

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



Smiles this month brought to you by some of the ladies at FOWSP: Judy, Lisa, Jan, Annette, Gloria and Joy at FOWSP AGM

Editor's Corner

The year has nearly disappeared and the AGM was a great success. If, like me, you missed it pp. 2,3 and 9 will give you the chance to catch up or just enjoy it again in retrospect. It is really impressive to read the summary of all the reports and realise how much has been accomplished. Thank you Lyndy for summarising the reports and taking notes from Steve's presentation.

Some TAG activities and rare plants growing at Stane Brae are found on pp. 4 and 7. Thanks to Don Vincent for this.

Lyndy and Marion share a bit of fun with their fancy hats marking FOWSPs version of Oaks Day p.8. Even those without their hats would have hoed into the special morning tea with gusto.

Grants from Manningham and also Bendigo Bank have greatly assisted FOWSP, see p. 8 and 9.

So as the year draws to a close, I echo the thanks to all volunteers, Parks staff and contributors to the newsletter.

Please enjoy this one, have a happy holiday break and remember to capture your nature adventures and conservation activities and send them in for the next newsletter which will be in February.

Linda Rogan

Deadline for February edition newsletter is

Friday 24 January 2020

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

AGM REPORT - SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2019

Twenty attendees came to participate in the AGM and hear our guest speaker, Steve Anderson, who has had amazing experiences working as a Ranger in State Parks from Warrandyte to Wilsons Prom, and Kakadu to Uluru.

Thanks go to the following people: Artur Muchow for chairing the meeting; Kay Williams for stepping in when the time came to elect the committee members; Lyndy Gilbert for minute taking; Lisa Jenkins, Caitriona Young and Lyndy Gilbert for providing nibbles and drinks.

Gray Ardern gave a splendid report on FOWSP's activities, firstly thanking Parks Victoria for allowing us to help the Rangers maintain our "priceless asset" from Warrandyte to Kinglake. We are particularly grateful to Rangers Phil Rance, Cam Beardsell and Colin Bromiley.

The Walert Creek Habitat Restoration and Projection project is nearing the end. Weeds have been removed and hundreds of indigenous plants that the TAG group put in are doing well.

Frogland and the Pollinator garden are looking lovely, thanks to Linda Rogan, Marie Krause and Carolyn Noel in particular. A grant from Wettenhall Environment Trust paid for interpretative signage, which has been a great asset to these areas.

Thanks to Kelvin Watkins and Jason Patton who keep the plumbing and other essential items going.

Thanks also to Josh Revell, our nursery manager. It is his expertise that makes the nursery successful and despite the countless demands on his time, he is always courteous and helpful.

FOWSP turned 37 this year, and it has been another successful and productive year.

Josh Revell's report noted that the nursery produced 30,500 plants. Around 10,000 of these have gone into the Park. Plantings included revegetation at Walert Creek, rare plants at Fourth Hill; threatened orchids for Burgan Bend; pollinator food plants for One Tree Hill and Chaim Court; plants for Melbourne Water grants and National Tree Day. FOWSP also donated



Gray Ardern delivers the summary of FOWSP year's activities.
Photos Lyndy Gilbert



Retired Ranger Steve Anderson (L) spoke on "ranging through the years" and Ranger Phil Rance (R) delivered the Rangers report to the AGM.
Photo Lyndy Gilbert.

about 1,100 plants for various projects in the Park as well as 50 free plants for local schools and kindergartens. Josh thanked our dedicated volunteers whose skills allow the nursery to operate; as well as the strong relationship with Parks Victoria staff, in particular, Cam Beardsell, Phil Rance and Colin Bromiley.

Our treasurer, Lyndy Gilbert noted that expenses were greater than our income this year, but this was mainly due to grants, received previously, being spent in this financial year. The bank account is looking healthy. Three grants applied for were successful this year - from the Warrandyte Community Bank, Manningham City Council and the DSS.

Ranger Phil Rance's report gave an insight into the many aspects of looking after the Parks that a lot of us would be unaware of: pest plant removal, the Good Neighbour program, native vegetation offsets, removal of weeds, conservation measures being taken to prevent the extinction of the endangered southern toadlet,

phascogales, and dunnarts; and GPS tracking of powerful owls by a student from Deakin University. The Walert Grant is nearing completion. A 20-year review of threatened orchids is being carried out by Cam Beardsell. Parks Vic is now consulting with the Wurundjeri Tribe on planned burns. A new Aboriginal Ranger has been employed to replace Janaya O'Dempsey. Parks Vic is having ongoing discussions regarding a bike trail at Tikilara. Rangers are still having to deal with vandalism, illegal dumping of rubbish and graffiti, illegal land clearing and illegal removal of firewood.

Phil thanked the volunteers for their contribution of 4000 hours towards the maintenance of the Parks and their community engagement.

Guest Speaker Steve Anderson – “RANGING ACROSS THE YEARS”

Ranging has always been a vocation for Steve. He lived and worked in the Warrandyte State Park (WSP) at the commencement of his career in August 1987 where he started as a construction and maintenance worker and went on to become a Ranger. He moved to Wilsons Prom where he worked for the summer 1993-1994 and then returned to WSP. He was stationed at Kinglake National Park from 1996-2000, moved to the Northern Territory in August 2000 and was away from Victoria for 18 years. He has since retired and returned to live in Warrandyte.

While at WSP, Steve helped set up the Eltham Copper Butterfly project at the Eltham Reserve and start its friends group. He was also a Land Protection Officer and advised on weeds and pest animals on private property. Together with various Rangers in Charge, David Van Bockel and Steve had a close relationship with the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. He worked with Pat Coupar, Cathy Willis and many other FOWSP members on Frogland fence, Koala counts, early orchid protection fences and was the Ranger for numerous morning / afternoon FOWSP activities. Back in the 'old days' he could always be found enjoying lunch with the friends in the Folly where a rotating soup roster happened during the winter months after Thursday morning nursery activity.



Steve displaying one of the many moods of Uluru
Photo Lyndy Gilbert

His experiences at Kakadu National Park (KNP) and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (UKTNP) were very different from WSP, Kinglake and Wilsons Prom national parks. Part of his recruitment was an interview with the traditional owners to assess if he was suitable to work there. Respect for Country is very important; and English wasn't the first language of the traditional owners, which provided its own challenges.



Capturing large crocs was part of the job at Kakadu.

During his time in the Northern Territory, Steve learned valuable knowledge from his Indigenous colleagues about how to look

after the environment, how to track animals and more. Part of his role at Uluru was the dangerous task of rescuing people who had accidents on Uluru when they attempted to climb it. As of 26th October 2019 the climb has permanently closed. This had been requested by the traditional owners for many years. Steve attended the recent climb closure and the celebrations at the Park to support his old colleagues and the Anangu traditional owners.



Early days, relaxing with a baby brushtail possum Steve was raising

(Continued on page 9)

Spring TAG at Stane Brae

October 31 brought another adventure at Stane Brae with Cam. The land was formerly owned by racing driver Bib Stillwell. It was in danger of being subdivided in the early 1980s, but was saved by vigilant Warrandyte activists who formed the Friends of Stane Brae - the forerunner of FOWSP. Stane Brae was acquired by the State of Victoria, and eventually became part of Warrandyte State Park.

Our task was to weed and clear Burgan from an enclosure established by Cam and FOWSP, which had been planted with a range of rarer species and is used extensively by Josh for seed collecting.



Exclosure showing impact of grazing pressure from kangaroos and deer outside.



Two healthy examples of rarer species *Pomaderris vacciniifolia* (Round Leaf) and *P. elliptica* (Smooth)... and David's back ;-)



Close up of *Pomaderris racemosa* (Slender or Cluster)

Following the activity Cam took us on an exploratory trip along the river. First was to show us the site of the (largely unsuccessful) release of a rust fungus to control Bridal Creeper, near which we found a large colony of rarer Bird Orchids *Chiloglottis reflexa* and further afield a big spread of around 300 to 400 Helmet Orchids (leaves only) *Corybas* sp.

Next was to try and locate the site of a WW2 Air Force facility used to test personnel gas protective equipment. We found numerous remnant objects and landforms including the access track, building site, fencing and bricks that Cam assured us were part of the facility, of course all well hidden in 70 year old re-growth.

(Continued on page 7)

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 2020 schedule coming up soon.

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 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 Gloria Moore 0402 285005
Annette Lion	0414-249-729	Facebook Coordinator	Wildlife Rescue Adriana Simmonds
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
Lisa Jenkins	0431 840 415		Manningham Council Rep Cathy Willis 0427 660 651
Carolyn Noel	0409 901441		Webmaster Jason Patton 0402 121838 jason@parau.com
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Website: www.fowsp.org.au
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647	legality@bigpond.com	FOWSP general enquiry number 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, Lisa Jenkins

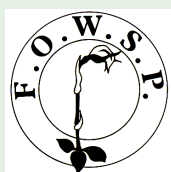
Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 11 February 2020

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks



This series of nature walks will explore various sections of the natural areas of Manningham. Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area.



Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings will open two months before the walk date.

Watch for upcoming walks in 2020 on link below:

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.

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.

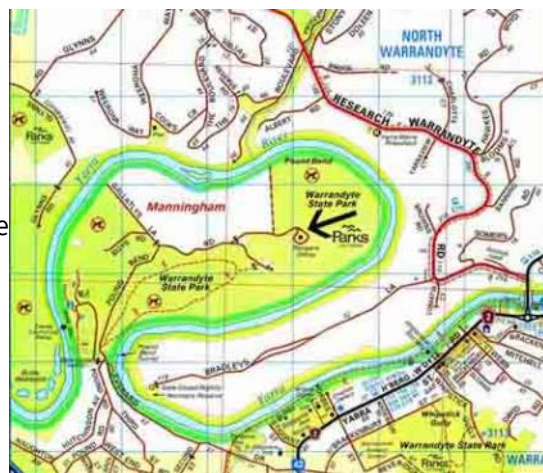
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

Closed Christmas, Boxing 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 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.

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

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

Enquiries: 9840 9326



Wednesday 4 December The dark side of night lighting Hosted by **Alicia Dimovski**, PhD student, Department of Ecology, Environment and Evolution, La Trobe University. Alicia will describe how artificial light from housing and street lights is impacting our native mammals. She has been working between the Bundoora and Bendigo regions to explore the impacts of artificial light on health and behaviour in a range of marsupials including the tammar wallaby, fat-tailed dunnart and sugar glider. Throughout her research Alicia has been working with the lighting industry to find a solution to this problem by testing "wildlife-friendly" amber LED lighting that allows humans to see at night but reduces the impact on our native animals. In this seminar Alicia will discuss both the effects of light pollution on mammals and suggest some changes we can all make to help our native wildlife thrive in our urban areas.

Wednesday 5 Feb 2020 The Tiny Flamboyance of the Peacock Spiders by Joseph Schubert While the Australian peacock spiders are only the length of a grain of rice, they are some of the most charismatic and colourful spiders that the world has to offer. The males perform elaborate courtship displays, boasting their brilliant colours to impress females (hence the name 'peacock' spiders). At least 70 species have been discovered in the past 10 years, and there are likely still some which are yet to be discovered. Peacock spider scientist Joseph Schubert will discuss his research on this group of native Australian spiders, outlining their fascinating biology and behaviour.

Field Trip: Saturday February 8 2020 10:00 am to 12 noon The Tiny Flamboyance of the Peacock Spiders
On the following Saturday, take a walk through a reserve with Joseph and learn about habitat requirements for insects and arachnids and macro invertebrate lifeforms. Discover the important role these lifeforms contribute to woodland and forest health. You must pre-book this field trip and attend the seminar.

Location: The meeting place will be revealed to you at the seminar

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.

(Continued from page 4)



Cam commenting on a great specimen of *Pomaderris ferruginea* (Rusty pomaderris)



Kelvin weeding a healthy *Xanthorrhoea australis* (Grass tree) a very high proportion of those planted were surviving.

Finally a look around the old Stanebrae farm including the dairy, and the very elegant remnants of a century old horse drawn wagon.

A very informative and useful day.

Don Vincent



Olearia ramulosa (Twiggy Daisy Bush) in a location that is perhaps a last remnant. See also back cover.



Examining the very elegant remnants of a century old horse drawn wagon. Photo by Judith.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 2 November 2019
**Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook, Marion Thomson, Marie Krause,
Christine Andell, Lyn Douth, Lyn Moore, Jan Falconer**

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, 1 February, 7 March, Warrandyte Festival 21-22 March 2020

**FOWSP's version of Oaks Day hats
Modelled by Marion and Lyndy**



And of course another extraordinary morning tea furnished by Lyndy.



Thank you to Manningham Council

FOWSP applied for a \$500 grant from Manningham City Council towards a new Epson printer. As the previous HP printer only prints in black and white, we were unable to print out coloured plant labels or brochures.

I am pleased to say the grant application was successful. We have purchased an Epson eco printer which is in keeping with our desire to reuse and recycle. The ink tanks can be easily refilled. There is no wasted ink and the bottles are recyclable. It is incredibly cheap to print in colour as well as black and white, on A4 or A3 paper. It is a wireless device. It also has USB and memory card slots to print directly from the printer. Being able to print in colour will enhance our ability to communicate with the community. Many thanks to Manningham City Council for approving the grant.

(Continued from page 3)



Attaching of a tracking device on saltwater crocodiles requires much skill and teamwork.



Traditional fire sticks and 'burn bugs' were both used near Uluru.

He has developed an amazing knowledge about Aboriginal culture whilst working at these two world heritage listed national parks in the Northern Territory and we look forward to learning more about his career.

Some interesting figures:

- Warrandyte State Park is 5.5 square kilometres.
- Kinglake National Park is 232 square kilometres.
- Wilsons Prom is 505 square kilometres.
- Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is 1,326 square kilometres.
- Kakadu National Park is 19,804 square kilometres.

Warrandyte Community Bank helps to save an endangered Orchid.

Currently there are 19 native orchids under threat in Victoria alone*

Over the past few years FOWSP has been growing one of greater Melbourne's critically endangered orchids (Just and Beardsell 2018), the fringed helmet orchid *Corybas fimbriatus* (photo right) to increase the population in WSP.

To get the best propagation results orchids need a managed growing environment, this is difficult to achieve in the current area of the nursery.

The installation of a new roof will ensure that we can provide optimum conditions for the orchids.



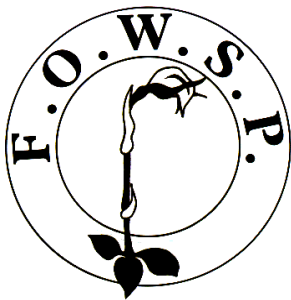
We are truly grateful to the Bank for its continued generosity towards FOWSP. It has provided a significant number of grants over the years towards community education, a water tank, a defib unit and frame over the nursery area. So far grants of over \$3,550,000 have been given to organisations in Warrandyte. The Directors give their time at no cost and any profits from the Bendigo Bank are ploughed back into the community. Please support the Warrandyte branch of the Bendigo Bank by opening an account. The more people who join the bank, the more is given back to the community.

* <https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/files/public/environment/publications>

Note from Maggie Burke:

Cannot tell you how much I enjoy receiving copies of the FOWSP Newsletter. Makes me homesick for dear Warrandyte State Park. No matter how much I love my home here in Avoca.

Very best wishes to you all.
Margaret (Maggie Burke) Armstrong



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***Oroderes mimulus* a long-horned beetle**

This unusual looking long-horned beetle was identified with some confidence to species level but I have been unable to find out anything more about its life cycle.

This one was on the leaf of *Goodenia ovata*, but others have been photographed on blooms such as burban. Its long flexible body gave it the look of a rove beetle which also has short wing covers but the long antennae put it clearly in the long-horn group. The larvae of longhorns are typically woodborers.

Linda Rogan

December 2019/January 2020 Volume 37 Number 10

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



Photos from Stane Brae (thanks Don)
Clockwise upper left: Another rare species *Dianella perfragens* (Matted Flax-lily) in great shape. Unknown eggs (probably Lepidoptera) under a *Pomaderris* sp. leaf and , red tentacles of Stinkhorn fungus (*Clathrus archeri*) growing under the exclosure fence.

Photo from the nursery: Appears to be *Arhodia lasiocamparia* whose larvae feed mainly on eucalypts.

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



One of the remnant population of the locally rare *Olearia ramulosa* at Stane Brae, a source for propagation at FOWSP.