January 2019;

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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Bee Hotels for Australian Bees



Bee hotel design recommendations, and information on Australian cavity-nesting bees with a focus on bees of south-west Western Australia



By Kit Prendergast (the Bee Babette)

BA & BSc (Honours), Zoologist & Conservation Biologist,
Forrest Scholar, and PhD researcher on native bees

BEE HOTELS for Australian Bees

Author: [Kit Prendergast \(the Bee Babette\)](#);

This informative book is in our library IS719 and although it focuses somewhat on native bees in WA, most of what is presented is also applicable here.

Many of the 'bee hotels' you can buy in some of our large hardware chains are not really effective for our Australian native bees. Below is information from the author.

Bee Hotels for Australian Bees is a booklet produced by Kit Prendergast (aka the Bee Babette). This 64pg booklet provides information on bee hotel designs and cavity-nesting native bees, as well as a section on favourite native bee flora. Profiles of common species that inhabit bee hotels, with a focus on WA bees, is also covered. Booklets are \$25 each (+ postage). To order a copy please email Kit at:
amy.prendergast@postgrad.curtin.edu.au

Kit also encourages people across Australia to contribute to her native bee citizen science project by logging details on the inhabitants of your bee hotels. To do so, go to Kit's Facebook Group 'Bees in the 'burbs in a biodiversity hotspot'

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Beesintheburbs/>

Then click on the Google drive accounts section for the spreadsheets. The first is for bee hotels (across Australia), the other two

for observations of native bees in WA in residential areas and in parks/bushland.

Seed collecting at FOWSP

It's seed collecting time at FOWSP. Seeds being collected from Frogland at present include *Craspedia variabilis*, *Leucochrysum albicans* (photos below) and *Gynatrix pulchella*.



Other chores in Frogland include replacing the temporary plastic ties on species signs with metal ties. It is quite interesting to see what you can find between the signs and the star pickets.

Linda



Southern Brown Tree-frog
Litoria ewingii



Huntsman spider
Holconia



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 3 November 2018
Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Jan Falconer
Christine Andell, Lyn Moore, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook

Special thanks to **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
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, 11 December 2018 and 2 February 2019



(Continued from page 3)

Nursery hosted visits from Victorian geography teachers Association, TAFE students and VNPA, among others.

New irrigation system for the nursery and animal netting frame installed.

The introduction of the square reader very successful and made possible extra plants sales due to convenience for customers.

Preparation already underway for some of next year's PV and MW projects at One Tree Hill Mullum Creek, Fourth Hill and Pound Bend, Andersons Creek etc.

A big thanks for all the help and support, time, effort, construction advice and fun to:

PV rangers and fire crew

Manningham and ACCA, FOWSP members, market trailer people, staff, committee and all

VOLUNTEERS.

Josh Revell

FOWSP AGM RANGER REPORT 2018

Parks Victoria Management changes

- New Executive Director Melbourne Division – Kylie Trott, she was the Executive Director Regional Victoria (Chris Hardman has moved to DELWP).
- New Regional Director Metropolitan Parks – Craig Stubbings (replaces Bryan Welch), he was the former manager of Northern Region

Pest Plant Programs

- Peri Urban Weed Management Initiative. (3yr program). Weed control throughout habitat corridor including Northern Reserves, Panton Hill & Warrandyte State Park. This program focusses on achieving a landscape approach to weed control. It also incorporates works through Kinglake National Park and Plenty Gorge Parklands.
- Good Neighbour Programs
 - o Pound Bend cliffs
 - o Sweeneys
 - o Hochkins Ridge Nature Conservation Reserve
- Blackberry control – Warrandyte State Park & Yarra Valley Parklands
- Native Vegetation offset program (pest plant & animal control) – Timber Reserve & The Common
- In-house weed program (including new & emerging weeds, annual weed follow up) right throughout Middle Yarra

Pest Animal Programs

- Annual rabbit control program throughout the Yarra corridor
- Fox control program in One Tree Hill & Rifle Range (contractor & SSAA)
- Conservation Futures Program (Nillumbik) undertaking fox control, fencing, weed control in the Northern Reserves
- Continuation of Biodiversity Fence construction/raising due to herbivore grazing impacts

Environmental Research Programs

- Powerful Owl – Deakin University – 3rd year of research
- Brush-tailed Phascogale annual monitoring program
- Nillumbik Council's Conservation Corridors program - song meters and remote sensing cameras throughout park estate north of the Yarra River.
- Southern Toadlet research program in conjunction with frog expert Craig Cleeland
- Continuation of Cam's orchid recovery program – including planting of orchids from the Royal Botanic Gardens to enrich populations

Grants

- Walert Creek Mullum Mullum Reserve – 2nd year of program in conjunction with FOWSP
- Fourth Hill Betton Track – 1st year of program in conjunction with FOWSP. Fence construction, weed control and enrichment planting.

Planned Burning

- Overbank Rd – North Warrandyte (North of Caitlins Retreat) – Completed in Autumn
- Laughing Waters Rd – Adjacent to Morrisons (Yarra Valley Parklands) – Completed in Autumn

Staff Movements

- Janaya O'Dempsey has left Parks Victoria for Heritage Victoria
- Aaron Domeyer is on secondment to Gembrook until June 2019. Peter Collings has filled his Fire FSO position

Volunteers

- Student program – 3 students for 5 months over winter/spring – various tasks
- FOWSP – TAG's – numerous activities over the last 12 months
- Other volunteer groups/activities – Osbourne, ACCA, Friends of Yarra Valley Parks, Friends of Eltham Copper Butterfly, Diamond Valley Bushwalkers etc.

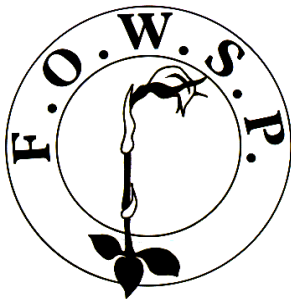
Challenges

- We continue to deal with a lot of illegal dumping within the park, both domestic and industrial
- Large amounts of vandalism, particularly gate damage
- Public bringing dogs into no dog areas
- Substantial illegal land clearing.

Thanks to Warren for this report which clearly shows how busy our Parks Rangers have been.



After the AGM, Linda gave a brief talk about Bees, Beetles and more in an indigenous pollinator garden. Some information and photos that were presented will be included in the email bonus page and in future newsletters as space allows.



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Neosparassus diana

Badge Huntsman spiders

This was one of two pairs (male and female)
found between a species sign and a star picket
in November. The male is the one with the black
'boxing glove' palp.

The common name for this spider comes from
the distinctive pattern under its abdomen as
shown in this inset, photo from the Museums
Victoria website.



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.

Email photo bonus page

Photo left and next page: Don's photos of a type of whip spider found by Taggers and Cam at Boomers reserve. Cam noted that it closely resembles the older leaves on this *Hakea ulicina*.

Clockwise below: Linda at her observation post. Some of the bees observed: Resin bees *Megachile erythropyga* male face, tail and a mating pair. This activity was observed only on three warm days in October. The mating was a first time sighting for Linda.



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

