



Friends of Warby–Ovens National Park Newsletter August 2024

FOWONP was established in 2022 and has the following objectives:

- *To partner with Parks Victoria and other stakeholders in the conservation of WONP*
- To partner with traditional owners to support the management of WONP in a culturally sensitive and ecologically appropriate way
- *To connect people with nature and re-wild individuals to enable all people to be part of the solution to biodiversity loss through the impact of climate change and other factors*
- To celebrate and enjoy the uniqueness of the WONP ecosystems and help sustain these qualities for future generations
- *To provide a community voice in support of WONP*
- To carry out these objectives in a manner that enables the Park to continue to meet the criteria for IUCN Green List recognition.

The FOWONP has over 40 members and a hard working committee. On the committee are Mary Reid, Mandy Hogan, Jenny Dickenson Peter Murray, Andy Kimber, Kelvin Longhurst, Tony Faithful, Paul Rymer, Ian Minns and our Landcare Coordinator, Kerrie Warburton.

If you would like to have more input at Committee level, come along and join the team on the second Tuesday of each month.

Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Venue: Hogan Health (entrance from the Big W car park)



Morning tea at Wenham's Camp after planting out the new additions to the Bush Garden.

Recent activities

1. Wenham's Camp Bush Garden (formerly the Arboretum)

Following many hours of planning, weeding, clearing pathways, planting, watering and fencing, the new re-vitalised Bush Garden is taking shape. The current vision, as was the case with the original 1990's plan, is to provide visitors with a showcase, educational experience of the flora found in the granitic hills of the Warby –Ovens National Park.

The original planting list was found, plants sourced locally – mainly from the helpful staff at Park Lane Nursery, and over several working bees, the new plants were put in place. The original circular walk has been slightly changed to travel through sections of the original plants that have thrived.

FOWONP has just had a grant application approved with the Victorian Landcare Grants to take the next steps in providing visitors with interpretative signage, materials for an additional planting in 2025, and creating a Yarning Circle. *It will be place to talk, discuss, educate and have a yarn together, a place to build relationships and a space to enrich learning experiences. Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples have been using yarning circles for thousands of years. A Grant of \$13,700 has been approved.*

The Bush Garden development has involved many Friends of WONP. In particular, the work of Greg Quinn in sourcing plants and helping plan the site, was fantastic. Greg is a part of the Bush Garden Planning Team which also includes Jenny Dickenson, Kristy Trail and Mary Reid. The work of Peter Murray and Rob Parsons building on the foundations by Kelvin Longhurst, has stabilised and strengthened the perimeter fencing of the 1.5 hectare site. Unfortunately, the Bush Garden resident wombat wasn't involved in the FOWONP vision, and has created several new entry/exit spots already. Consequently, we need someone with welding skills to help create several wombat flap doors! See below.

Are wombats causing fence damage at your place?

There is a solution, research has found installing wombat gates, can reduce fence damage and most importantly wombats will use them.

Instead of going around an obstacle, such as a fence, a determined wombat will try to go through, or under it, sometimes creating problems such as letting dogs out or other unwanted animals in.

The installation of a 'wombat gate' at known wombat breach points along a fence will allow the wombat to pass through without causing damage and the fence will continue to exclude other unwanted animals.

WPSA's website has some ideas for DIY wombat gates. www.wombatprotection.org.au/mitigation



2. Spring Wildflower Walk, Killawarra

Several working bees have focused on the restoration of the popular walk that starts just south of “The Camp” in the National Park’s fabulous Killawarra Forest – arguably the best remanent, box-ironbark forest in the country.

The Spring Wildflower Walk is just starting to bloom and will present a stunning display of flowers over the next three – four months.

The FOWONP crew have been working on track maintenance, directional signage, weed management (including Cootamundra Wattle) and interpretative elements.

National Parks has several large ironbark slaps at the Depot that we are negotiating to have placed along the walk as seating.

The original walk had an A4 brochure and numbered posts. We are still trying to track down an original copy of this. If you have one, let Andy Kimber or Ian Minns know.

Resources for walking in the Killawarra

- Chris Tzaros’s book *Wildlife of Box-Ironbark Country* is an informative guide to the area and this can be purchased locally.
- *Field ID brochures*, available from NECMA and other sources, have easily accessible information on wildflowers, woodland birds, pollinator insects, Fungi and Reptiles & Frogs. Contact Ian Minns if you would like a set.



The FOWONP team track clearing and gluing orange arrows to trees to aid navigation.

3. Grasstree Surveys

Following the Wangaratta Chronicle articles, by Andy Kimber and Paul Rymer, highlighting the issues facing Warby Ovens National Park's iconic species *Xanthorrhoea glauca*, FOWONP is now offering two training workshops for volunteers. We hope to quantify the health status and identify die back sites along tracks in the park. This work will build on the work completed by PV's Geoff Barrow in 2012.

Workshops will be held at the August 20th Working Bee and a repeat on the following Sunday – August 25th. If you wish to participate please contact Andy Kimber 0439209749.



A section of a vast forest of healthy *Xanthorrhoea* off Logger's Lane.

3. Calendar

August	What	Contact
13th	Committee Meeting 5:30pm Hogan Health	Ian Minns 0427686357
20th	Working Bee 9:00am The Camp, Killawarra Grasstree Training Workshop 1 9:00am – 11:00 Venue: Wenham's Camp	Ian Minns 0427686357 Andy Kimber 0439209749
25th	Grasstree Training Workshop 2 9:00am – 11:00am Venue Sunrise Track https://maps.app.goo.gl/Cafp6ytg9WXC9Nmw8?g_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy	Andy Kimber 0439209749
29th	Warby's Wild Flower and Wattle Evening Join local expert Peter Dewez in learning how to identify plants of the Warby Ranges. 6:30pm at Hogan Health, Big W carpark, Wangaratta. Refreshments and food provided. RSVP to amanda@hoganhealth.com.au	Mandy Hogan
September		
10th	Committee Meeting 5:30pm Hogan Health	Ian Minns 0427686357
17th	Working Bee 9:00am The Camp, Killawarra	Ian Minns 0427686357
22nd	Spring Wildflower Walk celebration / Morning Tea	Mary Reid 0417548588
October		
8th	Committee Meeting 5:30pm Hogan Health	Ian Minns 0427686357
15th	Working Bee 9:00am Wenham's Camp	Ian Minns 0427686357

19th	FOWONP BUSH DANCE Peechelba Hall, Yarrawonga Road. If you loved the bush dance last year, bring some friends along. 6:00pm Dinner, Refreshments and music in the historic Peechelba Hall. More information coming.	Andy Kimber 0439209749
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Still need a FOWONP T-Shirt?



Andy Kimber (M) 0439209749