

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

HOW QUICKLY this year has flown. What fun your editors have had putting together the newsletter!

This month's issue is chock full of wildlife sightings. On the FOWSP volunteers trip to Cranbourne Gardens on 12 November, Gray provided a sumptuous morning tea (his neighbor works at a muffin bakery). *Photo above* But the highlights for me were the sighting and photographing of a Bandicoot (*photo right*) and a Swamp Rat in the Stringybark picnic area. (Thanks to Joan B's advice and Brian's sharp eyes)

Nearly as good was the Bluebanded Bee photographed on one of the *Leptospermum*. I'm keeping an eye out for native bees and too often find only honeybees on native and exotic flowers.

Also in this issue

- Joan Broadberry's Yarra River sightings, (p.3)
- And a Devil Dilemma from WA (p.10)
- Pat Coupars's Merrica River adventures (p.4)



Photos Linda Rogan

- Katsineris' family's "strange creature" in Hurstbridge (p.7)
 - And a gift for the season A Story of Mary (p.2)
- Happy reading and let us know what you discover this summer.

STOP PRESS!. THERE'S BEEN AN ECLOSURE AT OUR HOUSE see page 9



Photos Linda Rogan

Deadline for February edition newsletter is Friday, 23 January 09
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113



A Glycine Named Mary

A good news story for the season

Told to Linda by Josh and Cam Beardsell

ONCE A SHY, trailing, purple pea flower with clover like leaves would have had a home on the grassy woodland knolls above what is now Pound Bend. Although found in many lowland grasslands and grassy woodlands in southern Victoria and Tasmania, it was probably always rare. It had little defence in early pastoral days and even where cattle and sheep grazing ceased, it proved to be extremely vulnerable to rabbit grazing. As a result this now AROT declared plant came very close to slipping into extinction before its powers were revealed.

In 1978-81 CSIRO enlisted the help of Latrobe University to obtain seeds from a locality in Yan Yean. They were interested in finding something that could be bred with the Soy Bean in order to give it cool growing capabilities. Soy Beans *Glycine max* are renowned as a source of protein and renewable fibre, both important in a hungry and overstressed world. Alas Soybeans only grow in tropical and sub-tropical climes.

But our story is about Mary. In about 2003 a single plant was found about 1 1/2kms from Warrandyte State Park within the Yarra Valley Parklands. Cam Beardsall recognised the intrinsic value of this rare plant and four seeds were collected and given into Josh's care at the nursery. No regeneration was occurring in the YVP due to constant rabbit grazing. Only one seed germinated in 2004. This grew into the plant in the photo above. The first year this plant was watched like a hawk by Josh and Mel. Alas, they swear that no flowering occurred. How then was it that in the summer a pregnant pod appeared? When this was discovered our plant was named Mary.

Sadly, seeds from this pod failed to germinate. The next year things began to look up. Mary flowered and produced seed that were treated differently from the first ones and from a little over 150 seeds came nearly 150 plants. The secret? This time the seeds were pretreated with boiling water. Not once but twice. Thus our Mary has many progeny.

But what about the parent plant in YVP?

The original plant and a few more that have been located, have been fenced from rabbits and now have a chance to reproduce. Also Cam has secured a federal grant through the EPBC act and DSE that will allow for increased fencing and propagation. Cam hopes that in the near future, with protective fencing, *Glycine latrobeana* can resume its rightful place as a plant of Pound Bend.

And what about the CSIRO trials with Soy Beans and the Clover Glycine?

The breeding trials were successful. The hybrid is a plant that retains all the positive values of Soybeans but is frost tolerant. It has taken more than 15 years for this plant to reach commercial status but it is now poised to be more widely used in food production and also potentially environmentally friendly fibre in third world areas.

Many of us see the intrinsic value of our indigenous plants. Only when they are saved can we find out what further values to humanity they possess.

The following quote is found in Edward O. Wilson's
The Future of Life

***In the end, our society will be defined not
only by what we create, but by what we
refuse to destroy.***

-John C Sawhill (1936-2000), president ,
The Nature Conservancy, 1990-2000

Wildlife Watching in the Yarra Valley by Joan Broadberry

THE YARRA VALLEY is a great wildlife habitat and spring is a special time of the year. In the last few weeks, these two factors combined, have been responsible for some amazing urban wildlife watching experiences.

The nesting hole was in the opposite bank of the Yarra, and my sister and I were in position, binoculars focused. After a few minutes we picked up a brilliant flash of blue, and an Azure Kingfisher perched on a root for a second, and then dived into the hole. It left to forage, and from downstream a second bird darted in. They were obviously delivering food to young. We had a marvelous vantage point, as we were not disturbing the birds at all, and

could clearly observe them flying up and down the river. One of the kingfishers flew over to our bank and perched in a gum just below us. No matter how many times I see it, this exquisite, gem-like creature, it always takes my breath away.



A short walk further downstream and my sister spotted the fluffy ball of a baby Tawny Frogmouth (below) sitting on a low branch. It was



Photo by Joan Broadberry

very young and we knew the parents would be nearby. A scan of neighbouring trees soon located them. A quick photo and we hurried past. The young bird was vulnerable and would

need a lot of luck to survive. While watching the Azure Kingfishers we had seen a fox loping along the opposite bank. There were also some rather excitable dogs, off-lead. .

A few metres further on, I noticed White-winged Choughs starting to build the flat platform for their mud nest in a tall eucalypt. Peering up, we then spotted a completed Chough nest occupied by a sitting bird. The

afternoon's wildlife sightings were rounded off when we checked out a hollow with a young Laughing Kookaburra just visible at the entrance.

A week later some of the nursery workers led by Josh, went for a walk beside the Yarra. As we drove out of the nursery I spotted an Echidna on the grassy bank by the road. If we moved, it hid its head, almost as if it was playing peek-a-boo. But if we were

quiet and still, the head with its beak and cheeky eyes, soon lifted up. A short way



Photo Joan Broadberry

along the river track we happened upon another Echidna. This time we could only see its spines as it pressed itself down tightly against the hard clay.

The only place I have ever seen a Platypus in the



Yarra is from the bridge at Finns Reserve. This day, to my delight, as I trained the binoculars onto what looked like a floating piece of fence paling, it dived. A Platypus!!

Even though we scanned the wide, brown pool for some time, it did not appear again.

Walking further, a pair of keen eyes picked out a Koala swaying high up against the light. However, the best was to come. I was resting some distance ahead of the group when I heard an urgent call to come back. Fred Rich had spied two juvenile Powerful Owls perched in a tall gum. They had not yet moulted their fluffy breast down and were obviously dependant on their parents. The birds hung over the edge of their perches, huge yellow eyes watching us

(Continued on page 4)



Photo Joella Godfrey

(Continued from page 3)

anxiously. We searched but did not pick up the adults. Fred was so excited! Lots of photos were taken and a mobile call made immediately to the Rangers' Office. It was all too much for Gray, who, inexplicably, lay down in the sun and went to sleep.

About a week later Brian and I went for an evening walk, hoping to catch up with the Powerful Owls. As we neared the spot I craned my neck and bingo: four owls in the one tree. The family seemed fast asleep, but a rogue Currawong began to dive-bomb them and suddenly they were alert. The adults with their chocolate brown chevrons and the much lighter juveniles started to trill to each other. The rays of the late afternoon sun lit up the group as I trained my camera on them. Another truly beautiful moment in the Yarra Valley.



Photo Jodie Godfrey

The Orchids of Merrica River

By Pat Coupar

THERE IS A BEACH in New South Wales, not far from the Victorian border, where you can see orchids growing on cliffs only a few metres from the pounding surf of the southern ocean. The place is the mouth of the Merrica River, the orchid is *Dendrobium speciosum* commonly known as King Orchid, Rock Orchid or Rock Lily.

We first saw them several years ago in deep winter, and then again in summer. We had never seen the orchids in flower until this year when we made our third visit to the site, this time in mid-September.

To reach this extraordinary place, you must turn off the Prince's Highway about 23 kilometres south of Eden onto the Womboyn Road and follow the signs to Nadgee Nature Reserve. Just before the ranger's residence there is a gate and a causeway across the Merrica River. The walk starts from a small parking bay and registration point - this is also the starting (or finishing) point for much longer walks along the wilderness coast.

The walk to the mouth of the Merrica River fol-

lows an old overgrown vehicle track as it winds uphill and downhill through tall eucalypt forest dominated by Silvertop Ash with an understorey of spindly hakeas and a variety of wattles. On our most recent visit, attention was drawn to a brilliant red flower on a passion fruit creeper scrambling over the ground. As there were no weeds in sight I surmised this one could be native – confirmed later, as *Passiflora cinnabarina*, by one of my favourite botanical books – 'Wildflowers of Victoria' by Margaret Corrick and FOWSP's own Bruce Fuhrer.



Long before we reached the beach we heard the muffled roar of the waves. The track descends into a cool rainforest gully before emerging onto a broad expanse of sand near the outlet – or inlet, depending on whether the tide is going out or coming in - of the Merrica River.

To reach the cliffs where the orchids have taken up residence, it is necessary to cross the river – usu-



ally only knee deep – and follow the rock face to the ocean. On the vertical cliffs dozens and dozens of clumps of these thick, leathery-leaved orchids cling to the sandstone rocks with a mesh of worm-like tendrils emerging from swollen pseudobulbs (storage organs). That they not only survive, but thrive in these harsh conditions is a testament to the hardiness of these remarkable orchids. We were thrilled to see many of them adorned with arching, creamy flower spikes – each comprising up to a hundred individual flowers. At last. Magnificent.

FOWSP Committee 2008

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FOWSP contact**

**Membership/
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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).

February 5/09 To be announced but your help will be welcome.

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 Program 2008/9

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)

February 4, 2009 topic to be announced but always interesting

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required

Supper provided



Manningham CC environmental community celebration

Thursday 18 December 6 pm onwards

join us in celebrating your achievements for our local environment
food, drinks, music and children's entertainment provided

RSVP PLEASE for catering Kelly Trainor 9840 9129 or eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

Manningham Sustainable Home Gardening Series

Seminar 1 Feb 24/09 - Soils, Erosion, Drainage & Waterways

Seminar 2 Feb 26 - Composting, Mulch, Organic Recycling

Seminar 3 Mar 3 - Garden Irrigation, Rainwater Tanks, Greywater

Seminar 4 Mar 5 - Plant Selection, Plant Health & Weeds

Seminar 5 Mar 10 - Sustainable Garden Design

For information and bookings contact Kelly Trainor at Manningham Council on 9840 9129 or email eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

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

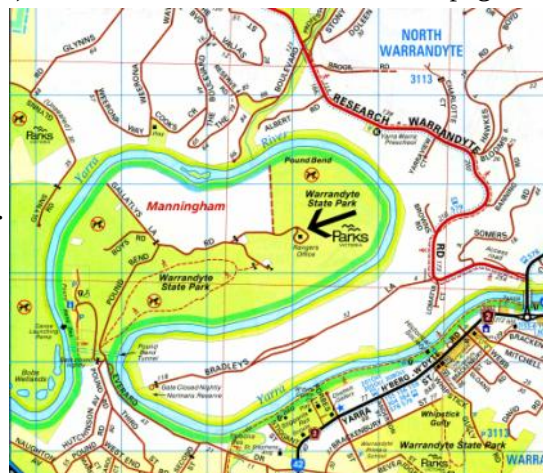
The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday.

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



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Nursery closed Christmas Day and New Years Day



ALL NEW Native Splendour
a gardening Guide for the Indigenous Plants of Manningham
Will be available before Christmas

More photos, more gardening tips,

Different selection of plants

Pick yours up at the nursery or

call Kelly Trainor on 9840 9348 or email eeepamin@manningham.vic.gov.au
and ask for a copy to be posted out.

Sunday Walks 2009

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.

February 1 Ruffey Creek with Jane Pammer and Sharon Mason

Despite long term urban pressures, Ruffey Creek still has some lovely remnant patches and is a valuable habitat link between Ruffey Lake Park and the Yarra River. Jane and Sharon will describe and show us works undertaken by the Manningham Bush Crew the preserve and enhance these assets. This is an easy 3.5 km walk lasting about 3 hours. Meet at Dellfield Drive, Templestowe (where it crosses Ruffey Creek) Melways Ref: 33 D6 to carpool to Ruffey Lake Park.

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

Thursday Walks 2009

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

Needle Bug or Water Stick Insect

From an article by Steven Katsineris

ONE DAY, MY SON ANDREAS and daughter Lara pulled a Gum Tree branch out of a large pond near our Hurstbridge home. Several large insects were clinging to the leaves and twigs. They looked a bit like Stick Insects, but these were thinner and were clearly living in the water.

Melbourne Museum helped me identify the Water Stick Insect or Needle Bug (*Ranatra dispar*). Needle Bugs are large, slender, stick-like water bugs. They are found amongst aquatic vegetation in still or very slow-flowing fresh water. Living in ponds, dams, lakes and creeks near the water's edge, they are weak swimmers and usually crawl or climb around. Adult Needle Bugs however can fly and so are able to move to other water sources.

These insects are predators that feed on other pond insects. They are slow moving and hunt using stealth, not speed. Needle Bugs hide concealed in cover among logs, grasses, weeds and other aquatic vegetation, hanging on to a stem, twig, or shoot below the surface of the water waiting for passing prey. Lying in wait among plants Needle Bugs use

their front legs to grasp prey that comes into their reach. They mainly eat insects, but also tadpoles, small fish and crustaceans.

Needle Bugs have a very interesting trait, a long breathing tube on the end of their abdomen. They use this tube like a snorkel, pushing it up through the water surface. This allows them to breathe the air above while remaining under the water hunting for food.

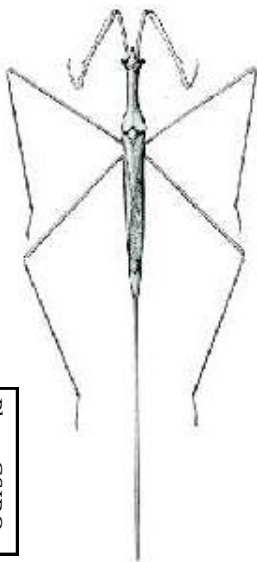


Photo CSIRO

They are found in eastern mainland Australia, from Queensland through NSW and Victoria to SA and also in Tasmania.

Needle Bugs are little known, but fascinating creatures. My family were really excited by this find, as we had never heard of these strange, unique water stick insects before.

News from the Committee

- The committee will be exploring ways to improve the look and function of the nursery early in the new year.
- Work on the FOWSP website is progressing well with the assistance of member Jason Patton
- A nursery laptop will be purchased. It will; be useful for organising plant orders and plant lists
- The need for a deposit on large orders was discussed as sometimes plants are grown for an order and they are never picked up.

Rangers Report:

- Two Powerful Owl chicks have been spotted in Jumping Creek Reserve this breeding season and one in the Pound Bend area. Seems to be a good season for fledglings this year.
- Two more fire crew have started this month, making a total of three, with two more to start at the end of the month.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday February 10, 2009

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Ladybird, Ladybird ...

Did you catch the segment on Catalyst on 06 November 2008 about Ladybirds? The timing coincided with the launching of a new CSIRO website on Australian Ladybirds

<http://www.ento.csiro.au/biology/ladybirds/aboutLadybirds1.htm>

Catalyst is also conducting a Backyard Ladybird survey. In order to participate go to <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/ladybirds/>



Coccinella transversalis a native ladybird photographed on a silver wattle

Predatory Shield Bugs and Two Hairy Caterpillars

By Linda Rogan

I HAVE BEEN watching the caterpillars on the Cotton Fireweed *Senecia quadridentata* (pictured below) for some weeks wondering what they will become. I also took note of a pair of Predatory



Shieldbugs (below) mating on the same plant. I now know (thanks to Denis Crawford see past two is-



sues), that these shieldbugs prey on soft bodied animals such as caterpillars. But these caterpillars are numerous on my plant including many tiny early instars (inset above) It will be interesting to see whether sufficient survive for me to photograph the adult moth. I have found they are the larvae of the Senecio moth or Magpie Moth *Nyctemera amica*.

The internet tells me that the Senecio moth is one of the Tiger moth group that are generally colourful and distasteful to predators. The shed skin of the caterpillar with its irritating hairs remain attached to the pupal case as it lays on the ground.

So will the shieldbugs attack the larvae of the Senecio moth? So far I haven't seen it occur although both are present close to each other.

Later the same day, I photographed another hairy caterpillar definitely being attacked on a Silver Wattle along the Plenty River. This one is the larva of the Painted Acacia Moth *Teia anartoides*, one of the tussock moths. The final instar caterpillar's hairs can cause considerable itching. These hairs are incorporated into the cocoon and even the empty cases can cause stinging. Obviously in this case the irritating hairs are no defence from the Predatory Shieldbug.



It is interesting to note that this tussock moth is considered to be a pest on pine trees. (some people may say this is a good thing) However adult females are flightless and remain on the cocoon on eclosing where they mate and lay their eggs. As a result these animals spread slowly and any outbreaks are confined to a small area)

I emailed the photos to Denis Crawford as a follow up to the photo he kindly shared with us last issue. Thank you to Denis for the identification of these two caterpillars.

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)

ECLOSURE

THIS TERM IS frequently used on moth and butterfly websites to describe and adult emerging from a pupal case. In this case it happened on a twig in a vase in our dining room. I had nearly forgotten I plucked the twig a week or so ago to have a closer look at the Imperial Blue Butterflies



pupal cases.

I can't remember being so excited since childbirth. The photos are as follows:

(above) Head and shoulders sliding out of bottom of the pupal case

(left) Butterfly pulling out of the case with wings still crumpled and abdomen shortened

(below L) Looking from the top of the butterfly with wings about 1/3 expanded. It took 12 minutes to reach this stage.



Message to Pat and Mike Coupar.
I didn't know you had so much fun in the making of *Flying Colours*"

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November Market Volunteers

Alison Thom

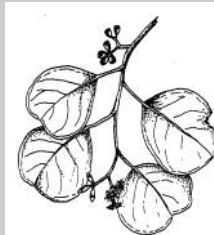
Lynne Vary

Diane & John Baird

Mark & Margaret Hassell

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.*

What the devil is it doing here? By Joan Broadberry

My companion called to me, "You are never going to believe this". She was right, I was gob smacked. By her foot was a Thorny Devil. It was almost the last creature I expected to see and a first for both of us. You see we were in the Dryandra forest of south west Western Australia reveling in the bird life and wildflowers. In my mind, at that time, Thorny Devils belonged to Central Australia.

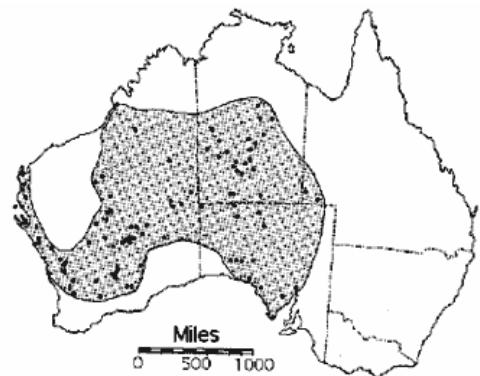
We were looking down at a spiny lizard, less than 20cm long including tail. Thorny Devils appear fearsome, but are, in fact, harmless and gentle. They are diurnal and feed solely on ants. The lizard's scientific name, *Moloch horridus*, is derived from Milton's poem *Paradise Lost*. In the poem the Canaanite god Moloch is described as a "horrid king besmeared with blood of human sacrifice".

The Thorny Devil *is only species in its genus*. In WA it is often referred to as the Mountain Devil.

The Thorny Devil has spiky orange, yellow and black skin, camouflaged to the colours of its arid habitat, with a round knob on its neck that it presents as a 'false' head to an intruder. Rather than running when threatened, the slow-moving lizard will take up a rigid pose with its tail arched upwards and rock its body slowly, perhaps mimicking a dry leaf. Their spines help Thorny Devils obtain water in the dry outback. In the mornings they rub up against dew drops on vegetation and the moisture runs between the spikes along grooves that lead directly into their mouths.

The Devil can live for at least twenty years and starts breeding at three years of age. Like other dragon lizards it attracts a mate with elaborate courtship rituals, including leg-waving and head-bobbing. In November and December the female lays a clutch of 3-10 eggs in a chamber burrowed up to 30 cm below the surface. Once hatched, the young lizards start eating ants almost immediately.

What particularly interests me is the Thorny Devil's distribution,



as it was such a surprise to find it in the Wandoo forest three hours from Perth. Most sources state that it lives in the sand country of inland Australia. Many distribution maps I looked at did not include the Dryandra forest. However, more research has produced the above, which gives the habitat "as along the west coast of Western Australia and the interior." My mental landscape has now been suitably rearranged!!!

Photo: Note the eye, far left on the end of the snout

"I SPY"

By B.G



Pound Bend People

NURSERY NUANCES or A Day in the life at Pound Bend Nursery.

Thursday 30 October 2008—rain threatening.

Marie K. was working steadily dividing *Viola hederacea* into pots for display purposes, then weeding ferns.

Keith J. was making his usual wise comments whilst filling tubes with potting mix.

Annette was having a discussion with Jane Thurman on plants and transport. Steven Giles was listening. Melanie was fluffing about, (not really), organizing lots of "things" - orders for plants, volunteer requests for assistance etc.

Alwynne B. was busy repotting display plants

Marion K was weeding ferns.

Lee was putting a sprinkler system in the new shade house—helped by John Blake.

Irene F. was pricking out seedlings and weeding.

Alison T.—"I've been weeding pots"

Marion T. was pricking out *lomandra*, Brian J was doing the same.

Dick T was putting empty tubes in the racks and weeding *Spiranthes* (Lady Tresses Orchids)

Josh R was, *inter alia*, walking around with a handful of beautiful roses!

Joan B was doing treasurer's work, receipting, looking after money, writing cheques and recording.

Linda R. was potting up a rare yam daisy.

Ruth Shoebridge, a new member, was present for her first visit and helping.

Sue Shephard (just back from five months tenting and touring) was busy working.

Gail Bradley, with four year old Jamie, was "getting" a range of plants for their place in Research for unplanted areas. She was also interested in screening shrubs. (Sue Macintyre, one of our members had recommended the FOWSP nursery as a place to go for indigenous plants "that really grow.")

And of course the inimitable I SPY reporter, hard as he tried, was unable to fully record all the other people working.

- - - - -

INTERNET INCIDENT

Susan Curlis (from East Ringwood) has been helping the Friends. Susan is studying second year Psychology at Latrobe, but hopes to change to Environmental Science at Deakin next year. Susan found out about FOWSP on the internet. <http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/>

PROM AND PORTLAND

Linda Rogan, back from a Wilson's Prom visit with friends, has also been to Portland recently looking for rare orchids. "We had the opportunity to capture pollinators for *Caladenia cardiochila* and *C. tessalata*"

DAVID DROPS IN

David Wilson, born in Accrington, UK, was visiting the depot. David is a retired tax inspector.

PSYCHOLOGY AND ETHOLOGY

Jan Davies studies as a genetic scientist, (has a PhD in Psychology and Ethology). Jan was found picking up plants "to re-landscape the garden bed at the front."

FIRE FIGHTER FORMATION

Tim Wearne, co-ordinator for Melbourne Central support Team was seen around the W.S.P. depot with 20 "overall clad people, all training for general fire fighting duties. There exists a reserve unit of approximately 100 fire fighters employed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment. The scheme is into its third year.

The group of 20 were at the Park being briefed on local equipment and its use. The initial introduction for the day was given by Ranger David Van Bockel

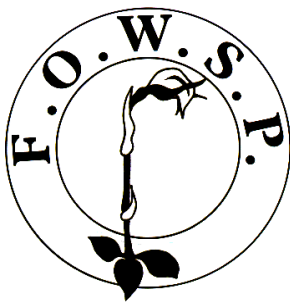
FUNGAL "FINGS"

October 11, 08 Gardening Australia (ABC1) included an interview with Tom May, senior mycologist at Melbourne Botanical Gardens. Items mentioned were

Fungi are a baseline for measuring climate change Fungi are major recyclers of dead organic material, they also break down wood in houses. He particularly mentioned Neville Walter who worked in the Timber Products section of the CSIRO. Neville had put out a general request for people to send in "found" specimens. One of about 8000 responses was from a farmer near Portland.

ERGONOMIC EPILOGUE

And so, as the sun almost sets on another year of FOWSP activity, I SPY hopes everyone has ample rain, plenty of plant growth and good personal health. May the FOWSP go with you as you go forth and plant to the furthestmost border of ingenuity.



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Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.
P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**

Happy Holidays to all FOWSPians



Clematis aristata

***Clematis aristata* Austral Clematis**

Also known by the less attractive name of Goatsbeard or the descriptive Old Man's Beard because of feathery seed heads in late spring and summer.

(Aristata means bearded)

This vigorous showy climber is widespread in wet, damp sclerophyll forests and grassy low open forest and is found in Warrandyte State Park.

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



Two extra photos from Pat and Mike Coupar.
See page 4

Left the *Dendrobium speciosum* commonly known as King Orchid, Rock Orchid or Rock Lily.

Below the Merrica River looking across to rocky cliff with orchids.



(Above) Imperial Blue Butterfly with wings fully open and feeding about 2 hours after eclosing. See page 9.

(Right) Swamp Rat *Rattus lutreolus* photographed at the Stringybark Picnic area in Cranbourne.

These 2 photos by Linda Rogan



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