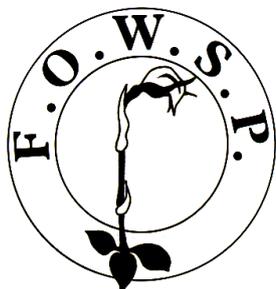


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

As typical of this year, things are changing rapidly with each newsletter.

We are so pleased to have customers able to now pick their own plants and greatly appreciate the on-going support we have received.

Volunteering and TAGs are slowly being restarted. See p. 3 for more information.

Page 2 brings us the second part of Lynda Gilbert's article on local frogs.

Lisa Jenkins takes us on another historical tour in 'Learning *Acacia* species identification through their names' on p. 4.

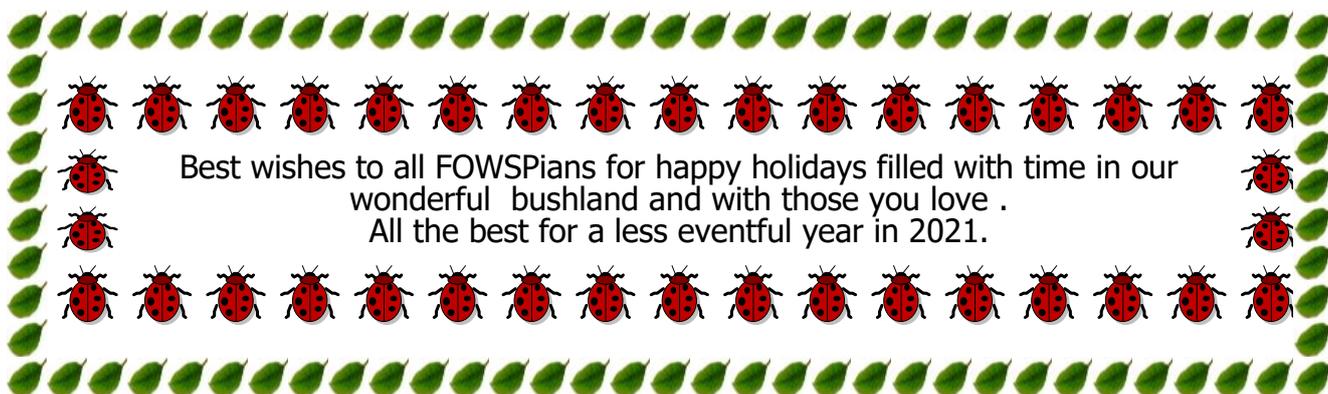
See snippets from Frogland on p. 5 and 'Visitors in the night' on p. 6-7 are offered by the editor.

All that and more on the back cover and email bonus pages. Enjoy.

Linda Rogan



Our customers are back! And although it may be hard to detect behind the masks, all assure me they are wearing their best 'facebook' smiles.



Best wishes to all FOWSPians for happy holidays filled with time in our wonderful bushland and with those you love .
All the best for a less eventful year in 2021.

**Deadline for February edition newsletter is
Friday 15 January 2021**

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

PART 2 – FROGS IN WARRANDYTE & SURROUNDS

How many species of frogs are there in Warrandyte?

Frogs found in Warrandyte include the Eastern Banjo Frog (Pobblebonk – Pound Bend), the Southern Brown Tree Frog (Pound Bend), Victorian Smooth Froglet (Stiggants Reserve), Peron's Tree Frog (Glynns Rd), Lesueur's Tree Frog, Leaf Green Tree Frog, Verreaux's Tree Frog, Eastern Common Froglet, Striped Marsh Frog, Spotted Marsh Frog and the Southern Toadlet.

Phil Rance, Parks Vic Ranger, Warrandyte State Park notes that the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog is an introduced species – it came with boxes of bananas apparently. It is native to near-coastal regions of Queensland and NSW, but this frog loves Glynns Wetlands! It could become a biological hazard as it carries a water-borne chytridiomycete fungus called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* which causes skin infections in platypus and other local frogs. Refer <http://www.viridans.com/INTRO/bananafrog.htm> .

The Lesueur’s Tree Frog was surveyed for in its old haunts in Warrandyte during 2018 and 2019 by Parks Vic Rangers and could not be found. This may indicate it is now locally extinct.

A good resource to identifying frogs in Warrandyte can be found at the Melbourne Water website www.melbournewater.com.au - “A beginners guide to Frog Identification”.



Eastern Banjo Frog (Pobblebonk)

The best way to identify frogs is by the males’ mating call, as frogs are generally hard to see.



Southern Brown Tree Frog



Victorian Smooth Froglet



Peron’s Tree frog

Photos from this resource-

<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/learning-resources/browse-resources-year-level/frog-identification>

(Continued on page 8)

Volunteering returns with booking and social distancing



Lynda, Leonie and Lisa completing some of the last tubes for the season.

It is with joy and relief that volunteers are returning to various FOWSP projects. As the photo above shows, social distancing and masks in the enclosed area are an ongoing need at the time of writing. Some TAGS are beginning to occur as well. Photo right shows different methods for wearing masks when outdoors and socially distanced.

If you wish to return as a volunteer at the nursery, be sure to send your request to **nursery@fowsp.org.au** And be sure to include your **contact telephone number**.

If you wish to participate in a TAG
 Contact
 Gray Ardern 0418
 190261

Please be aware that arrangements and priorities are likely to change weekly. In spite of some ongoing restrictions remaining and some extra organising required, we are really pleased to have so many people keen to be helping out.



Ruby and Judd with Ranger Phil preparing for a morning's work thinning *Cassinia* on Fourth Hill

Learning *Acacia* species identification through their names

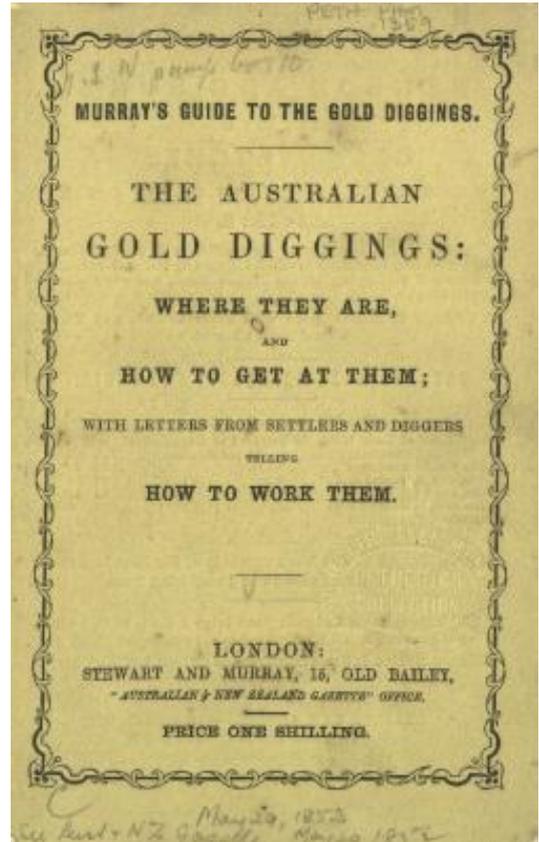
Acacia gunnii (ploughshare wattle)-phyllode shaped like a ploughshare

Acacia lanigera (woolly wattle)-Latin for lana (wool) and -ger (bearing)

Acacia verniciflua (varnish wattle)-from *βερνίκιον*, Ancient Greek for soda which came to mean resin or varnish in later languages and ‘flua’ Latin for flowing

The ploughshare wattle, the woolly wattle and the varnish wattle all speak of a world of things-things made and used by settler and farming families. The words describe things one would hold in one’s hand and use-a plough, wool, varnish for wood. And they are all things necessary for making a settler’s world-the plough to turn soil, wool that’s been grown and then turned to cloth and clothes and furniture made and finished at home.

It must have been well-nigh impossible for many people to imagine creating a familiar kind of world when they first arrived in the bush. I expect that many families turned up ill-equipped and without any reasonable body of knowledge to survive in the bush, not because of personal shortcomings but because of the combined force of poverty and deprivation in Britain and the push by colonial agents who toured villages and towns advertising the delights to be had in places like New South Wales. And there was a thriving industry in settlers’ guides but they were wildly unrealistic, depicting a life of wisteria-covered verandahs and broad flocks of healthy merinos. I’ve found little trace of practical, specific manuals. The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge published its *Penny Cyclopædia* in the 1830s and 1840s, but it ran to 27 volumes and three supplements, each costing nine shillings and their *Imperial Cyclopaedia* covered the whole empire in two volumes. There are specific guides such as *Murray’s guide to the gold diggings...where they are and how to get at them* (1852) which includes lists of things to bring but no instructions on how to make things, or the frightening *Dr William Bell’s ‘The Settlers’ Guide or Modern domestic medicine and surgery* (1849). And the Religious Tract Society’s advice in *Outward Bound; or, Hints to Emigrant Families* urge families to tick off a great long list of clothes, books and sensible tools but comfort those who can’t afford any of this that ‘they have done the best they can’ and should ‘trust themselves the more implicitly to the care of their heavenly Father.’ (20)



Retrieved November 23, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-431544619>



Acacia gunnii (ploughshare wattle)-
Photo Linda Rogan

But if you were newly arrived on your small farm and you needed glue, for instance, how would you go about making it? Or lime, for plastering? Or alcohol? Or blacking for stoves and boots? Our family’s ancestral cookbook, owned by my great-grandmother, tells me how to make fruit salts, linseed tea and St John’s liniment but there is no section on outdoors, no recipes for glue or varnish. (It does tell me how to cook Colonial Goose however, which is a deboned, stuffed leg of mutton and a Charity cake-very plain). Early arrivals would have had a mental map of British plants and their uses-a branch of holly cures chilblains, elder flowers make wine-but these new plants were entirely unfamiliar and the practical botanical possibilities

(Continued on page 9)

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2020			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
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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 December 8, 2020
Venue:	To be announced
Time:	19:30 pm sharp

In Frogland in November 2020



Two surprises for me in Frogland in November. Most welcomed was the finding of two finished spears on the *Xanthorea* which Marie had sprinkled with ashes from her fire last autumn. A close look shows a few seed pods developing. The second Josh pointed out to me was this bright crimson rosella which unfortunately was one of several in the area stripping seed from *Pomaderris lanigera*.

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

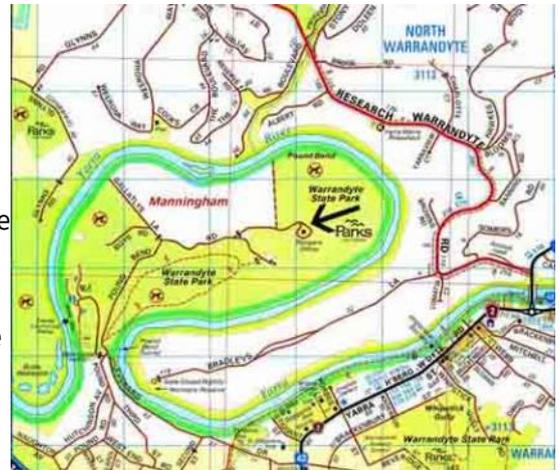
The nursery is open for plant sales every Thursday.
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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Visitors in the night

A bit of practical help from Peter and some ideas from the simple plan outlined in an article in the *Victorian Entomologist* helped me to set up a small light sheet and look at some of the insects in our mostly indigenous garden (Kurek, D 2020).

Many people undertake this activity primarily to attract moths, I found it offers much more than just moths.

Interesting moths from Briar Hill are shown below the banksia borer moth *Arotrophora arcuatalis* which may have emerged from our *Banksia integrifolia*;
Middle, the red-faced male of Guenee's Emerald *Chlorocoma dichloraria* which may feed on *Acacia mearnsii*;
Right, the handsome white coat of a male Conchidia moth *Armactica conchidia* quite different from the fawn female.

Contact me if you would like a copy of the article with its light sheet suggestions: editor@entsocvic.org.au



As most insect lights emit UVA, the use of eye protection is recommended.





More than moths come to light sheets...

Some of the beetles have really caught my interest.

Above left: Lesser Eucalyptus longhorn beetle *Phoracantha recurva* which is a pest on eucalypts especially in California plantations.

Above right: The bluish coloured beetle on the right was a puzzle to me and the antennae indicated it would be in the Cleridae family. iNaturalist helped me find this is a *Eunatalis* sp. One species, *E. porcata* 'moults five times and consumes up to 23 borer larvae during a two year period, then devours a cerambycid pupa before pupating within the cell of its prey'. Gerstmeier 2013. This should help to keep the natural balance.

Left: This beetle shaped a bit like a ladybird but with longer antennae is *Paropsisterna octosignata* a leaf beetle which is one of the leaf beetles which feed on eucalypts.

Linda Rogan



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to ALL those who helped out on trailer BCL
(before covid lock-down)

All being well, it is planned that the FOWSP market trailer will resume on
Saturday 6 February.

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.

Also please consider whether you can assist by joining the roster of members who transport the Market trailer to the market on Saturday mornings and back to FOWSP at the end of the morning. For further information contact Artur myln@netspace.net.au or Kelvin kelvin.watkins8@bigpond.com>

Next market date is hoped to be: *Saturday, 6 February 2021*



(Continued from page 2)

Impact of fire on frog survival – Kinglake study

A little further afield, a study on frogs was carried out at Kinglake from 2007 – 2015 by the University of Melbourne researchers and published in 2016 (Dominique A. Potvin, Kirsten M. Parris, Katie L. Smith Date, Claire C. Keely, Rebecca D. Bray, Joshua Hale, Sumitha Hunjan, Jeremy J. Austin & Jane Melville). Wildfires are increasing in both frequency and intensity causing a global decline of amphibians, with up to 40% of species facing extinction from multiple threats. Frogs in fire-prone environments may be increasingly vulnerable to extinction. Their findings in the 7-year study, two of which were pre-fire, showed the impact of the 2009 fires in Kinglake on frogs. The fires caused a drop in population in particular of the Southern brown tree frog *Litoria ewingii* and the Victorian tree frog *Litoria paraewingi*. Genetic diversity was also affected as the frogs became more inbred - as the fires destroyed their habitat, they could not travel from pond to pond to mate. Frogs also had high egg and larval population failures.

Ref <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1365-2664.12809>

How you can help save frogs from extinction

- Build a pond and plant some reeds or tussock-forming sedges around the margin (there are useful pond-building tips at Frog and Tadpole Study Group (FATS) & <https://www.melbournwater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/be-citizen-scientist/frog-census>)
- Keep fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides away from your pond or other areas where frogs may live as they cause abnormalities to develop in tadpoles.
- Disinfect and dispose of waste water from frog or tadpole tanks into the sewer system — never into stormwater drains as any disease they may have could be passed on to other species.
- There are apps to download from the Melbourne Water website to identify and record numbers of frogs <https://www.melbournwater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/be-citizen-scientist/frog-census>
- In addition there is the Australian Museum Frog ID project <https://www.frogid.net.au/>

Thanks to Steve Anderson, former Warrandyte Parks Vic Ranger and Phil Rance, current Parks Vic Ranger for their contributions.

Some interesting Biodiversity Catch Up webinars from Manningham

Biodiversity Webinar Catch Up - Frogs of Manningham

Webinar on demand

Manningham is home to a variety of frog species, living in our rivers and creeks, ponds and even in our backyards. With good land management practices and reduction of pollution in our waterways, we can ensure our frog species continue to enjoy Manningham as a vital part of our local ecosystem.

Cost: Free

Where: Recorded Online Webinar

<https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/frogs-of-manningham>

Biodiversity Webinar Catch Up - Birds of Manningham

Webinar on demand

Birds are an important part of our local ecosystem. They pollinate our plants and spread seeds across the landscape. Some birds help to keep our insect, rodent and spider populations low, and others fish in our creeks and the Yarra River.

Discover which birds are found in Manningham with ecologist John Harris.

Cost: Free

Where: Recorded online webinar

<https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/birds-in-manningham>

(Continued from page 4)

were hidden away with indigenous Australians whom colonial society had dispossessed. And settlers had no sympathy or interest in the life of indigenous Australians, wanting instead to recreate a familiar world of houses and fences and things inside the houses and behind the fences.



Acacia lanigera (woolly wattle)-
Photo Flora of Warrandyte

I imagine that many settlers experimented, cobbling things together until they learnt how to do better. Their minds would have been full of the practical side of life, the pressing need to survive and they would have reached for the familiar—a plant like *Acacia gunnii* would have immediately slotted into a world of farm implements and work, since many settlers would have walked a great distance behind a plough and closely and repeatedly observed the share. I'm ashamed to say that I had to look up the design of a plough, to understand which bit the plough-share was, but if I'd lived in this part of the world 100-odd years ago I would have immediately known what was being described—the plough-share, by the way, is the curved, spade-like section nearest the plougher. There is a knife in the front which cuts open the sod, then the share digs and turns the soil. And *Acacia lanigera* phyllodes, with their soft woolliness, might have made them think of the promised bountiful flocks of healthy merinos.

Acacia verniciflua is presumed to be named for the slightly resinous undercoating on the phyllode but I wonder if there's more to it than that. Varnish is traditionally made by dissolving resin in a solvent, often alcohol but also turpentine (itself a distillation of pine resin) and was known in various places including ancient Egypt and China. Many different resins were used historically and recipes are of interest today primarily

amongst string instrument makers, one of whom, Oden Kishony, has made it his mission to recreate the 'fabled Cremonese varnish.'
<http://www.kishonyviolins.com/philosophy.html>

I wonder if the common name and botanical name of *Acacia verniciflua*, the varnish wattle, came from two different directions. Did the botanical name speak of the phyllodes but the common name speak of hopeful experimentation by early settlers? Perhaps some fingered the underside of those phyllodes and wondered if the sap might offer a source of resin for varnish? The settler who provided the common name, must have yearned for finished furniture, for something other than tree-stumps for chairs and tables. Perhaps the feel of *Acacia verniciflua* phyllodes helped them imagine a world filled with such things, that they could make and inhabit and made them hope that one of these unfamiliar plants might be put to a familiar use and make this uncanny world they found themselves in more familiar.



Acacia verniciflua (varnish wattle)-
Photo Linda Rogan in my garden 9 August 2020
Plant from FOWSP nursery about 2015.



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P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



Silver Princess *Yoyetta celis*

This small princess could be described as the musician who provides the sound of summer in the Melbourne area.

‘Typically found in association with tea trees (*Leptospermum* spp.) and occasionally on *Melaleuca* spp. wherever they grow in clumps in open forest and woodland. Also occurs in gardens.

Calling song and behaviour: A quiet series of phrases: "zip zip zip zip zip zip..." sung in unison. Adults usually sit on the stems of tea trees and will fly readily when approached ‘.
<https://dr-pop.net/celis-481.htm>

This particular princess showed up on my light sheet at about 10 pm and stayed around until morning.

Linda Rogan

December 2020/January 2021 Vol. 38 no. 10

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



Three leaf beetles from a light sheet and three insects from Langi Ghiran

Left above: A member of the *Paropsisterna laesa* complex which are all Eucalyptus feeders.

Centre: above: Lilly-pilly leaf beetle *Paropsides calypso* feeds on Lilly-pilly.

Right above: Another *Eucalyptus* leaf beetle *Cadmus aurantiacus*

A visit to Langi Ghiran near Ararat in November found the area around the camp and picnic ground surrounded by large shrubs of yellow blooming *Senecio odoratus* which attracted many beetles, bees and flies amongst other insects.

Shown here clockwise from right:

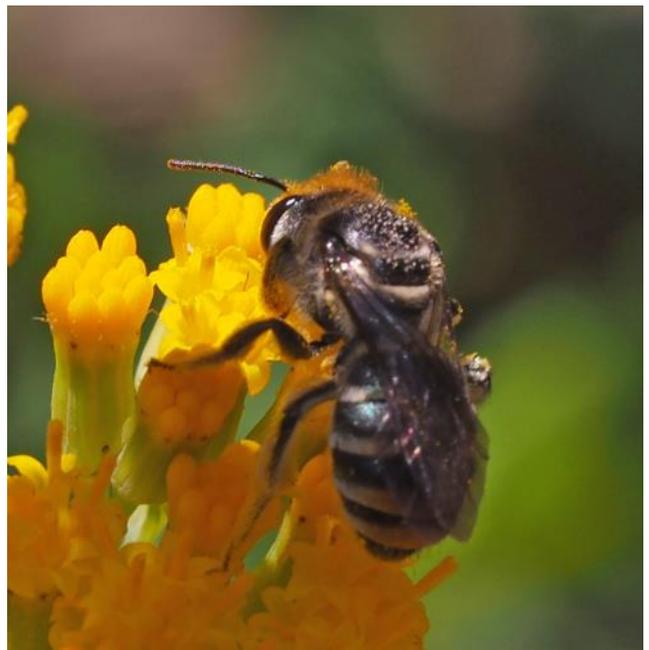
A small clerid beetle, the tiny but pretty *Eleale pulcher*

A native bee which is probably the green and gold nomia bee *Lipotriches australica*

And last the native drone fly *Eristalinus punctulatus* a native fly with rather strange spotted eyes (inset)



Linda Rogan



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



Frogland gate, shown here in mid winter 2020, Along with Carolyn's elegant artwork, now sports a 'Please enter' sign to welcome visitors. Check it out. Photo Linda Rogan