

September 2000

# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



# Newsletter

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. P O Box 220 Warrandyte 3113

## New Flora Finds for Warrandyte

By Pat Coupar

Around the time the 'Flora of Warrandyte' was being launched back in April this year, the first of three new flora records for the Park was being discovered at Pound Bend Reserve. The plant was Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*) and its discoverer, botanist Cam Beardsell. The second find, just last month, was a small, single plant of Dusty Daisy-bush (*Olearia phlogopappa*) growing under a dense stand of Burgan at Jumping Creek Reserve.

It was the third new record, however, that was the most remarkable of all, and it came about under an incredible set of circumstances. The species is an orchid, the Dainty Bird-orchid (*Chiloglottis trapeziformis*) – known in Greater Melbourne only from a single population in Yarra Valley Park and at Moorooduc Quarry, Mount Eliza. The Yarra Valley Park population, although healthy and presently expanding, is threatened by weeds.

It is considered critical for the long-term survival of this orchid to establish new populations in more secure sites and as Warrandyte State Park has the same vegetation community – alluvial terrace woodland – as the Yarra Valley population, it was decided to translocate some of the orchid tubers.

The location chosen by Cam Beardsell was an area of about 0.3 hectares that was relatively weed-free and had been fenced six years ago to protect a number of orchids species. The suitability of this site was confirmed by the fact that it contained 30 of the 32 indigenous species present at the Yarra Valley Park site – only the Dainty Bird-orchid and Tree Violet were missing.

Before the transplant could take place permission had to be sought from the appropriate authorities – Parks Victoria. There was no guarantee that it would be given, for this was to be a pilot scientific trial to establish a new population of a regionally threatened orchid in a reserve near Melbourne. However, optimistically and in anticipation of the permit being granted, the fence was visited one afternoon a few weeks ago by Cam Beardsell and several members of the Flora Management Team (FMT) to select a potential transplant site.

The first surprise of the afternoon was finding another small Dusty Daisy-bush plant, immediately doubling the known population of this new record for the Park. Leaves of Helmet-orchids (*Corybas* spp.) had been seen in several areas of the fence on previous occasions, but had not been positively identified. New and old flowers, along with new information from orchid expert Jeff Jeanes, confirmed that there were indeed three different species – Veined, Slaty and Fringed – all growing inside the fence. The Fringed Helmet-orchid (*C. fimbriatus*) is of particular importance since it is of statewide significance and was only found in Warrandyte a year ago.

The next discovery, a colony of Trim Geenhood (*Pterostylis concinna*), was made approximately 30 metres outside the fence. About ten years ago it was thought that this orchid might be extinct in the Park as it hadn't been seen for several years, now it is popping up everywhere – or so it seems!

Contd next page

#### New Flora Finds for Warrandyte contd

Then, the unbelievable happened. All of Cam Beardsell's expert knowledge, dedication and searching paid off. He found the 'golden egg' - a colony of over one hundred plants of the Dainty Bird-orchid growing in almost the exact location (just outside the fence), and vegetation community that he had chosen for the transplant. In less than 24 hours a 20 metre perimeter fence had been erected around the precious plants.

It is hoped that the proposed transplant will still go ahead. Individual colonies of orchids like the Dainty Bird-orchid, despite the number of rosettes, are often regarded as a single plant. So it is important for the health of this colony to introduce some genetic diversity to the site. And, if the Warrandyte population continues to expand a reciprocal arrangement could be organised to enhance the population in Yarra Valley Park.



**Dainty Bird-orchid**  
(*Chiloglottis trapeziformis*)  
Note the trapezium-shaped labellum



**Dusty Daisy-bush**  
(*Olearia phlogopappa*)



#### OLIMPIQS

##### *Medallion Awards for August*

Betty Oke who has been very energetic and effective in contacting and arranging the people who are rostered for our 'Friends' market stall.

Ray Clarke who over the years has been a regular attender, always working with zest - hands on, as well as other responsibilities necessary to the smooth running of our activities.

##### *Roving Reporter*

Dispatches continue to arrive from I-Spy's B.G. He and wife Margaret are now heading south

down the West Australian coast from Broome to Canarvon and onto Perth. Several FOWSP members now have a growing collection of fascinating information on many of the National Parks of the region.

##### *Frogs*

Frogs took over the 'Folly' on a Friday night in August. There were *Red Eyes*, *Pobblebunks*, *Rockets*, *Growling Grasses*, *Leaf Greens*, *Whistlings* and many others, calling from the cassette and staring out of the screen. Some, like the *Spotted Marsh*, were even there in person.

With a BBQ to begin the evening, it was a very pleasant social occasion in a delightful setting.

# Eagles at Mt Lofty

By Glen Jameson

*This is a response to an article that appeared in the Bend of Isles Newsletter regarding the fact that the resident Wedge-tailed Eagles did not breed in the Bend of Isles last year, 1999. It asked whether or not the revegetation program or track building might have affected the Eagles.*

Wedge-tailed Eagles are one of the few Australian animals that have in some way benefited from the introduction of Rabbits on the Australian mainland. Although Wedgies have an extensive range beyond that of rabbits, rabbits have provided a staple dietary item in the areas where their ranges overlap. In some cases providing 97% of Wedge-tailed Eagles diet, where other prey is scarce. What happens when in the course of park management programs that we affect the biological opportunities of certain native species?

There has been concern across Australia that the dramatic reduction of rabbit numbers through Rabbit Calicivirus Disease (RCD) has impacted upon Wedge-tailed Eagles and other native predator populations and breeding patterns.

The Bird of Prey Watch (BOP) carried out by Birds Australia and the Australasian Raptor Association across Australia between 1986 and 1998 included the species Wedge-tailed Eagle, Little Eagle, Brown Falcon and Brown Goshawk in the study which rely on rabbits as prey items.

It was thought that this information might assist to ascertain changes to abundance and breeding patterns of BOPs due to the affects of RCD on rabbit populations. In some areas, there has been a general decline in Wedge-tailed Eagle breeding activities most likely due to low rabbit numbers. BOP Watch data also indicates a statistically significant decline in observations of Brown Falcons for south eastern and central Australia. Brown Falcons were observed at Mt Lofty for a period of time during 1999.

However, there are difficulties relating RCD impact on abundance and breeding activities with so many other seasonal and ecological factors involved.

Wedge-tailed Eagles don't necessarily breed every year, there are no doubt many factors involved in an Eagle pair's decision whether or not to breed. At Plenty Gorge Park they didn't breed over this past year, maybe due to the drought conditions (Brendan Sullivan, pers comm). The building of the walking track below the nesting site should not have affected the



Eagles. They can observe the comings and goings on the track from their vantage point with relative security; it would have been a different matter if the track was built above them (David Baker-Gabb, pers comm).

The feeding patterns of the Wedge-tailed Eagles is unlikely to be disturbed by the tree guards (David Baker-Gabb, pers comm). We have a rabbit proof fence around Mt Lofty with just a small section to complete (the front gate), but still have sufficient rabbit numbers to warrant the use of tree guards.

The biggest change for the ELZ Eagles is the drop in availability of prey items at Mt Lofty due to the decline in Rabbit numbers. Rabbits were recorded at 113 Rabbits per Spotlight kilometer (RPK) in December 1996 and after the release of RCD on the site, plummeting down to below 50 RPK. Rabbit numbers after building up, have gone down further following the control program from 78 RPK in February 1998, to 4.8 RPK in May 2000.

The real worry was that during the baiting, the Eagles may have taken up bait through capturing prey that carried pindone. WTE have a moderate to high sensitivity to pindone. However this did not happen, we were careful to instruct contractors to pick up carcasses and they were diligent enough to do this well. Also the way in which rabbits return to warrens to die once poisoned, make it difficult for raptors to find them. There is very little written material on this subject to guide an operation such as the Mt Lofty rabbit-control program.

The drop in rabbit numbers has a number of other implications:

- Predator numbers are directly affected. It has been observed at Mt Lofty that fox numbers have dropped with the reduction in rabbit numbers.
- The rabbit population through selective grazing at Mt Lofty may set up the site for Burgan colonisation of the whole site. A process that is well under way. If this is not manipulated and turned around, it may be irreversible with Burgan not allowing diversity of plant life to flourish.

The Eagles are not as visible at Mt. Lofty as they have been previously. They still visit, but did not breed again this year. It is only wishful thinking at this stage to hope for enough native small mammals to be present at Mt. Lofty to support a pair of Eagles, but who knows what is in store for the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## Did You See?

### GLADE - protecting the Yarra Ranges

with Ivan Kolker

#### Supporter Liaison Coordinator

GLADE grew out of a group called Friends of Rosemont Reserve, formed to stop the sale of a 250 acre property owned by the Shire of Yarra Ranges in the Lilydale/Coldstream area in the latter part of 1997.

It launched a strong campaign of lobbying commissioners, local members of parliament and the Minister for Conservation.

It also interested the Earth Sanctuaries group in buying the property for a wildlife sanctuary.

In the end, the property was sold to preferred buyers before auction but the fight had alerted members to the need for people who cared about the natural environment of the area to be prepared to fight future battles against subdivision and clearing.

They decided to form a conservation group covering the Lilydale, Coldstream, Gruyere, Wandin, Seville, Yarra Glen and Chirnside Park areas.

GLADE was formed and incorporated on 13 May 1998.

It soon emerged that the biggest environmental problem in the area was the rapid expansion of vineyards.

Major concerns were the clearing of native vegetation, water use, spraying and the shooting and poisoning of native animals.

More than 200 concerned local residents turned out when GLADE called a public meeting in Healesville on the issue.

GLADE is involved in lobbying Shire of Yarra Ranges councilors, the Planning ministry and the Conservation ministry as well as liaising with shire staff, particularly its new Environment Department.

It has regular meetings with the Shire's Chief Executive Officer. It has also conducted workshops on environmental weeds and has assisted other local groups in bush regeneration. It is an active member of the Upper Yarra & Dandenongs Environmental Council, the umbrella for environment groups in the area; and also is an affiliate of Environment Victoria and the Environment Defenders Office.

*Source: Environment Victoria news July 2000*

## The Prom Mix

By Lee & Geoff Speedy

There's nothing we like better than a good mixture of nature education, socialising and quality Victorian bush. As Andy Nixon wrote last month, it was a positive few days of wintry team building and so much more, at Wilson's Promontory.

Geoff and I arrived straight from work one Tuesday night, to be impressed by the sheer size and number of local wombats, grazing close to our accommodation. What DO they feed them down there? We spent some of our limited Prom time walking around Tidal River and along the trail to the remote Lighthouse (both cold & windy, but very few people) interspersed with warm indoor discussions and speakers. We loved the informative and often jovial interaction between Fowspians and Rangers. Whilst we sat absorbing park management details, we felt this was infinitely preferable to our

usual  
computerised  
working week  
and well worth  
the catching up  
required  
afterwards.



Listening to both Prom & Warrandyte Rangers detail issues and choices, our minds often strayed to our comparatively small dilemmas we constantly face on our private properties. Do we allocate resources of time and money to our pest plants or pest animals first? What about erecting fencing?

We were also staggered to realize the extent of vegetation changes at the Prom since white settlement. Hilly areas were heavily treed with mountain ash, now all gone, and the isthmus which was once an open manna gum woodland is now impassable due to out-of-control coast wattle and tea-tree. The Prom Rangers showed us areas where their burning the tea tree and coast wattle has restored the low bushes and diverse flora of the heathlands. For pest fauna management, fencing off the Prom at the isthmus would control movements of cats, foxes and hog deer, creating much better results from the existing control work.

We well appreciated the blue plastic 'maps' in the Interpretation Centre, simply displaying the great geological changes wrought over time. From the era when the Prom was joined to Tassie, to the time when the southern Prom was an island. Like much of the Ranger's discussion time, it gave us a greater depth of understanding.

We do recommend a *winter* visit to Wilson's Promontory. It will reward you with fewer competing visitors, an abundance of wildlife and that breezy rugged beauty.

# FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 10.00am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. When there is no scheduled afternoon activity we often go on a spontaneously organised walk. **Propagation takes place from 10.00am to 12 midday followed by lunch. No prior experience necessary - there is always someone available to show you the ropes.**

*This activities list will be pinned on the noticeboard in the Folly.*

## SEPTEMBER 14TH NURSERY

Propagation morning. 10.00 am onwards.

## SEPTEMBER 21ST NURSERY

Propagation morning. 10.00 am onwards.

## SEPTEMBER 28TH Morning Activity

### Orchid Walk & Briza Pull at Fourth Hill

Either meet at the nursery at 9.30am or at the end of Tunnel St (Melway ref. 35F1) at 10.00 am.

## OCTOBER 5TH NURSERY

Propagation morning. 10.00 am onwards.

## OCTOBER 12TH Morning Activity

### Orchid Walk & Briza Pull at Timber Reserve

Either meet at the nursery at 9.30am or at the end of Harding Rd (Melway ref. 35H2) at 10.00 am.

## OCTOBER 19TH NURSERY

Propagation morning. 10.00 am onwards.

## OCTOBER 26TH Morning Activity

### Removal of old guards and replanting

Meet at the nursery at 10.00am

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## Green Wedge Seminar Series 2000

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October "Fire Ecology"

Diane Simmons, lecturer at Deakin University, is CFA captain for Christmas Hills. She will speak on the ecological benefits of controlled burning, when and how burning should occur and mosaic burning.

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November "Raptors"

Richard Naisbit is the Keeper in Charge of Reptiles and Raptors at Healseville Sanctuary. Richard will give an insight into the birds of prey, their population, distribution and behaviour in urban environments. He will also discuss techniques used to rehabilitate birds of prey.

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December "Wild Grasses in Manningham"

Graeme Lorimer (PhD) conducts courses on ecology and management of wild grasses in Victoria. This seminar will focus on the local native grasses of Manningham and introduced species of Manningham, including those species which have become serious weeds.

The seminars are held at Currawong Bush Park (conference room), Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East 3109. Melways ref. 34 H6

**Starting Time:** 7.30 pm

**Cost:** Free

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

**Sponsored by Manningham Council**



## FOWSP Committee 2000

Mike Coupar	9903 9567	Contact person		
Flora Anderson	9722 1776	Public Officer	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	
Pat Coupar	9844 1650	Editor	Julie Pryor	9722 1117
Anthony Owen	9844 4867	Treasurer		
Cathy Willis	9844 1841		<u>Market</u>	
Peter Curry	9844 0958	Secretary	Marie Krause	9712 0498
Lee Speedy	9437 0894	Membership Secretary	<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
Geoff Speedy	9437 0894		<u>Nursery Manager</u>	0408800026
Alastair Traill	9722 1518			
Karen Reynolds	9712 0797			

FOWSP Committee Meetings for 2000 will be held at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Date for 2000 are as follows:

October 10th  
November 14th

## Nillumbik Shire Council Community Training Program

### “Practice Revegetation Skills”

Sunday 24th September 10am-1pm at Edendale Farm, Gastons Rd, Eltham (Mel 22A2)

This session is for those who wish to expand their skills. Plenty of opportunity to ask questions and build fences.

### “Pea Identification”

Sunday 8th October 10am-12pm at Panton Hill Living & Learning Centre, Bishops Road (Mel 263K9)

This session will be run by Dr Adrian Daniell from La Trobe University Wildlife Reserves.

### “Indigenous and Exotic Grass identification”

Sunday 19th November 10am-12pm at Panton Hill Living & Learning Centre, Bishops Road (Mel 263K9)

This session will be run by Steph Smith. Learn from an expert to spot the difference between the weeds and the natives.

For more information contact Jon Miller on 9433 3192

**The Deadline for the October Newsletter is  
October 1<sup>st</sup>**

# Rangers Report

## Environment

- Over the last two months further planting's have taken place at Mt Lofty – 3,500 plants, and at Yarra Brae – 640 plants.
- The last stand of pine trees at Pauline Toner (Eltham Copper Butterfly) Reserve have been felled and removed. The heads will be removed prior to summer. Operational management of the reserves has now moved to PV Westerfolds.
- A Tuan habitat research project has been completed. Identification has been made on the best habitat in the park and those areas that could be enhanced.
- Final 'mop up' of rabbits at Pound Bend / Mt Lofty / Jumping Creek has taken place. Rabbit counts per spotlight kilometre are now 0.4, 3, 0.8 respectively.
- The upfront \$\$\$ allocation for the 00/01 revegetation project is currently \$30,000. It will not reduce, but may even increase. Target area will be Pound Bend. Lesser extent will be Stony Creek and Yarra Brae.

- The final \$\$\$ approved for this years environment program are \$98,200 (!!)

## Assets

- Mt lofty is in the process of receiving another \$50,000 in works. This has so far included 2 wicker gates at the two main pedestrian entrances to the area; a new viewing platform at the end of the 'wetland' track – Lower Homestead Rd side; track and drainage improvement works on the western side of the mount; management vehicle access improvement in specific locations. Further works are to continue on the walking track; some further gate and drainage works also. No news on Wittons Reserve improvements.
- Track surfacing (gravelling) to the Black Flat nature trail is commencing after reports of public risk issues.

## Other

- Parks Victoria Grants. Some major changes are taking place in the way funds will be distributed.

## Did You See

### Draft Native Vegetation Plans

The State Government is moving to improve the extent and quality of native vegetation cover, consistent with its environmental platform at the last election.

We expect the Native Vegetation Management Framework and draft Regional Native Vegetation Plans produced by Catchment Management Authorities throughout the State to be released for public comment by Environment Minister, Sherryl Garbutt, in the next few months, perhaps in August.

The Framework will be an over-arching document, a Statewide umbrella for the regional plans, providing strategic directions, actions and policies for implementation in the future.

Refreshingly, Government has consulted Environment Victoria (EV) on this draft.

EV will be submitting that all remnant vegetation is of conservation significance and that it is okay to say "no" to land clearers.

We encourage you to become involved in this process and make your views known.

We will keep you posted.

Source: Environment Victoria news July 2000

## How Long Will it Last?

Cigarette butts	1-5 years
Aluminium cans & tabs	500 years
Glass bottles	1,000 years
Plastic bags	10-20 years
Plastic coated paper	5 years
Nylon fabric	30-40 years
Leather	up to 50 years
Wool socks	1-6 years
Orange & banana peel	up to 2 years
Tin cans	50 years
Plastic six pack holder	100 years
Plastic bottles & polystyrene	indefinitely



# Remnant vegetation in the Port Phillip region

A Greening Australia Seminar – Report by Elizabeth Sevier

**O**n this frosty sunny morning, I walked from Heidelberg along the Yarra trail to the Greening Australia forum in Buckingham Drive. Eight speakers addressed the representatives who came from community groups in the Port Phillip area. All of us received a booklet containing a summary of interesting material delivered by the speakers. This is available to anyone who would like to read its well-presented information and facts. Here are some of those facts and also some opinions:

The first speaker was Geoff Durham, a 'Friend of Wanderslore.' His practical hints for running a 'Friends' group which impressed me strongly. There are four aims for a group to keep in mind:

- There must be respect and co-operation with the management authority. The group is a support group. Municipal reserves need to have guidelines so that co-operation is easy. The role of a Park Ranger and his/her personality is a vital ingredient.
- There should be a core group of two or three (perhaps more) within the volunteer work force that accepts responsibility for the day's work and these leaders work at the required tasks within the work force.
- There must be an achievable project on the day's work. Workers should go home satisfied with their group's achievement.
- There needs to be good communication within the group and between the group and the neighbours of the park.

Now follows some things to avoid: Fanaticism; failure to accept a support role. However if management is weak or non-existent a group can be forced into a management vacuum; exclusivity – in many groups aging members enjoying the activity ignore younger members. (Readers will now appreciate their membership of FOWSP); poor organisation – we workers must be there at the appointed time and so must a responsible person with all necessary resources and equipment. Too few people attend and they are too serious.

Geoff Durham's address prompted many questions especially on levels of support from management authorities.

We heard 'Save the Bush' manager, James Gillespie speak on the continuing services by this organisation, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, to community groups. As well as practical revegetation projects,

'Save the Bush' do mapping and management plans and is working on a book for the Melbourne area, which will include advice on revegetation.

The shock horror segment of the forum was provided by Environment Victoria's Rod Waterman. In a quiet, even-tempered manner he told us that Australia is now the biggest clearer of native vegetation in the world. Among the reasons for clearing are: agriculture, freeway extensions, urban fringe development, forestry, horticulture, open-cut mining, firewood and grazing. Steps to improve the situation include: stop land clearing; preserve remnant vegetation; tighten controls

It all seemed very onerous. I decided to go on growing and planting trees, bushes and herb vegetation.

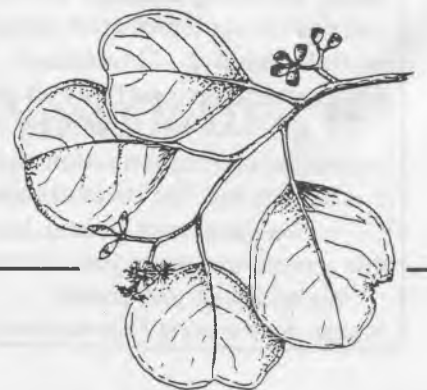
More encouraging news came from Andrew Straker on 'roadside management strategies' – 25% of endangered species exist on roadsides. He reported a growing awareness and support from municipal councils. There has been success in persuading councils to adopt methods, which avoid the spread of weeds where works are planned, especially when they discover the cost is no extra than the traditional methods. A good example has been set by the Shire of Yarra Ranges, which has a model plan for works. Unfortunately, Andrew and his colleagues in the Roadside Conservation Advisory Committee have 65 pieces of legislation to negotiate when dealing with roadside vegetation matters.

We heard from the regional co-ordinator of the 'Trust for Conservation' and the Land for Wildlife speaker on two avenues of conservation on private land. These organisations work quietly with environmentally aware land holders who wish to support conservation and wildlife on their properties.

Colin Hocking, senior lecturer in the School of Life Sciences at the Victorian University of Technology, gave the philosophical rounding off to the forum in an interesting and entertaining way.

The day concluded with a concise summary of the points of the day. Participants commented and made suggestions to be incorporated in the summary, which will be forwarded to the Minister for Conservation.

I might add that a delicious morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea was provided by Greening Australia at its centre where we were made very comfortable in the lecture theatre.





## My Favourite Place ~ The Great Alpine Road



By Lee Speedy

**M**y Favourite Place is a difficult, forbidding road that winds its way up three thousand feet from the valley floor at Harrietville, past the Dargo/Wongungarra turn-off, to Hotham Heights and down again to pastoral Omeo. My husband Geoff has driven me safely along it for ten winters now, but it never ceases to thrill me. Who needs a fast Disney ride, when you can drive to Hotham instead? Every snow season we bring the mandatory tyre chains along in the back of our faithful Troopie, only to never need them and drive them back home again!

Within forty-five careful minutes, you can enjoy the thrill of the ascent through a moist ferny forest, winding up past numerous picnic tables, viewpoints and exaggerated bends. Arriving at the whitened Dargo Road (always closed by snow during winter) the stunted sallees let you know you're getting close to the numerous mountain folds and grassy valley views or, during blizzards, terrifying lack of them!! This is one of few

Victorian roads where you can inch along in a total whiteout, hoping you really are keeping to the RIGHT of those previously tall, but now snow-covered orange poles. Glimpsing Mt. Loch is a huge sense of relief, realising you are so close to the Summit of Mt. Hotham and have made it past the long straight ridgeline, past much of the blown-in snow. If you've come to cross-country ski, there's still a further 8kms to Dinner Plain, a very homogenous and trendy timber village of ski lodges. For vertiginous people, this is the place to stay. A broad open plain, you could ski along for hours to Wire and Horsehair plains, without ever feeling too close to the edge.

Back at Hotham Heights, I turn my back to the persistent man-made "improvements" and take yet another photo of Mt. Feathertop with its pursed icy outline of perfect curves. On a blue-sky day, it's hard to imagine a better alpine view. Down in one of the remaining creek gullies, we observe two large brown rocks moving together – wombats! Whilst I know there are pygmy possums hidden under the road and ravens visible everywhere, it's a surprise to view the wombats against such a cold, white background.

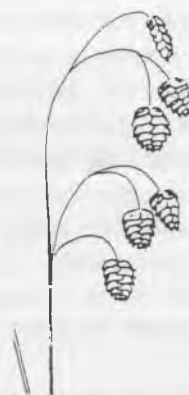
Once, on our return journey, we ambled home via Cobungra, Omeo and Bruthen to Metung! I did recently overhear someone say there are places in Europe where you can ski in the morning and be on the beach in the afternoon. Whilst I think you'd only want to STROLL along our Gippsland beaches (still wearing your woollies), I do recommend taking in our Victorian alpine and sea views in the same day or weekend.

## Orchids and Brizas

It looks like being a good year for orchids and of course Briza. Unfortunately the two often grow together.

Briza, also known as Large Quaking Grass, is a small annual weedy grass with a characteristic shell-like flowerhead. FOWSP have been working away at reducing this weed at an orchid 'hot spot' site on Fourth Hill for several years and last year started weeding inside one of the exclusion fences at Timber Reserve. Weeding sessions on both mornings will be followed by a walk to see the orchids and other wildflower

See the **Thursday program** for details of these activities.



## Zoological Meanings

*Tachyglossus aculeatus* (Short-beaked Echidna)

"spiny fast-tongue"



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Warrandyte, 3113



### Spider Orchids (*Caladenia* spp.)

*Calos* = beautiful; *adenos* = a gland, referring to the glandular labella of most species

Look out for spider orchids flowering in the bush this month. The genus consists of two distinct groups of orchids – the generally small fairy orchids like Pink Fingers with short petals and sepals and the tall, typical spider orchids with long filamentous floral segments.

## FOWSP Membership Form

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Tel. no. ....

- Family \$20
- Single \$15
- Concession \$10