

# 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

DOESN'T FEBRUARY fly by quickly? It has been another action packed month and mostly the weather has been kind, although, as always, we could use more rain.

Indigenous plants lovers will enjoy Pat Coupar's postscript to her *Making of the Flora of Warrandyte* on page 2.

Joan Broadberry and Steven Katsineris speak for the birds on p3. Joan has also had her camera out.

Have a look at an attractive, if common little moth on p4. We get a peek into its life cycle and some of Linda's lovely images.

Many activities are scheduled for this month p5, including the Warrandyte Festival on the weekend of 20th and 21st. You also have another opportunity to participate in a Propagation and Seed Raising Workshop see p6.

We enjoy more of Alwynne's poetry p7

FOWSPians have been out canoeing on the river on a fun trip organized by Josh, p8 and 9. We also plan to utilize canoes to clean up a section of the Yarra on Clean-up Australia Day, March 7th. Pre-booking with Josh (at the nursery or nursery phone 0408 317327), is



What are Noel and Lee doing here? Find out on page 8.

essential. Those not canoeing may wish to help out ACCA at Gold Memorial car park from 10 am to 12 noon. A barbeque, meat and bread supplied, BYO salads to share, will follow.

Jan is spying on us p9, and don't forget our email-bonus photos p11- plus much more. LR & JB

Newsletter team this month were:  
Linda Rogan  
Joan Broadberry  
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

**Deadline for April edition newsletter is Friday 26 March, 2010**

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan [lindarogan@netspace.net.au](mailto:lindarogan@netspace.net.au)  
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

## The Making of 'Flora of Warrandyte'

By Pat Coupar

### Part Six - Post Script

IT IS TEN YEARS since ranger David Van Bockel and I completed our work on the 'Flora of Warrandyte'. Since that time I have often wondered how many of the species – particularly the rarer ones – have fared. While rabbits and weeds have always been major threats, rainfall deficiency over the last decade has been an additional factor in the survival of some species.

The opportunity to revisit the flora of Warrandyte arose towards the end of last year when botanist Dr Graeme Lorimer, working for Manningham City Council, commenced a study of the rare and threatened species on private and public land in the Manningham shire. The study is assessing the population sizes, security and threats of all of Manningham's indigenous plant species so that conservation efforts and protective measures can be properly targeted. It will finish in coming months.

Although my time was limited, I was able to go out with other interested Fowspians and Cathy Willis, from Manningham's Economic and Environment Planning Unit, to search for some of the rare and threatened species that David and I had recorded over a decade ago. We visited a number of Warrandyte State Park's reserves on the south side of the river including Black Flat, Jumping Creek, Fourth Hill and Yarra Brae.

While the intention was to search for particular species, we also took note of the general condition of the sites and any changes that might have occurred. It is worth noting that the spring of 2009 was one of the wettest for many years. Despite this, the number and diversity of tiny annuals had declined since David and I had first recorded them and some species could not be found.

I found the experience both depressing and uplifting. For instance some areas of Fourth Hill had degraded mainly due to the aggressive growth of the indigenous Shiny Cassinia (*Cassinia longifolia*) – a medium-sized shrub with a woody trunk that splits readily causing the plant to sprawl over the ground reducing the habitat for native grasses and wildflowers. There was also some good news. Saloop Saltbush (*Einadia hastata*) was very rare in the Park 10 years ago, now this ground cover was turning up in good numbers in a variety of locations. In addition, the rare and threatened Smooth Pomaderris (*Pomaderris elliptica*) was thriving and had self-seeded at the only

location where we had recorded it.

One species I was most pleased to find had done well was Dwarf Mat-rush (*Lomandra nana*) – a small mat-rush that, like all mat-rushes, has male and



female flowers on separate plants (photo above). This had been one of our most exciting finds with less than six plants growing in only one vulnerable location. Ten years on and this species had proliferated with both male and female plants found and a number of seedlings.

The most unexpected outcome of these field trips was stumbling across a species of orchid that was last recorded for the Park by naturalist Arthur Williamson in the 1960's. Bronze Caladenia (*Caladenia transitoria*, previously *C. iridescens*) is a small unobtrusive orchid with greenish-brown flowers. Despite much searching David and I had been unable to locate it during our 1990's survey. The serendipitous discovery in 2009 just goes to show that even though some species may have disappeared (temporarily or permanently) from the Park new discoveries can still be added to the Flora of Warrandyte.

Graeme Lorimer says 'Even among botanists, few people realise how much change occurs in Victorian bushland annually and over the decades, and hence how often species of flora can remain undetected for many years. There will still be new discoveries around Warrandyte for many years to come, aided by climate change. New records of fauna are even more frequent.'

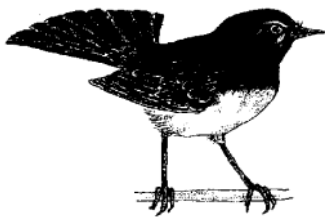


## The Willie Wagtail

By Steven Katsineris

WILLIE WAGTAILS don't visit our garden, but I often observe them in a grassy area with some remnant bush just opposite our house. I regularly see Willy wagtails at the home of a friend who lives a bit further out of the township and has some acres of grassland around the house. My friend's garden also has a dam close by and a fountain with continuously flowing water, which appeals to Willie Wagtails, as they prefer habitat with watercourses or wetlands nearby. On our travels, driving and bushwalking around Victoria and NSW, we have repeatedly spotted Willie Wagtails alongside roads, in parks, and around clear areas of grassland and farmland. They are not found in thickly forested areas. The Willie Wagtail is, of course, a small, (about 20cm in length) black bird with white underside and white strips above the eyes

It is hard not to notice these little birds because of the curious behavior of their tails. Willie Wagtails get their name from the odd way they sway their fanned tail around while standing still and walking about. Wil-



lie Wagtails constantly wag their tail from side to side to scare insects into the open making it easier to catch them. They will then rush along hopping across the ground or flying fast in pursuit of insects and other small prey.

Sometimes I have seen them following farm animals such as cattle, sheep or horses or even sitting on their backs, waiting to catch any insects disturbed by the grazing animals. On other occasions they flit around in the air catching flies, butterflies and other insects in flight. They are very agile when flying about after prey.

Willie Wagtails feed mainly on flies and other flying insects. They also hunt spiders, worms, insects and other food on the ground.

The Willie Wagtail builds a small, cup-shaped nest of fine grass, bound with cobwebs hidden in low foliage in bushes or trees. The female usually lays three eggs, or sometimes four. They will aggressively defend their nests and territory against other Willie Wagtails or other birds, even larger ones like Kookaburras, Hawks and Magpies.

The Willie Wagtail is distributed throughout most of mainland Australia. They are not found in Tasmania.

(Continued on page 7)



**A bird that is playful, melodious and eats weeds!**

By Joan Broadberry

THE OTHER DAY I had the pleasure of watching a group of Long-billed Corellas feed and play. The Long-billed Corella, *Cacatua tenuirostris*, is native white cockatoo with a small, unobtrusive crest, a reddish-pink face, a ring of blue skin around its eye and a long beak. It has pink feathers across the breast.

The Long-billed Corella is found in western and central Victoria and Southern NSW. It inhabits woodlands and grasslands, including pastures, cropland and urban parks. In the last decade Long-billed Corellas have become quite common in Melbourne. For example in Westerfolds Park. Their voice is a lovely, soft, quavering, *currup or wulluk-wulluk*. I tune into it most days as the birds fly over the suburbs and it always gives me pleasure.

Long-billed Corellas typically feed in flocks on the ground, using their massive beaks to dig for roots, seeds and corms. One of their favourites is the pest plant, onion grass.

I took the accompanying photos outside my house in Templestowe. Below, a bird uses its beak to get at the seed from a Western Australian Eucalypt nut. The photo above shows the silhouette of a corella showing off on the power lines. Playful, melodious and eats weeds, a welcome addition to the Melbourne environment.



Photo: Joan Broadberry

## Painted Apple Moth

*Teia anartoides*

By Linda Rogan



THIS ATTRACTIVE little moth is likely to be one of the survivors of changes in Australia in part because it is polyphagic. In humans

polyphagia is a medical condition causing excessive or pathologic eating. In insects polyphagia is ability to feed on many different food plants, a great benefit for survival in a changing environment. However farmers in NZ, where it arrived between 1999 and 2002, consider it a serious biological pest as it eats the leave of young pine trees, acacias, roses and apples as well as some native trees.

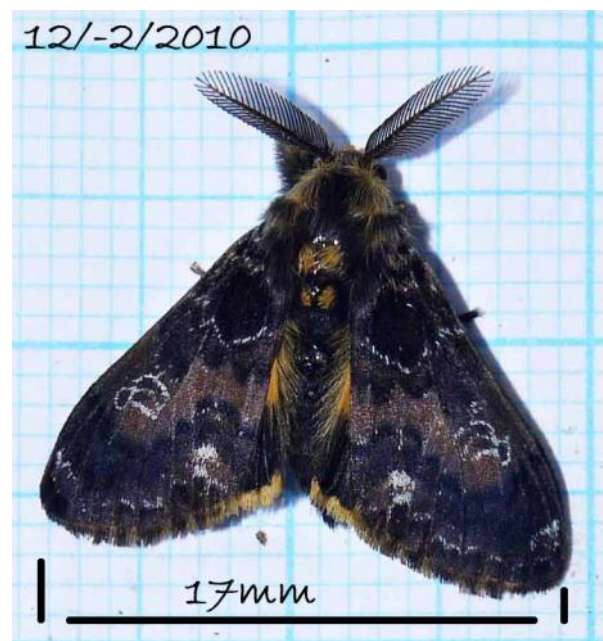


The individual in the accompanying photos was found feeding on Red Stringybark *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, a food plant not previously listed.

The caterpillars pupate amongst the leaves of the food plant in a cocoon decorated with hairs from the



larva skin. These hairs may be skin irritants for humans. The adult moths emerge after a few days. My caterpillar proved to be a male and as he was rapidly flapping his wings when I found him, 13 days after pupating, I chilled him in order to get the accompanying photos. This technique is useful for photographing many insects without harming them but after removing them from the fridge it is necessary to be very quick, so have your camera set up first.



The female of this family is wingless and appears quite different from the male. I haven't yet had a chance to photograph a female. Today we found a Silver Wattle Tree by the Plenty River that had a large number of *Teia anartoides* caterpillars. I brought 3 home to raise, hoping for a female amongst them. I'll show you her photo later if I am lucky.

According to OzAnimals.com: "The newly hatched caterpillars disperse by "ballooning" - spinning threads of silk which are caught in the wind (in the same way some spiders disperse)."

This no doubt contributes to it being present in every state in Australia.

If you are an apple grower, don't despair. *Growing Organic Apples* by Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation states that with vigilance the caterpillars can be "confined to a few trees and effectively controlled by hand removal."



**FOWSP COMMITTEE 2010**

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<b>Artur Muchow</b>	<b>0415 383328</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
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<b>jason@parau.com</b>		<b>Membership</b>

**OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS**

<b><u>Nursery Manager</u></b>	<b>Josh Revell</b>
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<b><u>Park Office</u></b>	<b>9844 2659</b>
<b><u>Librarian</u></b>	<b>Judy Green</b>
	<b>9844 2096</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>Market Trailer</u></b>	<b>Joan Broadberry</b>
<b><u>Newsletter</u></b>	<b>98461218</b>
<b>Website: <a href="http://www.fowsp.org.au">www.fowsp.org.au</a></b>	

**Thursday Activity Group (TAG)**

Plans for the TAG activities for next year will appear soon. Check our website.

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

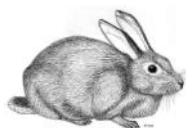
**Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2010**

Held on the **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at  
**new location, Currawong Bush Park- Mel 34 H6**  
 For details 9840 4405



**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** - Dr Lindy Lumsden: *Bats*

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April** - Phillip Ingamells: *Climate Change and Victoria's Natural Areas*  
**Seminars are FREE. No bookings required Supper provided**



**Check out Manningham's new brochure on Rabbit Control on**  
<http://www.manningham.vic.gov>



**Saturday 13th March 10 am-1 pm**  
**Nillumbik/Banyule rabbit control information**  
**session at Edendale Farm—all welcome.**



If you have any questions about the session please call Martha Ragg from Banyule City Council on 9457 9821, or Jackie Waring from Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3214.



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

## 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

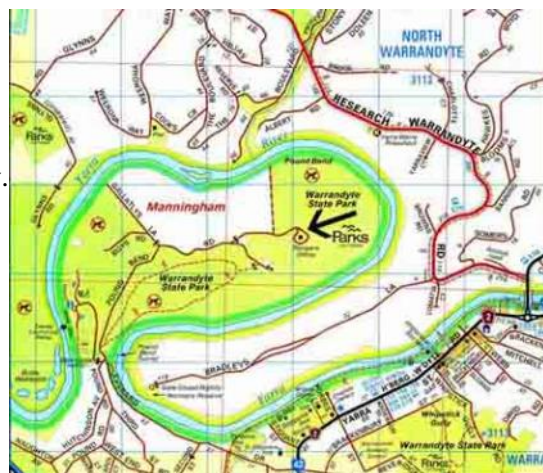
2 pm to 4 pm.

**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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## SEED COLLECTION AND PLANT PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

(May be repeated)

Manningham and MYLN held a fun, and informative half day **seed collection and plant propagation workshop** on Wednesday 17 February, with Josh Revell from FOWSP leading and Cathy Willis assisting. There is currently have a waiting list of 5 people. If 5 more people are interested we will run another one in late March/April. If you are interested please contact Kelly at [eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au) and also please let her know if you would prefer a Saturday or a weekday morning.

**It will be free to friends/landcare/environment group members, \$10 to others.**

**Many Thanks to the Market Volunteers** who helped out on the FOWSP  
Warrandyte market trailer in February 2010



**Diana & John Baird, Lindy Gilbert, Ken Crook, Alison Thom, Marion Thomson, Tony Honeyborne, Kelly Wooster**

**Special thanks to Peter Curry for delivery and return of the trailer.**

Coming markets: March 6th, Warrandyte Festival 20-21 March, no market trailer in April (because of Easter.)

Markets are held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. Volunteers are rostered on in pairs for an hour. If you are interested in being on the market roster for 2010 please email Joan Broadberry: [joan.broadberry@optusnet.com.au](mailto:joan.broadberry@optusnet.com.au) or ring anytime on **9846 1218**.

*No knowledge assumed*

*New Policy: If on the Friday before the market the forecast Saturday temp. is over 35° - the whole market is cancelled.*

## ***Of another day***      **By Alwynne Buntine**

The house sits in the paddock desolation all around, scant signs of habitation scattered on the ground.

A gate stands in isolation, the home fence long since disappeared. Two fence posts to which the gate is hung, are all that have been spared.

Through the gate, an ancient path, leads to the front door. A door that's cracked and broken, not welcoming anymore.

Where the path and front steps meet, only remnants of steps are seen, and there's little at all to show, where once a veranda had been.

Windows now devoid of glass, like mournful, haunting eyes, look out upon the emptiness while nothing passes by.

The back of the house is much the same as the weary, weatherworn front. The back door has gone, but a tank remains and an orchard that's only tree stumps.

But, this house has presence, a story of its own. Once it was more than a derelict house, once this house was a home.

In the creaky old rooms, and the broken floors, you can still hear the whisperings there; the voices and laughter of children, playing games of yesteryear.

The songs of a mother singing as she goes about her chores, and the whistling tune of a father come home from the paddocks once more.

Standing, looking, seeing this house through a strangers eyes, you only see wreck and decay, you don't see the cottage, that once was a home to a family of another day.

*(Continued from page 3)*

Their voice is a pleasant whistling sound. Willie Wagtails also make a harsh alarm call. These calls can be heard during the day, but also sometimes on bright nights as well, when they are out hunting by moonlight.

The Willie Wagtail has adapted well to urban locations with suitable habitat and is a common sight in many parks, gardens golf courses and other open areas. It is really splendid to watch these nimble and swift fly-catchers in action hunting. They are generally unconcerned about the presence of people and so are very easy to observe close-up. I am always pleased to catch sight of these active, pretty little birds and particularly to hear the Willie Wagtail's sweet voice.

## **News from the Committee**

- Congratulations to Conrad, new Ranger in Charge of the Middle Yarra Parklands, (see below).
- Canoe and BBQ to be organised for clean up Australia day. *Details page 1*
- Implementation plan for the Boyds Rd Grant. grant has been drawn up. Private company, Acacia, are already eradicating weeds
- Water tanks for FOWSP use are plumbed in and water can be used as needed
- Banksia Award application has been completed
- A replacement propagation house is being installed

## **Nursery Report**

- Deposit system is working well.
- Working bees have repaired glasshouse roof and installed replacement propagation house.
- Thanks to Jason and Belinda for upgrades to the Nursery laptop sales system and labels.
- Josh has been to Kinglake with Carl and Cam. 3000 plants will be grown for Kinglake.
- Sowing for ACCA has started – 8000 plants
- The Nursery has developed medical information forms for volunteers. They are being reviewed by PV before active members are asked to fill them out.

## **Rangers Report**

Yarra Corridor Re-Structure - Conrad spoke about the boundary changes between the three work centres along the Yarra Corridor between Yarra Bend and Warrandyte. The structure now consists of two Ranger In Charge areas, rather than three. Conrad, who has been acting Ranger in Charge for three years, is now officially in charge of the Warrandyte section that is now called Middle Yarra Parklands and extends to Fitzsimmons Lane. More details about advantages from this change will be in future newsletters.

### **Next Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday 9 March 2010

**Venue:** Ranger Station, Pound Bend

**Time:** 19:30 pm sharp



## The long awaited replacement propagation house

Or as I told Alana, my granddaughter, "the baby plant house".



How many FOWSPians does it take to erect a propagation house? Well according to the photos, at least 6, including the photographer Cathy Willis.

As you can see FOWSPians are not afraid of getting their hands dirty. And Jason, you're not going to wipe your hands on Peta's white shirt are you? More photos can be seen on the website; [fowsp.org.au](http://fowsp.org.au) in the photo gallery under nursery and folly.

## FOWSP Canoe Trip on the 4th of February 2010

A good time was had by all but Cathy also used the time to survey the condition of the riverside vegetation and she reports below.

"We saw one *Doodia caudata* and quite a few *Blechnum minus*. I was shocked by the amount of Rice Cut Grass (*Leersia oryzoides*) all along the river. This has exploded in recent years. St Peters Wort however is very much reduced - this may be because there has been a fairly recent control run. However I was heartened to see that where Yellow Iris has been controlled (will need further treatment, it is reshooting). *Glossostigma elatinooides* (Small Mud-mat) is frequently seen on the small muddy flats where the Iris was. 5 years ago such mats often contained St Peters Wort seedlings"



Photo: C. Willis

(Continued on page 9)



## "I SPY"

By J.F.



### Nursery News

Albert's sister Monica paid a short visit to Melbourne recently, and was seen hard at work in the nursery one Thursday morning. Sounds a bit like a slave-driving brother, but Monica, who comes from Blaxland in the Blue Mountains, said she really enjoys visiting the nursery when she stays with Albert and Betty.

Welcome back to Lyn Douch – a new /old face. Lyn, a long time member has been otherwise occupied on Thursdays for some time, but has been seen on most Thursdays since her return, keeping very busy tidying up the water plants.

New FOWSP member, Caitriona Young visited the nursery recently. She and her husband came to Australia from Ireland many years ago, but have only just moved to Warrandyte. With a long time interest in indigenous flora, Caitriona is keen to come back later in the year when her schedule permits and learn more about the plants in her new garden.

Sybille Ims is another new/old face on Thursdays. Sybille has been a FOWSP members on and off for a number of years. Since retiring from teaching at the end of 2009 she is now free to indulge her interest in

indigenous flora and plans to become a regular attendee.

This one is not a new face, but a new structure. Les, Noel and Brian have been busy erecting a new hot house at the front of the nursery area. The frame is up, the foundations are down and it is anticipated that the new hot house will be ready to be used for cutting propagation in the near future.

### Park Plans

Congratulations to Conrad (photo right) After acting as Officer in Charge for some time, Conrad Annal has now been officially appointed Officer in Charge of the Middle Yarra section of Parks Victoria. Congratulations from all at FOWSP.



As well, the area under Conrad's charge has been expanded and now includes the section of the Yarra from Fitzsimons Lane.

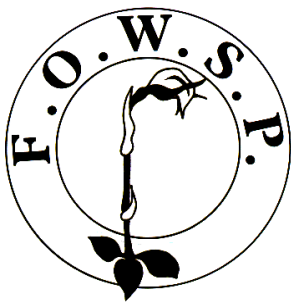
One new staff member has been appointed to the Warrandyte team to help manage the bigger area. Welcome to John Rush whose role is Visitor Services Team Leader. It is expected that more staff will be appointed soon.

(Continued from page 8)

More photos on the website photo gallery under Canoe 2010



Photos: L. Rogan



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**Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria***

This flower is blooming profusely at the nursery just now. It is a favorite of the Blue Banded Bee and is probably our most colourful water plant. It was first collected from the banks of the Yarra in 1856. It grows about a meter tall, in moist soils or in shallow water and benefits from being cut back to root stock each year.

LR

**March 2010    Volume 28 no. 2**

**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**

L to R: *Pimelia ferruginea*; *Elythranthera emarginata* (Pink enamel orchid); *Pimelia sylvestris*

These are some of Doreen Burge's photos from her Cape-to-Cape walk in the Margaret River region of WA in October last year. She states "the wildflowers were an absolute highlight"



Drooping Mistletoe *Amyema pendulum*,  
blooming at the nursery in February  
Photo by Linda Rogan

This photo is proof that the Common Imperial Blue Butterfly male may mate with the female before her wings have expanded as stated in the DVD. Photo by Linda Rogan

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