

Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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



Who has these FOWSPian's rapt attention? See the story on page 7 (Photo merged Linda Rogan)

Editor's corner

FOWSP has had another busy and productive month. It is hard to squeeze everything into the newsletter. The skills and talents of our members, amazes me. Please note this newsletter is a two month issue and the next one will appear in September.

Orchids are blooming in the nursery and in the bush. But the most exciting orchid news is revealed by Kelly W on page 2 and Garry French's photos (right & p.2).

The Autumn rains have caused many varied fungus to burst forth. (Pages 8&9) When the sunshine breaks through the wintry fog, it makes the moist trees and shrubs glisten. At times like this there is beauty and life aplenty for those who get out in our short winter days.

Pat Coupar solves a holey mystery for us on page 4 and we meet another nursery moth on page 9.

We meet some fresh faces around the nursery on page 3 and look forward to more nursery faces next issue.

FOWSPians work hard around the nursery, none more so than the extraordinary crew featured on page 7.

Julie Bishop shares a bird drama in her back garden on the back cover feature spot.

Our poet laureate, Alwynne has been inspired to put pen to paper again page 2.

Thanks to Joan Broadberry for a job well done, putting together the June Newsletter while I enjoyed orchids, and insects in Guangxi China (photo bonus page).

Hope you all continue to share your excitement and love of the natural treasures in and around the park with the rest of us by sending photos and a few words for the next issue. And enjoy this one. *Linda*

Cam leads reintroduction effort. see page 2



Deadline for September edition newsletter is Friday August 27, 2010
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

The Alternative Rake

Alwynne Buntine

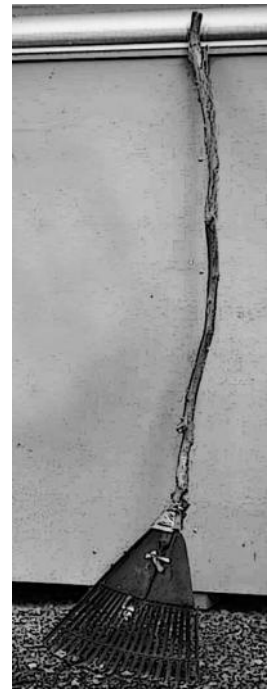
It stood against the wall, leaning nonchalantly to the side
A garden rake of many years, the signs of use it couldn't hide.

It's prongs were worn and dirty, it's handle unusually bent
Which touched the wall in several spots because of the way it leant

Instead of the handle being long and straight and made in a factory,
This one, by some crafty soul, was fashioned from a tree.

The rake was a source of amusement and curiosity too
Wondering what had happened to cause the handle to be renewed.

Standing there against the wall, many comments it provoked,
As people discussed the sight and wondered
"was it just a joke?"



Rosella Spider Orchid

Kelly Wooster



PARKS VICTORIA
RANGER CAM
BEARDSSELL, (left) is a
strong advocate for the
management of the rare
Caladenia rosella,
Rosella Spider Orchid .
He has been a caretaker
of the orchid for years
and has recorded every
detail about each plant

in the natural colonies. He has controlled some threats in the area such as birds and rabbits which disrupt the underground tubers and has meticulously removed weeds, near the plants, by hand. He also aided species enrichment of the area to entice back the pollinators.

But that alone did not guarantee survival for this species, so after hand pollinating two flowers, the seeds and associated mycorrhizal fungi were used to propagate plants at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Three years later, on 28 May 2010, the re-introduction of 86 ex-situ plants has taken place in Yarra Valley Parklands where only 14 plants already occurred. The planting team led by Cam Beardsell, included: Kelly Wooster, Warren Murphy, Dick Thomson, Karl Just and Garry French.

The help of many dedicated and knowledgeable people was required to along the way to reach this point. Garry French, Senior Strategic Planner, Melbourne Region, took these photos and sends his THANKS to all involved.



Now this population may be able to sustain itself.

More from Kel



A photo of my drawing of a grevilleia from my parents garden in Queensland (that's all I know sorry don't know the species).....it was drawn with pencil and black ink

Kel Wooster

New Faces at the FOWSP nursery

Some new faces which you may have seen amongst the tube stock and Hamilton tree planters of late include keen students who are undertaking Diplomas in Conservation and Land Management at Swinburne, Lilydale. In the February issue fellow student Kelly Wooster shared her experience carrying out fauna study in the Little Desert National Park during her first year of this course.



This month two more Swinburne students speak for themselves:

My name is **Alice Verrall** and I have been with the FOWSP group for about 7 months now. I'm doing the second half of first year Conservation and Land Management at Swinburne TAFE Lilydale. I'm doing first year part time, but I plan on doing second year full time.

I wanted to do this course because I love being outdoors and I have a great respect for the natural environment and want to do my part in conserving it for future generations. My favourite subject for this year would have to be Plan Erosion and Sediment control measures, because we are learning about geology and I find it fascinating My favourite field trip experience would have to be the Little Desert last year, where we trapped bandicoots and silky desert mice and released

them after recording their details. I plan to be working with Parks Vic. or one of the major environmental organizations after I finish my course late next year. Although I have Cerebral Palsy there are always things I can do in the nursery and feel as if I make a positive contribution towards caring for our environment. I am always grateful for the positive encouragement and support I receive through FOWSP.

Ray Alexander

I have chosen the course as I've always been an outdoors type of person. I grew up in the Scout's and have done a lot of camping and treks, though at the time I didn't see this as a door opening to my future. I left Australia in 2008 and did a trip through Africa for 4 months, in that time I did quite a few wildlife and eco tours and really enjoyed it. I volunteered at a wildlife park in South Africa for a month working with a research team. a massive eye opener, I knew some day that I would like to be doing something very similar back home. My favorite subject at Swinburne would have to be Manage Fauna Populations and and Prepare Reports. Both involve a good mixture of hands on work with flora and fauna and practical and theory work. Favourite field trip experience? We seem to be going on a field trip every fortnight throughout the course, whether it be just over the road to Lilydale Lake or to the Karange Ranges so it is hard to just say just one was my favorite. But if I had to I would have to say Little Desert. There we got to do a week's worth of animal trapping and monitoring, flora surveys and soil testing. After I finish this course I plan to further my education at Deakin Uni and get a degree in Wildlife conservation. From there I would really like to get into a fauna research team but really I'm not to fussed, I am trying to keep my options open. As long as I don't have to spend all my time in an office or lab I will be happy.



We hope to hear from **Dan Asher**, also from the Swinburne Course, with a photo next issue.



And another fresh face in June:

Josh Russo, a work experience student, seen here talking with Lynn Douth, finished his two weeks with the Parks Vic Rangers and with FOWSP on 25 June. He has come down from Smoko and attends Bright P-12 College. He has greatly enjoyed his time at Pound Bend. A highlight he mentioned was helping the rangers check and record conditions on firebreak tracks and using the GPS.



The Case of the Gum Leaf Holes

By Pat Coupar

WHILE WALKING AROUND the garden recently I noticed something very strange about the leaves of one of our small (about two metres high) Red Box trees. At least half the leaves were brown, not



only that they had numerous holes in them. On closer inspection I saw there were also patches of skeletonising on the apparently dying leaves. I turned my attention to the remaining healthy leaves. Sure enough, these too had areas that had been skeletonised.

I know that a number of moth caterpillars will graze the surface of leaves, leaving just the veins resulting in a skeletonised look. The most commonly encountered species that is responsible for this type of leaf damage is actually called the Gum Leaf Skeletoniser, of which I am very familiar. But these leaves had a different look and it wasn't long before I found the culprit. Hanging from the leaf surface, attached at end, was a tiny (less than 10 mm in length) shelter belonging to the caterpillar of a case moth (family Psychidae). Further examination revealed that nearly every leaf on the tree, including some of the brown ones, had one or more of these cases attached to it.



Then I found one lone large case (about 80 mm in length) hanging from a small branch of the tree.



This was obviously the parent of all these baby cases. (photo left)

Case moths, also known as bag moths, are an interesting group. The caterpillars of this family construct silken cases decorated with sticks, grass stems, lichen or, like the ones I found, fragments of leaves. Each species has its own characteristic case. The caterpillar feeds by poking its head through an opening in the top of the case, its droppings are expelled from another hole in the bottom. As it grows

the caterpillar enlarges its case with silk, adding more decorative material as it does so.

The caterpillar never leaves its case and when fully mature, pupates within it. The adult moth emerges - sometimes after many months - from the bottom opening. However, the females of many species are wingless and remain in the case attracting males by their strong chemical pheromones. The male has a long extendable abdomen which enables him to mate with the female through the bottom opening of the case. The eggs are laid inside the case. When they hatch, the tiny larvae are dispersed by the wind on threads of silk, before constructing a case of their own. I guess it was not a very windy day when our little case moth caterpillars hatched as they were all attached to the same tree as the adult!

The most familiar case moth in eastern Australia is a relatively large species called the Saunderson's Casemoth. It constructs an elongated thick silken case which it decorates with long twigs. The case is often encountered attached by thick silk to tree trunks, fence posts and even walls of houses. So keep an eye out for them and any other strange cases next time you walk around the garden.

HELP FOR INJURED WILDLIFE

RACV Wildlife Connect **13 11 11** Same number as Roadside Assist

Wildlife Victoria **1300 0WILDLIFE** /1300 094 535

Local Area—Adrianne or Julie see p5

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2010

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9844 2096

Wildlife Rescue Adriana Simmonds
9722 2908

Koala Rescue Julie Pryor
9722 1117

Market Trailer Joan Broadberry
Newsletter 98461218

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

TAG, Thursday Activity Group activities are being held twice a month this year on selected dates. Either meet **at the depot 9 am to leave at 9.15, (Note this is a little earlier than previously advertised)** or on site by arrangement. LEARN some vegetation management skills and help improve some special sites in the Park. Just tag with TAG. Activities are cancelled on Total Fire ban Days.

8th July Buttermans Track Planting (Part of the Watson's Creek Biolink project)

22nd July Buttermans Track Planting

5th August Ridge Road Block weeding boneseed

19th August Buttermans Track Planting

2nd September TBA

Contact is the nursery phone 0408 317327—phone on from 8.45 am. on Thursdays

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2010

Held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm

Currawong Bush Park- Mel 34 H6

For details check closer to the time on 9840 4405



Wednesday 7th July 2010 – Mike Westerman on the genetics of Kangaroos and their relatives

Wednesday 4 August 2010 Bushfire and Birds with Graeme Hamilton CEO of Birds Australia

Wednesday 1 Sept 2010 Mosses and Liverworts with Aaron Floyd Phd Candidate

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required *Supper provided*

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

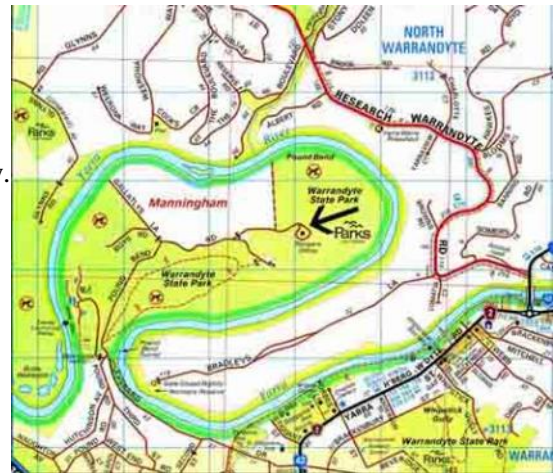
The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday.
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and the first Sunday of each month
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

PRICES for tube stock

Members \$1.00

Non-members \$1.50 .



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Important Nursery Notice—First Saturday open hours

For **July, August and September** the nursery open hours will be:

Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm

1st Saturday of the month 10am-1pm

1st Sunday of the month 2pm-4pm

We also have plenty of Eucalyptus polyanthemus, Allocasuarina littoralis, Acacia melanoxylon,
 Carex appressa, Plantago debilis all looking for new homes

Friends of Yarra Valley Parks

Now that our rangers' management area extends as far south along the Yarra as Fitzsimmons Lane, we have a mutual interest with Friends of Yarra Valley in that part of the Yarra Parklands. The Friends Group's next working bees are **Sunday 25 July and 22 August 2010 10 am to Noon**. See yvfriends.org.au for updated info.



Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

Sunday August 1st National Tree Day Planting Challenger Street Wetlands Reserve 10-12

Bookings Tim Krasevac on 9433 3121

Sunday August 29th Indigenous Garden Design at Edendale Farm

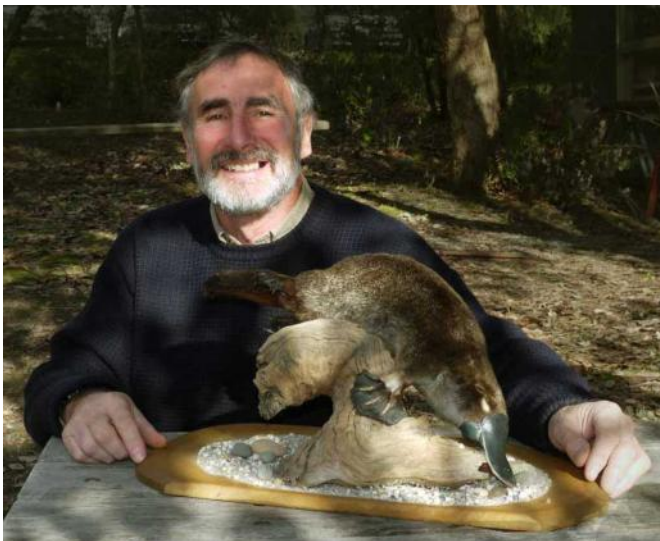
Bookings: Georgia Ramsey, Environment and Strategic Planning, on 9433 3210



Newsletter team this month were: Linda Rogan
 Joan Broadberry, Peter Rogan
 Mel Coupar (Line drawings)
 Jason Paton mailing list



Platypus Conservancy says "Look out for platypus"



Geoff Williams's (photo above) of the Australian Platypus Conservancy, told the fascinating story of the Platypus to a rapt Thursday morning nursery crowd. He stated that the next three months are the best time to spot Platypus along the Yarra River. This would be an ideal time for any members who walk along the river, at least weekly, to consider becoming one of the regular APC volunteer platypus monitors as Kelly Wooster has.

Further information www.platypus.asn.au
Or contact **Geoff Williams 03 5157 5568**

Email: platypus.apc@westnet.com.au

Also see Warrandyte Diary's Nature column for July for more about platypus.



Jason, Peta, Artur and Martyn plus Noel (who escaped the paparazzi,) saw that the hazardous mess in the shed was cleaned up quick-smart. The only wildlife they encountered was a family of skinks. Artur has also overseen the attachment of a stabilizing strut under the entry of the market trailer. Please wind this down with the winding rod before entering the trailer. MANY THANKS to these helpful members.

News from the Committee

- **The Warrandyte Primary School environment competition** Will be judged on 15 June and prizes will be awarded 1 week later.
- **Discover Warrandyte:** Lyndy will be organising a group to work on updating this popular booklet.
- **Platypus Conservancy:** presented at 9:30 to 10:30 on 24 June at the Folly. Volunteers, Rangers and others were welcomed (see left).
- **Koala habitat enhancement program** proposed by Linda will be discussed in July at the ranger's environmental team meeting.
- **Market Trailer** in the short term a work party will clear all the obstacles and rubbish from the area around where the trailer has been kept in the past and the shed will be checked for structural safety. The committee will organise this together with Josh. (see below left)
- Long term: a roofed area with concrete floor to be provided adjacent to the interpretation centre safe storage area.

Nursery Report

- A trial of nursery opening on Saturday morning on the day of the Warrandyte Market will occur in July, August and September then costs and benefits will be reviewed.
- There have been a record number of volunteers attending on Thursdays and TAGS are proceeding well including Boys Rd

Rangers Report

- Two new friendly Ranger faces:
- Emma Trottman is on secondment from the City Office for two months backfilling John Rush while he is on Long Service Leave,
- Jennie Hellyer, who will be on secondment from late June to April 2011.
- Parks Victoria are currently developing a Work-centre Fire Plan, that will include the FOWSP Nursery and Nursery Staff. Current Plans focus on the Park, whereas this is focussing on just the buildings around the Depot. This is due to be completed before this coming fire season.
- The Student Program commenced this month, with 3 University Students working in the Park with Rangers one day a week, during winter and parts of spring.
- Discussions are currently being had with Correctional Services regarding opportunities for them to do some volunteer work in the Parks.
- Taxidermed Animals - Parks Victoria are still investigating the permit requirements before the animals get "stuffed".

Next Committee Meetings

Date: July 13 and August 10

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

An Unexpected Visitor from the High Country.

Joan Broadberry

THIS YEAR IT HAS BEEN a relief to once again experience a deliciously damp Melbourne autumn and winter. As a bonus we are having a bumper fungi season. Everything to do with nature fascinates me, and fungi is no exception. I don't really know much about it, although I do own some marvellous books, including one by our own Bruce Fuhrer. Fungi is one area of nature where I can usually dispense with the names and just revel in the exquisite variety of form and colour.

Early one June morning I was taken totally by surprise when I went out into my garden to stake some young plants, and realized I had a crop of one of the most



I rang around broadcasting the news.

The first sign of this fungus is a group of roundish, fawn-coloured 'eggs' half buried in the earth.(above)

magnificent of all fungi just outside the door. My friends, although used to my eccentricities, may have shaken their heads a little as



This photo was taken 5 hours before the last photo



After a few days the small eggs split to reveal a mass of pink tendrils. (above & left) Each egg then opens up quite quickly, morphing into six to eight bright red arms surrounding a hollow, white central stem. The arms then split into two at the tip. The fungus is now very striking and resembles

a sea star. Its name is *Aseroe rubra*, or the Anemone stinkhorn(right). Its diameter is roughly 35mm with



Anemone stinkhorn

Only 5 hours after photo 2

the stem raising it a few centimetres off the ground. It is a fruiting body. The central disc and the base of the arms are coated with an olive-brown, slimy spore mass. It smells of rotting meat, and thus attracts flies, which distribute the spores on their feet. After about 36 hours at most, the whole thing disintegrates into a shapeless mass. I have previously only seen this fungus in alpine areas in summer, but it can be brought into suburban gardens in soil or mulch. In mid-winter Melbourne there are very few flies, and I did not observe any at all on the fruiting body. It seems the fungus is in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Decades ago, having seen pictures of the stinkhorn in fungi field guide books, I longed to see this gorgeous object in the field. It made me wait many years until it showed itself one summer at Thredbo. I never dreamed that *Aseroe rubra* would do me the honour of a home visit.

Discover Warrandyte needs update

The authors of "Discover Warrandyte" have agreed that this book, first produced in 1993, could be updated and published once again. It was extremely popular back then and there is still interest in purchasing it today.

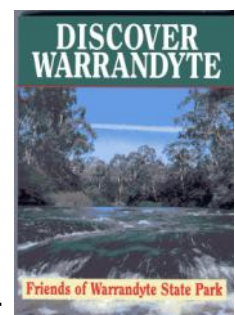
It is now available as a Word document, thanks to Richard Morton, who kindly scanned the whole book for FOWSP to work on.

We are looking for a sub committee of interested people to review the old edition and update the contents.

Decisions have to be made as to how the new book should look, photos to be used, method of publishing etc.

It will appeal to people with a deep interest in Warrandyte's history, plant life, birds and animals.

Please contact Lyndy Gilbert on 9844 0106 if you would like to participate in this subcommittee.



A whopper!



What an armful! Brought into a recent Thursday morning nursery for admiration and identification. (A larger one was too big to bring in) The FOWSP library came to the rescue in the form of Bruce Fuhrer's book, *Field Companion to Australian Fungi*. Page 83 identifies it as *Phaeogyroporus portentosus*, Australia's largest fungus, commonly referred to as the Giant Mushroom. *Portentosus* is Latin for amazing or marvelous. The cap can grow to a width of over a meter and the stalk can resemble a small tree trunk. One western Victorian specimen weighed in at 29 kg.

Giant mushrooms are reasonably common and widely distributed, and often occur in groups (as this specimen was reported to have done). The soft, fleshy tissue is a favourite breeding ground for fungus flies, the maggots of which rapidly break down the flesh. The huge caps are of course, like all fungi, a fruiting body. The spores are an olive-brown colour and are produced by tubes beneath the cap; a type of fungi known as a bolete

Joan Broadberry

From FOWSP potting soil

NOEL FOUND THE PUPA. He was repotting native orchids at the nursery and separated it out from the tubers. The case, pictured right, is now empty.



Curious enough to take it home, I kept an eye on it for several weeks. It may well have pupated months previously.



On the fifth of May, I noticed a 4 cm moth had emerged and dark spots on its under-wings were clearly showing through the side of the terrarium.

A quick chilling in the fridge was necessary to get accompanying photos. They were good enough for Peter Marriott to inform me that this moth is a female *Stibaroma* sp.nov. The "sp.nov"



indicating that this species has not been formally described and given its scientific binomial (name). The *Stib.* part of the Genus refers to the silve-grey metal, Antimony. Does the "...aroma" part refer to the odor?

The family Geometridae, are sometimes called Loopers. This family includes inchworms and many caterpillars that disguise themselves quite well as sticks. More nursery wildlife!.. Linda Rogan

Many Thanks to the June Market Volunteers

Diane & John Baird

Marie and Wolfgang Krause

Brian James & Joan Broadberry

Linda Gilbert & Ken Crook

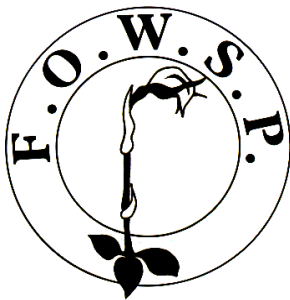
Peter Curry (delivery & return of trailer)

AND SPECIAL THANKS TO ARTUR for organizing a stabilizing strut on the underside of the trailer entry for extra safety. Please use this if a moving, setting up or packing up the FOWSP trailer. It works like a caravan stabilizing arm, with a winding rod to wind it up and down that is stored in the back.



Market dates coming up are Saturday **July 3rd, August 7th, September 4th.**

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 or ring anytime on **9846 1218**. No knowledge assumed



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Australian Owlet-nightjar

Julie was lucky enough to get this photo. Her story:

While sitting in my back garden my attention was drawn to a small bird because it had sat motionless for so long. I rushed inside for my bird book and camera and my guess was confirmed, it is an Owlet Nightjar. As I watched, a butcher bird flew into a nearby hollow log nest box. The owlet nightjar followed him in, there was a scuffle, the butcher bird flew out, with the nightjar in pursuit.

Keep us posted on any further developments Julie

July/August 2010 Volume 28 no.6

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)

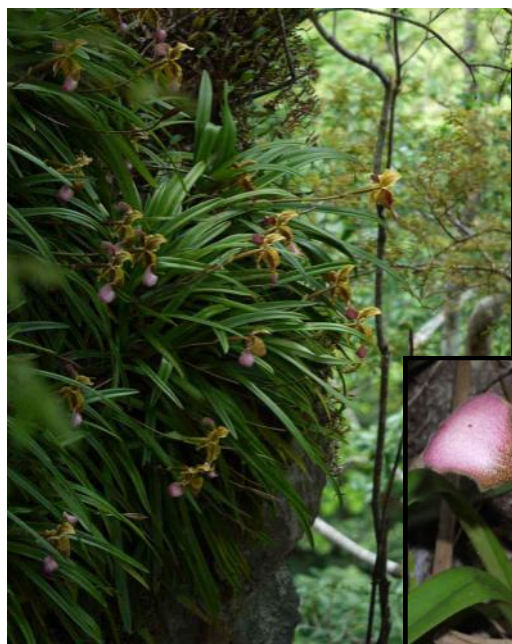
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Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or existing members with unchanged contact details can use direct deposit. Details: BSB 633-108. Account: 136406907. Account name: friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc. Identify yourself by surname

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus

A few gems from my Guangxi China trip May 2010



Seeing this orchid, *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum*, in the wild, was the reason for the trip. The insects were bonus



Dendrobium loddigesii



Rhinoceros beetle about 10 cm long



A giant lacewing, order Neuroptera



A Lycaenidae butterfly . The same group as our Common Imperial Blue or Hairstreak



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