October 2009 Volume 27 Number 8

Friends of Warrandyte State Park





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





Editor's corner

FOWSP HAS PURCHASED a trailer for the Strathewan Landcare Group to replace one lost in the Black Saturday fires. Conrad, head ranger, put in a lot of effort locating an appropriate trailer. In photos above, he is explaining, the circumstances of the loss of the original trailer. After addition of appropriate labeling the trailer will be presented to SLG, asap, so that they can begin to use it. It has been suggested that FOWSP members may wish to donate a tool as well. Tools can be left with staff at the nursery. In the future FOWSP will get together with SLG for a Friends/Landcare activity in Strathewan.

Walks around the Pound Bend Nursery are always a delight, especially in spring. On Thursday 23 September Annette led us on a particularly memorable walk.(see page 3). The same page contains a plea for those interested in climate change and nature to join the new ClimateWatch.

On p7 is an invitation to help protect Hooded Plover eggs and young in the Mornington Peninsula area.

Also in this edition is Pat Coupar's sixth and last installment of "Making of *Flora of Warrandyte*". Only a few copies of this huge work were ever printed. Now the entire book, all 655 pages, have been scanned in high quality by our newest committee member Jason Patton. Even more exciting, work on the web version of *Flora of Warrandyte* and the *Planting Guide* are progressing well. The latter will be open to all website users. Please ask if you wish more information.

Don't miss Joan Broadberry's tale of Wingan Inlet and stunning photo on page 8 and Ben's inimitable spying on page 9.

Most of all enjoy this newsletter and remember to send in your spring experiences in Warrandyte State Park and round about for next month.

Linda

Deadline for November edition newsletter is Friday, 23 October

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

Making of 'Flora of Warrandyte'

By Pat Coupar

Part Six - Wins and Losses

UNTIL ANOTHER DETAILED survey of the Warrandyte flora is carried out we cannot know the real extent of the losses that have occurred in the last decade. The orchids, in particular, are a difficult group to study because for six or more months of the year they remain below ground. And, like the 'tiny annuals', they depend on favourable conditions for growth.

The health of trees and shrubs is much easier to assess. For example, in 1999, four species of wattles (Acacia spp.) were given a status and abundance rating of rare and endangered. Currently, Hop Wattle (A.stricta) has survived in at least two locations and been propagated and planted back successfully. Heath Wattle (A.brownei) on the other hand has declined. While the original large shrub of Varnish Wattle (A. verniciflua) is still surviving in a rabbit exclusion fence at Fourth Hill along with several others grown and planted back by FOWSP. The fourth species, Woolly Wattle (Acacia lanigera), was only recorded as a single plant on a roadside and although this plant is now dead, it has been propagated and planted back into the Park with moderate success.

During our survey of the Warrandyte flora, Ranger David Van Bockel and I recorded four species of *Olearia* – Daisy-bush: Snowy Daisy-bush (*Olearia lirata*) which is scattered and secure throughout the Park, Silky Daisy-bush (*Olearia myrsinoides*) which still survives as a small population in one Reserve, Musk Daisy-bush (*Olearia argophylla*) – a few individuals only and Twiggy Daisy-bush (*Olearia ramulosa*). The original plants of this last species are now dead, however it has been grown very successfully from seed with some plants being put back into the Park and others made available to members.

Other plants in this category of rare and endangered, which have been successfully propagated at the nursery and are now commonly available to members include: Round-leaf Pomaderris (*Pomaderris vacciniifolia*) – original plants all dead, Smooth Pomaderris (*Pomaderris elliptica*), Goldentip (*Goodia lotifolia*), Nodding Saltbush (*Einadia nutans*), Leek Lily (*Bulbine semibarbata*), and Dwarf Skullcap (*Scutellaria humilis*).

There are two other species worth mentioning, the first because of its rarity and decline due to drought conditions and the other, once rare, which has now proliferated to such an extent that it has the potential to become an invasive weed in one location of the Park.



Blanket Leaf (Bedfordia arborescens)

Like the Musk Daisybush, this is a plant of wetter forests, now hanging on in Warrandyte by the skin of its teeth. It was only ever found as lone individuals, albeit growing quite healthily in four different reserves of the Park. Over the last decade, however most of

these have been lost and those that remain are very stressed. Unfortunately it has not been possible to propagate Blanket Leaf from seed or cuttings. So it looks like this species will soon become extinct in Warrandyte, awaiting a time when conditions may get wetter and it re-enters the park naturally, through seed on the wind.

Wonga Vine (Pandorea pandorana)

Something strange has been going on with this species. When David and I started our survey of Warrandyte's flora we found a few isolated individuals of Wonga Vine in several locations. One of these was in a strip of ripar-



ian forest north of the river – its preferred habitat. Several years ago I was delighted to find that a few seedlings were appearing around this plant.

Last spring I visited the site for the first time in a number of years and was amazed to see that Wonga Vines were taking over! I couldn't believe how quickly they had grown and self-seeded, many larger plants were climbing all over small trees and shrubs. It will be most interesting to see if this once rare and endangered species in Warrandyte is in the process of becoming an invasive native weed.

A Walk in the Park

By Linda Rogan

THIS WALK was planned for the previous week, but cancelled due to wet weather. The beautiful morning weather on 23rd of September encouraged us to "have a go". Sure there was rain forecast but we'd learned not to take such predictions too seriously. I parked up near the Tunnel gate and walked back to meet up with Annette, Ruth and Rob. As we met on the ridge, they excitedly reported a nest of the Masked Lapwing (Plover) *Vanelles miles*. Four mottled brown eggs (photo R) in the open grassland were invisible to the walkers until nearly underfoot. Agitated parents (Masked Lapwings) tried to distract the walkers away from the eggs

Along the walking track that parallels Pound Bend Road, we found Early Nancys, Twining Fringe -lily and white Pimelea blooms. Generally the vegetation was rather sparse on both sides of the track, perhaps due to drought and rabbit grazing.



Toward the tunnel end of the path we spotted several small fenced areas on the uphill side of the track. Unlike the surrounds, they were replete

with indigenous plants, notably *Pultenea pedunculata* and *Leucochrysum albicans* blooming profusely. An excellent example of the value of exclusion fencing.

About that time, the heavens opened up and soaked those of us with rain jackets as well as those without. We made a dash for my car, laughing while we squeezed into its economical space and each tried to remember the last time we'd been so wet walking anywhere near Warrandyte. Of course the rain continued long enough to give us, our wettest September since, I don't know when.

Spring into ClimateWatch In response to the challenge of climate change, Earthwatch Australia together with the Bureau of Meteorology and The University of Melbourne, have developed ClimateWatch.

As someone interested in our local natural environment, we invite you to get involved in ClimateWatch and help us start to understand how our plants and animals are being affected by climate change.

ClimateWatch gives every Australian the chance to get hands-on in the science of understanding climate change by merely observing nature either from their own backyard, while enjoying the bush or at school.

As a registered ClimateWatcher user, you can observe the timing of natural events, such as the budding of flowers, falling of leaves and the appearance of migratory birds, and record these changes via the ClimateWatch website (http://www.climatewatch.org.au).

The data you help collect will be used by climate change biologists and will help policy makers shape the country's response to climate change.

ClimateWatch is the first project of its kind in the southern hemisphere. Despite the existence of many volunteer organisations in Australia, no network or integrated data set to support climate change research currently exists.

Both plant and animal species will be monitored as part of the ClimateWatch program with indicator species currently selected for the initial regional trials in Melbourne, Sydney, North Queensland and nationally.

All you will need to know about these indicators, how to recognise them and what to look for is available on the ClimateWatch website.

Register online as a ClimateWatcher and help form Australia's scientific response to climate change.

www.climatewatch.org.au

A Rather Sparshall kind of Moth By Linda Rogan

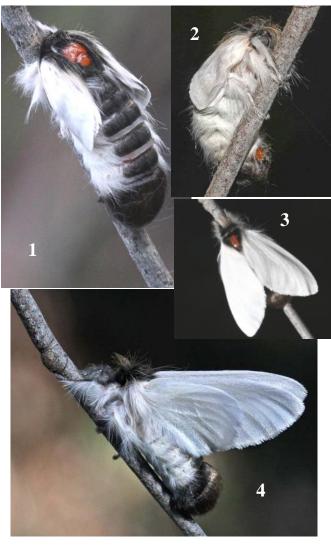
AT FIRST I DIDN'T KNOW what sort of creature I had spotted on a walk near Aireys Inlet; Fat fuzzy and grub-like with at least six black hairy segments separated by light apparently hairless rings. The middle ring had a greenish hue. The thorax a red orange hairless patch. On closer examination tiny furry wings extended from the "shoulder area". It took a moment to realise that this was a newly emerged moth that had not yet expanded its wings.

We observed it for a while, then continued our walk, checking it again when we returned. Photos 1 to 3 show how it changed over 50 minutes. About that time I moved its stick for a different photographic angle and was surprised when it snapped it's wings up behind its back (photo 4)

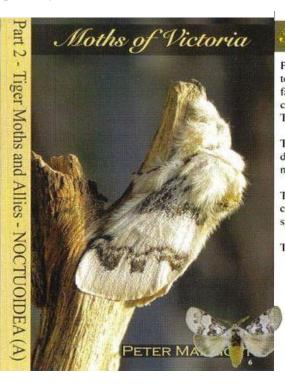
Twenty five minutes later we left it near its original site. It still maintained this unusual (in my experience) posture. I wondered if this may have been defensive?

It was not until I returned home and could consult Peter Marriott I found I had photographed a Sparshall's Moth *Trichiocercus sparshalli* (or a close relative as this one had primarily black body). Soon after I got a copy of Peter's second in a series of Moth books and CD (see below)

Luckily this book is on Tiger Moths & Allies _NOCTUOIDEA (A) Here I learned that the black bodied type may be a different species. The brown brush on the end of the abdomen indicates this is probably a female.



This group has processionary caterpillars, "sometimes following each other like a freight train" They feed on various species of Eucalyptus and are found over most of Australia.



Tiger Moths

Part 2 of this unique series brings together all the Victorian moths of six families. 175 moths are included, covering Tiger Moths, Stub-moths, Tussock Moths, Tuft-moths and more.

The handy sized booklet figures every species, set to display front and rear wings. Over 70% are illustrated naturally to demonstrate diagnostic features.

The CD provides over 300 additional pages which contain biology and distribution information for each species, checklists, identification tips and more.

This is an essential resource for:-

- * Anyone seeking to identify the moths around their homes and countryside.
- Naturalists, students and scientists.
- * Land Care and Friends groups.
- Organisations working with the environment.

Now available for purchase

ORDER: Cost \$12

http://wwwstaff.it.uts.edu.au/ ~don/larvae/ peterm/vicmoths.jpg

Or talk to Linda Rogan

FOWSP Cor	nmittee 2009	Other FOWSP contacts		
Martyn Hiley martyn@hiley.cx	9844 4547	Membership/ FOWSP contact	Nursery Manager	Josh Revell 0408 317327
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	Park Office	9844 2659
Linda Rogan lindarogan@netsp	9435 5806 pace.net.au	Newsletter Coordinator	Market Coordinator	Marie Krause 9712 0498
Joan Broadberry	9846 1218	Newsletter	Wildlife Rescue Adr	iana Simmonds 9722 2908
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Koala Rescue	Julie Pryor 9722 1117
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green
Gray Ardern	0418 190261			9844 2096
Jason Patton	0402 121838	Webmaster	Website: fowsp.o	org.au

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

The Thursday Activity Group is co-ordinated by a Ranger 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

November 5th Rifle Range Fence removal with Aidan O'Dempsey December 3rd Rifle Range Pittosporum removal with Dave Moore

TAG activities my change due to priorities of the season so check before heading directly to the site.

For more information contact either Ranger on 9844 2659 or Martyn 9844 4547 Also note: 3rd Thursday of the month Anderson Creek Landcare Group activities

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2009

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

7th Koala Management in SE Australia with Dr Kath Handasyde, Melbourne Uni.

November 4th Hawksbill Turtles of the far-north Barrier Reef with Robert Bender

December 2nd Bell Miner and associated Eucalyptus dieback with Amanda Dare PhD



Seminars are FREE. No bookings required Supper provided

Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

Saturday October 10th *Indigenous culture, native seasons* 11am-1pm (Native Flavours picnic lunch provided)

Thursday October 15th Green your home 7-9 pm

Saturday October 17th *Managing a bush block for biodiversity and bushfire* prevention

NILLUMBIK

Wednesday October 21th 'The Sugar Glider Experience', evening walk Thursday November 19th *Create a water efficient home and garden* 7 to 8:30pm

Bookings for all events: Georgia Ramsey, Environment and Strategic Planning on 9433 3210

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities <u>every</u> Thursday morning at 9.30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), <u>unless otherwise stated below</u>. Propagation

takes place from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

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

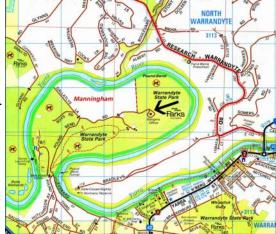
NURSERY OPENING HOURS

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

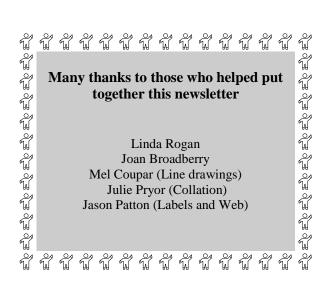
Members \$1.00 Non-members \$1.50.



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Thursday Walks 2009

If the weather is suitable and there is enough interest, walks may be held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1 pm after lunch. Meet at the nursery, Pound Bend Rangers depot, Pound Bend Rd, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10). Walks will last approximately 2 hours. No need to book, but remember there is no definite program for these walks. **Enquiries to Nursery 0408 317327**





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

The item below comes to us from the Friends of the Hooded Plover at Mornington Peninsula National Park

Would you like to help this little bird survive?

Each year hundreds of Hooded Plover eggs are destroyed and far too many chicks die in the first few weeks of their life.



You can help by spending a

day on the beach protecting a Hooded Plover Chick. It's easy, fun and you'll be part of a team of volunteers all over the state helping Hooded Plovers survive.

Contact Malcolm on 0403 997 831 or search myspace for Hooded Plover under "people" or email hoodedplover@aapt.net.au



News from the Committee

- Our newest committee member, Jason Patton has completed the high quality scanning of the Flora of Warrandyte and is creating a plant data base on the website.
- Lyndy Gilbert is working toward an Environment Awareness project to be organised with a local school for next year
- Nursery improvements await Josh's confirmation before plans go to Manningham Council for approval.
- Artur will be speaking at Australian Plants Expo 10/10/09
- Linda R is researching the feasibility of making nesting bricks for Blue Banded Bees around the nursery

Rangers Report

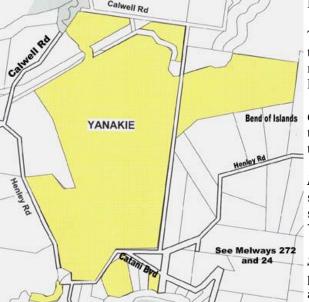
- Some tracks in One Tree Hill area have been named and signposted including the Beardsall Track for Cam Beardsall who has done so much work with the flora and fauna in the area. (photo left)
- Much time continues to be devoted to actions preparing for future fore threats
- Interviews have been carried out for a new field service and Community Engagement Planning position

Next Committee Meeting				
Date:	Tuesday 13th October			
Venue:	Ranger Station, Pound Bend			
Time:	19:30 pm sharp			

Yanakie Block

Recent FOWSP activities include helping with planting on Yanakie Block. I've heard people asking "Where is it?. To answer, it is part of the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve as follows:

Location: 3.5km NNE of the Warrandyte Township. This block extends from the Calwell Rd in the north to Henley Rd in the south.



The old Melbourne Water Aqueduct runs across the top of this block and an underground water pipeline crosses the segment diagonally on roughly the same orientation as Calwell Road.

Catchment: The Watsons Creek runs north-south through the block with the smaller Stevensons creek flowing into it toward the middle of the block.

History: A large oak tree marks the site of the old Stevenson Homestead. Joseph Stevenson and his wife settled at this site in 1841 where he established his Christmas Hill station. This is where the Stevenson's Creek gets its name.

September TAG Group: Nine FOWSPians and a ranger planted about 400 plants at Yanakie Block and described it as a good but short mornings work.

One of My Favourite Places - Wingan Inlet. by Joan Broadberry



LAST MONTH I was lucky enough to camp with members of the Fauna Survey Group of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria at Wingan Inlet in the Croajingolong national Park.

The Wingan turnoff is 19k past Cann River on the Princes Highway. A 34k drive on the unmade West Wingan track, ends at a beautiful, secluded

Letters to the Editor

Sadly, on August 24th I saw a dead Wombat on the side of the road near the Monash Bridge. Unfortunately, far too many Wombats and other native wildlife end up as road kill on our rural roads. Over the years I have seen several dead Wombats in this particular area near the Monash Bridge and Ferguson's Paddock parklands. Many people are perhaps unaware of the presence of Wombats so close to the township. And regrettably only realise this when they see a Wombat or hit one at night in that vicinity. Usually Wombats are nocturnal and unobserved during the day, emerging to feed in the evening.

The course of the Diamond Creek runs through Hurstbridge just a short distance from the centre of town. Wombats often build their burrows in the soft embankments of creeks, so the Diamond Creek is a prime habitat for Wombats, with excellent areas to camping area set in coastal warm temperate rainforest at the mouth of the Wingan River. A 1k path and boardwalk passing through forest and Melaleuca swamp, leads down to a wild, remote ocean beach. The inlet is more like a shallow lake, 2km or so long and is ideal for canoeing, fishing and swimming.

The area is rich in wildlife. The bird species found here represent about half of Victoria's total. Our bird list included Rose robin, Southern emuwren and nesting Brown Gerygones. It was very interesting to find a Satin Bower-bird's bower decorated with the usual collection of vivid blue objects, but also containing a few lime green items such as a drinking straw and the carefully positioned, fresh, bell-shaped flowers of the Common Appleberry.

The abundance of possums, gliders and bats at Wingan is attributed to the presence of many mature, hollow-bearing trees. A warm still night early in the camp was ideal for spotlighting. We had wonderful views of a dark phase, black and white Greater Glider, several Ringtail Possums and a Powerful Owl. The eerie cackles of Yellow-bellied Gliders rang out each night. A huge old Bloodwood tree carrying numerous Yellow-bellied Glider feeding scars towered over the camp. It was unforgettable, to be able to look up from our chairs around the fire and spotlight this elegant animal greedily lapping sap.

Large Lace monitors with attitude and tiny, fearless Yellow-bellied Water Skinks forage around the camping area. A wary Dingo was also on the prowl; the first I have ever observed in Victoria. Woe betide any careless camper who neglects to store their food safely! I could go on, the walks, the wildflowers, the beachcombing, the photographic opportunities, but you will have to discover them for yourselves.

build burrows and easy access to good feeding areas. There are at least a dozen presently used borrows in the immediate area surrounding the Monash Bridge. The area has probably become even more favorable to Wombats with the wonderful replanting efforts of the Council and the local group, Friends of Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge who have planted native vegetation in the area over the past few years.

It would be a very good thing if the Nillumbik Council could put up signs informing people of the presence of Wombats. This would alert those people driving in the area at night and remind them to slow down. This small measure may ensure that the Wombats that live in the area continue to survive there.

Thank you.

Steven Katsineris,

(Seven has also sent this letter n to Nillumbik Council hoping for action.)

"I SPY"

By B.G



SUBURBIA SCENE

Monday pm.21st September, 09

Whilst sitting in our small "backyard" in the urban part of North Ringwood my wife Margaret and I saw a pair of *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* (*ii*?) darting in uneven flight over our paling fence. The first Eastern Spinebills we've ever seen here. Their beaks were very fine, long and curved—like a cobblers awl (one of their alternative common names) and the body colours were very strong.

SUSTAINABLE SPEAKER

On Saturday 10th October at Templestowe College (Mel 33 D7) Artur Muchow will deliver the first talk of the day at 10 am.

Topic-"Sustainability in the larger landscape". The 2 day event is called "Australian Plants Expo 2009" Website: home.vicnet.net.au/-sgapvic

VISITOR VARIETY

At the depot nursery

Graham Trigg from Surrey, UK.

Graham is interested in the VNPA and the Australasian Native Orchid Society.

"Pam and John" are regenerating 10 acres in Wonga Park (paddocks). They have just completed the Land Management Course

Marion King, of the historical "*Chalka*" Indigenous Nursery in Warrandyte was being "picked up" by relatives Jacky and Alan, and going on to a celebratory meal.

KEN STARTS AT KOONUNG

August 21st, a very windy day, Ken Crook wearing his VNPA hat, led a group of 18 walkers to "discover" the remaining school buildings of the 1939–1946 alternative education Koornung School. The group first viewed a black and white film about Danila Vassilieff, an artist, who built his own house near the school.

The group then visited several other historical sites. VNPA Email: vnpa.org.au

Web: www.vnpa.org.au Phone (03)93475188

OF POSSUM BOXES AND TRAILERS

Mid September, a small group of Friends were seen carrying possum boxes recently painted by volunteers into the Folly building.

The previous week a group of twenty people were

gathered around head ranger Conrad as he explained the various features and plans for the new trailer (photo below and see p. 1)

PREVIOUS PARKING

According to Melanie Lange, nursery helper -"the only parking fine I've received has been in Richmond"

WATER WORK

Sheila Morton (attired in tennis gear) turned up at the Depot with the question "Do you owe us and *Poa Ensiformis?*"

Sheila from the Osborne Road Landcare Group informed us that when planting recently "we had to cart water in a trailer (loaded with watering cans) quite a distance". Tim Holding please note.

BOX BEHIND

One Thursday, after most people had left the FOWSP activity, Artur Muchow, committee member, returned to the Depot.

"I left my possum-box behind and came back to get it"

PITTOSPORUM PURGE

During September Rob Littlewood was with the rangers and outdoor team eliminating "out of place" pittosporums.

PRINCIPLE PARADOX

"Two long held horticultural principles have been overturned. Long stem tubestock is a tree....grown in the same standard 50mm square tube used in growing standard tube stock" but "to a length of one metre or more"

"Three quarters of the length of the plant is placed below the soil surface."

"Deep immersion of the (small) root ball has the effect of placing the root structure below the hot dry strata in the immediate surface area of the soil..."See *KUNZEA*, page 2 September 2009. The

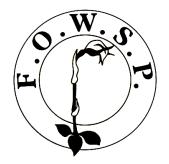
magazine of the APS Maroondah

Website www.vicnet.net.au/~apsmrdah

Ben and Artur give their seal of approval to the



trailer
FOWSP has
purchased
for Strathewan Landcare Group
to replace
one lost on
Black Saturday



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Black Eyed Susan or Pink Bells

Tetratheca ciliata

Currently adding a splash of pink at the nursery and in the nearby bush. Like tomatoes Tetratheca appear to benefit from buzz pollination. Our Blue Banded Bees can buzz pollinate, while introduced Honey Bees can not. Apparently, grows well in a range of drier and heavier soils but I haven't found the right spot in my garden yet. Linda Rogan

October 2009 Volume 27 no 8

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

	FOWSP Membership Renewal Form				
Name	••••••				
		Email			
Membership (family) Concession	\$20 \$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

Email photo bonus



Photo by Joan Broadberry see page 8



Caper White Butterfly at Kooyoora September 20, 2009 by Linda R



Jan Tindale's photo of a King Parrot in her Warrandyte 'backyard'.



Jason and Peta Patton sent me this photo of a Southern Brown Bandicoot beside thw main parking lot at Cranbourne Australian Garden and stimulated my October nature article in the Warrandyte Diary.

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