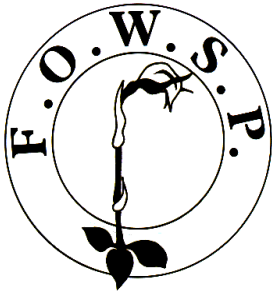


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

Editors Corner

Although some members are taking breaks in warmer climates, the rest are keeping projects moving ahead apace.

Lauren Mueller finds removing *Agapanthus* a good way to stay warm during a TAG at One Tree Hill and reports are that with Hewlett Packard's volunteers at Three Bridges exactly 303 plants were planted. See p.2.

Who are the Narrap Team and what are they doing in the Yarra Valley Parklands? Read what I learned on p.3.

Check out some of the winter activities from FOWSP and local councils on pp. 4-6.



Sarah's penultimate Thursday before she heads off for her work in Africa. All enjoyed the cake a week early.



Here are four of the members of the Wurundjeri Narrap team who are working on the Eel Trap Project along the Yarra River. See p. 3 for some of this story.

The locally rare and beautiful Showy Willow-herb makes an appearance in our area and Lyn Meredith tells us all about it on p. 8.

A reminder of the importance of the Webb St property and photos of some of the progress around the nursery are on p.9 where Kim also shares a photo of a skilled and beautiful weaver found in her backyard.

I am guilty of joining the winter exodus. My husband and I will be heading west along the Outback Way and hoping to find the desert in bloom where rain has fallen. The next newsletter will be in September. Please help Jason gather the good news.

Linda

**Deadline for September 2015 edition newsletter is
Friday 21st August 2015**

**Please note the current newsletter is for 2 months.
contributions can be emailed to [Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au](mailto:Linda.Rogan@fowsp.org.au)
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113**

Aggies Yield to TAG Team Onslaught Lauren Mueller



Volunteers digging out the *Agapanthus* that were spreading amongst the native plants at One Tree Hill.

THE TAG TO ONE TREE HILL on the 18th of June was on one of those days when it's so peaceful if you take a break and just listen to the silence. Rain was slightly spitting on occasion and the light patter was all you would have heard if we weren't noisily digging up the *Agapanthus*, which had invaded the territory of the sundews, orchids and *Dichondra*. It was a perfect temperature to be out in the fresh air working with the volunteers hacking under the roots of every "suburban homeowner's favourite garden fence-liner". It was incredibly satisfying to rip up one little Ag after the other making room for the beautiful indigenous plants to return. We were so keen on getting as many out as possible that we continued on past 11 o'clock and didn't stop until 12 for morning tea!



Many bagsful were removed. Photos by Janaya

That's a sure sign that Gray is on holidays and had no say in the matter! Morning tea was delicious as always and the very creative orange cake with coconut meringue was a big hit! It was an incredibly enjoyable morning and although that area still needs a lot of attention we all left feeling like we had done a good few hours of work. Looking forward to revisiting the same site at some point in the near future.

TAG Joan MacMahon Planting Boosted by Hewlett Packard Volunteers

WITH HEWLETT PACKARD volunteers' help, an additional 303 plants were planted in this location on this TAG. I have it on good authority that they were excellent workers. Josh extended a big thank you to them for their work.



Josh thanks the Hewlett Packard volunteers
Photo Linda Rogan

This planting follows those in 2014 in this site. These plantings are in memory of Joan MacMahon. The spot will always be special to those of us who remember Joan.

A kookaburra offered some additional entertainment at morning tea when it swooped on Graham's sandwich. Even as the first aid kit came out with a bandaid, the lament was heard, "Oh, the paperwork!". Graham still had a smile on his face and is expected to make a full recovery.

Linda

The Eel Trap project: Meeting the Team

I JUMPED at Cam's invitation and arrived at Westerfolds Park just in time to meet members of Wurundjeri's Narrap Team. Narrap is a Woiwurrung language word meaning "country or ground". They listened as Cam outlined the environmental importance of what was to be accomplished on this day. Cam had been out before first light gathering plant cuttings for propagation and also pulling Mud Dock *Rumex bidens* to be planted on the same day.

The first part of the morning was spent preparing cuttings from locally rare plants including *Tetradlea ciliata* Black-eyed Susan, *Pimelea glauca* Smooth Rice-flower and *Olearia ramulosa* one of the Daisy-bushes and pricking out plants such as *Mentha diemenica* Slender Mint. Many plants that were once common along the Yarra River and survived early settlement, are now being lost to grazing by increasing numbers of feral deer. These days tall plant guards or deer fences are required to protect revegetation areas.

Later in the morning the team moved to the site of the Eel Trap Project, the old Morrison house site, along the Yarra near Laughing Waters Road. The house garden still has many heritage plants including the large Algerian Oak Tree *Quercus carnariensis* that may originally have occurred in the Canary Islands. The footprint of the previous house is now the site of a ceremonial ground already established by the team. Here a large circle has been cleared and surrounded by flat rocks. These seem to invite bush walkers to sit a while but will also be a gathering place for Wurundjeri elders. A nearby area has been fenced to protect a range of indigenous plants that are significant to the traditional people. It is planned that this area will encourage interactions between cultures and promote reconciliation.

The three prominent Wurundjeri family groups, the Wandin, Nevin and Terrick families, will be honoured by artwork in Wurundjeri style on each of three large Red Box trees near the ceremonial circle. This is one way of honouring the living Wurundjeri culture.

Down the hillside toward Laughing Waters Creek is the Murnong (Yam Daisy) Garden where the hillside has been terraced by the team and readied for the planting of this day. Here each type of plant is given its own area to facilitate weeding, self seeding and later harvesting. This is latter day version of ancient cultivation techniques. The success of the



From the top to bottom: The Narrap team members Ashe and Murnong Dave mixing propagating soil; Darren with Cam, the Narrap Team planting in the terraced Murnong Garden.

(Continued on page 7)



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. All distances and finishing times are approximate.

9:30 am Thursday 23rd July Glynn's Wetlands. From the high ridge looking across the river to Pound Bend we descend through the Glynn's old farm on to Bob's wetlands. Here we pass some of the deepest holes in the river under the almost vertical Naughton's cliffs.

Distance: 4km **Time:** 3 hrs **Rating:** Moderate

9:30 am Thursday 27th August Timber Reserve and Fiddler Gully - Wattle Walk At the peak of Warrandyte's wattle season enjoy a colourful walk around some of Warrandyte's best bushland, learning to identify the wattles as we go, as well as the early wildflowers and orchids. **Distance:** 3.5 km **Time:** 2.5 hours **Rating:** Moderate to difficult

9:30am Thursday 24th September Hochkin's Ridge Reserve is just under 20 hectares in size, yet contains an amazing 250 plant species including 39 orchids and 13 wattles. The is the peak of wildflower season, perfect timing for a visit.

Ratings:

Easy – Flat or undulating well formed tracks/paths with low tripping hazards.

Moderate – May include some moderately steep or narrow sections or have higher tripping hazards.

Difficult – Includes steep and/or narrow sections, slippery sections, or high tripping hazards.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date. Meeting points will be provided at the time of booking, to book call 9840 9124 or email

eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

Download the schedule through **March 2016** on <http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/walks-and-seminars> or pick up a copy at the FOWSP nursery.

TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.00 am for a 9.15 pm departure. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle.

Contact number: 0408 317 327

Thurs.	9th July	9am-12noon	Mullum Mullum	Planting and woody weeding	FOWSP	Moderate
Thurs.	23rd July	9am-12noon	Butterman's Track St Andrews	Planting	FOWSP	Moderate
Sun.	26th July	9am-12noon	National Tree Day Lower Orchard Track	Planting	FOWSP	Easy
Thurs	6th August	9am-12noon	Hochkins Ridge	Woody weeding	FOWSP	Moderate
Thurs	20th August	9am-12noon	Morrison's	Woody weeding	FOWSP	Moderate

Difficulty ratings:

Easy: Even terrain, some light lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Few tripping hazards.

Moderate: Uneven terrain, light to heavy lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Tripping hazards present.

Difficult: Steep terrain, light to heavy lifting, working in over-grown areas and lots of bending. Many tripping hazards and slippery surfaces present.

Check the website for any changes at <http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php>

Please note TAGS and activities will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are deemed hazardous.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2014			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			<u>Nursery Phone</u>	0408 317 327
				nursery@fowsp.org.au
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter editor	<u>Newsletter assist</u>	Joan Broadberry
editor@fowsp.org.au				9846 1218
Jason Patton	mobile 0402 121838	Webmaster and membership	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds
	jason@parau.com			9722 2908
Cathy Willis	0427 660 651		<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor
				0417587798
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green
				9844 2096
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary	<u>Market Trailer</u>	Caitriona Young
			9844 2842/0411478410	
			<i>thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk</i>	
John Blake	0418 329 937		Facebook Coordinator	Annette Lion
			0414-249-729	
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774			
Sarah Qualtrough	0431 268 344		Website:	www.fowsp.org.au

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

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan,
Peter Rogan, Jason Patton, Gray Ardern
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 14th July

Venue: Education centre Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Sunday 12th July 2015 10am-1pm Stories of Place - heritage walk

Travel back through time as you listen to Elders of the area tell their stories of local significant sites throughout the Panton Hill Bushland Reserves. Be inspired to create a story of your own connection to place for 'Made on the Hill' in October.

Facilitator: Elders of the area and HumaNature Connect

This activity starts at Bulwidj Reserve in Smiths Gully (Melway 264 E5) and finishes at Wimbi Reserve in Panton Hill.

Enquire about options for all abilities 9433 3316.



Sunday 16th August 10am-1pm Exploring the ecology of orchids

Experience the magnificence of nature through exploring orchids and their interconnectedness to the whole ecosystem.

Be inspired to create your own interpretive artwork for 'Made on the Hill' community art trail.

Bookings: 9433 3316 or complete the online form:



Contact 9433 3316 or email Environmental.events@nillumbik.vic.gov.au if you would like to receive a hardcopy of the Winter Escapes flyer.

You can be the first to see the upcoming activities by subscribing to become a Nillumbik Environment Network member and receive a monthly Fringe Focus e-newsletter. The e-newsletter provides updates on upcoming activities as well as other great stories. To subscribe, call 9433 3316 or complete the [online](#) form.

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.

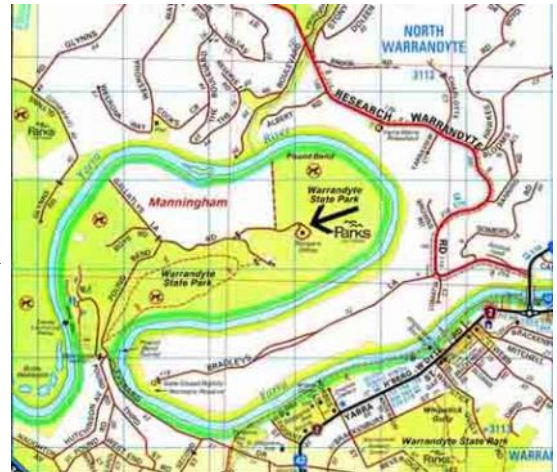
No prior experience necessary -
There is always someone available to show you the ropes.

NURSERY OPENING HOURS

The nursery is open for plant sales every Thursday.
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and
the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with
the Warrandyte Market) and
the first Sunday of each month
2 pm to 4 pm.

**Closed to customers and volunteers on days of severe
weather and on Total Fire Ban Days**

Prices: Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50



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Manningham City Council Environment Seminars

The Environmental Seminars are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Many of the seminars will be complemented with field sessions to facilitate broader education on the topics. No bookings are required for the evening talks; however, RSVPs must be provided for the field sessions. Due to popularity of the field trips, bookings are limited to 3 field trips per person. Bookings open now. You must attend the corresponding seminar to keep your field trip booking.

Venue: Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte

Time: 7.30 pm

Enquiries: For more information, please phone Lyn Meredith on 9840 9326.



Wednesday 1st July Avian Evolution presented by Travis Park.

The past few decades have revolutionised our understanding of the evolutionary history of birds with spectacular finds from Asia that have allowed palaeontologists to determine that birds evolved from small theropod dinosaurs. But what proof is there that this is the case? Bones provide a plethora of evidence, but are there other lines of evidence? Monash University PhD candidate, Travis Park, will provide an insight into evidence that reveals the amazing fact that dinosaurs are not extinct at all, but rather soar above our heads every day.

Wednesday 5th August Fabulous Fungi and Fungimap presented by Dr. Sapphire McMullan-Fisher.

In this presentation, fungal ecologist and the Fungimap Coordinator, Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, will introduce you to fungi and the roles they play in keeping bushland healthy. You will also learn how to share information, about the fungi you see, with Fungimap.

Thursday 6th August FIELD TRIP 9:30am-12:30pm

This fungal walk provides the opportunity to search for fungi in the field, learn about their ecological roles and how to identify them. **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED.**

Wednesday 2nd September Australian Native Fish presented by Tim Curmi

This talk will introduce you to Australian native fish with a focus on the endangered Macquarie perch, fish of the Yarra River and touch on Ovens River fish population protection. Tim Curmi is a freshwater ecologist and president of Native Fish Australia (Victoria) with extensive experience with Macquarie perch recovery projects and river ecology improvement projects.

Friday 4th September FIELD TRIP 7am-9am

Tim will lead a walk along the Yarra River to a Macquarie perch monitoring site and discuss river habitat ideal for the population to increase and its survival. Fishnets, with fisheries and ethics permits, will be used to assist in this monitoring activity. **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED.**

(Continued from page 3)

garden will be shown when the Wurundjeri can harvest food plants from it while sustaining the locally rare plant species within this garden. Planted on this day were *Convolvulus erubescens* Pink Bindweed, *Caesia calliantha* Blue Grass Lily and *Geranium solanderi* and *pallidiflorum*. The Murnong seedlings *Microseris* sp. are still maturing.

Another fenced area within walking distance from



Darren plants *Rumex bidens* in the billabong.
Photos all by Linda Rogan



Darren (L) and Murnong Dave (R) at the new ceremonial ground with some of the artefacts Dave made for use in ABC's *Secret River*.

the Murnong Garden is the billabong near the creek. Before fencing, deer had destroyed the integrity of the banks and many native plants. Here the rare Mud Dock *Rumex bidens* was planted.

This project is in its second year. Future plans include a rebuilding of the eel trap near its old location, capturing of eels and holding of ceremonies. Plants for this project include many that come from FOWSP.

I didn't see the eel trap site on the day because the water was too high, but I learned so much more.

Linda

See also the article in WD for July about Murnong - the Yam Daisy.

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday June 6th 2015.

***Diane and John Baird, Marie and Wolfgang Kraus
Lee and Graham Deacon, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook***

Special thanks to ***Carolyn Noel and Don Vincent*** who transported the market trailer.

The Warrandyte market is held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm at Stiggants Reserve. Volunteers are rostered in pairs to (man/woman) the FOWSP information trailer for just one hour.

If you are interested in being on the market roster for December or in 2015 please contact **Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email janece5@bigpond.com**
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Future market dates are: *Saturday July 4th, August 1st, September 5th 2015*



***Epilobium pallidiflorum* - Showy Willow-herb** Lyn Meredith

Epilobium pallidiflorum Showy Willow-herb, locally rare. Photo Cathy Willis

IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR I happened upon a lovely, showy, Willow-herb whilst visiting a property in Wonga Park. A small reach of the Brushy Creek had a tree and shrub free opening infested with weedy grasses and the usual chaos of Blackberry canes and Cleavers vying for sunlight. I took a moment to look at the neighbouring property across the creek and was compelled to glance again at the tall pink flower catching my attention. None of the usual weedy suspects came to mind as I tried to identify the plant from 15 meters.

Upon closer inspection I was particularly excited to note that the plant I had discovered, an *Epilobium* species, was in both flower and fruit. Knowing that the feathery seeds would soon blow away I collected some, just in case it was worthy. I took a photo and collected some foliage to identify the plant to species level which turned out to be *Epilobium pallidiflorum*, Showy Willow-herb. This *Epilobium* flowers from October to March so I had just caught it showing off in time – another week and I would have missed its showy pink flowers.

This perennial herb to over 1 m high, is described in Flora of Melbourne as very rare locally. It has not been previously recorded in Warrandyte or Wonga Park and is not predictably located as it moves around the landscape. Widespread but uncommon, this gorgeous perennial can be found across higher rainfall parts of Victoria, mostly growing on banks of slow-flowing watercourses, and in swamps and marshes.

I am thrilled to see the FOWSP propagation effort producing magnificent tube stock from the little jar of seed handed over to Josh. I cannot wait to see these plants contribute to floristic diversity via enrichment plantings in some special billabong, creek line and boggy sites in Manningham. To those that gingerly pricked the soft little seedlings into the pots where they now flourish I send you accolades of a job well done!

Etymology provided from http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=2126

Epilobium: From the Greek epi- 'upon' and lobos 'a pod', the flowers appearing to be growing on the seed pod.

pallidiflorum: From the Latin pallidus 'pale' and florus 'flower', meaning pale-flowered

Fortunately the specimen I sighted had not so pale a flower color.

Importance of 133 Webb Street

A FEW FOWSPIANS may still not be aware of the property for sale at the end of Webb St. An article by Emma Carrinci on the 133-139 Webb street property that needs protection from development, appeared in the June Warrandyte Diary. It is important to realise that this is not just any 5 acre block near Warrandyte State Park and within the green wedge. A look at the property on the map shows it's critical location (google screenshot right) .This trapezoidal bushland property is immediately adjacent to Warrandyte State Park and is absolutely vital as a habitat link but also has important and unique flora and fauna values in its own right. Any sort of dwelling would require an unacceptable amount of clearing due to bush-fire regulations. Retention of this land for biodiversity and conservation purposes is critical to this section of Warrandyte State Park. This may be the most important Warrandyte State Park conservation issue FOWSP has seen for many years.

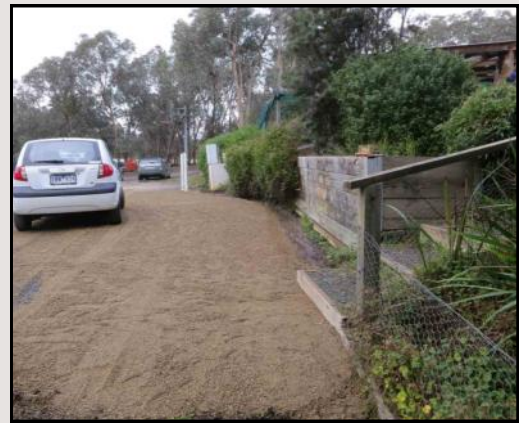


FOWSP has initiated a petition urging protection of this land. It can be found by searching: **change.org 133 Webb St.**

If you have not signed the petition, please do so. Signatures are nearing 500 and the issue is not resolved yet!

Linda

Progress in the nursery grounds.



Carolyn is keeping the Pollinators' Wildflower Garden on track. It should be a thing of great beauty this spring (L). Progress is also being made in addressing the swampy area in the parking lot.(R).

IN MY BACKYARD

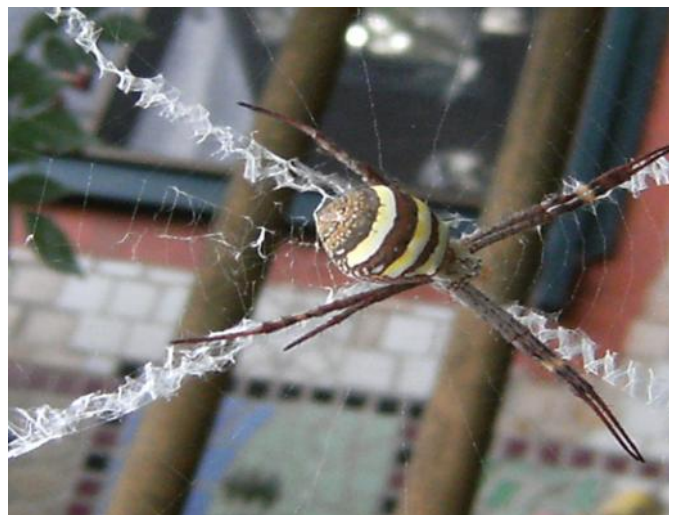
This beautiful girl appeared in my garden not far from Boomer's Reserve, in early January, she had doubled in size when I took the photo in March living there until at least mid April. There was a second such spider in the vicinity but her web did not have such an even cross and she didn't grow so large.

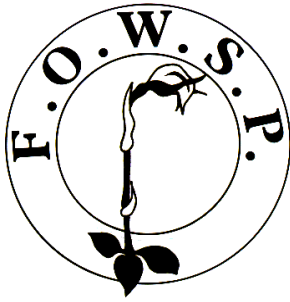
They took up residence in my front garden which is sheltered and faces south east. We also had the spiny spider and the garden orb spider at this time, also in the front garden.

There is a website, hosted by the state Museum Victoria, for identifying spiders .

All the best

Kim





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A Lophyrotoma species of Sawfly

Although the larvae of sawflies are often seen, I have seldom had the opportunity to photograph the adult.

This rather colourful one was on a bit of grass along the Yarra River Walk. There was no hint as to what the larval food plant is. Both *Eucalyptus* and *Melaleuca* are larval food sources species within this genus

The female uses the saw, the dark appendage seen here at the rear, to cut into leaves and deposit her eggs.

Linda

July/August 2015 Vol.33 no. 7

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$15

Newsletter by email (tick box)

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or renew on the website www.fowsp.org.au with the option of direct deposit payment.

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Email photo bonus page



June at the nursery. Clockwise Drosera in bloom despite the chill; Helmet Orchid; introduced fungus *Favolaschia calocera*, a fungal weed; and lastly is this kookaburra from the same family as the one that stole Graham's sandwich p. 3. Photos by Linda



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