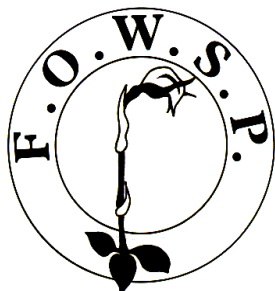


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Editor's corner

IT'S A REAL HIGH, coming back to the Melbourne area in mid August and finding all the signs of Spring bursting forth. Along the river, Silver Wattles are vying with Gold Dust Wattles for first place in the yellow-gold stakes. Small leafed Clematis is vying with Tree Violet in the floral perfume category but outshines it in visual impact as it drapes every available shrub, dead or alive, and sparkles with morning dew. When you know where to look, orchids are everywhere in bud and bloom. And as the sun shines against the dark clouds, the effect is breathtaking. Any rain they leave is most welcome as underfoot it is still quite dry.

This newsletter starts and finishes with harbingers of spring. The photo © is the Early Caladenia blooming in the Timber Reserve in WSP in August. Page 3 looks at male and female Early Nancys. On the back cover Joan B has a snippet about the Blue Caladenia we saw blooming on Fourth Hill in mid August.

Steven K's article on the Silver Wattle, page 8, highlights another late winter, early spring bloomer.

Julie Bishop, also on page 8, shares some important and fascinating wildlife happenings in her area.

I did have a great time enjoying warmer weather in north Queensland and learned heaps about native bees (page 3) and butterflies even though it is not peak season for them.

Fowspians have been involved in a huge amount



Early Caladenia *Caladenia praecox* blooming in WSP on 20 August this year. Photo Linda Rogan

of planting in July and August with more than a thousand grasses and other plants from the nursery are now in the ground and awaiting spring rains for a good start. (page 4).

Pat Coupar's Rare and Endangered segment appears on page 2. This is the fifth installment with number six still to come. Jason Paton has completed scanning the entire Flora of Warrandyte. It is great to have this resource. All thanks to a lot of work by Pat, Dave and recently Jason.

Welcome back to Ben who has returned to the "I Spy" spot, at least while Jan is away.

Keep sending in your wildlife and park news and enjoy this issue. *Linda*

Deadline for October edition newsletter is Friday, 25 September
contributions can be emailed to [Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au](mailto:LindaRogan@netspace.net.au)
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Making of 'Flora of Warrandyte'

By Pat Coupar

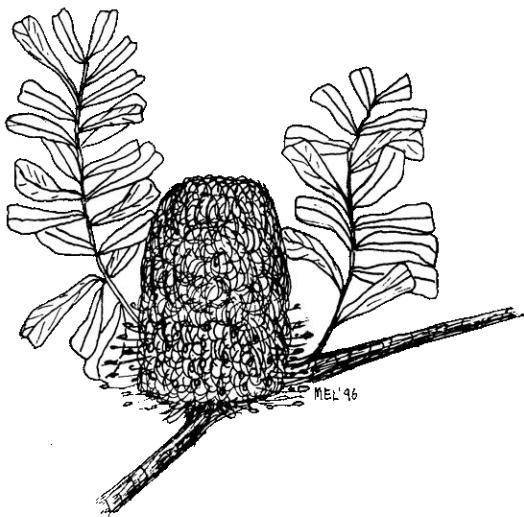
Part Five – Rare and Endangered

BY THE END of our survey ranger, David Van Bockel and I had listed 485 indigenous species for the Warrandyte State Park and local district. Each plant was given a district rating of abundance (dominant, common, scattered, localised and rare) and status (secure, vulnerable, endangered and presumed extinct).

Rare being defined as “a few isolated individuals scattered over the district” and endangered as “at serious risk of disappearing from the wild within the next 10 to 20 years if present land use and other causes continue”. Of the 485 species listed, 153 came under the category of rare and endangered. A decade on, I wonder how many have now become locally extinct.

Throughout our long and sometimes arduous survey there were many memorable moments of discovery – especially with some of the rare species. Here are several examples.

Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)



This record came about during our river surveys by canoe. David and I were paddling through the Yarra Brae section of the Park, in Wonga Park; and on the high cliffs above us we noticed a tall shrub that looked different to anything we had normally seen along the gorge. As we neared it, we could see that it was a Banksia. This was a real treat, as War-

randyte's flora does not have many species that are typically “honeyeater friendly” – such as the Grevilleas and Banksias. We now knew that this one was present, but once we had concluded our survey, we had only found 3 sites along the river where it occurred; 2 of them with very low numbers. This new site had around 40 individuals. Seed was later collected from this population, but it was found to have very low seed numbers – around 13 seeds from the 100 cones checked. It has been successfully grown from seed and cuttings, and has now been planted out at several other suitable locations to bolster its numbers.

Smooth Pomaderris (*Pomaderris elliptica*)

As often happened, David and I were walking through the bush off track looking at plants. On this occasion we were at Jumping Creek Reserve in the vicinity of the river when an unusual shrub caught our eyes. It had shiny dark green leaves and looked rather like a Privet or some other introduced woody weed. We contemplated just pulling it out, but instead decided to press a specimen and send it to the Melbourne Herbarium. Imagine our delight, and huge relief, when the answer came back as Smooth Pomaderris – found in foothill forests east of Yarra Glen and in the east of the State and not recorded for the Melbourne region.

Leek Lily (*Bulbine semibarbata*)

An entry in the Flora of Melbourne (1993) states “there is an unconfirmed report that this species was once found in Warrandyte. This is considered unlikely”. Arthur Williamson was the naturalist who had recorded the species for Warrandyte back in 1979, and although the Herbarium had discounted this sighting as a mis-identification (confusing it with the more common Bulbine Lily), I do remember Arthur being adamant that he had seen the Leek Lily. So it was especially satisfying when David and I relocated this lily in Jumping Creek Reserve – one small group at first and then two other larger populations.

Both Smooth Pomaderris and the Leek Lily have been successfully propagated at the nursery. The plants have grown so well that many have been given away to members and Leek Lily, in particular, is now self-seeding in many Warrandyte gardens.

Several groups of Smooth Pomaderris were planted back around the original plant at Jumping Creek and in other locations as part of the ‘species enrichment program’ – most have continued to thrive.

Next month: The Wins and Losses

Native Stingless Bees

by Linda Rogan

UNLIKE THE WARRANDYTE AREA, in north Queensland native bees are still very much in evidence in July and August. At least they are to me now that I have "got my eye in".

The native Stingless Bees, found in Queensland, WA, NT and NSW (map R) need a particularly keen eye. They are only 3 to 5mm in length. They are the only social native bees in Australia. Like Honey Bees they live in resinous hives and have a queen, drones and hundreds, sometimes thousands of workers.



They also produce honey in their hives and this is sold as the tangy, sweet Sugarbag Honey. (see website below right) It was reported to me that from some hives, the honey is rather bitter and that the honey cannot be collected in the cooler parts of their range. The bees don't fly in temperatures less than 18°C and they require all the energy from their



honey to maintain their nest at low temperatures. So producing Sugarbag commercially is a highly specialised industry.

These, and all native bees, are very valuable pollinators of many native and exotic plants. Recent fears that honey bees in Australia may soon be attacked by a mite (*Varroa species*) that has devastated hives in the US and Europe has led to increased interest in the pollinating ability of native bees, especially those that can be kept in hives and transported where they are needed. A Rockhampton rescuer and keeper of native bees reported an experience with a friend's pumpkin patch near a stand of Eucalyptus

trees. That year the Eucs were blooming profusely just when the pumpkins also needed pollinators. He observed that the honey bees were bypassing the pumpkins in favour of the Eucalyptus flowers. A box with a hive of native Stingless bees was loaned to the friend and these bees took great interest in pollinating the pumpkins. It was reported that the result was the best pumpkin harvest ever.



I was privileged to visit a Queensland home near Cooktown that had at least three species of Stingless Bees. One species' nest was in a small wooden box, the others had made their homes in the wooden posts under the house. The photo on the far left shows one of the *Trigona* species constructing the entry tube to their nest while a Green Ant looks on. I observed these bees enthusiastically

feeding on a flowering mango tree just beyond the reach of my camera.



Later I did get some photos of individual bees in exotic *Bauhinia* flowers in the campground at

Granite Gorge near Mareeba. (Photos above)

There are about 10 species of stingless bees in Australia within the *Austroplebeia* and *Trigona* genera. I don't know to which genus the two above belong.

For more information on Native Bees check out: *Aussie Bee*

www.aussiebee.com.au

An excellent website by the Australian Native Bee Research Centre.

Also see September Nature column in the Warrandyte Diary for a story of the Neon Cuckoo Bee and the Blue Banded Bee.

TAG group and other plantings

IT SEEMS THAT EVERY AVAILABLE time slot in July and August has been used for getting indigenous plants in the ground. It has been a mammoth effort by many FOWSP members and many associated groups. The following is just a sample.

It all started on 2nd July with a big planting at the Yanakie block paddock at the confluence of the Stephenson and Watsons Creeks.

There was a follow up planting in this area with another 2000 FOWSP plants put into the ground by The Bend of Isles Conservation Group.

On 19th July Artur of MYLN and FOWSP coordinated the planting of 2000 tubestock on private land in the Jumping Creek catchment area next to the creek and State Park

On 23rd July many Fowspians, with ACCA (Andersons Creek Catchment Area) , took a break from planting to murder woody weeds in the Gold Memorial area. As a bonus Joan MacMahon spotted a koala.

On 25 July some assisted ACCA with further planting at the same site.

Then 30th July found FOWSPians again working with ACCA planting between 1200 and 1600 grasses on gold memorial Rd. This heavy planting followed up on previous ACCA work. Robin and Cathy hand weeded previous plantings along the creek– Cathy stated the area “now looks fantastic, with numbers of healthy seedlings such as olearia, sweet bursaria, silver wattle and other shrubs”.

On 2nd August, some members joined Osborne Peninsula group planting at the Sigma site. This event took place on National Tree Planting Day

Last month’s TAG activity on 6th August involved the planting of another 450 plants in at the firebreak site with the Osborne Peninsular Landcare Group. Rob, Brian, Vicki, Artur, Ken and Pat were amongst the workers. This event was so well organized by OPLG that the work was finished in 1 1/2 hours. Thus leaving time for a sumptuous lunch by OPLG at Libby Skeeles place.

Photo by Shelagh Morton



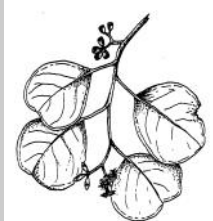
Photo by Shelagh Morton



August

Market Volunteers

Diane & John Baird
Allison Thom
Mark & Margaret Hassell
Wolfgang & Marie Krause
Lindy Gilbert
Ken Clark



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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 Joan Broadberry or Linda Rogan
*New members especially welcome,
No experience required.*

FOWSP Committee 2009

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Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Artur Muchow 0415 383328

Cathy Willis 0418 142297

Gray Ardern 0418 190261

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Newsletter Coordinator

Newsletter

Secretary

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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Park Office 9844 2659

Market Coordinator Marie Krause
 9712 0498

Wildlife Rescue Adriana Simmonds
 9722 2908

Koala Rescue Julie Pryor
 9722 1117

Librarian Judy Green
 9844 2096

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

The Thursday Activity Group is co-ordinated by a Ranger 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). Activities are cancelled on Total Fire ban Days

October 1 Timber/Fourth Hill Post fire woody weed control with Dave Van Bockel

November 5 Rifle Range Fence removal with Aidan O’Dempsey

For more information contact the rangers on 9844 2659 or Martyn on 9844 4547

MYLN activities

October 17 1 pm Andersons Creek Catchment Area (ACCA) AGM and 3 year celebration. Contact either Fritz on 0439 433 703 or Robyn on 0417 377 649.

ACCA Scheduled Activities

Robyn’s working bee is every 2nd Sunday of the Month at 10-30 am at 44 Husseys Lane (Melway 35 F6). If you are interested ring Robyn at 0417 377 649 or email tinwarri@hotmail.com.
 Fritz’s working bee is every 3rd Thursday of the Month at 10 am. We meet at the Quarry between 24 and 32 Gold Memorial Drive (Melway 35 D3) Ring Fritz on 0439 433 703 or email fuhl@bigpond.net.au

Missing person or rather missing contact information

Does anyone know how to contact a Mr. R Hay
 We have his subs but no postal, email nor phone contact in order to send him his newsletter.

Temporary displacement of Manningham Council Offices

Manningham Council business has been temporarily displaced due to a fire in the council offices. Some offices have already reopened. If you have difficulty finding anyone, please call 9840 9333.

Early Nancy

By Linda Rogan

ANOTHER HARBINGER OF SPRING. The lily, Early Nancy *Wurmbea dioica* is, as the scientific name suggests, dioecious in most cases.



Dioecious means each individual plant produces only male or female gametes. This is thought to protect against self pollination.

In the case of the Early Nancy, some individual plants, mostly in WA are hermaphroditic with some plants having both male and female flowers. This attribute has led to studies of the evolution of dioecy. Perhaps subdioecious is a more accurate term for this species.

The photo above clearly shows the shiny purple ovary of the female flowers. The photo on the right shows the red stamens with yellow pollen of the male flowers.



These bright lilies are popping up everywhere in our bushland just now. Look closely and you will find it easy to see the difference.

News from the Committee

- Some Thursday volunteers continue to build possum boxes. These are being painted by Bulleen Heights School.
- We are still seeking a coordinator for the market trailer. Marie will organise the roster for September and after that Joan and Linda will do so until an ongoing helper can be found.
- Final plans for nursery improvements will need to go to Manningham Council for a permit prior to work being done.
- Bushfire assist projects are being implemented in the Strathewan, St Andrews and Kinglake areas.
- Josh is away for about six weeks travelling in Croatia. Mel, Belinda and Annette will be sharing cover of nursery duties.
- FOWSP nursery will be amongst a group of indigenous nurseries growing plant for the bush-fire areas, including Marysville.

Rangers Report

- David and Conrad attended the cutting of the ribbon for the opening of the bridge over Windmill Creek on 8th July. This project was a Parks Vic grant to the Osborne Peninsula Landcare Group. It involved wonderful cooperation between Melbourne Water, Parks Vic and the immediate neighbours. Plants for this project were provided by FOWSP.
- Extreme wind has caused many days of parks closure due to the very real danger of falling trees and limbs.
- Much of the rangers' time is necessarily consumed by fire related matters
- A new position for a field service officer in fire management is currently being advertised.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 8th September

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Many thanks to those who helped put together this newsletter

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



The Silver Wattle

By Steven Katsineris.

DRIVING around the Hurstbridge area in late winter, the bright flowers of the Silver Wattles alongside the roads add tremendous beauty to the area.

The Silver Wattle is a distinctive tree, easily identified by its silvery, blue-green, feathery leaf foliage and the beautiful yellow, ball-shaped flowers it produces during late winter and spring. The Silver Wattle flowers prolifically from July to October. It is a variable tree that grows between 6-30 metres in height and 5-10 metres in width. When it grows in the open it develops a spreading tendency, growing shrub-like and reaching about 8 metres high. We have an attractive looking Silver Wattle that is over 8 metres high, growing on our nature strip and when it is in flower this tree looks absolutely wonderful.

Silver Wattles are easy to grow and are ideal for cool areas. It is a fast growing tree, but it has a relatively short life span, usually only living for about 15 years. The Silver Wattle regenerates readily after fire from seeds in the ground or root suckers.

The Silver Wattle prefers a full to partly sunny position. Although most positions and soils are suitable for this hardy and frost tolerant tree. It is an excellent tree for dry sites or rocky areas and tolerates clay soil and moist spots. Silver Wattles are fire retardant and also require modest watering.

When it is in bloom the tree is almost entirely covered in flowers. Its flowers, sap and nectar make it a bird, bee and butterfly-attracting tree. The Silver Wattle is a very popular food source for possums, Sugar Gliders and various native birds. When young, it often becomes host to the Imperial Blue Butterfly.

The Silver Wattle is mostly valued for its horticultural uses, but is also a useful tree for its timber. It is sometimes used for furniture making, with the wood varying in colour from a light brown to pinkish. Silver Wattle is a fairly soft, but tough hardwood. It's bark

can also be used for tanning leather.

It is found in the Eucalypt forests and woodlands of Eastern Australia, being widely distributed throughout NSW, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania. It also occurs as an introduced plant in parts of SA

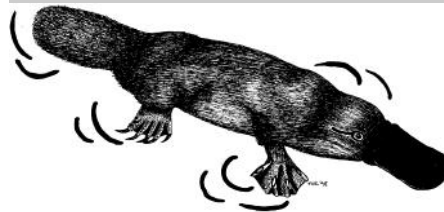


The Silver Wattle is a rather modest tree, which has attractive foliage. But in late winter it changes into a stunningly spectacular display with its vibrant yellow flowers. And after the cold winter the Silver Wattle's colourful flowering conveys a cheerful message that springtime is definitely on the way. On our family walks around Hurstbridge we feel the strengthening warmth of the sun, observe the Silver Wattle's impressive blossoming and rejoice in the coming of the new season.

Wildlife matters—from Julie Bishop

Reported by Ben G and Joan B.

Nursery volunteer, Julie Bishop reports that a local tree lopper recently found a platypus in difficulty in the Yarra River with an elastic band around its neck and one on its front limb. He rescued the animal and removed the bands. Healesville Sanctuary staff took the platypus, but it later died. Julie spoke to the Thursday nursery crew: "Elastic bands are dangerous, a platypus



(and other creatures) can get into them especially when they are young." Apparently the

bands were of the postal delivery type, which are used around bundles of letters. Julie asked FOWSP members to think how we might reduce the use of elastic bands and raise awareness towards their responsible disposal.

At the beginning of July about 12.30 at night, Julie heard a strange sound coming from her garden. She regularly observes sugar gliders around her property, but has never before identified their call. Julie described the sound as two quick notes, *jip jip*. A cross between a little dog yapping and plover calling. It was a great thrill to hear it. She is also able to identify a Sugar glider nest in a nest box or hollow. Sugar gliders make their nests from green gum leaves and continually refresh the lining. Phascogales, on the other hand, line their nest with strips of bark and feathers. However, a Phascogale nest may be built above a Sugar glider's old nest.

“I SPY”

By B.G



OBSERVING ORCHIDS

In July, Kevin and Fay Brooks (from Blackwood

SA), were looking at *Pterostylis curta* and *Corybas fimbriatus* on a Park nursery visit. They were visiting their son Shane and his wife Jacqui and 9 y.o. granddaughter Melissa, (who goes to Camelot Rise Primary School).

Also at the nursery were Kay and Det Wupper with daughter Melody, 8 y.o. Melody is doing Home Education at grade 2 level.

STEINER SELECTION

Early August, Annie Fogarty was selecting 250 plants in tubes for the Steiner school at Warrenwood to be used for revegetation around the school. The school recently received a grant and after a “small demolition” will do some future rebuilding. Annie is the school gardener. Her favourite local indigenous plant is *Pomaderris lanigera* “I’ve just picked up a hundred of them”.

Frank Reick, who has “a little property in Jumping Creek Road” was seen selecting some more tubes for the bush near his property. Frank was wearing a beret with the emblem of the Munich Fire Brigade. (His brother-in-law is still in that brigade.)

SAWDUST SCENE

Recently Noel, Lee and Don were down in The Folly, very busy cutting up 5 ply wood for nesting boxes for birds and possums including Sugar gliders. The air was thick with sawdust.

CREEK CONNECTION

Joan Broadberry and Brian James came home from Alice Springs via the Oodnadatta Track and stopped in at William creek for a short flight over Lake Eyre. Whom did they meet at the “airport” by chance but the erstwhile FOWSP committee members, Pat and Mike Coupar who had just come down the Stuart Highway after a trip to Cape York. By the way, there is no creek and no airport at William Creek. “We had a lovely half hour catch up,” said Joan.

PARKING PRECIS

Belinda Christie nursery worker, reports that she has

not yet received a parking ticket or a speeding fine, nor will she!

SEED SAVING

Josh Revell and Annette Lyon have been to Warrandyte High School to teach seed saving and propagation to five year 7 classes. The students said they also liked the “taxidermised” animals which rangers Kylie Tenace and David Moore dropped in. The students asked questions about the animals, such as, “Did they get shot? How did they die”, etc.

PHYSIO FEEL

Bev Jardine visited the nursery with husband Keith and reports that she will be having a new right hip soon. “I like it when the physio rubs it!”

ALBERT PARK ACTIVITY

This month many staff at various Parks attended a Staff Conference and Awards Day at Albert Park where different projects are reported amongst other matters. On that day Rangers Justin, Aiden and Cam, “held the fort”, at Warrandyte State Park. It was at a similar conference last year that Justin Weller presented a CD Rom, running for 4 minutes, showing features and activities of the park including an unusual view of the Friends work area. I have viewed this excellently produced work and hope to

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

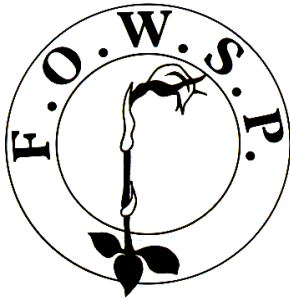
I write to plead with drivers to slow down and take more care to avoid road tragedies. It is heart wrenching to read about the toll of lives lost on our roads and also to see so many dead animals on the rural roads. It is imperative that drivers exercise due care and consideration for other road users, pedestrians and wildlife.

We live in a very fast society, with stressed people attempting to do too many things, speeding to save seconds or minutes while driving, even while talking on mobile phones. This is all at the expense of not focusing on the very serious task of driving.

It is vital that drivers show greater respect for other people as well as our native animals and take better care on our roads, for the sake of people and animals. I know what families go through when a loved one is killed in road accidents.

Our community really needs a lifestyle change, to learn to slow down when driving and to think deeply about the repercussions of our actions. Maybe then we will see the emergence of a more considerate and caring attitude among road users and a lot less carnage on our roads.

Steven Katsineris



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Caladenia caerulea or blue fingers, is a small, dainty, deep blue orchid. Very rarely it is pure white. Blue fingers blooms very early in August and it is always an exciting find, as it marks the beginning of another spring orchid season. *Caladenia caerulea* (literally "dark blue") is widespread across Victoria. It sometimes appears to be growing out of bare, compacted ground. Linda Rogan and I spotted blue fingers in bloom on 14th August this year at Fourth Hill. They had been out for a few days. Linda's photograph is on the left.

Joan Broadberry

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 or existing members with unchanged contact details can use direct deposit. Details: BSB 633-108. Account: 136406907. Account name: friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc. Identify yourself by surname

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus

Bees from Home Rule near Cooktown July 2009



Neon Cuckoo bees above, unknown bee (below L) that consistently came to roost near the NCB. I have yet to discover his identity and story.

Below R are a couple of male Blue banded bees also coming to roost near the NCB. For part of their story see the Nature column in September Warrandyte Diary.



Photos this page © Linda Rogan 2008
 Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows:
lindarogan@netspace.net.au