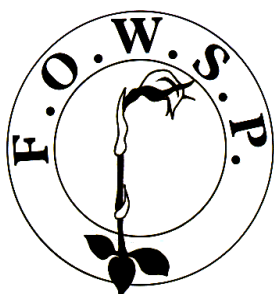


November 2025**Volume 43 Number 9**

Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.auFriends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

Editor's Corner

Hi

Coming up to the end of 2025. Another year nearly past, so there are end of year events to look forward to. Please come to the AGM in a couple of weeks to lend your support. The break up lunch will be mid December. FOWSP will provide the meat and we'll provide the rest.

This month Lyn has provided an article on interesting plants in her garden. I'd love members to highlight their own gardens for others to share. A couple of photos and a few words are all that are needed.

Lyn, who is our librarian, has provided a couple of reviews of recent additions to the library. Our library is a great resource and very underutilised. The book list is on the website so come along on a Thursday if you want to borrow a book or other reference.

John Young

From Richard Thomson. While picnicking with his family, a kookaburra grabbed a piece of muesli bar. It seems to be having trouble getting it down!

Notice of AGM

The FOWSP AGM will be held at 5pm on **Sunday, 16th November, 2025**. The meeting will be held in the Nursery Folly and, as usual, bring your own food and drinks. The draft minutes from the 2024 AGM can be found on the FOWSP website.

2025 Christmas Party

The end of year lunch will be held on **December 11th** in the Folly. Meat and vegetarian options will be provided. There will be a roster for salads and dessert.

**Deadline for December's newsletter is
Friday November 21st, 2025**

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

Around The Traps

Birthday Thursday



A vine moth (possibly *Phaelanoides glyciniae*) found deceased on some of our potting mix. This is considered an agricultural pest because of its enthusiasm for grapevines. No such problem for us though.



A bumper crop of birthdays in October. Kelvin, Gray, Cam and Kay pose for the camera. Gray, who had a milestone birthday, gets the honour of cutting the cake.



Above: from Louise. A grumpy Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*) trapped inside one of her windows.

New bench supports



Above and top right: Many thanks to both Manningham Council and to Bendigo Bank for providing grants to purchase some new supports for the nursery benches. This has been a project for a couple of years now and you can see action needed to be taken. Thanks again for the support.

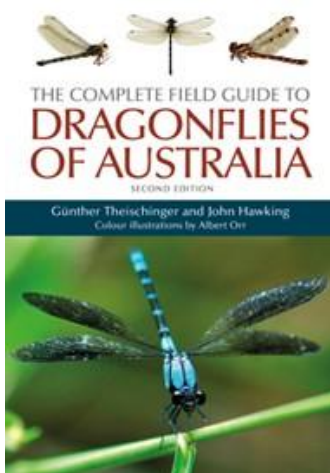


Above: (left) a Peron's tree frog (*Litoria peronii*) and (right) a Southern Brown tree frog (*Litoria ewingii*). The Peron's was hiding inside our toilet bowl! A reminder of the tree frogs we encountered in NSW and Queensland inside the camping ground toilets. The Southern Brown was found at the nursery. Recent rains have brought frogs out in force.

Book Chat with Lyn

Two field guides have recently been donated to our FOWSP library. Thank you to our donors, Linda Rogan and Carol Page.

THE COMPLETE FIELD GUIDE TO DRAGONFLIES OF AUSTRALIA



The Complete Field Guide to Dragonflies of Australia by Günther Theischinger and John Hawking was kindly donated by Linda Rogan. The description below uses the word *comprehensive*. That seems the perfect word to use – it has 424 pages, but it is still very usable.

The CSIRO publishing website describes it as a comprehensive guide to the 333 species of dragonflies and damselflies found in Australia. It also says:

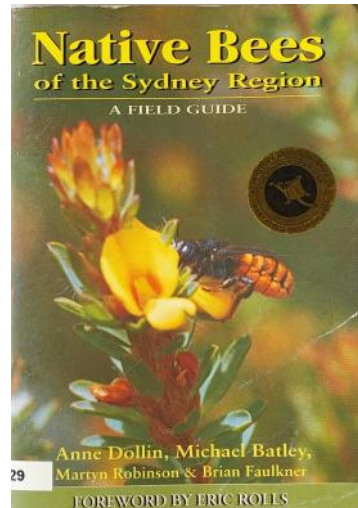
“Dragonflies and damselflies are conspicuous insects: many are large and brightly coloured. They are also valuable indicators of environmental wellbeing. A detailed knowledge of the dragonfly fauna is therefore an important basis for decisions about environmental protection and management.”

The guide covers eight families of dragonflies and 10 families of damselflies, comprising the 113 genera and 333 species found in Australia. It has been updated with newly identified species and revised family names to reflect new world consensus systematics. Stunning full-colour images and distribution maps are accompanied by identification keys for adults as well as larvae, which are often used as bait for freshwater fish.

This second edition also includes illustrations by Albert Orr, one of the most renowned dragonfly illustrators. The extraordinary diversity of dragonflies will interest entomologists and amateur naturalists alike.”

The library reference number is IS728.

NATIVE BEES OF THE SYDNEY REGION: A FIELD GUIDE



Native Bees of the Sydney Region: A Field Guide by Anne Dollin, Michael Batley, Martyn Robinson and Brian Faulkner is the first edition and was donated by Carol Page.

On the back cover, it is described as “a practical, colour guide to help wild-life enthusiasts, bushwalkers, gardeners, beekeepers and students to identify our dazzling native bees”. It describes 31 of the most easily recognised Sydney species and includes over 20 species also found in Queensland and Victoria. It has colour photographs, common and scientific names, pronunciation guide and nesting habits. There is also a section on garden plants loved by native bees and designs for artificial nests.

There is a page for each species and a previous owner has helpfully written VIC at the top of each page for each species that is found in Victoria. A helpful annotation!

For those who can't visit the library but are interested in this book, a free PDF version of the third edition can be downloaded from <https://www.aussiebee.com.au/field-guide-ebook.html> <https://www.aussiebee.com.au/native-bees-syd-99171.pdf> .

The third edition is only available electronically but it is the same as the first edition, except that all the photos are in colour and the further reading section has been updated. Three new appendices cover updated scientific names, a guide to checking size of silhouettes, and updates to resources available. I have included a printout of these changes in the library.

The library reference number is IS729 for the book and IS730 for the third edition pages.

Lyn

Spring this year in Lyn's garden

My garden is just a normal quarter-acre block in Templestowe with the usual clay or building rubble soil, but I've noticed this year that some parts have done really well, despite the lack of rain.



The Common Rice Flower (*Pimelea humilis*) has been particularly good. I have five of them in my garden at the moment. The one with Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*) nearby is looking the best though.



The Shiny Everlasting (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) also does well. This one was self-seeded into a nearby pot so I transplanted to another part of the garden and it has really established itself. Behind it to the left, *Wahlenbergia* is starting to

flower. I didn't keep track of which species it was, but I think it has self-seeded and definitely spreads a lot.

Top right: The chocolate lilies (*Arthropodium stricta*) have also started to flower. Today there are six flowers. Yesterday there were only three with many more buds on the plants. The photo also shows three other plants that do well everywhere in my garden – from middle left anti-clockwise, *Hibbertia porcata*, which is just starting to flower and will soon be covered in its large yellow flowers; Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*), which



I cut back to ground level every year and it re-grows beautifully; and in the corner, grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*).

When I was taking these photographs, I saw an insect on the

Xerochrysum (see below). I had the *Native Bees of the Sydney Region* book at home to catalog for the library so I decided to use it. I just went through the colour plates and easily found what I'd seen. It wasn't a bee but a hoverfly.



Anyone who wasn't a novice like me would have immediately identified it, as I learnt from the bee book, by its characteristic hovering. As the book said, it is a fly and has only two wings compared to bees which

have four. Also, the black and yellow banding was very different to that on all the bees in the book.

I hope your gardens are also looking good and you are winning the fight against the weeds. They seem to grow overnight at the moment!!

Lyn Moore

Australian Epiphytic Orchids

On occasion in this newsletter, we mention conservation work being done on our local terrestrial orchids. Throughout Australia, there are lots of people involved in conservation of these orchids, and there are those who simply like to walk in the bush and find any of the over 1000 species of such orchids.

There are, however, a whole heap of other orchids growing here, classified as epiphytic or lithophytic. Epiphyte means growing on trees and lithophyte means growing on rocks (many species are happy in either environment). With some exceptions these grow in the Dividing Range, from southern NSW to the tip of Cape York. Only a couple grow in Victoria, but with a suitable set-up, many can be grown in Melbourne gardens.



Above: *Sarcochilus falcatus*, one of the few that grow in Victoria. This is mounted on a piece of fence paling and is quite happy.

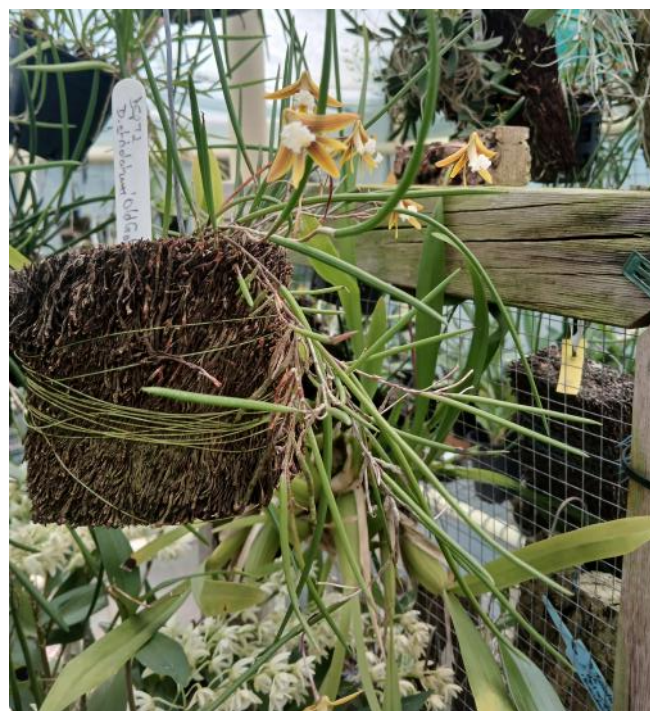
Whilst there are over 100 species of epiphytic orchids, only 2 genera are commonly grown. These are *Dendrobium* ("tree" and "life") and *Sarcochilus* ("fleshy lip"). Orchids from both genera have been heavily hybridised and grow

freely here.

The most common *Dendrobium* orchid species are *D. kingianum*, with small pink to red/white flowers and *D. speciosum*, with a large raceme of yellow flowers. A vast array of hybrids have been produced with these, and lesser known species, to produce plants with lots of large, colourful flowers. Flowering is generally late winter to early spring, with September being the peak month.

With *Sarcochilus*, the main species are *S. fitzgeraldii* and *S. hartmannii*, both of which are white, so, again, lesser known species have been used to create more colourful varieties. Here, flowering is later, October to December.

Without wishing to complicate matters too much, there is another common group, which are often classified as *Dendrobiums* but are nothing like them. These are the pencil (or bridal veil) orchids, so named because they have very narrow fleshy leaves and generally hang from trees, like mistletoe. They were originally called *Dockrillia* (named after AW Dockrill, who catalogued many in the 1930s) but, these days, they are largely lumped in with the *Dendrobiums*.



Above: *Dendrobium striolata* 'Old Gold', a typical pencil orchid growing in tree fern

Australian Epiphytic Orchids (cont'd)

Care of these orchids in Melbourne is fairly straightforward but you do need shade. Our harsh, dry summers are often too much. Our frosty winters don't help much either. However, you can be very successful with a shady veranda or south facing wall. Some species and hybrids will grow under shady trees, particularly if they are *D. speciosum* or hybrids of them.



Above: a view of one of my shade houses. Taken a couple of weeks ago, it's peak flowering time

Dendrobiums grow well in plastic pots with bark media (available at most gardening outlets). The secret is to keep the media very open, so most growers add stones, pool grit or scoria to their mix. Leave dormant over the middle of winter (watering once or twice only over June and July) and gradually increase watering as the temperature rises. In the very height of summer, you probably need to water daily. Feed with half strength orchid food from September to April or thereabouts.

Sarcochilus are basically grown in the same way, although more shade is needed. Compared with *Dendrobiums*, these orchids are small and take up very little room.

Dockrillia type orchids (and some of the *Sarcochilus*) grow best when mounted on tree fern, cork or small branches as they are found in the wild. However, you need to be more diligent in watering as they tend to dry out quickly.

Most orchid club members grow Australian natives but there is one Melbourne club dedicated to growing just Australian plants. It is the Australian Native Orchid Society (Vic), which meets monthly in Glen Waverley. The club is heavily involved in conservation and field trips to view orchids, so in that respect it differs from other clubs, which are for growers only. (That's a plug of course!).



Above: a complex *Dendrobium* hybrid showing lots of lovely pink flowers.
Below: a species plant, *D. speciosum* var. *pedunculatum*, showing large floriferous racemes, characteristic of the species



TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.00 am for a 9.15 am departure. Please remember to wear appropriate foot-wear 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.

Check the website for any changes at <http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php>

6/11/25	Fourth Hill—Fiddler	Don	Briza, Sweet vernal	Easy/mod
13/11/25	Fourth Hill—Betton Fence	Phil	Woody and grassy weeds	Easy/Mod
20/11/25	Fourth Hill—Wildcat Fence	Don	Briza, Sweet vernal	Moderate
27/11/25	Burgan Bend	Phil	Weeding, fencing, maintenance	Easy
4/12/25	Naughton Ave	Gray	Agapanthus, pittosporum etc removal	Easy/Mod
11/12/25	Nursery cleanup/2026 planning	Josh	Clean, repairs etc.	Easy

Notices

Manningham Events (1)

There is a **Bats as Pollinators** webinar on Wednesday November 12 from 7pm to 8.30pm.

Learn about our local megabat, the Grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) as well as local microbats.

Tamsyn, from the Fly By Night Bat Clinic will lead the webinar, talking lifecycle, habitat and their role as pollinators.

The event is free but bookings are essential. Go to the Manningham Council **What's On** page to make your booking.

Don't forget you can donate to FOWSP. Deductions can be included in your tax assessment.

<https://www.landcarevictoria.org.au/LVI/Donate/Make%20a%20donation.aspx>

Email the treasurer treasurer@fowsp.org.au to let him know about your donation.

Thank you.

Manningham Events (2)

Manningham is ranked in the top 5 worst local government area for bat deaths caused by illegal fruit tree netting. Fruit nets, to be legal, must have a mesh size of 5mmx5mm or less.

The Council are therefore offering a fruit tree net swap during November. One net swap is available per household (ID or rates notice required).

Swap dates are:

Wed November 12 at the Manningham Depot.

Sat November 22 at Doncaster Hill Community Centre.

Wed November 26 at the Civic Centre.

Market Trailer

If you are able to help out with transport of the Market Trailer please contact Artur (mylnet7@gmail.com)

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.

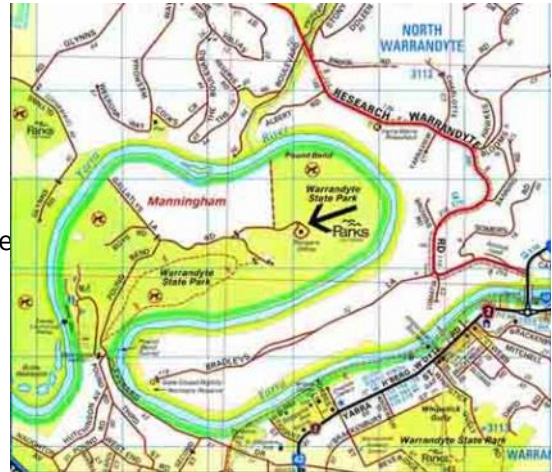
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (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 \$2.50 Non-members \$3.00 (tube stock)



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Nillumbik Gardens For Wildlife

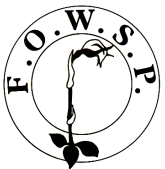
Gardens For Wildlife is a Nillumbik Council initiative designed to encourage and guide local residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens that support biodiversity and improve habitat connectivity.

Upon registering your interest (Google Nillumbik Gardens for Wildlife where you will see an on-line form), you will be visited by two trained, friendly and local 'Garden Guides' who will undertake an assessment, provide suggestions and a written report.

The programme is designed to provide guidance on habitat planting with indigenous plants. It is not a general gardening advice service, nor does it provide guidance on design or landscaping.

There is a newsletter with plenty of ideas for our own gardens, as well as a featured plant.

Each edition starts with the indigenous season we are currently in and runs through some of the things that might be happening.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who volunteered to run the trailer on **Saturday, 4 October**, Christine Arndell, Chris Kay, Marie Krause, Pam von Drehnen, Caitriona Young, Jeff Cranston, Joy Hick and Jan Falconer.

Trailer transport: Artur Muchow

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 on 0419 872 096 or email trailer@fowsp.org.au
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are:
Saturday, 1st November 2025
Saturday, 6th December 2025



FOWSP COMMITTEE 2025			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			<u>Nursery Phone</u>	0408 317 327
			<u>nursery@fowsp.org.au</u>	
Tony Oliver		Treasurer and	<u>Park Office</u>	03 8427 2132
<u>treasurer@fowsp.org.au</u>		Membership		
John Young	0412327798	Newsletter editor	<u>Ranger contact</u>	
<u>editor@fowsp.org.au</u>			Phil Rance	
			<u>philip.rance@parks.vic.gov.au</u>	
Joy Hick	0418 573916		<u>Newsletter assist and Librarian</u>	
			Lyn Moore	
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Market Trailer</u>	
			Jan Falconer	0419 872 096
			<u>trailer@fowsp.org.au</u>	
Lyn Moore	0409 683 041	Wildlife rescue Victoria	<u>Manningham Council Rep</u>	
<u>lynm333g@gmail.com</u>		https:// www.wildlifevictoria.or g.au/contact-us	Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Robyn Hull			<u>Webmaster</u>	
<u>robynamelia@bigpond.com</u>			Jason Patton	0402 121838
			<u>webmaster@fowsp.org.au</u>	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647	Staff Representative	<u>Facebook coordinator</u>	
<u>legality@bigpond.com</u>			Carolyn Noel	0409 901441
		Lynda Chambers		
		0466 274421 phenolo- gist@gmail.com		

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday February 10, 2026
Venue:	Education Centre Pound Bend
Time:	17:00

Are your subs due??

Please check the message on the email you receive with the newsletter link by scrolling down beyond the link . If subs are due soon a message such as below will be seen in the email.:

'Please note that, according to our records, your Membership is due to expire on . Please click on the link below to renew 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.