

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

Welcome back to all FOWSPians. I hope your holiday season went well even if staying close to home. Although some volunteer jobs are limited to booked spaces to avoid crowding in the covered part of the nursery, most are back in full swing.

This newsletter is full of activities from December and January and we are beginning to be able to look forward to TAGS (p. 4) and the market trailer (p. 7) in 2021.

Cathy Willis reveals news of interesting Frogmouths which aren't related to birds nor amphibians on p.2. And some butterfly excitement is revealed on p. 3.

News of the completion of a \$40000 grant and past TAGS is found on p. 4 and p. 2.

Lisa Jenkins completes her Acacia series with a change in colour starting on page 5.



Allison smiles at her box dinner while Eileen looks on

A shady deal is transacted at the nursery on p. 6. Orchid-loving FOWSPians go a bit potty on p. 9 under the direction of Richard Thompson. On the same page a new option for socialising with other FOWSPians is revealed. Please take time to enjoy the birds and the bees (plus one Owlfly) on the last three pages.

Linda Rogan

Early notice the **FOWSP AGM** will be held on **14 March 2021**
Watch for details in the March newsletter.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive annual reports and select the Committee of Management. All positions will be declared open. Nomination forms are available through the secretary.

A special resolution for changes to the FOWSP Constitution will also be voted upon. Please check this link to read about the purposed changes before the AGM.

<http://fowsp.org.au/docs/Other/>

[FOWSP Constitution with highlighted amendments - 19Jan21.pdf](http://fowsp.org.au/docs/Other/FOWSP%20Constitution%20with%20highlighted%20amendments%20-%2019Jan21.pdf)

Deadline for March edition newsletter is
Friday 19 February 2021

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

December TAGS

In early December Taggers were challenged with Polygala Pull - mainly in the Boys Rd part of the Park. They have been returning every year for about a decade now, resulting in ever reducing numbers of plants. However, little plants continue to pop up, presumably from long-lived seeds in the soil.

Polygala myrtifolia (myrtle-leaf milkwort) is a South African intruder which has made itself very much at home here. Fortunately it is fairly easily uprooted when small (photo right). Apparently an aqueous extract of the plant is a potential fungicide, which just goes to show - one man's weed is another man's pharmaceutical!



One of the Polygala seedlings delightfully removed by Gray.



Gray and Judd take a break beside the Yarra

The photo left shows Gray and Judd enjoying morning tea break at what used to be called Scouts' Beach, on the Yarra. This pretty spot is no longer the gently sloping swimming spot that it was when Gray was a kid, but still a lovely shady place for our break, especially as the Kunzea was in fragrant, showy bloom.

Also in December at Nilja, the last of the Agapanthus were removed a project that required 10 years.

See http://fowsp.org.au/docs/News_2015/33_04_May.pdf

For Ken Crook's history of Nilja

Gray

Significant plant in local wetland *Philydrum lanuginosum* Woolly Waterlily or Frogsmouths

A clump of frogsmouths, a plant vulnerable in Victoria, has been found happily blooming in a man-made wetland area in Manningham. It could easily have been removed as a weed if an alert person who was 'working for Victoria' (W4V) hadn't realised it might be important and took the trouble to find out.

It was brought to Cathy's attention and together with Josh they worked out the identity. It is surmised that the species would have been planted here from seed from SE Melbourne at least 25 years ago and will have grown here for several generations. It is now a very significant population for both Greater Melbourne and the state and is likely to be self sustaining into the future.

Interestingly, this is the only species in the genus *Philydrum* (water loving). The species name *lanuginosum* means woolly substance or down, from lana wool which can be seen in Josh's photo right.

Thanks to Cathy for this information.



Butterfly excitement

In December 2020 Michael Braby of *Butterflies of Australia* 2000 spent some time exploring Warrandyte State Park with Cam Beardsell. This pair of searchers was bound to come up with something exciting and they exceeded themselves.

On December 11 they located the rare Yellow-spot Jewel *Hypochrysops byzos* which has caterpillars that feed chiefly on *Pomaderris aspera* and occasionally *Pomaderris lanigera*. This was found in the Gold Memorial area where this plant naturally occurs and has been increased with augmented planting by Andersons Creek Landcare. This uncommon butterfly which flashes blue (male) or yellow spots (female) inside its wings, is seldom seen in part because it flies rapidly and tends to stay near its food plant. Ross Field in his *Butterflies: Identification and Life History* 2013 states: 'it is occasionally seen when males defend territories or when feeding at flowers occurs.'

A second finding, the Bright Copper butterfly *Paralucia aurifera*, while common in some localities, could be said to be even brighter than the Eltham or Fiery Copper Butterfly *Paralucia pyrodiscus*. Like the Eltham copper its larval food plant is Sweet Bursaria and both pupate within ants nests. The Bright Copper tends to prefer moister habitats than the Eltham Copper but it is possible to see both species flying together.

Particularly exciting was a third butterfly the Flame Sedge-skipper *Hesperilla idothea idothea* which had not been recorded in Manningham for 20 years.



Flame Sedge-skipper 17 December 2017 near Gembrook Photo Linda Rogan



Bright Copper 18 March 2018 Wellington River Photo Linda Rogan

Also before Christmas the Yellow-spot Jewel was photographed on the FOWSP revegetation site at Mt. Lofty.

Michael and Cam were pleased to be able to locate nests of two species of the Coconut ants which are not butterflies, but essential hosts of the large (or bronze) ant-blue butterfly, *Acrodipsas brisbanensis* which has been found along the Yarra in the past.

Reference: Field, R. 2013 Butterflies: Identification and Life History Museum Victoria

FOWSPians take note of this request from the Entomological Society of Victoria:

'2021, Butterfly and insect year for Victoria?'

The *Victorian Entomologist* of April 1974 contained a supplement of two pages. This explained that the 1973–74 summer was much wetter, warmer and more humid than usual and 'We are unlikely to see a repeat in our lifetimes'. It was expected that butterflies from NSW would visit Victoria and local species would be more abundant. The second page was formatted to fill in your survey result. Results of this 'survey' were published in the Oct 1974 issue. An occasional visitor to Melbourne, *Papilio anactus* Dingy Swallowtail, came in quantities, bred and has stayed. Several (*Polyura pyrrhus* now *Charaxes sempronius* sempronius) Tailed Emperor were seen in several suburbs. Forty six years later, several members have passed their lifetimes, and weather conditions for summer 2020–21 are similar, if not as pronounced.

Would members please take note of any unusual insect visitors or larger quantities than normal of local insects. Also look for local breeding of visiting insects.

Would you please send sightings to the editor, Linda Rogan - editor@entsocvic.org.au

Thank you, Peter Carwardine

Butterflies of Australia, Common & Waterhouse, revised edition 1981, the entry under

Polyura pyrrhus mentions the visits to Melbourne in 1973–74 summer.

The author of the 1973–74 article was W N B (Nigel) Quick, who passed away some 20 years ago.'

FOWSPian's can send observations to editor@fowsp.org.au

Walert Creek Wrap up

Walert what? Walert Creek is a tributary of the Mullum Mullum Creek in Donvale. Uphill from the creek, and to the south is a tract of high quality bushland that was saved from being destroyed by the construction of the Eastern Freeway.

A huge effort was made by many people to save this valuable site from having the freeway cut through it - indeed so much pressure was put on the Government that finally a tunnel was put under the site, instead of a deep cutting through it. Shortly after the completion of the freeway, some remedial planting and weeding was done here, but for many years nothing further had been done.

A daunting array of weeds had taken hold, and the site was looking pretty neglected. Janaya O'Dempsey, who preceded Phil Rance as our Contact Ranger, was inspired to apply for a grant to rehabilitate the site, and she and I spent many, many hours on that application.



David and Barrie collecting water from Walert Creek to water the plants we have put in.
Photo Don Vincent

We were successful, and were granted over \$40,000 to spend over three years - surely the biggest grant FOWSP has ever received!

A major focus of the project was to save the Mountain Bird Orchid from being choked, grazed and trampled. At the time of the application, this orchid had been given the botanical name *Chiloglottis jeansii* (but more recently there has been some question about the exact nomenclature. Whatever the taxonomic status, (an orchid by any other name would smell as sweet?) this beautiful plant is now secure within its own enclosures.

We have also planted many hundreds of indigenous plants - all of which were skilfully propagated by Josh and his dedicated team at the FOWSP nursery, from seed and cuttings collected at the site.

The maintenance of these plants will keep us busy for years to come, as will the continued battle against some very vigorous weeds. The Taggers (participants in the Thursday Activity Group) find it impossible to ignore rubbish, so whatever the official task, they have also removed many tonnes of rubbish.

Perhaps the most salient result of our three years of hard work is the comparative freedom from great thickets and festoons of weeds - but weeders can never rest on their laurels... Damn! Laurels are weeds too!

Gray Ardern

TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.00 am for a 9.15 am departure. Please remember to wear appropriate

4/02/2021	Koornong	PHIL	Broom/Woody weeds removal	Moderate
11/02/2021	Jumping Creek	GRAY	Vinca removal	Moderate
18/02/2021	Endeavour Bank	ARTUR	Exclosure fencing	Moderate
25/02/2021	Frogland	LINDA R	Pond liner replacement	Moderate
4/03/2021	Scotchman's Hill	CAROLYN	Vinca weeding, maintenance	Easy-Moderate
11/03/2021	Pauline Toner Reserve	PHIL/CAM	Cassinia thinning, woody weeds - Polygala, wattles, Eltham Copper Butterfly viewing!	Easy-Moderate
18/03/2021	Orchard Fence	GRAY	Tree guard removal/renovation	Moderate

footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle.

Contact number: Gray 0418 190261

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 2021			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	0491 112 692	Newsletter editor	Newsletter assist and Librarian	
	editor@fowsp.org.au		Gloria Moore	0402 285005
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	
			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Carolyn Noel	0409 901441	Facebook Coordinator	Manningham Council Rep	
			Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Webmaster	
			Jason Patton	0402 121838
			jason@parau.com	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
	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
Where not otherwise noted photos are
by Linda Rogan

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 9 February 2021

Venue: Check venue or Zoom

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Learning *Acacia* species identification through their names—*Acacia leprosa* (cinnamon wattle) ‘Scarlet Blaze’ Lisa Jenkins

This last article in my series on *Acacia* species identification is not about names but about our relationship to plant rarities. *Acacia leprosa*, or the cinnamon wattle, occurs in both Victoria and New South Wales and *Flora of Victoria* lists nine variants. In Warrandyte, we have *Acacia leprosa* and *Acacia stictophylla*, which is known as the Dandenong Ranges cinnamon wattle, the botanical name being revised in 2009. The common name refers to the scent emanating from the phyllodes.

But locally we also have examples of *Acacia leprosa* ‘Scarlet Blaze.’ This plant is commercially raised from cuttings and the examples are in gardens, including my own. A single *Acacia leprosa* with not yellow, but red flowers, was discovered in 1995 by some walkers from Warrandyte in the Black Range State Forest, west of the Grampians. They took a piece of the plant which eventually ended up at the National Herbarium in Victoria. It was assessed and twelve further cuttings were taken for propagation; only three of those survived and they were the beginning of the stock that is now owned and sold commercially (<http://anpsa.org.au/APOL2008/dec08-2.html>). It was chosen as Victoria’s Federation Floral emblem in 2001 ‘because its discovery and subsequent conservation has made horticultural history’ (Dr Phillip Moors, then Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, quoted in <http://www.anbg.gov.au/federation-flora/vic-scarlet-blaze/index.html>).

The flowers are red because of its ‘red stamens. Botanists believe the red colouring is a result of anthocyanin, a water soluble pigment in the stamens. They think that anthocyanin production in acacias can be switched on or off. What switched this wattle’s red lights on?’ (<http://worldwidewattle.com/schools/roses.php>). That we don’t know. There are other red acacia species around the world, but this was the only example of a single, red



(Continued on page 8)

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.

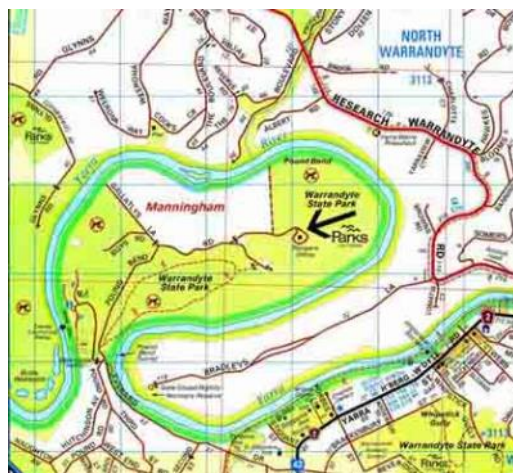
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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Around FOWSP Nursery

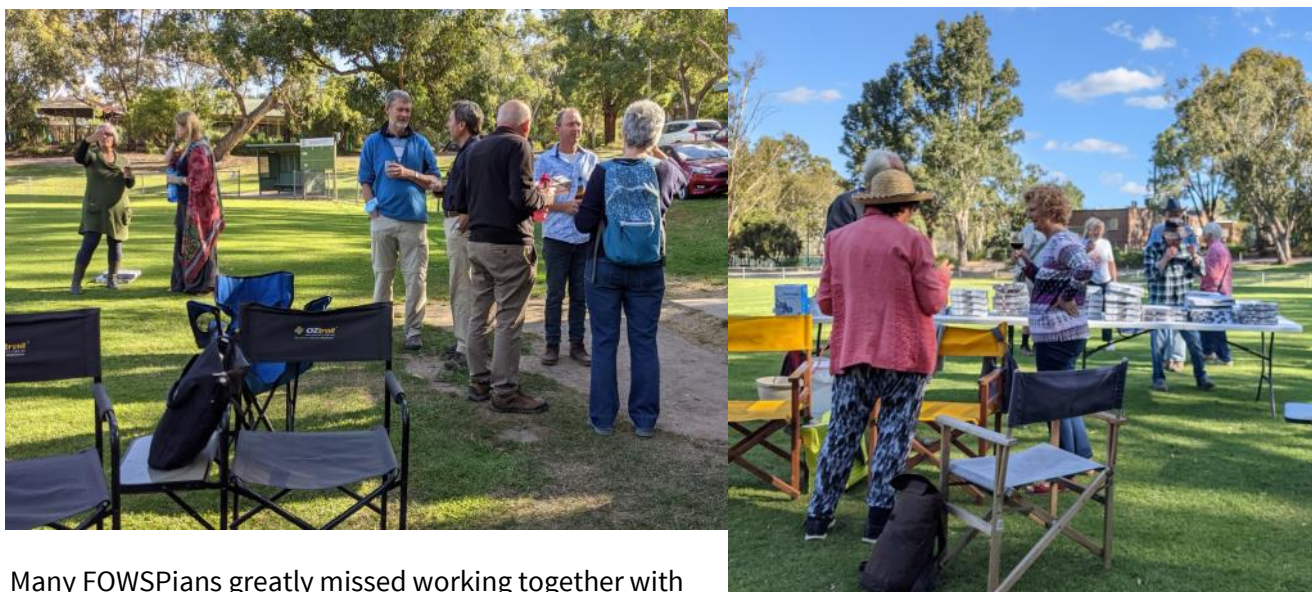
Summer weather is definitely here although, typically for Melbourne it can drop up to 15 degrees in 15 minutes. When it is hot, shade becomes very important.



This motivated Josh and Michelle to set up FOWSP's new marquee, much to the amusement of the fowspaparazzo. The result delighted Kaye and Jewel who now had a cool and shady spot to work on weeding and rejuvenating the valuable stock plants.

End of Year Get-together FOWSP 2020

Sunday 20th December



Many FOWSPians greatly missed working together with other volunteers and socialising around the FOWSP nursery due to COVID restrictions in 2020. Therefore Lyndy's plan for an end of year get-together at a sporting ground in Warrandyte was a wonderful end of year celebration.

As a precaution, the food was pre-ordered from Bocca's pizzeria and individually boxed for each person and delivered to us at 6pm. The evening was greatly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Lynda Gilbert for making excellent arrangements and getting the word out to members.



Due to social distancing, a panorama shot was needed for our BYO morning tea.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to ALL those who helped out on trailer BCL
(before covid lock-down)

All being well, it is planned that the FOWSP market trailer will resume on
Saturday 6 February.



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.

Also please consider whether you can assist by joining the roster of members who transport the Market trailer to the market on Saturday mornings and back to Fowsp at the end of the morning. For further information contact Artur myln@netspace.net.au or Kelvin kelvin.watkins8@bigpond.com>

Next market dates: Saturday, 6 February and 6 March 2021

BOOKCHAT

I'm excited to tell you all that our committee has very generously purchased a great selection of brand new books for the FOWSP library. These are now catalogued and on the shelves – so please avail yourselves of the opportunity to borrow and enjoy reading them. They will be reviewed in future newsletters, but meanwhile here are the titles and reference numbers.

Category: Education (White sticker)

ED 419 *The Song of the Dodo – Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions*, by David Quammen

ED 420 *Sand Talk – How Indigenous Thinking Can Change the World*, by Tyson Yunkaporta

ED 421 *Dark Emu – Aboriginal Australia and the birth of Agriculture*, by Bruce Pascoe

ED 422 *Call of the Reed Warbler – a New Agriculture, a New Earth*, by Charles Massy

Category: Environment (Green sticker)

EN 577 *Sunburnt Country – the History and Future of Climate Change in Australia*, by Joelle Gergis

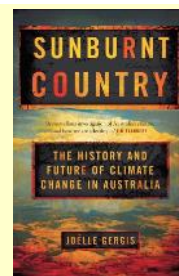
Category: Flora (Yellow sticker)

FL 696 *The Hidden Life of Trees – What They Feel, How They Communicate*, by Peter Wohlleben

Category: Fire (Black/Red sticker)

FR 1308 *Fire Country – How Indigenous Fire Management Could Help Save Australia*, by Victor Steffensen

All most interesting reading. Happy borrowing! **Gloria**



(Continued from page 5)

Acacia leprosa, as far as we know. So it remains an anomaly, a mutation, a hybrid, a singular specimen, a 'botanical freak' the "wattle that refused to be yellow" (<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/every-picture-tells-a-story-in-world-of-old-and-new-plants-20130728-2qsro.html>).

It is a glorious plant-the red is more like a rich sunset orange, because of the yellow in the flower sitting next to the red. Mine comes out in July so it is a perfect solstice plant, reminding me that the year has turned and summer will return. I have it next to our driveway so I see it when I come home and I am always still amazed and delighted by it.

But is also a reminder to me, a kind of beautiful, living *memento mori*. As I have said before in these articles, we 'know' the natural world because many individuals have observed, studied and classified individual species, considering them in relation to other species and other examples of the same species. But we have now reached the terrible point of knowing that some species are only 'known' by one, last specimen-I'm sure many of you remember 'Lonesome George,' the last Pinta Island tortoise, who died in 2012 (https://www.galapagos.org/about_galapagos/about-galapagos/biodiversity/lonesome-george/). And there are innumerable plant and animal species that are known by one, or a handful of specimens, often found and then promptly identified as endangered. There is the glorious Hawaiian tree, the *Cyanea heluensis*, with flowers like a bunch of peeled bananas (photo right), known from one specimen only. Like 'Scarlet Blaze,' *Cyanea heluensis* has been propagated but "dozens of native plants like this one are now only kept alive in nurseries," says (botanist) Matthew Keir... "Just one natural disaster, like a hurricane, hitting a nursery could cause the extinction of many rare plants" (<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/blog/2020/12/24/nr20-207/>). And then there's the controversial classification of a South African bee fly, the *Marleyimyia xylocopae*, which has been identified exclusively on the basis of two photographs (and not on actual specimens, which is standard), the two scientists who discovered it arguing that it is sometimes too difficult to get permits into remote areas (<https://mysteriousuniverse.org/2016/04/incredible-creatures-known-from-only-a-single-specimen/>).



But then there is the gloriously named jellyfish tree, *Medusagyne oppositifolia*, thought to be extinct in the wild until a handful of specimens were found in the 1970s (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medusagyne>). And the Wollemi Pine, *Wollemia nobilis*, that remarkable living fossil which exists in the wild in a small stand in the Blue Mountains, the exact location kept secret. It has just been given special status as an 'asset of intergenerational significance' after firefighters saved the stand in last year's fires (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/15/nsw-wollemi-pines-given-special-protected-status-after-being-saved-from-bushfire-disaster>).

These examples of singular plants, animals and insects, anomalies because they're the first or the last, show us that our species is quite capable of heroic efforts to protect other, very special species. And our urge to order, to identify and classify means that scientists are able to get the attention of the public by showing us new, hitherto unknown species. In this age, we are enthralled by the new, feeling that we're only one click away from something extraordinary. But we are also alert to the precarious cliff we are on environmentally. If scientists can catch our attention with new species and we're able to understand how precious and special they are, then perhaps we can halt the degradation of our remarkable planet. And if that occasionally includes us owning and planting a botanical anomaly like 'Scarlet Blaze' which can both delight us and make us pause, then even better. For then we're in the realm of William Morris, who famously said we should only be surrounded by things that either useful or beautiful. To my mind, *Acacia leprosa* 'Scarlet Blaze' is both.

A new form of social FOWSP



A few of our FOWSP volunteers have been missing the chat sessions every Thursday as there is a limited number of volunteers permitted to be in the nursery at any one time due to COVID social distancing requirements. Volunteers are now on a roster and are invited to attend the nursery so that everyone gets a chance.

Jan Falconer came up with the bright idea of arranging a coffee and chat at a local cafe and Warranglen Cafe is the only one that was big enough to cater for our mob. Volunteers who turned up really enjoyed the lovely ambiance and food, staying as long as they could. One new member, Amelia Popkiss came with her lovely daughter Illiana and got to meet our volunteers. Amelia is passionate about gardening and is currently studying horticulture subjects at Deakin University. The next coffee and chat will be held on Thursday 18th February at 1pm, so keep the date free .

I will send out an invitation closer to the date.

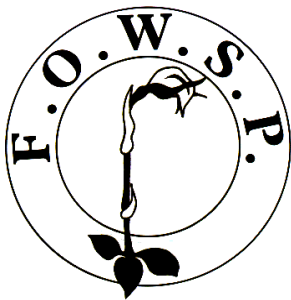
Lynda Gilbert



Orchid potting-up season

Marion, Sophia (new volunteer), Joy, John and not in the photo Dick had set up a real production line on Thursday as this is the time of year when we need to check each of our terrestrial orchids for tubers and re-pot them into re-freshed specially made potting soil.

Species being handled included *Pterostylis curta*, *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* and *Corybas fimbratus*. Fortunately there were sufficient tubers produced of *P. curta* to allow us to plant several new patches of this species in Frogland.



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Split-eyed Owlfly

Not often photographed in Victoria, this Owlfly is related to lacewings and antlions. The larvae of owlflies, however, are found in trees but they appear even more vicious than the antlions.

Both larvae and adults feed on other insects.

This one was photographed on 4 January 2020 near Wulgulmerang.

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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

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

I had my baby chickens outside for a run in February and you can imagine my surprise when I looked up and found two Powerful Owls watching from the trees above. They were so close to the house that we were able to watch them from the kitchen and lounge room.

Words and Photo Lynda Chambers



Blue Banded Bee feeding on Lythrum. Joy Hick's photo in her back yard.



King parrot eyes pumpkin seeds
Gray's photo



Bronze-wing nesting in *Corymbia ficifolia* in Briar Hill

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



Composite photo of
Three masked bees gather-
ing pollen from a Banksia
flower at Maranoa Gardens
January 2021