

Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Editor's corner

SPRING IS MY FAVORITE time of year. This year with the rain continuing life is really bursting forth and there is much to see and do. Unfortunately some of that life is weeds and feral animals. Fortunately this year there are many helpers in the battle to help the indigenous and hinder the exotic. Ranger Jodie Godfrey will report next month on some of the groups she has had helping her.

There are so many way to become involved in our local ecology. On page 2 and 3 read a bit about WaterWatch. Trish Grant, is shown instructing some FOWSPians and congratulating Waterwatcher Kelly Wooster.

Read about Sybille and Kelly's experience with Manningham's Youth Sustainability Forum on page 3.

We are thrilled to have a new contributor, Carol Page on page 1 and 4. She has a keen eye for a dramatic shot (bullants p.4)

Steven Katsineris shares his families walk in a regenerating Kinglake National Park (page 7)

Note the nurseries spring wildflower sale on page 6.

Don't miss the koala count and the Christmas Breakup and let us know how you are enjoying this wonderfully wet spring. Your contributions are the key to this newsletter. *Linda R*



What are these volunteers up to? See story page 4 Photo: Carol Page

Koala count 2010



November 11

Meet at the nursery at 9.30

The count should finish by 12:00

Followed by BBQ hosted by FOWSP volunteers

Be prepared for the weather with hats, drinks etc. and binoculars to help with the spotting

Please **BOOK** with Fred phone 9437 2233 mobile 0429 434166 and email richfred@gmail.com

This activity will be cancelled if a Total Fire Ban Day is declared.

Christmas breakup and AGM 30 November

details on page 8

Deadline for Dec./Jan. 2011 edition newsletter is Friday 26 November, 2010
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113



At Pound Bend 30 Sept 2010



As Ben later recorded, “a typical water sample includes:

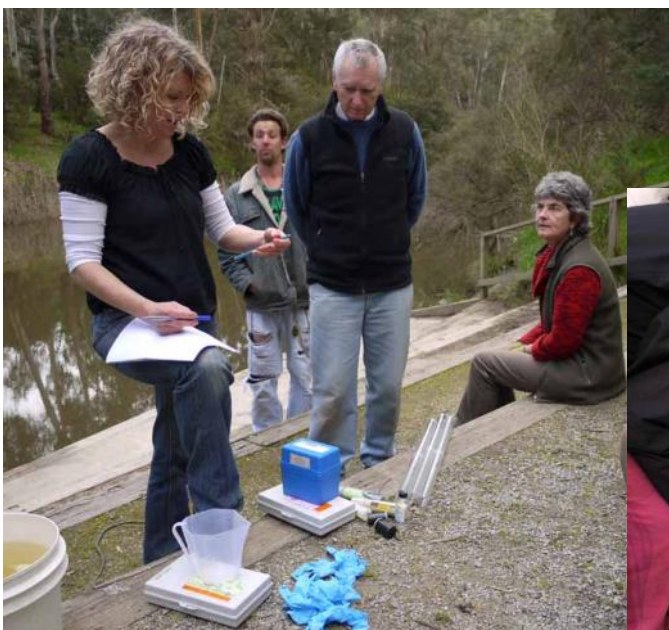
air temperature (10.5° C), water temperature (12°C), dissolved oxygen (10mg/litre), phosphate (0.01mg/litre), ammonia (0mg/litre), turbidity (10 nephelometric turbidity units), pH (7.8 -slightly alkaline), electrical conductivity (140 micro Siemens)”



TWELVE FOWSPIANS, including at least one experienced WaterWatcher participated in a water quality survey directed by Trish Grant, Coordinator, *Healthy Waterways* Waterwatch Program.

We tried our hands at each of these but I think most peoples favourite activity was searching through the trays of plant and animal matter that Trish had netted for our inspection. We found tiny shrimp, Mayfly nymphs and Caddisfly larvae to mention just a few. Some of the latter lived in tiny bits of straw and were only detected when the “stick” started to walk off. With a hand lens or a close look, tiny striped legs were seen. The chart pictured on page 3, helped us to identify the critters and sort them according to how sensitive they are to changes in water quality. Trish has provided a .pdf electronic copy of this chart so ask Linda if you would like a copy emailed.

In answer to Ben’s question, turbidity is measured with a standard turbidity tube (see three of them on the step in the photo below left) While holding the tube at waist level and looking vertically into the column, water is pouring in just until the markings on the bottom are just about to disappear.



There is an opportunity for any interested volunteers to participate in this activity on a regular basis. See Kelly’s comment p3.

Photos this page by Linda Rogan



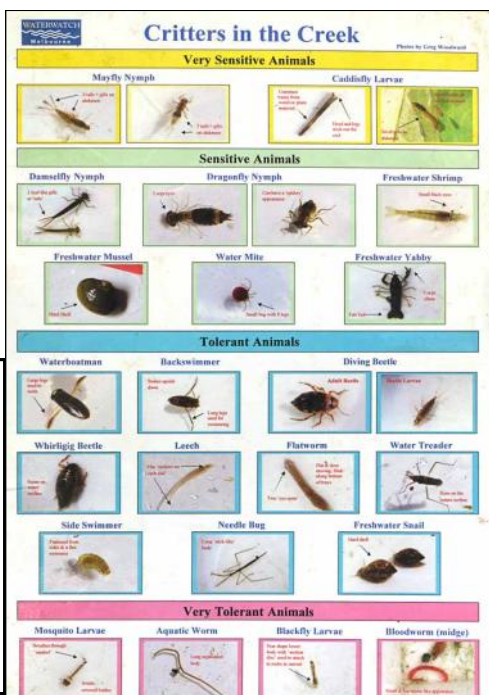
FOWSPian
Kelly Wooster
with Trish
Grant of Mel-
bourne Water-
Watch.
Photo by Ben G

A word from WaterWatcher

WITH WATERWATCH I really wanted to try connect a bit more with the Yarra River which is such an icon in Warrandyte and something that I have been lucky enough to grow up with almost at my doorstep (and took for granted when I lived overseas). I undertook a WaterWatch training day with Melbourne Water at Currawong Bush Park last year and became an active WaterWatch Monitor in the middle of this year when Martin and Trish showed me the ropes as they were moving away. Annette and I go down once a month to test the waters of the Yarra and Anderson's Creek, if anyone wants to come give us a hand let us know. What I enjoy about WaterWatch is the idea that I am helping to collect scientific data which is used to determine the health of the rivers and creeks through Manningham, but it is relatively easy, although a little chilly on a winters morning!

Kelly W

Critter identification and sensitivity chart by Greg Woodward of Melbourne Water



What *had* we agreed to?

ON WEDNESDAY the 13th October, Kelly and I represented FOWSP at the inaugural Manningham Youth Sustainability Forum. This is a new council funded initiative for local schools, supported by the Rotary Club of Doncaster and Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Inc. The objective was to give young leaders the opportunity to develop their leadership skills in the context of living sustainably

As we arrived early, we were fortunate to be part of the audience for two presentations. The first was by Rachel Lowry from Melbourne Zoo. She was inspirational with her, "YOU CAN do something about it" presentation. She spoke about recycling old mobile phones to help save the gorillas of the Congo, the future palm oil labelling regulations and her new *Wipe-4-Wildlife* initiative, purchasing toilet paper made from recycled paper. The second was by Tom Dowsley, Manningham's part-time Youth coordinator and also a university student. His presentation focused on the scarcity of usable fresh water available on Earth.

As we had been uncertain about our role, we had gone fully laden. We had armed ourselves with a diverse range of Warrandyte State Park pamphlets, membership forms, newsletters, frog posters, seedlings, an echidna and a brushy tail phascogale.

Eleven organisations, including FOSWP, CERES and Trish, from Water Watch, participated in the Expo, covering key topics such as: biodiversity, energy conservation, water conservation, recycling and composting, ecological footprints and transport.

For the next hour and a half the students gathered information for their afternoon presentations. As we were presenting bio-diversity we explained the work of the FOWSP and its importance. The students were particularly interested in the revegetation in Kinglake for the phascogale. The animals and plants received the most attention and fortunately the students were thinking sustainably and only selected material that was meaningful for them. Some of the leaders appeared interested in becoming future FOWSP members.

Unfortunately Kelly and I did not see the students' 'Living Sustainably in Manningham' presentations, but their leadership potential and their concern for Sustainability impressed us.

Thank you to Pat Armstrong for opportunity to participate and hopefully FOWSP will be invited to participate next year.

Kelly Wooster and Sybille Ims

A volunteer's lucky morning

By Carol Page

THOSE OF US who arrived to help out in the Nursery on 23 September were delighted when it was announced that Josh would lead us on a wildflower walk. Botanist Karl Just also joined us so we had a knowledgeable double. (photo page 1)

We firstly visited the dam where the scent of the flowering *Gynatrix pulchella* (Hemp bush) was just delightful. Also in full, heavy creamy yellow flower was *Pomaderris vacciniifolia* (Round-leaf pomaderris)— it is proving to be very saleable plant.

We then walked back from the Nursery along the high edge of the road in a southerly direction.

Dominant eucalyptus species were *Eucalyptus melioidora* (Yellow box), *E. rubida* (Candlebark,) *E. macrorhyncha* (Red stringybark), and *E. polyanthemos* (Red box)

The brightest flowers were the red of the trailing *Kennedia prostrata* (Running postman), and the deep purple of the *Hardenbergia violacea* (Purple Coral-pea). Amongst other *Acacia* sp the endangered (in the park) *Acacia stricta* was in flower, but the bright yellow of the *Bulbine bubosa* (Bulbine-lily) was mostly still hidden.

There were a few scattered fragile *Caladenia parva* (Small spider- orchids). We also saw leaves of *Thelymitra* (Sun-orchid) and *Microtis* (Onion-orchid) sp.

Wurmbea dioica (Early nancy) were common and we compared the M & F plants growing side by side. The male has reddish purple anthers. The tiny brown flowers on the spikes of the *Plantago varia* are so delicate and well worth a look with a hand lens next time you see one. We saw *Drosera peltata* ssp *peltata*, and *Drosera whittakeri*, the latter were interesting for me because some were showing the stolons. (A long stem or shoot arising from underneath the central rosette. It then drops to the ground



Photo Carol Page

where it may form a new plant where it touches the soil)

Herbs were most numerous, *Gnaphalium indutum* (Tiny cudweed), *Gonocarpus tetragynus* (Common raspwort), *Hydrocotyl foveolata* (Yellow pennywort), *Luzula meridionalis* (Common wood-rush), *Crassula decumbens* var *decumbens* (Spreading crassula), *Stuartina muelleri* (Spoon cudweed) and *Oxalis* species being amongst the most common.

Of the fungi seen, three *Amanita* species, one identified as *Amanita xanthocephala*. There were *Lichenomphalia umbellifera* growing on their associated algal bed, *Pisolithus ahizus* (Horse dung fungus), *Coltricia cinnamomea*, *Stereum hirsutum*, *Pycnoporus coccineus* and an unidentified *Agaric* sp.



Photo Linda Rogan

The insect world was well represented, there was a squirming mass of small brown larvae around 20mm, blocking our path (these were Spitfires or Sawfly larvae photo left); Jumping jack ant nests; a twig covered in

(what appeared to be) egg cases, (Most likely Wattle Tick Scale) One Meat ant nest has apparently been in



Photo Carol Page

existence since the area was surveyed many years ago.

Finally two Bull ants were seen dragging a European wasp across the road (above).

It was a most rewarding walk

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2010

Jason Patton **0402 121838** **Webmaster**
 jason@parau.com **& Membership**

Lynda Gilbert **9844 0106** **Treasurer**

Linda Rogan **9435 5806** **Newsletter Co-ordinator**
lindarogan@netspace.net.au

Kelly Wooster **9844 2819**

Artur Muchow **0415 383328** **Secretary**

Cathy Willis **0418 142297**

Gray Ardern **0418 190261**

OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS

Nursery Manager **Josh Revell**
 0408 317327

Park Office **9844 2659**

Librarian **Judy Green**
 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)

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.

4th November— Invertebrate Survey at Stanebrae with Kelly Wooster Note meet at 9 am

18th November TAG activity—to be announced

25th November—Nature walk with Cathy (1:30 pm —3:00 pm)

Just tag along with the Thursday Activity Group (TAG). Activities are cancelled on Total Fire ban Days

Newsletter team this month were:

Linda Rogan
 Joan Broadberry
 Mel Coupar (Line drawings)



Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2010

Held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at will continue this year at a

Currawong Bush Park- Mel 34 H6

For details check closer to the time on 9840 4405

3rd November *Restoring Connections: We are all ONE* with Adriana Simmonds, Wildlife Victoria

1st December *Habitat Gardens* with Jim Robinson, Greening Australia

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

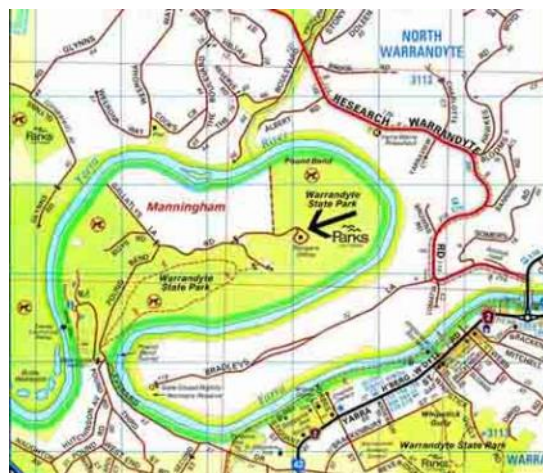
The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation)
every Thursday. 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
and
the first Sunday of each month 2 pm to 4 pm.

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

NEW PRICES

Members \$1.50

Non-members \$2.00



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SPRING WILDFLOWER SALE AT THE NURSERY

CELEBRATE this wonderful planting weather 50% off all wildflowers! Now at \$1.00 each!
Plant up your property or garden with spring colour. All available now . . . if you are quick

Brachyscome multifida - Cut leaf daisy
Brachyscome diversifolia - Tall daisy
Plantago debilis - Shade plantain
Pratia pedunculata - Matted pratia
Vittadinia muellerii - Narrow-leaf new holland daisy

Wahlenbergia communis - Tufted bluebell
Leptorhynchus squamatus - Scaly buttons
Helichrysum scorpioides - Button everlasting
Convolvulus erubescens - Pink bindweed

Put in your orders now for *Stylidium graminifolium* (Grass-trigger plant) for November pick up!
Or to place orders for next years plantings. Pop into the nursery or give us a call on 0408 317327,
or see our online planting guide at http://fowsp.org.au/planting_guide.php

Special 1st Saturday of November Opening 10 am to 2pm Saturday the 6th of November

We're of course open every Thursday morning 9.30am - 12.30pm, & the 1st Sunday of the month 2pm - 4pm.

Many Thanks to the October Market Volunteers

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

Marie & Wolfgang Krause,
Sybille Ims, Catriona Young,
Alison Thom, Jan Smidts,
Alice Vernall, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook
Artur Muchow (delivery & return of trailer)



Next Markets: Saturday November 6th, and Saturday 4th December

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*



After the Fires - A Bushwalk in Kinglake National Park.

By Steven Katsineris,

MY FAMILY and I live in Hurstbridge, just south of the Kinglake National Park. The park became a favourite place for us to picnic and bushwalk. It was consequently a great shock to hear about its extensive devastation in the severe bushfires that engulfed the region in February 2009. Kinglake National Park was one of the worst bushfire affected areas in Victoria. Over 96% was burnt and the park had to be closed in order to clear away unsafe, dead trees, repair walking tracks and replace its buildings and infrastructure.

A year later I read that the Mt Sugarloaf Track had been reopened and so our family decided to go back there for a bushwalk. We really wanted to return to the park to check on the condition of the forest and see how it is recovering from the affect of this catastrophic event.

It was a warm, sunny day the morning we left for the drive up to the Kinglake Ranges. I had very mixed feelings: excitement at the prospect of visiting the park again, but apprehension about seeing the ravaged forest. I felt the rest of the family was experiencing similar emotions, as the trip was unusually subdued and contemplative. We drove past numerous blackened trees, some dead. But were encouraged by seeing others sprouting new growth from their trunks and branches. We stopped briefly a few times to gaze at the landscape of burnt hills and gullies, before we arrived and parked where the ranger's office used to be. We were also very heartened to observe two Crimson Rosellas flying about in the nearby trees as we packed our backpacks and set off on our bushwalk.

The Mt. Sugarloaf Ridge Track is an easy walk, of 6km and takes two hours return. It was a strange feeling, walking through the silent bush, as we were used to hearing the pleasant chatter of numerous birds on our past bushwalks. You read and try to visualize the

News from the Committee

- Grant applications - Lyndy has submitted an application to Melbourne Water for a community grant of \$1 000 to run the anti litter campaign with primary schools. Artur is to resubmit a large 3 year grant to Melbourne Water for \$20 000
- The Watsons Biolink planting organised by Kelly on a Saturday was very successful
- Next year TAG may do more biolink work and possibly some at Scotchman's Hill.
- Sybille and Kelly represented FOWSP at the Manningham Youth Sustainability Forum on 13 Oct. *See Sybille's report on page .3*
- Sybille has attended Frog Census training.
- A joint activity with Entomological Society of Vic is being planned for Dec 2011. Linda will liaise.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 9th Nov, 2010

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

severity of those bushfires, but until it is viewed up close you can't really comprehend the true magnitude of the devastation.

As we walked on we noticed all of the surviving mature trees and tree-ferns had sprouted new growth, while there were thousands of new trees, bushes, ferns and grasses re-growing; a metre high in places. In the wetter gullies the plant growth was even higher and lusher; two metres in some areas. We even saw several flowering bushes, such as Hop Goodenia with their yellow flowers making a vivid contrast to the green and black predominating in the bush.

Walking along the track we saw very little wildlife. A few mauve coloured butterflies and some bees and ants. But we did observe animal traces. These included lots of Lyrebird scratchings; several Wombat scats, diggings and burrows; Swamp Wallaby tracks and scats and also some Deer tracks, mostly in denser, damper areas.

Some of the wildlife survived the bushfire in pockets of unburnt or less intensively burnt bush. Other animals, such as Superb Lyre birds, Wombats and Black Wallabies found safety in Wombat burrows. It seems that the smaller, slower, tree and ground dwelling animals, such as the possums, gliders, the uncommon Common Dunnart and the endangered Brush-tailed Phascogale suffered most from the fires. It is thought that the Phascogale may now be locally extinct in the

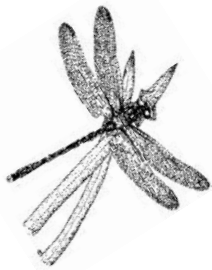
(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

park. It is hoped that more animals will slowly return from adjacent unburned areas over time.

We reached the road and crossed it and began the climb up along the ridge to the top of the mountain. The higher we went the more burnt and barren the bush was. The elevated tops of hills and more exposed places would have suffered more intense fire than lower, damper areas. We observed that these spots have considerably less re-growth happening, than in the gullies.

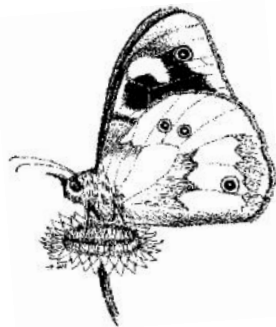
Eventually we arrived at the top of Mt. Sugarloaf, drank our morning tea and looked at the magnificent view. Mt. Sugarloaf is 550 metres above sea level and has panoramic views over the Kinglake region, the Yarra Valley and the distant city of Melbourne.



When we arrived back at the car park we saw several red dragonflies and many brown butterflies flitting around in the nearby grasses and bushes. We watched them in sheer delight as we ate our picnic lunch. Butterflies are known as symbols of re-birth I think this was an

incredibly fitting sign of the renewal of the bush.

It was heartbreaking to see the scorched bushland, but the forest is regrowing, Kinglake National Park is recovering and wildlife is returning. While we were driving away, a large flock of excited, boisterous Crimson Rosellas went flying high into the sky. As they soared, so did our spirits.



Around the nursery



- The dam next to the access road into the nursery is **COMPLETELY FULL** after 2 inches+ of rain in late October—(above)
- **WELCOME BACK:** Gray is back from Queensland, Josh is back from Western Australia, Annette is back from Germany
- Sybille and Ken weeded around the pond and found lots of froglets.
- A male lyrebird was seen very recently around Blue Tongue Bend - probably a first record
- The final layer of shade cloth being hoisted over the new shade house (below)

Photos by Joan Broadberry



Christmas breakup and AGM 30 November

At the Folly at FOWSP nursery, Pound Bend from 6 pm



Agenda::

- 6 pm –** Annual Report and election of Office Bearers (be prompt and it will be short and sweet)
- 6.30-7.00 pm –** Phoebe and Erin, (Rudolph Steiner violinists) will entertain you.
- 7 pm –** BBQ Tea (BYO drinks and meat, salads to share)
- 7.30 pm –** Presentation by Beaconhills College students on the HELP endangered Leadbeaters Possum project.

Please put this date in your diary, we look forward to seeing you all there.

"I SPY"

By B.G



KT AND TAG

Early October, Ranger Kylie Tenace led a small group of the Thursday Activity Group (TAG) to the Boyce Road Dam area to carry out essential weeding and clearing. Involved were Martin, Artur, Alice, Ken and Kate. In the **photo** Ken Artur and Kate are discussing the clearing method to be adopted.

AWAY FOR A WHILE

Josh is in Western Australia, Belinda in Canberra, Annette in Germany and Jan Falconer in Northern New South Wales.

FOWSP FAMILY FRIENDLY

During the recent school holidays, some helpers and visitors to the Park were:

Karen Reynolds with son Steven, 14 y.o., (good at woodwork and wants to work in car design). Also daughter Nicole 14 y.o., who likes horse riding and wants to have her own horse-riding school. (Karen is also good at hurdles and would like to get to the Olympics).

Kierin Yen and sons Horatio (8 y.o.) and Orlando (5 y.o.). they were picking up many plants for "revegetating our bank around the water tank"



Emma Edwards was buying plants for a "secret garden", Keira (2 1/2 y.o.) and also Chloe (7 y.o.).

Tracey Wood from the jumping Creek Landcare was helping with plants, assisted by son Justin, (year 11 at school).

Lucy Walsh (**photo left**) was

helping Catriona prick out lots of plants. She is hoping to start a garden around her bungalow with a couple of plants she obtained.

OLIVE BRANCH FOR OLIVE

Apologies to Olive Walters. With her photo in the September Newsletter I stated that Olive had been a member for maybe 19 years. Olive has been with the Friends much longer than that, (since 1987) and remembers when Ben joined up. Olive is still helping. (And she still has copies of the newsletter from when she first joined FOWSP in 1987-JB)

WARRANTDYTE WANDERER

Jan Falconer will be walking in several National Parks in Northern New South Wales including the Warrumbungles, Mt Kaputar, the Border Ranges, Bald Rock and Oxley Wild Rivers.

WATERWAYS AND WATERWATCH

Trish Grant (ex South Australia) was seen working with Kellie recently. Trish is from the healthy Waterways Water Watch and normally leads a team studying and monitoring water quality. *See page 2 and 3.*

SHORT STORY

Quite some time ago Whitney Forster-Clarke contributed an article to the Newsletter, about her favourite (secret?) place near the Yarra. Here is a short story by her brother Jay 14 y.o. which I think may encapsulate the ideas of many Friends

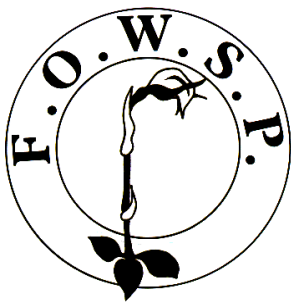
A SHORT STORY by Jay Clarke

Tonight in my dreams I use the Ebony Horse to escape my chronic illness. I go to the Great Pyramids of Giza. I go to the Amazon rainforest. I go to Mount Olympus in Greece, the Swiss Alps in Europe, the Eye of the Devil in Mexico, the South Pole in Antarctica and Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.

I spread food and water and abolish famine in all the poor countries of the world. I go around the world and convince people to stop fighting. I convince people not to waste money and time on war and get them to invest in better things like medicine and exploration.

This morning when I wake up I feel sick and tired. I still have Chronic fatigue Syndrome and today will be a struggle. I will struggle to have a bath. I'll try not to fall asleep through my schoolwork and I'll ache all day and feel dizzy and nauseous.

It's OK though because tonight I think I might go to China.



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The delightful orchid, *Caladenia carnea*, is also known as Pink or White Fingers. It is widespread and common across a variety of habitats in Victoria, flowering from August to January. It has a single thin green leaf. This photo was taken in Warrandyte in mid-October. The many similar small white or pink finger orchid species need an expert to identify them. The rest of us just enjoy their cheerful presence in the bush. More orchid photos, p 11 email edition. *Joan B*

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family)	\$20	Newsletter by email (tick box)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concession	\$10		

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

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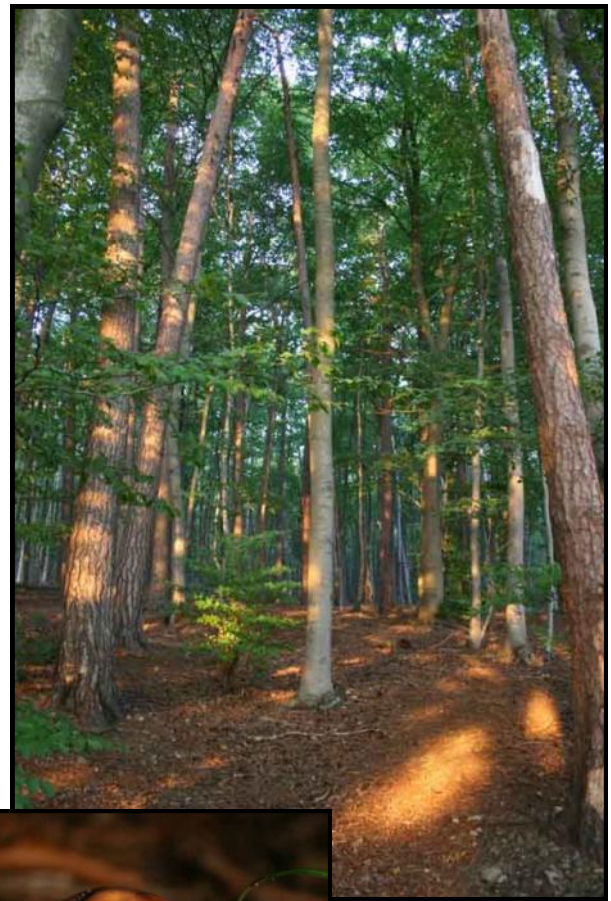
Email photo bonus



Above and left:
Joan Broadberry's
photos of three or-
chids, taken in War-
randyte during Oct
2010

Caladenia oenochila,
the Wine-Lipped
Spider orchid

Pterostylis squamata,
the Common ruddy-
hood
*Thelymitra pau-
ciflora*, -the slender
sun orchid.



Annette Lion's photos
Above German woods
Left Fungus in German
woods
Below Milkmaid *Bur-
chardia umbellata* in
Pound Bend



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