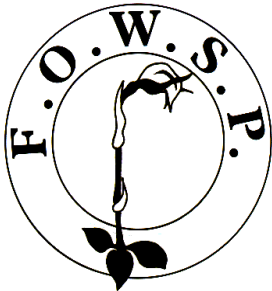


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

By the time this is received, more restrictions will have been lifted in Melbourne. Although this will be welcomed, things are a bit confusing and most of us will take a bit of time to re-adjust. If you can, take time to appreciate the lovely offerings sent to me for this newsletter.

Thanks to Josh for the 'playing possum story' here and on p. 3;
And to Jennifer Vincent for sending the celebration of Scotchmans Hill on pp. 2,3 and 11;
To Carol Page for accompanying me on a wander at Tindals Reserve p. 5;
To Gray and Josh together for the story about who is making a home during this quieter time at the nursery;
To Lyndy for happy news about a successful grant from Bendigo Bank on p. 9.

As things do readjust, please wait for notification of how we will be opening up for volunteers at the nursery.

Linda Rogan



Look closely at this amazing photo and you will see who is 'playing possum'. Photo Josh Revell Story p. 4.

The FOWSP AGM will be held on Sunday 14th November 2021 at 5pm.

Due to Victorian Government restrictions on numbers and uncertainty around the location, could you please let Lyndy know if you are coming.

Further information will be sent closer to the date to those who wish to attend.

RSVP by 7th November to info@fowsp.org.au.

Many thanks.

**Deadline for November edition newsletter is
Friday 19 November 2021**

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

Scotchmans Hill Reserve



What a difference 24 years make. Over this time numerous and indefatigable people have scoured the landscape of this "gem of remnant bush" (see Joan MacMahon. FOWSP Newsletter

July 1997 left), removing Broom, Boneseed, Bridal Creeper, Agapanthus, Blue Periwinkle, Blackberry and lots more. Some still persist and there are still many other weedy grasses and invasive plants that still need to be tackled.

As the weed coverage has been reduced over time, we have been thrilled to see many of the native plants populating larger areas of Scotchman's Hill: grasses, small trees, shrubs, groundcovers and climbers (with a bit of planting help from the Hill's friends).



Glossodia major
Wax-lip orchid

July 1997

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. P O Box 220 Warrandyte 3113

Things are Looking Up on Scotchman's Hill

By Joan MacMahon

Another good news story for our front page. You may remember last month Mike provided us with the background to the incorporation of Mt. Lofty into Warrandyte State Park. Scotchman's Hill was included in the same bill, so it too is now safeguarded.

This is a wonderful result for the small group of committed local residents who worked so hard to stop the hill being subdivided for housing lots. Thanks also to local member Phil Honeywood.

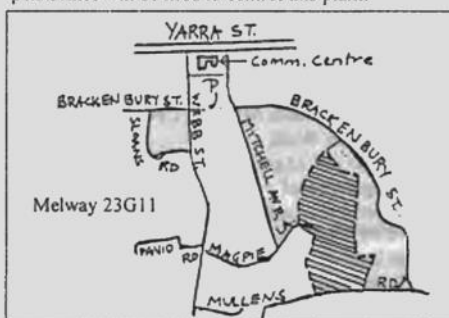
Instead of the canopy of Red Box disappearing forever we can now work towards adding even more trees and increasing the habitat value of this tiny (2.1 hectares) gem of remnant bush.

Hidden as it is from public view, seldom visited by other than local residents, neglected by its former management authority - the Dept. of Crown Lands - it would be no surprise if some neighbours viewed it as 'theirs.' Ant Owen had an interesting letter on this aspect of the changes happening on the hill in our April newsletter. He finished with these words "I think it would be worth Parks Victoria and FOWSP focusing on the neighbours' concerns and doing all we can to alleviate problems caused by the changes, creating genuine support for rehabilitation of Scotchman's Hill."

It is only a few months since weed removal work began and already great progress has been made. Lots of substantial pine trees have been removed. These darkened the hill and impeded the growth of nearby indigenous plants. They also obscured the views which are now some of the best in Warrandyte.

So far only a few of the other woody weeds have been removed (by the 'cut and paint' technique). Hopefully next year's budget will allow the rest to be done. These woody plants include Cotoneaster,

Prunus, Cootamundra, Sallow and Flinders Ranges Wattle, Irish Strawberry Tree, Boneseed, Hawthorn, Montpellier (Cape) Broom, Privet, Sweet Pittosporum, Nepal Firethorn, Sweet Briar, and a Photinia-type shrub. While the list looks formidable it's actually a relatively easy matter (given sufficient \$\$\$) to remove them. It is not such an easy matter to control the myriad Broom seedlings which have been allowed to flourish over many years. Much persistence will be needed to control this plant!



Other activities have included a fuel reduction burn. This was mainly a safety precaution to minimise problems in future fire seasons. The fire didn't burn as hot as was hoped so was only marginally useful in reducing the Broom infestation.

It's pleasing to report that one section of the hill contains some good quality bush in which Cathy and Pat recently found some of Warrandyte's most vulnerable plants. It's this area we shall concentrate on when the Friends have their first Thursday activity on the hill - scheduled for August the 28th. Do join us as we explore this newly saved patch of bush and continue the work of enhancing its biodiversity.

Over the last couple of years, we have collected some pictures of the treasures that have emerged, particularly the spring flowers. Please enjoy.

P.S. The Hill says, 'Thankyou'.

(Photos by Jennifer Vincent and Kim Reynolds with more on p. 3 and the photo bonus pages).

By the SHAG (Scotchman's Hill Action Group - meets Wednesday mornings on the Hill - See you there?)

Scotchmans Hill 2020 photos by Jennifer Vincent and Kim Reynolds also p. 11.



Clockwise: *Brunonia australis* Blue pincushion; *Acacia aculeatissima* Snake or thin-leaf wattle; *Pterostylis nutans* Nodding greenhood; *Drosera peltata* subsp. *peltata* Pale sundew; *Diuris pardina* Leopard orchid; *Indigofera australis* Austral indigo



Playing Possum

Adjusting to daylight saving can be difficult for some but spare a thought for this young ringtail . Running a bit late back to its drey in a Black Sheoak , it was spotted by a small flock of Sulphur Crested Cockatoos which didn't take kindly to it scampering through the trees.

With that piercing Cocky screech , they took turns swooping the possum as it tried for home . This went on for around ten minutes, then suddenly, still out in the open, the Ringtail 'played possum' dangling motionless by the tail from a small branch, while a pair of Cockatoos continued the barrage of threats and screeching (see p. 1). Now that the possum is not moving but still considered some threat one of the Cockatoos began chewing the limb in what appeared to be an attempt to remove the furry offender branch and all. The Ringtail suddenly "came to life" and scurried the last few metres to its drey and the Cockatoos flew back to the tops of the trees.

Thanks to Josh for this extraordinary photo and story. I just love those little pink paws—Ed.



Possible TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

Resuming soon

It is planned the TAGS will resume on 11 November but the schedule is yet to be finalised. Please contact Gray on 0418 190 261 before turning up.

**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: 0418 190261**

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	
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	phenologist@gmail.com		Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Lyn Moore	0409 683 041	Wildlife rescue Victoria	Webmaster	
	lynm333g@gmail.com	https:// www.wildlifevictoria.org. au/contact-us	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 9 November 2021

Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend

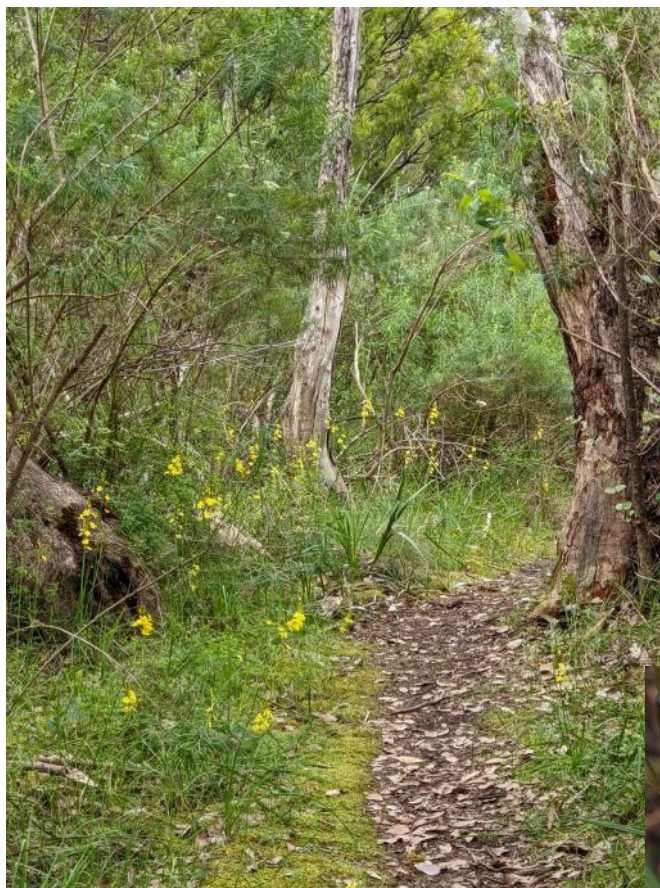
Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Tindals Reserve: Wonderland of Bulbine lilies in October 2021

Carol and I had a wander through the reserve in late October and I was blown away by the wonderful display of *Bulbine bulbosa*, the bulbine lily.

Carol stands with one of the taller examples; others were even taller but not easily accessible. Honey bees found them all attractive.

Linda R



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.

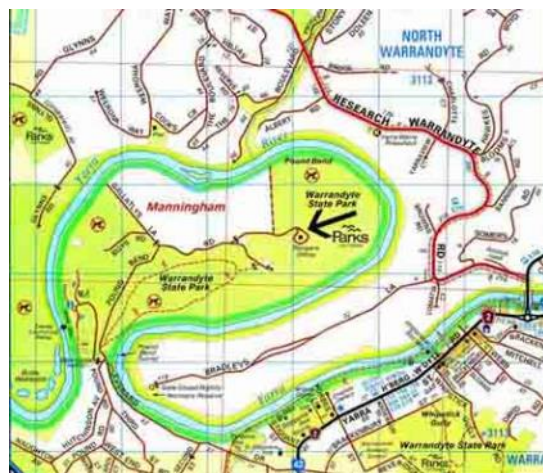
NURSERY OPENING HOURS

To be announced and may be 'click and collect'
in the meantime.

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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Attention Volunteers

Please take note:

AS restrictions ease in the Melbourne area it will take some time to prepare for a return of our volunteers. Therefore the FOWSP nursery will not open up immediately for volunteers in the same way it has in the past.

Members and volunteers will be advised how and when can begin to return via emails or phone. A roster system will apply.

Check out webinars from Nillumbik Council

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



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 a box will open for you to add your name and email. Click on the 'What's on...' box to sign up for events.



Birds making homes in the nursery

Recently there has been a reward for the volunteer doing the washing up at the end of the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A pair of brown thornbills nested in the big correa bush outside the window above the sink. See Josh's photo of the nest (left).

First, of course, there were the many trips with plant-fibre and then small downy feathers to line the nest. Later there was a period with occasional darting flights in and out of the nest, then a long pause with no apparent activity. Perhaps the chicks fledged and flew, between washings-up.

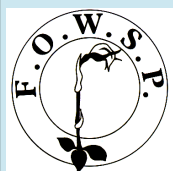
The relative quiet during lockdown has evidently made the Nursery a more attractive place for birds. Josh's photos (right) also show a striated pardalote attending its nest in the end of a log near the pot-storage area, and an eastern spinebill feeding on *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* flowers (bottom right).

Other birds, including another striated pardalote have been cruising the Nursery, apparently looking for nesting sites. Gray reports having seen a yellow-faced honeyeater piping loudly as it fluttered around a potential nesting-site, trying (unsuccessfully) to interest its mate in the real estate.

An echidna (below) found its way to the spot where we store the wombat-shaped signs - no I'm not trying to suggest any connection between the shape of the signs and

the echidna's presence. That echidna is the remaining subject of Josh's snaps. Yes, I do know echidnas are not birds - even I know that!

Gray



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out in the past. FOWSP committee has decided to delay rostering our trailer at the market until April 2022.



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
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are: Saturdays, 2 April 2022, 7 May 2022

Feedback from customers in September/October

FOWSP is a brilliant place to get your local native plants. Michelle and Josh are brimming with knowledge and help you choose the perfect plants for your garden or bush block. It's in a beautiful setting in the Warrandyte State Park and has inspiring show gardens so that you can see what your chosen plants might look like. And it's a fabulous group to support since they do a lot of the work to keep the Warrandyte State Parks looking so beautiful by propagating for planting and doing maintenance. And on top of all of that they are keeping local plant biodiversity healthy through their propagation work. I can't recommend them highly enough! Lisa, Donvale.

Lovely to chat to you about different plants

Vale Elizabeth Sevier

I write sadly to inform you that my mother Elizabeth Sevier, long time member of the Friends of the Warrandyte State Park, passed away peacefully last Friday at the age of 90. She maintained her love and support of native vegetation, flora and fauna to the end.

We would be grateful if you could pass the video link to her funeral which was held on Wednesday 6 October at 11am, to other members, as interested <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHG6tnDObEM>.

Elizabeth made very frequent contributions to the Friends of the Warrandyte State Park newsletter, which we easily discovered through the searchable database - thank you! <http://fowsp.org.au/publications.php> "Sevier"

As a lover of trees and native forests myself I was delighted to read in her biography in a 1994 newsletter that her favourite shape was the "Shape of a mature Red-box eucalypt" http://fowsp.org.au/docs/News_1994/12_Oct.pdf#search=%22sevier%22



Elizabeth's Favourites	
Colour	"Blue teal."
Shape	"Shape of a mature Red-box eucalypt."
Smell	"Tree violet - Hymenanchera dentata"
Taste	"Meaty stew."
Sound	"the sound of a beautiful eastern gong reverberating with lots of overtones and undertones."

In earlier years my mother took me to the areas she was regenerating - I'm sure the trees are a lot taller now.

Thank you for your wonderful group.
Yours in the spirit of forests and wildlife,
Madeleine Love (nee Sevier)



Successful grant application for new trestles from the Community Bank Warrandyte

The FOWSP nursery initially purchased new trestles in 1982 (pictured below). These trestles are used to support the metal plant tables. Due to years of use and constant watering, the trestles are becoming corroded. The weight that the trestles have to support is enormous - up to 2000 plants are stored on each table in boxes of 50 plants. Each box weighs about 10 kilos when watered.

Some of the trestles are now needing urgent replacement. There are a total of 24 tables and we require at least 20 trestles to replace those that have badly deteriorated.

I am delighted to report that the Community Bank Warrandyte has offered us a grant of \$5,333 to cover the cost of 20 new trestles. Without the Bank's assistance we would be struggling to purchase these new trestles as we are a not-for-profit organisation with only a limited bank balance for new items. We are truly grateful to the Bank for this grant.

You may not be aware that the **Community Bank Warrandyte** is owned by a community company (Warrandyte Community Financial Services Limited), backed by 340 shareholders and run by a board of volunteer directors. Their purpose is to provide customer-focused banking services and to generate funds which can be used to support community projects. Up to 80% of the Warrandyte Community Financial Services Limited profit is returned to the community through grants and sponsorships. Last year, Community Bank Warrandyte provided grants to 45 organisations in Warrandyte, Wonga Park and Park Orchards. To date, the Bank has given our community \$3,850,000 in sponsorships and grants.

Please visit the friendly staff of Community Bank Warrandyte at 144 Yarra St and open up an account if you don't already have one. You will be helping the FOWSP nursery as well as contributing to other worthwhile projects throughout the community.



Rusted trestle one of several past their 'use by' date.



Australian Fruit Fly
Austrotephritis poenia

This is a commonly seen native fruit fly in all but tropical Australia. It is sometimes called 'false fruit fly' and it is certainly not one of the two fruit flies listed as a major pest in Australia.

Seen here on *Coronidium scorpiodes* at Tindals Reserve.



Thynnid flower wasps

The male is winged and the female wingless in this group of wasps. The female climbs up on vegetation and waits to be picked up by a male. These two were seen together on the same plant but as no mating occurred I can't say whether or not they are the same species.

Linda Rogan

Are your subs due??

Please check the message on the email you receive with the newsletter link . If they are due soon a message such as below will be included:

'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.'

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

More lovely native plants
from Scotchmans Hill

Top: *Burchardia umbellata* Milkmaid; *Kennedia prostrata* Running postman; *Hibbertia obtusifolia* Grey guinea-flower.

Second: *Dianella tasmanica* Tasman flax-lily; *Pultenaea pedunculata* Matted bush-pea; *Lepidosperma elatius* Tall sword-sedge.

Third: *Pultenaea gunnii* Golden bush-pea; *Goodenia ovata* Hop goodenia.

Bottom: *Themeda triandra* Kangaroo grass; *Pimelea linifolia* Slender rice-flower.

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



Calochilus robertsonii
Purplish beard-orchid

One of the bush gems found on Scotchmans Hill.
It is significant in the Melbourne area.