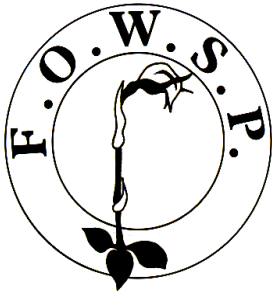


# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



## Newsletter

Website: [www.fowsp.org.au](http://www.fowsp.org.au)

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

### Editor's corner

By Linda Rogan

ANOTHER MONTH, another newsletter jam-packed with FOWSP doings and relevant matters.

On page 2, we have a look at the role and future of the FOWSP market trailer. Over the last nine years, Marie and Wolfgang Krause have contributed greatly to the success and growth of FOWSP in many ways, including through the continuing presence of the trailer at the Warrandyte market. Our grateful **thanks** go to them for all the time, hard work and dedication they have put in.

Steve Katsineris gives us his thoughts about living in a beautiful but fire prone area on page 3.

Cathy Willis relays a plea for "back-up sewers" (in Sewing for Wildlife p.3). Check this out.

As promised, Pat Coupar tells us of experiences compiling the orchid section for *The Flora of Warrandyte State Park*. (p.4)

A possum named Wonga (photo R) sends her thanks via carer Adriana (see p.8).

A homage to Darwin 200 years after his birth is ably presented on p.8 by Joan Broadberry.

The fresh face of Jan Falconer appears on p.9 as resident spy while Ben Gotlieb takes a well-earned break.

There has been a lot of activity around the nursery on Thursdays. In addition to the usual cuttings, pricking out and weeding, initial steps to improve the lay out of the nursery area to make things easier for volunteers, customers and staff have begun. The first step is



to enlarge the volunteer work area and align the plant benches for better access. We'll keep you posted as things progress.

In the meantime, enjoy the newsletter.

HI FROM JOAN B. It is nice to be on the editorial page again after a break from FOWSP activities. Having hung up my treasurer's hat, I was able to use a recent Thursday morning get out into the bush on a woody-weed search and destroy mission. Our targets were chiefly *Pittosporum* and *Cotoneaster*. Scrambling up and down the very steep slopes behind the nursery was great exercise, and it was very satisfying to be part of a team that is so good at what they do and clearly relishes the task of clearing the bush of these nasties.

Primitive hunting instincts were obviously at play. Gather your weapons. Stalk the quarry. Close in. Kill cleanly. Weeding with FOWSP is highly recommended as a counter to the stresses of modern living.

**Deadline for June news-letter is Friday, 22 May**  
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan [lindarogan@netspace.net.au](mailto:lindarogan@netspace.net.au)  
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

# FOWSP Market Trailer, the public face of FOWSP

“IT’S BEEN a very positive experience,” says Marie Krause who has coordinated the Warrandyte Market Trailer since September 2000.

After almost nine years Marie and Wolfgang Krause are ready to pass the baton onto another FOWSP member.

Nearly every market day, the first Saturday of the month, the trailer has occupied its traditional spot on the scenic Yarra River Bank for the morning as well as two part days on the Warrandyte Festival weekend. Marie has organised the roster of willing helpers and, with Wolfgang, has opened and/or closed for the day.

There are always some local plants from the Pound Bend Nursery available for a donation, pamphlets to be handed out, and friends to be made.

Marie and Klaus have greatly enjoyed the feeling of community at Warrandyte and meeting many FOWSP members not often seen at the nursery. “It’s good to see the market as a participant,” says Marie, “ and sometimes when its slow, its fun to watch the people with various breeds of dog walking by ,” (noting the family resemblance?)

The trailer is open at the market from 8:30 to 1:00 the first Saturday of the month (except January and



Service with at smile at the Warrandyte Festival in 2009. FOWSPians (L-R) Cathy Willis, Brian James and Artur Muchow  
*Photo by Joan Broadberry*

April) and Saturday and Sunday on the weekend of the Warrandyte Festival. The trailer does not attend the market on Total Fire Ban Days in the Warrandyte area.

In addition the trailer has represented FOWSP at Albert Park for the Parks Vic Festival a couple of times, gone to St Andrews and once or twice to Edendale farm in Eltham.

**Market Trailer Coordinator Needed**

We are looking for a Market Trailer Coordinator.

**Duties include:**

- Arrange a monthly roster of helpers for the trailer (see above for hours covered.) Marie has a list of her ongoing helpers and would continue to provide back-up.
- Liaise with the committee and treasurer re trailer activities

This is not an onerous task as is **not** essential to attend the market each month. Delivery and pick of the trailer is capably handled by Peter Curry

**If interested please contact Linda Rogan at 9435 5806 for more information**

*Like so many people Steven Katsineris and his family have been touched and shocked by the February bushfires. Working in the Community Hall at Hurstbridge, they have helped people affected directly by the fires. The following is from an article written in February 2009:*

## Victorian Bushfires 2009

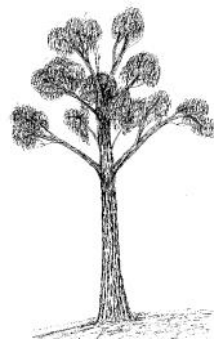
By Steve Katsineris.

SO WHY do we live where we live? Because despite its misfortunes life is for living, not hiding away somewhere. And the way of life here is normally splendid. The bush and the towns of the rural/urban fringe make life uplifting and inspiring. Living in these wild places amongst the mountains, forests and farms and with its wonderful array of wildlife, yet a short distance from Melbourne, we have the best of both worlds. It is a diverse region full of wonder. Most of the time it is a beautiful, tranquil, wonderful, and exhilarating place. There are small towns with great community spirit. With kind and caring people, where the community bands together and really help each other through troubled times like this. People affected by such calamities will never get over this dreadful experience. But in time with ongoing community support their lives will improve. This is why most of those affected by the bushfires will want to return to their communities, to people that know them and understand what they have been through. These places offer the best prospect of the emotional and physical support that will be needed over the long term. For those who live in this outer Melbourne region, life would not be the same if they lived in the inner city, surrounded by concrete, brick and tar. While some people love it, it is not where we want to live, packed together in overcrowded suburbs. In outer Melbourne homes are affordable for working people and low-income earners with young families. People here have the space and freedom to play with their children and pets, to ride horses, to keep a range of animals, to bushwalk, and to sit in a quiet, secluded spot. Human life is precious, but to be happy and live well is also very important in life.

There are dangers in living here, both for animals and people. You hope for the best and do what you can to look after your family, you educate yourself and your family about the various dangers, snakes and bushfires and take what safety measures you can to protect them. There are, of course, risks wherever you live, they just change from place to place. If you live in northern Australia, the dangers are floods, cyclones, crocodiles, tropical diseases, jellyfish, snakes and sharks. If you live in the city it is robbery, violence, pollution, congestion, car and boat accidents and fires. No part of Australia is immune to these threats and calamities, rural or urban. And with escalating climate change and drought it has gotten

more dangerous. I hope we can get the government moving on global warming solutions or we, our nation and planet face a lifetime of this type of disaster.

It would also be a strange irony if in our zeal to protect our families, homes and communities from the dangers inherent in living near the bush we were to carry out massive land clearing and destroy what is unique and appealing about living in these locations. In doing so, we would also wipe out vital wildlife habitat and contribute to exacerbating the drought and climate change. These are the very things that have contributed so much to making these bushfires so destructive. We must always keep in mind the importance and the myriad collective health, environmental and economic benefits of trees. Trees provide shade and shelter, improve air quality, combat soil erosion,



slow stormwater run off, act as windbreaks, provide habitat for wildlife and most importantly store carbon and thereby reduce the effects of global warming. Trees also produce oxygen, they inhale carbon dioxide, use it and release oxygen. Trees also filter and clean the air we breathe. We could not exist without trees, they are in fact essential to life.

We should do everything possible to lesson the prospects and adverse effects of natural and other disasters. But as much as we would like to have control over every aspect of life, we cannot control everything, not nature, or other unexpected events. Despite all of our precautions and plans it is still impossible to guard against the randomness of some unforeseen events. Creating more treeless deserts will not sustain the earth, or enhance (or necessarily save) our lives.

### Sewing for Wildlife

by Cathy Willis

WE RECENTLY held an appeal for sheet/towels etc for the wildlife carers. We had a great response and they now have a stockpile which will last a while.

What is needed now is for some of these to be made into pouches of varying sizes, from tiny ones for ring-tails and sugar gliders up to quite large ones for wombats and joeys. There are people who already do this but the carers would like to have a list of back up sewers to be called on as needed.

If you think you can help and are happy for me to pass your name and a contact number on to Julie Pryor please reply to me on **0418 142297** or **Cathy.Willis@manningham.vic.gov.au**

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Making of 'Flora of Warrandyte'

By Pat Coupar

## Part Two - The Orchids

RANGER, DAVID VAN BOCKEL and I began our study of Warrandyte State Park's orchids in 1991. Our intention was to update the existing plant list compiled during the 1960's, 70's and 80's by naturalist Arthur Williamson and incorporate records from other sources.

At this time the total number of orchids listed for the Park was 50. We were only able to locate just over half of these – about 20 had not been sighted for many years and were thought to be locally extinct. Many of the species we did find occurred in such small numbers that it was estimated 80% were threatened with local extinction – weeds and rabbits were considered to be the main reasons for the decline in orchids over the decades. The good news was that during our survey we discovered five new orchid records for the Park.

### The Survey

As our survey took place in all seasons, we often came across orchid leaves which we could not identify. These were guarded, marked with tape and their location marked on a map – this was in the days before GPS mapping! We returned when the orchids were flowering to photograph and collect a 'wet' specimen – a flower preserved in 75% ethyl alcohol in distilled water.

It became obvious to us that there were definite 'hot spots' – areas with a high number of orchids and a high diversity of species. As a result, several 50 metre by 50 metre rabbit exclusion fences were constructed (some have since been extended). The plots were weeded and monitored regularly. We were delighted to discover, over the following years, that numbers and species of orchids increased significantly within the fences.

Throughout our decade study of the Warrandyte flora there were many instances of serendipity – making an unexpected discovery by chance. Two orchids stick in my mind as such.

### Wine-lipped Spider-orchid (*Caladenia lindleyana*, now *eonochila*) (photo above R)

This large elegant orchid was once common in several Warrandyte reserves. In fact I remember seeing it myself back in the 1980's, although my memory of exactly where was a bit vague. Others had more accurate records, including our own Josh Revell

who actually had a pressed specimen of one collected in the Park near his home.



Photo by Linda Rogan

But despite much searching David and I could not relocate this orchid. Then one Sunday afternoon in spring (16/9/95 to be exact!), I decided to wander up to Fourth Hill on my own to photograph the wild-flowers. I noticed a man walking around

looking at the ground inside one of our newly constructed fences. We got chatting, inevitably the conversation turned to orchids and he said had I seen the spider orchid flower over there. I said no. He led me to a tall greenish yellow orchid with dark red tips on the petals and sepals and a deep crimson glandular labellum – it was the elusive Wine-lipped Spider-orchid! I got very excited and emphasised the importance of his find explaining how rare it was. I told him who I was and about the orchid survey David and I were doing. As I rambled on he didn't say much. Then as we were about to part this pleasant unassuming man introduced himself as none other than Jeff Jeanes\*!

### Tiny Greenhood (*Pterostylis parviflora*)

There were old records of this species from Timber Reserve, Jumping Creek and Fourth Hill, but David and I had been unable to find it in any of the locations. So we decided to use the extra eyes of Fowspians to help us search the bare stony soils of the Fourth Hill area. In those days Thursday afternoon walks, followed by afternoon tea, were a regular event and always attracted at least half a dozen people.

After two hours walking with eyes scanning the ground we returned to the cars disappointed and disgruntled for welcome refreshments. Sitting beside the track, sipping my tea I looked down. I couldn't believe it. Less than a metre away, there it was – a perfect Tiny Greenhood in full flower!

\*Jeff Jeanes is co-author 'Orchids of Victoria' - the most definitive book on orchids in Victoria



**Next month: The Ferns**

**FOWSP Committee 2009**

<b>Martyn Hiley</b>	<b>9844 4547</b>	<b>Membership/ FOWSP contact</b>
<b>Lynda Gilbert</b>	<b>9844 0106</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Linda Rogan</b>	<b>9435 5806</b>	<b>Newsletter Coordinator</b>
<b>Joan Broadberry</b>	<b>9846 1218</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>
<b>Artur Muchow</b>	<b>0415 383328</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Cathy Willis</b>	<b>0418 142297</b>	
<b>Gray Ardern</b>	<b>0418 190261</b>	<b>Website:www.fowsp.org.au</b>

**Other FOWSP contacts**

<b><u>Nursery Manager</u></b>	<b>Josh Revell</b> <b>0408 317327</b>
<b><u>Park Office</u></b>	<b>9844 2659</b>
<b><u>Market Coordinator</u></b>	<b>Marie Krause</b> <b>9712 0498</b>
<b><u>Wildlife Rescue</u></b>	<b>Adriana Simmonds</b> <b>9722 2908</b>
<b><u>Koala Rescue</u></b>	<b>Julie Pryor</b> <b>9722 1117</b>
<b><u>Librarian</u></b>	<b>Judy Green</b> <b>9844 2096</b>

**Thursday Activity Group (TAG)**

The Thursday Activity Group is co-ordinated by Ranger Jodie Godfrey and FOWSP member. 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

- May 7** One Tree Hill Dig out agapanthus and rehabilitate house sites with Jodie Godfrey  
**June 4** Pound Bend Planting at Boys Road with Kylie and Juz & students from Warrandyte Primary School

**For more information contact either Jodie on 9844 2659 or**

*Also note : 3rd Thursday of the month Anderson Creek Landcare Group activities*

**FOWSP Subscriptions**

Thank you to all those who have recently paid their FOWSP membership for 2009. Each newsletter address label has a note, "Subs and a date" printed on the lower left corner. This is the date when your FOWSP subscription (\$20 or \$10 concession per family), is due. Check this date and respond by sending in your sub when it has expired. In this way you will not miss any newsletters. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABELS.**

Those who receive an email only newsletter will be notified by email.

**A membership form is printed on the back of every newsletter**

**Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2009**

Held on the **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at South Warrandyte Hall, 66-68 Hall Rd, Sth Warrandyte (Mel ref. 35 J8)

- June 3** **Invasive Ants** with Kirsti Abbott, Monash University  
**Seminars are FREE. No bookings required** *Supper provided*

**Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events****May 16 Volunteer Week Family Fun Day**

An event to thank Nillumbik's volunteers is being organised for Saturday. The family fun day will be held at the old Hurstbridge High School Oval at the end of Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge. For more details contact Nillumbik Shire offices.



# 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

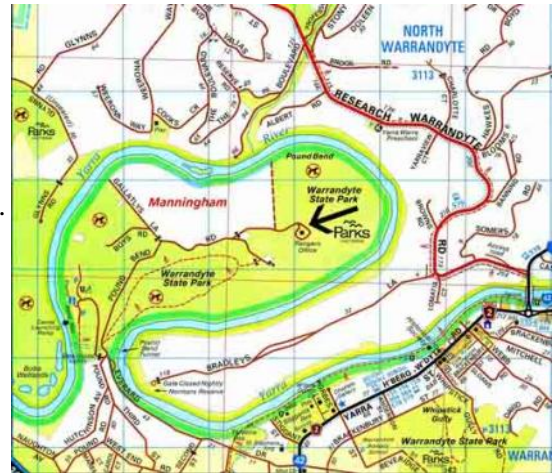
The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday. 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and the first Sunday of each month 2 pm to 4 pm.

**Nursery is closed to customers and volunteers on Total Fire Ban Days**

## NEW PRICES

Members \$1.00

Non-members \$1.50



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## *Nursery matters—opening hours and return of trays*

Please note the nursery is only open for plant sales during the above times. . If you find it impossible to come during official opening times please contact the nursery manager first.

Would all members who have obtained plants from the FOWSP nursery please make sure they **return** the empty forestry tubes and more importantly the black plastic tube holder trays. These trays are specially made and have been bought by FOWSP at considerable cost.

They can be returned to the nursery Thurs-9:30 12:30 pm or on the 1st Sunday of the month between 2- 4 pm.



To participate in the National Birdbath Study (see last newsletter) or to request NBBS newsletter email a request to the following:

[birdbathstudy@gmail.com](mailto:birdbathstudy@gmail.com)

The study is coordinated by Darryl Jones, Griffith School of Environment Griffith University Qld

## 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.

**June 7** Mt Lofty phone below for details

**Bookings: KayToussaint on 9840 9348 or email [eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au)**

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

## To the Editor

Dear FOWSPians,

I would like to thank you very much for all your hard work, your kindness and your support. I have received 10 wooden nests for the possums I look after in the shelter and my animals and I are very happy with them.



Some other shelter operators will be able to use them for their animals too and that is a great help for all of us. You know our work is voluntary, full time and self funded, so we really appreciate this donation.

The quality of the nests is great, I can see and feel how much effort you put into their construction.

I am sending you a photo of a brush tail possum called Wonga, (above) who is already enjoying her brand new house in the shelter and she will be released soon in it. She came during the heat wave with burnt paws because she was walking disoriented and dehydrated along a hot road. Fortunately, she has made a full recovery and is ready to go back into the wild with her beautiful nest.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank the environmental people from Manningham City Council, particularly Cathy and Lyn and the rangers and staff of Parks Victoria who have extended a generous hand towards my shelter during this difficult time for our wildlife.

Warm regards,  
Adriana Simmonds, Biologist  
Wildlife Shelter Operator

## News from the Committee

- A new fridge has been donated for the folly
- Phase 1 of the nursery renovations will begin with enlarging the workspace area for volunteers by removing the low barrier and re aligning the plant benches and nursery sign to be replaced.
- The *New Members Tea* will be Sunday 3 May
- A FOWSP submission to the R.C. on the bushfires is being put together. Contact a committee member if you would like to have input before May 11.

## Rangers Report

- Warrandyte rangers are still contributing to the fire recovery effort. Aidan has been co-ordinating rehab works for the southern sector of the Kinglake fire.
- Dave Moore has been working out of Kinglake to help support the rangers there. Kylie Tenace and Aidan O'Dempsey will also complete a stint each at Kinglake. The combined effort will give the Kinglake staff a helping hand for 3 months.
- Jemma Crawford, a summer ranger this year at Port Campbell, has been working at Warrandyte as part of the business continuity plan since the start of the month. Allowing the above rangers to be freed up to help Kinglake. Jemma volunteered at the park last year while she finished her studies. So it's great see her back in the park once again.
- Preparation works are being completed to two fuel reduction burns in Warrandyte. Other places around the state have already started burns and staff have been deployed to help out at these.
- The student volunteer program has commenced for this year. Students participating in the Vol. program include, Carly and Daniel, both also volunteers with FOWSP.
- It's time to start thinking about Grants for next year. Some possibilities include continuation of Boys Rd site. Joint Yarra Valley, Kinglake, FOWSP reveg project, or a completely new project?? The choice is ours. All to think of ideas for our next meeting – not to include Stanebrae.
- Kate Marshall from Warrandyte Primary School, has expressed interest for 50 grade 3-4 kids to come planting. I have booked them into our grant TAG planting on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.

### Next Committee Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday May 12, 2009

**Venue:** Ranger Station, Pound Bend

**Time:** 19:30 pm sharp

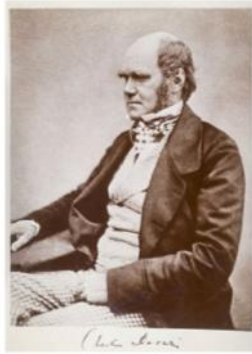
**Many thanks to those who helped put together this newsletter**

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

## Darwin did not visit Darwin.

By Joan  
Broadberry

FOWSP NEWS would like to join with many others in acknowledging the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882). Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species* appeared in 1859. 2009 is therefore also, conveniently, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication. My belief is that it is almost impossible to overstate the importance of Darwin's ideas in shaping our view of the natural world. So, happy 200th birthday Charles!



Australia, of course, has one of her capital cities named for Charles Darwin. Previously known as Palmerston, the name was changed to Darwin in 1911. The captain of *HMS Beagle*, J. C. Wickham, discovered the harbour in 1839 and named it Port Darwin after Charles Darwin. The reason for the name change was that people were almost universally using 'Darwin' (from the port), for the name of the town. As can be seen from the map, Darwin did not visit Darwin. Another reason for the name change was that there were then several other Palmerstons, notably one in New Zealand and one in Queensland

The facts of Darwin's life are well-known. He was an English naturalist who presented compelling evidence



that species have evolved over immense periods of time from common ancestors, though the process he called natural selection. Darwin came from a wealthy background and studied medicine at Edinburgh University in Scotland, but abandoned his medical career in favour of natural history. His five year voyage around the world on *HMS Beagle*, from 1831 to 1836, established him as an eminent scientist whose observations and theories supported those of his mentor, leading Scottish geologist Charles Lyell. The publication of his journal of the voyage made him famous.

Puzzled by the geographical distribution of wildlife and fossils he collected on his travels. Darwin investigated the transmutation of species and conceived his theory of natural selection in 1838. For many years, Darwin worked at his home, 'Down House' in Kent, carrying out extensive research and gathering evidence for his revolutionary theory. He was reluctant to publish because of its implications in a deeply religious age.

In 1858 Alfred Russel Wallace, a collector and naturalist working in the Malay Archipelago, sent Darwin an essay in which described the same ideas as Darwin's theory, prompting the immediate joint publication of their work before the London Linnaean Society. Darwin's ideas, although at first controversial, came to be accepted by the scientific community. Today, virtually unchanged, they form the basis of modern evolutionary theory.

In recognition of Darwin's pre-eminence as one of the world's greatest thinkers, he is buried in Westminster Abbey close to John Herschel (astronomer famous for discovering the planet Uranus) and Isaac Newton.

**Interesting fact.** Abraham Lincoln, 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and undoubtedly one of its greatest, shares Darwin's exact birth date of 15<sup>th</sup> February 1809, so 2009 is also his bicentenary.

(Continued from page 3)

Julie will contact people as needed and provide a pattern. The pouches (and other supplies) are being distributed to carers across Victoria. While there has been an urgent need in the aftermath of the fires they are always in demand for car accident victims, dog and cat attack victims, heat stressed animals in hot summer periods etc etc.

Have a look at the pic attached of Nellie. Adriana in Wonga Park is looking after her. She is about 6 months, her mum was hit and killed by a car and she will need to be in care for another year or so before release. While no substitute for a mum she does get a clean cosy pouch every day, and is currently sleeping in a porta cot with a big Tigger toy she snuggles up to. She loves her pouch and gets very angry when it gets changed, but soon snuggles into the clean one. Three joeys sleep in pouches in the porta cot next to her. There are 30 possums all in pouches on shelves above the porta cots. As you can imagine they go through a lot of pouches! Thank you in anticipation.





## “I SPY”

By JF

(in the absence of regular “spy” BG, who is having a well earned break for a couple of months, after carrying out this role for over ten years).



### NEW FACES AT THE NURSERY

Long time member, but new to the Thursday group, recently retired teacher Louise Clear, is becoming an expert at cuttings, under the experienced tutoring of Alwynne.

Tony Ruault, a young Frenchman in Australia for a year, is learning his way around the nursery with guidance from Noel. Tony is keen to learn all he can about Australian flora and fauna during his stay, and is hoping to improve his English at the same time.

### RARE SIGHTING

Relieved of his usual interviewing for the time being, Ben G was sighted assisting with seed sorting on a recent Thursday.

### EXPERT TUITION

Lyn Meredith, Environment Officer with Manningham Council spent a morning at the nursery recently, giving new members the benefits of her expertise in pricking out.

### ON THE MEND

Heard from a reliable source that two members recently on the sick list are both recovering well – Irene Fuhrer, from her hip operation and Marion King from her carpal tunnel operation.

### WORKING WITH THE RANGERS

The April Thursday Activity Group furiously attacked a bad infestation of boneseed on the Ridge Block, with satisfying results. As a result those who participated were treated to a tour of the old miner’s cottage situated nearby. see *Tireless Taggers* (R)

As an extra activity this month, a small group of members assisted Summer Ranger, Emma Crawford, in pulling, cutting and dabbing *Pittosporum* (sketch R), *Cotoneaster* and other weeds in an area adjacent to the Depot.



Speaking of Emma Crawford, her short term contract as a Summer Ranger, will end in May. We hope to see her back again soon.

Full time Ranger, Jodie Godfrey will also be leaving in May, to await the arrival of her first child who is due in mid June. Best wishes, Jodie.

## Tireless Taggers

By Pat Coupar

THE FIRST Thursday in April was hot. The temperature was rising fast and by mid-morning it was well on the way to the predicted top of 30C. This, however, did not deter the TAG (Thursday Activity Group) team, of 7 Fowspians and 3 rangers, from venturing out to the ‘Ridge Block’ to hand pull Boneseed.

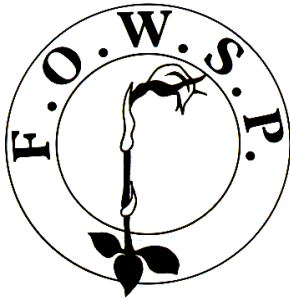
Boneseed (*Chrsanthemoides monilifera*) is named for the extremely hard, whitish seed embedded in the fleshy purple berry. The plant is spread by birds, foxes, rabbits and other animals that eat the berries and expel the seed.

Although it grows to a sizeable spreading shrub, this invasive South African daisy has shallow roots and is relatively easy to pull out, with only the tenacious larger shrubs needing to be cut (low near the base) and painted (with undiluted Roundup).

For nearly two hours we worked along and up the sides of the gully pulling hundreds and hundreds of young plants. Everywhere we went the ground was littered with brown, brittle skeletons of much larger plants - evidence of previous Boneseed removal.

The ‘Ridge Block’ is located on the south side of the Eltham/Yarra Glen Road, before the turn off to Sugarloaf Reservoir. Previously owned by Melbourne Water, just under two years ago this block of land became part of the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve forming part of a corridor between the two Parks. While it is an important addition and great for conservation, it’s acquisition has more than doubled the land managed by Warrandyte State Park. With no ongoing funding (other than that obtained by grants) and no extra rangers for Warrandyte, the challenges for managing the land are many. Despite these difficulties, the rangers, contractors and volunteers have done a remarkable job in removing the bulk of the Boneseed from this high quality bushland.

Before we left, ranger, Kylie took us across the road to a heritage listed Miners Cottage built in 1876 – a fascinating slice of history to end a productive morning.



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



**Nodding or Climbing Saltbush *Einadia nutans***

By Linda Rogan

Succulent red berries in summer and autumn make this ground cover attractive to birds and lizards. The leaves are food plant for many caterpillars including the small but attractive Saltbush Blue Butterfly. It is drought tolerant once established and a valuable fire retardant.

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE**  
A red circle indicates you are overdue. After two months your newsletter will cease.  
Email only recipients will be notified by email.

**FOWSP Membership Renewal Form**

Name .....

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.....

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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



Miner's cottage  
TAG activity,2  
April 2009(P. 9)  
(L) Dunny,  
(below) View from the cottage  
(above) Garden Orb-weaving Spider, under side  
Photos by Annette Lion



Black and orange beetle visit-  
ing each flower on the stem  
of this Sharp Midge-orchid  
*Corunastylis despectans* at  
Boomers Reserve photos by  
Linda Rogan

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