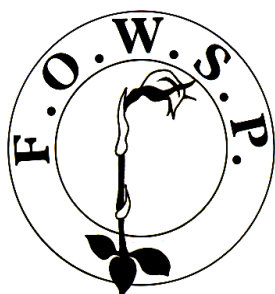


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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 month has slipped by quickly. For Peter and I this included a week in Toowoomba for a family funeral. Thank you to those who asked, 'All went well with plenty of good family time'. Fortunately for us the timing allowed us to make the trip with a request that we be tested on our return which resulted in only 24 hours isolation while awaiting results. At present I count that a success. Also, I was able to spend a little time observing Toowoomba and Nudgee Beach wildlife, some of which appears on these pages.

Thank you to Carolyn for agreeing to let me use her photo (right) as a front page smile. I was amused by her apparent (name) tag which reads 'extra strong'. However she assured me this only describes the tea she was drinking. However, I would like to use this opportunity to thank her for her on-going contributions to FOWSP as she now retires from the committee of management.

Pages 2 & 3 contain a report on the delayed 2020 AGM and also welcome our two newest committee members.

There are two interesting book reviews. Gloria Moore reviews *Dark Emu* on p. 4 and Lisa Jenkins reviews *100 Australian Birds* on p. 6.

The March TAG reports, full of interesting information and photos, spreads over three pages 5,6 & 8 thanks mainly to Don Vincent.

On p. 9 Sybille Ims takes us along on a Victorian silo art trail that reveals some of the fascinating sights found in the Shepparton area.

Perhaps the biggest news around the nursery this week is that our more usual form of morning tea is planned to begin on April 1st.

It has been great having several new volunteers coming along and I particularly appreciate the extra and on-going help in Frogland.

Enjoy this newsletter and please keep posting me your activities around FOWSP and other conservation news, observations and adventures.



Linda Rogan

Deadline for May edition newsletter is

Friday 16 April 2021

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

FOWSP AGM Sunday 14th March 2021

The FOWSP AGM had to be postponed from November 2020 to March 2021 due to the COVID pandemic lockdowns.

Fifteen members were pleased to be able to meet at the Folly near the nursery at 5.30pm and to participate in the proceedings. It was a lovely night and the meeting went smoothly.

Six people were re-nominated for the FOWSP committee of management. We were also really pleased to elect two new members.

This year's committee is as follows.
 Secretary – Artur Muchow
 Treasurer – Lyndy Gilbert
 Newsletter Editor – Linda Rogan
 Committee members – Gray Ardern, Kelvin Watkins, Jeff Cranston, Lynda Chambers & Lyn Moore.



Attendees at the AGM



Cathy Willis acted as Returning Officer. Note the rustic rostrum on the BBQ!

Carolyn Noel retired from the committee at the AGM. She was thanked for her huge contribution to the management of FOWSP as well as her volunteer work at the nursery – installing the Pollinator Garden; providing beautiful signage for the Pollinator Garden, Frogland and the Nursery; and forming a team to prick out plants during the pandemic, at her private home during lockdown.

Procedural changes to the constitution were discussed and a motion put for the changes to be accepted, which was successful. Thanks to Jeff for all his work on this update.

The meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

Highlights from reports which were presented by Gray Ardern 'Year (plus) in Review', Josh Revell 'Nursery' and Lyndy Gilbert 'Treasurer's report'.

- ♦ Gray Ardern noted the worry the committee went through regarding the survival of the nursery due to the COVID lockdowns. Staff hours had to be reduced due to customers and volunteers not being allowed in the Park. Only the committee was given permission by Ranger Warren Murphy to attend the nursery and water the plants to prevent them dying.
- ♦ TAGs were suspended during lockdown, however by then we had worked at Nilja, School Fence, Pauline Toner Reserve, Endeavour Bank, Heads Road, Fiddler Fence, Haslam's Fence, Anderson's Creek (Pond Lily), Fourth Hill, Betton Fence, Chaim Court, Candlebark, Frogland and Walert Creek. The Walert Creek project was finished, and the grant-giver satisfied with our use of their \$43,000 grant.

- ◆ Thanks to Michelle Tumino and Annette Lion for all their hard work during the year. Due to the COVID lockdowns and the lack of customers, volunteers and income from plant sales, staff rostered hours had to be reduced. Josh took leave from April to September 2020. There was not enough work or income to sustain 3 staff.
- ◆ Thanks to all the volunteers who worked from home pricking out plants during the COVID lockdown whilst social distancing and wearing masks.
- ◆ The return to COVID normal has seen the return of volunteers on a roster basis. New volunteers have joined and some of them work in Frogland with Linda.
- ◆ Grants for 50% of cost were obtained from Manningham City Council for two trolleys, for volunteers and staff to complete a CPR course and for the purchase of a new printer. Our thanks to MCC for their support.
- ◆ Thanks to the Rangers for their support, and especially Colin who has been assisting FOWSP for over 20 years. Thanks also to the FOWSP committee for their hard work and support.
- ◆ Gray noted that rangers Cam and Phil wanted to pass on their thanks to the volunteers for their assistance at TAGS and preserving the orchid stock in the WSP.

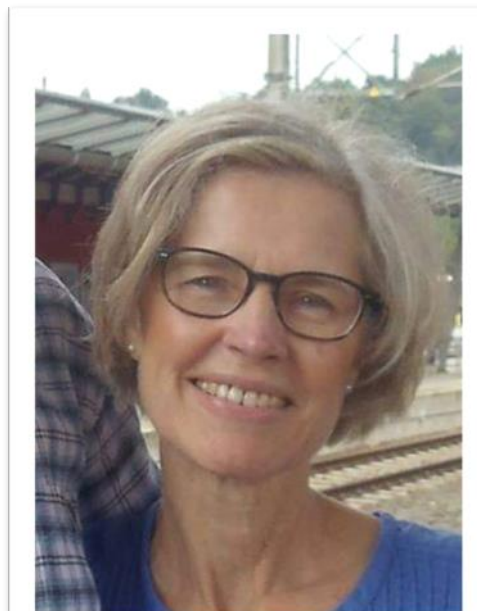


A thoughtful Josh contemplating the proceedings.

Please welcome our two new committee members



Lynda Chambers



Lyn Moore

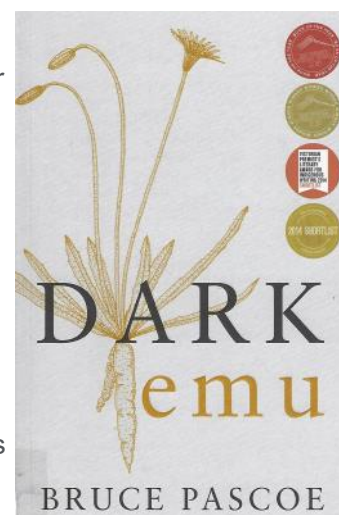
Both are long term members of FOWSP and hard working volunteers at the nursery and around the Park and we are very pleased to have them joining the committee.

BOOKCHAT

Dark Emu – Bruce Pascoe

*"If we look at the evidence presented to us by the explorers and explain to our children that Aboriginal people **did** build houses, **did** build dams, **did** sow, irrigate and till the land, **did** alter the course of rivers, **did** sew their clothes and **did** construct a system of pan-continental government that generated peace and prosperity, then it is likely we will admire and love our land all the more."* – Bruce Pascoe.

Bruce Pascoe needs little introduction. He has published widely in both adult and young adult literature. He has won numerous awards and in 2018 was awarded the Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature. He has worked as a teacher, farmer, fisherman, barman, fencing contractor, lecturer, Aboriginal language researcher, archaeological site worker and editor. Bruce is a Yuin, Bunurong and Tasmanian man, and currently lives on his farm in Gippsland, Victoria.



In "Dark Emu", Pascoe puts forward a compelling argument for a reconsideration of the hunter-gatherer label for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians. The evidence insists that Aboriginal people right across the continent were using domesticated plants, sowing, harvesting, irrigating and storing – behaviours inconsistent with the hunter-gatherer tag.

Professor Marcia Langton AM writes – *"Dark Emu is a profound challenge to conventional thinking about Aboriginal life on this continent. Pascoe details the Aboriginal economy and analyses the historical data showing that our societies were not simple hunter-gather economies but sophisticated, with farming and irrigation practices. This is the most important book on Australia and should be read by every Australian."*

We have two copies of this remarkable book in our FOWSP Library. The reference No. is ED421. (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.

TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.00 am for a 9.15 am departure. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle.

Contact number: 0408 317 327

Difficulty ratings:

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.

Date	Location	Lead	Task	Difficulty rating	Changes
1/04/2021	Longridge Farm / Nilja	GRAY	Agapanthicide, blackberry, woody weeds	Moderate	Changed from Glynn's Road 25/3
8/04/2021	Nursery	DAVID	Maintenance, weeding from tank to house.	Easy	Changed from Walert Creek 25/3
15/04/2021	Josh Block' Buttermans Tk, Kinglake NP	JOSH/CATHY	Acacia howittii and Hakea salicifolia removal	Moderate	EARLY START 8.15 am for 8.30 am departure from nursery
22/04/2021	Heads Road	DAVID	Woody weeds and grassy weeds	Easy	Changed date from 29/4
29/04/2021	Gold Memorial Road	FRITZ	Woody weeds	Moderate	Changed date from 22/4
6/05/2021	Craig Road	DAVID	Weeding, maintenance	Moderate	

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
		Facebook Coordinator		
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	
			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Lynda Chambers	0466 274421		Manningham Council Rep	
	phenologist@gmail.com		Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Lyn Moore	0409 683 041		Webmaster	
	lynm333g@gmail.com		Jason Patton	0402 121838
			jason@parau.com	
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		FOWSP general enquiry number	1300 764 422
	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

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 13 April 2021

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

TAGS active in March 2021

Pauline Toner Eltham Copper Butterfly Reserve On 11 March

Our previous visit to this reserve was September 2019 and was reported in the October 2019 newsletter. That report detailed the Eltham Copper butterfly *Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida* Crosby and its symbiotic relationship with the Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) and the ants of the genus *Notoncus* sp. which tend the butterfly caterpillars. At that time we were too early for the caterpillars and butterflies.



Our new TAGers, Belinda and Clair, with Cam regaling them about the reserve.



Eltham Copper Butterfly 11 March 2021
Photo by Claire Kopietz

On this visit we were highly rewarded!

Cam Beardsell led the TAG and, during our initial briefing, promised (well almost) that the butterflies should be out and about when the cool morning warmed up a little and if the sun came out around our morning tea time.

We duly headed to our task with gusto, removing *Cassinia* (both *C. longifolia* and *C. arcuata*), and various woody weeds including introduced wattles,
(Continued on page 7)

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.

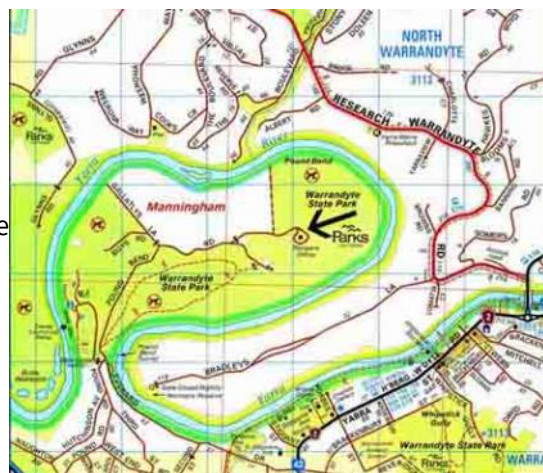
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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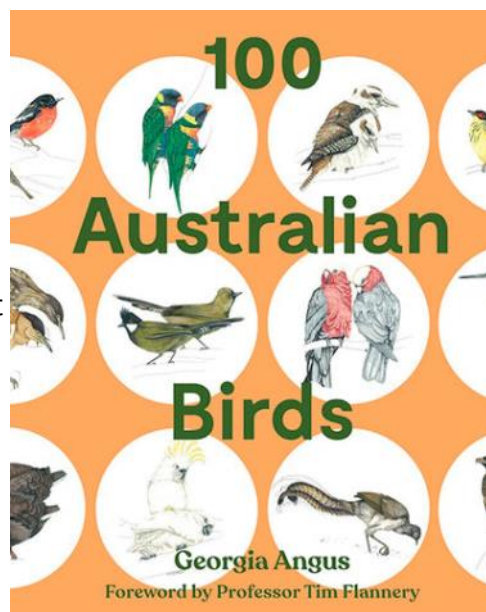
Book Review-Georgia Angus, *100 Australian Birds*.

Foreword by Professor Tim Flannery. Hardie Grant Travel, Melbourne, 2021

Full disclosure-I know the author of this marvellous new book. And this means I know the work that's gone into it, which she does not announce loudly enough. Georgia did all the illustrations, the text and the research for this-it's not a team effort but a one-woman labour of love.

She has created a practical, introductory guide to bird-watching but it is so much more than that. She includes all the important elements of a birdwatching guide-a distribution map, a description of calls, a list of similar species to avoid confusion, a bird group chart, hints for watching and so on. And the illustrations are nuanced and delicate as well as being practically helpful. But she's also added the First People's name for the bird, the pronunciation of the name and the language that the name is from. And each entry begins with an anecdotal paragraph which displays Georgia's finely honed observations-she tells the story of a Pied Currawong (Dawaalam in Gumaynggirr, and djiin djiin in Taungurung) in her garden for instance, keeping daily track of the ripeness of netted figs and taking each fig when it was ripe, concluding that they're 'perceptive birds...excellent at judging risk, and are opportunistic to boot.'

It's the combination of all these elements that make it such a fine work. I think that there are works-books, plays, films, songs-that need to be made anew by every generation, in ways that reflect their values and aesthetics-think of the various film versions of Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. And this is a birdwatching book for the generation who are currently young adults and who are craving the kind of connection and knowledge with the natural world that Georgia has. The lovely thing is that this book will help any reader and user build that knowledge for themselves. It's lovely to look at, meaningful and a great guide.



Lisa Jenkins

March 2021

(Continued from page 5)

broom and emerging *Pittosporum* and English Ivy. The intent was to open up the bushland to provide more sunlight for the emerging butterflies in late November / early December and again in late February / March each year. This action has resulted in a continuing increase in caterpillar numbers at Pauline Toner compared to declines in other nearby reserves. Cam reported that, from a low of only 10 caterpillars in around 2010, and with subsequent concentrated action to thin out the reserve mid storey, caterpillars recovered to 600 in 2019 and 640 in 2020. So great success in enhancing the butterfly habitat at this reserve.

Returning to our sunny morning tea spot in the top corner of the reserve, we were rewarded with Cam excitedly dancing around, as there were at least a dozen male butterflies flitting among the low vegetation and warming in the sunlight. We eagerly chased them for photos and, with a little patience, gained some great shots. Not only that, Barrie was presented with covid-safe goodies prepared by Lyndy to celebrate his upcoming birthday (of unrecorded stature) and he shared them amongst us.

Walert Creek 18 March



David, Jan (welcome back to TAG!), Leigh, Graham, Brian and Kelvin.

Brief report on the recent TAG to Walert Creek. We checked on the grant planting along the creek, refixing stakes and guards, weeding and tallying up the plants that we lost over the past year. Josh has kindly agreed to provide some 60 new seedlings of eucalyptus, acacia and leptospermum to plant in late autumn or winter. The dedicated TAG crew could not resist cleaning up some of the accumulated plastic and polystyrene in the creek, and removing some arum lilies, pittosporum and plum. On the left, see the socially distanced group at morning tea, all glad to be out on TAG again after the long lockdown.

Happy 'somethingith' Birthday to Barrie.



Haslam's Track March 25

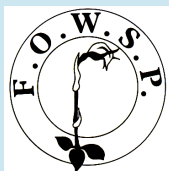
There was a large roll up of enthusiastic TAGers with Ranger Phil Rance, to an area which has been monitored for many years by Parks, with support from FOWSP.

The fenced enclosure on Haslam's Track holds a wealth of flora, including



Velvet Apple Berry
Billiardiera scandens

(Continued on page 8)



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 6 March 2021

**Jan Davies, Jan Falconer, Jeff Cranston,
Christine Andell, Marie Krause, Lyn Moore, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook**

Special thanks to **Kelvin Watkins** 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, 3 April, 1 May and 5 June 2021

(Continued from page 7)

the Velvet Apple Berry (*Billiardiera scandens*) of Rare status, which we found in abundance on this site; and the Dandenong Range Cinnamon Wattle (*Acacia stictophylla* (*leprosa* variant)), also of Rare status. Not forgetting the Valley Crane's-bill (*Geranium beardsellii* – no prizes for guessing who this was named after...) a small ground cover, also evident.



Cathy and Phil thinning excess shrubs

of previous orchid abundance to reduce cover for millipedes that attacked emerging shoots. Fifteen carefully nurtured Showy Violet (*Viola betonicifolia* ssp. *betonicifolia*) from the nursery, which are increasingly rare in the area, were planted to supplement the low numbers in the enclosure. Forays into the area

The enclosure holds a number of orchids including the Golden Moth (*Diuris chryseopsis*), a Hybrid Diuris (*Diuris chryseopsis* x *Diuris pardina*), and various Caladenia and other Diuris. Early emerging Nodding Greenhoods (*Pterostylis nutans*) were found throughout the enclosure.

Our task was to clear widespread *Cassinia longifolia* to provide space for priority species to flourish, remove grassy weeds encroaching from the boundaries, and rake leaves from some areas



Robyn and Judith, with Barrie and Brian in the background, removing excess *Cassinia*.



Jan and Noni, champion weeders, under Cherry Ballart *Exocarpus cupressiformis*

had to be mindful of the variety of flora that was clearly flourishing from the relatively mild summer and recent wet weather.

Thanks to Don Vincent for this report.

Photos by Don Vincent where not otherwise



Lovely moth photographed on this day.
Black and White Tiger Moth IDed as *Spilosoma glatignyi* a group which may now belong to the *Ardices* genus.

The Ims share the allure of the Silo Art Tour

Victoria has so many beautiful attractions, natural and man-made to experience. Brian and I recently found some amazing places in least expected places.

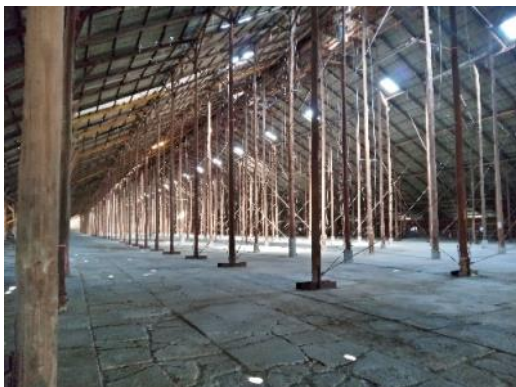
We decided it was time for a break and planned a trip to explore Victoria's Silo Art Tour. While planning our trip to see those in Western Victoria, we discovered that there were some closer to home just north of Benalla. So we headed off to visit them first, Goorambat, Devenish, St James and Tungamah. Every town had commissioned an artist to portray different aspects of country life in their area.

Leaving Shepparton the next morning to head to Horsham, we saw a signpost we could not resist following, "**Australian Botanic Gardens**". What an amazing find. We were greeted by a volunteer Cheryl Clark who told us a little about the gardens and during discussion we mentioned FOWSP. Jillian Grant, the President, arrived and joined our conversations showing great interest in FOWSP. She had come for an interview with the Shepparton News (needless to say we were roped in for a photographic session and Brian appeared in the next day's edition).



Australian Botanic Gardens in Shepparton

The Shepparton Botanic Gardens is set on a 22.6 hectare reclaimed landfill site, on the edge of the Broken River. It showcases Australian natives in themed gardens and bushland and makes great use of repurposing materials such as concrete kerbing, concrete slabs, sewer pipes and railway sleepers to assist in creating garden rooms, retaining walls and platforms amongst garden area. From the lookout on the top of Honeysuckle Rise (the old tip), there is a 360 degree view of the site and across the Goulburn Valley. The Gardens also feature well signposted walks amongst the gardens and also on the River that leads through the native forest among billabongs and wetlands. We focused on the plants, though there is a large variety of bird life too. Jillian had informed us that during the recent bimonthly Birdlife Murray Goulburn Survey 40 bird species were identified and that over 100 bird varieties have been sighted in the gardens and logged on-line. Well worth a visit



Murtoa stick Shed

Shed built over a 4 month period in 1941 as an emergency grain storage. It was constructed using 560 unmilled Mountain Ash poles from the Dandenongs and the Otways supporting the corrugated iron roof. It is 270m long, 60 m wide and 19 m high. When full it held 3,381,600 bushels (123000 m³) of grain. Though it was not the biggest, it is the only remaining emergency grain store built in the Second World War. It is referred to by some as The Cathedral of the Wimmera due to its size and as it draws your eye to the ceiling.

Lake Tyrell at sunrise and sunset, with its sky lounge for viewing the stars at night, was yet another highlight of our trip visiting wonderful Victoria.

The Silo Arts Tour was wonderful, the art works, the subject selections and skills of the artists, and the development of the community through these wonderful works.

Thank you to the communities for creating this lure to visit country towns and experience so many wonderful places. *Sybil Ims*

Another unexpected highlight was the **Murtoa Stick**



Anzac Devenish Silo

Eltham Copper Butterfly
Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida

See story from TAG on p. 5. This photo is from Don Vincent. All the TAGers can be proud to be improving the habitat of this beautiful butterfly.



Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

Allison Ray sent this lovely photo of a silvereve which she took along the Mitta Mitta River.

She also says
'We had lunch next to the river not far from Anglers Rest one day and saw a tree full of Imperial Jezebel butterflies. We were over one side of the narrow the Big River, and could watch them through binoculars, but they were so small and quick that I didn't try to photograph them. The flowering gums were attracting them, and the bright colours could only be seen through the binoculars. This was very exciting!'

Also check out the photo bonus page for her photo of a New Holland Honeyeater near Marlo in East Gippsland.

Thanks to Allison for these photos and this lovely story from her travels.

Linda Rogan

April 2021 Vol. 39 no. 3

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.

So long as we have your email address, a reminder about yearly subs will be arrive along with the link to the FOWSP Newsletter.



Email photo bonus page



New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*
Marlo State Forest Photo Allison Ray



Meadow Argus *Junonia villida*
11 March Photo: Clair Kopietz

Cotton Harlequin Bug *Tectocoris diophthalmus*
This colourful bug, pictured here from near at Nudgee Beach, feeds on hibiscus (Malvaceae). The bottom photos are young instars. Although common further north they may be seen in Victoria. Apparently females are mostly orange and males more blue-red. *Linda Rogan*

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



Kookaburra consultation
At Queen's Park in
Toowoomba, Queensland
March 2021