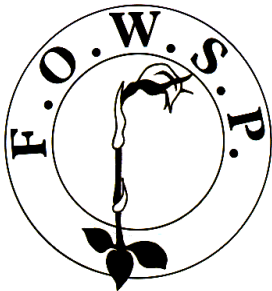


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

February's 28 days always seem to speed past more quickly than it should. This month the weather has included several days more like autumn than summer. Fortunately that meant good weather for projects at FOWSP.

The editor got a significant buzz out of preparing this newsletter as pp 2 and 3 bring us Lynda Gilbert's enthusiastic report on the seminar she attended called The Fascinating World of Native Bees. Then pp 4 and 5 allowed the review of some of the projects FOWSP is involved in to aid native bees.

See the nursery sign Lyndy has created for us on p 6. Page 7 has an interesting book review from Gloria. Don't miss the plant suggestions on p 9 and important social news. Mallacoota looms large on the photo page.



Marie smiles her approval of the refurbished top pond while Graham inspects the work. See page 8 for more.

Photo Don Vincent

As always, enjoy this newsletter. *Linda Rogan*

FOWSP AGM will be held on 14 March 2021

AT THE FOLLY

At 5.30pm followed by a bbq

Due to Covid please BYO everything and no sharing.

All will need to take their own dishes home for washing.

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

Deadline for April edition newsletter is

Friday 19 March 2021

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

The Fascinating World of Native Bees

Having been stung by a bee as a child, I preferred to keep away from them in case I got stung again! But my interest in bees was sparked by a webinar given by Katrina Forstner, founder of **Buzz and Dig** and organised by the Banyule City Council on 7 November 2020.

Bees are mysterious creatures and studies are still being conducted to this day by a variety of scientists and organisations worldwide.

Bees play a vital role in pollinating food crops such as almonds, blueberries, avocados and pumpkins as well as fungi and flowering plants. Although flies, wasps, moths and butterflies also land on flowers, they are accidental pollinators. Bees are still the best pollinators and they are the only ones that take pollen back to their hives.

Did you know that there are more than 20,000 bee species in the world? 25% haven't been seen for 30 years, which is alarming, given that they play a key role in the ecosystem (ref: Herald Sun p36, 20 Jan 2021).

In Australia, the natural habitat of native bees is being destroyed through climate change, bushfires, clearing of land for urban housing and intensive farming. Toxic sprays and chemicals have also caused an alarming reduction in the number of native bees.



Blue-spotted cloak and dagger bee
Thyreus caeruleopunctatus
Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn, Vic



Great carpenter bee *Xylocopa* species
Female Borrolooloo NT July 29 2017

Honey bees are different to Australian native bees. They are European bees that were introduced to Australia around 1822.

There are at least 1,700 species of "true blue" Australian native bees although at least 350 have not been named yet. Australian native bees can be black, yellow, red, metallic green or even black with blue polka dots (photo above). They can be fat and furry, or sleek and shiny. Australia's smallest native bee is Cape York's minute *Quasihesma* bee. It is less than 2 mm long. Australia's largest native bee is the Great Carpenter Bee of the tropical north and northern NSW (photo left). It is up to 24 mm long. Most Australian bees are solitary bees which raise their young in burrows in the ground or in tiny hollows in timber. Australia also has 11 species of social native bees (genera *Tetragonula** and *Austroplebeia*) which do not sting (*Previously called *Trigona*). Stingless bee honey is a delicious bush food and stingless bees can be good crop pollinators, so stingless bee-

keeping is becoming increasingly popular. (Sadly for Victorian's these social native bees only reach as far south as approximately Sydney and even there need most of their honey to keep the hive healthy. Editor) Native bees are also important pollinators of Australia's unique wildflowers and are a vital part of our Australian bushland. (Ref: [What are native bees? \(aussiebee.com.au\)](http://aussiebee.com.au)).

Native bees have often been confused with flies. Whilst bees have 4 wings, flies have 2 wings. In general, native bees fold their wings behind their back; flies' wings stick out when they are at rest. The antennae of bees are long and may be bent or arched. Their eyes are smaller and flat. Flies have short antennae and their eyes are large and bulge out of their head. (Ref: Katrina Forstner, *Buzz & Dig*)



Hoverfly on *Kunzea* in the garden Note one pair of wings and short antennae therefore not a bee.

Katrina Forstner, founder of **Buzz and Dig** who led the webinar in November 2020, is a passionate home gardener and has created a native bee-friendly garden full of fruit trees, vegetables, perennial and native flowers. Through the webinar, she shared her knowledge and skills so anyone can set up a bee friendly garden and bee hotel including the information on the next page.

In general, a bee hotel is basically a box filled with nesting material. The box must be at least 10 centimeters deep and have an angled roof to ensure rainwater run-off. A 2cm overhang should offer some protection at the entrance. A fixed backing on the box helps keep the contents in and the weather out.

Recycled and natural materials such as hardwood red gum fencing, crates are suitable to build a bee hotel in your garden. Do not use treated pine or timber with house paints. The design is not important, as long as the bee hotel keeps out the rain and provides a safe place. Nesting material includes natural canes or dried out plant stems, reeds, hollow twigs and decayed wood with beetle holes.



Blue Banded Bee one of the Amegilla species on Lythrum at the nursery

Alternatively, place wooden blocks with holes drilled in them inside your nesting box, with holes 5-8mm wide. Drill holes slightly upwards so the bee can easily crawl in. Pass the drilled surface over a flame so that splinters are removed as they can hurt bees.

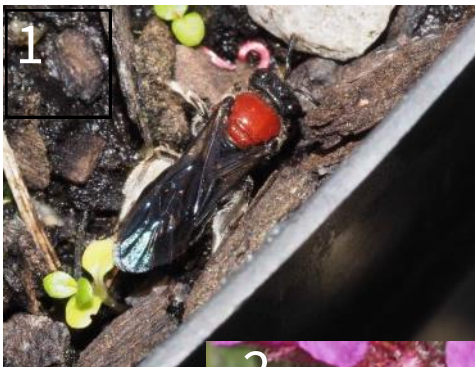
Place your bee hotel around 1.5 metres off the ground in a sheltered spot. Ensure it receives morning light and is protected from the afternoon sun. Northeast orientation is best. They should be replaced every 4-5 years.

If you wish to attract the blue-banded bee, you may wish to try well-protected mud brick accommodation. Put a mix of clay and sand in a pvc or terracotta pipe and poke entrance holes into the clay before it dries and set it facing the morning sun. This type of blue-banded bee home has been tried along with habitat plantings by the Friends of Merri Creek, however they can not yet confirm any bees have moved in. For all digging bees it is important to have some bare ground that is free of mulch.

Native bees don't fly very far (up to 350 metres), so plant attractive flowering plants close by to draw the bees to their new nests. Bees prefer purple, blue, yellow and white flowers for example bottle brushes, grevilleas, hardenbergas, dianellas and correas. They may also be attracted to some non native plants such as salvias, lavenders, roses.

Avoid using insecticides on your flowers which may kill the bees – use natural alternatives.

Also check out the Buzz & Dig facebook page for more information Buzz and Dig | Facebook



Reported by Lynda Gilbert

1. Female painted callomelitta *Callomelitta picta* a female bee searching for a home in FOWSP tube stock.
2. The yellow-green austral-nomia bee *Lipotriches flavoviridis* on Lythrum.
3. Tiny *Homalictus punctatus* on spur Velleia.

See pp 4 & 5 for an update on what FOWSPians have already done to encourage our native bees.

Photos on pp 2,3 are taken by Linda Rogan





FOWSP also loves native bees

Native bees have always been seen around the nursery and they are attracted to the wide range of flowering plants we have throughout the year. Some which have been photographed here over the years appear in Lyndy's article p. 3.

Our first attempt at blue banded bees (BBB) bricks were made in January 2010 (1). a small group, including Pat and Mike Coupar, Linda Rogan, Gray Arden, Simon Dickey, and Jackson Walsh, worked off site to produce a clay mix for the production of nesting blocks for indigenous BBBs. These were placed in a sunny spot (2) but had to be moved when the education centre was built. They were moved in near the Lythrum which the BBBs love but tucked out of sight. A second lot of bricks was made and placed in an old trough tipped on its side and Kelvin covered it with earth for insulation in February 2014 (3).



In April 2015 Carolyn Noel was the driving (or digging) force behind the establishment of the pollinator garden near the trough insect/ BBB home (4). The completed garden was adorned with a lovely mosaic original by Carolyn (5) and also an educational sign from the Wettenhall Grant (6).



Along with the sign (5) you can see the bee posts



(Continued on page 5)

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, Gray 0418 190 or Don Vincent 0417 618 367

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
25/03/2021	Haslam fence	PHIL	Cassinia thinning and leaf removal.	Moderate
1/04/2021	Winery Tour	ARTUR	Yarra Valley (BYO hot cross buns)	Easy-Difficult
8/04/2021	Walert Creek	GRAY	Maintenance	Moderate

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	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		Jason Patton	0402 121838
	legality@bigpond.com			jason@parau.com
			Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
			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

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 9 March 2021

Venue: TBA

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



which were also made by FOWSPians. The Wettenhall grant enabled the sign about Native pollinators (6).

There has been some degree of success in housing native bees in that *Megachile* species have been seen nesting in our bee bricks as well as the bee posts as in Carol Page's photo (8). Masked bees *Hylaeus* sp. had been seen in the bamboo houses (7).

However in spite of blue banded bees frequenting the nursery every season, to my knowledge, none have yet been discovered nesting.

This link will take you to the bees that are recorded on iNaturalist in the nursery and nearby to present :

<https://bit.ly/3kARiaB>



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.

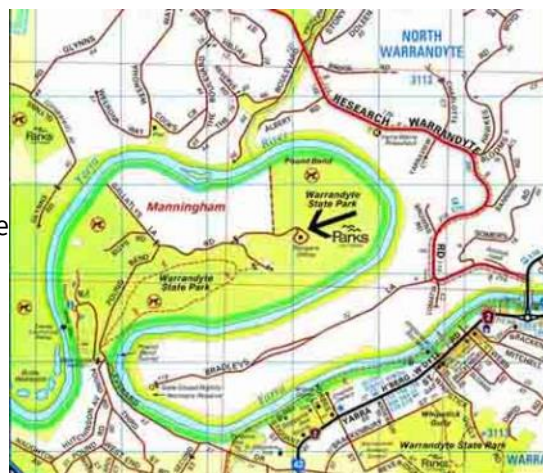
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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Our nursery has a sign!

Thanks to Carolyn Noel for teaching a novice Lyndy Gilbert at her mosaic classes. Not bad for a first go.

BOOKCHAT

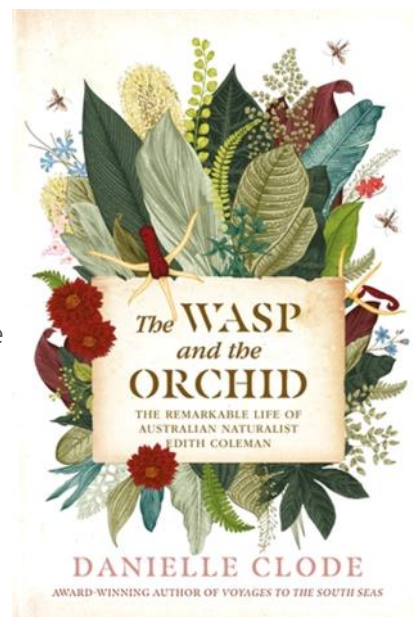
The Wasp & the Orchid – the remarkable life of Australian naturalist Edith Coleman

"Have you met Mrs Edith Coleman? If not you must - I am sure you will like her - she's just A1 and a splendid naturalist."

In 1922, a 48-year-old housewife from Blackburn delivered her first paper, on native Australian orchids, to the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Over the next thirty years, Edith Coleman would write over 300 articles on Australian nature for newspapers, magazines and scientific journals. She would solve the mystery of orchid pollination that had bewildered even Darwin, earn the acclaim of international scientists and, in 1949, become the first woman to be awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion. She was 'Australia's greatest orchid expert', 'foremost of our women naturalists', a woman who 'needed no introduction'.

And yet, today, Edith Coleman has faded into obscurity. How did this remarkable woman, with no training or connections, achieve so much so late in life? And why, over the intervening years, have her achievements and her writing been forgotten?

Zoologist and award-winning writer Danielle Clode sets out to uncover Edith's story, from her childhood in England to her unlikely success, sharing along the way Edith's lyrical and incisive writing and her uncompromising passion for Australian nature and landscape.

**About the Author**

Danielle Clode is a zoologist and award-winning author. She has worked as a zookeeper and scientific interpreter, in exhibition design and academia, and spent many years as a technical editor and writing teacher. She has written seven books, including *Voyages to the South Seas*, which won the 2007 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Nonfiction.

Industry Reviews

'[A] brilliant biography'

Australian Women's Weekly

'Danielle Clode breathes life into the story of Edith Coleman... an approachable blend of biography, science, nature writing and social history.'

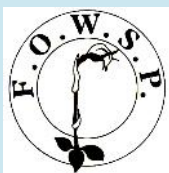
Adelaide Advertiser

'Undoubtedly a remarkable woman'

Weekend Australian

The Wasp & the Orchid is a brand new addition to our FOWSP Library. The reference No. is ED423. (white sticker). To borrow it for up to a month, simply record your details in the exercise book on the library shelves, and remember to mark off the date when you return it. Happy reading!

Gloria.

**FOWSP MARKET TRAILER**

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 6 February 2021
**Caitriona and John Young, Jeff Cranston,
Christine Andell, Marie Krause, 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, 6 March, 3 April 2021



Frog Pond refurbishment 25 February 2021



The top frog pond has not been holding water for some time so after this dry summer season there was little water to be removed in order to carry out the pond renewal.

Don Vincent (photo left) was the brains of the project. Essential helpers included Brian, (below right) and Lee and Graham (photo below).



Note: Lee and Graham don't have to socially distance as they live together.

Of course Marie (photo p. 1) and Linda (photo below left) were the stern supervisors. The frogs re-homed on the day included at least three species which were photographed.



Best find was the Striped Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes peronii* (Photo right Don Vincent). The other two more common frogs were the Southern Brown Tree Frog *Litoria ewingii* (photo left) and the increasingly common Peron's Tree Frog *Litoria peronii* (photo right).



After all this wonderful help, I will be calling this pond 'the TAG pond'.

Linda Rogan



Time to order for the upcoming planting season

CONSIDER *Tetradlea ciliata* Pink-bells (photos left below)

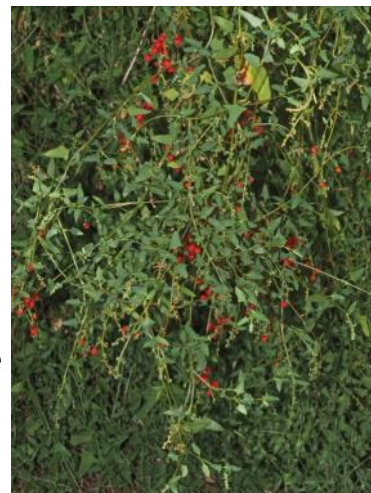


It is hard to go past the Pink-bells in the spring when they are blooming.

Tetradlea seeds are a food source for ants which collect, disperse and take the seed underground. This has multiple advantages for the plant, creating a soil seed store, protected from fire and dispersed further than wind may be able to carry the seed. The blooms provide a pollen source for native bees.

OR PERHAPS

Einadia nutans Climbing (or nodding) Saltbush (photo right) adds summer colour with red berries. SOME MAY NOT appreciate its sprawling habit but I do for many reasons. The berries are not only colourful but they are food for birds and were eaten by Aboriginal people. The leaves could also be eaten after boiling. They make a wonderful ground cover in dry areas, surviving hot temperatures and can be easily removed if something else is to be planted later. Importantly for me these saltbushes are the food plant for the native moths and butterflies such as the Chequered Blue *Theclines thes serpentata* and White Banded Grass Dart. The Dart enjoys laying its eggs on *Rhagodia*, *Atriplex* sp. and *Einadia nutans*.



Linda Rogan



Happy 21st? Birthday to Josh (photo left)

Although current restrictions mean we couldn't share a cake, icy poles and other separately wrapped treats were distributed to mark the special day.



Hello from Coupars

Mike and Pat Coupar in Mallacoota send their best wishes to FOWSPians. This photo was taken on the happy day when they first had the key to their post-bushfire new house.

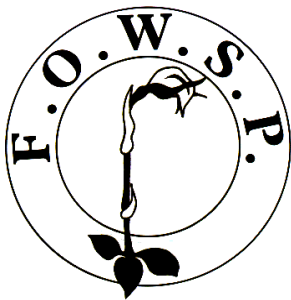
Those of you who have had a chance to peruse their out-of-print book *Flying Colours Common caterpillars, butterflies and moths of south-eastern Australia* will be happy to know they are still at it having discovered this large green caterpillar (below left) which pupated and the huge moth (right), eclosed on 3 February 2021.



Messages from our readers

A great read, thank you, always learn new things.
Much appreciated
Judith Wenborn

You are all doing a great job preserving nature. Best wishes Marjory Burgess



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Coequosa australasiae Eucalyptus Hawk moth

The largest of three hawkmoths species on our
light sheet while we were in Mallacoota.
This one is a male .

In December Pat Coupar found a nearly mature
caterpillar of this species (p. 9) which she
allowed to pupate and an adult female of this
species eclosed on 3 February 2021.

There are two *Coequosa* species in Australia and
both have been photographed in Victoria again
this year. It always exciting to see either one.

Linda Rogan

March 2021 Vol. 39 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
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



Don Vincent was fascinated to see this very wispy wasp land on our bee post. As he watched, it separated its long ovipositor from its sheath (Don's photo left) and poked it deep into a hole where a native bee had previously laid an egg. It then backed down the hole itself, presumably laying its own egg where it would hatch and consume the food left for the bee egg and perhaps the bee larva as well.

It is a *Gasteruption* sp.

More insects from Linda's Mallacoota light sheet

**Hawkmoths**

Convolvulus hawkmoth *Agrius convolvuli* two on the light sheet showing pink marks on their bodies and the top one on the tree.

Coprosma hawkmoth *Hippotion scrofa* the lower one on the tree.

Grey-headed anthelid *Anthela excellens* (photo left)

Eight-lined leaf beetle
Paropsisterna octolineata
The second most common leaf beetle on the sheet on this night.

Linda Rogan



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



Light sheet in Mallacoota on
Saturday 6 February 2021
Linda Rogan