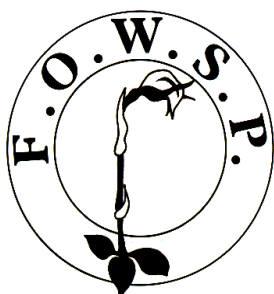


# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



## Newsletter

Website: [www.fowsp.org.au](http://www.fowsp.org.au)

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113  
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

### Editor's Corner

Hello FOWSPians,

I suspect I am not the only one who has been feeling particularly low during this lockdown. What really hit me hardest was when I checked to see what I had to put in the October newsletter and THE CUPBOARD WAS BARE. Fortunately for me and hopefully for you as well, I got a good response from the members I appealed to as you will see. One thing I have been particularly missing is seeing the smiling face of FOWSPians. With the thought that some of you may feel the same, I have included the smiling face that I have easiest access to: mine. Inside on p. 7, I let you know what has brought the smile back to my face.

Kelvin has taken us on a local wildflower walk on p. 2 and also updated us on water supply maintenance carried out and brought back a memory on p. 3. Josh's photos around the nursery are shared on p. 3.



Striated pardalotes along the Yarra. Photo Alison Ray. See also p. 9.



The editor smiling after receiving lots of photos and snippets for this newsletter. See p. 7.

Lynda Chambers takes us on a Spring walk at her place on pp. 4,5 and 7.

On p. 8 Joan Broadberry treats us to her musing about the Australian Coat of Arms inspired by her grandchildren. Click and collect is also displayed in Josh's photos on p. 8. In addition to the pardalote information, p. 9 contains environmental good news courtesy of Lyndy Gilbert.

The last three pages feature wildlife and indigenous plant life thanks to Lyn Moore, Lynda Chambers and Lynda Gilbert. I hope I can be forgiven for closing with a native bee photo. Please enjoy. *Linda Rogan*

**Deadline for November edition newsletter is**

**Friday 15 October 2021**

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan [editor@fowsp.org.au](mailto:editor@fowsp.org.au)  
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

### Nothing can hold back our local spring blooms

Kelvin Watkins

While lockdown 6.3 continues, I have realised that springtime in Warrandyte is still a wonderful time to be out walking. The following photos are just some of the floral displays on offer.



The dainty blue stars lily *Chamaeschilla corymbosa* at Timber Reserve (left).



The magnificent wine-lipped spider orchid, *Caladenia oenochila* near Professors Hill (right).



Also at Professors Hill, *Diuris orientis* (left)...



...and along Blooms Road Pink fingers, *Caladenia carnea* and the Small Spider orchid, *Caladenia parva*.

### Water is essential



While many things have come to a halt during lockdown, maintenance at the nursery was not one of them. Unfortunately, the main water supply line developed a leak (or 2) and had to be repaired (above left). While the water was turned off, we also took the opportunity to replace a leaky controller on the water pump at the Nursery

Many thanks to our local ranger Col and FOWSPians Jason, Josh and Kelvin.  
Photo above by Kelvin

Photos on the right from Josh show us all how great Frogland is looking just now with blooming *Goodia*, *Acacia* and *Xerochrysum* plus water in the top pond.



Below, a memory with an article from Doncaster and Templestowe News, of March 24 1993 supplied by Kelvin.

## Welcome back, frog

VOLUNTEER workers have hailed the return of frogs to parts of the Warrandyte State Park as a personal victory.

One of the elusive creatures was discovered last week in a pond built to act as a filter for harmful nutrients near the park's nursery and ranger's office.

Friends of Warrandyte State Park president Margaret Burke said the find was confirmation that flora rehabilitation works at the site were starting to have an affect.

And she said it was only the start of plans to attract local indigenous birds, butterflies and moths back to an area which had been devastated by rabbits and a sludge-filled swamp caused by natural water run-off.

"We're trying to base our work on environmentally sound issues," she said.

"At our nursery we are dedicated to producing more than 390 local plants to make sure there are no extinctions in this park."

Mrs Burke said the park's nursery was like a university. Volunteers became interested in why frogs were disappearing from the area, and experimented with carpet underlay offcuts to halt the decline.

They then planted rare local species which have attracted four species of frog back to the site.

Soon, they hope to plant an Aboriginal food plant garden that will include the reintroduction of local yam and berry varieties.

ONE of the species of frog that has returned to Warrandyte State Park. Picture: COLIN STUCKEY.



### Around our place

Lynda Chambers

Eastern Yellow Robins (left) are calling and often found 'inspecting' me as I walk the bush tracks through my place.

We enjoy having four Kookaburras regularly visiting the balcony and trees nearby. This fluffy one (below) looks like a youngster and certainly behaved like one when it flew to the window and slid down it. They spend a lot of time investigating a fork in one of the eucalypts, not quite sure what they are finding.



Yellow-faced Honeyeaters have returned in reasonable numbers and I have had a number of near misses when aerial battles stray onto the path I am walking.



(Continued on page 5)

### **Possible 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**

|            |                       |                 |                                                                        |               |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 7/10/2021  | Frogland              | LINDA/<br>MARIE | Ixia removal                                                           | Easy          |
| 14/10/2021 | Pauline Toner Reserve | PHIL            | Cassinia thinning, woody weeds, grassy weeds.                          | Easy-Moderate |
| 21/10/2021 | Morrison's            | PHIL            | Disa and Serrated patrol. With Gary French, Aust Native Orchid Society | Easy-Moderate |
| 28/10/2021 | Pound Bend            | GRAY/<br>ARTUR  | Planting maintenance                                                   | Easy/Moderate |
| 4/11/2021  | School Fence          | PHIL            | Cassinia removal, grassy weeds                                         | Easy          |

#### **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                                                                                                             | <b>Nursery Manager</b>                 | Josh Revell  |
|                      |                       |                                                                                                                       | <b>Nursery Phone</b>                   | 0408 317 327 |
|                      |                       |                                                                                                                       | <b>email nursery@fowsp.org.au</b>      |              |
| Lynda Gilbert        | 9844 0106             | Treasurer and Membership                                                                                              | <b>Park Office</b>                     | 03 8427 2132 |
| Linda Rogan          | 0491 112 692          | Newsletter editor                                                                                                     | <b>Newsletter assist and Librarian</b> |              |
|                      | editor@fowsp.org.au   |                                                                                                                       | Gloria Moore                           | 0402 285005  |
|                      |                       | Facebook Coordinator                                                                                                  | Carolyn Noel                           | 0409 901441  |
| Gray Ardern          | 0418 190261           |                                                                                                                       | <b>Market Trailer Jan Falconer</b>     |              |
|                      |                       |                                                                                                                       | 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096              |              |
|                      |                       |                                                                                                                       | <b>email trailer@fowsp.org.au</b>      |              |
| Lynda Chambers       | 0466 274421           |                                                                                                                       | <b>Manningham Council Rep</b>          |              |
|                      | phenologist@gmail.com |                                                                                                                       | Cathy Willis                           | 0427 660 651 |
| Lyn Moore            | 0409 683 041          | Wildlife rescue Victoria                                                                                              | <b>Webmaster</b>                       |              |
|                      | lynm333g@gmail.com    | <a href="https://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/contact-us">https://<br/>www.wildlifevictoria.org.<br/>au/contact-us</a> | 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, Lyn Moore

**Next Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday 12 October 2021

**Venue:** Education Centre, Pound Bend

**Time:** 19:30 pm sharp



(Continued from page 4)

Not sure what species of moth (above) but looks like a Notodontidae. I found it in grass near the house in July this year.

The wallabies (above and right) have been enjoying the weedy grasses near our septic outflow. Recently, a young joey has been practising its hopping under mum's supervision (right).



## 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.

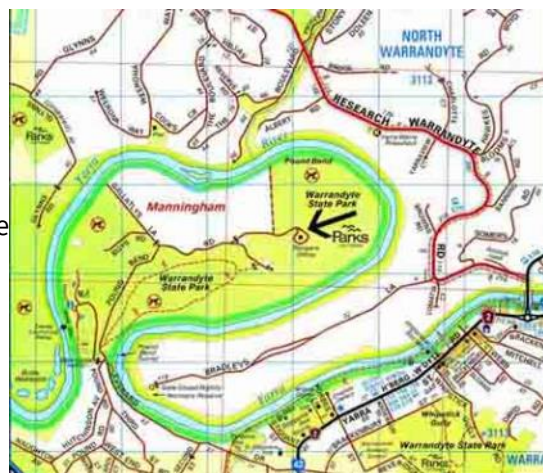
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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### **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:

Aussie Backyard Bird Count 2021 Monday 18 October 2021 (All day) to Sunday 24 October 2021 (All day)  
Great Southern BioBlitz 2021 Friday 22 October 2021 (All day) to Monday 25 October 2021 (All day)

### **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.



### **Feedback from a satisfied customer**

2 Sept. What a lovely crew. Thanks so much for keeping FOWSP running during lockdown. Planting the tubes I get from you bring joy to my weeks. Customer

(Continued from page 5)



During lockdown, plant propagation needs continue. Fortunately, I have been able to carry out some dividing and pricking out of plants which will be returned to the nursery when lockdown restrictions allow.

It is very pleasant working in my greenhouse on a sunny day (above left) surrounded by the sounds of birds - though it is not so pleasant when the cockatoos visit, which they tend to do way too often! This week saw me dividing maidenhair fern and pricking out a variety of species, including Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* (above right). Both species grow in the Warrandyte area, and I am lucky enough to have both occurring naturally on my property. *Themeda triandra* was once a dominant grass over much of eastern Australia, however heavy grazing and competition from other grasses have changed this.

*Lynda Chambers*

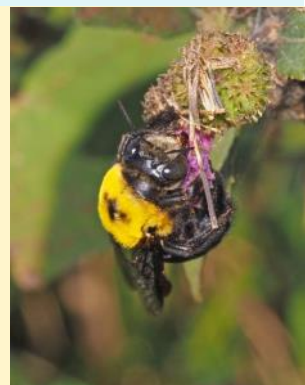


Regarding the front page photo:

The sharp-eyed ones amongst you will notice two things:

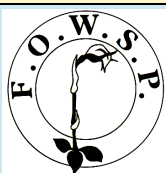
1. I am able to handle puzzle pieces with both hands now and
2. the puzzle features a bee, although probably a bumble bee (not wanted in mainland Australia)

I find when I squint just right I can imagine they are one of the native carpenter bees from Queensland (photo right).



I hope the smile and the newsletter will also convey a 'thank you' to all who have wished me well on my recovery from a fractured humerus and shoulder replacement. And to all those who contributed to this newsletter.

*Linda Rogan*



## FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on in the past



The Warrandyte market is normally 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](mailto:trailer@fowsp.org.au)**  
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

**Next market dates are:** *Saturdays, 2 October or 6 November hopefully*

### Australia's Coat of Arms is not gender neutral.

It was great to be enlightened by my grandchildren, Ophelia aged 11 and Sebastian aged 8, as to some of the features of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The kids became interested after watching the ABC program *The House*, with Anabelle Crabb. I believe it was not part of their school program, they just liked it!

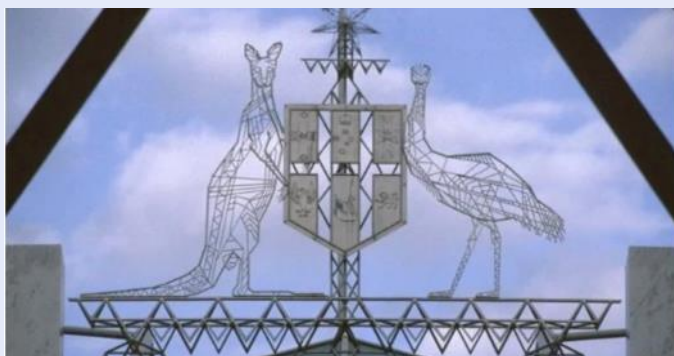
The Commonwealth Coat of Arms contains a shield with the symbols of the six Australian states enclosed in a border. This represents federation in 1901. The shield is supported by a Red Kangaroo and an Emu. The two animals chosen are endemic to Australia and are large enough to hold up the shield. Things would obviously be a bit wobbly if it was being held by say, a Platypus and a Bilby. Apparently neither the Red Kangaroo nor the Emu can hop or in the case of the Emu, walk backwards. This last characteristic references the Australian nation always progressing forward. Such hidden symbolism. Who would have guessed? Finally, the bit Anabelle really enjoyed passing on, regulations state that the kangaroo must be demonstrably male. It was of course also the thing that caught the children's attention. Little Sebastian grabbed the phone from his mother and could hardly wait to tell me. He is a very enthusiastic child.

I have illustrated this little story with a photo of an Eastern Grey I took recently on one of my many walks in Westerfolds Park Templestowe. You will immediately see why I chose this image.

I love watching the large mob of kangaroos that make Westerfolds their home. Although they often split into smaller groups, I estimate there are more than eighty altogether. Occasionally as I free range the park, (I seldom walk on the paths but go cross-country), I have come face to face with a big male. I usually pick up a stick and back off quietly. Not that I would ever want to hit or get into a fight with a kangaroo, but somehow I feel safer when I am holding a weapon. I think of it as a primeval memory.

Thought: *Perhaps to even things up, regulations could state that the emu must be demonstrably female?*

**Joan Broadberry, Oma, inspired by Ophelia and Sebastian**



The Australian Coat of Arms that sits above Parliament House Canberra (left) and potential model (right).

### As of 19 September even more FOWSPians will be able to enjoy Click and Collect



### Striated pardalotes

We went walking down along the Yarra at Warrandyte and came across a tree with very sappy hollows. It was visited by eastern rosellas and lorikeets while we were there, but the most beautiful visitors were the striated pardalotes - so delicate and tiny. They were singing while we watched. Spring is here. (Photo p. 1)

*Alison*

Birdlife Australia says:

'The Striated Pardalote is more common than people usually think, with its call the first indication of the presence of this brightly coloured little bird. There is considerable variation in plumage characteristics across the range of this species. All birds have white eyebrows with a yellow spot in front of the eye, olive-grey backs and a white stripe in the wing. In different parts of the country, the wing stripe may be narrow or wide, the coloured spot at the front end of this stripe may be red or yellow, and the black crown may have or lack fine white stripes. Both male and female are similar in plumage. Young birds also resemble the adults, but are notably paler, particularly on the crown and face.'

## Good news for the environment

Platypus News & Views Newsletter of the Australian Platypus Conservancy (Issue 85 – August 2021) CHEAPER, FASTER – A NEW METHOD TO DETECT PLATYPUS DNA ON THE HORIZON Detecting trace amounts of platypus DNA carried in water (aka eDNA) can be a very useful tool for mapping where platypus occur, particularly in places that aren't often or easily visited by human observers.

See <https://platypus.asn.au/apc-newsletter/>

### Queensland bans single use plastic straws

updated 10 Sep 2021

Ref: [Last Straw campaigner proudly 'redundant' after Queensland bans single-use plastics - ABC News](#)

"In 2019, more than 550,000 plastic straws were occupying a bedroom in the home of Cairns marine biologist Nicole Nash.

#### Key points:

- Marine biologist Nicole Nash lobbied 377 businesses to remove plastic straws
  - Her five-year campaign led to 22.5 million straws being removed from circulation.
- Businesses from Bundaberg to the Torres Strait removed straws before they were required to. She had collected them from businesses that had phased out straws under her five-year source-reduction campaign to keep harmful plastics out of the Great Barrier Reef. Since the project's inception in 2016, Ms Nash has removed 22 million straws from circulation across Queensland by enlisting 377 businesses — from Bundaberg to the Torres Strait — to go plastic-straw free. With the Queensland government's [ban on single-use plastics coming into effect last week](#), the creator of the Last Straw on the Great Barrier Reef campaign says she is glad to have been made "redundant". And what did Ms Nash do with the 550,000 straws? **They were made into a chair on the Cairns Esplanade to demonstrate the effectiveness of a circular economy.**

### Start-up invents way to upcycle expanded polystyrene into food-safe bowls

Ref: [Start-up invents way to upcycle expanded polystyrene into food-safe bowls - ABC News](#)

Posted Fri 30 Jul 2021

'According to the most recent [Australian Plastics Recycling Survey](#), almost 58,000 tonnes of EPS was consumed in Australia in 2018–19.

Roughly 45 per cent of this was used in the built environment sector, 21 per cent for electrical and electronic purposes, and 20 per cent in packaging'. Planet Ark notes that 'nearly 90 per cent of all the EPS consumed in Australia ends up in landfill, where, due to its low weight-size ratio, it takes up substantial space and stays in its form for hundreds of years.'

'Entrepreneur Brad Scott believes he may be among the first in the world to recycle EPS for food-safe products.

"There might be someone out there doing what I'm doing, but I can't find them at the moment on the internet," he said.

'People are making it into coat hangers, picture frames, insulation, all that sort of stuff, but no-one's made it into something you can eat out of.' He uses custom-built machines initially designed to recycle plastic bread tags into food-safe bowls. EPS is commonly used in packaging and industry, but is difficult to recycle domestically.'



**Eastern blue-tongue lizard**  
*Tiliqua scincoides*

I found this one blue-tongue in our garden. I was weeding an area to make room for the new plants I'd collected from the nursery a couple of weeks ago. I don't know who was most surprised to see each other – him or me. We both froze!! And as soon as I moved, he scuttled away under the deck. When I came outside again with my phone, he was back enjoying the sun.

*Lyn Moore*



**Kangaroo apple** *Solanum laciniatum*

The Kangaroo apples in our front yard (self-sprouting) are in full bloom and provide a lovely contrast to the Hop Goodenias and acacias.

The Kangaroo apple, *solanum laciniatum*, is well known to indigenous Australians and valued for its medicinal properties. It is a natural anti-inflammatory and antioxidant. It has also been used as a contraceptive, with women using a potion derived from the boiled unripe fruit to prevent pregnancy. In fact, some parts of the world now farm it for use in the manufacture of oral contraceptives, using extracts from the young leaves and green fruit. Beware, unripened fruit are bitter and toxic.

*Lynda Chambers*



**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](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](http://www.fowsp.org.au) with the option of direct deposit payment.

## Email photo bonus page



Lyndy Gilbert's photos clockwise from the upper left: FOWSP nursery stock plants in bloom, *Kennedia prostrata* on stony ground under power lines Currawong Bush Park, waxlip orchid *Glossodia major* on Fourth Hill and last, but not least, the sticky everlasting *Xerochrysum viscosum*.

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



Native bee *Leioproctus* sp. on *Pultenaea daphnoides* in Linda's garden. One-handed phone photo 14 September 2021.