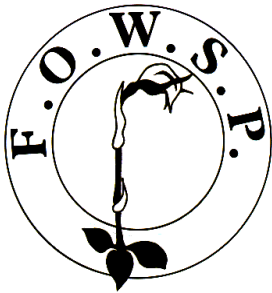


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/ACN A0024890C

From the New Editors

By Linda Rogan

THE NEW YEAR brings changes and challenges. After a terrific 2007 and the great celebrations of FOWSP's 25th anniversary, sadly, we've said good bye to Pat Coupar as editor of the newsletter for the past 12 years. Pat and Mike together have produced many wonderful articles sharing their knowledge and love of the area. Pat has left us a strong base to build upon. We are very pleased that as promised, their article contributions continue. See page 2. Mel Coupar's beautiful drawings will also feature at times.. Thanks Mel! Let me introduce your new editorial team: two Joans and a Linda:

Joan MacMahon will be known to you from her passionate observations from Bradley's Lane – indeed WSP is her rear neighbour. She has also helped coordinate the Thursday TAG activities, enjoys helping with our monthly stall at Warrandyte market and loves working in our nursery

Joan Broadberry will be well known to many in her role as Treasurer for the past two years. She is another keen observer of nature, a generalist with many interests including birds, native orchids and creatures of the intertidal zone. She has valuable experience in producing a newsletter for Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

I am a relative newcomer but keen to learn more about the exciting ecology that makes up Warrandyte State Parklands and associated reserves. I found my way to FOWSP when trying to contact Friends of One Tree Hill Reserve, a favorite bushwalking and orchid site for me since 1980s. At



Joan Broadberry, Linda Rogan, Joan MacMahon

FOWSP I have found an incredibly enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of people who have made me feel right at home. I will coordinate the editorial team. (Joan M says i.e.. I'm the boss)

The last but most important part of the Newsletter team is you. Members of FOWSP come from Warrandyte and many other suburbs, but all share a passion for the bush, especially WSP and are willing to take action and share knowledge to facilitate its preservation. We are counting on hearing from you, our loyal contributors and also hopefully from many new voices. Contributions can be photos, short snippets, book reviews or articles. We also look forward to being able to utilize email for newsletters in the future so color photos can be viewed. We promise 6 issues per year but if logistics work out and we have sufficient contributions we may produce more. In the first instance expect issues in February and in March.

Up until now the newsletters have not been numbered. We are beginning with Volume 26, issue 1, to recognize the years that have come before.

Deadline for March edition—Friday February 22

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Travels of an ex-Pat

The Fruits of Jingolong

By Pat Coupar

I FIRST VISITED JINGOLONG about five years ago. It had been closed for a couple of years, but the buildings were all intact, and all but one of the flats were locked.

Jingolong Flats – also, euphemistically, known as Cape Howe Wilderness Lodge – are situated on a wooded hillside of a remote cove of Malla-coota's bottom lake. While it is possible to reach them via rough forest tracks from the New South Wales side, their main access is by boat from Malla-coota.

The holiday lodges - at a guess, built in the 1970's - were an eco-tourism venture ahead of its time. In early 1990's, the Department of Conservation purchased the land, holiday flats and associated facilities with the intention of it eventually being incorporated into the Croajingolong National Park. The agreement was, that the land would be leased for use as Jingolong Flats until 2001, when there would be a further option for an additional five year lease. That option, it would seem, was not taken up and with the closure of Jingolong Flats the Crown Land became part of the National Park.

Leaving our boat at the old wooden jetty, we headed up the hill to the row of buildings on the ridge. Following a track through the forest we saw ahead a large group of bushy shrubs bearing bright orange fruit. From a distance we thought they might be some kind of citrus planted when the place was occupied, but closer inspection revealed the fruits to be oblong, wrinkled and warty – some had split into three segments exposing rows of gooey red seeds.



I knew then what it was, because I had read about this plant. Purely by accident, we had stumbled across the rare and endangered Rough-fruit Pittosporum (*Pittosporum revolutum*). This species dif-

fers from its close relative Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) which also grows naturally in this part of Victoria, but which has become an environmental pest in Warrandyte and other areas. Not only is it a much smaller plant, Rough-fruit Pittosporum has dull leaves, rather than shiny, with distinctive cinnamon brown, softly hairy new growth. It is found only in East Gippsland and there must have been nearly a hundred of them on this slope below Jingolong.

We continued on up to the abandoned 'resort'. The first building we came to was the library. It was unlocked and mostly undamaged with many of the original books and magazines still on the shelves.

Beyond that were ten individual flats. The door of the very end one was closed but not locked. We entered. Everything was there – curtains on the windows, beds with mattresses, cupboards with coat hangers and sinks with dish racks. There is always a strange, somewhat eerie feeling being in a place where people had once been and were now gone. Ghosts of the past come alive in the imagination of



the intruder.

We wondered what Parks Victoria would do with the flats now they had taken over the land. But five years on the buildings are still there – all have been maliciously trashed, both inside and out. To deter sightseers and vandals large red signs have been stencilled onto the outside walls warning of asbestos. But the damage has been done.

It is unlikely the old buildings will ever be demolished and taken away (just too expensive). However, the forest is encroaching a little closer and will one day swallow up what is left of Jingolong. Meanwhile, the rare Rough-fruit Pittosporum continues to thrive – undisturbed, except by a curious few, including an ex-Pat botanist from Warrandyte.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP

Farewell to Pat and Mike

by Cathy Willis

WHEN I FIRST started coming to the nursery around 1990, I enjoyed helping Pat and quickly realized that she knew a lot about the local plants and how to grow them, and was generous in sharing her knowledge.

Most Thursday afternoons back then, a group of us would go out in the Park, to work with the rangers, or just walk. As we walked Pat would point out species and the features that defined them. Her insights into their position in the landscape and role in the ecosystem were great value.

When I joined the committee, I got to know Mike. His was a calm voice of reason in the committee. The 90's were turbulent times with budget cuts, the demolition of the rangers' houses and the threat of closure of the Warrandyte depot. I remember a tense and infuriating meeting with senior Parks Vic staff where Mike's diplomacy was invaluable.

Pat and Mike's involvement in producing *Discover Warrandyte* included contributing to the research, writing, photography and production. Immediately after that, Pat, along with ranger Dave Van Bockel, threw herself into the *Flora of Warrandyte*; A massive undertaking, identifying, photographing, locating and quantifying all indigenous flora species in the Park. It produced a very valuable resource for staff, FOWSP members and the wider community.

Then there were the great slide shows and camps in far flung places and much more: Pat as newsletter editor, the years of festivals, the Flora Management Team.

So as their focus shifts to the far east of the state their legacy to Warrandyte will remain. I'd like to thank them for their contribution to the FOWSP community and most especially to Warrandyte State Park.



Wonders in Warrandyte

By Peggy Safstrom

A FEW YEARS AGO THE Warrandyte State Park Ranger let it be known that a number of packs of cut timber were available to join up and make into boxes for Phascogales. PHASCOGALES??? I'd never heard of them. Lawrie had, and brought out Cronin's *Key Guide to Australian Mammals* for me to read. "These Brush-tailed Phascogales are small, nocturnal, arboreal, carnivorous marsupials, belonging to the family *Dasyuridae*."

We approached the ranger, and were given two sets of cut timber. We made them up into boxes, put one up on an old gum stump about 20ft. high in our back garden, and gave the other one to a friend nearby.

Last night, January 8th, we were sitting outside watching for the bats to fly across, and the Frogmouths to arrive after the sun had set awhile. When, instead of a Frogmouth sitting up on the flat, round top of the old gum, which was the usual first stopping spot, I caught a glimpse of - a rat? - a mouse? Then another, smaller one. Lawrie and I made our way quietly closer, to find a spot with sky instead of a tree behind, and the smaller one spread his beautiful tail!

"OH! They are Phascogales!" we both exclaimed together. We watched them in delight for about five minutes, then they ran down the trunk into the dark.

Who would ever sit inside watching telly when a warm summer evening brings out wonders in Warrandyte.



Illustration by Frank Knight from the excellent book *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia* copyright 2001

MYLN

MYLN, are initials we will be hearing a lot more about, as we have all become members. The **Middle Yarra Landcare Network** was formally launched at our 25th anniversary celebrations. It currently consists of four groups from the Manningham municipality: Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group, Andersons Creek Catchment Area Landcare Group, Wonga Park Environment Group and ourselves, FOWSP. It is a positive and exciting development that our small, local organizations now have a stronger voice and a greater reach.

Its aim **is to connect community and environment to create healthier bush and productive and sustainable land-use on both private and public land**. It has recently put in an application for the Community Grants Program funding to get the Network rolling, fund the facilitator and establish the first of its major on the ground projects – a habitat corridor enhancement project at a property adjacent to Jumping Creek and bordering on Warrandyte State Park.

The network has a part-time facilitator, Tim O'Donnell who spoke at the launch and also came to a FOWSP committee meeting last year. Any questions? Want more information? Tim's contact details are: Tim O'Donnell, Phone 03 5962 5778, E-mail, tim@mooramoor.org.au

FOWSP Committee 2008

Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter Coordinator
lindarogan@netspace.net.au		
Joan Broadberry	9846 1218	Treasurer/Newsletter
Joan MacMahon	9844 3213	Tag Activities/Newsletter/ FOWSP contact
joanmacmahon@hotmail.com		
Martyn Hiley	9844 4547	Membership/ FOWSP contact
martyn@hiley.cx		
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	
Gray Ardern	0418 190261	
Cathy Willis	0418 142297	

<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
	0408 317327
<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
<u>Market Coordinator</u>	Marie Krause
	9712 0498

<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds
	9722 2908

<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor
	9722 1117

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

The Thursday Activity Group will continue, co-ordinated by Ranger Jodie Godfrey and FOWSP member Joan MacMahon JOIN US on the first Thursday of the month from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Either meet at the depot (sharp at 9.30 am), or on site. LEARN some vegetation management skills and help improve some special sites in the Park. Just tag along with the Thursday Activity Group (TAG).

February 7 Stanbrae Tree guard removal Ranger: Dave Moore

March 6 Norman's Reserve Antechinus Swamp woody weed removal

April 3 Koornung Woody weed removal with Osbourne Peninsula Landcare Group

For more information contact either Jodie on 9844 2659 or Joan on 9844 3213

Also note : 3rd Thursday of the month Anderson Creek Landcare Group activities

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2008

Held on the 1st **Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at South Warrandyte Hall, 66-68 Hall Rd, Sth Warrandyte (Mel ref. 35 J8) **Seminars are FREE. No bookings required.** Supper provided

February 6 An Adventure in Inner Mongolia Damien Cook

March 5 Extinction in the Suburbs- *Can we avoid it?* Dr. Sarah Bekessy

Also from Manningham note:

Rainwater Harvesting at Home Seminar

Venue: Manningham City Council, Function Room 1 & 2, 699 Doncaster Rd Doncaster

Bookings Essential: 9840 9348 or eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

Seminar Time: Thursday **14th Feb 2008**, 6.30 pm—9.00 pm

Also join our Sustainable Living Challenge **Home Harvest Food Exchange.**
Cathy Willis Environmental Officer Manningham City Council 9840 9122 / 0417 533 993



An invitation to join the 2008 FOWSP committee

The FOWSP committee meets one evening a month from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at the ranger's office, at Pound Bend. It is informal, friendly and inclusive. A number of long-serving members have recently retired, and at the moment there are three vacancies. We invite fellow FOWSP members to consider taking a more active organizational role in our group and joining the committee. No special skills are needed and we can promise it will be an enjoyable experience and you will get to know many like minded people. If you would like to talk this over or need more information, please contact any existing committee member.

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning from 9:30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. Every fourth Thursday we often go on a spontaneously organised walk. (see below) Propagation takes place from 10 am to 12 midday followed by lunch. No prior experience necessary - there is always someone available to show you the ropes. Melways ref. 23 C10

OPENING HOURS

The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday. 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and the first Sunday of each month 2 pm to 4 pm.

PRICES

Members 80 cents
Non-members \$1.20



Nursery matters—opening hours and return of trays

Please note the nursery is only open for plant sales during the above times. Some members and non-members have been turning up for plants (and advice) outside these hours without prior arrangement. If you find it impossible to come during official opening times please contact the nursery manager first.

Would all members who have obtained plants from the FOWSP nursery please make sure they return the empty forestry tubes and more importantly the black plastic tube holder trays. These trays are specially made and have been bought by FOWSP at considerable cost. They can be returned to the nursery any weekday between 8 am and 5 pm or on the first Sunday of the month between 2 pm and 4 pm.

Sunday Walks 2008

This educational series of interpretive nature walks takes you into some of Manningham's most inspiring and interesting bushland. All walks are free but **bookings are essential** as places are limited. Each one commences at 10.15 am. It is important to note that walk lengths and difficulties vary, and times and distances are an estimate only. Appropriate shoes, hat and clothing, and a water bottle are required, as is food on longer walks.

Bookings: Kay Toussaint on 9840 9348 or email eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

March 2nd Waterwatch Walk *Nigel Philpot* Manningham Environmental Education Officer Approx. 4 km in 3.5 hrs. A creek crossing, some steep possibly slippery sections included. Walk beside and test water quality at several points along **Mullum Mullum Creek**. BYO lunch. Bookings essential: *May be cancelled if creek is in flood*. **Meet:** **Schwerkolt Cottage** 10.15 am Deep Creek Rd, Mitcham Mel 49 D7 to car pool

April 6th Timelines Revisited what changes since 1995? **Glen Jameson**

Thursday Walks 2008

If the weather is suitable and there is enough interest, walks may be held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1 pm after lunch. Meet at the nursery, Pound Bend Rangers depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10). Walks will last approximately 2 hours. No need to book, but remember there is no definite program for these walks. **Enquiries to Josh Revell 0408 317327**

Ranger's Summer Report

By Conrad Annal

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years and were spoilt. Our first Christmas with Zac (born 10 Nov 2007) was very special, I think more for his parents than for him, but he too was naturally very spoilt.

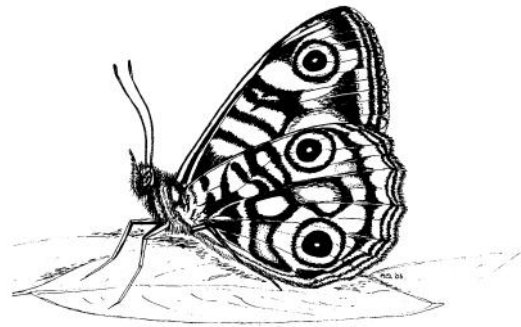
The Christmas and New Year week was busy. The Rangers on duty worked right through the week including Christmas Day. There were plenty of visitors enjoying this beautiful part of the world, which is great to see, but does keep the Rangers very busy. Despite the welcome rain we had leading up to Christmas, the bush is now very dry again. It doesn't take long when temperatures are into the 40's. With a quiet start to the summer fire season, we are still spending a lot of time on planning and preparation for the remainder of this fire season. We have 5 Project Fire Fighters working with us this year, (Con Cosmos, Crew leader with Adam Carnegie, Darryn Keenan, Brad Simpson and Sean Kelly), who have been busy getting fire equipment ready, undertaking fire preparation works, and as I write this report, some are currently away at fires in Gippsland.

- **Summer Ranger:** Hugh Tunnelcliffe, will be working between Warrandyte and Westerfolds for 13 weeks. Hugh will be assisting with the Summer Interps Program, assisting Rangers with their work and is able to help fill gaps when staff are away at fires.
- **Jumping Creek Nature Trail:** Two new boardwalks built along the trail, as the old ones had seen their day.
- **Ridge Picnic Area at Sugarloaf:** re-opened, with a new Picnic Shelter, new gas BBQ's, and a sustainable water supply using two water tanks. a lot of improvement works around Ridge, with more to come.
- **Old Miners Cottage in Christmas Hills:** now managed by Warrandyte office. Parks are grateful to The Andrew Ross Museum in Kangaroo Ground for the enormous amount of research into the history of the Cottage, and the info found will be very useful for

the future management of the cottage.

- **Warrandyte Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve** will receive an Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment, which will assist Parks manage the Indigenous Cultural Heritage values of this Reserve. The southern section of Kinglake National Park and Warrandyte State Park have already been assessed, so this will be important information to fill the gap between the two Parks.

- **Vandalism:** Just before Christmas, glue and icy pole sticks were stuck into a number of padlocks around the Park. We are not able to open the padlocks. This isn't the first time this has happened, and it tends to be at this time of the year, **so if you notice any strange behaviour regarding this, please let us know.**



Thanks Judy

Our thanks to Judy Green for donating an original, suitable for framing, of the photo montage taken at the 25th anniversary celebrations and published in the December Warrandyte Diary. This has been framed and will hang in the Rangers' Depot office as a permanent reminder of a wonderful FOWSP milestone.

Is your subscription due?

Joan Broadberry
Honorary Treasurer

Thank you to all those who have recently paid their newsletter address label has a note, "Subs and a date" when your FOWSP subscription (\$20 or \$10 concession per family), is due. I would ask all members to get into the habit of checking this date and responding by sending in their sub when it has expired. In this way you will not miss any newsletters. FOWSP subscriptions used to become due on the 1st January. However, the system was changed to rolling renewals to be fair to those joining through the year. It is an historical fact that many people's membership is due in January, so **PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABELS.**

FOWSP membership for 2008. Each printed on the lower left corner. This is the date

A membership form is printed on the back of every newsletter

Bush Backyards

The Stick Insect

by Steven Katsineris

WHILE PLAYING IN the garden one day, not long after we moved to Hurstbridge our son, Andreas discovered a large insect in a shrub and took us into the yard to show us. It was perfectly camouflaged to suit the surrounding vegetation and very well concealed, almost undetectable except to the most sharp-eyed observer. We realized it was a Stick Insect. These insects look just like sticks and therefore the name. We all marvelled at this astonishing creature, so incredibly adapted to its environment and also amazed that Andreas had been able to spot this nearly invisible insect.

Stick Insects are the longest Australian insects and the largest; the Titan Stick Insect can grow to over 30cm in length. They have a slender body and thinner legs and are usually green or brown, which makes them practically impossible to tell apart from a slim twig amid bushes. During the day, Stick Insects usually stay motionless gripping to a plant, using their excellent camouflage to avoid detection by birds and other predators. Sometimes they do move a bit, swaying slowly back and forwards, like a little stick in the wind. At night Stick Insects became active and move around feeding on leaves. Stick Insects usually inhabit Eucalypt forests and live in gum trees, but can also be found in other bushes and trees in suburban gardens.

Stick Insects have an interesting life cycle*. After mating, the female lays eggs high in the tree-tops. The thick-shelled eggs are then dropped from the there to the ground. The small seed like eggs land among the undergrowth and leaf litter and lie there for up to 20 months before hatching. The emerging larvae instinctively climb up trees, usually Eucalypts to find tender leaves to eat. The

larvae feed rapaciously and grow quickly.

The young Stick Insects grow by shedding their outer skeletons numerous times before reaching adulthood. Weeks after maturing the females can lay egg. Adults live for about six months. Females can produce hundreds of eggs during their short life. Mainly birds feed on Stick Insects, but some flies and wasps eat the larvae. There are over 150 species of Phasmids (Stick and Leaf Insects) found in Australia. Many species of Stick Insect are rare, some are fairly common, all are hard to find. The Stick Insect is a fascinating creature and without a doubt the master of disguise.

**Ed. Note: Stick insects such as Macleay's are also parthenogenetic i.e. they can lay fertile eggs without fertilization by a male. We had two females and raised up to 3rd generation without a male's assistance. All the offspring are then female.*

Brown is the new green

By Joan Broadberry

WHAT'S HAPPENING in my backyard this summer? Well what's not happening is mowing. There was quite an extensive grassed area on our Templestowe block. Over the last two years, it had been looking very much the worst for wear. A few weeks ago we took the plunge and replaced the lawn with pine mulch. I now ask myself, "Why did I hesitate?" The mulch looks great. I love the way the green of the plants is set off by the rich brown of the bark. Most importantly it doesn't need any of my precious grey and tank water. Even better, my list of garden jobs is shrinking. No weeding, no mowing, no fertilizing, no raking, no aerating. We have even mulched the nature strip and have given the lawnmower away. So far the blackbirds have refrained from being too much of a nuisance in the mulch, and all I have to do is deal with the odd weed peeping through.

What's happening in your backyard in summer?

We would love to hear from you, a paragraph or a page, photos welcome. Contributions can be mailed to FOWSP, P.O. Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or preferably emailed to Linda Rogan, lindarogan@netspace.net.au

Market Volunteers will be needed again from February. [First Saturday of the month]

Anyone who would like to be rostered on to help with the trailer, even for just one hour, please contact Marie Krause 9712 0498 New members especially welcome, no experience required. **Thank you to Marie Krause** for organizing market volunteers. Best wishes for your broken leg.



Review in Brief

By Linda Rogan

Melbourne's Wildlife

A field guide to the fauna of Greater Melbourne

By Museum Victoria

CSIRO publishing, Collingwood 2006

Pb, 360pp, colour photos. RRP \$39.95

I discovered this book in time for Christmas this year. A great find, with over 700 animals beautiful photographs, common and scientific names, identification, habitat and range and notes of interest. Not just the sexy animals are included. Seven pages are devoted to slugs and snails. Worms, spiders, insects and flies are not overlooked. Part one covers terrestrial and freshwater environments while part two addresses the marine environment. The extensive list of references at the back, divided into areas of interest such as 'birds' or 'worms' should assist those keen enough to seek further information. Very helpful as a start point for identification, it includes only animals that are known to occur in the Greater Melbourne area.

From the internet

Bioinformatics Museum Victoria

[Http://www.museumvictoria.com.au/bioinformatics/](http://www.museumvictoria.com.au/bioinformatics/)

Bioinformatics is an interdisciplinary research area that is the interface between the biological and computational sciences. The ultimate goal of bioinformatics is to uncover the wealth of biological information hidden in the mass of data and obtain a clearer insight into the fundamental biology of organisms.

And its accessible to all!

Fauna Links include the following: Wildlife, butterflies snakes, frogs, mammals and lizards. I found these easy to use and especially liked the image short cuts. For example "butterfly" image shortcuts led to a listing of five major groups. Choosing *Lycinidae*, blues and coppers, I was able to quickly pick out the Varied Dusky Blue Butterfly which had photos of live and mounted butterflies and caterpillar. In addition relevant contacts, websites and books are listed. Another great source of information.



Small Wings of Summer

by Linda Rogan

THE SUMMER may fly by on invisible wings but the wings that have inspired me are visible if one takes the time to look.

The first winged thing to catch my eye was on 4th Hill in early December where the Cassinia appeared to be decorated for Christmas with the silvery fluff from the *Clematis microphylla* or Old Man's Beard. Golden bronze studs glistened in the morning sun on the smaller bushes. On close look these turned out to be beetles.



A check of *Melbourne's Wildlife* (see review) identified Honeybrown Beetle *Ecnolagria grandis*. Common in Eastern Australia, adults and larvae feed on dead plant and fungal material.

Most of the action on this warm day was at the top where butterflies large and small flitted about. As they were very active it was difficult for me to spot details but fortunately I caught some species on film for later identification.

I recognized the male common brown straight away as it fluttered up from the leaf litter; disappearing again as it closed its wings on landing. Black, white and a flash of red alerted me to the Dainty Swallowtail. It must have flown from a citrus tree in the neighbourhood.

The discovery of the day for me was a small coppery to purple winged butterfly with a fuzzy blue body. Many fluttered near the hill top but I was able to catch a photo or two.

At home I consulted *Complete Field guide to Butterflies of Aust.* M.F. Braby, and the internet. *Melbourne's Wildlife* convinced me I had the Common or Varied Dusky Blue Butterfly *Candalides hyacinthina*. And finally borrowing 'Flying Colours' (by Pat and Mike Coupar) from FOWSP library I learned the caterpillars feed at night on Dodder Laurel *Cassytha spp.*

Also seen on 4th Hill were Eastern Ringed Xenica *Geitoneura acanthi* (Sketch p6), Australian Painted Lady *Vanessa kershawi* and a furry black, brown and white moth with an apparent panda face on its head and shoulders. This is the Crexa Moth *Crexa anthraxoides* that feeds on Cherry Ballart *Exocarpus cupressiformis*. My appetite was whetted for more.

The wings of the summer, however were found as we walked along the Plenty River, nearly dismissing the small whitish butterflies fluttering in the young acacia. One stopped at eye level and I was amazed to see the delicate blue, bold orange and black and white tails or hairstreaks of the Imperial Blue Butter-

(Continued on page 9)

Beyond Warrandyte

True Sustainability

By Alwynne Buntine

ON A RECENT VISIT to the eastern highlands near Lake Mountain, looking for Macleay's Swallowtail butterflies to photograph, I was introduced to an example of genuine sustainable living. Disappointed at the lack of butterflies, my friends, Irene and Bruce Fuhrer and I sat eating our lunch amongst some of the Antarctic Beech trees. Bruce rose and walked to the edge of the road where he picked a leaf from a low growing plant and returned to us. He held a small pinnatisect leaf with irregular little black spots on its upper surface. These were densely packed colonies of a minute fungus called *Fabraea rhytismoides*. The fungus is so tiny individual fungal discs can only be seen when magnified. The host plant, *Leptinella filicula* (Mountain Cotula), is a prostrate creeping perennial mainly of the alpine and subalpine areas.

The fungus is seldom seen and is quite unusual because it lives in harmony with its host. Unlike most fungi which are associated with dead or dying plants, the *Fabraea* exist on a living plant. It doesn't grow on all of the leaves of the *Leptinella* but is specific to it, appearing to do the plant no harm and thereby, ensuring its own survival, true sustainability. Apart from the photo included with this article, shows the leaf magnified several times, the actual leaf being less than 2 cms in length, there are other photos of it in the following:

- *A field guide to Australian Fungi*, by Bruce Fuhrer p. 316 photograph 489
- *Wildflowers of Victoria* by Bruce Fuhrer and Margaret Corrick p.25 photograph 89.



(Continued from page 8)

fly *Jalmenus evagoris*. Now I was truly hooked. How could I have lived in this area for twenty five years and been oblivious to such a beauty? Since then my summer project has been to photograph all the life stages of this obliging creature. I have found good populations in Alma Brown's Reserve (Alma's land is another story) where they utilize Silver Wattles that are 7-8meters tall. It seems the *Iridomyrex* ants are the key. They swarm over the larvae collecting secretions and give some protection from predators. The larvae when hatched seek out the ant trails on the tree. They pupate together on a communal silk pad and communicate from within the pupae with audible stridulations which also attract more ants to attend the pupae. The adult male butterflies await the emergence of the females and the females lay eggs

nearby, perhaps stimulated by the presence of the ants. Therefore all stages are found on the one plant and around Melbourne two to three overlapping generations occur each summer. Other wings will have to wait as I've carried on too long already.

Letter to the editor

Re:Horse poo and Weeds

A NSW country town used to offer free horse manure to gardeners. The town was proud of its roses—so much so, one lady used to tie artificial roses on her bushes—considered very unsporting, but could be water conserving! After applying the manure, an unfortunate reported he had “the greatest crop of oats you ever saw”. So perhaps we should take caution.

Brendon Murphy

Minutes Of Annual General Meeting

HELD AT THE FOLLY
Tuesday 11 December 2007

Linda Rogan, chairperson, opened the meeting at approximately 6.30 pm

Apology: Joan MacMahon

Minutes of the previous AGM: Moved Cathy Willis, seconded Ben Gotlib that they be accepted. Carried

Business arising from the minutes: None

Treasurer's Report was circulated. We recorded a surplus of \$3039 and our closing cash balance was \$50954. Payments were less than in 2005/6. Nursery wages were lower and we did not have the costs of printing brochures that we incurred in 2005/6. Treasurer Joan Broadberry said we are in a position to undertake capital works that are needed at the nursery. She thanked Dick Thomson for his assistance during the year and Raymond Wells for acting as honorary auditor. Moved: A Muchow, seconded M Coupar that the report be accepted. Carried.

Nursery Manager's Report: Josh Revell reported that a large number of members volunteered on Thursdays and average attendance was fifteen. Dry weather meant that sales were lower. We planted 550 plants in the Park compared with 1000 the year before. Josh thanked Mel Lange and the volunteers for their efforts.

Ranger's Report: Conrad Annal reported that fuel re-



duction burns have taken place. The slashing program is complete. A summer ranger has been appointed. Major improvements have been made to the Ridge picnic area and it is useable again. Cam has done more work inside the Dunnart fence. A skink not previously identified in the Park was found. Conrad thanked FOWSP members for their efforts during the year and made special mention of the contribution of Mike and Pat Coupar. He also acknowledged the help given by the City of Manning-



ham to the 25th anniversary celebrations.

Thanks to Mike and Pat: Cathy Willis, on behalf of the members, thanked Mike and Pat Coupar (who are moving to Mallacoota) for their massive contribution to FOWSP over many years. See Cathy's article page 3

Election of committee: The following were elected unopposed:

Linda Rogan, Joan Broadberry, Joan MacMahon, Martin Hiley, Artur Muchow, Gray Ardern, Cathy Willis

Marie Krause will continue to co-ordinate the market.

General Business: Josh said that we should undertake repairs to the large concrete tank. This would cost about \$2500 and provide enough water for 20 to 24 days hand watering when full. Restrictions will mean we cannot always pump water from the river.

Linda thanked a few more people. Lee Speedy for compiling the membership data base, Julie Pryor for collating the newsletter, Marie Krause for organizing the market, Peter Curry for returning the market trailer and Ben Gotlib for....well, just being Ben.

The meeting was followed by a barbeque and a fascinating slide show of Mike and Pat's recent trip to Uganda and Tanzania.

Minutes Brian James, Photos: Joan Broadberry

Many thanks to those who helped put together this newsletter

Linda Rogan
Joan Broadberry
Joan MacMahon
Julie Pryor
Mel Coupar (line drawings)

"I SPY"

By B.G



ALWAYS ACTIVE

During The late December and January period, when most people are away holidaying, many park staff and FOWSP members continue to carry on vital activities. On the first working Thursday, 3rd January, of 2008, over fifteen people turned up at the nursery, working, where possible in the shade.

OBSERVING OPHIDIA

Did you know the park office, (9844 2659), has a list of "snake handlers", "snake busters" and "snake catchers", who work in Chirnside Park, Croydon, Doncaster East, Box Hill and Scoresby?

RANGER REWARD

Re Zac, son of Conrad, (the Ranger-in-Charge at WSP); and his wife, Sam. Born on 10th November '07., Zac has already been dressed in a Christmas costume.

PROPAGATING PROPENSITY

Melanie, who assists at the Depot Nursery, and often takes over when Josh is not able to be there, has her own propagation project in progress. Watch this column.

TRUST TREES

The National Trust of Australia, (Vic.) has announced that, amongst others, two trees have been listed as "Significant Trees".

Eucalyptus viminalis (Manna gum), Shield Rd, Yellingbo. (Regional).

Bursaria spinosa (Sweet bursaria), Sorrento Golf Club. (Regional).

For more, try www.nattrust.com.au (Search the Register)

INTERESTING INTERPRETATION

The summer interpretation programme is operating at WSP, with activities and events from 1st December 07 to 29 February 08. Please note, 2008 is a Leap Year!

Local events are/were: a possum prowl on 10th January attended by twenty people and led by David Moore. It was a very warm night meaning lots of insects out, which meant lots of animals. A great night. The bat trap night on 15th January had twenty people booked and eleven on the waiting list. The leader was Jodie. The breakfast with the birds on January 19th was led by Conrad and Kylie. Scheduled for 22nd January was an activity "Amazing Minibeasts", about some of our smallest native creatures. Ring Parks Victoria information centre on 131963 or try www.parkweb.vic.gov.au for a wide range of summer events taking place in parks from Albert Park through to Wilsons Promontory.

ACACIA AGAIN

A feature article featuring the "history" of the *Acacia leprosa*, Scarlet blaze, a red flowering wattle found on a track near Wilhelmina Falls in the Black Range State Forest, has appeared in The Acacia Study Group Newsletter of the Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants.

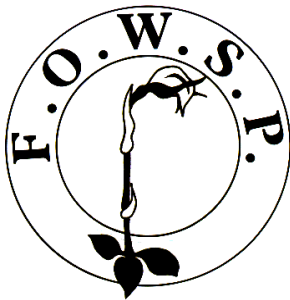
The Nursery has a visitor

By Lucy Walsh

I went to Warrandyte State Park on Thursday with Ben. I didn't know what to expect. I was really worried about snakes, so I walked slowly up to where Ben was waiting for me. When I got to the nursery Ben introduced me to the people working there. People were hard at work watering plants and seeing which ones were dead. There were ferns and other plants. I had no idea what they were called but one plant they had fascinated me, and that was the grass trigger plant *Stylidium graminifolium*. Then Ben took me to the Ranger Station and I met Conrad the head ranger. I found out some interesting facts, for instance that they have fire crews and the rangers get to go and help. I also noticed how well prepared and modern it was. The thing that freaked me out were the taxidermied animals all over the place – nice but freaky. Then when Ben took me back to the nursery I talked to Margaret and Melanie, one of the girls working there, and she showed me the frogs on the shelf. Ben kept taking Polaroids of us. He got a funny one of Josh the head of the nursery. Then we had to leave the gorgeous park and go home.

My opinion was that the park was really surprising because I didn't expect such a friendly bunch of people and the biggest surprise was that the park was actually fun. I didn't see much of the actual park what I did see was very nice. My opinion, overall, was that I want to come back. It was fun and interesting.

From Ben: Lucy Walsh visited the depot on Thursday 3.1.08. She lives in East Bentleigh and has just finished year 9 at school.



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White-winged Chough

Corcorax melanorhamphos

by Joan Broadberry



Gregarious black bird, smaller than a raven. In flight, a white patch shows under each wing. Up close, look for a bright red eye. A group of white winged choughs often forage around the nursery area. In fact they practically attended the recent AGM. A few weeks ago there were fifteen in the flock including two newly fledged chicks. A highly social species feeding mostly on the ground. Their calls ring out through the bush, and are described as mournful, mellow, descending whistles.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email.....

Membership (family) \$20

Concession \$10

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

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