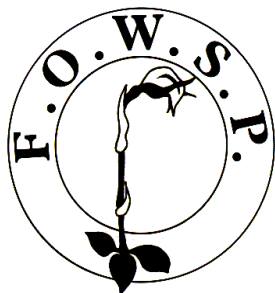


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

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

Editor's corner

By Joan Broadberry

A warm welcome to nursery manager Josh Revell, back from several weeks of botanical adventuring in Western Australia. The Western Australian spring wildflower display must be one of the top botanical wonders of the world. I speak from first-hand experience, as I too have recently been out west. The flowers, including many species of orchid, were extraordinary. On the back page I have included one of the most exciting wildlife sightings I have ever had, photographed in the Dryandra Forest about 2 hours south-east of Perth. We watched three numbats playing outside their burrow for 15 minutes. I think you only get one such experience in a lifetime!

Joan MacMahon and Linda Rogan, unbeknown to each other, both attended a presentation by Neal Masters on Sunday 19th October at Edendale Farm, on *Attracting Butterflies into your garden*. Joan has written a lovely article for us, see p6

In June, I attended a Manningham City Council Environment Seminar at which Adriana Simmonds spoke about her experiences in running a wildlife shelter in Wonga Park. To the best of my ability, I summarized her talk in the July/August Newsletter, vol 26 no 6 p4. How marvelous it was to pay a visit to the shelter with other nursery volunteers, and see what I had attempted to write about in the abstract, at first hand. So as not to cover the same ground, I refer readers to the original article. During our wonderful visit I took a series of photographs, and on p2/3 I add to Adriana's story by constructing a sort of photo essay to further describe her work.



Julie Bishop, a regular nursery volunteer, has reported sugar gliders living in her front garden. She also has noticed that 20 or 30 correas have self-seeded. Is this unusual? Her little grandson, Mitchell, (photo above) was a delightful sight as he played with two joeys, during our visit to Adriana's wildlife shelter. The joey on the left is a western-grey, the one on the right an eastern-grey. (More later).

We really appreciate responses from our readers. This month Denis Crawford has sent in a photo, p9, of a predatory shield bug actually attacking a small caterpillar, following up an encounter with him at Wilson's Prom. Marjory Burgess has sent in a list of indigenous plants growing in her clump of *Dianella revoluta*, (at least 19 species) and a question on grasses p9. Linda reports on collecting pollinators for orchids p4

Don't forget to make a diary note of the combined AGM/end of year party to be at the Folly, from 6 pm on Tuesday December 2nd. Details p6. See you there.

**Deadline for combined Dec/Jan edition newsletter is
Friday, 21 November**

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

An afternoon with Adriana Simmonds.

By Joan Broadberry



FOR THOSE WHO HAVE not read *Editor's Corner*; for the last six years, Adriana Simmonds has run a wildlife shelter for native animals, specializing in small marsupials and reptiles. She has also transformed her garden from exotics to indigenous using plants grown from seed at FOWSP's Pound Bend nursery. Her work is voluntary, self-funded and full-time. Her aim is to give a second chance to injured, sick and orphaned wildlife. On 16th October a group of the Thursday nursery volunteers paid her a visit.

As our group of 15 nursery workers entered Adriana's Wonga Park property and saw her lawn, (photo above) there was a chorus of "microlaena" referring to the native grass *Microleana stipoides*, weeping



grass. In the *Flora of Melbourne* it is described as one of the best lawn grasses for shady sites – and it was certainly thriving in Adriana's garden, even under eucalyptus trees. She told us at first it was hand-weeded and is given a high mow once a

year to replicate the effect of animals grazing it. Later we saw a lush, fenced, shaded patch of microlaena where Adriana hangs the older joeys in their artificial pouches so they can reach down and get their first taste of grass. Such lovely details were a feature of our fascinating visit.

Adriana (below with joey) told us more about her personal journey. She came originally from Columbia in South America and is trained in zoology. I have explained in the July/August newsletter, how she became a wildlife carer. After her family



bought their property in Wonga Park, Adriana had it assessed for Land for Wildlife status. The assessor was well-known local naturalist, Cecily Falkingham. Cecily gently told Adriana that that the vegetation on her acre was almost entirely environmental weeds. In Cecily's opinion it would take much hard work and at least 5 years to remove everything and replace with indigenous plants. In Adriana's words, "Columbians are used to struggling against impossible odds", so she began obsessively to remove everything exotic, including 40 pine trees, and has so far put in over 3000 natives, all grown at the FOWSP Warrandyte nursery. Two and a half years later Cecily came and gave another assessment, and Adriana now proudly displays her Land for Wildlife sign.

While taking us on a tour around the 12 stations of her visitors trail, Adriana explained her passion for environmental education. It is a lovely thing to look after animals, but even when so much work, tears, time, money, and sacrifice has occurred, the animals may have little habitat left to go back to. Education and conservation are therefore central. DSE has given her special permission for outsiders to view the native animals she cares for. As well as making time to talk to groups, especially children, her educational work has taken her to Canberra to attend National Wildlife conferences. She asked wildlife workers there, to extend their thinking towards the



larger conservation picture. I have written about the destructive power of unconfined cats in my previous article. It is worth repeating that more than 50% of native animals come into care through the ravages of cats. We viewed the outside portion of Adriana's enclosed cat run and heard her plead eloquently for

responsible pet ownership.

Adriana gave us many tips on revegetation. Plant



densely, and even in a small area, create biodiversity. Trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses and aquatic plants are all necessary for marsupials, monotremes, birds, reptiles, butterflies and other invertebrates to thrive. Dense planting on slopes is a critical factor in protecting the soil from the bullet like impact of rain-drops and subsequent erosion. The hill in the background of the accompanying photo illustrates this thick planting and biodiversity. It is essential to link fragmented habitat by planting corridors. One of the stations of the visitors trail is a simple but effective corridor of native plants, linking the front and back of the property. The revegetation program has seen sugar gliders, frogs and blue-tongue lizards take up residence and one 42° day, an echidna visited her pond.



Adriana only waters tube-stock when the plants first go in, however, she does check the weather forecast to select a run of cool days and, if possible, rain, before planting. She mulches heavily with the pea straw bedding, (with its load of fertilizer gold), from her outside animal cages. Her philosophy is that plants must be tough enough to survive adverse conditions.



It was very special to be allowed to tour the wildlife shelter itself, and meet a few of its beautiful residents. I have previously explained the shelter's three stages and its sustainable routine. We viewed the orderly nursery for tiny babies (pinkies), the transition cages tucked under a cool veranda and the aviaries in the garden used before release. The photo (below left) taken in the pinkie's nursery, shows the joeys, who understand Spanish, going obediently to their beds for an afternoon nap. Why is a western grey kangaroo joey (photo p.1) being cared for in Wonga Park? The answer is that its mother was found dead by a lady who was about to catch a train from Mildura to Melbourne. She took the baby from the pouch and it traveled to Melbourne with her. The western-grey has made friends with an eastern -grey joey. Adrianna likes to keep young animals in pairs to give them security. When they are bigger the two kangaroos will be taken to a shelter that caters for both species. They will eventually be returned to the wild separately.

A wildlife carer is always on duty. Adriana told us that last spring 38 baby animals came to her. Wambaroo produces the various milks she needs to feed them. One story was of raising an insectivorous bat which was so tiny it had to be fed with a brush of one hair. A drop of milk was larger than its face. Adriana, with the help of her family, and a pillow to ensure soft landings, had to teach the baby bat to fly.

One of the transition cages (photo above) used for older animals allows them to experience more of the sights, sounds and smells of outside world. Underneath the raised cage, with its mesh floor can be seen a removable litter tray containing the worms that compost the waste. Adriana uses no chemicals at all. Larger items of waste are composted.



Many, many thanks to Adriana for sharing her inspirational work with us, and congratulations on what she had achieved. We hope to arrange a return visit in the not to distant future for those nursery volunteers who could not make it this time.

Facets of Conservation

by Linda Rogan



TAG group 2 October 2008 The Common

THREE FOWSPIANS and ranger Jodie Godfrey spent a pleasant spring morning doing follow-up weeding after an earlier environmental burn. Walking down to the gully area where wildflowers were in bloom, we were all pleased by the distinct lack of woody weeds and their seedlings. Clearly the burn had achieved its main aim.

In the gully itself an infestation of thistles and nightshade attracted our attention but we soon found it was beyond the reach of hand weeding so Jodie marked it for later work as needed. We then searched for any *Watsonia* that had escaped the attention of previous major efforts to dig them out. Near the top, the area seemed clear where it was previously quite infested. Nearer the dam we began to find a few isolated plants that were quickly dug out. Some were found that appeared to have been previously dug but had managed to take root again quite vigorously. All were removed from the site by the end of the morning leaving us satisfied with our work.

Environmental Seminar 22 October Brown's Reserve, Greensborough

(Alma) Brown's Reserve is special to me. I knew Alma in the years when she was negotiating with council for the preservation of her land. She wanted to save this block from development. It boasted 10 indigenous Eucalypts (90% Yellow Box) on its slopes and a creek line at the bottom. Many more indigenous species occur but the understory was quite weedy. Doug Frood of Pathways Bushland and Environment was the main presenter at the seminar. He and his partner Jane have been bush managers in residence for the past 10 years. The open day featured the history of the reserve and management over this time. I could see the decrease in weeds and the increase in indigenous species was remarkable. However, more remains to be done.

Attendees included council and private bush manage-

ment staff, some DSE staff and others. Enough people to fill the two tents erected for the purpose. The level of animated talk that erupted at each opportunity showed that much networking was taking place.

My take home message: Bushland management is complex, requiring consideration of all human and natural elements to tip the balance in favour of indigenous plants and animals. It is an ongoing process, not the application of quick fixes.

Pollinators, a key to long term survival

An exciting break from weeding, was learning to capture orchid pollinators under the direction of researcher Dr. Colin Bower, Principal Consultant of FloraSearch. He is currently studying the pollinators of many *Caladenia* (*Arachnorchis*) species. I was lucky to be one of the Australian Native Orchid Society conservation group members who aided Colin one October day in southwest Victoria. The quarry for the day were



thynnid wasps that pollinate various greencomb and cardiochila, (pictured), group spider orchids.

Identification of these wasps assists in determining the relationship of various orchid taxa and will shed light on whether they are the same or different species.

Determining pollinator presence is also essential in order to assist long term survival of rare species.

With practice we were all able to capture and transfer the male wasps into vials provided. We left the identification to Colin.



FOWSP Committee 2008

Linda Rogan 9435 5806
lindarogan@netspace.net.au

Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Joan MacMahon 9844 3213
joanmacmahon@hotmail.com

Martyn Hiley 9844 4547
martyn@hiley.cx

Artur Muchow 0415 383328

Gray Ardern 0418 190261

Cathy Willis 0418 142297

Newsletter Coordinator

Treasurer/Newsletter

**Tag Activities/Newsletter/
FOWSP contact**

**Membership/
FOWSP contact**

Secretary

Other FOWSP contacts

Nursery Manager

Park Office

Market Coordinator

Wildlife Rescue

Koala Rescue

Librarian

Josh Revell
0408 317327

9844 2659

Marie Krause
9712 0498

Adriana Simmonds
9722 2908

Julie Pryor
9722 1117

Judy Green
9844 2096

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

The Thursday Activity Group is 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).

November 6 Whipstick Gully Follow up weed work in burn site
December 4 Stanebrae Tree Guard Removal

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)

November 5 Geoff Carr **Riparian Vegetation Management Plan – Middle Yarra River**

December 3 Dr Peter Temple-Smith **Monotremes**



Seminars are FREE. No bookings required
Supper provided

Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

Sunday 9 November

Waterwatch interpretive trail at Alistair Knox Park wetland

Time: 10 am-3 pm

Cost: free

Venue: Eltham Rotary Town Festival, Alistair Knox Park, Main Road, Eltham
(Melway 21 J6)

Enquiries: Alison Hickey, Environmental Planner, on 9433 3328



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.

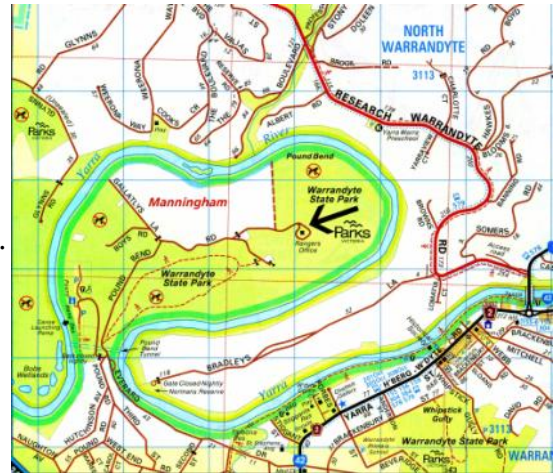
No prior experience necessary -
There is always someone available to show you the ropes.

NURSERY OPENING HOURS

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

NEW PRICES

Members \$1.00
Non-members \$1.50



Eat, drink and be merry at the combined FOWSP Annual General Meeting and End of Year get-together 2nd December.

The FOWSP committee are planning to hold the AGM in the evening of Tuesday 2nd December at the
Folly, Pound Bend Rd (see above map)

Don't think of it as an AGM, rather as a relaxed BBQ on a summer evening by the dam with FOWSP friends. Drinks and nibbles will start about 6 pm and we aim to commence the AGM about 6.30 pm. Formalities will be completed as speedily as possible so that we can get stuck into the real business of the night. Eating, drinking and being merry.

Later in the evening there will be a presentation from one or more of FOWSP's talented traveller/photographers.

6 pm nibbles (courtesy FOWSP)- 6:30 AGM

Followed by BBQ

BYO everything including drinks.

We should be able to share salads & sweets

BBQ for cooking available

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.

November 2 Fire Ecology on Fourth Hill Ranger David Van Bockel: a walk around Fourth Hill and Timber Reserve to see the results of successive burns over the last few years.

Meet: 10.15am park gate Tunnel St Warrandyte Melways Ref: 35 F1.

December 7 Microbat Trapping and Night Prowl: 8.30 pm The Folly

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

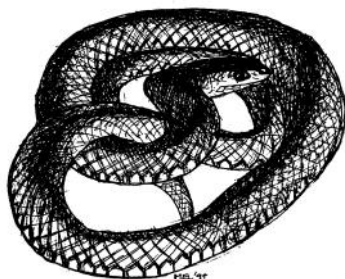
A Snake Encounter- A Timely Reminder, Its Springtime and Snakes are about. By Steven Katsineris Early October 2008

IT WAS A SUNNY, WARM 29-DEGREE DAY, and the children wanted to go bike riding around Hurstbridge. I warned them to be aware that snakes are now about and to look ahead of where they were riding. The children headed off towards the Primary School along the walking track beside the Diamond Creek as I walked a short distance behind them.

I stopped at the footbridge over the creek and looked over one side, then the other. The water level was low and the creek wasn't flowing; some parts had dried up, leaving only some ponds of water. I noticed something moving through the vegetation in the creek bed below. It was a slender, light brown snake about 80cm in length. It came out of the low undergrowth into the sun and curled up. This was an Eastern Brown Snake. As I watched, I was surprised to see another larger snake about two metres away on the embankment to the left of the Brown. I called out to the children to come back to the footbridge and see the snakes. They were fascinated at the spectacle. The second snake was a Tiger Snake, with a stocky body and over a metre in length. It changed direction and moved into the creek bed and stopped midway at the edge of a large pool of water. The Tiger Snake plunged its head into the pond for a moment and then ambled on across to the other embankment and into dense bushes.

As we watched the Tiger Snake disappear into the undergrowth, we observed another Eastern Brown Snake emerging from the grass near the first and the two coiled up together in the sun. After watching them for a while we continued our ride and walk to the school. When we returned about 20 minutes later the two Eastern Brown Snakes were still there together, but lay twisted around each other length ways. We were amazed by the display that afternoon.

It was also a very timely reminder that we live in a delightful rural/bush region with a diversity of wonderful wildlife. Hurstbridge is prime snake territory and over the years I have seen many snakes in the district, especially in and around the creek and the wetlands areas. With the warmer weather snakes are now actively moving



News from the Committee

- Plans for next year include making the nursery/ volunteer area safe and more functional. We will be seeking assistance from members. (see p.9)
- New committee members are still sought (p11)
- Honorary Auditor still required (p10)

Rangers Report

Fire Season

- Aidan O'Dempsey and Justin Welander were deployed to Cann River mid September for three days. They assisted in blackout operations on an 80 hectare fire
- Con Cosmas (Project Fire Fighter Crew Leader) started work on October 6, back for the fire season. Adam Carnegie will start on November 3, with the rest of the crew, (3 people), starting on November 17

Horses in the Common

- Concern has been raised about horse riding in the Common, (riding off track etc.) Rangers have erected new signage. There will be some track work done soon and Conrad will be liaising with the local horse clubs and equestrian centres.

Grant Application

- Jodie Godfrey has applied for a Melbourne Water grant for revegetation works (6500 plants, fencing and weeding etc.) at the confluence of Stevensons and Watsons Creeks at the Yanakie block. A decision will be made by mid December.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday November 11, 2008

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

about in search of food, water, mates and places to rest. They especially like areas near watercourses, swamps and moist locations, with thick vegetation. But also remember that snakes are frightened of humans and will try to avoid us whenever they can. Snakes are common in suitable habitat and people will rarely encounter them, as they will hear us coming and move away before we see them. Snakes will usually only show aggression and attempt to bite if we tread on them, annoy them or make an effort to try to kill them. We should leave snakes alone when we come across them.

Snakes are an essential part of the natural environment and they serve a very important function in controlling mice and rats. For these reasons snakes are a protected species. If you live in an area where snakes live and are vigilant and cautious during the warmer months and wear sensible clothes and boots, then there is little chance of ever being bitten.

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN or You can Help our Indigenous Butterflies

Reported by Joan MacMahon

THIS WAS THE TITLE of a talk I attended recently on the subject of gardening with butterflies in mind. It was on a pleasant Sunday morning at the shire of Nillumbik's community farm, Edendale Farm. (It's beside the railway line in North Eltham and a great place to show children some unusual farm animals. It's also the home of an indigenous plant nursery and some lovely display gardens.)

Our teacher was Neal Masters, a civil engineer with a passion for helping our butterflies through the simple technique of planting the right plants. He's very keen to share his passion so we had a very interesting few hours.

The range of possible butterfly visitors mostly depends on your proximity to intact remnant vegetation. Additionally and intriguingly though, some butterflies have adapted to using exotic plants.

His own garden he initially described "as a driveway". (eh?) Turns out he lives in the last of a set of four units in Fairfield. All the plants are in large pots and occupy about 4 by 4 metres of driveway – his car has been banished to the street! He's made up a drip system using the rinse water from his washing machine. So far he's attracted eleven species! Not bad for a part of Melbourne which has lost most of its original magnificently bio-diverse plant communities.

These insects have a fascinating life-cycle of four stages. Eggs are laid by the adult butterfly on plants specific for each species. These develop into a larval stage which we call a caterpillar, which spends its life chewing and growing. This then transforms itself into a pupae (or chrysalis). None of these three stages is easy to detect, being small and hidden in foliage. The fourth stage – the final metamorphosis into the adult form – is much easier to observe as most butterflies are strongly marked and fly in daylight. It is these delightful flying acrobats we are privileged to observe.

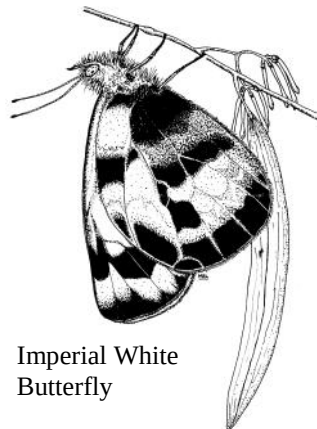
Unlike the caterpillars which have very specific plant requirements and won't survive without it or them, butterflies take nectar from an enormous range

of plants. You could say there are several types of butterfly garden. The first provides only nectar plants, so the butterflies will visit briefly then move on to find the all important larval host plants. The garden which fulfills this second function is less common than the first and probably is the area we can all help make a difference.

He gave us a list of eighteen butterflies and some of their known caterpillar food plants. It started with the Australian Painted Lady and ended with the White Banded Grass Dart. (Aren't the names fantastic? Worth a study of their own I reckon.) The Lady is partial to daisies, particularly one with the much altered scientific name of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* – this name has been through hell – for a long time it was *Helichrysum bracteatum*, then it became *Bracteantha bracteata* and fairly recently it metamorphosed into its hopefully permanent label. Its common name is also a mess as it's known by at least three names – Straw Flower, Paper Daisy and Golden Everlasting. Should you manage to track it down, this ground cover makes a great garden plant for a sunny spot. It spreads readily and does become a little woody after a few years so some people may like to replace it. The Dart enjoys laying its eggs on Rhagodia, Atriplex, and *Einardia nutans* (Nodding Salt-bush). This last is a Warrandyte local and we sometimes have it for sale.

The other plants include Weeping Grass, tussock grasses, Kangaroo Grass, Wallaby grasses, Clustered Everlasting, several mat-rushes, Capeweed, Scrub Nettle, Sweet Bursaria, both indigenous and weedy oxalis, lemon trees, several goodenias, Fairy Fan-flower, Running Postman, several glycines, various mistletoes, Black, Silver and Golden Wattle, several saw-sedges and the introduced babies tears; phew, quite a list.

There's no need to worry about the (butterfly) caterpillars causing heaps of damage to your plants; to quote Neal, "damage to food plants from the caterpillars of native butterflies is minimal and



Imperial White
Butterfly



Australian Admiral
Butterfly

(Continued on page 10)

To the Editors

Denis Crawford has sent the photo below to follow up discussion in the last newsletter about predatory shield bugs. Denis says this shot was taken close to home as he didn't get the one he wanted at Wilson's Prom.



Note from 121 Kangaroo Ground Rd.

19 Oct 2008

Our *Dianella revoluta* seems to be doing a good job of conserving other indigenous plants. Our largest clump is about 1 ½ square metres. I often weed introduced grass from among it so my husband is able to exclude it from his annual mowing, (as other areas of "indigenous only" are excluded). Among the *Dianella* leaves I recently found nineteen other indigenous plants:

Billardieara scandens (Climbing Apple-berry)

Dillwynia cinerascens (Grey parrot-pea)

Acacia acinacea (Gold dust wattle)

Common cassinea (Dogwood)

Senecio (2 spp.)

Poa grass and possibly other native grass

Geranium solanderi

Pterostylis nutans (Nodding Greenhood)

Pterostylis curta (Blunt Greenhood)

Native Oxalis

Hovea heterophylla

Acrotriche serrulata (Honeypots) if identified correctly

Lomandra (matrush) 2 spp

Hardenbergia violacea

Red Box

Golden wattle

Comesperma volubile (love creeper)

Question:

We have bright green kangaroo grass and blue-grey kangaroo grass clumps near each other. Are they different species?

Thank you for your friendly and interesting newsletter

From:

Marjory Burgess

Are you a builder, designer or architect?

The committee is seeking advice on ways to change the design and layout of the nursery area to improve safety, people movement and efficiency. Perhaps a shop front type arrangement with small office space, a display area and a more formal entrance.

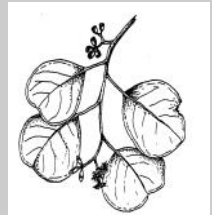
If you have the skills and time to share in these areas, please contact a committee member (listed on page 5) and we will arrange a meeting at the nursery to discuss ideas over a cup of tea.

Many Thanks

October Market Volunteers

Diane & John Baird
Cath Andrew
Tim Bedford
Alison Thom
Marjan Kiewert
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.*

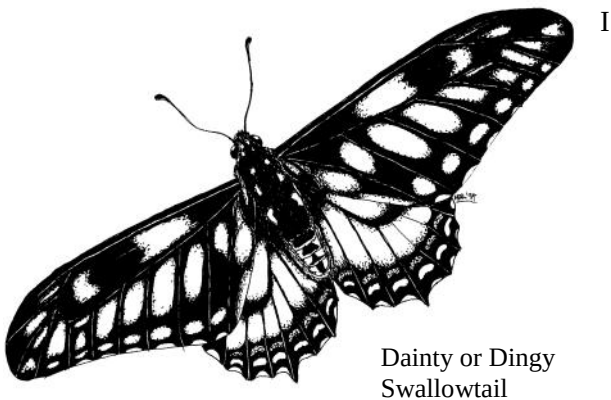
The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP

(Continued from page 8)

most benefit from the light tip prune. Extensive leaf damage is generally caused by introduced species, moth caterpillars or other pests.”

On the other hand we humans cause far more damage to the butterfly community. As Neal pointed out, Melbourne (already an enormous city) continues to expand into and destroy prime butterfly habitat. When will those in power realize **enough is enough – it is immoral to threaten other creatures with extinction!** How many more animals will become extinct because of human greed for space?

Neal's example shows even a small garden can help make a huge difference. This is a fantasy but wouldn't it be great if every garden lover in Melbourne created an area for butterflies? I'm guessing that would be around 500,000 breeding places – we'd be awash with butterflies in the warmer months



Dainty or Dingy Swallowtail

jotted down some of his butterfly anecdotes, especially those reporting good news. Here goes. The Australian Painted Lady has adapted to using that widespread South African introduction (the bane of many land-owner's lives) Capeweed, so its numbers are safe for the moment. The variably-named Dingy or Dainty Swallowtail, (its wing colours are anything but dingy – being white against black with deep vermillion at the rear of the hindwings), is also doing well as it uses lemon trees to lay its eggs. The caterpillars are also striking having large yellow and small blue dots on a black background. Neal showed us a photo of a pupa well concealed, in shades of green and brown, against the bark of the trunk. One of the few known native plants it uses, Native Finger Lime (*Microcitrus australasica*), comes from rainforests in South-east Qld. and Northern N.S.W. and it is now available at Kurunga nursery. I'm tempted to try it in a pot! Another doing well is the Splendid Ochre or Symmopus Skipper. It loves to use the now very widely planted Spiny-headed Mat-rush, that strap-leaved plant used in public landscapes (it is very hardy) and reveg projects.

Now for the not so good news. The Meadow Argus, which uses a really eclectic mix of foodplants

AUDITOR NEEDED

Wanted – Honorary auditor for FOWSP accounts year ended 30th December 2007.

We are a small organisation and this is not in any way an onerous task. However, it is important and needs to be completed before the AGM, now scheduled for early December.

If you think you could help us out or would like to know more, please ring Joan Broadberry on 98461218 or email

joan.broadberry@optusnet.com.au

(goodenias, scaevola, plantains, veronica) has been in rapid decline so he was pleased recently to see large numbers flying at the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens. The Common Brown has also been struggling as we haven't had good autumn rains to stimulate its favourite food plants which are Weeping and Kangaroo Grass.

He mentioned how for some plants butterflies mediate the important process of pollination. eg. for the pimelias (rice flowers) of which we have four species listed for our park

Here are his planting hints:

- provide both caterpillar food plants and nectar plants
- have a variety of nectar-producing plants so something is always flowering from September to April
- use no pesticides
- sunny locations are better than too shaded
- plant in multiples, eg threes or fives are better than single plants dotted around
- have ground, middle and upper storey plants since different species of butterflies fly at different levels and so need different niches

Neal suggested we check the Web as there are quite a few good sites with heaps more information. Melbourne museum has a good one as follows:

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/bioinformatics/butter/>

(Continued on page 11)

RSVP by Friday 7 November 2008 on 13 1963 (if you haven't yet)

For the

Visit to **National Rhododendron Gardens and William Ricketts Sanctuary** followed by dinner at
Skyhigh Mt. Dandenong courtesy of **Parks Victoria**

Thursday 13 November 2008

6:00 pm for dinner

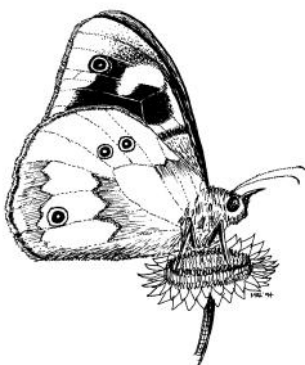
And contact Jodie Godfrey at Pound Bend for copy of invitation needed for parking and admission to the gardens

(Continued from page 10)

After his talk our own Linda Rogan showed her Imperial Blue DVD. A visual delight, very professionally put together and worth multiple viewings. She also told us these butterflies take from one to four hours to mate!



Finally Neal took us for a walk and showed us some of the plants he'd mentioned, including some mat-rushes with tell-tale triangular nicks in some of their leaves.



Common brown butterfly

SEEKING FOWSP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FOWSP has had a terrific committee in 2008, but there will be a few vacancies in 2009 as some long-serving members are bowing out. The only qualities needed in prospective committee members are a love of Warrandyte State Park and a willingness to get a little more involved in improving it.

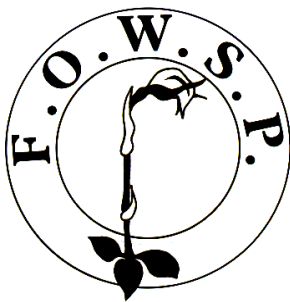
We can promise you a stimulating and interesting experience and the company of like minded people.

If you are hesitating, just come along and give it a try!

If you are at all interested please contact any one of our existing committee members, (see p5 for contact info) and they can fill you in on the goss.

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)



Print
Post

346802/0005

Postage
Paid
Australia

**REGISTRATION BY AUSTRALIA POST
PP 346802 / 0005**

If undeliverable please return to
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.
P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



Numbat *Myrmecobius fasciatus* Joan Broadberry

Attractive rust brown colour with 6 white stripes running from flank to flank. Including a bushy tail, about 40cm in size. Totally diurnal. Feeds by smelling out, then opening shallow termite galleries with its forelimbs and licking up the insects with its long, mobile tongue. At the time of European settlement the Numbat's range extended in an arc across southern WA, SA and even into western Vic and NSW. However, it is now found only in a small area of Southwestern Western Australia. Shelters in a burrow or hollow log.

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

Newsletter by email (tick box)

☐

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus

Please enjoy these wonderful photos from Joan Broadberry's recent West Australia trip. I'm blown away by the beautiful numbats.



Butterfly Orchid
Caladenia lobata

Blue Lady Orchid
Thelymitra crinita



Smooth-lipped Spider Orchid
Caladenia integra



Photos on this page by Joan Broadberry
Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows:
lindarogan@netspace.net.au

A few shots from my recent wanders, Linda



A hungry skink at
Genoa Peak, Vic



Hoverfly in my back garden

Crane fly
resting on a
Mantis
Orchid in
southwest
Victoria



Early instar caterpillars of the Imperial Blue
Butterfly out for the season with attendant ants
10 October 2008



Elegant Spider
Orchid (left) and
Metallic Sun Or-
chid (right) in
southwest Victoria.



Photos on this page by Linda Rogan

Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows: lindarogan@netspace.net.au