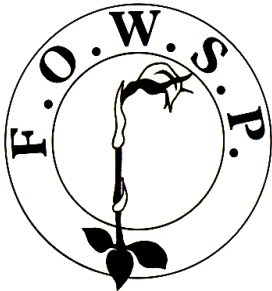


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

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

Editor's corner

By Linda Rogan

THE SOLAR PANELS are churning out power, the sun is doing most of the work in heating our hot water and our leaking bladder (rainwater) has been replaced. Like most of us, I have become aware of the need to reduce our carbon footprint and conserve water, so it feels good to have made a start. If you are looking for some guidance and support to see what you can do about carbon emissions, check out page 4 to find out what CRAGS are and how they can help.

We have just come back from a long weekend in Moondarah and Bawbaw National Parks. Hundreds of digital images have helped me identify the Bright Copper*, Orange Alpine Xenica (pictured), and Fringed Heath-blue*



Butterflies, amongst others.

A prickly feeling in my pocket as I walked, led to another discovery. I pulled out a pea sized red-legged creature with a hard black and white crablike back and six shiny black spines. Again the FOWSP library came to the rescue with *Spiders Commonly*



Found in Melbourne and Surrounding Areas by Ken Walker and Graham Milledge. Page 42 shows the unmistakable likeness of the Spiny Spider *Gastera-*

cantha minax. (aka Christmas or Jewel Spider) As I had rolled it around in my fingertips before extracting it from my pocket, it is fortunate that this spider "is rarely known to bite". Apparently common in shrubby woodlands, it may be found in large web colonies "capable of enshrouding entire bushes and causing annoyance to bushwalkers." For me it added interest to being out in the bush.

Since last newsletter, Josh told me of another colony of Imperial Blue Butterflies, *Jalmenus evagoris* at Pound Bend. I visited there on a rainy day expecting to see little activity. To my surprise, up to ten butterflies had congregated on one twig, so the camera came out again*. Apparently they fly from December to April so it's still not too late to see them.

This issue brings you information about First Aid for the Yarra, a bit of Lord Howe Island, progress at Stane Brae, the ranger's great summer program, deceased wildlife at the nursery, and a new semi regular column: *Bits and Pieces from the end of Brad-*

leys Lane by Joan MacMahon. So read on and enjoy....

Oh yes, there will be an **April issue** so keep up the contributions!

*See bonus photos on the last page of email copy.

Note: This month a sample newsletter will be sent to you by email, (if we have your email address), as well as a printed copy. Hope you enjoy the colour photos. If you find you prefer this, let us know by email, and we will transfer you to the "email only" list as soon as we have the system fully set up. Of course for those who don't use email, or just prefer a printed copy, you will continue to receive your FOWSP newsletter in print.

Deadline for April edition newsletter is Friday March 21

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

A Fair Way up River

By Joan MacMahon

GREENING AUSTRALIA have started running *River First Aid* courses, and living so very close to the Yarra - opposite the confluence with Anderson's Creek, (Melway 23 C12), I couldn't resist attending the inaugural course.

I'd have to make my way to Woori Yallock though, which is a bit of an ask for someone who normally sticks pretty close to home - exceptions made of course for holidays! So, on the 22nd and 23rd of last November, I got myself there and it turned out it wasn't as far as I'd thought. I realized how much, much further it is by river, there being innumerable bends and backtrackings between Woori Yallock and Warrandyte.

We were given lots of information about natural river processes, types of degradation and some of the practicalities of trying to repair the human impacts. I'd say most readers know that, post European settlement, the course of our Australian rivers has been steeply downhill. There were many examples quoted along the lines of - "We used to catch large bass there back in the thirties but now it's just a muddy hole".

Most of the theory went straight over my head. I don't have a hydrological bent! I did enjoy gleaning some interesting facts and meeting the other folk. These included an older bloke who came from west of Melbourne by public transport! (And made it on time both days.)

We were told about the importance of riparian, i.e. close to a waterway, vegetation, not only as a habitat in its own right but as a bank stabilizer, a source of leaves, twigs, fruit and insects for aquatic food webs, are a filtering agent for excess sediments and nutrients. As well, taller plants act as a natural 'shade cloth'. Shade keeps waterways cooler, helping to maintain better dissolved oxygen concentrations - vital for all those river creatures we rarely see but hope are still with us, e.g. eels, platypus, native fish, fresh water mussels, yabbies and heaps of other invertebrates.

The importance of retaining large pieces of woody debris was emphasized. The trees and shrubs which fall into waterways provide shelter and breeding places for fish and trap leaves and fruits for invertebrates to feast on. Later these invertebrates become food for fish and platypus, and so the web of life continues. Older readers may remember the massive de-snagging programs in the Murray and the Snowy - they went for decades! The reasons seemed good at the time; improve navigability, minimize flood damage, make it easier to remove gravel and sand and improve human safety.

Now wood is being deliberately returned. We were told about a chap who'd been removing logs from the Snowy over three decades who was later employed to put them back! I recently came across a good quote near one of the lakes in Melbourne's Botanical Gardens, referring to a fallen dead tree - "Even in death it nurtures life".

One of the best bits of information came from Richard Francis, one of our two presenters, who recommended using 2 litre drink cartons as plant guards - they only require one stake - so big savings there. As well, if the cartons become litter at least they're biodegradable.

Finally some more excellent info. from Richard. I was describing how difficult it was for new plants to thrive in the soil, (alias concrete), in our area and how I was puzzled that the three very large eucalypts in the front yard had ever got a 'roothold'. He suggested the demise of digging and burrowing animals such as bettongs might point to the answer. They'd have created a looser topsoil. (Does anyone know whether bettongs ever lived around Warrandyte?)

Finally, any mistakes in this article can be attributed to yours truly, not to either of our excellent presenters; Dan Borg who's doing a PhD on the restoration of fish habitat and Richard Francis who works in the area of habitat restoration. And thank you to Greening Australia for organizing the course - 'twas good fun.

Extract from Newsletter no.21 Friends of Lord Howe Island



LHI phasmid(Stick Insect) on the Island Dec 2007

".. LHI Board arranged for Patrick Honan from Melbourne Zoo to visit the Island with several phasmids. This is the first time phasmids have been on the Island since the 1930's, when rats wiped them out. In 1964 rock climber David Roots photographed a dead phasmid on Ball's Pyramid, which led to the eventual discovery of the survival of phasmids on the Pyramid in 2001. Two pairs of phasmids were taken to mainland Australia for captive breeding; and Patrick Honan has been looking after the breeding program at Melbourne zoo since 2002. He has made recommendations to the LHI Board for setting up an enclosure at the Island nursery to house phasmids for public display..."

Angel on Lord Howe Island

by Linda Rogan

LORD HOWE ISLAND is a remnant volcano roughly twice the size of WSP but boasts coral lagoons, jagged peaks, 247 indigenous plants (47% endemic) and 170 species of birds recorded, including Providence Petrels, Red-Tailed Tropicbirds and endemic Woodhens.

We visited in November 2007 and were immediately taken by the “angels” of LHI. White Terns *Gygis alba* (aka White Noddy,

Fairy Tern, Love Tern). They hover like angels near the naked branches of the Norfolk Island Pines where their eggs are carefully placed and guarded

without benefit of a nest. Luckily the downy brown chicks are hatched with special hook claws on their feet that help them to hang on even in a gale.

These birds are favorites of tourists and locals. After storms locals do a patrol to look out for any young that have lost hold and fallen to the ground. They will first replace them on a limb to see if their parents will resume the care. If not, they will become foster parents and rear them on tiny fish as their parents would have done. Fortunately for these locals this bird does not regurgitate to feed their young. This angel is a recent (1943) natural colonizer on LHI, breeding there since 1967. They are listed as vulnerable in NSW.

In addition to many birds, endemic and native plants, there are also many introduced weeds. This is where the **Friends of Lord Howe Island** come in.

A friends group was formed in 2001. Unlike Warrandyte, the resident population of the island is only about 300 people therefore a wide net was cast to find volunteers from mainland Australia, NZ and other countries. Hands on work is carried out during eco-tours scheduled from June to September. Although subsidized, each volunteer pays for his trip and works half of each day. Weeds such as Climbing and Ground Asparagus had smothered 95% of the ground in places and have been removed by Friends. According to Ian Hutton, Friends Group founder “the activities and interest of mainland volunteers has changed the way the community perceives weeds...”.

Contact for further information

<http://www.lordhowe-tours.com.au/friends.htm>



The Agony and the Ecstasy of Agile Antechinus

By Lynda Gilbert

THIS IS A REPORT of the talk given last year at one of Manningham's excellent monthly seminars by Dr. Marissa Parrott from Melbourne University. Dr Parrott proved to be a delightful speaker and gave a fascinating talk on antechinus.

There are 10 known species of antechinus (of which the subtropical species is unfortunately dying out). Agile Antechinus (*Antechinus agilis*) are the smallest and most ferocious of all the species. They need dense bush, preferably near water, with lots of trees and logs, to nest. They are highly social, and scent cues are very important to breeding and survival. They are small in size and mostly nocturnal. Sometimes they can be seen during the day, such as during the breeding season. They can withstand extremes of temperature, but not bush fires or drought.

Agile antechinus are found near the Yarra River in Warrandyte and along the Mullum Mullum Creek, but they don't do well in suburban areas as they lack cover and are likely to be killed by domestic animals. Agile Antechinus range from western Victoria through to southern Queensland. Males are all high on testosterone during the two week breeding period in August and become stressed, excitable and very competitive. Male Agile Antechinus mate only once and die! The female is promiscuous, and is likely to mate with at least 7 males and produce offspring from up to 5 different fathers!

In the wild, after fertilising the female, the males' immune system becomes suppressed, they are subject to debilitating pests and diseases, they forget to eat, develop stomach ulcers and die. Even in captivity, they are only able to breed once, then their testicles shrink and they die within a short period.

The females have an uncanny knack of being able to pick males that have a different genetic makeup from themselves, so that they can produce the strongest offspring. They have the ability to store sperm for up to 14 days after insemination. The strongest sperm

(Continued on page 8)

Many thanks to those who helped put together this newsletter

Linda Rogan
 Joan Broadberry
 Joan MacMahon
 Mel Coupar (Line drawings)
 Julie Pryor (Collation)
 Martyn Hiley (Labels)
 And to Lee Speedy for labels in February

Get ClimateWise Now! Workshops-How to reduce your carbon emissions

CLIMATE CHANGE requires urgent action by all of us. In recognition of this, Manningham City Council has taken the lead in pooling community enthusiasm and resources to make **a real practical difference now**. Residents of Manningham can learn how to make substantial reductions in their carbon emissions and create change by becoming involved in Carbon Rationing Action Groups (CRAGs). The 'Get ClimateWise Now!' program is a series of workshops covering topics such as solar electricity, solar hot water and heating, domestic wind energy, electric transportation options, green building and retrofits, green financing, food miles and serious recycling. It includes discounts and exciting offers for carbon rationing participants.

The first three sessions, which were held in 2007, were very informative and practical. They covered: Carbon Rationing and Green Financing – the Green Financing was a Bendigo Bank presentation that was particularly interesting; Solar Electricity Options – this where we expressed our interest in joining a CRAG and getting the discounts on PV arrays. Transport Alternatives – electric bicycles and scooters were on display and information on the new Victorian electric car called *the Blade Runner* was given.

The fourth session, on Feb 21, had speakers on solar hot water systems, (the different types and their benefits) and solar air heating systems.

If you're interested in joining a CRAG or just coming to the remaining sessions please book with Kay Tossaint 9840 9348 or eeppadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au Sessions are free and held on Thursday evenings at Manningham Council Chambers, 6.45-9 pm.

March 20	Domestic Wind Energy
April 10	Green buildings and renovation plus double glazing options
May 22	Rethinking our energy use; food miles and Product Recycling
June 19	GRAG overview and Climate change – where to from here?
	(Exciting new information on PV and solar hot water systems for CRAGers !)

Editor—CRAG or Carbon Rationing Action Groups is another entity unknown to me until recently. If you are interested in learning more about this and live in Manningham, check out the information above provided by Martyn Hiley. If you live elsewhere check out the following web site for more information

<http://www.carbonequity.info/crags/index.html>.

February's TAG activity at Stane Brae

Report by Joan MacMahon

STANE BRAE Melway(24 A/B 7) is about a 15 minute drive from the park office –about 7 kms. by road but only a bit over 3 'as the crow flies'. We removed plant guards and stakes from part of a 5 to 6 year old planting close to the old dairy buildings. To help provide habitat we left the stakes in a few piles – hoping they would shelter insects and reptiles.

Six of us, four 'friends' and two rangers, worked hard and after a couple of hours we were well pleased with

our efforts – which included demolishing a yummy morning tea! Not only did the area we completed look so much better from a human point of view, (those opaque plastic guards are a visual blight), but we reckoned we heard the plants thanking us -



particularly the eucalypts, some of whom were starting to be damaged by stakes.

Rough visual inspection indicated the planting had had an 80 to 90% survival rate. This was so encouraging and it was a pleasure to imagine the site in the future being in a much healthier, wildlife richer state.

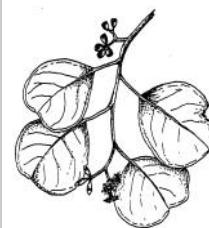
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February Market Volunteers

Ray Kruger
Sue Shepherd
Lynne Vary

Mark &
Margaret Hassall
Wolfgang & Marie Krause
Peter Curry (delivery & return of trailer)

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.*



FOWSP Committee 2008			Other FOWSP contacts	
Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter Coordinator	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell 0408 317327
Joan Broadberry	9846 1218	Treasurer/Newsletter	<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
Joan MacMahon	9844 3213	Tag Activities/Newsletter/ FOWSP contact	<u>Market Coordinator</u>	Marie Krause 9712 0498
Martyn Hiley	9844 4547	Membership/ FOWSP contact	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds 9722 2908
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor 9722 1117
Gray Ardern	0418 190261			
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green 9844 2096

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

March 6 Norman's Reserve Antechinus Swamp woody weed removal
April 3 Koornung Woody weed removal with Osbourne Peninsula Landcare Group
May 1 Pound Bend Boys Road grant site planting

The Thursday Activity Group is co-ordinated by Ranger Jodie Davis 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).

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)

March 5 Extinction in the Suburbs- Can we avoid it? **Dr. Sarah Bekessy**
April 2 Bandicoot banter: historical lessons for future conservation **Dr. Paul Metrovski**



Seminars are FREE. No bookings required
Supper provided

Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

Sunday April 20 Managing for wildfire on a bush block
 10 am-2 pm Venue: CFA Christmas Hills South Fire Station
 Bookings: Megan Frye on 9433 3210



Sunday April 27 Diamond Creek Waterwatch bike ride by Waterwatch
 10 am-1 pm Meet: Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre
 Bookings: Megan Frye on 9433 3210

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

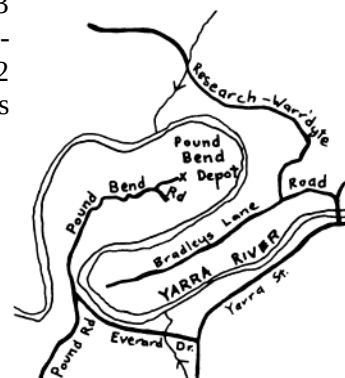
We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 9.30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. Every fourth Thursday we often go on a spontaneously organised walk. (see below) Propagation takes place from 9.30 am to 12 midday followed by lunch (BYO). No prior experience necessary - there is always someone available to show you the ropes.

NURSERY 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



**Sale! Sale! up to 50% off
On plants**

Sale only on special open days

Saturday March 15 10-4 pm
Sunday March 16 12-4 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.

March 2nd Waterwatch Walk Nigel Philpot

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

Revisit the Middle Yarra Six Seasons Timelines Calendar with Glen who is one of its creators.

Discussion will take place on top of **Mt Lofty** with optional walk afterward. **BYO lunch**

May 4th TBA

Bookings: KayToussaint on 9840 9348 or email eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

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**

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

Summertime in Warrandyte State Park

By Dave Moore, Ranger WSP

IT HAS TO BE of the most exciting times of the year! Our picnic areas and the river spring into life, whilst people enjoy their holidays in the sunshine. The animals are readily observable, and there is always a good vibe in the air! It's also the perfect time to run our annual summer holiday program.



Little Rangers inspecting minibeasts with rangers Dave Moore and Jodie Davis

This year gave us perfect weather to get out and about with the kids, to search in the treetops, scratch in the dirt, and to get up close and personal with some of our native wildlife. We ran five activities, two possum prowls, a bat trapping night, breakfast with the birds, and a look at our amazing minibeasts.

All activities were fully booked, with families coming from Springvale to Diamond creek, Camberwell

(Continued on page 8)

Bits and Pieces from the end of Bradleys Lane (see map page 6)

by Joan MacMahon

EARLY ONE DAY last month I found an unusual item lying out on the lawn. It was the **tail of a Brush-tail Possum**, about 15 cm long. I'd say it was freshly severed as the fur was in perfect condition, a wonderfully soft mid-grey, grading to almost black near the tip. The tiny hollow bone core was neatly and bloodlessly severed. Now we rarely see or hear possums of any sort so it got me thinking –where on earth did it come from and where was the possum's body? Could a bird of the night have dropped it? Did a fox abandon it? Have others had this experience?

Another comment on the saga of **weeds in horse poo**. I tried cultivating some of the droppings I collected after Cecily's walk at The Common last spring.

News from the Committee

- Thanks to Shirley Mundy for donating the frame for an igloo for the nursery
- Another igloo is also needed and will be purchased
- Artur Muchow has accepted the position of secretary of FOWSP
- Martyn Hiley is maintaining the membership list and printing labels for the Newsletter
- Trial electronic copies of the Newsletter will be sent out for the next two issues as well as printed copies.
- Ian Penrose will address the committee at 7.30 on 11 March re: Yarra River Keepers. Interested members are welcome to attend

Ranger's Report:

- It's been a very quiet fire season to date (touch wood!!), and therefore planning and preparation for the **Fuel Reduction Burning Program** is well underway.
- The **Rabbit Program**, coordinated with local Rabbit Action Groups and Manningham and Nillumbik Shire Councils, started in mid February.
- Some changes have been made to the **Pound Bend Carpark**, with speed humps and timber car park dividers put in.

Nursery Report:

- Funds approved for taxidermy on an antechinus and a phascogale— to be spent at a future date.
- Propagation is underway for the ACCA community planting.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday March 11, 2008

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

They were thoroughly dried out by the time I got them home and after mixing them into some potting mix and keeping it moist for a couple of months I can report no growth of any plants – good or bad!

Radio programs on earth/conservation matters are (almost) as scarce as hen's teeth, even in the midst of widely acknowledged dismay re. the damaged state of nature in this country so I am delighted to tell you 3CR (855 kHz) has two half-hour programs back to back every Sunday morning. At 11 am is *Earth Matters* followed by *Out Of The Blue* at 11.30 am which, as the name implies, focuses on matters marine.

I have an electronic copy of a recent report on the **fish population (native and exotic) in the Yarra**. It's very interesting reading, covering the stretch between Dight's Falls in Abbotsford and Warburton. More locally there are around 13 sites between Bulleen and the Heritage Country Club in Wonga Park. If you'd like to see it please contact me via joanmacmahon@hotmail.com

Deceased Nursery Wildlife

By Joan Broadberry

LAST THURSDAY, (31/1), I found a small, dead butterfly or moth behind the coffee cups at the FOWSP nursery. It caught my eye because there were five light blue lines just visible on the leading edge of the under-wing. I am reasonably familiar with the common butterflies and moths in Melbourne and this was clearly something different. The dead creature's wings were tightly shut, so I had to carefully prise them open to see their upper surface. To my delight it was a beautiful iridescent purple. I confirmed it was a butterfly, but which species?

Luckily Mike and Pat Coupar were at the nursery and were just as interested as me. Abracadabra!! Josh produced a copy of *The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia* by Michael F. Braby. He must keep a natural history library in his back pocket, just in case.

Everything was in place, the Body, the Experts and the Book. It only took a few minutes to do the ID, as Braby has distribution maps and clear, colour plates. It was an Azure, and based on size and further examination, we pronounced it a Dark Purple Azure, *Ogyris abrota*, male. I had never seen the species before but Pat and Mike were familiar with the Azures. Their food plant is mistletoe, growing on Eucalyptus and Allocasaurina. Ants attend the larvae. Adults fly rapidly during warm, sunny conditions. Males patrol the treetops 12-15m above the ground.

I have another wonderful butterfly book at home: *Australian Butterflies*, written and illustrated by Charles McCubbin, grandson of the famous Heidelberg School artist. Unfortunately, it is now out of print. Its text is delightful and always full of surprises. The entry for the Dark Purple Azure was no exception.

Charles writes: "Both larvae and pupae hide under loose bark close to the mistletoe. Because they stay near the mistletoe clumps which are often high in the trees they are more difficult to get than most other Azures. I once took a length of rope to the Melbourne Boulevard to help me climb the trees. After repeated attempts I managed to get it over a branch about twenty feet up, right beside some mistletoe. I climbed the rope and with one arm hooked over the limb tried to prise away loose bark with my free hand. When my arms eventually became tired I slid down and discovered that my activities had attracted the attention of several passers-by. When in answer to an enquiry about my extraordinary antics I said I was hunting butterflies they looked at me with a mixture of amusement and disbelief: embarrassment at becoming the object of amusement is quite a deterrent to collecting butterflies in populous places."

Yes Charles I see your point, however I might add, a true field naturalist is never too embarrassed to examine, collect or photograph a natural history specimen just because it is dead.

(Continued from page 7)

to Lilydale. The group that came on the first possum prowl were spoilt, getting a fantastic view of a sugar glider climbing up a tree, jumping off and gliding five metres above our heads. To see this happen in real life was certainly a treat! During the bird walk, a number of beaked creatures were seen, including a furry little fellow, with webbed feet. Yes that's right, a Platypus! You never know what you're going to see when you're out in Warrandyte!

This was the first year we ran an activity looking at our smallest native animals, and the children really enjoyed getting a close look at our tiny invertebrates. We found a huge water leech, many spiders and a myriad of other insects. We learnt how to safely handle and identify these little creatures, whilst also enjoying a game of celebrity minibests!

Unfortunately we did not get to trap and analyse many bats this summer, but everyone enjoyed being out on such a pleasant evening, watching the

silhouettes of bats chasing insects as the sun set!

The summer program was such a success; we just have to run another two activities this Easter. There is a Possum Prowl at Pound Bend on the 25th of March, and a Search for Minibeasts on the 27th of March, also at Pound Bend. Please check park web www.parkweb.vic.gov.au for details, or just phone the office on 9844 2659. Hope to see you at the Warrandyte Festival, or out in the Park soon!



Josh releasing a Little Forest Bat

(Continued from page 3)

fertilise the eggs inside the womb after the death of the males. Females have between 6-10 babies, depending on the number of nipples they have. Their young live in a pouch until they are old enough to fend for themselves. The mortality of their babies is very low because of the females' ability to pick genetically strong males.

Antechinus are carnivorous and eat insects, spiders, birds, small mammals, shrimp, lizards and berries. Males weigh 20-40 grams. Females weigh 16-25 grams. In the drought conditions of 2003, females' weight dropped to 10 grams and only 30% survived. They are the most fascinating of small creatures and more research is needed to discover all their secrets.

Editor: Have any of our readers ever seen an Agile Antechinus? J. Mc.

“I SPY”

By B.G



NEW NOMENCLATURE

On Saturday 16th February 2008 WSP ranger Jodie Godfrey changed her name to Jodie Davis. The marriage ceremony took place on Longridge Farm in Westerfold Park. All reports are that Jodie looked stunning, dressed in ivory satin. Ranger Kylie Tenace was a ‘dutiful’ bridesmaid and was dressed in eucalyptus green satin.

CONSERVATION, CARS & ARCHAEOLOGY

- Conservation work is to be carried out on the Hill-Birch Cottage located in the Christmas Hills-Sugarloaf area.
- Some car dumping has taken place in the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Link.
- Archeologists have been carrying out surveys in several areas around and beyond nearby adjacent Parks.

GROWTH FROM GREENCORP

Elizabeth Steele, (nee Leake), who was with the Greencorp group operating in the park 2000/1, has now completed her B. Sc. (Latrobe University), majoring in biology, conservation and ecology. Elizabeth would like to find another job using her qualification.

Her husband, John, is looking for a carpentry apprenticeship. Any ideas?

JANUARY JUNIORS

During the January school holidays, Sophie (8 y.o.) in grade 3 and Meg (5 y.o.) in “prep” visited the nursery with Marion Thomson. Both are at Ravenswood P.S., (N.S.W.) Also visiting was Jackson Walsh (11 turning 12) in grade 6 at East Bentleigh P.S.

FIRE & FROGS

- The park staff are preparing for fuel reduction burns which will proceed when weather condi-

tions are appropriate

- The resident frog on the nursery shelf now has a mate. For more see page 10 this newsletter

NATURAL NEWS

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria has an interesting program arranged for March/April and beyond:

- Talks about fungi, wildlife in the Pyrenees etc
- Surveys relating to Bandicoots, Pygmy Possums and “in depth” survey of marine invertebrates
- A Junior’s Group Easter camp
- Geology weekend trip to Phillip Island to study volcanic coastlines
- AND MUCH MORE

WEBSITE—www.vicnet.net.au/~fncv

SEED SUBJECT

Physicist Irene Mill (from Belfast, Ireland) and Peter Eartley [involved Turf seed (recreational)], were visiting the park. Irene is training to be involved with the Horticultural business.

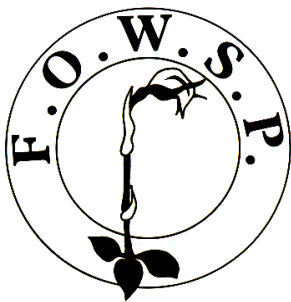
AVIAN VISIT

A bus load of friends will be visiting Serendip Sanctuary to look at the bird-life. The colour grey is important to bird lovers—but apparently not so to orchid lovers?

EXTRA ENVIRONMENTAL ENDEAVOUR

Belinda Christie is now working on a regular basis at the nursery. Belinda, pictured at work below, is writing a programme on habitat logs for Parks Victoria. and the friends of Warrandyte State Park.





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Peron's tree Frog—*Litoria peronii*
Joan Broadberry



This is a beautiful frog, about 5 cm with a light brownish cream body covered with scattered emerald flecks. The adults have yellow and black marbling on armpits, groin and back of the thigh. The call, made from Dec to Jan. is cra-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ahhk, slowly pulsed and increasing in loudness. Has been described as a "maniacal cackle". We are lucky enough to have one resident at the back of the morning tea shelf in the nursery.

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

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Membership (family) \$20

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Email photo bonus

Bright Copper Butterfly
Paralucia aurifera
Moondarah State Park
February 2008



Imperial Blue Butterflies *Jalmenus evagorus* at Pound Bend
February 2008
Coming soon: Imperial Blue the animated slide show



Fringed Heath-blue
Butterflies
Neolucia agricola
Baw Baw National Park
February 2008



Lord Howe Island from the
top of Mt. Gower
Mountain Rose in the fore-
ground
November 2007
Coming soon
Lord Howe Island
Slide show for FOWSP

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lindarogan@netspace.net.au