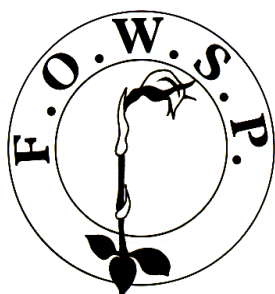


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

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

Editor's corner

By Joan Broadberry

WELCOME to another FOWSP year. I hope your holidays and family time were relaxing and satisfying. At the nursery today, (22nd Jan) I found it hard to keep up with all the plans and coming activities. I often jot things down on the back of my hand, and I ran out of space and started going up my arm!!

It seems we are in the middle of a canoe assisted assault on the weed, Yellow Flag Iris. The aim is to get at it before it seeds. I believe two more lots of boats are going out a.m. and p.m. next week to work from Bradley's lane to the tunnel. With the hot weather finally arriving, weeding from the water sounds like the way to go.

The first FOWSP committee meeting of the year will be held at the Depot 7.30 pm on Tuesday 10th February. Lyndy Gilbert will be joining the committee as Treasurer. Joan MacMahon is stepping down. On behalf of FOWSP I would like to warmly welcome Lyndy and thank Joan for her contribution to the committee, in particular her passion for the park and the environment. Joan will still be involved in the newsletter. By the way, we still have vacancies on the committee. If you are at all interested feel very welcome to come along and give us a test drive.

What else? Fred Rich is going to organize a spit roast lunch at the nursery in late February. Ken Crook who leads walks for VNPA, has arranged to run his Cerberus walk a second time in March just for us spoiled FOWSP members. Details p.6. A full list of

TAG activities up until December has been compiled. Impressive organisation guys! TAG is always held on the first Thursday of the month. Today nursery workers were busy with some of the "rare stuff" which will be planted out in Boys Rd in June with assistance of school students.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work done over the last few weeks (and still ongoing), in preparing the FOWSP submission to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC). On behalf of us all, small group of dedicated FOWSPIANS are labouring over a submission aiming to help protect the Manningham Green Wedge.

2009 will undoubtedly be a busy and challenging year. Best wishes to all from Joan Broadberry and the editorial team.



What's happening here? See next page

Deadline for March edition newsletter is Friday, 20 February

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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 08 ROUNDUP

AS CHRISTMAS DAY and New Years day fell on a Thursday it was quiet around the nursery for a few weeks after our breakup BBQ on the 18th December. However, plants don't look after themselves and our thanks to the nursery staff for interrupting their break with watering duties. As many FOWSP activities took place in late November and December and we haven't had a newsletter since then, this article is an attempt to catch up on old news.

The annual koala count took place on November 27th. Ben has spied out what happened, so turn to p.11. In the afternoon of that same day a few nursery workers, led by Josh, took a walk up Mt. Lofty with the aim of improving our grass ID skills. We had a tip-off that a pair of Peregrine Falcons were nesting in the area and were



This robberfly was found devouring a honeybee on one of the Danthonia species we examined Photo Linda Rogan

fortunate enough to get some long distance views of three light-coloured fluffy chicks in the nest.



Another great sighting was a Jacky Lizard, (*Gemmatophora muricata*) sunning itself on a log (Linda's photos above). We also found the Impe-

rial Blue Butterfly breeding on a black wattle.

An unwelcome discovery was a patch of Ser-rated Tussock, a declared agricultural weed. It had ripe seed which was even worse. **The photo (front page)** shows Gray, Annette and Josh collecting as much of the seed as they could. The infestation was reported to the rangers and dealt with a short time later.

The FOWSP AGM was held on the evening of 2nd December. Thanks to Martyn for chairing the meeting and to Brian for taking the minutes. There was ample time for a relaxed evening of conversation, gourmet food and wine. As the twilight faded, Pat and Mike gave another of their wonderful presentations, this time of their recent travels in the Kimberly. (see photos of the AGM on www.fowsp.org.au.)

The very next day some of the nursery workers set off on the last bus/tag-along trip of the year to Lake Mountain. The quest was to find the Macleay's Swallowtail Butterfly. Cathy Willis volunteered, (was press-ganged?), into driving the 15 seater bus at very short notice, and, a little late we rolled into Marysville to meet up with the car contingent waiting at the bakery. The weather was not kind, and although there were some sunny breaks it was bleak in the Lake Mountain car park. However, the roadside flora was magnificent and we stopped for lunch and to check out the flowers at a slightly lower altitude. Even further down, the walk to Stevenson's Falls was enjoyable. And yes, one lone Macleay's Swallowtail was in flight just below the falls. At day's end we meandered slowly back to Melbourne via the cherry orchards stalls of the Yarra Valley. (see photos from this outing on the website in the newly created photo gallery).

www.fowsp.org.au



Good News! The Gould League has been revived. See the details on their new website:

www.gould.org.au

FOWSP helps a rare Pomaderris

By Linda Rogan

Info from Josh and FNVC news

RARE and endangered, and growing only within Victoria, *Pomaderris vacciniifolia*, the Round-leaf Pomaderris, has a known population in the wild of less than 650 plants in declining populations. (It) occurs in moist forest and scrub in the upper catchment of the Yarra, Plenty and Yea Rivers (Walsh and Entwistle 1999).

A recent article in the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria news reported a visit to two sites along the Melba Highway. The first site had 160 mature plants and was discovered during a survey of the easement of the proposed Sugarloaf pipeline (This survey has identified nearly half of the known plants of this species) with 100 plants in an area the size of a motor vehicle on private land. The species needs natural disturbances such as fire, flood or mammal scratching to maintain the population. There are artificial disturbances on the side of forest tracks but the young plants have been eaten. The proposed pipeline needs to be drilled underground or woven around this population of *P. vacciniifolia*. During pipeline construction there will be soil disturbance and possible recruitment of young plants, but these will need to be fenced to protect them from browsing to allow them to flower and set seed.

The second site (visited) had the oldest known individual of *P. vacciniifolia*. It is in damp forest in a soak near a gravel pit at the intersection of the Melba Highway with the Kinglake-Toolangi Road. The area has not been burnt since the 1939 wildfire and the oldest specimen, which had begun senescing before it blew over in a storm and died recently, was estimated to have been almost 70 years old at the time of death. The fallen Pomaderris was at least 6.5 m tall and had a 32 cm girth at chest height before it collapsed.

The vegetation here is intact with over sixty taxa of vascular and non-vascular plants recorded with fungi well represented. There were only four

weed species with most being near a minor horse trail.



Three old veteran plants survived in Warrandyte until several years ago but they no longer exist.

Josh reports that FOWSP nursery has been actively involved in propagating this plant from seed obtained north of the Yarra. We have been producing 250 to 300 plants annually for use in revegetation projects where appropriate. In Warrandyte, plants had survived only north of the Yarra. A population has now been established in the Pound Bend area. Excess plants are also sold to people in the local area.

Perhaps these indigenous plants, grown in gardens, can help bridge the gaps between widely spaced populations.

This particular Pomaderris is popular as a garden plant and responds well to pruning and hedging if desired. It is suitable for a wide range of well drained soils.

The use of indigenous plants for gardens and landscaping has many benefits. Helping to maintain the population of rare plants is just one.



WE need nature, and particularly its wilderness strongholds. It is the alien world that gave rise to our species, and the home to which we can safely return. It offer choices our spirit was designed to enjoy.

_Edward O Wilson (from The Future of Life, 2005)



Damselflies Emerge

By Linda Rogan

ITS HARD TO BELIEVE how quickly critters have inhabited our backyard pond. Not long before summer in 2008 my husband dug a pond, "2 metres by 2 feet by knee deep". I put in plants from the Pound Bend Nursery and others from a friend who manages a local reserve and wondered how long it would take to attract indigenous fauna. Well the first inhabitants within days were wrigglers from mozzies. They were thick in the water and grandchildren found them interesting but we didn't appreciate the bites from the adult females. We thought about seeking out native fish to eat the wrigglers but didn't get around to it.

In January, Peter took a jar out to capture wrigglers to show our 3 y o granddaughter, but the jar came up empty. However, to the delight of both child and adults, the Water Milfoil *Myrio-*



phyllum crispatum was decorated with emerging damselflies and their empty larval skins. On first emerging little colour is evident and this immature stage are called duns.

The photo below is taken four days later and some colour is developing.

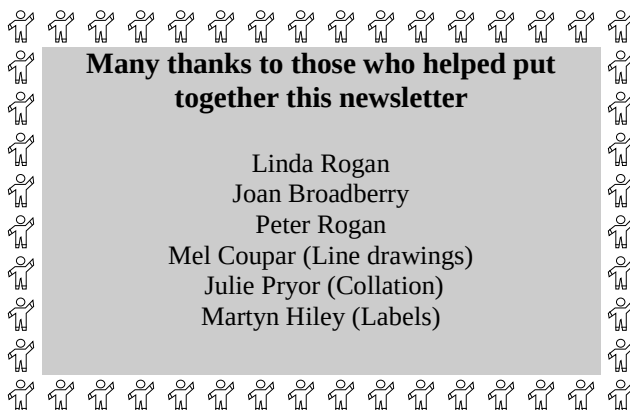


Reiner Richter referred me to the website http://www.ecology-solutions.com.au/vic_dragonflies/lestidae.htm and helped me identify the Wandering Ringtail *Austrolestes leda*. As Dragonfly and damselfly larvae or mudeyes eat mozzie larvae or wrigglers we are doubly pleased to have them living in our pond.

This dragonfly which I have yet to identify, was also in our backyard but may not have come from the pond. Doesn't he have a wonderful face?



With water in our rainwater tank, we are looking forward to many more critters in our backyard pond.



Many thanks to those who helped put together this newsletter

Linda Rogan
Joan Broadberry
Peter Rogan
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)
Julie Pryor (Collation)
Martyn Hiley (Labels)

Many Thanks

December Market Volunteers

Diane & John Baird
Marion Thomson
Sue Shepherd
Lindy Gilbert
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.*

FOWSP Committee 2008

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Gray Ardern 0418 190261

Cathy Willis 0418 142297

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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

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0408 317327

9844 2659

Marie Krause
9712 0498

Adriana Simmonds
9722 2908

Julie Pryor
9722 1117

Judy Green
9844 2096

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

February 5 Stanebrae Tree guard removal collections

March 5 Glynns Reserve Red ink weed—caper spurge removal with Yarra Valley

April 2 Ridge block Boneseed removal

Col Bromiley

Cam Beardsall

Jodie Godfrey

The Thursday Activity Group is co-ordinated by Ranger Jodie Godfrey and FOWSP member Martyn Hiley 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 2009

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 Fire Preparedness with Lisa Keedle, Country Fire Authority

March 4 Conserving Bugs with Alan Yen, DPI

April 1 Monitoring - Who Can Be Bothered? with Glen Jameson, Parks Vic



Supper provided

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required

Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

February 21 Saturday 9am—12 noon Rabbit control workshop Edendale

March 29 Sunday 10am—12 noon One Tree Hill Wildlife walk Richard Francis



Free but **Bookings required** Georgia Ramsey 9433 3201

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

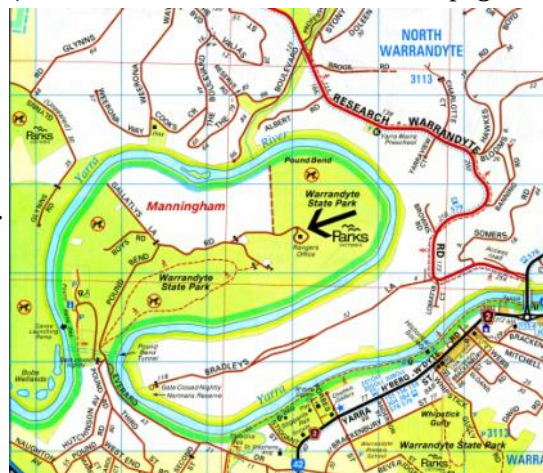
The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday.

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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Early notice!

A Nautical Heritage Day at HMAS Cerberus –Crib Point (FOWSP—Warrandyte Historical Society)

Wednesday 25 March 2009 Bus leave the FOWSP nursery at 8:15

Cost \$20 for bus, entrance to museum and tea or coffee

Camera OK Bring a picnic lunch

For details and bookings ring Ken Crook 9844 0106

Early notice!

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.

March 1

Eucalypts of Warrandyte by Glen Jamieson

April 5

Waterwatch on the Mullum Mullum with Nigel Philpot,

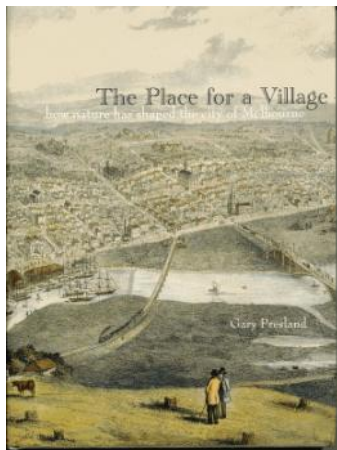
Bookings: Kay Toussaint on 9840 9348 or email eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

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

Book Review -
The Place for a Village, - how nature has
shaped the city of Melbourne
 by Dr. Gary Presland.



“Have you ever wondered why Melbourne is located where it is? Or why it has the shape it does? The original point of settlement was about seven kilometers up the Yarra River from Port Phillip Bay. Urban development in the past 170 years has led to a metropolitan area that today stretches from

Caroline Springs in the west to Ferntree Gully in the east and from Broadmeadows in the north to Frankston in the south. The urban sprawl is clearly skewed to the east, south and southeast. What has led to this development?

The place for a Village looks at the history of Melbourne from the point of view of nature and considers the ways that urban development has been influenced by the nature of local environments. It begins with a reconstruction of what the Melbourne area was like when first seen by Europeans, at the beginning of the 19th century.”

I would recommend *The Place for a Village* for anyone who has ever closed their eyes and tried, in their imagination, to reconstruct the original landscape of their suburb. This book brings to life the intimate details of Melbourne’s geology, watercourses and wetlands, vegetation, animal, bird and insect life. It is a wonderful marriage of history and natural history. For me this is a volume to own, to read, to enjoy and to refer back to time and time again. The illustrations are one of its strongest features. Gary has brought together an amazing collection of more than 80 images from early Melbourne, most of which are in colour, which help the reader truly understand how this city developed.

***The place for a Village* can be purchased through Field Naturalist Club of Victoria book sales at a price of \$60, (members \$48). Telephone/fax 9877 9860, 1 Gardenia St Blackburn 3131, Monday or Wednesday 9 – 5 pm or email, anytime fncv@vicnet.net.au**

News from the Committee

- The new website www.fowsp.org.au is up and running. See information below.
-
- Jason Patton is scanning pages from the Flora of Warrandyte for committee and members use.
-
- Discussion is to take place about use of the new website to make this information more available.
-
- A submission to the VEAC metropolitan Melbourne investigation is being prepared.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday February 10, 2009

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp



Friends Of Warrandyte State Park



Check out the new FOWSP WEBSITE

For calendar of FOWSP activities
 Photos from the AGM, 25th Anniversary and recent outings.

Download past issues of FOWSP newsletter (2008)
 And more...

Its easy to remember
www.fowsp.org.au

Black Wallaby- A Delightful Encounter

By Steven Katsineris

One morning while driving through the bush between Hurstbridge and Diamond Creek I was surprised to see a beautiful Black Wallaby hop leisurely onto the road. (so late in the morning)

It stopped and stood there in the middle of the road and gazed at my approaching car as I slowed down and watched the wallaby intently. After a few moments the Black Wallaby slowly hopped off the road into the nearby bush. I stopped the car, it stopped again in a clearing just beside the road and stood there looking at me. I wound down the car window and for a short while we stared at each other. About a minute or so later it bent down and ate some grass and then stood up looking at me again. The Black Wallaby was not in the least concerned or frightened about my presence.



Eventually, I thought I had better move on before another car came along, so I drove away leaving the Black Wallaby there to feed in peace. As they are usually out and about feeding during the night, in the evenings and early mornings, it was a very unusual sight to come across a Black Wallaby in the mid-morning. This was an odd, but delightful occurrence. I just hope that this gentle, trusting and harmless animal is wary enough to continue survive around the roads. We are fortunate to live in close proximity to such wonderful wildlife. This was an enchanting and memorable encounter, catching sight of such a graceful and beautiful creature in broad daylight. But it is also a cautionary tale to remind myself and other drivers that these wild animals are wandering around the bush during the day as well as the night, so we need to be careful.

Editor: We think this experience stimulated Steven to write the following letter to the editor and I suspect to all fellow drivers:

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

With the warmer weather upon us a lot of wildlife are wandering about looking for food and water even during the daytime. I have over the past few weeks stopped my car a number of times to allow Blue-tongued Lizards, Black Wallabies, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Ducks to cross the road. This week I had to stop in the mid-morning on the main road out of Hurstbridge for a Black Wallaby to cross over.

Also in springtime there are lots of young birds and other animals around the roads. Unfortunately, I've also seen several Blue-tongued Lizards, three Eastern Grey Kangaroos, a Possum, an Echidna and many birds dead on the roads recently. People can help the local wildlife by being aware of their presence near roads, during the day and as well as the night, being wary while driving and driving slowly in rural/bush areas where wildlife is prevalent.

Thankyou.

Yours, sincerely,

Steven Katsineris,

For those who remember the caterpillars photographed in the Senecio in my backyard that were sharing the plant with predatory shield bugs (Dec-Jan Newsletter p.8), the following photos of the adult Magpie Moth show at least some survived. From the underneath photo (taken on our window)



you can see this is a member of the tiger moth group.

The visible string of eggs make me



think this may be one of the moths that drop their eggs in flight. Editor, LR

"I SPY"

By B.G



SPEED SURPRISE

FOWSP A.G.M. – 6.30 pm Tuesday 2nd December 08. Driving along Everard Drive to attend the AGM we were confronted by a lit-up car speed indicator device. (Of course we were within the limits.) But the portent of the device? Do FOSWP members rushing to the AGM have more speed infringements than other citizens?

MINERVA MARCH

Peter March, (Northumberland U.K.), a new member, was weeding plants, helped by Nathalia (2 y.o.) and his wife Minerva, ("from Luzon, Los Filipinos")

SUGARLOAF SECTION

Reegan Kay was visiting last December. Reegan usually works at Bushy Park as a marketing and communications person for Parks Victoria, Melbourne Region. She has double degrees in Business and Communication from Monash and was here to meet with Conrad (R.I.C.) and a Melbourne Water representative to discuss, "matters about Sugarloaf."

KOALA COUNT

Late November 2008, a group of about 40 people headed off in two groups, led by rangers Jodie and Kylie. Only three koalas were sighted. "One near the chough's nest", Mitchell 5 y.o. "It was sitting on a tree branch."



Two others were seen by the other group. Why are the numbers down so dramatically?

SHORT SNIPPETS

- Peter Rogan was seen attending the nursery for a short while. He brought down, "lunch and iced-tea for Linda".

Pat and Mike Couper were working on ferns in pots. They both insist they are STILL living in Warrandyte and have NOT moved to Mallacoota. As Mike said, "We are still hanging in".

KOALA CATCH-UP

After the koala count walk had started, Julie Pryor, Matthew Rouse, Emily Werk and Seamus Crowe arrived, but were not late because they had been misinformed that the count started at 11.30 am. Disappointed, they nevertheless hopped in and helped with pricking out plants. (Julie has rescued over 180 koalas

in a 12 year period and has been able to release 32 back into the wild. Her koala shelter is in Wonga Park.

MORE MEMBERS

New Member Jay McHugh was helping three other ladies weeding. Jan Falconer has just rejoined FOWSP. Jan has 5 grandchildren. Welcome back Jan.

KRUGER, CHEMISTRY AND CHRISTCHURCH

Ray Kruger's son Paul, has just been appointed Professor of Chemistry at Christchurch (N.Z.)



INSECTA INSECTS

Belinda will lead an insect search on February 5th 200

It is rumored that Cam Beardsell will lead a different type of activity on 5th March.

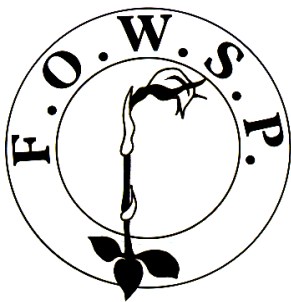
BRAVE BAND

Thursday 22d January was a day of Total Fire Ban and the temperature was forecast to rise to 34 degrees Celsius. A brave band of at least 11 people tuned up the nursery, ("and quite a few others out the back I think", said Annette). Also present were Claire Babic (9 y.o.) and Mitchell, (5 y.o.)

WARRANDYTE WANDERER On December 9th a kangaroo was reported hopping through the North Ringwood shopping centre lower car park. Witnesses were the visiting Cole's lady representative and Helen, who works in the "Hooked on Fish", fish and chip shop. Was it hopping-shopping for Christmas?*

**Editor. Of course any native animal that has wandered from its bush home into a build up area would be terrified and in grave danger of injury. It needs to be caught by trained people. The responsible thing to do is contact the Ranger Depot or wildlife carer network immediately.*





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Hyacinth orchid. *Dipodium sp.*

Few native orchids choose to bloom in the heat of summer, but the tall, showy hyacinth orchid defies the rules. It flowers lavishly during January and February, often in groups, on a wine red spike up to a metre high. There can be over 40 individual rosy-pink, spotted flowers to one stem. Hyacinth orchids are widespread and can even still be found in bushland reserves in suburbia. They are saprophytic, without chlorophyll, feeding on rotting plant material.

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

Myrtle Beech
leaf by Cathy
Willis



Photo: Cathy Willis



Native Bees
sleeping late on a
Sweet Bursaria.
From the distance
they looked just
like a large bunch
of seed pods.



I have yet to identify these or-
ange bottomed native bees.
Linda

© Linda Rogan 2009



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