

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

We began our travels north from Briar Hill on Wednesday 23 June so this comes to you from Queensland, near Charleville as we make our way north. It appears this is a very popular direction to head as I have never seen so many caravans on the road nor parks filling up so quickly.

We were lucky enough to get a site for 2 nights at Bowra Wildlife Sanctuary but only because we were able to be self contained for washing and toiletting as COVID restrictions here mean they were not allowing shared facilities. Also recent rains meant the tracks were all closed beyond the homestead.



One was said to be opened yesterday but when we headed out we

found another vehicle bogged so we pull them out using their snatch strap plus two of ours and a strong rope doubled. Peter is very handy in such circumstances. Needless to say the track was re-closed. So our birding and walking was all around the homestead and lagoon which still had plenty of interest to a Melbourne. I include just a couple of photos from Bowra for FOWSP birdlovers. Photo left is the lone white-headed stilt I saw on the lagoon near camp. Reflections make the legs look even longer.

There was significant rain from Melbourne all the way to Tocumwal and signs of puddles and deep wheel ruts from trucks along roadsides and unpaved tracks all the way to Red Lizard CP where we and about 60-70 other caravans are now.

Fortunately caravan parks aren't restricting access to amenities, at least at present, in Queensland. I am thinking of all FOWSPians back in Victoria and hoping all stays fairly unrestricted there. We, of course, will be watching NSW carefully to see, amongst other things, whether our route home in about 5 weeks time will be clear. Please enjoy this newsletter and keep sending your photos and observations for the September Newsletter.

Linda Rogan



On 17 June, it was back to smiling eyes and social distancing at the nursery as Joy, Kay and Carol show here.

Deadline for September edition newsletter is

Friday 21 August 2021

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

TAG 27 May Chaim Court

The TAG for 27 May was to Chaim Court, part of the Mullum Mullum reserve over the East-link Tunnel. The house on this site was demolished in June 2018.

In October 2018 Ranger Phil told us 'The surrounding bush represents one of the best stands of Valley Heathy Forest which is a regionally endangered Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC). There are numerous locally rare plants in the surrounding bushland including *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa* mealy/silver-leaf stringybark, *Hibbertia empetrifolia* tangled guinea flower, *Perossonia juniperina* prickly geebung, *Daviesia latifolia* hop bitter-pea, *Wahlenbergia luteola* yellowish bluebell which is now extinct in the Warandye State Park (except for the FOWSP nursery!) and the endangered *Platylobium infecundum* famine flat-pea.



Brian and David attack English ivy.



The former house site was planted up some 2 and 3 years ago, and attended occasionally by rangers, but no maintenance from our TAG group. The plantings were partially successful, and we were pleasantly surprised to see so many survivors given the site was covered in rock and gravel.

Don checking out some successful planting. Photo by Judith

Four TAGgers attended on a wet morning, mainly clearing broom, along with ehrharta, sweet vernal, and some escaped English ivy, succulents, pittosporum, and lilies.

Thanks to Don for this report.

Judith attacking broom



Pauline Toner clean up from storm damage



Grant , Phil and Cam inspecting the track area of Pauline Toner Reserve after clearing fallen branches.

With high uncertainty on 17 June, over the continuing COVID restrictions, combined with the recent storm and downing of many trees, the planned TAG to Morrisons was postponed and instead a small group comprising Phil, Cam, Grant and Don attended Pauline Toner reserve. Parks needed to clear trees fallen on the tracks, and Cam also wanted to take the opportunity to further clear cassinia and *Acacia paradoxa*, which were expanding rapidly.



There were many thousands of orchid leaves emerging and some blooms, so every step was taken carefully. Most evident were our emblem the nodding greenhood *Pterostylis nutans*, gnat orchid *Cyrtostylis reniformis* (right) which Cam notes as regionally threatened, Mosquito orchid *Acianthus pusillus*, tall greenhood *Pterostylis longifolia*, trim greenhood *Pterostylis concinna* in flower (left), and some veined helmet orchids *Corybas diemenicus*.

Thanks to Don for this report and the photos.



**Warrandyte's Eucalypts-
From Hills to River
Eucalyptus gonicalyx-Bundy or Long-leaved Box
Lisa Jenkins**

The long-leaved box is a tree of Warrandyte's ridges and higher places, the exposed, drier areas with poor soil. For me it has become the quintessential local gum tree because our block is covered in them.

Most of our boxes are in groups of three. There are some individual trees but everywhere I look I see small stands of three sisters. They appear to be individual trees but may be multiple stems from the same root. The seedlings that I find have obvious lignotubers, those heavy woody swellings that some plants use to protect extra buds and nutrients so that they can reproduce if the first stems are destroyed (by fire, for instance). I see multiple stems coming out of each lignotuber and yet I don't see the lignotubers on mature trees. This growth pattern does suggest, however, that the three sisters are stems coming from one root.

They often produce, or create, branches which are heavily twisted and contorted, as they seek the best light in which to grow.



This *E. gonicalyx* is a remnant tree from Linda's Briar Hill garden. It may look particularly scraggly as the brushtail possums feed on its leaves.
Photo Linda Rogan

(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

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.

1/07/2021	Scotchmans Hill	CAROLYN	Orchid maintenance/planting, Burgan thinning, fencing. Josh/Dick assist.	Easy
8/07/2021	Betton Fence	PHIL	Cassinia thinning, planting and leaf removal	Easy-Moderate
15/07/2021	Endeavour Bank	ARTUR	Grant planting	Easy
22/07/2021	Taroona	PHIL/ JUSTIN	Planting new	Easy
29/07/2021	Nursery/Endeavour Bank	JOSH	National Tree Day prep - lay out guards, stakes and plants	Easy
5/08/2021	Frogland	LINDA/ MARIE	Weeding, maintenance	Easy
12/08/2021	Pound Bend/Boys Road	GRAY/ JOSH?	Polygala/freesias/weeding	Easy-Moderate
19/08/2021	Chaim Court	PHIL	Woody weeds and plant stuff.	Easy-Moderate
26/08/2021	Scotchmans Hill	CAROLYN	Weed removal, angled onion weed, planting	Easy

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2021			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
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			jason@parau.com	
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Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		FOWSP general enquiry number	
	legality@bigpond.com		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, Peter Rogan

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 13 July 2021

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Dear volunteer

Please stay at home if you are showing signs of colds or flu to reduce the risk of spreading infection to others. We value your contribution and your company, but we would prefer you to stay at home and rest until you have completely recovered.

The simplest way to prevent the spread of flu and other infectious disease is to regularly wash your hands, particularly after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective. If you do start coughing or sneezing, do it into your elbow or cover your nose and mouth with a tissue, throw the tissue in a plastic-lined rubbish bin and then wash your hands.

Please also be aware that the symptoms of infection by novel COVID variants are often mild, and are often limited to a cough and fever.

So, if you have a cough and a fever, please get tested for COVID.

FOWSP Committee

Manningham Council encourages FOWSPians to receive ENews

We aim to keep people informed of events and news happening in and around Manningham for all things relevant to the natural environment and sustainability. The ENews plans to carry a lot of interesting & relevant Green Wedge news. To sign up to receive the Manningham environment newsletter (via email) go to <https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/environment-and-sustainability>
Scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'Subscribe to our environmental newsletter' arrow and box will open for you to add your name and email. Click on the 'What's on...' box to sign up for events.

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.

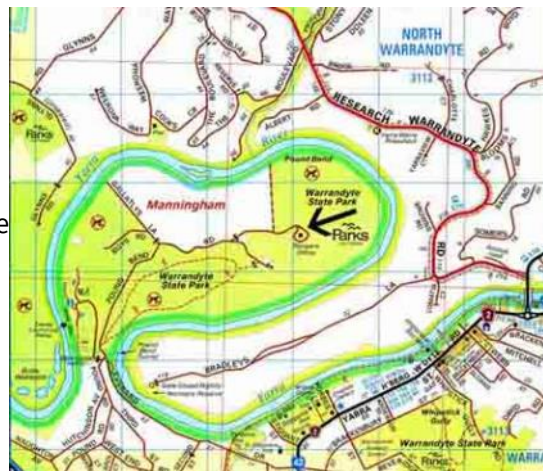
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

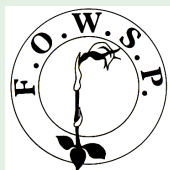
Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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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FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks Leader: Cathy Willis



of

This series of nature walks will explore various sections of the natural areas 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.

The meeting point for each nature walk will be provided at the time of your booking. All walk durations are approximate.

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack.

9.30am Thursday 26 March Jumping Creek and rocky escarpment Leader Glenn Jameson

Follow the river downstream, crossing Jumping Creek and up over the rocky escarpment with spectacular views. The walk then passes by an old orchard and some gold mining heritage features before heading back to Warrandyte township..

Distance: 3.5km Time: 3 hours Rating: Difficult (some sections of steep, narrow, rocky foot tracks)

Please note: This walk will involve a four kilometre shared car shuttle as the walk is one way.

Ratings:

Easy – Flat or undulating well formed tracks/paths with low tripping hazards.

Moderate – May include some moderately steep or narrow sections or have higher tripping hazards.

Difficult – Includes steep and/or narrow sections, slippery sections, or high tripping hazards.

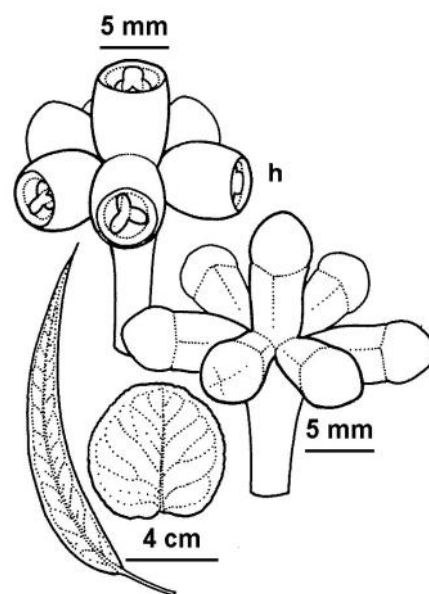
Bookings can be made online and are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date. www.manningham.vic.gov.au/nature-walks

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.

(Continued from page 4)

I have found small branches on the ground that have turned back on themselves, in the endless search for optimal growing conditions. Their bark is like very weathered skin, the deep fissures appearing like heavy wrinkles. The colour is like the winter skin of a pale-skinned person who has spent their life outdoors, rather dull and with no noticeable hue underneath. They have taught me about variability within a *Eucalyptus* species since there is a great difference between the juvenile and adult leaves. The juvenile leaves are close to spherical and stalkless; they are opposite (meaning they sit in pairs opposite one another on a stalk, as opposed to being arranged alternately) so that a stalk of them is thick and rigid with leaves. The adult leaves are lanceolate (meaning shaped like a lance, long, thin and pointed) and long—they are regularly about 20cm long. They have stalks too, so the effect of a stem of them is long floppiness. They are like children who have an extraordinary growth spurt in their teenage years and who are unrecognizable when one meets them in young adulthood. Oddly, the adult leaves become alternate, the pairs of juvenile leaves moving away from each other as they turn into adults, rather like twins who have spent their childhood being dressed in the same outfits and choose to wear distinctly different clothes when they grow up. The colour of both the juvenile and adult leaves is green, a pleasing, fresh slightly olive green. Some leaves that drop take on a beautiful red tone that appears in contrast as a sharp purple when the leaf still has green in it.



The nuts, buds, juvenile leaves (right) and adult leaves (left) of *E. goniocalyx* drawings from VicFlora.

The buds are in groups of 7, small and cuplike but without stalks, so they are like teacups without handles, rather than wine goblets. The buds sit in tight clusters at the base of an adult leaf, hugging the stalk so that the leaf flops out protectively on the outside of them; they look slightly ludicrous since they are so small in comparison with the adult leaves. We are very aware of the flowers—a pale creamy-white that we see generally in late Spring and early Summer. In their paleness, they shimmer slightly in the warming haze. The bees flock to them, and the honey we get from our daughter's hive is a pale gold, reminding me of the flowers. And so many buds produce an enormous number of fruits; we are all acutely aware of them in summer time when they've dropped and we find them under our bare feet. They are small and sharp and cover the ground.

So, through familiarity, this slightly straggly species has become the tree I think of first when I think of *Eucalypts*. As I move down the slopes of Warrandyte, I will be talking about those species which speak to others of you and which, collectively, make up our rich, varied *Eucalypt* community.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on the market trailer in the past.
June was cancelled.



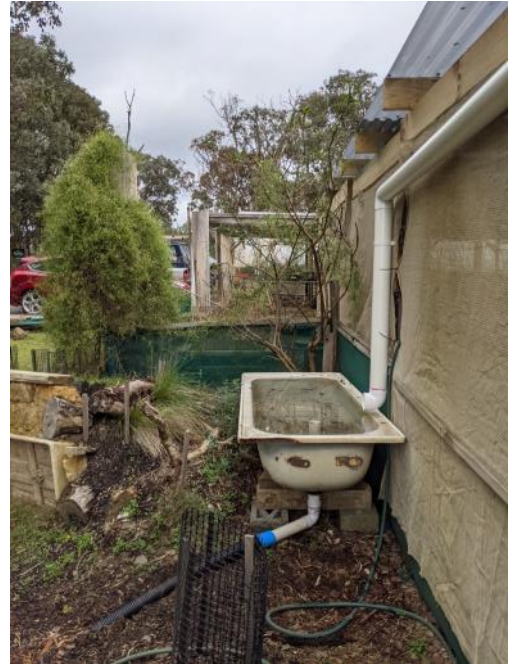
The Warrandyte market is held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm at Stiggants Reserve. Volunteers are rostered in pairs to (man/woman) the FOWSP information trailer for just one hour.

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, 13 July, 7 August and 4 September

Good news for soggy orchids and the pollinator garden

The roof over the orchid pots area is now completed. This has included the guttering and an interesting method to encourage rain water dispersal into the pollinator garden (right and below).



This may also attract more wildlife although at least one FOWSP volunteer said this may not be the sort of wildlife envisioned. Thanks to all who worked hard to get this job completed before the grant expired.

Photos above and below by Linda Rogan and photo left by Kelvin.



Kelvin commented 'The bath works a treat and has already attracted some of the the local wildlife'.

FOWSP member Anne Gedye
Words and photos Lyndy Gilbert



FOWSP volunteer Anne Gedye who has lived in Mitchell Avenue, Warrandyte for 15 years is a passionate advocate for indigenous planting and the environment.

She was shocked and dismayed with the state of the garden when she first moved in to her new home as the area was covered in Oxalis, Wandering Jew and Pittosporums.

Each year, she has battled to remove the weeds and has planted stock from the FOWSP nursery to add to the existing indigenous vegetation. Here is a photo of the front of her block today.

She is delighted with the plants' growth.

Below is a picture of her front garden today. Her hard work has paid off and the weeds have almost been eradicated.

Anne also praised Cathy Willis for her part in contacting all the households in the street to seek permission to remove weeds from their gardens.

Anne is a botanist and has spent many years learning about plants and their habitats. Born in Warrandyte, she spent part of her working life in New South Wales. There are many similarities between Victoria and NSW grasses and trees, so her donation will provide interesting information to those of you who have a passion for these species.



Many thanks to Anne for donating the following books to the FOWSP library:

W D Francis (1981). *Australian Rain-Forest Trees*

The author has spent many years as a botanist in Queensland and NSW and is particularly interested in rain-forest flora of which he has an intimate knowledge.

DJB Wheeler, SWL Jacobs & BE Norton (1982) *Grasses of New South Wales*

Prior to 1981, there was very little written information on grasses. The family Poaceae is one of the largest in the world and the most difficult taxonomically. This book is a scientifically accurate account of the family of the 152 genera and numerous species. This book is also a very useful guide for grasses in Victoria.

NCW Beadle (1972). *Students Flora of North Eastern New South Wales Parts II to V – Gymnosperms and Angiosperms*

This is a very scholastic description of seed plants and there are incredibly detailed drawings for those wanting a deeper appreciation of flora.

JB Williams, GJ Harden & WFJ McDonald (1984). *Trees and shrubs in rainforests of NSW & Southern Queensland*.

The flora investigated is from the Victorian border to Fraser Island. It provides a concise written and pictorial guide. The key is based on the distinctive features of branches and leaflets.

JB Williams (1982). *New England Eucalypts*.

This booklet provides a detailed key to indigenous species to known indigenous eucalypts of the New England region and dieback problems.

G Harden & J Williams (1979). *A Guide to the Common Trees and Shrubs found in Rainforests in Dorrigo National Park, NSW*.

This booklet is an aid to identifying some of the more common trees and shrubs based on their distinctive leaf form.

J B Williams & G J Harden (1979). *A Key to the Common Families of Trees and Shrubs using Vegetative Characters*.

This key uses features of the leaves, branchlets and general growth habit to determine the family of unknown specimens of rainforest trees and shrubs.

J B Williams & G J Harden (1980). *Rainforest Climbing Plants*.

This booklet is a field guide to rainforest climbing plants of NSW using vegetative characters.

Small mosquito orchid *Acianthus pusillus*

This is reliably one of the earlier orchids of the season and being small, is easy to overlook..

The pollinators of this tiny flower are not mosquitoes but other small flies including fungus gnats in the Sciaridae family. It seems likely they actually do most of the pollinating at night according to observations made by Rudie Kuitert.

Photo Linda Rogan



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EMAIL NEWSLETTER? Your notification comes as a note **in the email with the newsletter** link as below:

‘Please note that, according to our records, your Membership is due to expire on . Please click on the link below to re-new your Membership.

http://fowsp.org.au/membership.php?member_id=&membership_renewal=Yes
Of course, if this matter has been attended to recently, please disregard.’

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)

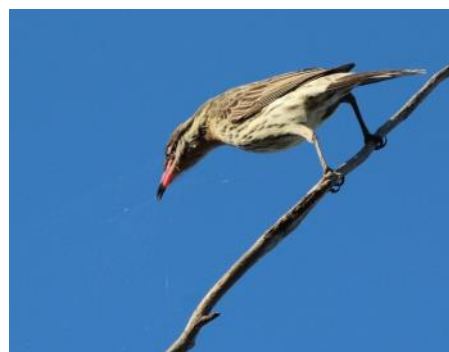
Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or renew on the website www.fowsp.org.au with the option of direct deposit payment.

Email photo bonus page

Emerald greenhood *Pterostylis smaragdina* and *Correa glabra* together with the striated greenhood on the back cover, photographed in a reserve near Greensborough in late autumn by Linda Rogan

**Common birdlife at Bowra Wildlife Sanctuary**

It was a real pleasure to have a brief stay at Bowra although we couldn't get out and about far beyond the lagoon and camp area. The black-fronted dotterel (left) was one of 3-6 always seen and the spiny-cheeked honeyeater was around in numbers. The emu below seems to have found something tasty which has been brought up by recent rain but invisible to me. *Linda Rogan*



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

