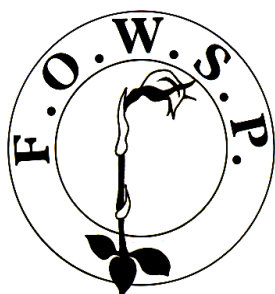


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Somewhat against the odds and thanks to many member's contributions this newsletter should reach you by the end of August. Hopefully this will provide some happy distraction as we near the end of the latest lockdown. It is very much a story of what each of us has been able to squeeze in between and during lock-downs.

The TAG on p. 2 is a case in point and the important Betton fenced area will have benefitted from the attention.

John and Caitriona were very lucky to have been able to squeeze in their Sandstone Dreaming adventure on p. 3. It certainly provided them a marked change from the Melbourne winter weather.



Out a Warrandyte window. See p. 4 for more from Gray



Judith and David attacking woody weeds. Story p.2.

Spring flowers photographed by Lyndy Gilbert brighten this newsletter and all of our lives.

On p. 8 Joan Broadberry shares fascinating information about the magpie-lark, and shows us how it differs from a magpie.

Toward the end, I share some of my favourite photos from a recent visit to Queensland which started very well but ended with a quick transit through NSW, two weeks of Quarantine at home and all computer and word processing limited to my non-dominant right hand.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter.

Linda Rogan

**Deadline for October edition newsletter is
Friday 17 September 2021**

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

Betton fenced area 8 July 2021 Reported by Don and Phil

The TAGgers are building some familiarity with Betton Fence, on Fourth Hill in Warrandyte. Several visits have been made over the last two years to rake leaves, conduct grassy/woody weed control and plant rare and locally threatened plants and then again in late Spring to do woody weed control as well as planting.

This site is excellent for orchids, with a very small population of brown beaks (*Lyperanthus suaveolens*) as well the mantis or green comb spider orchid (*Caladenia tentaculata*), small spider orchid (*Caladenia parva*) and blue caladenia or blue fairies (*Cyanicula caerulea*).

The endangered wine-lipped spider orchid (*Caladenia oenochila*) has occurred here in the past and we're closely monitoring 3 very small, non-flowering leaves in the last known location of this species in hope that we still may have them.

We have also planted important shrubs including *Acacia myrtifolia*, *Olearia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* (both extinct in WSP outside of the new biodiversity fences) and *Acacia stictophylla* (rare and threatened).

On 8 July 2021, capably led by ranger Phil, we again attended the site clearing woody weeds to provide a more open environment for these precious plants. We also planted groups of *Chrysocephalum* sp. and *Xerochrysium* sp.

The enthusiastic group almost completed the clearing task whilst being extremely careful on our feet. We were rewarded with many emerging orchids of which we could only identify a few. A rare sight was a tiny patch of emerging dwarf greenhood (*Pterostylis nana*), a diminutive species with stems at this stage only a few centimetres high (photo below right).



The TAG group, discussing the day's finds.



Unusual fungus apparently
Entoloma viridomarginatum



The diminutive dwarf greenhood emerging.

Sandstone Dreaming

John Young

In July 2021, Caitriona and I managed a much cancelled bird-watching trip from Timber Creek near the WA border (we definitely couldn't get into WA) back to Darwin, NT. A large part of the area consists of sandstone escarpments, which stretch down into the Kimberley. At the base of a lot of these sandstone cliffs are caves and small water-seeps to which the birds will come to drink or rest in the heat of the day, allowing, if you are lucky, the chance to observe and photograph. What isn't so lucky is that these escarpments are mostly several kilometres from the road, necessitating a long walk in 35C heat. In this kind of environment there are a number of specialised bird species not found anywhere else.



Sandstone shrike thrush in its environment

There are also two types of rock pigeon – the White Quilled (found mainly in the Kimberley but to the WA/NT border) and the Chestnut Quilled (found in Kakadu and Arnhem land only). These birds look very similar when at rest but when they fly, the

The most obvious is the Sandstone Shrike Thrush, a larger relative of our own Grey Shrike Thrush (GST), which is usually seen far away on the top of an escarpment when you are at the bottom. A keen eye and a telescope are often necessary to get this bird, although we have seen it close up a couple of times. The image I took of one silhouetted against the skyline is typical.



Sandstone shrike thrush
Photo by Graeme Chapman



White Quilled Rock Pigeon



Chestnut Quilled Rock Pigeon



White-lined honeyeater

underparts of the main wing feathers show why they are so named. Similar to the Shrike Thrush, these birds lurk around on the high escarpments but in the late afternoon will come down to small pools at the base of the cliff to drink.

Finally, there is the White-lined Honeyeater which feeds of the flowering shrubs, growing in the moister areas at the base off the cliffs.

There are, of course, many other bird species in this part of the world. Most notable for southern visitors are the finches, particularly the Gouldian (everybody's favourite) and a raft of honeyeaters. Many are found nearer to Darwin and throughout Far North Queensland and the Gulf country, so can be picked up without going to quite the lengths described here!

Except where indicated, all photos are by John Young

Lockdown in Warrandyte

During a recent phone-call with our Editor, I incautiously said that I had realised how fortunate I am to be in Warrandyte during lockdown.

“Please write a short note about that for the Newsletter” replied Linda!

Here goes: from each of my windows I have a view of some sort - a golden wattle in glorious full bloom from one window; a glimpse of distant Mt Monda from another.

Pound Bend Reserve is but five minutes' walk away, as is the Naughtons' portion of Warrandyte State Park. From Naughtons' one can follow the Yarra down to the Longridge section of the Park, taking a moment to gaze from Naughtons' Cliffs across to Glynns, to admire the successful revegetation of what were once just paddocks.

Ten minutes' walk away are the Dianne Court and Tindalls wildflower reserves, which are rich in early-flowering orchids right now.

Just a little further away is the Fourth Hill section of the Park, with its wealth of Spring flowers.

These sites afford a variety of terrain, vegetation and wildlife - fortunate indeed is the nature lover who is locked down in Warrandyte!



Gray

Spring is also bursting forth in Linda's Briar Hill garden

TAGS (Thursday activity groups) As /if Covid allows

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

2/09/2021	Hochkins Ridge, Wonga Park	PHIL	Woody weed removal	Easy-
9/09/2021	Endeavour Bank & Frogland	LINDA/ MARIE	Thistles, Fumaria, Sticky Weed weeding/ restoration of tree guards	Easy
16/09/2021	Fourth Hill - Craspedia fence	PHIL	Billy Buttons planting and grassy weeds	Moderate
23/09/2021	Petty's Orchard, Murray's Wetland	JOY	Woody weeds??? Park in Homestead Road, Templestowe	Easy / Moderate
30/09/2021	Ridge Block	KYLIE/	Boneseed, Broome etc	Difficult

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
		Facebook Coordinator	Carolyn Noel	0409 901441
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	
	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

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 14 September 2021

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



Another step in returning Pound Bend to parkland

2 July 2021 Lyndy sent two photos to show that the two houses near the park gate were in the process of being removed. She said, 'And then there were none'.



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.

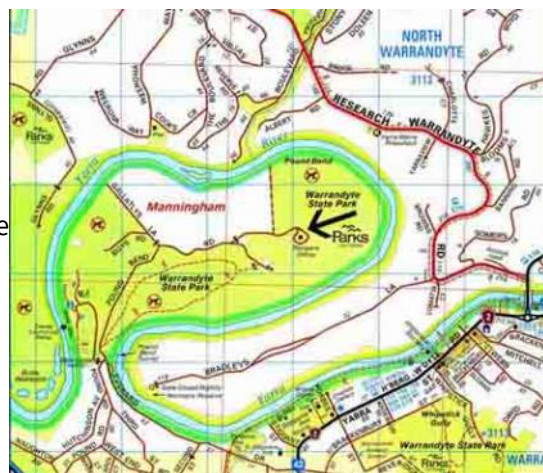
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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



Copyright 2008 Melway Publishing Pty Ltd
Reproduced from Melway Edition 36 with permission

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. Examples include:

Noisy Miners: Bullies in your Backyard

Wednesday 15 September

7.30pm - 9.30pm

Manningham's Backyard Biodiversity

Wild Action Wildlife Videos

Feedback from a satisfied customer

The staff were so helpful and organised. Their passion for the environment, indigenous plants and the provision of these plants to us during this difficult time was exemplary. I am so grateful for a small not for profit nursery in our back yard. Keep up the good work guys. You're amazing!



Check out these webinars from Nillumbik Council

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Events-activities-and-education/When-you-want-webinars>

Examples:

Platypus in the Diamond Creek

Learn about Platypus, how the species is faring in the wild and what needs to be done to ensure that populations survive

Impacts and management of foxes and rabbits in Victoria

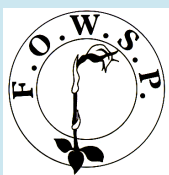
Learn about fox and rabbit ecology, key control techniques and basic principles for effective management.

Native fish in the Diamond Creek

Learn about fish ecology in Diamond Creek and the threats to urban waterways.



Wattles and clematis on Falconer Road Photo Lynda Gilbert

**FOWSP MARKET TRAILER**

Thanks to those who helped out on in the past

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, TBA

I am not a robot, or a Magpie

I am a Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), I am also known as Peewee or Mudlark. Cyanos means dark-blue and Leukos white. Although my plumage is usually described as black and white, there is a bluish sheen to my back in the right light. My other names include: Murray Magpie (used in South Australia), Little Magpie and Peewit - from my shrill call. Indigenous people in the Sydney region also used an onomatopoeic name, calling me birrarik or birrerik. I am primarily a carnivorous species that eats creatures such as worms, insects, fresh-water invertebrates and caterpillars. I often forage around swamps or creeks.

Peeweess are of medium size, adult birds reaching 25 to 30cm in length. Females are a little smaller and have different plumage to males. The sexes are easy to distinguish: the female having a white throat, the male a black throat and a white eyebrow. It is often simplified to, 'the boys have black faces and the girls have white faces.' This is lovely thing to teach children who can then hone their bird-watching skills as you quiz them, boy or girl?

Mudlarks are widespread, occupying almost all of Australia except for Tasmania and the driest inland deserts. They are also found in New Guinea and Timor.

Magpie-lark pairs make their bowl-nest from mud, and although very habitat-adaptable, require the presence of wet ground to breed. The nest is round, about 150mm in diameter with vertical sides. Soft mud, delivered by the beak-load, is plastered together with grass, feathers and fur. The birds pair for life, lay 3-5 eggs in early spring and aggressively defend their territory together.

Peeweess are one of a few species of bird in the world that sing in duet. The male and female sing one note a second, but a half-second apart, so it can seem as if there is only one bird calling, not two. The duet is complex. One bird sings 'peewee' and its partner responds 'wit!' They both raise their wings above their heads as they call. Other birds are more likely to be deterred by a duet call than that of a single rival.

Although reasonably common in Melbourne, I am beginning to be concerned as I am seeing and hearing Magpie-larks less and less. I wanted a photo for this article and walked my local park, Westerfolds, for two days before finding a single bird with no obvious mate. The invasion of Noisy Miners has probably been a factor in their scarcity in Templestowe. I did however, see dozens of Magpies. I will include a photo for comparison as Magpies and Magpie-larks, both appearing black and white, are frequently confused, although Magpies are much bigger. It seems to me that the Magpie-lark is often eclipsed in our minds by the larger, bolder, look-alike Magpie. The two species belong to different genera

Challenge: Identify the Magpie-lark in the photo (below) as male or female.

Joan Broadberry



Magpie-lark (left), with a pair of Magpies for comparison



Spring comes unrestricted to Lyndy's 5 km

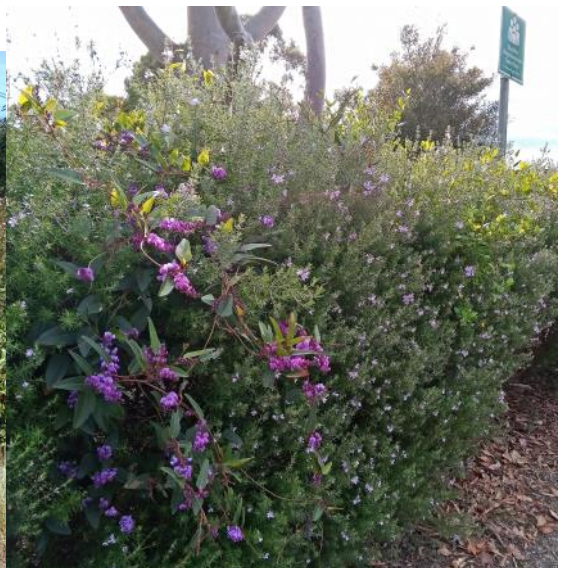
THE DAYS are getting warmer and native flowers are blooming everywhere.

Check out Falconer Road near Knees Road, Park Orchards as well as Paynters Road and Davies Road West, (near Kellybrook Winery), Wonga Park.

There are some great examples of *Clematis microphylla*, *Epacris impressa* (left), Hop goodenia, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Acacia acinacea* & *Acacia genistifolia* in these areas.



The Wonga Park Primary School on Dudley Road planted a variety of shrubs and trees from our FOWSP nursery and they have grown so well (photo below). It must be about 10 years since our volunteers did a planting there.



There is a hedge of Westringia with Hop goodenia and *Hardenbergia violacea* growing through it on Dudley Road outside the entrance to the WPPS- so pretty. See Ken's photo above right

Lynda Gilbert

***Lithurgus atratus* the black woodborer bee**

Peeking carefully into nearly closed flowers of the portia tree near Cooktown, I was thrilled to find many had a native bee inside. Ken Walker of Museums Victoria has identified this as 'most likely *Lithurgus atratus*' the black woodborer bee which is known only in Queensland and frequently found hiding in Malvaceae.

Linda Rogan



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.

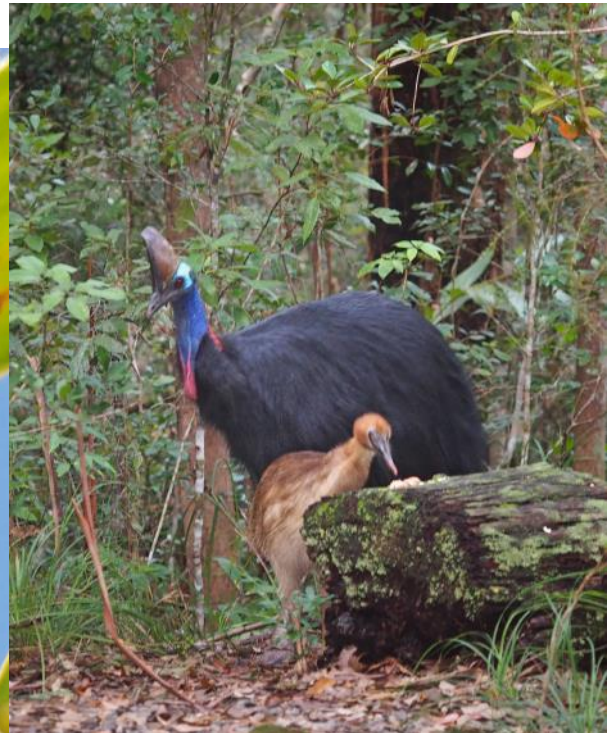
Email

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

Some highlights of our Queensland trip in July prior to my unfortunate trip:
Cassowaries visit us at Wondecla,
Copper jewel butterfly *Hypochrysops apelles* on *Hakea* at Kalkani Crater, Undara Volcanic National Park,
Lace monitor which basks beside us at Home Rule Rainforest Lodge.



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



Lyndy's photo of the wattles at their best at the confluence of the Mullum Mullum and the Yarra River Templestowe